



# The Convoy

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Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group

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## Always remember

Photo by Lance Cpl. Joshua Young

Marines, sailors, friends and family members gathered for a memorial service to remember Sgt. John P. Huling at the 11 Area Chapel at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 1. **For story see page 4**

### Marine engineers transfer authority in Afghanistan

Story and photos by  
**1st Lt. Tyler Morrison**  
Public Affairs Officer

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** – After a successful deployment providing general engineering support to both 2nd Marine Logistics Group (For-

ward) and 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), 9th Engineer Support Battalion relinquished their responsibilities to 8th Engineer Support Battalion in a transfer of authority ceremony here, May 30.

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**Lt. Col. Scott Baldwin** (right), commanding officer of 9th Engineer Support Battalion, and **Sgt. Maj. Wesley Schaffer**, the battalion sergeant major, add an Afghan Campaign streamer to the unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 30.

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# US troop transfers excess medical supplies to ANA

Story and photos by  
1st Lt. Tyler Morrison  
Public Affairs Officer

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** – Marines and sailors with the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Material Distribution Center, Supply Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) (Reinforced), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) sorted, staged and delivered more than \$85,000 worth of consumable medical supplies to Afghan soldiers with Regional Logistics Support Command-Southwest, May 24.

This was the first of many scheduled donations of excess medical supplies to RLSC-SW, which serves as the regional logistics hub for the Afghan National Army.

After the decision was made that U.S. forces in Afghanistan will begin to drawdown, members of 1st MLG (Fwd) began to identify excess gear and equipment that would not be needed once there were fewer boots on the ground in Helmand province.

When it came to medical supplies though, there was a problem. The Medical Logistics System had too many bandages and other consumable medical supplies. Those extra supplies would not be used in theater, and it would not be cost efficient to box them up and ship



**Marines with Marine Air-Ground Task Force Material Distribution Center, Supply Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) (Reinforced) and Afghan soldiers with Regional Logistics Command-Southwest load crates of excess consumable medical supplies onto an Afghan National Army truck at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 24.**

them back to the U.S. That is when the idea to transfer the excess consumable medical supplies to the ANA via RLSC-SW came about.

“Medical supplies can always be used somewhere, so we worked with the ANA to see if they would be willing to accept them,” said Lt. Cmdr. Ron Schoonover, health services support officer, 1st MLG (Fwd).

This kind of donation had never been done before, and the approval process for both the Marine Corps and the Afghan military had to be developed from the ground up. Dr.

Abdul Qayum Tutakhail, the Surgeon General for the Military of Afghanistan provided the necessary approval for the project, and the idea became reality with the first delivery on May 24.

Each shipment of medical supplies that is transferred to RLSC-SW will be added to the stores of the Forward Supply Depot Element and then distributed to the members of the ANA’s 215th Corps.

“Once the supplies are donated, the RLSC-SW decides which units to send them to,” said Lt. Col. Ian Tolman, medical combat advisor, Regional Command (Southwest). “They push it throughout the region to wherever it’s needed.”

This delivery will help RLSC-SW implement their own supply process and work to effectively supply the units in their region of responsibility.

According to Schoonover, this agreement is a “win-win” for both the Marine Corps and the ANA. First MLG (Fwd) will continue to save the American people money, and the RLSC-SW will be able to provide extra medical supplies to ANA units engaged in combat operations throughout Helmand Province.



**A crate of medical supplies at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan awaits delivery to Afghan soldiers with Regional Logistics Support Command-Southwest.**

## HAPPENINGS

### Tuition Assistance Class

Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Joint Education Center offers College 101 class to inform service members about different college offers, on and off base, as well as providing information about tuition assistance and how to use it. For more information, call the JEC at (760) 725-6660.

### Motorcycle Safety Courses

An advanced riders course will be held weekly, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A basic rider’s course will be held weekly Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Both courses will take place at Bldg. 200071. For more information, call Kevin Frantum at (760) 725-2897.

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# TRANSFER

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Lt. Col. Scott Baldwin, 9th ESB commanding officer, and Sgt. Maj. Wesley Schaffer, the battalion sergeant major, took their place in front of a formation of Marines and sailors from both units and added an Afghan Campaign streamer to their organizational colors. The new streamer symbolizes all the hard work 9th ESB put forth throughout their deployment, and its addition to the unit colors will ensure their dedication is always remembered. Ninth ESB's leadership then cased their colors, symbolically ending their deployment.

