



The Convoy

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Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group

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Commandant of the Marine Corps holds town hall meeting



Courtesy photo

The 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James Amos, held a town hall meeting aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico with the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlton Kent. The commandant and sergeant major discussed the state of the Marine Corps now, and the future of the Corps at the meeting held Wednesday, Nov. 3. Click on the photo to view the speech on YouTube.

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Marines with Motor Transport Company A, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), deliver supplies to units stationed on Forward Operating Base Delhi, Afghanistan, Nov. 1.

Motor Transport keeps Marines in the fight

Story and photos by
Cpl. Daniel Woodall
Combat Logistics Battalion 3

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan –The Marines and sailors of Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) arrived here last month in support of I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) to provide combat logistics support to units within Regimental Combat Team 1.

The battalion's two motor transport companies will support this mission by delivering much-needed supplies to units in forward areas.

According to 1st Lt. Brian Basile, 26, platoon commander, 2nd Platoon, Motor Transport Company A, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD), motor transport companies provide continuous logistics support to requesting units in the entire area of operations in a timely, tactical and safe manner.

Despite beginning independent operations only a few weeks ago, the approximately 250 Marines comprising CLB-3's motor transport companies have already conducted nearly 20 combat logistics patrols and delivered hundreds of pallets of

supplies, including food, water, mail, storage containers and more than 60,000 gallons of fuel.

In order to accomplish the mission of supplying several units in a vast area of operations, both motor transport companies use a wide array of vehicles on any given convoy. These include mine-resistant ambush protected vehicles for personnel transport, logistics vehicle systems for large loads of cargo and rough terrain forklifts for on-site movement of supplies.

"Our primary focus [as a motor transport company] is to support the units who continue to conduct combat missions out here," said Staff Sgt. Robert L. McClures, platoon sergeant, 2nd Platoon, Motor Transport Co. A, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD), and a native of Arcadia, Fla. "[USMC] motor transport is reliable, dependable, and when we're asked to do something, we get the mission done."

As a Marine Corps unit, a motor transport company's capabilities are not limited to the transportation of provisions.

The companies are also trained on

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various weapons systems to provide their own route security, and they are prepared to conduct vehicle recovery missions for themselves and other supported units.

Motorized transport is extremely important here in Afghanistan, said Cpl. Francisco Brito, 21, vehicle operator, 2nd Platoon, Motor Transport Co. A, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD).

Given the conditions here, aerial resupply isn't always an option whereas ground convoys can be used more consistently.

With a redeployment timeframe of spring of 2011, the motor transport companies have a long road ahead of them. Fortunately, having already traversed thousands of miles throughout Afghanistan's Helmand province, the road is a familiar one.

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A convoy of military vehicles and their operators wait to depart Command Outpost Amir, Afghanistan, after delivering supplies, Nov. 1.

Bridge Marines gather valuable information during recon mission

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

GARMSIR DISTRICT, Afghanistan – Preparing and planning are key procedures for the Marines in Bridge Platoon, Company A, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), which is why they conducted an engineer reconnaissance mission in the Garmsir District, central Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct. 29.

During the mission, the Marines collected measurements of the canal and water levels, and took photos of the landscape and terrain features surrounding a possible bridge site.

The purpose of a recon mission is to go out and gather information on the layout of the terrain, discover any problems that may come up and plan accordingly for future actions, said 1st Lt. Cameron Wolf, mission commander with Bridge Platoon, Company A, 9th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD).

"The main reason they gather the information is so they can have something to plan with," said Wolf, Florence, Ore. "We take all the measurements and all of the information we gather on the recons and we use it to formulate a strategy or plan."

Gathering the information gives the platoon the advantage of knowing what they need and how many personnel are required for a bridge build mission.



Cpl. Thomas B. Brinkerhoff, bridge master in training with Bridge Platoon, Company A, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), measures the distance from each bank in the Garmsir District, central Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct. 29.

The information provided during the recon gives us the chance to decide what size bridge needs to be placed, how many vehicles and people need to go, said Sgt. Trace M. McConnell, squad leader with Bridge Platoon, Company A, 9th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD).

"If you take too much or bring too many people it can hinder the overall mission," said McConnell.

Once the area was surveyed and the Marines collected all of the necessary information, the Marines went back and

briefed their comrades about the possible bridge site.

"The Marines on the recon mission conducted themselves very well," said Sgt. Richard Williamson, right side crew commander with Bridge Platoon, Company A, 9th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD).

"The mission [was] very successful and [the Marines] collected a lot of information," added Wolf. "There is a clear understanding of the future missions coming up."

