



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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SECNAV ON DECK



Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus answers questions from the Marines and Sailors of the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) aboard Forward Operating Base Nolay, Dec. 18. Read more on Page 6.

Photo by Cpl. Michael Augusto

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Jane Wayne Day brings out tough side of spouses ... Page 6

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The new Logistics Vehicle System Replacement 16 is displayed aboard Camp Leatherneck, Dec. 21. (Inset) The LVS R 16 features a 60,000 pound self-recovery winch.

Photos by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

2nd MLG (FWD) introduces new LVS R 16 via licensing course

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Ushering in a new era of logistical support equipment, Marines attached to the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward)'s G-4 licensing section began operator training on the Logistics System Vehicle Replacement 16 Tractor, Dec. 18.

Seven motor transportation operators from the 2nd MLG (FWD) and 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD) participated in the week-long course to familiarize themselves with the new asset and the robust set of capabilities it offers.

In addition to introductory classroom instruction, students were required to log 50 miles behind the wheel with and without a

trailer and an additional number of miles while actually hauling a load, noted Sgt. Justin Jackson, the licensing chief for 2nd MLG (FWD).

"We really want them to get a feel for how this thing operates, its characteristics," said Jackson, of Dierks, Ark.

The LVS R 16, touted as "heavy duty hauling for the heavy duty fleet" by its manufacturer, Oshkosh Defense, features several notable improvements when compared with current fleet equipment.

Older LVS models and "7-ton" Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement trucks currently shoulder the brunt of logistics operations in Helmand province, but that may change in the near future. The LVS R 16 combines many of the positive qualities of its predecessors and then enhances

them even further, which enables a more efficient means of resupply and retrograde. This leaves platforms like the MTRV for smaller, more specialized tasks.

"It's the Cadillac of Marine Corps motor transportation," said Cpl. Kory Frens, a licensing instructor for the LVS R 16, who temporarily joined 2nd MLG (FWD) G-4 for the course from his parent command, Combat Logistics Battalion 6.

Prior to deploying, Frens attended a week-long course at the factory in Oshkosh, Wis., where he learned the particulars of the vehicle. In addition to a 600-horsepower engine and 18,500 pounds of torque, the new truck also incorporates a 60,000 pound self-recovery winch, he noted.

"I think it's the best thing to hit the fleet in the five years I've been in the Marine Corps," said the Grant, Mich., native. "It features better armor, it's more powerful than the current vehicles and the hauling capabilities are greater."



Click the DVIDS icon to view 2nd MLG (FWD) greetings from around Helmand province



Enjoying every minute of life:

Marine beats cancer, gains new outlook

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan - At 18 years young, many men are thinking about their first year of college, their high-school sweetheart, their favorite sports team or even their impending adulthood and the responsibilities that come with it. For many, the furthest thing from their mind is a cancer diagnosis – for Cpl. Daniel Botero, it was a reality.

The Colombia, South America native decided that at 18, he was going to give back to the country that has, in his own words, given him hope and opportunities in life, by enlisting in the military. With a four-year sacrifice on his shoulders, Botero had already done more than the majority of his peers.

Fast forward through training and, just as he was about to begin his military occupational specialty classes to become a combat engineer, he was faced with a prospect that some adults cannot even fathom. He was diagnosed with cancer in February 2009.

Not only was he diagnosed with testicular cancer, but doctors told him it had spread. His liver, lungs and brain also had cancerous cells. A new Marine and a new adult, Botero now added new cancer patient to his life's résumé, while putting his Marine Corps career on hold.

The new Marine began an aggressive course of chemotherapy. The treatment left him weak, without hair and unable to do simple tasks without tremendous effort.

After his first surgery, both he and his doctors weren't sure if he would make it through a necessary second surgery.

"I was so weak from the chemo, we didn't even know if I would survive the anesthesia," Botero said. "I told them I needed a month to just rest, eat and try to gain some strength. My odds were still bad going into the second surgery."

In July 2009, doctors successfully completed his second surgery. Fourteen months later, his doctors told him his cancer was in remission.

Botero could begin his life as a Marine,

a life that only a year ago held no guarantees. In less than two years, he had become a Marine, been diagnosed with cancer, had faced the very real possibility of dying before his 21st birthday, and now he was a cancer survivor.

He jumped back into his Marine Corps training with zeal. With most of his family still living in South America, the cancer survivor admits that the Marine Corps had become his family.

"The Marine Corps was all I knew, so I just wanted to get back into it," Botero said. "I begged them to give me something to do while I was in treatment."

That's how he became heavily involved with the Wounded Warrior Battalion aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. While working with the Wounded Warriors, Botero developed an even more positive outlook while surrounded by those he came to consider as family. The common bond that the Marines formed by enduring various injuries, diseases and treatments is one he will cherish forever.

"The whole thing was a good experience because I appreciate every little thing now," Botero began. "Instead of always being mad, we learned to be thankful. Everything is glorious."

When he left the Wounded Warrior Battalion and began his work as a combat engineer, he took what he learned with him on his deployment to Afghanistan with the Combat Logistics Battalion 1 Embedded Partnering Team, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward). The positive attitude he had before his cancer diagnosis has only expanded since then.

"I'm a joker, always smiling," Botero said. "That is what held me up through all of this."

Botero's outlook on life has improved, but he says the biggest change came in his outlook on the Marine Corps.

"It made me realize the Marine Corps is a path, not just a job," he stated.

"Going through this changed my outlook on everything," Botero said. "I realize you have to enjoy every minute. A lot of people think of their future, but I believe in living your future as you're building it."

