

Moving toward the sound of the guns

Story by
Sgt. Dorian Gardner
Regimental Combat Team 2

CAMP DELARAM II, Helmand province, Afghanistan – As a hail of gunfire overcame their convoy, a Marine and his teammate dismounted and pursued the enemy aggressors. At the site of his partner's leg wound, he charged through the enemy's machine gun fire, bringing the fight to them.

Standing at attention, Warrant Officer John Hermann, platoon commander of 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal platoon, 1st EOD Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), and all in attendance listened as his citation was read, citing the heroic actions carried out by Hermann on that day in Helmand province.

"It's important for the other Marines and sailors to see the kind of hero that we have amongst us," said Brig. Gen. Charles Hudson, commanding general of 1st MLG (FWD), from Zirconia, N.C. "This Marine is, in fact, a hero. He moved to the sound of the guns and exhibited bravery under fire, he saved a wounded Marine, and he also killed the enemy along the way."

Hermann deployed for the first time in 2003 during the initial invasion in Iraq shortly after making a lateral move from infantry to explosive ordnance disposal, redeploying to Iraq again in 2004. His first deployment to Afghanistan was at the end of 2007. Currently deployed to Delaram in the Nimruz Province, Hermann is managing various EOD teams operating within the battalions working with RCT-2.

In 2007, Then Staff Sgt., Hermann was attached to Company B, 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Deployed from November 2007 to April 2008, they conducted combat operations throughout Helmand province.



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Owen

Warrant Officer John Hermann (center), 32, from Tucson, Ariz., explosive ordnance disposal officer for 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), stands with Brig. Gen. Charles L. Hudson (left), commanding general of 1st MLG (FWD), and Sgt. Maj. Antonio Vizcarrondo Jr., sergeant major of 1st MLG (FWD), after being awarded the Silver Star Medal at Camp Delaram II, Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 15.

"The routines were different; sometimes we would go out for a few days to do humanitarian assistance operations and provide medical services to different villages," said Hermann.

During the deployment, enemy engagements were frequent according to Hermann.

"It was about 50/50. It wasn't every single day that we were out, but it did happen," said Hermann.

During a recon patrol that also included providing medical care for tribal personnel, the enemy bit off more than they could chew.

"It was one of our longer reconnaissance patrols," said Hermann. "We had hit a few of the towns in the western cluster. We did [Medical Civil Assistance Program]-type things. The locals were happy to see us. It was

nothing too exciting."

After a day of providing medical care to villagers and getting acquainted with the populace, the convoy found a place in the desert to sleep overnight. The next morning, they approached a town called Dahaneh with the intent of setting up another MED-CAP.

"Generally if there was going to be any kind of contact within a village, it would already be abandoned by women and children, or you would see them egress from the town as you make your way into the village, but that wasn't the case on that day. They were everywhere. They didn't expect us."

According to Hermann, they were in the village less than five minutes when everything started happening.



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Owen

Warrant Officer John Hermann, 32, from Tucson, Ariz., explosive ordnance disposal officer for 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), was awarded the Silver Star medal in a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Delaram II, Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 15.

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After they arrived in town, the second vehicle in their convoy was struck with a rocket propelled grenade.

"As soon as it impacted the vehicle [the gunner] yelled contact right," said Hermann. "It was funny because the RPG didn't detonate; it bounced off the truck then landed on the ground. That is when everything else started."

After the Marine yelled contact, more fire came upon the convoy. With women and children still occupying the general vicinity, it was difficult to fire on known targets, according to Hermann.

"People were running to take cover so you had to be very mindful of what you were doing and where your targets were," said Hermann. "Once that happened, we identified where the insurgents appeared to be firing at us from, so we made the decision to dismount and assault through the ambush."

Alongside Sgt. Kurt Zimmerman, the vehicle commander for victor one, Hermann and Zimmerman pushed into the village, finding cover behind a building. After reaching that point, they had a better view of the enemy. As they began to tighten the distance on the enemy, the enemy fire became more accurate, according to Hermann.

Between the opposing forces

lay an open field. While taking cover behind a building, enemy fire still impacting around them, Zimmerman and Hermann made the decision to cross the field and eliminate the enemy threat.

"We took off, Zimmerman was right behind me," said Hermann. "We couldn't have gotten 10 or 15 yards and he was shot in the left leg."

Successfully making it to the trench line, Hermann jumped in and destroyed the two man machine-gun team with his M4 semi-automatic rifle. Hermann then made his way back to his teammate to help dress his wound.

"At that point, Zimmerman had crawled back behind the corner of a building, struggling to get his tourniquet on," said Hermann. "I applied his tourniquet and dressed his wound."

