

# Transfer of Authority: **Logistical reigns change hands** in southern Afghanistan



Photo by Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik

**Brig. Gen. Charles L. Hudson (right) and Sgt. Maj. Antonio N. Vizcarrondo Jr., commanding general and sergeant major of the 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), case the 1st Marine Logistics Group colors during the transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, March 4, 2011.**

Story by  
**2nd Lt. Joshua Smith**  
 2nd MLG (FWD)

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** — Brig. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, commanding general, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), transferred authority to Brig. Gen. Michael G. Dana, commanding general, 2nd MLG (FWD), during a ceremony here, March 4.

Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mills, commanding general, Regional Command Southwest, spoke as the guest of honor during the ceremony.

“There’s a saying in the Marine Corps that amateurs talk tactics, but professionals talk logistics,” he said. “Often logistics are taken for granted, but when you come to the real world, to the real fight, to

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# Lead by example: NCO proves he is a leader among leaders



Cpl. Alfred J. Joseph

Story and photos by  
**Cpl. Paul Zellner**  
 Combat Logistics Battalion 3

**CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan** —A tactical data network specialist with Communications Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) is using his Marine Corps Martial Arts Program skills and family values to lead fellow Marines to the next level.

Every afternoon after his shift ends, Cpl. Alfred J. Jo-

seph, a 22-year-old native of Waterville, Maine, can be found at the MCMAP pit, teaching Marines the skills they need to progress in the program.

“I became an instructor so I could help the other Marines grow as I did,” said Joseph. “I think MCMAP helps build confidence in Marines while teaching them a new skill.”

Joseph takes his duties as a MCMAP instructor as serious as he does his normal duties as a data network specialist and as a Marine

non-commissioned officer.

“He’s the first person who will lend a helping hand for anything, no matter how it inconveniences him,” said Cpl. Gregory M. Baxley, a friend and fellow tactical data network specialist for Comm. Plt., H&S Company, CLB-3, 1st MLG (Fwd). “I haven’t seen a limit to the lengths he’ll go to help someone out. He’s a great leader who the junior Marines can look up to because he leads by example.”

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# America's 911

## Marines prepare for Humanitarian Assistance Operations

Story and photo by  
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin  
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 simulated Humanitarian Assistance Operation here, March 4, to prepare for their upcoming deployment with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

During the exercise, Marines and sailors utilized skills they learned earlier at a Special Operations Training Group course. During the course they received classes on rules of engagement, force protection, entry control point, and risk and threat identification. They also conducted numerous exercises to include resupply missions, water purification production, noncombatant evacuation operations and mass casualty evacuation drills.

“Everything we’re doing out here was learned during [training] a couple months ago,” said Gunnery Sgt. Jason Turner, humanitarian assistance operations chief, CLB-11, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “Now we have to actually respond to a natural disaster scenario and use everything we’ve learned.”

In the scenario, Marines and sailors provided assistance to the country of Diego which was hit with a category 5 typhoon. The Marines established a camp and



**A corpsman and a Marine with CLB-11, CLR-17, 1st MLG, checks a role player for wounds following a simulated explosion during a Humanitarian Assistance Operation at Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 4.**

provided medical support while preparing to evacuate the villagers. They also provided the villagers with food and water.

There were people playing the roles of refugees to give the scenario a more realistic feeling.

“This is a great way to [assess] how the Marines and sailors are doing in terms of being ready for these types of missions,” said Turner. “By having them actually deal with the different emotions of the refugees, they can get a good feel for how to react in certain situations.”

As these Marines and sailors provided medical attention in support of the simulated mass casualty evacuation mission, they had to secure the area, evacuate casualties

and keep the other citizens calm.

“Everything went well,” said Petty Officer First Class Aaron Romero, preventive medicine technician, Health Service Detachment, CLB-11, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “We got all of the casualties evacuated and treated in a timely manner,” said Romero from Rialto, Calif.

After unloading their equipment at the site, the Marines and sailors accomplished every mission set before them.

“The Marines are doing a great job out here,” said Turner, from Binghamton, N.Y. “Since [the training at] SOTG the Marines and sailors have grown exponentially in their capabilities.”

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# TOA

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Afghanistan, to tough mountains, no roads, bad weather, and a completely challenging environment... you will not get over the line of departure if the logistics aren't right."

