



1st MLG engineers bridge gaps for grunts

Story by
 Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer
 1st MLG (FWD)

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Marines from Bridge Platoon, Company B, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), recently built two bridges near the village of Durzay in Garmsir District to assist infantry Marines.

The medium girder bridges were constructed to assist the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division (Forward) during a one-day clearing operation that aimed to provide enhanced security in and around the village.

Once the area was cleared, Marines intended to build patrol bases in the village to ensure that Taliban forces didn't return, said 1st Lt. Robert Jorgensen, platoon commander, Bridge Platoon, Co. B, 8th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD). The only things standing in the Marines' way were two canals that had to be crossed in order to access the new patrol bases from the main supply route.

"There were local land bridges in place over these canals, providing crossing points for local traffic, but these bridges were not capable of supporting the heavy military traffic required to construct and supply the new patrol bases," said Jorgensen, 25, from Colonia, N.J.

The Marines worked for 14 hours straight in order to complete the bridges, "providing access to follow-on engineer forces and allow-



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Owen

Marines of 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), construct a bridge over a canal in Garmsir District, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 15. 8th ESB Marines provide engineering support for coalition forces throughout the province.

ing the infantry to continue with the momentum they had generated by swiftly clearing Durzay," said Jorgensen after the Marines returned from the mission, Feb. 1.

Once the platoon's mission was complete, the 2/1 Marines were able to continue to do what they do best: securing the population from the Taliban and building the Afghan security forces, he said.

"The Marines of my platoon per-

formed extraordinarily during this mission," said Jorgensen. "The Marines knew that the infantry and their associated engineer forces were waiting on us to build these bridges so that they could continue the operation, and I believe this inspired the Marines to work as hard as they did."

jennifer.brofer@afg.usmc.mil

CLB-11 trains for disasters

Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 11, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, provide security as a helicopter takes off with wounded role-players during a mass casualty evacuation drill at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 28.

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

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 11, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted a weeklong Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief training here, Jan. 24-30, to prepare for their upcoming deployment with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Force.

Throughout the week, Marines and sailors received classes on rules of engagement, force protection, entry control points, and risk and threat identification. They also conducted numerous exercises to include resupply missions, water purification exercises, noncombatant evacuation operations and mass casualty evacuation drills.

“The training is a refresher of what we’ve learned from boot camp and [Marine Combat Training],” said Lance Cpl. Tuan Nguyen, radio operator, CLB-11, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “The training is necessary because it prepares us for all aspects of what we can expect during the upcoming deployment and not just our [Military Occupational Specialty]. It helps us to think outside the box.”

Marines and sailors conducted a combat logistics patrol to a training site, where they provided medical support and evacuated the villagers, explained an instructor with the Special Operations Training Group. In the scenario, the

village received terrorist threats and a house collapsed and injured 24 villagers. The villagers needed security and medical support on site as there were still hostile forces.

“The SOTG team was very professional in providing us a great opportunity to train,” said Cmdr. Hermann Gonzalez, emergency physician, CLB-11, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “We couldn’t have done this without their support.”

The scenario was very realistic, providing the Marines and sailors with a chance to get a good feel for what it’s really like, said Gonzalez, 47, from Sevilla, Spain. The service members also had a chance to practice calling in air support to load and evacuate casualties.

“This is good training, and it’s going to get us ready for our deployment,” said Lance Cpl. Filmore Perez, motor transport operator, CLB-11, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “Today we’re supporting a [mass casualty evacuation] mission, and it consists of everything we’ve learned up to this point. From providing medical care to the wounded, resupplying the village and our friendly units to doing evacuation drills, we’ll put everything we know to the test.”

As these Marines and sailors went through the mock mass casualty evacuation mission, they learned the key factors to successfully complete the mission, such as setting up security around the objective site, moving casualties out of danger/open areas, applying basic medical care to the wounded, securing a landing zone and communicating with air

support.

“We started out slow but we began to be more proficient as we continued with the mission,” said Nguyen, 22, from Arlington, Texas. “Once we got a taste of what life might be like on deployment, we understood the mission more.”

Overcoming a rough start of getting their equipment unloaded at the site, the Marines and sailors accomplished every mission set before them. They provided security and secured the site, cared for the wounded and called in air support to successfully evacuate all personnel. They were also able to provide a fresh source of water to both service members and villagers.

“A lot of the countries we go to, there’s no clean water source,” said Sgt. Johnny Moore, utility chief, utility team, CLB-11, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “Our team’s main objective is to get water from natural resources and turn it into fresh water. By using the Tactical Water Purification System, we’re able to provide clean water to the locals and our troops.

The TWPS provides the war-fighters an unlimited water resource, explained Moore, 26, from Lansing, Mich. The troops are able to stay hydrated to complete their missions.

