



THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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

JAN. 13, 2012

Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Shaw, a Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), performs a max bench press, under the supervision of Gunnery Sgt. John Serpa (standing), aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Jan. 3. Shaw had the highest bench press of the day; he achieved his personal best at 375 pounds.

Photo by Lance Cpl. William M. Kresse

CLB-6 Marines
press for
entrance into
the

300
CLUB

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9th ESB nears completion of two major routes ... Page 5

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Two Marines from 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), use metal detectors to sweep a hill during a route reconnaissance mission of Route Red, which extends from Highway 1 to Shir Ghazay, Jan. 1. The purpose of the mission was to document inclines and declines in the route, sharpness of curves, the shortest width during the route, and where culverts were located or needed to be placed on the route to prevent wash out.

Photo by
Cpl. Meredith Brown

9th ESB performs route recon mission

Additional road improvements forthcoming

Cpl. Meredith Brown
RC (SW) Public Affairs

SHIR GHAZAY, Afghanistan - Two Marines carefully stepped out of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle and extended their metal detectors to full length during a route reconnaissance mission on Route Red, Jan. 1-3.

The quick checks were conducted to calibrate the detectors and the Marines began the meticulous sweeping process, ensuring that the area was clear of improvised explosive devices.

After the initial sweeps were made, the ve-

hicle commander, Sgt. Mark Prado, stepped out of the MRAP and began his duties of taking photos and measurements of the area.

The sweepers finished clearing the area and headed back to the armored vehicle and Prado marked down the grid coordinates in order to catalog another section of Route Red.

Combat engineers by trade, the Marines of 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), are responsible for a host of duties to include providing security for other platoons in the battalion and conducting route reconnaissance missions like

this recent task.

Route Red is a main means of travel for local residents and military personnel traveling from Highway 1 (the main highway in Afghanistan) north to Shir Ghazay.

The purpose of the mission was to document inclines and declines in the route, sharpness of curves, the shortest width during the route, and where culverts were located or needed to be placed on the route to prevent wash out.

“The route has been an ongoing improvement since we took over from 7th ESB,” explained Sgt. Elliot Stamschor, the security element leader on the convoy. “We

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8 Jan. 2012 - A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 2 was observed by military police aboard Camp Lejeune as he approached the Main Gate. The odor of alcohol was detected and the Marine submitted to a field sobriety test, which indicated impairment. The Marine was subsequently processed and released to a command representative.

2D MLG BLOTTER

'Keep driving forward'

Detroit native draws on experience to lead Marines

Cpl. Meredith Brown
RC(SW) Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Nicholas Marchioni enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2000 as an infantryman and like many, he completed his four-year contract and headed back home to start a new chapter in his life.

Just a few short months after he returned to his hometown of Detroit, Marchioni was once again called to serve.

"I was recalled, so I just reenlisted and became an engineer," explained the 30-year-old.

Now, seven years later, Sgt. Marchioni is on his sixth deployment and finds himself in Afghanistan for the second time, serving as a squad leader for 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

Second platoon operates as the security platoon for 9th ESB. They are tasked with conducting route and site reconnaissance missions in addition to providing security for other combat engineers on the ground.

"Because our job is (so versatile), you become the jack of all trades, master of none," said Marchioni with a laugh.

"It seems like most of the time, I go back to my roots and teach people about machine guns and rifles and a lot of other things, because I learned how to be an (infantryman) first."

Spending time with his Marines and passing on his knowledge and life experiences is something Marchioni often does, even after the work for the day is complete.

Before the unit deployed to Afghanistan, Marchioni would organize barbecues for the company every weekend outside of their barracks in Okinawa.

"It's how I live, 2nd platoon is my close-knit family and first squad is like my kids," Marchioni said.

The special bond Marchioni shares with each of his Marines is evident from the moment you see them interacting.

"Most of (the Marines) have seen me go through some rough times, but I always seem to be having a good time," he said. "It's being able to get through all the craziness of normal life and still put a smile on your face, go to work and get done what you have to get done. Always keep driving forward."

For Marchioni, being there for his Marines and believing in them when they need him is key to being a successful leader.

"A lot of Marines know I'll do whatever I can for them and believe in them, if they are going to fail, it doesn't matter," he said. "I just want them to put forth whatever they can, give them the benefit of the doubt

as much as I can. A lot of times, doubt is the only thing keeping the Marine from doing it. I mean we all got here somehow, trying to be the best."

