

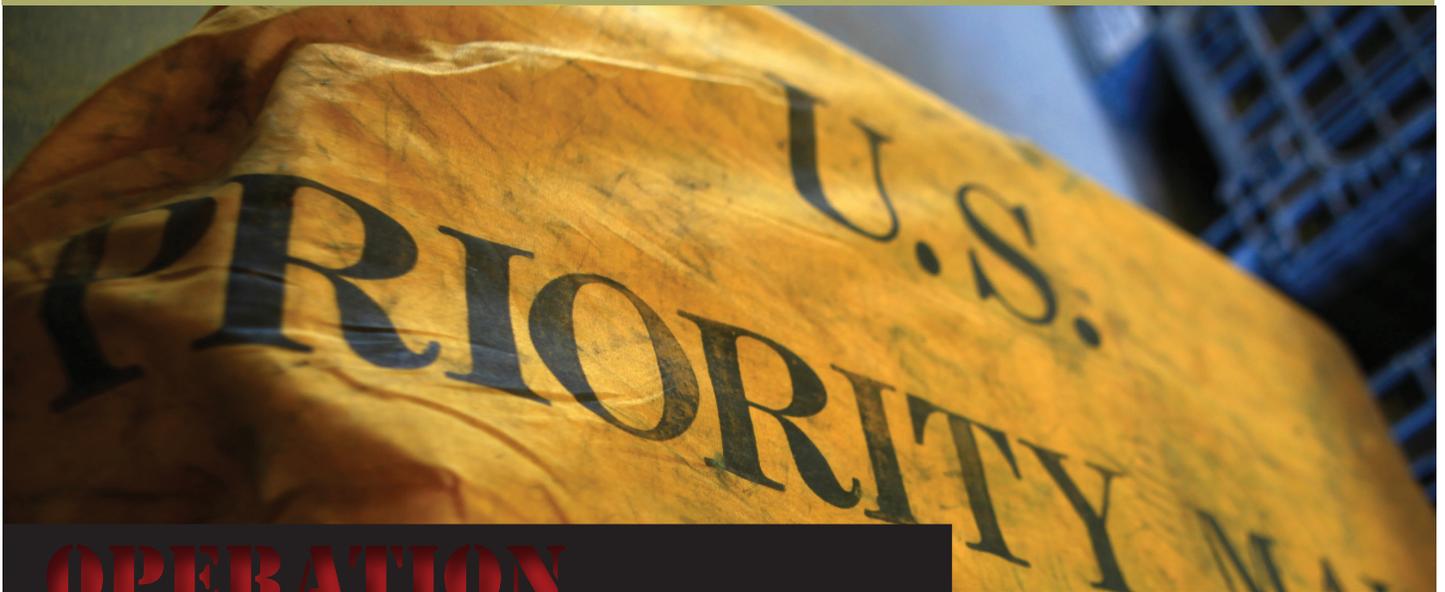


# THE WARRIOR'S LOG

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 38

'Excellence, Innovation & Quality' for the Marines and Sailors of the 2nd Marine Logistics Group

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## OPERATION NORTH POLE

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Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

More than 10,000 pounds of mail is delivered daily aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. During the holiday season, the amount of mail received doubles, prompting the Marines with the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) Postal Detachment to seek the help of other service-members to sort through the packages as part of Operation North Pole.

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Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Ehler, a pharmaceutical representative with Medical Logistics Detachment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), explains the particulars of gourmet coffee preparation aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 17.

## *Med Log Sailor serves up gourmet coffee to fellow troops*

**Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski**  
*2nd MLG (FWD) Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** – While an electric burner warmed to its optimum temperature, Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Ehler continued with the rest of the preparation work. After several ounces of water were poured into an aluminum reservoir, extra-fine coffee grinds were carefully measured and packed into a reusable funnel filter, then all components were combined

– the product of this daily ritual would amount to pure morning bliss in a matter of a few more minutes. The resulting aroma, created as hot pressurized steam pushed through the grinds, was already attracting a crowd.

