



THE WARRIOR'S LOG

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 40

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

DEC. 9, 2011



CLB-6 engineers keep Route 611 security forces

Fortified

See Page 4 for the whole story

Cpl. Zachary Meline, of Coose Bay, Ore., ground guides a fork truck laden with concertina wire into place 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. CLC-6 engineers built several of the patrol bases along Route 611.

Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

INSIDE



9th ESB constructs new bases on supply route ... Page 6

Also:

Op Clean Sweep Page 2
Blotter Page 2
Warrior of the Week Page 3

Follow us on   



Photo by Cpl. Michael Augusto

Boxes of excess gear and equipment are staged at the sort lot aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 24 as part of Operation Clean Sweep. After being inventoried and cleaned, this gear will be shipped back to the United States or to a unit currently deployed.

2nd MLG (FWD) leads the way with redeployment, retrograde

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Over the course of the last two months, Marines and Sailors with the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) have begun the process of accounting for, sorting and redistributing Regional Command Southwest's gear and equipment in Operation Clean Sweep aboard Camp Leatherneck.

This operation is part of RC (SW)'s plan for redeployment, reintegration, reconstitution and recovery (R4), which is a four-part term commonly used to refer to the concept

of how the Marine Corps will most efficiently and effectively leave Afghanistan. Planning for the departure of forces has become a primary focus of operations, along with the continued training of Afghan National Security Forces.

In accordance with Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos's ground equipment reset strategy for the ultimate withdrawal of combat troops from Afghanistan by 2014, the 2nd MLG (FWD), the unit responsible for all logistical support in the RC(SW) area of operation, has taken the lead on Operation Clean Sweep.

"The leadership of the 2nd MLG (FWD)

recognized that the sooner we start on this effort for redeployment and retrograde, the easier it will be to handle the equipment and also the better off we'll be," explained Maj. Ken Karcher, the future operations officer for 2nd MLG (FWD) and officer in charge of redeployment and retrograde (R2) operations.

Each element of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force in RC(SW) is currently conducting an inventory of their gear designed to identify those items that are unnecessary for mission accomplishment. Once this inventory

See SWEEP, Page 6

BLOTTER



4 Dec. 2011 - A Marine with 2nd Marine Division failed to maintain a proper distance in a personal motor vehicle and struck the vehicle of a Marine assigned to 2nd Maintenance Battalion, which then struck the vehicle of a Sailor assigned to Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune. Moderate to minor damage was done.

6 Dec. 2011 - A Marine with 8th Engineer Support Battalion reported an unknown person(s) stole various pieces of CIF-issued gear, including two SAPI plates, which had been left unsecured in the bed of his truck. An investigation revealed no leads or suspects. The estimated value of the stolen government property is \$3,535.

Six deployments, two Purple Hearts: --- Nashville Marine uses experiences to inspire others

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan

- The end of his first deployment with 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit brought a lot of tumultuous times for Sgt. Charlie Brown, a Data Network Specialist with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward). The September 11 attacks happened, prompting Brown's unit to pull him off of leave and send him to Iraq.

Continued action in Iraq kept Brown deployed for the better part of five years. The Nashville native did four tours in Iraq, his third being the most memorable.

Originally a machine gunner with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Brown's squads were accustomed to days filled with patrols and security operations throughout Iraq. When the Kilo Company Marines found a rock quarry that needed to be secured, and subsequently patrolled, they went through their routine of setting up a squad schedule.

"Five minutes after we got ready and the schedule was set and everything, I was on rest time," began Brown. "I heard three thumps. I looked at the security detail and yelled 'what does that sound like?!'"

"As soon as he put his arms up to say he didn't know, three mortars landed inside the rock quarry. I took shrapnel on my left arm and left leg. A gunny took shrapnel in the neck. We loaded everyone up, and did the evacuation."

Less than five hours later, the shrapnel was removed and those who could return to work did.

"We were back at the Delta Iraqi National Guard Compound," the 10-year Marine began again. "I was simply walking in between two barriers and a frog missile landed inside the compound and I took shrapnel to my right leg. I didn't know it, though."

The perpetual leader didn't notice his own injuries because he was concerned with the other casualties who had been playing recreational football when the missile landed.

"I ran out there, and the first Marine I came across had shrapnel pretty bad - a sucking chest wound, some big eviscerations," he recalled. "I started first-aid on him, then the corpsmen showed up and they took over. [Someone] came

up behind me and grabbed my leg and yanked it out from under me and said, 'You're bleeding!'"

The two then did what most people would call reckless: they ripped open Brown's trousers, found a large piece of metal protruding from his leg, and proceeded to pull it out with multi-tool they had handy.

"People always laugh when they hear that part," Brown said with a chuckle, admitting that it wasn't the smartest thing to do, but adding that, "I had just been blown up again, so I wasn't really thinking straight."

