

Family and friends gather to pay final respects

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
1st MLG

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Family members, friends and fellow Marines gathered to pay their final respects to a fallen explosive ordnance disposal technician, Nov. 23.

Staff Sgt. Joshua J. Cullins, a 28-year-old native of Simi Valley, Calif., made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Helmand province, Afghanistan, with 1st EOD Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

Cullins, also known as “JJ,” was remembered for his calm and composed style, but most importantly his smile.

“Every time you’d see JJ he would have a smile on his face,” said Capt. James Shelstad, the company commander of 1st EOD Company, 1st MLG. “He would always cheer me up on the days I felt down.”

Shelstad also added that Cullins had a knack for using the word “bro” in every conversation he had. Cullins joined the Marine Corps in June 2000. Later in 2004, he made a lateral move to the



Family members, friends and fellow Marines gathered to pay their final respects to Staff Sgt. Joshua “JJ” Cullins, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 1st EOD Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 23. Cullins 28, from Simi Valley, Calif., died while in support of combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

EOD community. He reenlisted as a reserve EOD technician in June 2008 and was employed by the Los Angeles Police Department. Cullins deployed to Afghanistan in May 2010 and was killed

in action Oct. 19, 2010.

“He was a very good Marine, but more importantly he was a good friend,” said Shelstad. “JJ will be missed.”

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Engineers improve security in Sangin

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
1st MLG (FWD)

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ROBINSON, Afghanistan – Marines From Charlie Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), enhanced security for coalition forces here in Helmand province, Nov. 25.

Located in the Sangin District where Marines from 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment are currently going toe-to-toe with the enemy, the FOB was in need of additional protection, and the CLB-2

engineers were up for the task.

“We are perfecting the FOB because they have weak spots in their defense, so we are giving them a safer place to sleep,” said Lance Cpl. Eric Martinez, a bulk fuel specialist with Charlie Co., CLB-2, 1st MLG (FWD).

The engineers worked both day and night so they could bring the security of additional Hesco barriers and concertina wire to the inhabitants of the FOB.

The dangers of Sangin were clear to the engineers the entire time they were constructing the defenses. They had

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Combat engineer Marines with Charlie Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), enhance security for coalition forces here in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 25.

SECURITY

Continued from Page 1

first-hand experience with the Taliban the day they arrived.

"I was checking on a helicopter's [estimated time of arrival] with two other Marines when we heard gunshots" said Lance Cpl. John A. Ferrara, an engineer with 1st Platoon, Charlie Co., CLB-2, 1st MLG (FWD). "I ran for cover, and after I jumped in a [ditch] I looked back and saw Lance Cpl. [Jacob] Crane, and he shouted 'I can't feel my arm.'"

Crane had been shot in the neck by an enemy sniper.

"I saw blood on his shirt, so I ran back to grab Crane to get him to cover," said Ferrara, 22, from Tallahassee, Fla. "We immediately got him to the trucks where doc took care of him. The sniper missed all his vital organs, and he is lucky to be fine now."

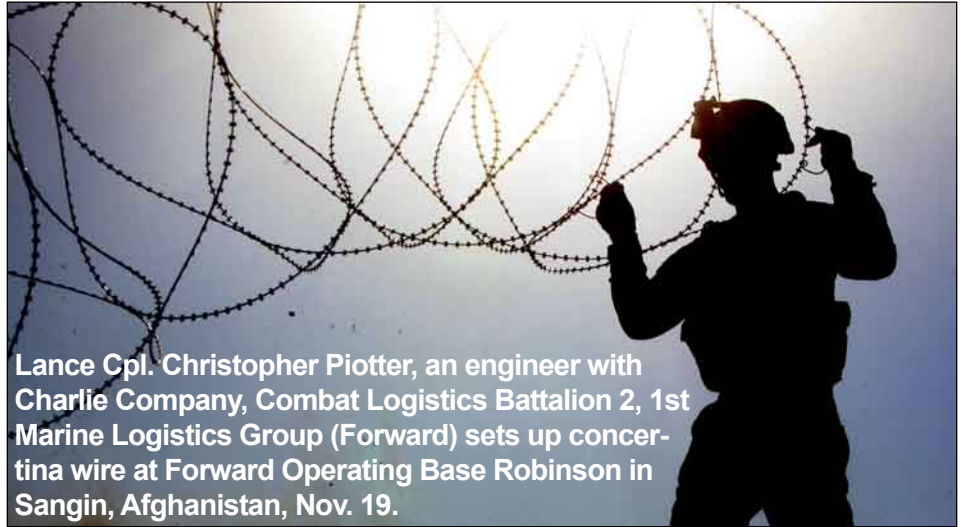
The Charlie Company Marines immediately put up Hesco barriers near the area where one of their own was wounded in an effort to prevent surprise enemy engagement in the future.

