

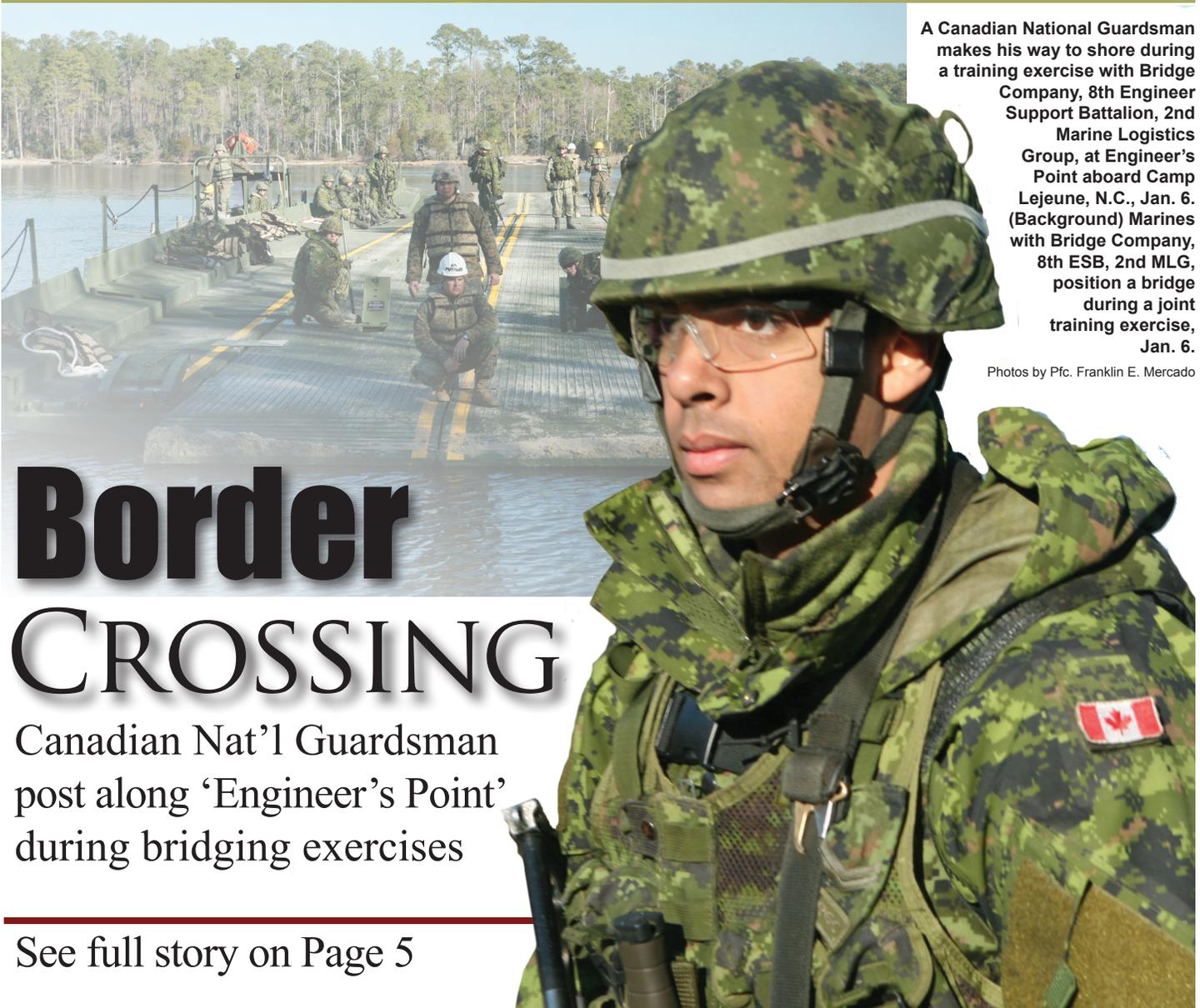


# THE WARRIOR'S LOG

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

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

JAN. 20, 2012



A Canadian National Guardsman makes his way to shore during a training exercise with Bridge Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, at Engineer's Point aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 6. (Background) Marines with Bridge Company, 8th ESB, 2nd MLG, position a bridge during a joint training exercise, Jan. 6.