Needless to say, it was back to the medical facility for Brown. He laughed again when he remembered the medical personnel were thrown off when they saw him, asking, "Didn't we just see you?"

Before the end of that tour in Iraq, Brown was awarded two Purple Heart Medals.

"By definition, it's an award for wounds received in action," the self-proclaimed competition-junkie explained. "I never put that much stock into a Purple Heart, because people have just gotten them for being in the wrong place at the wrong time, but both of mine were direct from the round."

While he admits that he hadn't given much thought to the medals until he was actually awarded them, Brown says he couldn't be more proud of them.

"My Purple Hearts mean a lot to me, because I know during the time I got those, I was doing something I believed in and that I knew was right," Brown continued, following the statement with an anecdote about his father.

"One of the things my dad taught me at a young age was to leave the world a better place than when you come in, and that's something that has stuck with me.

"Anytime people award me for things I've done, that's just kind of an affirmation that they notice that I am doing good - I was doing good when I got injured," he said.

Brown wrapped up his recollection by admitting that he often uses his story to get others to open up to him.

"I tell this story very often, because people think Purple Hearts are very serious, but mine allows me to open up a lighter side," Brown concluded. "I use my awards to inspire young Marines."

WARRIOR - OF THE - WEEK



**SERGEANT
CHARLIE BROWN**

JOB: Data Network Spec.
HOMETOWN: Nashville

Q: What is your favorite MRE?

A: "Beef Patty - You crush up the beef and put it with the cheese in the macaroni and you have Hamburger Helper!"

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

A: "Poncho liner. Astronauts designed them, so they do everything.

Q: Favorite football team?

A: "Tennessee Titans!"

'It's the Real Deal Out Here'



(Above) A heavy equipment operator with Combat Logistics Company 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), uses a front loader to haul gravel for a landing zone at Forward Operating Base New Jersey, Afghanistan, Nov. 23.

(Left) Lance Cpl. Bonstihl Bourne, of South Boardman, Mich., completes work on a set of shelves at Patrol Base New Jersey, Afghanistan, Nov. 24. Bourne is a combat engineer with Combat Logistics Company 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

Photos by
Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

CLC-6 engineers bolster Route 611 security forces during 'Eastern Storm'

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

PATROL BASE NEW JERSEY, Afghanistan – Fresh off a foot patrol, an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, stepped out of an expeditionary field shower facility only to traipse through a courtyard blanketed by the region's fine tal-

cum powder-like sand where he was once again dusted with grime.

The Marine let out a sigh of frustration as he continued his trek through the compound.

"Pretty soon, you won't have to do that anymore!" yelled a combat engineer with Combat Logistics Company 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

At that very moment, the engineers were

building an elevated walkway through the compound to prevent the unavoidable displeasure. As of Nov. 24, the Marines and their counterparts within the company had spent countless hours over the last several weeks building and enhancing new patrol bases like PB New Jersey across the Upper Sangin Valley.

It was all about providing top-notch sup-

port for the grunts.

“We try to go above and beyond and give them as much as we can – shelves, benches, picnic tables [and] decking,” explained Chief Warrant Officer 2 Justin Young, a native of Oregon City, Ore., and platoon commander for CLC-6’s 2nd Engineer Platoon. “We treat them as the customer and build them what they need.”

The engineers also built gym equipment and hygiene facilities.

The base is one of several CLC-6, an element of Combat Logistics Battalion 6, was tasked with building along the area’s main thoroughfare, Route 611. The company was formed with the sole mission of supporting Task Force 1/6 during Operation Eastern Storm.

The major operation was launched in early October in an effort to rid the Upper Sangin Valley of the Taliban-led insurgency. In addition to reestablishing a sense of stability among the local populace, a secured Route 611, which traces north through Helmand province, will allow freedom of movement and commercial development as far north as Kajaki.

“611 is huge, 611 is the key. It helps establish the infrastructure and it helps to show the locals that we are not only talking the talk, but we are walking the walk – we’re helping provide them with a product that’s both useable and long lasting,” said Young.

To bolster security forces along the route, the engineers broke ground on multiple positions during the first week of October. Construction was broken down into two phases – expeditionary and deliberate - and work was split between CLC-6’s two engineer platoons.

The expeditionary phase consisted of the survivability and force protection measures, such as the creation of dirt berms and concertina wire around the perimeter, as well as elevated fighting positions. The deliberate phase allowed the engineers to focus more on comfort and livability measures, like those noted by Young.

Additional force protection measures were also put into place at this time and the meaning behind such things were not lost on the engineers themselves.



Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Cpl. Mathew Alsup, of Eugene, Ore., cuts several 12-inch pieces of lumber, which will provide the foundation for flooring, during the construction of Patrol Base New Jersey, Afghanistan, Nov. 23.



Photos by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Combat engineers with Combat Logistics Company 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), build an elevated walkway between hygiene facilities at Patrol Base New Jersey, Afghanistan, Nov. 23. Engineers were tasked with building several of the patrol bases along Route 611. Once force protection measures were in place, such as berms and concertina wire, the Marines built comfort items that included benches, hygiene facilities and gym equipment for the infantrymen operating from the bases.