"When you take a look at what 1st MLG has done over the past year, you can't help but be awed," Mills continued. "Everything from the convoys over thousands of miles, through fierce enemy contact, over IED laden terrain, and roads that didn't exist to deliver supplies, we put out the requirements, and [1st MLG (FWD)] made it happen. With the engineer requirements, the 27 [forward operating bases] that needed to be constructed, the bridges that needed to be built, we gave you a hard deadline, and you got it done."

Hudson, a native of Zirconia, N.C., oversaw logistical operations

in southern Afghanistan in support of RC Southwest since March 17, 2010. The arrival of 1st MLG (FWD) last year marked the first time it deployed with such a robust logistical capability since operations in Afghanistan commenced.

"We came here with the mindset, the focus of effort, and the guiding principle that whatever we did on a day-to-day basis would be to support those [privates first class] and lance corporals from 1st Marine Division (Forward) as they were walking point across the battle space. Across the board, I trust we've been able to do just that over the past 360 odd days," Hudson said. "I haven't slept well for the past year because we had Marines outside the wire every day."

As Dana takes control, the Transfer of Authority marks the first time 2nd MLG (FWD) operates at the Group level in Afghanistan. 2nd MLG (FWD) assumes all logistics

combat element responsibilities held by its predecessor, and Dana plans to capitalize on 1st MLG (FWD)'s progress and hard-won success made in the past year. Dana personally thanked Hudson and the Marines and sailors of 1st MLG (FWD) in his remarks.

"To the Marines and sailors of 1st Marine Logistics Group, you've done an absolutely phenomenal job over the past year. You all are pros. For the Marines out here, we're going to keep up the pace. We're going to keep charging for the next year, and it's an absolute honor to be with you," said Dana.

Mills concluded, "[Brigadier] General Dana and his crew bring with them a tremendous reputation. They are fully prepared, ready to get started, and have the skill, the motivation, and they certainly have the leadership they need to accomplish the mission."

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# LEADER

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Joseph says his motivation comes from what awaits him at home, when he's done assisting others here. Joseph is known by his peers and superiors to be reliable and says his motivation comes from a strong family bond.

A small but meaningful tattoo on his right wrist is a reminder of his responsibility to the two special ladies who make him the friend and man he is today.

"My wife and daughter are the driving force behind everything I do," said Joseph. "They're why I do what I do."

Joseph's strong family background plays a major role in how he cares for his Marine Corps family.

"We're a very close family ... my mom and dad still live happily in the same house me and my identical twin brother grew up in," said Joseph. "He's out living the American college-kid dream, and I'm proud of him for that because he's as dedicated to his choices as I am to mine."

Joseph's selflessness and dedication to those he cares for extends

from his own home to the office where he also makes sure his junior Marines and any who need his assistance are taken care of.

"The way I was raised our community was one big family," said Joseph. "Like the saying goes, you have the family you were born into and the one you were sworn into. You have to do your best to support both."

As a leader, his peers and superiors agree he is motivated and someone who all ranks can look up to for his work ethic and enthusiasm.

"Joseph is motivated and has the courage to take on any task no matter how challenging," said Sgt. Ryan B. Jasman, data chief for Comm. Plt., H&S Company, CLB-3, 1st MLG (Fwd). "He's someone who not only the junior Marines can look up to, but also Marines [of higher rank] than him because of his leadership skills."

Joseph's friends, family and fellow Marines know that no matter their problem, great or small, Joseph is someone who can be relied on whether for instruction in the MCMAP pit or elsewhere as a friend, a brother-in-arms and a leader.

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**Cpl. Alfred J. Joseph, a tactical data network specialist with Communications Plt., H&S Co., CLB 3, 1st MLG (FWD), looks on as two of his Marine Corps Martial Arts Program students practice the skills he taught them aboard Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Feb. 21.**