Conversely, Lt. Col. Ferdinand Llantero, the commanding officer of 8th ESB, and Sgt. Maj. John Bankus, the battalion sergeant major, uncased their unit's colors and assumed responsibility for providing general engineering support to 1st MLG (Fwd).

Over the course of their approximate seven month deployment, 9th ESB conducted a comprehensive range of engineering operations in support of ISAF Marine Air Ground Task Force. The Marines and sailors built, fortified and improved countless patrol bases, combat outposts and forward operating bases. They repaired existing bridges and roads and constructed

new ones to increase mobility throughout the battlespace. Ninth ESB also provided bulk fuel storage and water distribution facilities within the area of operations that kept servicemembers in the fight.

Overall, the Marines and sailors drove more than 150,000 miles throughout Helmand Province, improved 85,672 meters of road, distributed more than 11 million gallons of water and dispensed more than eight million gallons of fuel.

The Commanding General for 1st MLG (Fwd), Brig. Gen. John J. Broadmeadow, took the opportunity to recognize 9th ESB for their successful deployment.

"I'm particularly proud of what 9th ESB has done. They have literally reshaped this battlespace, and this battalion has done marvelous things to set this [Marine Air Ground Task Force] and all of RC(SW) up for success," said Brig. Gen. Broadmeadow. "[Ninth ESB is] leaving here with a terrific legacy and a job very well done. The people of Afghanistan have benefitted from what 9th ESB has done out here."

Brig. Gen. Broadmeadow also welcomed Llantero and the Marines and sailors of 8th ESB to Afghanistan and emphasized how their mission would differ from their predecessor's.

"Your deployment will be significantly different," Brig. Gen.



**Lt. Col. Ferdinand Llantero, (right), commanding officer of 8th Engineer Support Battalion, and Sgt. Maj. John Bankus, the battalion sergeant major, uncasing the unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 30.**

Broadmeadow explained. "While you will pick up a lot of these projects, you will not only continue to help reshape the battlespace in a major way but will also reshape your battalion and set future units up for success. It really represents a change of scope and focus."

In his remarks, Baldwin praised the hard work of his battalion and pointed out the importance of the ceremony to Marine engineers throughout the Corps.

"This is the end of an era. After al-

most a decade of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, this is the last [transfer of authority] between engineer support battalions. We leave behind a demonstration of what an engineer support battalion can do when you mass your engineers."

Llantero wished 9th ESB well on their journey back to their home station of Okinawa, Japan and emphasized his battalion's eagerness to get started and achieve great things in one sentence.

"Sir, we're ready to go."



**Marines and sailors from 9th Engineer Support Battalion stand in formation during a transfer of authority ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 30. During the ceremony, 9th ESB transferred all general engineering responsibilities in support of 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) to 8th ESB.**

# EOD Marine remembered at memorial service

Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Joshua Young  
I MEF Public Affairs

## MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

– Marines, sailors, friends and family members gathered for a memorial service to remember Sgt. John Patrick Huling at the 11 Area Chapel, June 1.

Huling, 25, an explosive ordnance support technician with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, died while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan, May 6.

“He was always calm, cool and collective,” said Warrant Officer Eric Beatie, the EOD 1st Platoon commander, in a statement read at the memorial service by Chief Warrant Officer Eric Rudis, the EOD Company operations officer with 7th ESB. “He never wasted an opportunity to enhance his skill or technique, or to learn something new or ask questions.”

“He’s the type of Marine that really makes you look forward to getting up and going to work in the morning, just to see what the day will bring,” Beatie said in his statement.

Huling is a graduate of Moeller High School in Cincinnati. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in March 2006 and at-

tended recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He reported to the School of Infantry at Camp Lejeune and completed Marine Combat Training in 2006.

“I knew he was a special person from the first time I met him,” said Warrant Officer John Smith, the ordnance officer of 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st MLG, who is a long-time friend of Huling’s. “He really cared about everything he did.”

Initially, Huling served as an electro-optical ordnance repairman and deployed to Iraq from July 2007 to Feb. 2008. In 2010, he re-enlisted as an explosive ordnance support technician and immediately began on-the-job training with the EOD team. In November 2011, he graduated from the basic explosive ordnance disposal course at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. In April, Huling deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

It was a pleasure to be around him,” Smith said. “We deployed to Iraq in 2007, and I can’t think of a better Marine to have around me.”

Huling is survived by his wife, Priscilla, and his parents, John and Deborah Huling.