Is there a better way to begin the daily grind than with a cup of genuine Neapolitan-style espresso?

According to the Marines and Sailors of Medical Logistics Detachment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), one would

be hard pressed to find something superior, especially in Afghanistan.

“Coffee is just one of those things, a worldwide phenomenon,” said Ehler, who happily slings at least two-dozen cups of his gourmet brew each day to anyone – mostly co-workers – who desire a quick pick-me-up of exceptional taste.

By trade, the Yuma, Ariz., native serves as a pharmaceutical representative in Helmand

**See COFFEE, Page 5**



Staff Sgt. Davison Slivers, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the Motor Transport Platoon, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), walks along Route 611, engaging with the locals, while 7th ESB conducts route repairs in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 6.



Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

## 'Making a difference'

pushes one Arizona Marine to excel on fourth deployment

**Cpl. Katherine M. Solano**  
*2nd MLG (FWD) Public Affairs*

**PATROL BASE ALCATRAZ, Afghanistan** - Nine years in the Marine Corps, four deployments and less than four weeks until he steps foot on American soil once again, Staff Sgt. Davison Slivers has spent a collective two-and-a-half years defending his country in both Iraq and Afghanistan. A Marine with that sort of experience has a lot to offer to those he leads, evident by the profound respect his Marines express for him.

As the Motor Transport Platoon staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), Slivers has many Marines under his leadership and watch. He is also the convoy commander on many types of operations conducted by 7th ESB.

With this most recent deployment drawing to an end, the war veteran has much advice for junior Marines in his command, especially since many of them are 'straight out of high school and on their first deployment,' according to Slivers.

"A lot of the Marines mature throughout the deployment," Slivers began. "You have got to remind them of the big picture when they get down about what they are doing here."

What exactly is it that Slivers and his

unit do? As engineers, they help construct observation posts, patrol bases and forward operating bases. They build and repair routes. They support infantry units in the area of operation in establishing a presence among the locals. They engage with the locals to put them at ease while they are working near their bazaars, farms and compounds.

Even Slivers admits, though, sometimes being on the road for days at a time can get monotonous, despite the fast pace of the operations, especially on your second, third or fourth tour. When his Marines experience the feeling of redundancy, Slivers has a surefire way of bolstering their spirits.

"I just remind them of why they are here and what their job is on a daily basis and what just being a Marine in general is all about," Slivers continued. "We are here to improve something for local nationals. We want to help them improve themselves."

The experience Slivers' has had on deployments over the years helps him lead his Marines by example and helps him to understand the frustrations and frictions that come with being deployed. Being able to relate to his Marines gives him the chance to lift them when they are down and keep them going when times get tough.

"The guys I'm out here with know what they are doing really matters," Slivers concluded.

## WARRIOR - OF THE - WEEK



STAFF SERGEANT  
DAVISON SLIVERS

JOB: Motor Transport  
HOMETOWN: Ganado,  
Arizona

Q: What is your favorite MRE?

A: "Chili and Mac with cornbread mixed into the main meal."

Q: Who is your hero and why?

A: "My mother, because ... that's where I get my 'charming personality.'"

Q: What is your favorite baseball team?

A: "Milwaukee Brewers."

# OPERATION NORTH POLE

## *Postal ramps up manpower for holiday season mail rush*

**Cpl. Katherine M. Solano**  
*2nd MLG (FWD) Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** – The Marines with the Postal Detachment, Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) are accustomed to moving upward of 10,000 pounds of mail per day, but with the holi-

day season approaching, that amount will nearly double.

With the increase of letters and packaging reaching 20,000 pounds or more per day, the postal Marines reached out to other units for servicemembers to temporarily work at the postal lot from Nov 1. through Jan. 1.