# Marines exercise core competencies in Pacific Horizon

Story by

Lance Cpl. Michael Ito

1st MLG

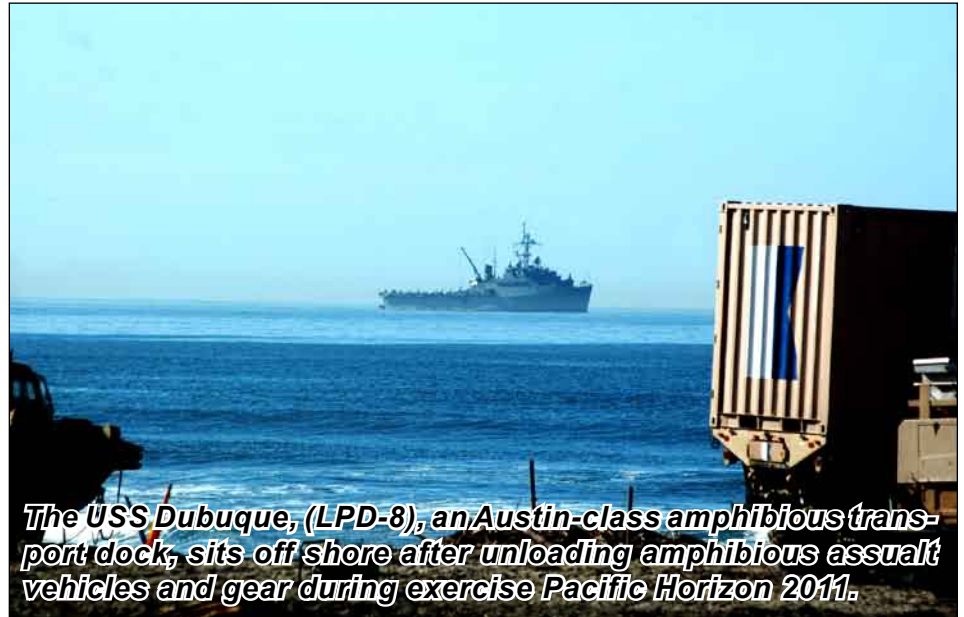
**RED BEACH, Calif.** – For more than 235 years, the Marine Corps has defined itself by its ability to adapt and overcome complex and difficult situations. For much of that history, the primary mission of the Corps has been codified by the National Security Act of 1947 as “the seizure or defense of advanced naval bases and other land operations to support naval campaigns.”

Pacific Horizon 2011, a brigade level crisis response training exercise consisting of the Navy and Marine Corps team took place March 3- 8 at Red Beach on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. The operation was a joint effort between elements of I Marine Expeditionary Force and the Navy’s Expeditionary Strike Force 3.

“The goal of the exercise is to make sure that our Marines are operationally ready,” said Maj. Gen. Melvin Spiese, deputy commanding general of I MEF and the commanding general of I MEB for PH11. “We are refocusing after eight years of extensive operations ashore.”

The exercise was designed to test and refine the Marine Corps and Navy’s readiness in the execution of the Maritime Prepositioning Force operations, a strategy employed by the Marine Corps in conjunction with the Navy to provide combat ready equipment and supplies to forward deployed units in support of any contingency operations.

The objective of MPF is to enable strategically positioned tactical and humanitarian equipment around the world, explained Capt. Jack Long, beach operations group officer in charge, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Combat Logistics Group 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group. The MPF ensures the Marines and their gear can be on site within days. This capability allows mission critical response times to be mea-



*The USS Dubuque, (LPD-8), an Austin-class amphibious transport dock, sits off shore after unloading amphibious assault vehicles and gear during exercise Pacific Horizon 2011.*

sured in days and weeks vice weeks to months.

From Spiese’s perspective, exercises like this have evolved greatly since the inception of the MPF strategy more than 25 years ago.

“It may look like we’re just rolling tanks off of flatboats and going into the fight, but before that can happen, we have to get that tank across the world,” said Spiese. “Maritime Prepositioning Force combines the economy and volume of naval transport with the speed and effectiveness of airlift to pair Marines and their tools.”

According to Sgt. Austin Brown, landing support specialist for CLB-15, CLR-17, 1st MLG, the operation tested the tactical proficiency of more than 4,800 personnel in the off-loading, inventory, tactical use, and reloading of more than 200 vehicles, supplies and supporting troops.

“It took just over 48 hours to unload and inventory all the gear,” said Brown. “We use radio frequency identification tags to keep 100 percent eyes-on of every piece of equipment.”

Once the gear was ashore, the force responded to a simulated humanitarian crisis.

“An exercise like this tests our ability to respond to any kind of situation,” said Long. “This exercise was

designed as humanitarian aid, but we could, just as easily, have rolled right into combat from here.”

