



Commandant honors 1st MLG

1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP ANNIVERSARY

On behalf of the entire Marine Corps, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Marines and Sailors of 1st Marine Logistics Group (1st MLG) as you celebrate your 63rd Anniversary. Activated on 1 July 1947 as 1st Combat Service Group, you have unfailingly provided exceptional combat service support for Marines in the most hazardous locations. Your commitment to warfighting excellence was amply demonstrated during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and most recently in Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Adhering to the motto "Victory Through Logistics," 1st MLG has adapted and forged ahead through multiple reorganizations and redesignations. Marines know that we can always count on 1st MLG to ensure our warfighters are supplied and equipped to complete any mission. As you celebrate your proud heritage, know that you have earned the highest admiration of your fellow Marines and the American people.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY AND SEMPER FIDELIS.
JAMES T. CONWAY, GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS,
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
ALMAR 022/10





COMMANDING GENERAL
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From: Commanding General
To: Marines and Sailors of 1st Marine Logistics Group
Subj: 1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP ANNIVERSARY

Marines and Sailors of 1st Marine Logistics Group: Happy Anniversary!

On 1 July 2010, we celebrate the 63rd anniversary of the 1st Marine Logistics Group. Formed on 1 July 1947 at Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, as the 1st Combat Service Group, this unit has a storied history that begins even before the formal activation of the unit. 1st Medical Battalion was activated in September 1940, deployed to Wellington, New Zealand during June 1942, and participated in the World War II campaigns of Guadalcanal, Peleliu, and Okinawa. Combat Logistics Regiment 1 traces its lineage back to 1st Landing Support Battalion and the "legendary Red Patchers" of the 1st Pioneer Battalion, 1st Marine Division. The 1st Pioneer Battalion was activated in February 1942, deployed to Wellington, New Zealand during July 1942 and supported the amphibious assaults at Guadalcanal, Okinawa, and in the Western Carolines. Our current radio call sign here in Afghanistan, "Pioneer", originates from this unit.

From these historical beginnings to operations conducted in Korea at the Pusan Perimeter, Inchon-Seoul, and the Chosin Reservoir, to operations conducted in Vietnam from Da Nang, Chu Lai, An Hoi, and Phu Bai, we have participated in and supported 1st Marine Division during multiple campaigns. Within the last two decades, we have participated in combat operations in South West Asia as we participated in the liberation of Kuwait from Iraq's invasion in 1990 and conducted humanitarian relief operations in Somalia to restore stability and break the cycle of famine within that nation. Our logistics combat elements assigned to the Marine Expeditionary Units participated in humanitarian operations in East Timor, and of course since 11 September 2001, the 1st Marine Logistics Group has been decisively engaged in the war on terrorism with multiple deployments to OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM and now as the logistics combat element for I MEF FWD deployed to Afghanistan in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

We have been left a powerful legacy by those who have served in this organization before us. We continue to make history each day and I am confident that when our respective tours are complete within 1st Marine Logistics Group, we too will have added to the storied lineage of this illustrious organization. Happy Anniversary! "Victory Through Logistics."

C. L. HUDSON

A novel idea: Reserve engineer hopes to 'spark some innovation' against IED threats

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer
Forward Staff

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Waiting outside a conference room in the Regional Command Southwest headquarters building, Cpl. Paul A. Spies passes the time by glancing at the wall adorned with wood-framed pictures of fallen brethren, many of whom were killed by improvised explosive device blasts. A few moments later, Maj. Gen. Richard Mills, commander of RC (SW), walks into the conference room already full of unit commanders. Spies waits patiently for his name to be called.

Spies is waiting to brief the commanders during a counter-IED conference, and he has 15 minutes to convey the idea he envisioned would help combat the threat that has claimed thousands of lives during counterinsurgency operations. At 10:05 a.m., he is called into the room.

A few weeks before deploying to Afghanistan, he was driving past an 'Adopt-a-Highway' sign and got an idea he thought could potentially reduce or eliminate the deadliest threat to coalition troops in Afghanistan – IEDs. So far this month, eight Marines have been killed by IED blasts in Afghanistan. IEDs also cause severe damage to million-dollar armored vehicles that are designed to protect Marines from IEDs. But Spies' proposal, if implemented, could help reduce the threat.

Inspired by the organization in which volunteers pick up trash along highway roads to keep them litter-free, Spies, a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), came up with the "Afghan Adopt a Road Initiative," which is aimed at reducing the number of deadly roadside bombs. The program, if approved, would work like this: for every 30 days Afghan villagers help keep their roads clear of IEDs, they would receive aid-based incentives in return.

In Spies' initiative, two types of incentives would be offered: Basic Expendable Services (BES) and Enhanced Infrastructural Support (EIS), according to Spies' proposal. BES, such as medical and dental care, would be offered monthly if no IED incidents occur. In addition, points would be awarded to villagers for every 30-day period that is incident free; the points could then be used to purchase EIS projects such as schools, wells and irrigation.