Sgt. Paul Geren (right), of Battle Creek, Mich., and Lance Cpl. Michael Stout (left), of Fremont, Mich., finalize construction of a pull-up bar at Patrol Base New Jersey, Afghanistan, Nov. 23. Geren, a combat engineer, and Stout, a motor transportation mechanic, are members of Combat Logistics Company 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

“It’s a big deal and we are very happy about what we are able to give these guys,” said Lance Cpl. Derek Caylor, a native of Roseburg, Ore., and combat engineer with CLC-6. “I really enjoy helping the grunts. It’s the real deal out here and they deserve it all.”

Young echoed these sentiments, though in much broader terms, hailing the operation as an “eye-opening experience” for all

of those involved.

“Working for the MLG, it’s a complete support capacity – supply and support,” he said. “It’s good for my Marines to see what the infantry is doing and what their role and responsibility is, as well as to be reminded of the sacrifices the infantrymen are making during Operation Eastern Storm.

“It’s a big eye-opener for them.”

Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), shovel dirt on top of barriers in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Dec. 1.

Photo by
Cpl. Katherine M. Solano



9th ESB: Building patrol bases leads to safer routes

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

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), spent a solid four days building patrol bases in early December along a main supply route in Helmand province that is known for its insurgent activity.

Their mission was to build two patrol bases from the ground up. They had limited resources and time to complete the construction, not to mention the ever-present threat of improvised explosive devices detonating in the area. Even with these odds working against them, the Marines made it happen.

It took the combined effort of the engineers with Alpha Company and the motor transport Marines with Support Co. working through the night, despite the cold and treacherous conditions. Equipment broke down, IEDs went off, and still, the Marines accomplished their mission.

"It's important to the area to minimize the threats," said Sgt. Codey Palfreyman, an engineer with Alpha Co., 9th ESB. "We have Marines up and down this route all the time and we don't want

them having to worry about going out on a mission and getting hit by an IED. This is a hot spot, so hopefully this will deter the enemy's threat."

Once the two bases were completed, their permanent residents moved in. The Georgian military will be occupying the posts, providing the manpower and security for the area.

"It's a safe place for the Georgians to do whatever mission they are tasked with," said Pfc. Cory McLouth, a motor transport operator with Support Co., 9th ESB. "It will help improve this route and keep it safe, prevent the Taliban from coming in and planting IEDs and hurting people."

Missions such as this, that combine the efforts of multiple coalition force assets, will be key in the coming months as the Americans' role in Afghanistan comes to a close.

"Even after we leave, there will be other countries here providing security, so they need a safe place to stay," added McLouth.

Despite the discomforts, dangers and equipment disabilities, the Marines maintained a positive attitude throughout the mission.

Palfreyman noted, "My Marines have been working hard ... for two days straight so we can accomplish the mission on time."

SWEEP, *continued from Page 2*

is complete, units will haul their excess supply items to a designated collection point.

According to Karcher, the 2nd MLG (FWD) has dedicated lots aboard Camp Leatherneck and Camp Dwyer to collect, inventory, clean and process for shipment the surplus gear and equipment in RC(SW). These areas, known as sort lots, are the current focal points for R2.

"[These lots] are the last place in country that some of these consumable items that are left in Afghanistan will see before being sent back to the states. We're trying to use some of these supplies as much as possible," said 1st Lt. Sean P. Carroll, officer in charge of the Camp Leatherneck sort lot. "If there are excess materials, then we're going to ship them back to the states."

Some of the supply items will be shipped back to the Marine Corps logistics commands in Barstow, Calif. and Albany, Ga., as well as to the three Marine Expeditionary Forces located around the world. Other items will be redistributed to units currently in Afghanistan who need the gear to continue to sustain operations.

If units identify excess gear now, the process of leaving Afghanistan will be less complicated in the coming months, according to Karcher.

Not only is the plan designed to facilitate the process of leaving Afghanistan, but it will ultimately save the Marine Corps money by identifying excess gear and re-locating it to the units deployed.

"The first few days of operations we brought in about 2.3 million dollars worth of equipment that was all excess," said Carroll.

COMMANDING GENERAL
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL G. DANA

SERGEANT MAJOR
SGT. MAJ. WILLIAM T. STABLES

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
CMDMCM RUSSELL W. FOLLEY

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS
1ST LT. JOSHUA SMITH
2ND LT. JAMES F. STENGER (FWD)

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS
SGT. RACHAEL K. MOORE
CPL. BRUNO J. BEGO
CPL. KATHERINE M. SOLANO (FWD)
PFC. FRANKLIN E. MERCADO

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF
STAFF SGT. THERESA E. SENG

PRESS CHIEF
SGT. JUSTIN J. SHEMANSKI