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Bulk fuel Marines simulate fuel farm

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

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Marines are known for fighting in every clime and place without any hesitation. Whether it's by air, on land or in the deep blue sea, Marines are there upon the call of duty. In order to do so, the warriors need their equipment to be operational at any given time. Bulk fuel Marines are in charge of providing fuel to keep this equipment function.

Marines with Bulk Fuel Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted a field training operation here from Nov. 1-5, simulating an amphibious tactical fuel farm operating in a combat environment.

"We fuel the fight," said Master Sgt. Darrick T. Jordan, operational chief with Bulk Fuel Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG. "It's important to familiarize our Marines with all aspects of the job and show them how to operate a fuel farm in a combat environment."

A fuel farm consists of three main elements - receiving, storing and dispersing fuel, said Jordan, 34, from



Cpl. Christopher R. McCarty and Cpl. Charles A. Bowler, 21, bulk fuel specialists, turn the vault to keep the fuel circulating in the storage tank during a field training exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 3.

Greensboro, N.C. Marines receive fuel from foreign contractors, and they'll transfer the fuel to the receiving tanks. From there, fuel will be push to larger tanks in the fuel farm for storage. Fuel runs from here to the pumps where Marines can refuel their equipment.

"Marines only get the basics of the job at [military occupational specialty] school. These training exercises help them build on what they already know and more," said Sgt. Eric F. Pressman, bulk fuel specialist with Bulk Fuel Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG. "It's a chance for them to learn more about their job and get their hands dirty on a company level before the battalion field ops."

With their deployment approaching, Marines try to learn as much as they can about the job, explained Pressman, 25, from Philadelphia. If they're not out in the field conducting training operations, they're working with the equipment at the warehouse so they're constantly training.

"I couldn't be more proud of the Marines I am working with, they're eager to learn and willing to ask questions to

understand the job," said Pressman, who also explained how the Marine Corps always has a need for fuel and it's important for the Marines to be familiar with the proper procedures.

Even though they're not fighting the war against terrorism directly, bulk fuel Marines contribute a vast amount of support to the fight, said Jordan. They must maintain, circulate and distribute the fuel to the warfighters to keep the equipment operational. Without fuel, generators, vehicles and fuel-dependant equipment wouldn't function, and Marines wouldn't be able to accomplish their missions.

"The Marine Corps is a brotherhood, and it's a large family so it's hard for you to get to know everyone in the family," said Pressman. "Everybody needs fuel at some point. And being a bulk fuel specialist, I have the opportunity to meet everyone and build a good rapport around the Corps. It's one team, one fight and we're supporting that fight."

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Concussion Restoration Care Center, Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Lance Cpl. Jared Garrett, vehicle operator, Engineer Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), walks alongside drainage ditches at Forward Operating Base Fiddler's Green in Afghanistan's Helmand province, Oct. 29. Garrett, and 20 other Marines with CLB-3's Engineer Company constructed more than 2,000 meters of ditches and installed six culverts at the FOB in less than three weeks.

CLB-3 enhances forward operating base

Story and photo by
Cpl. Daniel Woodall

Combat Logistics Battalion 3

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FIDDLER'S GREEN, Afghanistan – In early October, approximately 20 Marines with Engineer Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), arrived here to install drainage ditches and culverts, raising the FOB by nearly two feet.

The CLB-3 Marines constructed ditches and installed culverts to alleviate the flooding issues that this FOB may experience in the coming 'rainy season' months.

"These operations are in direct support of all the units who come through here because [FOB Fiddler's Green] is built on a flood plain," said Staff Sgt. Julio Castro, heavy equipment section chief, Engineer Company, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD). "When it rains, part of the FOB floods to about two feet. Prior to the [drainage ditches and culverts], the excess water had nowhere to go."

In addition to preventing future flood damage, the Marines also repaired sections of the FOB by installing geowebbing – a system of dirt-filled, connected barriers to raise the terrain. The barriers also prevent erosion and provide stability to the FOB's roadways.

"In total, we built six culverts and dug about 2,000 meters of ditches inside and outside of [FOB Fiddler's Green]," Castro, a San Antonio native. "The soil was the most difficult part of the mission. The dirt comes up in clumps and our gear kept getting stuck – good soil was hard to come by, but we still ended up raising the FOB by a foot and a half."

After nearly three weeks here, the engineers returned to Camp Dwyer and are preparing for future missions in support of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) and elements of Regimental Combat Team 1.

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Dental Detachment performs root canals on K-9s

Story by 2nd Lt.
Rebecca Burgess
1st MLG (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – The sailors with Charlie Surgical Company's Dental Detachment here went above and beyond their mission by opening up their doors to less traditional patients, Military Working Dogs.