**Marines conduct a memorial service to remember Sgt. John P. Huling at the 11 Area Chapel at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 1. Huling, 25, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, died while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, May 6.**

His awards include the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal with one bronze star, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal,

Iraq Campaign Medal with one bronze star, Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Security Assistance Force Medal-Afghanistan.

## Message from the 1st MLG Safety Officer

Throughout the past 10 years, our experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan have created an opportunity to better understand our risks while operating tactical vehicles and to provide tailored training to our driver populations. However, combat is not the only place we need to worry about vehicle safety.

I was recently informed of a potentially fatal accident involving an 8,000 pound CAT water truck and two of our Marines right here on Camp Pendleton. The Marines decided to jump out of the vehicle just as it started to roll—an action that contradicts the training received on tactical-vehicle safety. Although no significant damage or injuries resulted in this case, the same fate didn’t hold true for a similar event in 2009. A 1st MLG Marine died as a result of head trauma after jumping from a moving HMMWV. It’s true, every circumstance is different for mitigating risk; however, all of us should be aware that significant risk of injury -to include death- may occur when jumping from a moving tactical vehicle.

Thinking ahead, relying on training and understanding the potential consequences to our actions will help keep us safe and avoid preventable accidents-especially as we continue through the summer months.

Statistically, summertime in California is the ultimate mixture when it comes to Class C mishaps. And according to a study published by the Naval Safety Center in 2009, the leading causal factor for Class C mishaps is lack of attention-something we all have complete control over.

I urge you all to think about this as we continue our operational and training tasks. Let us reinforce the lessons learned from our past to enhance our readiness in the future.

**Lt. Cmdr. Paul S. Schiermeier**  
Safety Officer,  
1st Marine Logistics Group

# LS Marines conduct first air support mission with unmanned aerial vehicle

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Michele Watson  
Staff Writer

**CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan** – The Marine Corps has recently used the unmanned aerial vehicle, commonly known as a drone, as a cargo transportation platform in Helmand Province. The UAV is able to bring supplies, equipment and gear to preprogrammed coordinates placed in a computer system.

A new step forward was taken when landing support specialists with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) conducted the first series of hot hook-ups with the UAV at Camp Dwyer Afghanistan, May 23-25.

Hot hook-ups are when LS specialists attach cargo to a hovering air platform. The Kaman K1200 unmanned aerial vehicle is controlled by an aerial vehicle operator for takeoff and landing but is preprogrammed to fly independently and hover once it has reached its destination.

Because of the long sling attached to the UAV, the aircraft is able to hover high above the ground when picking up or delivering loads. This capability makes it available at any location without requiring a specific landing zone. With no pilot onboard, the drone is a safer method of transportation in a combat zone; plus it can go back and forth for multiple loads.

Landing support Marines conduct helicopter support team missions on an almost daily basis with CH-53E Sea Stallions and MV-22 Ospreys, but their new encounter with the remote-controlled UAV has brought about additional benefits.

“The computer can take better accountability of wind speed and mitigate the hook swing,” said Lance Cpl. Vihn Vu, landing support specialist, CLB-5, 1st MLG (Fwd). “The sling on the UAV is a lot longer, so the helicopter is higher up in the air causing less down draft. And the rotors are made out of wood, which takes away the factor of static electricity.”

Vu also said the Marines under the aircraft are able to communicate with the person controlling the aircraft via radio, so they can tell the operator which direction to adjust for a smoother hook-up.

“All of these factors contribute



*The Kaman K1200 unmanned aerial vehicle is a remote-controlled aircraft that is used to deliver supplies and gear to units in southern Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The aircraft can support up to 6,500 pounds and once in the air can independently pilot itself to a preprogrammed destination.*

to the HST being much safer,” said Vu. “The computer eliminates the factor of human error.”

Although the UAV offers a safer method for the Marines on the ground, the new concept brought about anxious feelings for some.

“It’s like riding a roller coaster for the first time,” said Lance Cpl. Steven Lindsey, landing support specialist, CLB-5, 1st MLG (Fwd). “You’re not exactly nervous, but you’ve got that feeling of excitement. It’s kind of unpredictable because there is no pilot, but you know you’re not in danger.”

Until recently, the UAV was only used to deliver loads to Forward Operating Bases Geronimo and Payne. Both FOBs have an aerial vehicle operator on site that take over control of the UAV once it is within view.

“All the units in the area of operations are getting the word that we have this new platform,” said Staff Sgt. Terry Palmer, landing support chief, CLB-5, 1st MLG (Fwd). “The goal is to be able to deliver to any area that sends a request.”