The Marines who live and work on FOB Robinson are grateful the engineer platoon is there to help make their

lives safer.

"The guys on the FOB are happy to have us here," said Sgt. Eloy C. Soto, an engineer with 1st Platoon, Charlie Co., CLB-2, 1st MLG (FWD). "They said we were doing good work."

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Lance Cpl. Christopher Plotter, an engineer with Charlie Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) sets up concertina wire at Forward Operating Base Robinson in Sangin, Afghanistan, Nov. 19.

CLB-1 conducts safety stand-down

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
1st MLG

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted a safety stand-down here, Nov. 19.

The service members who attended the safety brief were taught about domestic violence and suicide awareness within the military.

"It is important for individuals to learn about these topics," said Cpl. Lionel Hodges, vehicle mechanic with CLB-1, CLR-1, 1st MLG.

During the brief, several guest speakers shared stories and informed the Marines and sailors about domestic violence and suicide prevention. Marines within the battalion also performed skits for their fellow Marines in order to make the stand-down more entertaining instead of going over PowerPoint slides.

"The Marines doing the skits certainly made this entertaining," said Hodges, 24, from Baltimore. "They had everyone's attention in there."

Performing the safety stand-down put CLB-1 an extra step forward in helping to prevent tragedies from occurring this holiday season.

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Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted a safety stand-down here, Nov. 19. The service members who attended the safety brief were taught about domestic violence and suicide awareness within the military.



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Afghan National Army logistics unit begins independent operations

Story and photos by
Cpl. Daniel Woodall

Combat Logistics Battalion 3

CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan

- Members of the Afghan National Army's 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps conducted a 60-mile combat logistics patrol from Camp Leatherneck to Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Nov. 22.

The ANA logistics battalion carried out the mission independent of their coalition partners with the Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). The Afghan soldiers provided their own security while transporting personnel, food and water to the 1st Brigade headquarters at Camp Dwyer.

In the summer of 2009, the Afghan National Army formed the 5/1/215 in order to provide tactical logistics support to various ANA battalions throughout Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Since the unit's formation, Marine Embedded Partnering Teams have been training, advising and mentoring the soldiers of 5/1/215 in order to help them conduct logistics operations independent of coalition forces. These operations include delivering provisions to various ANA units and transporting personnel to and from forward operating bases.

"We knew they had the ability to conduct this mission," said Gunnery Sgt. Leroy A. Forbes, operations chief, EPT, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), 32, a native of Hartford, Conn. "The end state to our mission is to get [5/1/215] to operate without our assistance – to put us out of a job. If we had accomplished nothing else while we're here in Afghanistan, the fact that [Nov. 22] we took them through being dependent on us to operating independently is a great feeling. [It feels great] to be a part of a team that took them to the next level."

Though the mission on Nov. 22 is considered general support, it



A medical vehicle belonging to soldiers with the Afghan National Army's 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, departs Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan, Nov. 22. After nearly a year and a half spent training with Marine Embedded Partnering Teams, the logistics soldiers with 5/1/215 conducted their first independent operation.

is also important, said Capt. Victor Kamantauskas, 27, commanding officer, EPT, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD).

"[The operation] demonstrates 5/1/215's ability to conduct operations independently and it builds confidence in their own abilities," the Orange, Texas native said.

Conducting logistics patrols without coalition assistance is a

big step forward for the approximately 330 soldiers with 5/1/215 as they plan for future operations. Despite the success of Nov. 22nd's mission, the 20 Marines and sailors with CLB-3's EPT will continue providing guidance, security and tactical support for 5/1/215.

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A convoy of vehicles belonging to soldiers with the Afghan National Army's 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, departs Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan, Nov. 22. By conducting the convoy, the ANA show the progress they have made over the past year.

Marines prepare for cook-off challenge

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
1st MLG

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – In the field with a field mess set up, Marines with Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, began cooking up their best dishes, Nov. 15, in preparation for a Marine Corps-wide food service competition against the top field mess chefs.

The competition is for the Maj. Gen. William P.T. Hill Award, which is similar to Chef of the Quarter competitions held in mess halls throughout the Marine Corps, except this particular competition determines the best field mess—the Marine Corps' version of an outdoor "kitchen." The Marines will compete against food service Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ari., and Camp Butler, Japan.

"This is a big event for us," said Sgt. Tavis McGregor, food service specialist, Food Service Company, CLR-17, 1st MLG. "We are getting to show everyone what our Marines are capable of doing here," said McGregor, 26, from Phoenix.