Marchioni is looked up to as a leader by many of the Marines in the platoon; his understanding and patience does not go unnoticed.

"He is more like a father figure," said Lance Cpl. Andrew Nelson, a gunner and squad member. "With the kind of personality he has, before he chews you out, he'll talk to you about what you did wrong, instead of making you feel stupid. It's just the way he is and it just works."

After Marchioni completes this four-year contract, he plans to get out of the Marine Corps and move back to Michigan, so that he can spend time with his 7-year-old daughter and 5-year-old son.

"It seems like most of the time, I go back to my roots."

- Sgt. Nicholas Marchioni

WARRIOR of the WEEK



**SERGEANT
NICHOLAS MARCHIONI**

JOB: Combat Engineer
HOMETOWN: Detroit

AT A GLANCE:
Marchioni initially enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2000 with the military occupational specialty of infantryman. After a four year stint, he returned home to Detroit. Just months after beginning his post-military life, he was recalled. This led him to reenlist as an engineer.

WORDS TO LIVE BY:
"It's being able to get through all the craziness of normal life and still put a smile on your face, go to work and get done what you have to get done. Always keep driving forward."



Sgt. Matthew Davenport, a Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), performs a max bench press aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Jan. 3.

Photo by Lance Cpl. William M. Kresse

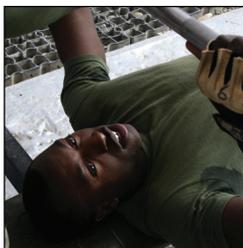
300 CLUB

Photo Feature



Photos by Lance Cpl. William M. Kresse

(Above) Marines with CLB-6, 2nd MLG (FWD), conduct a bench-off competition aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Jan. 3. The competition was to encourage Marines to show their strength and to boost morale. Troops able to bench 300 pounds or more joined the coveted '300 Club' and were awarded a t-shirt. (Far Right) Participants scores are posted for all to see during CLB-6's bench-off competition, Jan. 3. Names marked with an asterisk denote those who lifted 300 pounds or more. (Right) Lance Cpl. Desmond Campfield performs a max bench-press, Jan. 3.



Name	Estimate	1 st Lift	2 nd Lift	3 rd Lift
GySgt Lock	340	330	340	350
GySgt Shaw	375	365	---	375
Pellizzari	290	---	---	---
McDonald	300	330	350	360
McCarthy	320	315	325	---
Lt Clement	250	---	240	---
Sgt Anderson	210	240	---	---
Hazel	300	300	315	---
Smith	300	315	---	325
Campfield	250	260	---	---
Coxtreth	300	275	---	---
Davenport	315	315	350	---
Hickie	280	---	---	---
Spalding	375	---	345	---
ORTIZ	300	300	315	---
NEUMAN	300	---	---	---
213	---	315	---	---

Major routes near completion in Helmand

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

CAMPLEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Marine engineers with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) have nearly completed two major route construction and improvement projects in Helmand province.

As of Jan. 3, elements of the Okinawa, Japan-based 9th Engineer Support Battalion completed the road surfacing phases of Routes Red and 611, which each provide north and south passage on their respective sides of the Helmand River. Additional measures are now being put into place over the course of the next month to ensure their permanence, while also marking total project completion.

“We’ll continue minor improvements along both routes, including culvert emplacements,” said Capt. Christopher Kaprielian, a native of San Mateo, Calif., and operations officer for 9th ESB.

The installation of culverts, Kaprielian explained, will allow for proper drainage of rain water, thus preventing the roadways from simply washing away.

Work on the routes began last year with 9th ESB’s predecessors, the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.-based 7th ESB, which completed nearly half of the work before going home in late November.

“A lot of cross coordination was involved,” said Kaprielian. “The combined effort was truly unique.”

In terms of Route Red alone, he noted expert integration across the Marine Air-Ground Task Force to secure the volatile region through which Route



Photo by Cpl. Meredith Brown

A Marine from 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), uses a metal detector to sweep to a culvert during a route reconnaissance mission of Route Red, which extends from Highway 1 to Shir Ghazay, Jan. 3. Engineers with 9th ESB recently completed the surfacing phases of each, paving the way for further enhancements, such as culvert emplacements. This will allow for proper drainage of rain water, thus preventing the roadways from simple washing away. The routes are both scheduled to be completed by the end of the month.