“The external lift capability of transporting cargo is vital, and with [improvised explosive devices] being a huge threat to convoys, the UAV [avoids] the common threats of the battle field,” said Palmer.

After receiving training, the CLB-5 landing support Marines spent



*Staff Sgt. Terry Palmer, landing support chief, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), talks to Marines conducting a hot hook-up under an unmanned aerial vehicle at Camp Dwyer, May 23.*

hours practicing the hook-ups as well as sending some loads out to FOBs.

“It was a little trying going in to the [landing zone] and coming back out, but they were very professional,” said Palmer. “I don’t think they could have conducted the HST [missions] any better.”

Although only a small group received the new UAV HST training, they represent the first working with

platform that promises to become a vital asset to the Marine Corps.

“Landing support is a fairly small community so when we go back to [Camp Pendleton, Calif.], or wherever we came from, we can share the knowledge we learned,” said Palmer. “Even though other Marines haven’t done it yet, they will have a good understanding of how it works.”

# 1st MLG leadership is dedicated to force preservation

Story by  
2nd Lt. Savannah Moyer  
Public Affairs Officer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – Secretary of the Navy, Honorable Ray Mabus, and Navy League National President, Philip Dunmire, presented two officers with 1st Marine Logistics Group the Navy League's 2011 General James L. Jones Unit Safety Award during the Secretary of the Navy's Luncheon at the Navy League's Annual Sea-Air-Space Exposition in Washington, D.C., April 16.

Col. Steven D. Weintraub, deputy assistant chief of staff G-3, 1st MLG, and Lt. Cmdr. Paul S. Schiermeier, officer in charge, Department of Safety, 1st MLG, in competition against 50 other Marine Corps commands, received the award for the command's unwavering efforts to enhance force readiness and preserve human capital.

"Getting the award was not the end state," said Weintraub. "It was about ensuring that the Marines and sailors are in an environment that is safe."

According to the award citation, 1st MLG was able to achieve "a one-hundred percent reduction in Class A and Class B mishaps, forty-five percent reduction in Class C mishaps, and a fifty-seven percent reduction in recordable mishaps, as compared to the previous six-month period." Efforts included revitalizing twenty-year-old safety and environmental programs across 1st MLG and initiating force preservation incentives, which reached down to Marines and sailors at all levels.

"I think the key to creating a successful program is to listen to today's youth, because their culture of com-



Courtesy Photo

**Secretary of the Navy, Honorable Ray Mabus, and Navy League National President, Philip Dunmire, presented two officers with 1st Marine Logistics Group the Navy League's 2011 General James L. Jones Unit Safety Award during the Secretary of the Navy's Luncheon at the Navy League's Annual Sea-Air-Space Exposition in Washington, D.C., April 16. 1st MLG was selected for this award out of 50 other Marine Corps commands nominated for the competition.**

munication is completely different; I'm curious to learn from them rather than push policy [that] may or may not be effective," said Schiermeier.

"We want to give junior Marines the opportunity to provide us with useful recommendations that we can implement in the long term and, in return, incentivize them," added Weintraub.

Schiermeier and Weintraub have established a program to encourage and recognize Marines and sailors who contribute and advance 1st MLG's safety program.

"We've implemented an NCO and below force-preservation award program to reach down to the lowest levels in the command to identify innovative and creative ideas for

preserving the force, which comes with a \$100 [Marine Corps Community Services] gift card and certificate," said Schiermeier.

On June 22, a 1st MLG awards board will select five Marines for the force-preservation award, providing special recognition to individuals who advance a culture of safety in the MLG. Money for the awardees will be distributed from the annual General James L. Jones Safety Award received from the Navy League.

The safety award competition, however, is just one facet of 1st MLG's endeavors to proliferate force preservation.

"With...the generosity of Col. Lawson, [1st MLG's commander], we've been able to introduce

a time-off incentive program," said Schiermeier.

This program, already in effect, allows Combat Logistic Regiment-17, Combat Logistic Regiment-1, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, and Medical and Dental Battalion to rate a 72-hour liberty period each calendar month and subsequent 96-hour liberty period at the conclusion of each fiscal quarter under the condition that the unit does not experience a Class A or B mishap, fatality, or alcohol or drug related incident.

"As long as we're successful, this program will continue," said Col. Lawson, commander, 1st MLG. "Stay safe, have a plan, and stick to your plan."