The Marines began by putting together tents and setting up a kitchen, serving line and dining area for patrons to eat.

"We started from scratch out here," said Lance Cpl. Maximino Rojas, food service specialist, Food Service Company, CLR-17, 1st MLG. "We set up everything we needed to put this meal together. It was a lot of hard work but we got it done," said Rojas, 20, from Dallas.

To practice for the competition, members of the field mess, a section within Food Service Company, teamed up in groups to prepare a dish to serve to hungry patrons. Surrounded by stoves, ovens and broilers, each person worked vigorously to complete their dish in time.

Some of the menu items included beef stew, shrimp jambalaya, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed vegetables and various desserts.

"The food turned out great," said Cpl. Angel OliverasLopez, food service specialist, Food Service Company, CLR-17, 1st MLG. "This is the time to fix whatever we need to fix so we are fully prepared for the competition in December," said OliverasLopez, 24, from Puerto Rico.

With almost a month ahead of them to get prepared, these Marines have plenty of time to work and perfect their skills for the competition, which will take place Dec. 20.

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Lance Cpl. Maximino Rojas, food service specialist, Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, fills a field serving dish with hot water to keep food warm.



Marines with Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, cook up their best dishes at a field mess during a practical application for a Marine Corps-wide competition against other food service companies.

Sgt. of Marines, world champion of the bench press

Story by

Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
1st MLG

BATH, England – Recruiters sometimes tell prospective Marines that the Marine Corps will give them the opportunity to find their dream and help them follow through with it in life. Sgt. David L. Douglas, motor transport mechanic with 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, is an example of the truth in those words.

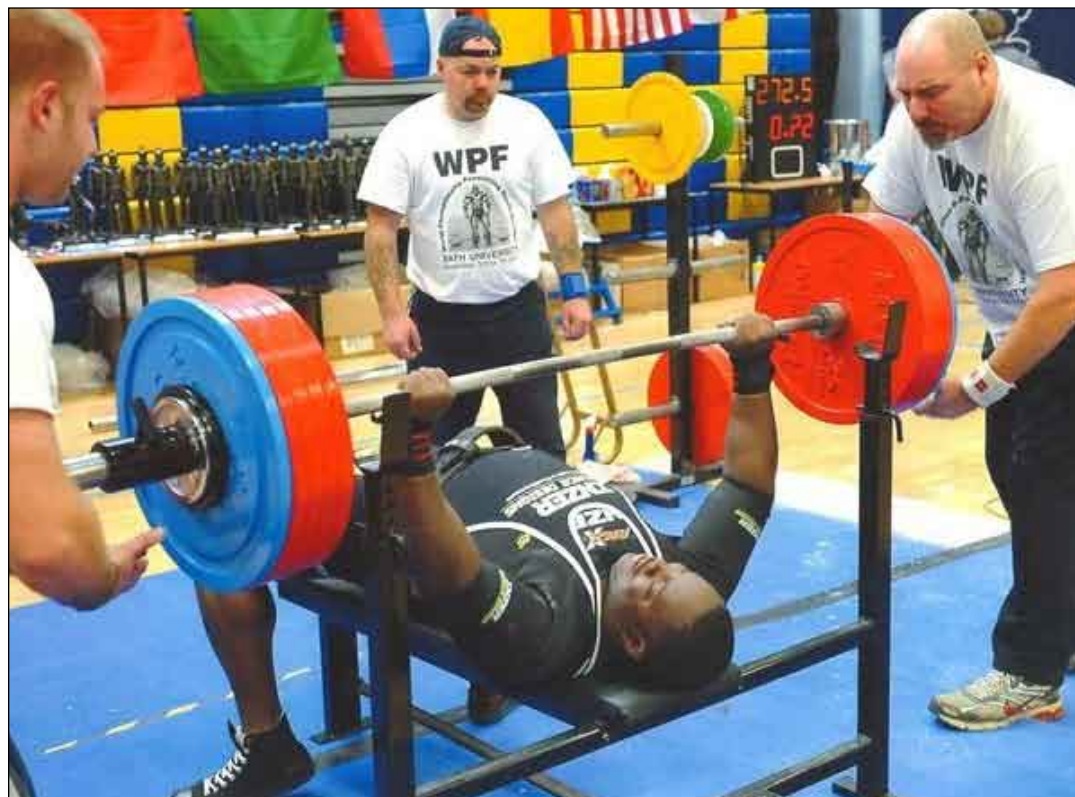
Douglas, 23, from Oceanside, Calif., became a world champion during the World Power-lifting Championship in Bath, England, Nov. 7.