The operation went smoothly for the most part, according to Spiese. There were a couple issues, but they were mostly mechanical in nature.

“The friction is a good thing here,” said Spiese. “We are looking for the learning that still needs to be done. When the problems arise in this setting, we have the opportunity to fix it the right way. I would much rather throw a Marine at the problem than extra time or money.”

Pacific Horizon 2011 has made the Marines and sailors who took part in it better prepared, organized more resilient. The lessons learned from this exercise have given invaluable insight and practical knowledge into the procedures and skills they will need should an actual response be necessary.

“Maritime Prepositioning Force essentially defines the Marine Corps,” said Spiese. “We have taken another step in our ability to effectively come together with the Navy, as well as learn something about ourselves. Pacific Horizon was executed to exercise and test our core competencies as Marines, and once again, we have performed superbly.”

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# Comptrollers: Funding the 1st MLG mission

Story and photos by  
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1st MLG

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – Approximately \$85 million is spent each year by the 1st Marine Logistics Group and the Marines from the Comptroller section, G-8, 1st MLG are the ones responsible for making sure units are

properly spending funds in accordance with fiscal laws and ensuring purchases are meeting command needs.

“Our mission is to manage and maintain the funds accountable to the commanding general of 1st MLG,” said Lt. Col. Peter Hart, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-8, 1st MLG.

The comptroller section is divided into an ac-

counting section and a budgeting section.

The mission for the Marines in the accounting section is to ensure all money is accounted for and every penny is spent according to fiscal laws the Marine Corps adheres to.

“We account for everything that is purchased,” said 1st Lt. Jessica Wall, accounting officer, G-8, 1st MLG, from San Bernardino, Calif. “Our job is to make sure that the dollar amount spent matches what the budgeting section receives [from higher headquarters] and account for it correctly.”

On the budgeting side the Marines are responsible for overseeing the budgets for all the units.

“We have to make sure units have the funds to accomplish [their missions],” said 2nd Lt. Mark Novelli, exercise officer, G-8, 1st MLG, from Chicago. “We get them what they need.”

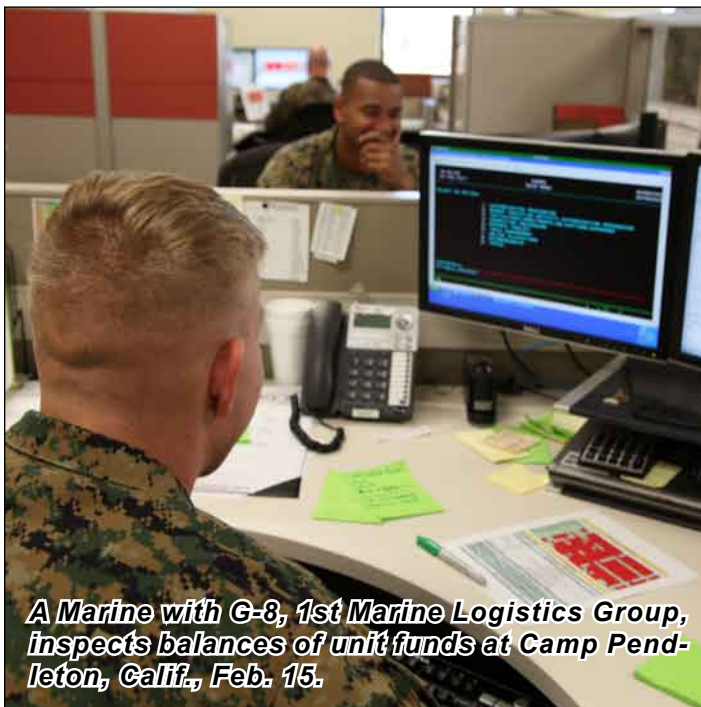
The comptrollers in G-8 support every subordinate unit within 1st MLG.

“Primarily we support [Combat Logistics Regi-

ment] 17, CLR- 15, CLR- 1 and 1st Dental Battalion and every unit that falls under them,” said Hart, from Detroit.