Photo by Lance Cpl. Casey Schultz

**Lt. Cmdr. Paul S. Schiermeier (center left), safety officer, and Col. Steven D. Weintraub (center right), deputy assistant chief of staff G-3, 1st Marine Logistics Group, pose for a picture with some Marines after given a class on vehicle safety at Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 25. 1st MLG was awarded the Navy League's 2011 General James L. Jones Unit Safety Award during the Secretary of the Navy's Luncheon at the Navy League's Annual Sea-Air-Space Exposition in Washington, D.C., April 16.**

# CLB-5 supports retrograde operations

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Michele Watson  
Staff Writer

**HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan** – Marines with 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) continued their daily resupply efforts in support of 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, May 25.

Prior to leaving their lot at Camp Dwyer, the Marines thoroughly checked their tactical vehicles to help ensure a breakdown-free trip.

“The biggest obstacle we face on these convoys is the possibility of trucks going down, but we always find a way to make it work,” said Cpl. Kyle Cordin, manifest noncommissioned officer, 1st Plt., Alpha Co.

The trucks go through continuous preventive maintenance and inspections to ensure they are prepared for each combat logistics patrol.

“The vehicle checks are the most effective method of ensuring a smooth combat logistics patrol,” said Cpl. Salvador Delatorre, line NCO, 1st Plt., Alpha Co. “We always check [the suspension] before we start prepping for the convoy. We also

check the electrical systems and the door locks as a main focus.”

As the sun began to rise, 1st Plt. set out for Forward Operating Bases Marjah, Hanson and El Paso to drop off containers of requested gear and retrieve items from the bases as part of the retrograde effort in Regional Command (Southwest).

As 2nd Bn., 9th Marines wraps up their deployment, the infantry battalion is closing bases and retrograding gear and equipment. In accordance with the Commandant of the Marine Corps’ guidance, everything must be accounted for responsibly.

“Because of the demilitarization, there are deadlines we have to meet as some patrol bases are being shut down,” said Staff Sgt. Nicole Green, motor transport chief, Alpha Co., CLB-5.

With Marines from 3rd Bn., 8th Marine Regiment preparing to take over in the area of operations, CLB-5 is helping to ensure the incoming Marines are set-up for success.

“These combat logistics patrols are helping us shrink the footprint for [3rd Bn., 8th Marines],” said Staff Sgt. Zachary Johnson, logistics chief, Headquarters and Support Co., 2nd Bn., 9th Marines.

Although Alpha Co. focuses on general support to RCT-5, they have provided direct support to 2nd Bn., 9th Marines since the beginning of May when the unit began preparing to redeploy.

“[Alpha Company] helps greatly due to the downsizing of our positions, and they help with our redeployment and getting gear out of here,” said Johnson.

The small unit leadership of the platoon plays a significant role in the success of CLB-5.

“Teamwork, in all aspects, is an understatement,” said Green. “Our NCOs think ahead with minimal supervision. Corporals

are running the show, and while they are planning out the roads for the next mission, it allows the sergeants to look forward and logistically plan the days ahead.”

“They need water, food, ammunition and vehicle replacement parts,” said Cordin, 29, a Dallas native. “If they don’t have all the essentials, they can’t complete their mission. We help keep them in the fight.”

Although retrograde actions are being conducted, the main focal point of the combat logistics patrols remains providing sustainment to units throughout the area of operations.



Cpl. Salvador Delatorre, line noncommissioned officer, 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), chains down a refrigeration unit at Forward Operating Base Hanson, May 25.



Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) load a refrigeration unit onto a trailer as a part of retrograde operations at Forward Operating Base Hanson, May 25. The unit conducts daily combat logistics patrols to bases throughout southern Helmand province.



# GIVE HER ONE

## 1ST LT. EVITA MOSQUEDA-CHAPMAN

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Jennifer Pirante  
1 MEF Public Affairs

**SAN DIEGO, Calif.** – 1st Lt. Evita Mosqueda-Chapman, military pay officer-in-charge at the Regional Disbursing Office - West, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, loves to work out.

During on-duty hours, Mosqueda-Chapman works as the military pay officer-in-charge at the Regional Disbursing Office - West at Camp Pendleton, Calif. She also carries the uniform victim advocate billet for Service Company, which makes her a prominent role model to Marines under her charge and someone they can trust.

Aside from adhering to the Corps standards of professionalism and leadership, Mosqueda-Chapman takes a personal interest

in her physical fitness.

She trains five days a week to maintain the rigorous physical fitness standards of the Marine Corps.

As a team leader of a small team of Marines, veterans and military spouses at a local gym, she dedicates her time to being a role model to those aspiring to better their physical fitness as well.

Her interest in physical fitness has led her to dedicate early-mornings and late off-duty hours to training in preparation for local bodybuilding competitions.

Mosqueda-Chapman began training in December 2011 for a show in April. Since then, she has set her sight on competing in the National Physique Committee's All Forces National Bodybuilding Championships, June 9, in San Diego.



**1st Lt. Evita Mosqueda-Chapman, military pay officer-in-charge at the Regional Disbursing Office - West, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, performs shoulder dumbbell exercises at a local gym in San Diego, Calif., May 22.**



**1st Lt. Evita Mosqueda-Chapman exercises on a cable row machine.**



**1st Lt. Evita Mosqueda-Chapman works on her abs.**

# Maintenance Marines keep battalion rolling

Story and photo by  
Cpl. Mark Stroud  
CLB-4 Public Affairs

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** – “Maintenance is the lifeblood of the battalion,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Troy C. Havard, maintenance officer, Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

If maintenance is the lifeblood, then the motor transportation mechanics of Support Co. are the beating heart.

“[The Marines in the maintenance bay] do the majority of the maintenance work in the battalion,” said Cpl. Bryan M. Robertson, motor transportation mechanic, Support Co., CLB-4. “We fix almost everything unless it is very minor, and then the line companies can do it.”

The Marines faced a rapid adjustment period at the beginning of the deployment when they assumed their maintenance responsibilities. An integral part of this adjustment involved familiarizing themselves with new equipment.

“One of the challenges has been learning how to fix [AMK31 7-Ton Medium Tactical Vehicle Replace-

ments] and [Logistics Vehicle System Replacements] since we don’t have them [at our permanent duty station],” said Robertson. “The [field service representatives] help out a lot. We can ask them for help, and they will show us the best way to fix something.”

The FSRs are civilian contractors provided by the manufacturers of the battalion’s tactical vehicles. They serve as subject matter experts who provide assistance and advice regarding maintenance and repairs.

According to Robertson, the maintenance Marines quickly adapted and became more proficient as the deployment continued.

“When we fix [the vehicles] now, we [try to] make it so we don’t ever have to see that truck in the maintenance bay again,” Cpl. Matthew L. Hagans, motor transport mechanic, Support Co., CLB-4.

Keeping the vehicles well maintained and fully operational provides a safer operating environment for the battalion’s motor vehicle operators who conduct combat logistics patrols throughout Helmand Province.

“It helps them accomplish the mission and keeps them from having to dismount while outside the



**Cpl. Matthew L. Hagans, motor transportation mechanic, Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) inspects a Logistics Vehicle System Replacement for damage in the CLB-4 maintenance bay March 19.**

wire to rig a vehicle for tow or try to fix it,” said Hagans.

Additionally, the mechanics also take turns participating in combat logistics patrols to provide the motor transportation platoons maintenance expertise while they conduct their mission.

The Marines in the maintenance bay keep up with their heavy workload by combining personal initiative and a hard work ethic, said Robertson.

“There are not enough [non-commissioned officers just] to supervise [the Marines] all the time, so it helps out that they just hop

right in to the work and get the job done,” said Robertson. “Since we are all mechanics, we have always been the type of people who like to learn by reaching out and touching something. Having that kind of personality is important to being successful here.”

The repairs the maintenance Marines perform can keep them working from morning until late at night. But the maintenance should not be overlooked, said Havard.

“Without the maintenance we perform, the battalion would not be able to execute the mission,” said Havard.

## 1st MLG Marines pay respect to past during ceremony



*Photo by Cpl. Tommy Huynh*

**Lt. Col. Andrew Bergen (left) and Navy Cmdr. Homer Denius salute during a ceremony aboard USS Pearl Harbor at sea, June 4 commemorating the Battle of Midway. Bergen hails from Elmwood Park, N.J., and serves as commanding officer for Combat Logistics Battalion 11, which provides logistics and services to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The unit embarked the ship, as well as USS Makin Island and USS New Orleans in San Diego Nov. 14, beginning a seven-month deployment to the Western Pacific, Horn of Africa, and Middle East regions.**



Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group participate in the Mud Run as part of Camp Pendleton Hard Corps race series at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 1.

# Mud Run

Photos by Lance Cpl. Casey Schultz



Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group participate in the Mud Run as part of Camp Pendleton Hard Corps race series at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 1.



(top) Participants crawl in mud during a Mud Run at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 1. (left) Marines hop over a wall and land into mud in a Mud Run at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 1.