WARRIOR - OF THE - WEEK



**CORPORAL
DANIEL BOTERO**

JOB: Combat Engineer
HOMETOWN:
 Colombia, South America

Q: Who is your hero and why?

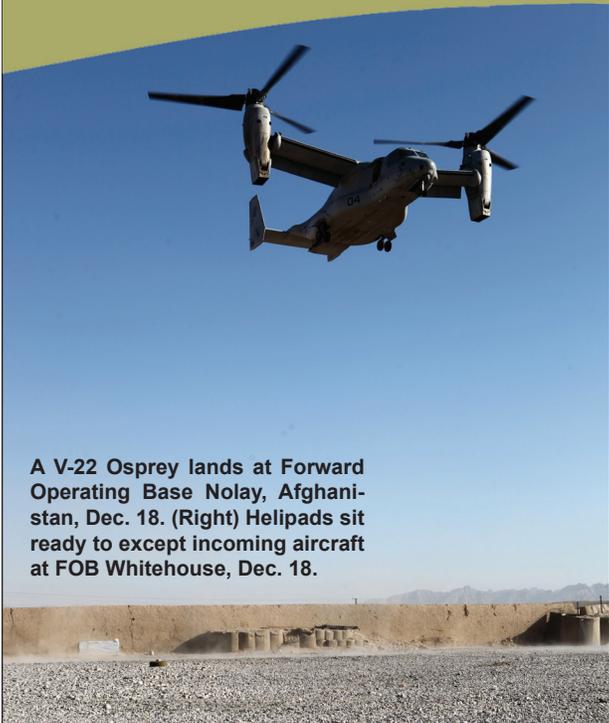
A: "My commanding officer, because he's always there for his Marines. I really look up to him."

Q: Why did you join the Marine Corps?

A: "I wanted to give back to the country that has given me so much."

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

A: "Soccer player."



A V-22 Osprey lands at Forward Operating Base Nolay, Afghanistan, Dec. 18. (Right) Helipads sit ready to accept incoming aircraft at FOB Whitehouse, Dec. 18.



Battlefield

CIRCULATION



Photo by Cpl. Michael Augusto

Cpl. Antonio Uribe, a member of the Personal Security Detail, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), provides security near Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam, Afghanistan, Dec. 18. Brig. Gen. Michael G. Dana, 2nd MLG commanding general, and the PSD conducted a battlefield circulation in Helmand province to observe the progression of 2nd MLG (FWD) operations in support of International Security Assistance Forces.



(Above) Staff Sgt. Jeff Ray, a member of the Personal Security Detail, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), provides security near Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam, Afghanistan, Dec. 18. Brig. Gen. Michael G. Dana, 2nd MLG (FWD) commanding general, and the PSD conducted a battlefield circulation in Helmand province to observe the progression of 2nd MLG (FWD) operations in support of International Security Assistance Forces. (Right) Marines disembark from their vehicles at FOB Whitehouse, Afghanistan, Dec. 18.



Photos by Cpl. Michael Augusto



Photos by Cpl. Michael Augusto

(Above, left) Marines and Sailors attached to 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) greet local children near Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam, Afghanistan, Dec. 18. (Above, right) Members of the Personal Security Detail, 2nd MLG (FWD) enjoy a brief respite in operations during a battlefield circulation, Dec. 18.





Photo by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

A spouse lifts an ammunition can over head during Jane Wayne Day with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, at W.P.T. Hill Field aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 9.

Jane Wayne Day brings out rough, tough side of military spouses

Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado
2nd MLG (FWD) Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Military spouses watch their husband or wife put on a uniform every day. They see their Marines wake up at 3:30 a.m. just to go to the rifle range. They witness their spouses' dedication to physical fitness, but not often do they get to experience what it's like to be a Marine.

Jane Wayne Day is an event that allows military spouses to participate in a series of events such as running a Combat Fitness Test and shooting the M-16 A4 service rifle.

Marines and Sailors of Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, brought their spouses to W.P.T. Hill Field aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., to put them to the test Dec. 9.

The Marines walked their significant others through static displays of vehicles commonly used in the Corps, such as the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected and Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement trucks.

Some of the more physical events included a modified combat fitness test supervised by the regiment's headquarters company, which included two of the three-part test - the ammunition can lift and maneuver under fire. Along with the CFT, the regiment had several qualified Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructors on hand to teach the spouses basic techniques.

They were also able to get some live-fire time in at the rifle range, where participants tore into individual targets they were allowed to keep afterwards.

SECNAV visits FOB Nolay during Afghan tour, awards two Marines for excellence

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan - The Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus traveled to Afghanistan this week to visit with Marines and Sailors of Operation Enduring Freedom. As part of his tour, Mabus met with troops from the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) aboard Forward Operating Base Nolay, Dec. 18.

While there, he awarded two Marines with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and congratulated them on a job well-done. Sgt. Stacy McGuffin, of Havelock, N.C., and Cpl. Clinton Haller, of Olympia, Wash., were honored to receive recognition by the Navy's senior civilian leader.

Brig. Gen. Michael Dana, the commanding general of the 2nd MLG (FWD), then gave Mabus a tour of the various logistics lots and facilities on Nolay, offering an assessment of the MLG's progress in retrograde operations.

As the leading logistics organization in Regional Command Southwest, the 2nd MLG is well underway in the process of accounting for, sorting and redistributing RC (SW)'s gear and equipment.

COMMANDING GENERAL
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL G. DANA

SERGEANT MAJOR
SGT. MAJ. WILLIAM T. STABLES

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
CMDMCM RUSSELL W. FOLLEY

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