Red intersects. Support from Regimental Combat Teams 6 and 8 was especially critical in allowing the engineers to continue construction efforts.

The enhanced roads are es-

means of transportation and facilitate economic expansion well into the future.

Route Red connects Gereshk and Shir Ghazay, while Route 611 serves as the main thor-

oughfare through the Sangin and Kajaki Districts. of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, launched in October 2011 to secure the Upper Sangin Valley from the Taliban-led insurgency. The secured and improved route will now allow ground 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 will improve energy distribution through Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

“The combined effort was truly unique.”

- Capt. Christopher Kaprielian

sential to International Security Assistance Force operations, and perhaps most importantly, the livelihoods of Afghan locals in the region due to the proximity of the routes to several major population centers. Safe roadways will present a viable

oughfare through the Sangin and Kajaki Districts.

Not unlike Route Red, the region through which 611 traversed was also a hotbed for insurgent activity. Operation Eastern Storm, a major offensive spearheaded by the Marines

Department of Defense members, from right, Garty Motsek, the deputy assistant secretary of defense, Program Support; Frank Kendall, (acting) under secretary of defense, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; and Richard Ginman, director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, receive a tour of a supply lot aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Jan. 7.



Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

DOD officials 'impressed' with 2nd MLG (FWD) operations

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Officials with the Office of the Secretary of Defense toured areas of Camp Leatherneck as part of an informational visit, Jan. 7. Among them was Frank Kendall, the (acting) under secretary of defense, Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics.

According to Navy Capt. Ted Lucas, the deputy director of the Joint Rapid Acquisition Cell, and fellow OSD member, the purpose of the group's tour was to "see what the warfighter is doing and what the warfighter needs."

Other visitors included Sharon Burke, the assistant secretary of defense, Operational Energy, Plans and Programs; Gary Motsek, the deputy assistant secretary of defense, Program Support; and Richard Ginman, the director, Defense, Procurement and Acquisition Policy.

The visitors spent the first part of

the afternoon with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) junior Marines, beginning with a lunch, during which the Marines had the opportunity to speak with the high-ranking government officials. The talks at the table centered around family and similar military experiences.

Following the lunch, the group parted ways with the junior Marines and began the business aspect of their visit. They toured the sort, supply and the Intermediate Maintenance Activity lots.

The logistical aspect of the OSD group directly correlated with the mission of the MLG, and Brig. Gen. Michael G. Dana, commanding general of 2nd MLG (FWD), was quick to point out the progress his Marines have made on each of the lots. As Operation Clean Sweep is conducted aboard the base, acres of materials have been organized, sorted and inventoried. This large-scale operation is in response to the commandant's vision of Marine Corps combat troop withdrawal.

Regional Command Southwest directed that all elements of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force account for all of the gear and equipment that has been used by the Marine Corps over the last 10 years. The progress thus far within the MLG had the visitors admittedly impressed.

"It's great to see first-hand how the troops are doing over here and how logistics are truly serving the mission," said Army Col. Mark Malatesta, the senior military assistant for Kendall.

Burke's military assistant, Army Col. Daniel Georgi, agreed that the first-hand observation of the progress made in Operation Clean Sweep, including the implementation of retrograde and organization of logistics, was impressive.

"[We] are impressed with the morale and the capabilities of troops here," Georgi concluded. "We are impressed with the dedication to the mission and how well it's completed."

Marine engineers with 9th ESB document 'Red'

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wanted to show progress on the route and note any things that need to be fixed or changed."

During the mission, each time the convoy approached a curve, culvert, incline or decline, in addition to other facets, the Marines would post security for the recon vehicle and the sweeping and documentation process was repeated.

In addition to the hands-on techniques used to annotate the route, the intelligence operations shop took a technological approach by mounting cameras on the MRAPs and other armored vehicles in the convoy.

"We gathered a bunch of pictures and tied them to grid coordinates, so as you are driving down the route you'll be able to view the pictures at the exact grid coordinates where they are located," said Lance Cpl. Michael Ripley, an intelligence operations administration clerk and native of Argenta, Ill. Overall, the mission was a success, said Stam-schror, a native of Milwaukee.

All aspects of the route were well documented and now the reports will go to higher officials and decisions about improving the route can be made with a full understanding of its current condition.

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2ND LT. JAMES F. STENGER (FWD)

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CPL. BRUNO J. BEGO
CPL. KATHERINE M. SOLANO (FWD)
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