In addition to treating more than 3,000 patients throughout their 6-month deployment in support of I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), Cmdr. Louis De La Garza, the dental officer in charge for Dental Detachment, C Surg Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15 (Forward), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) took on the opportunity to provide oral procedures after-hours to the dogs who otherwise would have needed to be medically evacuated to Bagram Airfield or Landstuhl, Germany.

The dogs are under the primary care of Army Capt. Bradley Fields, a public health veterinarian and officer in charge with 358th Medical Detachment and Veterinary Services. Fields has the ability to take care of just about anything for the dogs to include routine dental procedures.

"I can do fillings; I can do dental cleanings, extractions. We can do basically everything here [at the Veterinary clinic on Camp Leatherneck], except we don't have the capabilities at this time to do root canals," said Fields, from Montgomery, Ala.

Root canals require X-rays to be taken of the jaw, a capability that Fields doesn't have yet. But De La Garza does, which is why his assistance was requested.

De La Garza saw this as an opportunity to treat animals,



Photo by Sgt. Brian A. Lautenslager

Navy Lt. Sarita Ojha, dentist for 1st Dental Detachment, Charlie Surgical Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15 (Forward), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), performs dental work on a black lab named 'Taker' while being observed by fellow dentists at Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 1. Taker, a bomb-sniffing dog with the 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Forward), in support of I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was brought in to have a root canal.

a skill he had obtained while completing his residency at Willford Hall Medical Center, an Air Force facility located in San Antonio.

"I definitely feel fortunate and honored to provide services to everyone out here and the dogs," said De La Garza. "It has definitely rounded out our deployment in a positive way."

Operating as a dental clinic for humans, some obstacles had to be overcome to be able to treat these animals and get them back out with their handlers.

The anatomy of a K-9 is much different from that of a human, explained De La Garza, 44. A dog's teeth are about twice the size of a human's, making them difficult patients to work on with tools designed for much smaller mouths.

Even though Fields provid-

ed some of his own tools, the sailors, who were not used to animal jaws, had to "think outside the box."

Ultimately, explained Fields, the fundamentals of the procedure are the same whether it is a human tooth or one from a dog.

Working to solve these dental issues is important to helping save lives. Whether the dogs are on patrols sniffing out improvised explosive devices or apprehending individuals, they are working alongside Marines providing extra safety and a little companionship.

"We want to save their teeth and get dental issues solved because if they're focusing on their teeth, they're not focusing on their mission," said Fields.

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Photo by Sgt. Brian A. Lautenslager

Navy Lt. Sarita Ojha performs dental work on a black lab named 'Taker' while being observed by fellow dentists at Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 1. Taker, a bomb-sniffing dog, was brought in to have a root canal.

Home is where the heart is: Mexico-born Marine gives back to U.S. during Afghanistan deployment

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Born in Mexico, a motor transport operator from 2nd Platoon, General Support Motor Transport Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15 (Forward), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), did not grow up with much, but when he moved to the United States his life took a turn to the brighter side; and now he is happy to have a chance to give back to the country he now calls home.

Cpl. Miguel A. SanchezPerez, 21, originally from Coroneo Mexico, is a Marine who works hard to accomplish the mission, because he is so thankful for the second chance the United States has given him. SanchezPerez remembers growing up in Mexico was difficult for him and his family.

“Life in Mexico was hard because my father had papers so he would go to the United States to work for about six months at a time,” said SanchezPerez. “We only saw our father every now and then. Unlike others, we had food on the table, but we missed out on him.”

When SanchezPerez was 11, he migrated with his family to Searcy, Ark., in search of a better life.

“Crossing over the border was hard,” said SanchezPerez. “It took us three days and two nights on nothing but crackers and water. If we saw a field with crops we would grab some to take with us.”

When he got to his new home, SanchezPerez did not know how to communicate with many neighbors, because he did not know English.

“I had family born in the U.S.,” said SanchezPerez. “Little by little, my cousins would teach me English. It was hard at first, but once you start to get the hang of it you don’t even realize when you’re learning.”

Soon after arriving in Arkansas, SanchezPerez started going to school while he was learning English.

“I started school in fifth grade and



Cpl. Miguel A. SanchezPerez, a motor transport operator with 2nd Platoon, General Support Motor Transport Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15 (Forward), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) lifts a tow bar at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 3. SanchezPerez, 21, originally from Coroneo, Mexico, migrated to the United States with his family at age 11 in search of a better life.

I barely knew anything,” said SanchezPerez, “I had to learn everything from scratch.”

SanchezPerez had to learn things quickly to keep up with his peers. His mentors see that in him today when they only have to tell him something once.