The influx of mail led the leaders of the 2nd MLG (FWD) to enlist the support of

24 extra pairs of hands in Operation North Pole. Without the extra help, Lance Cpl. Markevis Seth, a postal clerk with the Postal Detachment, says there would be too much mail to manage.

“People don’t realize how much mail means until they deploy,” Seth said. “Everything they get out here has to come through us. What they buy at the PX is delivered through us first.”

Their organization and teamwork allows for a seamless process of unloading, sorting, organizing and packing the large amounts of mail to be delivered to both civilians and military personnel around the battlespace. Not only does the detachment receive mail for Camp Leatherneck, it handles mail to be delivered to forward operating bases and camps all around the Regional Command Southwest area of operation.

While the amount of time and effort put into a workday is drastically increasing during the holidays for the postal Marines, Seth says it is worth it, especially when they get to see the Marine’s face who is on the receiving end of their hard work.

“Everything they get to make them smile out here comes through us,” Seth said. “A lot of them tell us they appreciate it.”



Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

A truck carrying thousands of pounds of mail makes a delivery to the Postal Detachment, Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 18. More than 10,000 pounds of mail is delivered to the postal facility on a daily basis, which will double as the holidays approach.



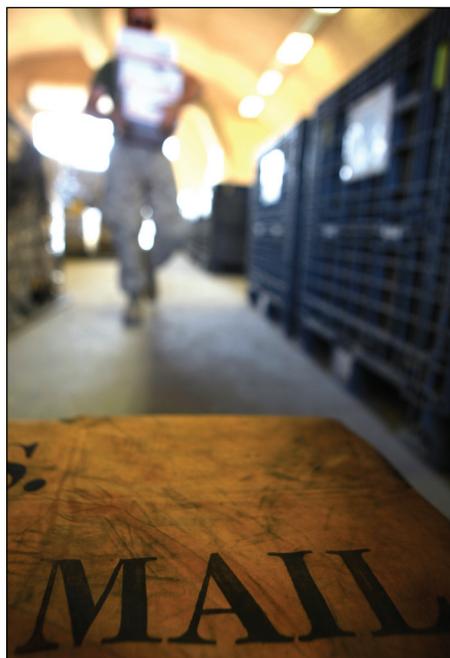
Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

Marines with the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) Postal Detachment sort through more than 10,000 pounds of packages and letters during a mail delivery aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 18. Twenty-four servicemembers joined the postal Marines to work through the holiday rush as part of Operation North Pole.



Photos by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

(Above) The entrance to the new postal facility aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, is adorned with a sign dedicating it to Lance Cpl. Tavon L. Hubbard, who was killed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. More than 10,000 pounds of mail is sorted and delivered at the facility on a daily basis. (Right) Marines with the 2nd MLG (FWD) Postal Detachment unload more than 10,000 pounds of packages and letters during a mail delivery aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 18.



**COFFEE,**  
*continued from Page 2*

province, but when time allows he voluntarily takes on the additional duties of a barista as work begins each day. Ehler picked up his love for coffee while stationed aboard Naval Hospital Naples, Italy.

“When I arrived in Italy I wanted to learn everything about the culture,” he explained. “Coffee is deeply rooted in their traditions and it’s just something that interested me.”

He learned the basics of coffee making from friends native to the region and enhanced his technical knowledge even further by reading and experimenting. Ehler has invested hundreds of dollars into the hobby and finds his fellow service members as the perfect group with which to hone the trade. Vice payment of any type, the aspiring entrepreneur sees more value in feedback and honest opinion.

“One day I’d like to own my own coffee shop,” said Ehler. “By doing this here each morning, I get to learn about preferences, what people like and exactly how they like it. I get to see what ‘sells’ and what does not. I get to understand the business a little better.”

From the reactions of those who had just downed a few ounces of the good stuff, it could be said that he is well on his way to accomplishing his ambitious goal.

“For now though, I’m just happy to have a chance to perfect the skill,” he concluded. “Everyone’s a regular here and they get a lot of enjoyment out of it. It’s all about raising morale.”

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