“From what I saw, it looks like we have a solid unit,” said Perez, 21, from Covelo, Calif. “There are still some things we need to improve. But overall, we are ready for this upcoming deployment.”

khoa.pelczar@usmc.mil

Halfway Home: Motor transport Marines keep trucking, leave trail for others to follow

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

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan – As they reach the halfway point in their deployment, Marines with Motor Transport Companies A and B, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), continue to deliver supplies to units in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

The motor transport Marines take part in combat logistics patrols almost daily in order to deliver essential supplies, equipment and personnel to various forward operating bases within their area of operations.

"A combat logistics patrol is the lifeline of the warfighter on the front line," said 1st Sgt. Jose H. Molina, first sergeant, Motor Transport Company A, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD), a 35-year-old native of Murrieta, Calif. "Day after day, Marines from both motor transport companies put their lives on the line to ensure that the vital supplies and logistical support needed by their brethren get to their destination expeditiously."

The motor transport companies have driven a combined total of 126,383 miles throughout the past three months in the vast and rugged terrain of Helmand province. They have become accustomed to the unknown hours and difficult routes on combat logistics patrols, but are not letting the mo-



A cloud of "moon dust" forms as a combat logistics patrol from Motor Transport Company B, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), returns to Camp Dwyer after delivering supplies to Forward Operating Base Geronimo in Afghanistan's Helmand province, Jan. 14.

notony overcome their vigilance.

"No matter how long you go out or how many missions we go on, we try to go into every one of them like it was our first," said Cpl. Robert S. Helin, an electro-optical ordnance repairman and gunner for 1st Platoon, Motor Transport Company B, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD), a 22-year-old native of Pine Island, Fla. "I try to take in as much detail as possible."

Some of the Marines might be counting down the days until they are home, but they all know the only way to ensure that they all make it back

unharmd is to continue to excel in their jobs and remaining alert as they traverse the deserts of Afghanistan.

"As Marines, we know mission accomplishment comes first," said Sgt. Jose E. Pimienta, chief dispatcher for Motor Transport Company A, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD), a 31-year-old native of Hartsdale, N.Y. "Our families are waiting, and by continuing excelling and staying alert we will all soon be together again."

paul.zellner@afg.usmc.mil



FOLLOW US ON:



COMMANDING GENERAL

BRIG. GEN. CHARLES L. HUDSON

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

1ST LT. JEREMY MCLEAN

1ST LT. REBECCA BURGESS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF

STAFF SGT. JENNIFER BROFER

SERGEANT MAJOR

SGT. MAJ. ANTONIO VIZCARRONDO JR.

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS

CPL. SHANNON MCMILLAN

LANCE CPL. JERRICK GRIFFIN

LANCE CPL. KHOA PELCZAR

LANCE CPL. KENNETH JASIK

CONTACT US: 760-763-7795, 1MLG_PUBLIC_AFFAIRS@USMC.MIL

Expo showcases new military gear, technology



Cpl. Jason Saenz, administration clerk, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, talks to a vendor about the company's products during the 2011 Marine West Expo at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 27. Military and civilian defense personnel who attended the 2-day event were able to check out everything from new weapons and protective gear to upgraded versions of flak jackets and Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles.



Cpl. Jason Saenz, administration clerk, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, looks through a scope during the 2011 Marine West Expo at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 27. Military and civilian defense personnel who attended the 2-day event were able to check out everything from new weapons and protective gear to upgraded versions of flak jackets and Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles.

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

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — More than 2,000 service members across the base here caught a glimpse of the newest military technology during the 2011 Marine West Expo here, Jan. 26-27.

During the expo, more than 150 companies showed off new gear, gadgets and equipment that could potentially be used by the military in the future.

"The Marine West Expo is here to show and explain to everyone what new things are being introduced to our military," said Charles Baisley, Marine West Expo show director. "The vendors here interact with the military personnel directly and let them see firsthand some of the things they may be using."

Military and civilian defense personnel who attended the 2-day event were able to check out everything from new weapons and protective gear to upgraded versions of flak jackets and Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles.

The vendors were not only there to showcase their gear, but also to engage Marines and find out what works and how their products can be improved.

"The expo was awesome," said Cpl. Jason Saenz, administration clerk, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group. "I got to look at and test out some of the gear, and they gave out samples as well."

Marine West Expo is one of three expositions hosted annually on Marine Corps bases. The Marine South Expo is scheduled for April 27-28 at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and the Modern Day Marine Expo will take place at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Sept. 27-29. For more information, visit www.marinemilitaryexpos.com.

jerrick.griffin@usmc.mil



Road Reconstruction

Marines with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), complete road improvements in Marjah, Afghanistan, Jan. 27, improving road conditions for coalition forces and local villagers. Improvements included widening the road and applying several tons of gravel to enhance the road's stability. The engineers repaired more than three miles of road leading to Patrol Base Beatley and Patrol Base Dakota.

Marines rebuild roads for coalition forces, Afghans

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

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Marines with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), completed road improvements in Marjah, Afghanistan, Jan. 27, improving trafficability for coalition forces and local villagers.

Improvements included widening the road and applying several tons of gravel to enhance the road's stability. The engineers repaired more than three miles of road leading to Patrol Base Beatley and Patrol Base Dakota.

