



# THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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

JAN. 27, 2012

## FUELING THE FIGHT

Bulk fuel Marines keep bases, operations running

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Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano  
A fuel line is connected to a vehicle for refilling at the fuel farm aboard Forward Operating Base Whitehouse, Afghanistan, Jan. 18. Thousands of gallons of fuel are distributed daily by Marines with Bulk Fuel Platoon, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), in support of ground operations in the surrounding area.

INSIDE



**UK soldiers participate in exchange with MSB ... Page 2**

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British Army soldiers Craftsman Adam Evans (foreground) and Lance Cpl. Craig Heaton (right) troubleshoot a Detroit Diesel V6 Logistics Vehicle System truck engine at the Intermediate Maintenance Activity lot aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Jan. 20. The pair is part of an ongoing exchange program between Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2's Maintenance Company and their coalition counterparts at Camp Bastion.

Photos by  
Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

## UK troops fall in with MSB Marines during exchange program

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

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** – Two soldiers with the British Army's Theater Equipment Support Battalion have spent the last several days turning wrenches among some of 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward)'s finest maintainers.

Beginning Jan. 16, Lance Cpl. Craig Heaton and Craftsman Adam Evans traded places with a pair of their American counterparts for an opportunity to see how the Corps keeps their gear in the fight.

The swap is part of an ongoing exchange program between Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2's Maintenance Company and their coalition counterparts at Camp Bastion.

According to Maj. Brian Spooner, the commanding officer of Maint. Co., it's all about maintaining positive relationships with our NATO partners.

"It has allowed us to compare levels of maintenance and share ideas ... come up with unique solutions to unpredictable problems," said Spooner, a native of Fort Collins, Colo.

The troops spent much of the week running diagnostics on various types of engines.

Heaton, a vehicle mechanic and native of Northamptonshire, England, noted an obvious difference between the ways the two forces approach equipment repair.

The afternoon of Jan. 20 found the exchange pair at the Intermediate Maintenance Activity lot troubleshooting a Detroit Diesel V6 Logistics Vehicle System

truck engine down to the component level – something quite different from what they would have done on the British side. Where the Marines do a lot of maintenance on site, Heaton explained that his unit would typically replace the whole part, an entire engine in this case, and send the broken piece of gear back to England for refurbishing.

"We were originally taught this type of thing in trade training, but you get to your unit and start doing things the way they do things and some of it fades away," he said. "This brings it back, enhances it."

"A lot of the equipment we use is similar to what we are working on here, same transmissions, so we'll be able to fix more issues on site and save it from being sent back."



23 Jan. 2012 - A Marine with 8th Engineer Support Battalion reported he discovered a package of "Dead Man's Chest" spice in the pocket of a Marine's sweatpants. A permissive search conducted by military police resulted in the discovery of spice packaging on the Marine's nightstand. The Marine admitted culpability, was apprehended, processed and released to his unit representative.

24 Jan. 2012 - A Marine with 8th Engineer Support Battalion was observed running in traffic, while yelling racial comments. The Marine attempted to flee from military police and further failed to comply to military police orders while they were apprehending him. The Marine was subsequently processed and released to a unit representative.

## Doing the right thing always:

Bulk fuel Marine learns lessons in ROTC, applies them to essential missions in Afghanistan

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

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WHITEHOUSE, Afghanistan** – With a budding interest in joining the military beginning at a young age, Sgt. Xuchill Laput, a regional site manager with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), never really considered another option.

While he originally enlisted to be a combat engineer, over the years, Laput has come to appreciate the importance of being a bulk fuel Marine. He recognizes that every mission requires fuel, and it is up to the Bulk Fuel Platoon to keep that mission fulfilled.

Laput says his interest in the military was solidified by one man in particular: his Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor in high school, Senior Chief Petty Officer Mark Williams. While attending Lincoln High School in Stockton, Calif., Laput stayed involved with the ROTC program and says he gleaned so much from it, to this day he continues to return to visit his mentor.

"I grew up without a strong male figure," began Laput. "[Williams] was that figure for me in a lot of ways. He didn't tell me what to do, but he gave me advice on how to do the right thing, even in hard situations."

It is this lesson that Laput says has carried over most throughout his Marine Corps career, both in general, and as a bulk fuel specialist. He says that everyone, not just

Marines, should wake up in the morning with a goal to do the right thing throughout the day. This attitude carries over into his daily routine as a fuel farm manager.

Laput stressed the fact that every morning at the fuel farm, he and his Marines wake up early and go through an extensive checklist of all of the equipment.

He further explained the checklist procedures to include walking every inch of the fuel lines to look for leaks and tears, checking valves, cleaning filters and ensuring log books are up to date. While these procedures do not necessarily need to be done every day, the habit the Marines have

gotten into by doing them every single morning solidifies Laput's belief in doing the right thing.

"I can't expect my Marines to do the checks and keep the farm up if I don't get up early and do

it with them," Laput said.

His dedication to maintaining high standards at the FOB Whitehouse fuel farm led his command to give him more responsibility. More specifically, Laput is now a manager of not one, but four fuel farms in the area. He says he intends to implement the same routine to keep military specifications and environmental regulations up to code at the other three sites.

"The Marine Corps has taught me to make due with what you have," Laput concluded. "Our officer in charge takes care of us, so I'm going to take care of all the Marines [at each site]. In turn, they will take care of the fuel farms."