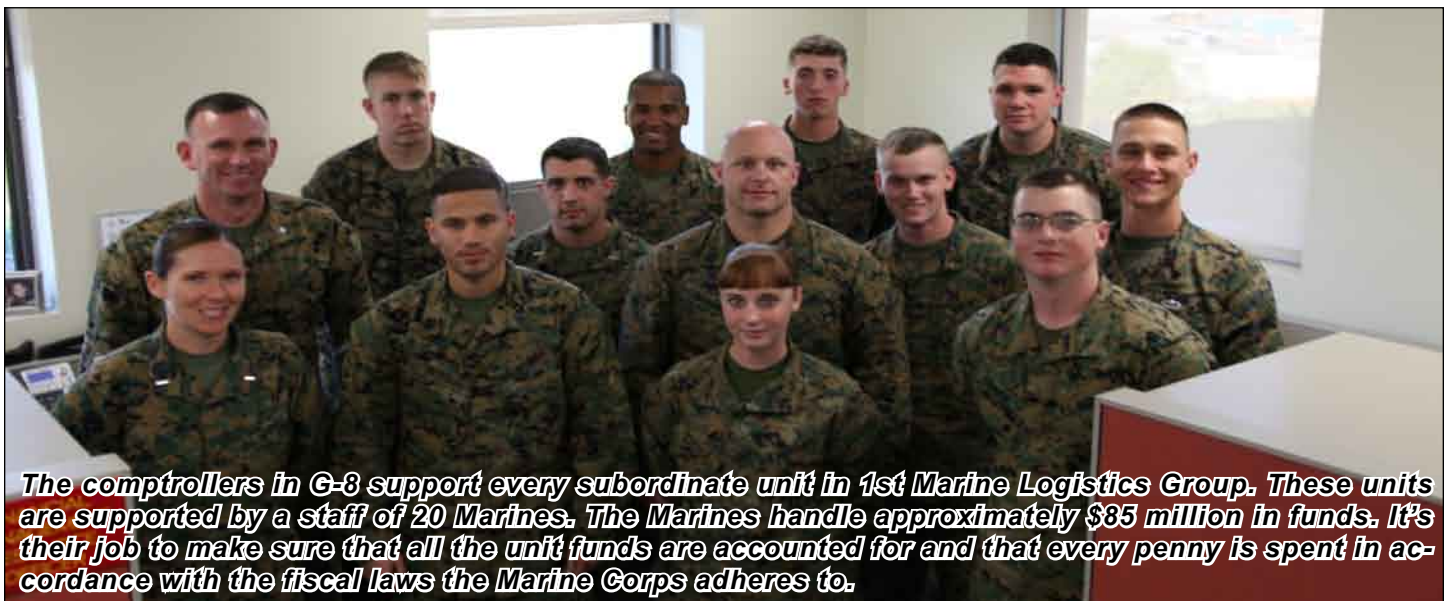
All these units are supported by a staff of 20 Marines who monitor and regulate between \$85 million and \$145 million annually.

“We conduct financial assistance on a monthly basis to ensure that the units out there are effectively spending the funds that have been allotted to them,” said Gunnery Sgt. Hover Reyes, Comptroller Chief, G-8, 1st MLG. “We not only check to see if it’s being spent accurately and abiding to fiscal rules and regulations, we want to make sure that once money is set aside that money is directed to what we’re going to get billed for in order to meet command needs and maximize resources,” said Hover from Brooklyn, N.Y.



*A Marine with G-8, 1st Marine Logistics Group, inspects balances of unit funds at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 15.*

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*The comptrollers in G-8 support every subordinate unit in 1st Marine Logistics Group. These units are supported by a staff of 20 Marines. The Marines handle approximately \$85 million in funds. It’s their job to make sure that all the unit funds are accounted for and that every penny is spent in accordance with the fiscal laws the Marine Corps adheres to.*

# Photos from around 1st MLG

Photos by Cpl. Paul Zellner



*(Above) Marines of General Support Security Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) aid the wrecker team in recovering an immobilized mine roller after it hit an improvised explosive device in Trek Nawa, Afghanistan, Feb. 25, 2011. (Left) Sgt. Robert Torres, 1st section leader with General Support Security Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) sweeps the road for improvised explosive devices before travelling over in order to recover an immobilized Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle in Trek Nawa, Afghanistan, Feb. 25.*

*(Right) Cpl. Corey J. Hiles, a wrecker operator with Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) uses a torch to cut a mine roller off of an immobilized Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle in Trek Nawa, Afghanistan, Feb. 25. The vehicle became stuck after a portion of the road it was travelling on gave out. The recovery was in support of 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment.*

