

Fallen EOD Marine 'laid down his life for others'

Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Eastman, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) died, July 18 while supporting International Security Assistance Force operations in Helmand Province. Eastman, 28, from Moose Pass, Alaska, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1999 as a combat engineer. He lateral moved into EOD in 2006 and deployed to Iraq in 2008. He is survived by his wife, Rocio, and daughter, Joy.



Story by
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer
Forward Staff

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – A crowd of service members, civilians and friends gathered for a memorial service, July 25 to honor the life and ultimate sacrifice of Gunnery Sgt. Christopher L. Eastman, 28, of Moose Pass, Alaska, who died, July 18 while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province.

Eastman, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine

Logistics Group (Forward), was deployed to Afghanistan in support of International Security Assistance Force operations.

Eastman enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 1999 as a combat engineer, according to his biography. In 2006, he lateral moved into EOD and deployed to Iraq in 2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said in a statement, "The death of Gunnery Sergeant Christopher Eastman is a devastating loss for our country."

See Eastman, Page 2

Many gather to mourn the loss of fellow Marine

Story by
Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank
Main Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Friends, Family and fellow service members united at the Marine Memorial Chapel, here, to honor and pay their final respects during a memorial services held, July 23.

Cpl. Joseph C. Lowry Jr., 25, from Lawrenceville, Ga., motor transport operator, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, died of cancer, July 14.

"It is with a heavy heart that I share the sad news of losing one of our own: Cpl. Joseph Lowry, Jr. passed away [July 14] at Naval Medical Center San Diego after a long, courageous battle with cancer," said Lt. Col. Michael P. Rohlfs, commanding officer, CLB-1, CLR-1, 1st MLG, in a letter to the CLB-1 family. "This is a tragic loss for CLB-1, the Marine Corps, and our nation."

During the memorial, fellow service members spoke about Lowry's personality, what he meant to others and how he would constantly be helping out his fellow Marines.

"Lowry would help anyone out," said Cpl. Derek A. Davis, motor transport mechanic, Support Company, CLB-1, CLR-1, 1st MLG. "He'd go out of his way and stop at nothing to help someone out no matter the problem."

Many service members mentioned that no matter what time of day it was or how well Lowry knew someone, he wouldn't hesitate to offer a helping hand.

"Lowry was like a brother to me," said Davis, 22, from Dexter City, Ohio. "He drove from Camp Pendleton to Vegas one night just to help me out with my car troubles."

Along with helping anyone out, Lowry was known to be very proficient and knowledgeable about his job, which he would share with the Marines he worked with.

"Cpl. Lowry taught me everything I know about my job field," said Lance Cpl. Michael English, 28, from Atlanta, motor transport operator, Support Co., CLB-1, CLR-1, 1st MLG. "He knew all the ins and outs."

As the memorial neared the end, Lowry's friends, family and fellow service members left the chapel knowing that he has changed lives in a positive way whether it be directly or indirectly.



Photo by Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank

Friends, Family and fellow service members united at the Marine Memorial Chapel, Camp Pendleton, Calif., to honor and pay their final respects during a memorial services held, July 23 for Cpl. Joseph C. Lowry Jr., 25, from Lawrenceville, Ga., motor transport operator, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, who died from cancer, July 14.

"Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family at this time," said Rohlfs, 42, from Pittsfield, Mass.

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EASTMAN

Continued from Page 1

He was a brave and selfless Marine who gave his all while serving our great nation in uniform, and we will be forever grateful for his sacrifice. On behalf of all Californians, Maria and I extend our thoughts and prayers to Christopher's family, friends and fellow Marines."

"He laid down his life for others," said Lt. Cmdr. Dennis Andrews, chaplain for 9th Engineer Support Battalion, to a somber audience during the memorial service.

At the end of the ceremony, the slow playing of Taps began as Marines stood solemnly at attention in honor of their fallen brother.

Marines began to make their way to the front of the room where a memorial display of combat boots and an upturned rifle was placed, with a set of Eastman's dog tags dangling from a helmet. Marines took turns placing their hand on his helmet, heads bowing, to quietly give their final words to the Marine who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Eastman is survived by his wife, Rocio, and daughter, Joy.