Before the repairs, vehicles no larger than a small car or van were able to traverse the road, making it difficult for Marines and sailors at the FOBs to receive necessary supplies.

"Up until now, they had to use helo support to drop supplies, whether it be water, chow or mail,"

said Gunnery Sgt. Jason Leader, platoon sergeant, Heavy Equipment Platoon, Bravo Company. "Now we opened this route up so they can use military tactical vehicles ... to make those resupplies a lot easier and a lot less of a logistical burden."

Not only was it important to get the supplies to the troops, but the improved road also allowed the local Afghans to transport their crops to market more easily.

"Getting to and from the market is a lot easier on them," said Leader, 35, a native of Springroad, Pa. "The roads in general ... are in pretty shoddy shape so every bit that we can do to help make it easier for them to move around will make it easier on us."

Along with road repairs, the Marines also replaced culverts to aid with crossing dried stream beds and canals and to assist the local farmers with getting water to their crops.

"We put in culverts so that we can keep the irrigation going so the [farmers] can water their crops," said Cpl. Justin Douglas, heavy equipment operator, Bravo Company.

Many of the locals are happy about the roads the Marines are improving, and Leader said a few Marjah residents said they are ashamed the Taliban still shoot at the Marines, even after all the good being done out here.

"The locals love us out there; they are ecstatic for us putting in the road," said Douglas, 21, a native of San Angela, Texas. "Every local I have come by has been overly happy about us being out there interacting with them and making their roads better."

Marines with 8th ESB will continue to conduct road repair missions throughout Helmand province, aiding both local nationals and coalition forces.

shannon.mcmillan@afg.usmc.mil

1st MLG provides critical logistics support

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – It takes a lot of moving parts to ensure the support of the warfighters on the frontlines in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Although occasionally overlooked, the G-4 is responsible for supervising, coordinating and planning for internal logistics requirements within 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

“The mission of the G-4 section is to plan, supervise and coordinate internal logistics support requirements,” said Maj. Bryan J. Boyle, assistant chief of staff, G-4, 1st MLG (FWD).

The AC/S G-4 serves as the principal staff assistant for all matters pertaining to contracting, ammunition, maintenance management, facilities and licensing functions, all of which are imperative to the success of 1st MLG (FWD).

The licensing section of the G-4 is responsible for supervising, coordinating and planning for 1st MLG (FWD) licensing requirement and providing this support to the Marine Air Ground Task Force when required. Licensing personnel recognize that having enough licensed vehicle operators is critical to the success of the MLG and the MAGTF in Afghanistan.

“We support the 1st MLG (FWD) units here and on other FOB's. We are a mobile training team; we go where licensing support is needed,” said Staff Sgt. Amina T. Clay-Saracay, licensing director, G-4, 1st MLG (FWD).

“The way we can tell that the licensing section is effective is by the reduced number of accidents,” added Boyle from Audubon, Pa.

The Maintenance Management section is responsible for monitoring equipment readiness within 1st MLG (FWD).



Staff Sgt. Amina T. Clay-Saracay, licensing director, G-4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), explains safety precautions to a student while teaching a class about driving military tactical vehicles, Jan. 10.

“Our job is important because we ensure our units have the parts they need to accomplish the mission,” said Lance Cpl. Anthony L Diaz, maintenance management chief, G-4, 1st MLG (FWD).

The G-4 takes pride in being able to provide better working conditions for Marines and sailors here in Afghanistan. The facilities section is responsible for coordinating, advising and managing these facility construction requirements. Through this section's efforts, 35 new facilities have been completed for 1st MLG (FWD) since the unit's arrival in Afghanistan and more are in the works. These projects improve work areas, maintenance facilities and provide Marines

with more permanent areas to conduct their daily duties supporting the MAGTF.

The ammunition section ensures that ammunition is serviceable, properly accounted for, and that ammunition request are filled in a timely manner. The Marines in charge of these tasks are dedicated to ensuring that the units have the ammunition they need, when they need it to conduct combat operations.

“A lot of request come in to support the MLG as a whole, and we work until the Marines have what they need,” said Staff Sgt. Ted G. Galindo, ammunition chief, G-4, 1st MLG (FWD).

kenneth.jasik@afg.usmc.mil

Photos from around 1st Marine Logistics Group



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Owen



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar

(Above) Marines of 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), construct a bridge over a canal in Garmsir District, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 15. (Left) Pfc. Chan-Tran Le, 20, from Boca Raton, Fla., electrician, Combat Logistics Battalion 11, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, hooks up the cables of a generator for a Tactical Water Purification System during a mass casualty evacuation drill at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 28.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar

(Above) Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 11, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, evacuate a wounded role-player during a mass casualty evacuation drill at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 28. (Right) Lance Cpl. Robert Gerdes (front), 19, from Little Axe, Okla., radio operator, Combat Logistics Battalion 11, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, calls for air support while Sgt. Jakob Chandler, 25, from Fruita, Co., provides security during a mass casualty evacuation drill at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 28.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar