



THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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

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Marines and Sailors from 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), passed engineer support operations to 9th ESB during a transfer of authority ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 25.

Photos by Cpl. Michael Augusto

WE MADE EVERY DAY COUNT

9th ESB relieves 7th, takes control of engineer support operations in Helmand

2nd Lt. James F. Stenger
2nd MLG (FWD) Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Seventh Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), concluded a seven-month deployment in support of International Security Assistance Forces as 9th Engineer Support Battalion

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A dump truck belonging to Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), is operated by Marines during route construction in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 22. The Marines with CLB-1 will be spending the next several weeks building Route Victoria to connect districts in the area.

Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

Open for Business:

CLB-1 builds route, brings growth to Helmand

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GERONIMO, Afghanistan – The Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), are currently in the midst of a first-time operation. They are constructing a route between the Nowa and Marjah districts in Helmand province.

The multiple-week project along Route Victoria will bring a route to an area that has no other distinguished roads.

“Basically there is no set road here right now [so] it’s important for Helmand province as a whole,” said 2nd Lt. Ian Chuckran, the operations platoon commander with Alpha Company, CLB-1. “It will provide trafficability even after the Marines and coalition forces

leave the area.”

The construction will include multiple phases over its course. The land needs to be leveled, blast holes need to be filled in, gravel needs to be transported to the worksite from various areas and culverts will be emplaced for irrigation and flood prevention.

“The interesting part of this mission is all the different aspects of this route,” said Chuckran. “Raising the road, the placing of culverts, and all of the civilian considerations, drainage considerations, and general mobility and engineering considerations is stuff you don’t really

learn about or think about until you are actually on the project.”

Upon completion, the road will provide coalition forces with a safe route between the districts, as well as give locals the chance for commercial growth. Route Victoria is a long-lasting solution and will continue to allow Helmand province stay open for business.

“Building a longer lasting road like this should provide the government and the people the opportunity to travel between districts and create that freedom of movement that will allow the government to be successful later on,” concluded Chuckran.

BLOTTER



29 Nov. 2011 - A Marine with Combat Logistics Regiment 2 was observed placing a bottle of dietary supplements into his pocket and then proceeding to the exit of the store without paying. The Marine admitted culpability of stealing the item, and was apprehended, processed and released to a unit representative.

29 Nov. 2011 - A Marine spouse was observed placing a bracelet and necklace into the folds of her coat and then proceeding to the restroom. Upon exiting the restroom, the individual proceed to the exit without paying. The person admitted culpability to concealing the items in her undergarment, and was detained, processed and released on her own recognizance.

A name placard is attached to a Marine's rifle during his deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan, in honor of his first child, who was born on the second day of his unit's deployment. Sgt. Bun-narath Gnoy, the heavy equipment chief with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), was able to watch the birth on a webcam aboard Camp Leatherneck in early October.



Photo by
Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

Marine watches birth of first child on day two of deployment

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GERONIMO, Afghanistan - Sgt. Bun-narath Gnoy, the heavy equipment chief with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), knows what it is like to be away from family for long periods of time. He is currently on his fourth deployment. He and his wife of two years have perfected the art of long distance communication.

But now, Gnoy has to learn how to parent from thousands of miles away. His first child, a son named Aiden, was born when Gnoy was in Afghanistan.

It was day two of his unit's time in Afghanistan. The phone call came that his wife was going into early labor.

"She was supposed to be due on the 24th so I didn't expect it at all," Gnoy said. "I called the hospital and told them I was in Afghanistan and they got me right on the phone with her. I asked her to ask the doctors if she could use [wireless internet] in there. They said yes, so I was on the webcam, just watching. I got to see the whole thing."

Nine hours and a few dropped internet calls later, Gnoy was able to maintain a steady connection and witnessed, as first-hand as possible, the birth of his son.

"When I saw the head, I thought, 'I don't know what I'm going to do.' Then the baby came out, and I saw him before my wife did," Gnoy said, the hint of doubt erased from his face as he recounted meeting his son. "The doctor kept re-angling the computer. So he came out and the doctor showed me and said, 'Here is your son'."

Gnoy described how he knew his life had changed then. He said that all the pride he felt in the Marine Corps couldn't compare to being a father.

Two months into his deployment, Gnoy maintains a positive attitude, despite missing the birth of his child by a few days and a few thousand miles. He looks out for his Marines and continues to learn about his job, but is always counting the weeks until he is reunited with his family.

"He will be seven months when I get home," Gnoy said. "I think that's when the baby starts to sleep through the night, so I'm going to miss all the bad stuff. I told my wife, 'when I get home, you can take seven months off if you want'."

WARRIOR - OF THE - WEEK



SERGEANT
BUNNARATH GNOY

JOB: Heavy Equip. Chief
HOMETOWN: Lowell,
Mass.

Q: What is your favorite MRE?

A: "Chicken Pesto Pasta."

Q: If you were stranded on a desert island, what is one piece of gear you'd want with you?

A: "My cot; sleeping in the hot sand stinks."

Q: If you could have any job for a day, what would it be and why?

A: "A bad guy in a movie. They get all the good weapons."



Photos by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

(Above) A Marine with 2nd Engineer Platoon, Combat Logistics Company 6, hauls building materials at Patrol Base New Jersey, Afghanistan, Nov. 23. The company, which is comprised of two engineer platoons and one motor transportation platoon, is an element of Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), and was formed to provide direct support to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, during Operation Eastern Storm. CLC-6 engineers built several of the patrol bases along Route 611. (Below) Little more than two months ago, the region through which Route 611 traced north through Helmand province was a dangerous one, at best, and saw little commercial activity. As seen through the windshield of a "7-ton" Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement truck, Nov. 22, near-ghost towns are teeming with life once again as a result of Operation Eastern Storm.

CLC-6 Marines support Task Force 1/6 during 'Eastern Storm'

Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

2nd MLG (FWD) Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE

NOLAY, Afghanistan – Little more than two months ago, the region through which Route 611 traced north through Helmand province was a dangerous one, at best. Known as the last Taliban stronghold in southern Afghanistan, the Upper Sangin Valley was gripped in terror and saw little activity in the way of local commerce and development along its main thoroughfare. The future was bleak.

Operation Eastern Storm was launched in early October to combat the trend of oppression.



The major offensive, led by 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, aimed to drive the Taliban-led insurgency from the region, while also reestablishing a sense of stability among the local populace.

Assisting them in a logistical capacity were the Marines of Combat Logistics

Company 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward). An element of Combat Logistics Battalion 6, the company was formed for the purpose of providing Task Force 1/6 direct support during their operations, said Gunnery Sgt. John Serpa, a native of Gulfport, Miss., and company first sergeant for CLC-6.

"The Marines understood that they had to give 110 percent every day. That's what the infantrymen on the ground deserved," said Serpa.

As the logistical force in charge of supporting 1/6, CLC-6's leadership isn't unclear about their mission.

"1/6 was charged with clearing Route 611 and the Kajaki Sofla Bazaar," said Capt. Kyle Schull, a native of Watertown, S.D., and company commander of CLC-6. "Our task was to figure out how to support that and we decided we were going to stand up a CLC comprised of one motor

Cpl. Zachary Meline, of Coose Bay, Ore., unloads a stack of force protection barriers at Patrol Base New Jersey, Afghanistan, Nov. 24. Meline is a heavy equipment operator with Combat Logistics Company 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward). The company, which is comprised of two engineer platoons and one motor transportation platoon, is an element of Combat Logistics Battalion 6 and was formed to provide direct support to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, during Operation Eastern Storm.

Photo by
Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski



“The Marines understood that they had to give 110 percent every day. That’s what the infantrymen on the ground deserved.”

- Gunnery Sgt. John Serpa, company first sergeant, CLC-6

transportation platoon and two engineer platoons.”

The company also included a robust headquarters platoon, which provided critical services such as landing support and maintenance.

In addition to clearing enemy forces from the population centers along the Helmand River, Schull noted that a secure route would allow convoys to deliver equipment and parts required to install a third turbine at the Kajaki Dam, located northeast of the village of Kajaki.

The dam was built in 1953 and, according to the United States Agency for International Development, the additional turbine is part of an ongoing project to bring more reliable power and irrigation to the region. Once operational, this enhancement would improve energy distribution through Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

“It’s very significant to the local population,” said Schull, just moments after CLC-6 Marines became the first 2nd MLG

(FWD) unit to resupply Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge by ground. The convoy rolled through Kajaki with impunity to deliver a pair of Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles to the Marines based there, but this feat was weeks, if not years in the making.

To bolster security forces north to the dam, the CLC-6 engineers were tasked with building each of the several patrol bases along Route 611 and broke ground during the first week of October. The motor transportation platoon provided sustainment in the form of food, fuel and ammunition, noted 1st Lt. Alex Urankar, a native of Mountain Lakes, N.J., and CLC-6 executive officer.

“The motor [transportation] platoon has run 31 convoys to date, within the last 39 days,” he said. “Any time they are not on the road, they are loading for the next mission or sleeping.

“We’re keeping 1/6 going.”

As of Nov. 27, the numbers they have posted in the last two months are substantial

proof of their accomplishments during the operation. To date, the company has logged more than 37,000 convoy miles, hauled more than 9,000,000 pounds of cargo and transported 146,000 gallons of fuel.

Due to the massing of Marines in the area, positive results are already evident. Previously deserted villages and bazaars are teeming with life once again and life in general appears to be improving for the Afghans who call the area home. 1st Lt. Caelyn Furman, a native of Metairie, La., and CLC-6 motor transportation platoon commander, has noted the change in atmosphere during her multiple combat logistics patrols along the route.

“The positives are definitely there ... We are building rapport with the locals,” said Furman. “I think that puts a lot more responsibility on the Marines and they really thrive with that responsibility on their shoulders.

“Route 611 is the main thoroughfare through Sangin District and Kajaki District; it’s the lifeblood. I think it’s critical to the future of Afghanistan that this area is secured and the local populace is able to use 611 for infrastructure building well into the future.”



ESB,
continued from Page 1

assumed control of Marine engineer support operations in Regional Command Southwest during a transfer of authority ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 25.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett spoke with Marines and Sailors from 7th ESB, 9th ESB and 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company before the ceremony.

The two top Marines were on the last leg of a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan designed to show the deployed Marines and Sailors their support.

They wished those in attendance a happy Thanksgiving, a happy belated 236th Marine Corps birthday and reinforced their mutual commitment to provide the Marines in Afghanistan whatever support they would need to accomplish the mission.

Reminding the Marines of their important place in history, Amos pointed out, "80 miles east, in Kandahar, is where the 9/11 plot was hatched."

Before departing Camp Leatherneck, Amos congratulated 7th ESB, calling the job they have done here "remarkable."

Maj. Gen. John A. Toolan, commanding general of RC(SW), began the traditional transfer of authority ceremony by lauding the support of 7th ESB and encouraging 9th ESB to continue making a difference.

"I know what the 9th engineers can do ... by putting roads in, that allows commerce to grow," Toolan said.

Lt. Col. Daniel H. Dubbs, commanding officer of 7th ESB, 2nd MLG (FWD), followed Toolan and thanked his Marines and Sailors for their support saying, "day in and day out you were committed to doing whatever was needed [during the deployment] and made every day count."



Photo by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

A Marine with 2nd Marine Logistics Group rides over a jump during the off-road quarterly ride at Busco Beach in Goldsboro, N.C., Nov. 18, 2011. For more information on the next 2nd MLG off-road quarterly ride visit your unit's training section.

Troops shred hills during quarterly bike ride

Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Steep hills, sharp turns and mounds of dirt served as the backdrop while the 2nd Marine Logistics Group promoted safety and proper riding techniques during the off-road quarterly ride at Busco Beach in Goldsboro, N.C., Nov. 18.

The intent of the exercise was to facilitate off-road training for Marines and Sailors with the 2nd MLG. The training was given by more experienced riders who possessed the knowledge junior riders could benefit from and provided training riders couldn't garner from a classroom environment.

Over the course of the deployment, 7th ESB built numerous bridges, improved hundreds of miles of roads and constructed combat outposts and patrol bases along Route 611, a main supply route connecting the Upper Sangin Valley in southern Helmand province and the Kajaki Dam in the north.

Connecting these two main areas of Helmand has been one of RC(SW)'s top pri-

orities as coalition forces here continue the process of handing authority over to Afghan National Security Forces.

Lt. Col. Scott A. Baldwin, commanding officer of 9th ESB, expressed that his Marines and Sailors were ready to "maintain that ESB fighting spirit," and were thankful to have the chance to continue the mission. "We're team players," he concluded.

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