“If he doesn’t know something, he will tell you,” said Staff Sgt. Jermarcus L. Tate, the platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon, GSMT Company, CLR-15 (FWD), 1st MLG (FWD). “Show him once, and you don’t need to show him again; he learns the first time.”

After settling down in Arkansas, SanchezPerez visited his extended family members in Mexico.

“I went to visit my family back in Mexico, and I saw the huge differences in our lives,” said SanchezPerez. “The way I saw it, I was much better off in the States.”

After high school, SanchezPerez joined the Marine Corps as a way of showing gratitude to the country that has given him so much.

“He feels the Marine Corps is a way to give back to the country that

gave him a second chance,” said Tate, 29, from Mobile, Ala.

Soon before deploying to Afghanistan, SanchezPerez gained his citizenship. He is the first person in his family to become a U.S. citizen, and the first in his family to join the military. As a motor transport operator, SanchezPerez is responsible for driving vehicles and bringing logistics support to Marines in need of resupply.

“I’m glad to be in Afghanistan fighting for everything America has given me,” said SanchezPerez. “Out here, it is great. I’m helping as much as I can, and I’m learning things as well as teaching things to other people.”

SanchezPerez grew up in tough conditions, and it helps him stay comfortable in Afghanistan.

“He’s an awesome Marine,” said Tate. “He believes in mission accomplishment before his own well-being. I wish there were more Marines like him.”

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Gunnery Sgt. Victor Leanos (left) and Staff Sgt. Otis B. Karngbaye, pose after Karngbaye is promoted to staff sergeant at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 1. Leanos was one of Karngbaye's drill instructors in 2002.

Past drill instructor promotes former recruit

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – A gunnery sergeant with Combat Logistics Regiment 15 (Forward), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), promoted a Marine to the rank of staff sergeant here, Nov. 1, but the first time they met was under completely different circumstances – eight years ago at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Gunnery Sgt. Victor Leanos, the company gunnery sergeant for Headquarters and Service Company, CLR-15 (FWD), 1st MLG (FWD) pinned the chevrons on the uniform of one of his former recruits from his time as a drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Otis B. Karngbaye, the company gunnery sergeant for General Support Motor Transport Company, CLR-15 (FWD), 1st MLG (FWD).

They have both come a long way since the time they were both aboard MCRD San Diego in August 2002. Both Marines hold the billet of company gunnery sergeant with CLR-15 (FWD) companies, but Karngbaye 28, from Brooklyn Park, Minn., remembers when he first met his former drill instructor.

"When I first met him I thought he was evil, and to this day he still kind of scares me," joked Karngbaye. "I still see him as my drill instructor. If I need something or

have a question about something, I ask him."

Karngbaye is not only successful as a Marine, but as a recruit he was one of Leanos' squad leaders.

"The senior drill instructor said he wanted him to be a squad leader, so I made him one," said Leanos, 33, from Los Angeles. "After that, I realized the senior had made a really good choice."

After Karngbaye departed boot camp, the two Marines first saw each other again last July as they prepared for their current deployment to Afghanistan.

"When I first saw him I recognized his face, but he had gotten a lot bigger," said Leanos of his former recruit who added muscle mass since boot camp.

Karngbaye attributes his success to the first lessons his drill instructors taught him.

"He taught me that if you want something, you've got to go for it," said Karngbaye. "You should put your whole heart into it, and to always make sure you have your core values.

Leanos is proud of Karngbaye's accomplishments, and is glad to see him come so far in his Marine Corps career.

"Every Marine has a little bit of their drill instructor in them," said Leanos. "So it's great to see your former recruits do [well]."

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Marines receive Purple Hearts during a ceremony, Nov. 5

Photos by Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar



Staff Sgt. Clayton J. Rue, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, was injured during a disposal of an improvised explosive device in Helmand province, Afghanistan.



Staff Sgt. Rafael Hernandez, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries suffered while removing an improvised explosive device in Helmand province, Afghanistan.



Gunnery Sgt. Brian J. Smith, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries suffered while removing an improvised explosive device in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

CLR-17 Marines exercise with elementary students

Photos by Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin



Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group run with 3rd grade students from Temecula Luis Seno Elementary School, Nov. 3.



Marines participate in a day of exercise with elementary students from Temecula Elementary School, Nov. 3. The Marines and students performed multiple exercises including a 15-minute run around a track.



(Above) Marines and elementary students stretch before exercising together at the Temecula Luis Seno Elementary School, Nov. 3. (Below) A Marine with Combat Logistics Regiment 17 demonstrates a push-up for elementary students.