It all started at his first duty station, Okinawa, Japan, four and a half years ago, where Douglas began lifting weights as a way to relieve stress. As time went on people began to notice his improvements. His gunnery sergeant invited him to participate in one of the weight-lifting competitions between military bases.

"I wasn't interested at first," said Douglas, "but after a couple months, I decided to give it a try. I haven't looked back since."

What started as a stress relief method turned into a passion. Since then, Douglas has competed in several weight-lifting competitions and has almost always been the winner.

"I have won over 20 awards and placed first in all [competitions] except one, where I came in second," said Douglas. "I lost to a man who was well known on base for the past 25 years, Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael Green. After the competition, he told me that he



Courtesy Photo

Sgt. David L. Douglas, motor transport mechanic with 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, participates in a bench press competition at the World Power-lifting Federation's World Power-lifting Championship in Bath, England, Nov. 7. Douglas, 23, from Oceanside, Calif., became a WPF world champion by defeating more than 100 international competitors in the bench press lifting 605 pounds overall.

recognized my potential and began training me the very next day."

Graduating from recruiting training at only 145 pounds, Douglas now stands 6 feet tall, weighs 274 pounds and is a power-lifter world champion. He has defeated more than 100 international competitors, lifting 605 pounds overall.

"Douglas is a strong kid with a lot of determination," said Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Reep, a fellow member of Camp Pendleton Bar Bender Power-lifting Team. "For being so young and talented, he has the potential to go far in this sport."

According to Reep, 36, from Columbia, S.C., Douglas helps the team improve. Seeing what he has accomplished motivates the

younger members of the team to train harder, and therefore improves the team as a whole.

"I eat, sleep, and breathe power-lifting," said Douglas. "I still have a lot of progress to make and my determination is unwavering. I plan on becoming Marine Corps Athlete of the Year and winning all the major power-lifting competitions of 2011."

For Douglas, weight lifting isn't just a hobby or a sport, it's a lifestyle. It's what makes him happy, and he feels good that he can represent not only himself, but the Marine Corps and the United States in these international competitions, while also representing all of those who have supported and believed in him and his goal.

"The Marine Corps has

given me a great opportunity to follow my dream," said Douglas. "Given the opportunity to focus, train, and compete in the WPF World Power-lifting Championship, I believed that I would be able to bring home a world championship medal to prove that Marines can fulfill their duties as well as their dreams and aspirations, and I did."

The journey doesn't end here for Douglas as he continues to prepare himself and his team for future competitions nationally, as well as accepting the challenge of defending his title internationally at the European Power-lifting Championship in Limerick, Ireland June of 2011.

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Eric Rogers, number 24, running back for 1st Marine Logistics Group football team, the Beast, rushes for a first down during the semi-final game in the Marine Corps Community Services Football Championship against the School of Infantry's Marshals at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 23. By defeating the SOI Marshals, the Beasts will face the 3rd Track's Gators in the championship, Nov. 30, at the 14 Area football field.

1st MLG Beast heads to championship game

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
1st MLG

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Players on 1st Marine Logistics Group's football team, the Beast, are heading to the championship game after defeating the School of Infantry's Marshals during a semi-final game at the 14 Area football field here, Nov. 23.

Five minutes into the game, the Beast intercepted a pass and returned the ball for a touchdown.

Correcting their earlier mistakes, the SOI Marshals didn't leave any room for the Beast to breathe. The field became a battleground with neither team backing down. The stand-off continued through the fourth quarter with both teams unable to break

through their opponent's defense.

That changed when the Beast completed a 78-yard-pass for another touchdown and increased their lead to 14-0. The Marshals responded with their own touchdown pass with just five minutes left on the clock. They were unsuccessful on their extra point attempt, and the score stood at 14-6.

The SOI Marshals tried everything they could to make a comeback, but the Beast's determined defense prevented them from crossing into the end zone again. The Beast tried to increase the lead, but the Marshals' defense stopped them from scoring just a few inches from the end zone with less than a minute left to go in the game. However, by sacking the Marshals' quarterback inside their own end zone, 1st MLG

Beast scored a safety, winning the game by a score of 16-6.

"Good job out there today," said Marvin Hill, head coach for 1st MLG Beast. "But I want to take a moment to say thank you to the SOI Marshals for coming out here tonight and giving it all they had."

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Best of the West

2010 Camp Pendleton Football League
Champion

1st MLG Beast

VS.

29 Palms

2010 Twentynine Palms Football League
Champion

Time: Noon - Saturday, Dec. 11
Location: 14 Area football field

Marine son reunites with Army dad in Afghanistan

Story and photo by
Cpl. Shannon McMillan
1st MLG (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – A heart-warming reunion took place here as a father assisted in presenting his son with his first Good Conduct Medal, Nov. 23.

While most deployed troops have to wait to visit loved ones back in the U.S., one father and son had the rare opportunity to reunite while serving in Afghanistan.

Cpl. Brandon Edgerton, supply warehouse clerk, Medical Logistics Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15 (Forward), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and father Army 1st Sgt. Evan Unstead, first sergeant of Distribution Company, Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, hadn't seen each other in almost a year when they reunited for the ceremony.

When Edgerton found out he was to receive the Good Conduct Medal, his chain of command delayed his award ceremony so that it could be presented while Edgerton's father was present.

"I missed his graduation from boot camp and anything else that has happened during his career," said Unstead, 43, from Rocky Mount, N.C. "And being in the same country at the same time, I was not going to miss him receiving his Good Conduct Medal." Since June 2007, when Edgerton stepped on the yellow footprints, it has not been easy for the duo to play an active role in each other's lives. Unstead is based at Fort Drum, N.Y., and Edgerton was assigned to Camp Pendleton, Calif., after serving two years with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, Camp Schwab, Okinawa, Japan.

"The last time we saw each other was last year during Christmas," said Edgerton, from San Antonio. "It's basically when he is home and I can take leave, is when we get to see each other."

"It's the first time we both are in the same place on active duty in uniform," he added.



Army 1st Sgt. Evan Unstead pins the Good Conduct Medal on his son, Cpl. Brandon Edgerton, supply warehouse clerk, Medical Logistics Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15 (Forward), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 23.

Even with active military careers, the father-son duo do not allow the distance to affect their relationship.

"We talk on a regular basis," said Edgerton. "We talk about the military and our lives."

Not only does Edgerton seek personal guidance from Unstead as a father, but also seeks military guidance from him as a senior enlisted service leader.

"He's been there, he has done all that," said Edgerton. "Whenever I had a question, he would always have an answer, and it has helped me along the way."

"It keeps him on the straight and narrow," Unstead said. "So far I have heard nothing more than good things about him. It makes me proud."

Not only was it a proud moment for Unstead to see his son presented with the medal, but it was an honorable moment when Edgerton chose to serve his country three and a half years ago.

"He could have chosen anything to do with his life," Unstead said. "But he chose to be that one percent that gives back and defend his country."

Edgerton knew he wanted to serve his country, and when it came down to making the decision to join the Marine Corps, his father was there to help him.

"It came down to me wanting to make

my own path," said Edgerton, who is the first Marine in his family.

Having a father in the military opened Edgerton's eyes.

"Having my father in the military, I got to see a lot," he said. "I joined the military to see the world, to do something better with my life."

Edgerton remembers when his father would come back from a tour and would take him and his mother to various places.

"I thought it was important to tell and show him that there are other things outside his imminent surroundings," said Unstead, "to appreciate what you have."

Not only has Edgerton traveled across the world to serve his country, but he has committed another four years to the Corps. He re-enlisted a week before he deployed in September.

Being presented the medal was not only a milestone for Edgerton, but it was a memorable moment with his father there, he said.

This reunion may be the last time the father-son duo will see each other before they are once again reunited in the United States. They will both head home in early spring.

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8th ESB uncases colors, ready to serve

9th Engineer Support Battalion ends their journey as 8th ESB begins theirs.

Story by

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer

1st MLG (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan

– The Marines of 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) transferred authority to the North Carolina-based 8th Engineer Support Battalion in a ceremony here, Nov. 25, officially marking the completion of their 7-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Ted Adams, commanding officer, 9th ESB, and Sgt. Maj. James Calbough, sergeant major, 9th ESB, cased the battalion colors, signifying the end of their unit's Afghanistan tour. Their replacements, Lt. Col. Christopher Downs, commanding officer, 8th ESB, and Sgt. Maj. Veney Cochran, sergeant major, 8th ESB, uncased their battalion's colors, symbolizing the assumption of responsibility for providing general engineering support to I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) throughout Helmand province.

The 9th ESB Marines paved the way during their deployment by improving more than 30 miles of road throughout Marjah, Musa Qal'eh, Shir Ghazay and Sangin, aiding movement for both coalition forces and local Afghans, as well as inhibiting the placement of improvised explosive devices by the Taliban.

"I consider the road-improvement projects the perfect [counterinsurgency] task that has the most significant long-term impact," said Adams, 45, from Polson, Mont. "IEDs were dramatically reduced on the roads which were rebuilt. Locals benefited from road improvements, and perhaps they directly influenced the low amount of kinetic activity we experienced as well as the lack of return of IEDs."