Photos by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

## Border CROSSING

Canadian Nat'l Guardsman post along 'Engineer's Point' during bridging exercises

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(From left to right) Navy Capt. Gregory N. Todd, the 2nd Marine Logistics Group Chaplain, Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben, the Chaplain of the Marine Corps, and Col. Mark Hollahan, the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Force Generating Element) commanding officer, pose for a photo Jan. 10, aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C. Kibben visited Camp Lejeune to meet with Marine and Navy leaders, chaplains and religious program specialists.



Photo by  
Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

# Corps' Top Chaplain Visits Lejeune

## *Meets with Navy, Marine leaders*

**Sgt. Rachael K. Moore**

*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** -- There isn't a better way to find out how things are going than taking a trip and seeing for yourself.

The chaplain of the Marine Corps did just that.

Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben, the chaplain of the Marine Corps, came to Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 10, to meet with Marine and Navy leaders, chaplains and religious

program specialists.

"It was a great visit," expressed Navy Capt. Gregory N. Todd, the 2nd Marine Logistics Group chaplain. "Chaplain Kibben is extremely encouraging every time she comes to Camp Lejeune. She lets us know she appreciates our hard work and inspires us to greater professionalism."

During her visit, Kibben spent most of her time learning about the different programs available aboard Camp Lejeune, as well as spreading her knowledge and ex-

perience to junior chaplains and religious program specialists.

"One of the core capabilities for chaplains is to advise leaders on issues relating to morals, ethics, spiritual well-being and morale," Todd explained. "The chaplain of the Marine Corps provides this capability to the commandant and these visits allow her to get a first-hand perspective for her advising role which benefits all Marines and Sailors."

Kibben entered the Navy in 1986 and assumed her current duties as the 18th chaplain of the Marine Corps and deputy chief of Navy chaplains in August 2010.



## 2D MLG BLOTTER

**14 Jan. 2012** - A civilian was observed as he placed a Victoria's Secret purse into his coat and exited the store without rendering payment. The individual was subsequently detained, processed and released to his sponsor, a Marine attached to 2nd Maintenance Battalion. The merchandise was recovered and returned to Marine Corps Exchange personnel.

**16 Jan. 2012** - A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 26 was observed as he placed FM35 Filter Lens Cover on his hat, cover it with a piece of paper and then exited the store without rendering payment. The Marine was apprehended, processed and released to his unit representative. The merchandise was recovered and returned to Marine Corps Exchange personnel.

# Brooklyn, NY Marine:

## *Afghanistan was a learning experience*

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

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** – Cpl. David Russell holds a slew of job titles and responsibilities. His time in Afghanistan has been spent conducting inspections, taking inventories, reporting maintenance discrepancies, and overseeing Marines junior to him as they carry out their respective duties.

Russell began his year-long deployment as a member of the Embedded Training Team with Afghan National Army counterparts, but his abilities and dedication to duty set him apart from his peers. He was noticed by superiors and subsequently moved to hold the job of logistics noncommissioned officer in charge with Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

Russell credits his good attitude and determination to lessons he learned from his dad.

“My father is just the smartest, wisest and most well-rounded man I know,” he began. “I am who I am, and I am where I am, because of him.”

This conviction in his beliefs, job and commitment to the Marine Corps are often evident while Russell, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native, conducts the multitude of tasks that come with being the NCOIC of a section.

He is a self-proclaimed adrenaline junkie, stating that his favorite part of his job is

“any time I’m not at my desk.”

While he is unsure of whether or not he will re-enlist, Russell knows that whatever he does in the future will have to be exciting and rewarding.

His commitment to his duties was recognized recently when his command awarded him with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

When asked why he believes he received the award, Russell said, “I have plenty of motivation and work ethic. I have the ability to lead a group of my peers with an open mind and I have a great section.”