"As soon [as] an IED incident occurred in that village's area, the BES would immediately be suspended pending an investigation of the event," cited Spies' proposal. "If the next 30 days were incident free, the BES aid would be employed following the 30 day period."

'A smarter way of doing business'

As a combat engineer, Spies, augmented from 6th Engineer Support Battalion in Springfield, Ore., said he spends most of his days working on various construction projects that involve wood framing. For six weeks, he used his



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer
Corporal Paul A. Spies, 23, from Corvallis, Ore., a combat engineer with Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), glances at a wall adorned with framed photos of fallen brethren at the Regional Command Southwest headquarters building at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, June 23.

down time to draft the proposal in his berthing area at Forward Operating Base Dwyer, which culminated in a 15-page document outlining the strategy he hopes commanders will employ.

"My company commander thought it was a pretty novel idea," said Spies, who graduated in September with a degree in Planning, Public Policy and Management from the University of Oregon.

After completing his proposal, his leaders passed the idea up the chain of command, and it eventually wound up on the desk of Maj. Gen. Mills, who "loved" the idea, said Spies, 23, from Corvallis, Ore. He was then asked to brief commanders during the counter-IED conference, gathered to generate ideas that would hopefully defeat the IED threat.

His battalion commander agreed that it's not necessarily technology that will win this counterinsurgency.

"I am always challenging Marines to come up with a smarter way of doing business," said Lt. Col. Ted Adams, commanding officer of 9th ESB, in an e-mail interview. "I know the way we'll be more successful in this fight is in our ingenuity. Technology isn't always the answer, smart Marines are."

Adams has seen first-hand that incentive projects can help curb anti-coalition violence. On a recent route-repairing mission in Marjah, dubbed "Route Marcie," not a single small arms fire or IED incident occurred during the 3-week period Marines worked to repair a road in a local village, he said.

"That was no accident," said Adams. "There were over 20 [small arms fire] and nine IED incidents within a two-kilometer distance of [Route] Marcie during the same time frame. In my opinion, the people were getting a reward (the road rebuilt) and they were willing to influence the bad guys to leave us alone so they'd get it."

'Spark some innovation in the Marine Corps'

At 10:20 a.m., Spies emerges from the conference room. His 15 minutes are up. What's the verdict?

"Good," said Spies, who added commanders were generally on board with the idea, but had questions regarding funding for the program. Although funding is one of the top concerns for launching the initiative, Spies noted it may be eligible for funding under the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP), a tool first used in Iraq to promote social and economic development in war-torn areas.

"The beauty of it is, the program won't cost any money if it doesn't work," said Spies, who's served in the Marine Corps three and a half years. "But if it does work, we save the cost of an MRAP, a few thousand dollars or even a Marine's life."

Even if the initiative doesn't come to fruition, Spies hopes ideas like these will continue to be pushed forward from the ground up.

"If Marines have ideas like these, pass them up their chains of command," Spies said. "Hopefully ideas like these will spark some innovation in the Marine Corps."

July 4th Safety Message

Over 234 years ago, our founding fathers established a nation of liberty and independence. Annually, our nation takes great pride in celebrating and honoring those accomplishments. As you celebrate this Independence Day with your family and friends, enjoy the many traditional summer activities. Be mindful of the risks associated with your activities and the added danger when alcohol is involved. This year, our Corps has lost five Marines to over-consumption of alcohol. Drink responsibly and designate a driver. Those of you that will be hosting celebrations, I ask you to provide a safe and healthy environment for your guests and ensure their safe return home. Marines take care of one another. Be responsible and plan accordingly. Be aware of your environment. Enjoy a safe 4th of July holiday weekend with your family, fellow Marines, and friends.

Semper Fidelis, Lt. Gen. Stalder



Happenings

Beach Bash

Del Mar Beach is the place to be Sunday, July 4! The 2010 Ken Grody Ford Beach Bash, presented by MCCS, will feature live bands, exciting kids' activities, volleyball tournaments, heroes' video, fireworks show and the drawing for a brand new Ken Grody 2011 Ford Fiesta. Hit the sand, surf early and plan to stay late. For more information call Pete Elkin at (760) 725-6705.

Hiring Heroes Career Fair

Please come out and participate in the Hiring Heroes Career Fair Tuesday, July 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Mesa Noncommissioned Officers' Club. More than 70 DoD, federal and private sector recruiters will be available to talk about opportunities in various civilian career fields. For more information, call Ty Redmon at (703) 696-6243 or e-mail brent.redmon@cpms.osd.mil.

Painting the Wars

You are cordially invited to an artist's reception and exhibition, "Painting the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars" at building 1795, Marine Corps Family Team Building & Family Readiness Center July 9 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Showcasing artwork done by Camp Pendleton's children & teens.