In addition to road improvement, the engineers installed 14 bridges and culverts, and constructed six combat outposts for Afghan National Security Forces and coalition forces.

"The combat outposts which [9th ESB] constructed for the ANSF supported the overall development of their capability to assume more responsibilities while be-



Photo by Cpl. Shannon McMillan

Lt. Col. Christopher Downs, commanding officer, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), and Sgt. Maj. Veney Cochran, sergeant major, 8th ESB, uncased the battalion's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 25. The Marines of 8th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD), assumed authority from the Okinawa-based 9th Engineer Support Battalion, officially marking the start of their 7-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

ing able to operate from force protected, secure facilities," said Adams.

The battalion also supported ground units by providing power, transporting 240,000 gallons of bulk fuel and more than 560,000 tons of supplies, purifying nearly 4 million gallons of water, providing thousands of self-contained shower facilities, and cleaning 72,000 pounds of laundry for Marines and sailors.

Since arriving in May to conduct general engineer support missions, the battalion has contributed significantly to the success of Regional Command (Southwest) operations.

"Their actions the past six months have undoubtedly contributed to the successes gained during this fight," said Calbough, 38, from Louisville, Ky.

The Marines of 8th ESB are poised to build on the successes of their predecessors over the course of their deployment.

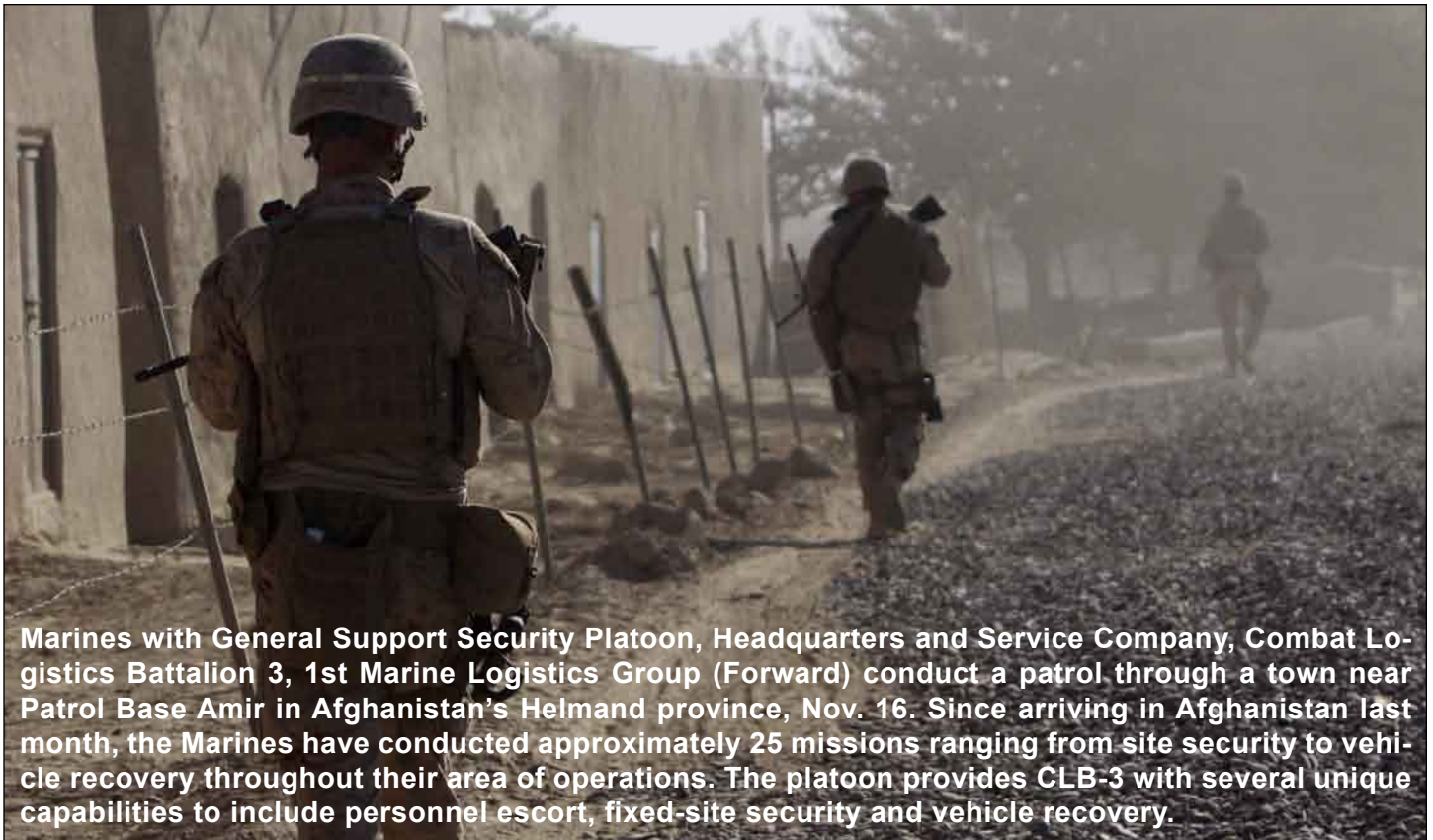
"The Marines of 8th ESB want nothing more than to contribute to the [Marine Air Ground Task Force] fight in every way possible, every day possible throughout our tour here," said Downs, 40, from Catskill, N.Y.