He confirms the belief in his strong work section when he discusses who his mentors on the deployment have been.

“Almost every staff NCO and officer I have come into contact with and held a conversation with has made an impact on my life in some way or another,” Russell said.

The multi-billetted Marine not only takes pride in his leadership, what he has learned on deployment, and the experiences he has had, but he takes pride in the deployment itself. He said “I am a lot more knowledgeable of at least three other jobs now and I know a lot more about people, personalities and life.”

Russell concluded by saying his deployment has been a learning experience through-and-through. Whether the lessons were good or bad, he says he would come back to Afghanistan for more if the Marine Corps called on him.

“I am a lot more knowledgeable of at least three other jobs now and I know a lot more about people, personalities and life.”

- Cpl. David Russell

## WARRIOR of the WEEK



**CORPORAL  
DAVID RUSSELL**

**JOB:** Combat Engineer  
**HOMETOWN:** Brooklyn, NY

**FAVORITE MRE:**  
Veggie Burger

**I JOINED THE CORPS  
BECAUSE:**  
“I love difference. The Marine Corps screams difference.”

**IF I COULD HAVE ONE  
JOB FOR A DAY, IT  
WOULD BE:**  
“Anything that makes my adrenaline pump.”

**MY FAVORITE FOOT-  
BALL TEAM IS THE:**  
“New York Giants.”



Photo by Master Gunnery Sgt. Phil Mehringer

Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion work to finish construction of a land bridge in the district of Now Zad, Helmand province, Jan. 14. The building project allows free movement through the riverbed, which normally is not navigable during the rainy season. Route Red is a road that runs from Gereshk to Musa Qal'eh and is used by coalition forces and Afghans.

## Combat engineers improve 'Old Silk Road'



**Master Gunnery Sgt. Phil Mehringer**  
*RC(SW) Public Affairs*

**HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan** - Nearly 150 Marines from 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward)'s 9th Engineer Support Battalion converged in the open Helmand desert on a dry river bed known as a wadi. They needed to quickly build a land bridge through the wadi, rushing to complete the project before the seasonal, heavy monsoon rains began.

The average rainfall for the month of January is more than 6 inches, while the month of June is typically measured at less than a quarter-of-an-inch – more than a 2,300 percent increase in precipitation.

The road, which is known as Route Red, lies on the western side of the Helmand River and is used to travel north and south from Gereshk to Musa Qal'eh. It is rumored to be part of the original Silk Road, connecting the East to the West centuries ago and is easily navigated 10 months out of the year with the exception of the rainy season.

The rapid downpour of rain and limited ability for the hardened, sun-baked Helmand desert to absorb the runoff, creates flooding, forcing local civilians and military vehicles to use an alternate route adding at least 18 miles to their trip in either direction.

Constructing a wadi crossing will save time, money and it is expected to facilitate commerce and traffic to the area. The road is likely to be paved in the near future.

The construction project is huge, spanning 120 meters, said Staff Sgt. Aron Szekely from Tampa, Fla., who arrived with his unit in late November. The scheduled 10-day build has the Marines working nearly around the clock, "but it looks like we might finish early," said Szekely, who is a heavy equipment operator.

It took several days to prepare a proper foundation on the river bed to ensure water would not cause erosion and circumvent the culverts, said Szekely, before the construction could really begin. There will be a "hellish flow of water 4-6 feet high" at times according to the locals, he added.

There will be a total of 28 culverts, spaced equally apart, used for the road. Five reinforced concrete pipes will be located closer to the ends, channeling the heavier volume of water, while 36-inch metal pipes make up the remaining culverts.

With the foundation properly formed, the culverts were put in place and the construction site was a buzz of activity. Marines with shovels redirected debris near the sidewalls building up the shoulder of the road, while multiple pieces of heavy equipment moved back and forth from the rock pile. Dump trucks were loaded, while steel rebar was welded to the outer ends of the culverts, preventing insurgents from placing mines or bombs into them.