Shortly after, an additional machinegun opened fire on Zimmerman and Hermann's position. At that point, another fire team appeared with a corpsman, reinforcing their position.

"We passed Zimmerman off to the doc to ensure his wound was taken care of properly," said Hermann. "At that point, we finished clearing through the town."

As the fire team advanced with Hermann, the team's assault resulted in the demise of another 11 insurgents. When asked about his reason for re-



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Video by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer

Marine Warrant Officer John Hermann is awarded the Silver Star Medal for bravery while serving in Afghanistan in February 2008. While conducting a combined reconnaissance patrol, he and his Marines came under mortar, rocket propelled grenade, machinegun and small arms fire in the village of Dahaneh, Afghanistan. While moving toward the enemy under fire, he was wounded by and RPG, and one of his fellow Marines was shot in the leg. Hermann ran over open terrain, ignoring his own wounds, to destroy the enemy assailants and provide first aid to the wounded Marine. After applying a tourniquet, he moved forward and silenced the remaining enemy machine gun. A staff sergeant at the time, he was later promoted to gunnery sergeant and then selected for the Warrant Officer program.

turning to aid Zimmerman after crossing an open field under enemy fire once before, the answer was quite simple.

"I couldn't leave him," said Hermann. "He would have done the same for me."

Hermann attributes the success of his team surviving that day to two things: training and teamwork.

"Honestly, you don't have time to sit and think about what's go-

ing on," said Hermann. "You rely on your training. You do what you're taught. It's a team effort. It's never just one guy. People talk about heroics. Heroics happen every single day out here, it doesn't matter what unit you're in."

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Tip of the spear: Marines graduate Corporals Course in Afghanistan

Story by

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer

Forward Staff

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Marines from 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) graduated a 3-week Corporals Course at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, July 17. As certificates were presented, the Marines lined up in rows waiting for their names to be called. At the front of the line was a small-framed female Marine; her name was called first.

Cpl. Chelsey Young, a combat engineer with Engineer Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st MLG (FWD), was named the honor graduate of her class of 30 students, consisting of Marines from CLB-5, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 9th Engineer Support Battalion and 1st MLG (FWD). For her achievement, she received a noncommissioned officer's sword, which she proudly carried along with her graduation certificate.

It was an "unexpected" accomplishment, said Young after the ceremony. She earned the top score in the class



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Owen

Cpl. Chelsey Young, 20, from Westland, Mich., recites the Noncommissioned Officer's Creed during a Corporals Course graduation ceremony at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, July 17. Young was named the honor graduate in her class of 30 students.

– a 99 average – just .75 points higher than the runner-up, Cpl. Christopher Miller of G-3, 1st MLG (FWD).

Young said one of the most challenging aspects of the course was the grueling physical training, which included a 6-mile hike with full gear, running in the Afghanistan heat, physical fitness tests and field operations.

"At that moment when you're the

most tired," she said. "You just have to tell yourself to keep going."

Young, who scored a 300 on her physical fitness test, boasted she was able to shave off 48 seconds from her run time during the course– she now clocks in at 18 minutes, 32 seconds for the 3-mile run.

Although she was the tiniest Marine in the class – weighing in at 95 pounds

– her motivation to succeed carried her through the challenging course. She also credits her chief instructor, Gunnery Sgt. Antonio Hairston, to helping keep her motivated.

"Gunny Hairston gave a lot of motivating speeches," she said of the former drill instructor who now serves as the company gunnery sergeant for Headquarters and Service Company, 1st MLG (FWD).

The course helped her realize "what type of leader I was," said Young, 20, from Westland, Mich. One of the most important things she learned from the course, she said, is "always look out for your Marines."

The ceremony ended with the Marines belting out the NCO Creed, their voices echoing off the mess hall walls. Despite her small size, Young stood tall among her peers as they bellowed in unison, "I will never forget that I am responsible to my commanding officer for the morale, discipline, and efficiency of my men. Their performance will reflect an image of me."

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CLR-1 and CLB-5 enjoy family-fun day

Story by
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The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, joined their families for a day of fun in the sun on the shores of Del Mar Beach, July 16.

The regiment hosted the family-fun day for CLB-5 as a venue to show support for the friends and family members of personnel currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of International Security Assistance Forces.

"Coming to the family fun day allows me to wind down, meet new people and become more familiar with the Marines and their families," said Lance Cpl. Andrew C. Clayton, 20, from Fort Dodge, Iowa, heavy equipment operator, General Support Motor Transportation, CLR-1, 1st MLG. "It also allows Marine's and sailor's spouses to interact, meet each other and find support during deployments."