This is 8th ESB's second deployment to Afghanistan within the last year, added Downs.

"(The) 8th ESB returned to Camp Lejeune last year on Thanksgiving day, so it's only fitting that we return back and raise our colors here in Helmand province again on Thanksgiving," said Downs.

The 9th ESB Marines will redeploy to their home base of Okinawa, Japan, while a company of Oregon-based Marines assigned to the battalion during their deployment will return to the U.S.

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Marines with General Support Security Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) conduct a patrol through a town near Patrol Base Amir in Afghanistan's Helmand province, Nov. 16. Since arriving in Afghanistan last month, the Marines have conducted approximately 25 missions ranging from site security to vehicle recovery throughout their area of operations. The platoon provides CLB-3 with several unique capabilities to include personnel escort, fixed-site security and vehicle recovery.

Security Marines conduct operations in Afghanistan

Story and photo by
Cpl. Daniel Woodall

Combat Logistics Battalion 3

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan –

Marines with General Support Security Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) conducted a mounted patrol from here to Patrol Base Amir, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 16.

By conducting mounted and dismounted patrols, recovering disabled vehicles and providing tactical protection for personnel in support of I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), Marine security units are creating a safer environment for all coalition forces operating in Afghanistan.

According to 1st Lt. Greg Cummings, 25, platoon commander, GS Security Platoon, Headquarters & Service Company, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD), his platoon conducts several security-related missions to include personnel escorts, de-

tainee handling, vehicle recovery and fixed-site security in support of their battalion as well as Regimental Combat Team 1.

Here in Afghanistan, the GS Security Platoon retains the basic concepts of force protection but alters the scope of their mission to adapt to a combat environment, said Sgt. Louis Henriquez, 28, section leader, 2nd Section, GS Security Platoon, Headquarters & Service Company, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD). In order to remain mobile and accomplish these missions within their vast area of operations, the platoon has been augmented with Marines from CLB-3's motor transport companies. "Our job is to provide security, whether it's on a convoy, fixed site or on a flight line, and we've trained to do this here for more than a year," said Henriquez, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The platoon formed in August 2009 and hit the ground running, said Sgt. Robert Torres, 26, section leader, 1st Section, GS Secu-

rity Platoon, Headquarters & Service Company, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD). Once established, the unit began training for specific missions unique to a combat deployment. Besides convoy operations and mounted patrols, their pre-deployment training included small-unit, combat tactics.

"We're structured like an infantry unit and it [showed] in our training," said Torres, a native of Decatur, Texas. "Even though we're with a logistics unit, our comprehensive training aids the battalion. We're a well-rounded unit and we have the capabilities to support our battalion in several ways."

Including vehicle recovery missions, GS Security Platoon has conducted more than 20 missions since arriving here last month. The platoon will continue to provide security and recovery assistance to units within RCT-1's area of operations throughout their deployment.

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Brothers in arms: Siblings share Marine brotherhood during Afghanistan deployment

Story and photo by
Cpl. Paul Zellner
Combat Logistics Battalion 3

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan – Pfc. Clint and Brian Sorg, brothers from the small town of Pocahontas, Ark., used to spend their days riding four-wheelers and relaxing in the river near their home, but now they spend their days driving tactical vehicles in Afghanistan where they are deployed together in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2008, bored with their civilian lives in a town of fewer than 7,000 people, the brothers made a choice to answer the call to serve their country as active duty Marines, a choice that would strengthen their bond as brothers and change their way of life. They had no idea what the Corps had in store for them or when they would be separated, but they knew it was the right choice.

“At first we were going to the Air Force, but when the Air Force recruiter was late, we decided to ask the Marine recruiter if he knew when he’d be back,” said Brian, 20, who’s a little more than one year younger than Clint. “Needless to say, we ended up in the Corps and have no regrets.”