Once the culverts were aligned, they were covered with rock material from the wadi basin, estimated at nearly 100 dump truck loads. Gravel was placed on top of the culverts to make a rough road, which was compacted and crowned with a smooth surface.

The difficulty in completing a job like this is the time constraint and the mere "amount of earthwork we have to do," said Capt. Aaron Fischer, engineering officer and site supervisor from Bloomington, Ill. Fischer, a 2001 Illinois State University graduate, said the mission could not have been done without conducting daily logistics runs to Camp Leatherneck for miscellaneous equipment and supplies, which was located approximately 57 kilometers or 35 miles from the job site.

In the last two months, Szekely said he's worked on about 15 culvert projects, but they were smaller in scale consisting of only one or two pipes. A project this size has really tested the equipment and determined, "how much it can handle," said Lance Cpl. Gordan Beier, 21, a heavy equipment operator from Everett, Wash., who is currently on his second deployment to Afghanistan.

The benefit of the wadi project has already reached the local community. When they first arrived to the build site, the Marines visited several residents in the area to ensure everyone knew what was happening, said Szekely.

They all appreciated what was about to take place and one of the civilians said, "It will be much easier for me to get my family to town and to the hospital now." In addition to benefiting local citizens, the road will also connect several of the outer patrol bases, providing coalition forces the freedom to navigate the area.

# Border CROSSING

## 8th ESB hosts Canadian troops during bridge training

**Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado**  
*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** - The 2nd Marine Logistics Group is the only active duty command in the Marine Corps that has a company-size element with the bridging capabilities Bridge Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion provides. So when the Canadian army national guard wanted to brush up on bridging skills, they made their way to

Engineer's Point on the banks of the New River aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., for a joint training exercise, Jan. 6.

The training was held to give the Canadian combat engineers a chance to refine their skills in warmer weather than their native land.

During the exercise, Canadians used an improved ribbon bridge, which they assembled and disassembled with the help of the Marines, to transport ve-

hicles in between three points.

The IRB is a floating wet-gap bridge system capable of carrying 96 tons. The bridge can also overcome wet-gap obstacles, such as rivers and lakes, too wide to be breached and too deep to be forded by combat vehicles.

Although the majority of the guardsmen spoke mainly French, they all worked together moving the vehicles. Marines stood by as subject matter experts, gave tips and critiqued the work done by the guardsmen.

"Everyone is doing their part and things are coming together nicely," said Capt. Micheal Stevens, the commanding officer for Bridge Company. "There is a slight language barrier but it hasn't hindered the process. We've done a good job guiding the guardsmen in the right direction."

Many of the two services' techniques differ, for example, the Marine Corps uses rope to secure their boats to the rafts while on the water, but the guardsmen use cables to hold the two together.

Regardless of these subtle differences, Stevens thought the Marines and guardsmen performed well with each other, even though it was a first for many of the service members involved.

In addition to moving the vehicles, the Canadians operated watercraft, manned safety boats, and provided security for the scenarios.

The training exercise wasn't all work and no play. The Marines and Canadians had time to get to know each other.

"When these service members head back to Canada they'll leave with the impression we give them," Stevens said. "We're making sure they head back thinking we're the best, and I think our Marines did that."

These service members' paths are unlikely to cross again, but the Marines with Bridge Company have left their imprint on the Canadian national guardsmen and large shoes to fill for the next service members who work with the guardsmen.



## Gov't Officials Break Bread with 2nd MLG (FWD) Marines

Rep. Bill Huizenga (left), of Michigan's 2nd District, speaks with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) Marines during dinner aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Jan. 14. Marines had the opportunity to ask questions and voice opinions about a variety of topics. Huizenga spoke about his passion for family and his concern over the country's spending habits. Senators Ron Wyden of Oregon and Mark Begich of Alaska were also on hand. The group toured multiple facilities aboard Camp Leatherneck to include the Concussion Restoration Care Center.

Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

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**SERGEANT MAJOR**  
SGT. MAJ. WILLIAM T. STABLES

**COMMAND MASTER CHIEF**  
CMDMCM RUSSELL W. FOLLEY

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