During the event, service members and their families enjoyed free surf lessons, horseshoes and an inflatable paintball range. They also competed in a variety of activities to include tug-a-war, water balloon toss and limbo. The competition and raffle winners were awarded prizes to local attractions, movie tickets, restaurant gift certificates, bicycles and gift bags.



Photo Cpl. Jacob Singsank

Katie L. Williams, 21, Noah H. Williams, 1, from San Diego and Cpl. Vihin D. Patel, 24, from Brooklyn, N.Y., legal administration clerk, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, enjoy a sunny day at the beach during the family-fun day at Del Mar Beach, Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 16.

Along with winning prizes, service members and their dependents enjoyed food, ice cream sundaes and root beer floats that were provided by the Armor of Light and North Coast Calvary Church organizations.

"The family-fun day was held to create unit cohesion and to say thank you to the Marines and sailors for their hard work," said Christine Winicki, from Alexandria, Va., family readiness officer, CLB-5, 1st MLG. "We want everyone to enjoy the beautiful beaches, military families and the southern California sun."

The family-fun day event afforded

service members and families the opportunity to intermingle with the Marines and sailors they work with everyday outside of the work environment.

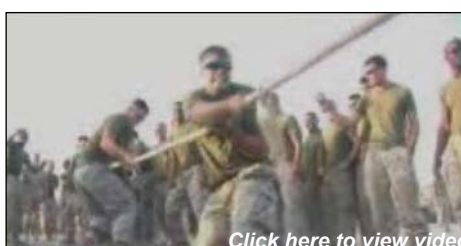
"Having the family-fun day shows military dependents that Marines and sailors aren't always working and can enjoy life's finer things," said Cpl. Juan A. Cordova, 21, from Woodbridge, Va., motor transportation mechanic, CLB-5, CLR-1, 1st MLG. "I have everything I need out here today: good weather, good people and good friends."

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Video by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer
B-roll of a helicopter pilot and crew preparing to transport heavy equipment. Scenes include Landing Support Marines attaching a M777A2 Howitzer to a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter to transport to Kajaki Dam, aerial shots of a humvee hanging from a helicopter, and aerial shots of Kajaki Dam.



[Click here to view video](#)

Video by Sgt. Justin Shemanski
Package about Marines and sailors engaging in field meet activities to include a pull-up competition, volleyball, tug of war and weightlifting. Produced by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski. Video includes interviews with 1st Sgt. Raquel Painter from Sioux City, Iowa and Lance Cpl. John Walker from Philadelphia, Pa. Also available in high definition.

Happenings

The Expendables

Come to the Base Theater and meet the stars of the new movie *The Expendables* at a special free screening July 23, at 6 p.m.

Monarch for Marines

Participate in the 4th Annual Monarch for Marines Football and Dance Camp July 24, at the 11 area field. This event will be free for the first 500 people who attend. Participants will learn non-contact football fundamentals and skills. The registration begins at 10 a.m. for dance and 11:30 a.m. for football. For more information visit mccscf.com.

The Biggest Loser

Work out with Jillian Michaels and Bob Harper from *The Biggest Loser*, July 21 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the 11 area football field.

Open family swim night

Enjoy the summer evenings at the 13 area pool for open swim under the moonlight, July 22, 29 and Aug. 26, from 6:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Barbecue grills will be available for families who wish to bring their own food.

Surf lessons

Come and enjoy surf lessons, July 2 to Sept. 6 at Del Mar beach. Whether you are a beginner or advanced surfer, this class is for you. For more information call (760) 429-8236.

Shopping spree

Kids could win a \$250 Marine Corps Exchange back-to-school shopping spree in the "School is cool" promotion July 15 to Aug. 8. One child will be selected in each category. For more information visit www.mccscf.com.

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For more information or ideas that you want to see in this publication, please contact the 1st MLG Public Affairs Office at (760) 763-7795.

Photos from 1st Marine Logistics Group

Helicopter support team

Heavy lift operations



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Owen

A CH-53E approaches an M777 Lightweight Towed Howitzer to be lifted with the assistance of a helicopter support team (not shown) from Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) aboard Camp Bastion, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, July 13.



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Owen

A row of M777 Lightweight Towed Howitzer cannons are staged to be lifted by air out of Camp Bastion, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, July 13. The M777 is a new lightweight towed artillery piece that is deployed in support of the International Security Assistance Force.



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Owen

A helicopter support team from Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) prepares to rig a Humvee to a helicopter for transport from Camp Bastion, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, July 13.