**"He gave me advice on how to do the right thing"**

- Sgt. Xuchill Laput

## WARRIOR of the WEEK



**SERGEANT  
XUCHILL LAPUT**

**JOB:** Bulk Fuel  
**HOMETOWN:** Stockton, Calif.

**FAVORITE MRE:**  
"Beef Stew. I like the main meal. I try to stay away from all the snacks and drinks in MREs."

**I JOINED THE CORPS BECAUSE:**  
"I've been interested in the military since I was a kid. My ROTC instructor was a big influence too."

**IF I COULD HAVE ONE JOB FOR A DAY, IT WOULD BE:**  
"A pilot or a civil engineer. My eye sight is too bad to be a pilot, though."

# FUELING THE FIGHT

9th ESB bulk fuelers keep battlespace ops running



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

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WHITEHOUSE, Afghanistan** - There is a platoon within 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) that plays a vital role in every single ground operation conducted in the battlespace.

The small number of Marines with Bulk Fuel Platoon, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, are spread over 19 different locations in Helmand province and are responsible for a fuel storage and distribution capacity of almost 2.5 million gallons.

At each of their locations,

they refuel tactical vehicles before and after operations, refill generators powering the bases, and even provide fuel for Afghan National Security Forces conducting coalition missions.

The responsibility of providing fuel for every operation out of FOB Whitehouse falls on two bulk fuel Marines and an engineer who was augmented to the unit to assist with the daily operations.

"As a platoon, my Marines are doing the job of three companies," stated Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Lee, the bulk fuel officer for the platoon.

Lee added that other companies throughout 9th ESB had

stepped up to provide Marines to help support the fuel mission throughout the area. He pointed out how important it was for the battalion to come together to conduct large, widespread operations such as this.

The mission does not include simply refilling vehicles, Lee explained.

"We are trusted to safeguard coalition fuel," he began. "It is our job to account for each gallon and to ensure it is all up to military specifications. All of our sites maintain environmental regulations."

This standard is upheld from the highest levels of leadership down to the operators who ac-

tually distribute the fuel.

A regional site manager for the platoon, Sgt. Xuchill Laput, enforces strict checks and operating procedures on a daily basis at his sites.

He acknowledges that it is not actually necessary to conduct daily thorough checks of all of the equipment and fuel lines, nor to change and clean filters throughout the pump system as often as they do. However, he points out that by keeping his Marines in the habit of doing those things, they enhance the efficiency and prolong the life of the fuel farm.

"There is a lot that goes into maintaining a site," Laput, a native of Stockton, Calif., said. "This isn't just a gas station."

He continued by saying that it is the responsibility of bulk fuel Marines to ensure ground operations are able to run and that a crucial part of that is maintaining a clean, regulated, well-equipped fuel farm.

Lee concluded by saying the job his Marines do is very important because "without fuel, nothing can happen."

The hard work of the bulk fuel Marines is a testament to the importance of their job. Fuel is the lifeline of any body of war, and Lee says his Marines do not take that responsibility lightly.



Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

A bladder filled with tens of thousands of gallons of fuel sits in the fuel farm aboard Forward Operating Base Whitehouse, Afghanistan, Jan. 18. It is the responsibility of three Marines with Bulk Fuel Platoon, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), to circulate, filter and distribute the fuel for ground operations.

# Engineers participate in Convoy Leaders Course



Photo by Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

Marines and Sailors with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, conduct convoy operations as a simulated road-side bomb detonates during a Convoy Leaders Course training exercise aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 11.

## *8th ESB educated on proper convoy procedures through experience*

**Cpl. Bruno J. Bego**  
*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Improvised explosive device laden terrain presents an imminent threat to mission accomplishment, but more importantly to the lives of service members serving throughout Afghanistan.

Marines and Sailors with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics

Group, participated in the Convoy Leaders Course aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., from Jan. 10 to 14, to strengthen their awareness against these hidden dangers.

“Our experience really carries a lot of weight toward what these [Marines and Sailors] are learning here in the classroom as well as in the field,” said Sgt. Marcus D. Jeansonne, an instructor at Battle Skills Training School. “We really try to

instill situational awareness by providing real-life scenarios for everybody who completes the course.”

The week-long course incorporates classroom activities with field exercises, which helps the students gain experience. During the course, students learned the ins and outs of running a convoy.

“They can see how every single stage of a convoy works, from planning to execution and mission accomplishment,” Jeansonne added.

Some of the practical application included organization, how to employ every asset in the convoy and mounted tactics. As usual in a training exercise, experience plays an important role in the learning process, especially for those who haven’t deployed, Jeansonne explained.

He also mentioned a lot of the participants in the course have deployment experience, and their knowledge enhanced the training evolution.

“I think it’s good for people with experience to participate and help others with less experience,” said Cpl. Dayron Gonzalez, from Miami, an engineer equipment operator with 8th ESB, 2nd MLG and a student in the course who has deployed to Afghanistan once already. “We can help make this training a little bit more realistic and make sure others with less experience are better prepared before they deploy.”

The course is offered at the BSTS in order to prepare units for upcoming deployments. The class helps Marines and Sailors ready themselves to operate during convoy operations overseas, where this knowledge can mean the difference between life and death.

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