More than two years later, the brothers have since graduated from recruit training, Marine Combat Training, military occupation specialty school, and both received orders to Okinawa, Japan, at Combat Logistics Battalion 4 where they served as motor transport operators.

After serving only a few months on Okinawa with the battalion, they both received another call – the call to serve beside their Marine Corps



Pfc. Clint Sorg (left) talks with his brother Pfc. Brian Sorg about what they are going to do when they get back home after their deployment from Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Nov. 17. They are deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

brothers in Afghanistan.

They were assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), and went through pre-deployment training together in Hawaii and Twentynine Palms, Calif. In late September, they arrived with their battalion at Camp Dwyer in Afghanistan’s Helmand province.

The Sorg brothers went from driving all-terrain vehicles in the backwoods of Arkansas to driving the Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicles, used in Helmand province.

Clint works with Motor Transport Company B where he serves as a motor transport operator and company clerk, ensuring all ammunition, weapons and Marines are accounted for.

Brian serves with Security Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, where he remains on standby 24/7 for vehicle recovery and security missions. He also serves as the line of communication between the brothers and their family.

“I feel bad for my mother; it’s kind of up and down for her because it’s double the risk, but she knows we’ve got each other’s backs,” said Clint. “[Brian] keeps mom and the family informed of what’s going on with both of us.”

Having separate missions keeps the brothers apart, but they make time to meet, usually at the smoke pit, to catch up and see how each other is doing. On rare occasions, they get to spend a little more time together and go to the gym or watch a movie.

“I wish I did get to spend a little more time with him, but time passes when you stay busy,” said Brian.

The Sorg brothers don’t know where their travels will take them next or if they’ll be separated, but one thing is for certain; the bond they share as brothers has only strengthened during this deployment. They also realize that they joined a new brotherhood more than 200,000 strong.

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A local Albertsons from Fallbrook, Calif., shows its support for Combat Logistic Regiment 15 Marines, sailors and their families, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., by supplying them with more than 300 complete meals to serve for Thanksgiving. The boxes handed out included a turkey, vegetables, dinner rolls and desserts.

CLR-15 Marines, sailors receive a gift of kindness

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
1st MLG

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, were offered the opportunity to receive free groceries to prepare a Thanksgiving meal here, Nov. 24.

A local Albertsons from Fallbrook, Calif., showed its support for the troops by supplying them with more than 300 complete meals to serve for Thanksgiving dinner. Each member received a box that included a turkey, various vegetables, dinner rolls and desserts.

"I'm very thankful for the food they gave us," said Lance Cpl. Tony Morgan, warehouse clerk, Organic Supply Company, CLR-15, 1st MLG. "I have a lot of fam-

ily coming over for Thanksgiving dinner and this helps us out a lot," said Morgan, 22, from Memphis.

Volunteers from within the regiment were present to lend a helping hand by assisting with passing out the boxes of food.

"This is a big thing [Albertsons] is doing for the Marines and sailors here," said Staff Sgt. Brandon Pressley, administration chief, Headquarters Company, CLR-15, 1st MLG. "We had a big turnout today. This really helps the families out a lot," said Pressley, 29, from Kingstree, S.C.

With the food provided to CLR-15 Marines and sailors, they have one more thing to be thankful for this holiday season.

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Word on the street

Photos by Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar

What did you do over the Thanksgiving holiday?



Cpl. Daniel Lopez
admin clerk, Headquarters Company

"I spent the Thanksgiving Holiday with my family, eating and enjoying the delicious turkey."



GySgt. Pedro Aquino
MMO Chief, Headquarters Company

"I cooked a 20-pound turkey for dinner with my family and friends and we had a board game night."



HN Perice Houle
corpsman, Combat Logistics Regiment 17
Regimental Aid Station

"I spent the Thanksgiving holiday with my girlfriend."



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar

Eric Rogers, number 24, running back for the 1st Marine Logistics Group's football team, the Beast, breaks a tackle and runs for a 7-yard gain during the semi-final game in the 2010 Camp Pendleton Football League against the School of Infantry's Marshals at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 23. The Beast defeated the SOI Marshals 16-6 and will head to the championship game Nov. 30.

Photos from the 1st Marine Logistics Group



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar



Photo by Cpl. Shannon McMillan

(top) Marines from 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) celebrate Thanksgiving with turkey and all the trimmings at a mess hall aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 25. The menu included traditional turkey, along with ham, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and apple and sweet potato pie. (left) Larry Moore, number 15, defensive player for 1st Marine Logistics Group's football team, the Beast, tackles the ball carrier during the semi-final game in the Marine Corps Community Services Football Championship against the School of Infantry's Marshals at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 23. The Beast defeated the SOI Marshals 16-6.