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Photo by Royal Air Force
Cpl. Patricia Morrison

A Marine pays his final respects to Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Eastman, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) who died, July 18 while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, during a memorial service at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, July 25. Eastman, 28, from Moose Pass, AK, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1999 as a combat engineer. He lateral moved into EOD in 2006 and deployed to Iraq in 2008. He is survived by his wife, Rocio, and daughter, Joy.

Alpha Company trucks gear to Sangin-based 3/7 in preparation for turnover

Story by
Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski
Combat Logistics Battalion 6

FORWARD OPERATING BASE NOLAY, Afghanistan - The Marines of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, welcomed a resupply element from Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) to their hilltop compound, July 13.

The combat logistics patrol numbering more than three dozen vehicles arrived with fuel and communications and computer equipment after nearly two days of crawling through improvised explosive device-laden desert.

The electronics gear will enable American forces in Helmand's volatile Sangin District to establish their own combat operations center at the growing base.

To assist with the expansion and further enhance livability, building materials were also delivered much to the delight of the CLB-6 Engineers based here.

"From bunkers, first aid stations, to the general expansion of different areas and route improvements, we've done it all since we've been out here," said Sgt. Brian Francis, a combat engineer with Engineer Company, CLB-6, 1st MLG (FWD), as he and a small team of engineers finish work on a series of bunkers outlining the perimeter of Nalay.

"These materials will go to good use," he explained. "We are all about making anywhere we step foot as safe



Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski
Marines with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), prepare to gravity feed fuel into stationary tankers at Combat Outpost Nalay, July 13.

a place for Marines to operate as possible. The guys that stay here are going to depend on the work we've done."

They've put thousands of miles beneath the treads of their truck tires reaching out to their fellow troops, and according to platoon commander 1st Lt. Julie Aho, the Marines of Alpha Company have really come into their own.

"This convoy travelled through one of the most hostile areas in our area of operation, and it was also one of the longest, but we arrived in great shape," said Aho, a native of Ann Arbor, Mich. "I can really tell they are getting into the scheme of operations by the feedback I receive from them and the way they handle themselves out here."

"I wouldn't mind if we continued operations right up until the day we left," said Aho. "The Marines are focused

and know exactly what needs to be done. They are right where they need to be right now."

Lance Cpl. David Lutz, a motor transportation operator with Alpha Company, CLB-6, 1st MLG (FWD), enjoys every opportunity that allows him to get behind the wheel of any one of the many tactical vehicles he is licensed to operate.

"I just like being out here on the road," said Lutz, a native of Petoskey, Mich. "It's what we trained for, and we've learned a lot over these last few months."

With mere weeks remaining in their deployment, the Marines of CLB-6 will continue supporting coalition forces until CLB-2 takes the reins next month.

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Two of 7th ESBs top enlisted leave the Corps

Story by
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Main Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Seventh Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group Marines and sailors gathered for the retirement ceremony of Sgt. Maj. Timothy L. Shatto and 1st Sgt. Ginger L. Monge here, July 22.

During their ceremony, both retirees received awards for their service. Shatto was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with combat operations against the enemy in Operation Enduring Freedom as the battalion sergeant major for 7th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD), 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD).

Monge was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding meritorious service while serving as the battalion sergeant major for 7th ESB, 1st MLG. Monge significantly improved

the combat readiness of more than 200 Marines in support of OEF.

"Today is a very special day in the retirement of two of our nations finest," said Lt. Col. Phillip N. Fietze, battalion commander, 7th ESB. "We will always remember them."

Fietze told Monge that her professionalism and her candor will be greatly missed in the battalion, and the Marines she has impacted through out the course of her career are much better for knowing her.

Fietze then turned toward Shatto.

"Sergeant Major, you were there for your Marines and you were there for me," said Fietze. "I appreciate your honest counsel, you are definitely a part of this battalion just as the Marines are a part of you."

After Fietze's speech it was then Monge's turn to thank everyone.

"To the Marines of 7th ESB, I would like to tell you all that we joined for a reason. We all signed that line with a

purpose in our hearts," said Monge. "When times get tough, I ask that you remember what that purpose was; it doesn't matter whether you are here for four years or 30, you are here now so make the most of that moment."

Monge expressed her gratitude to everyone and said she would never forget her time in the Marine Corps.

Then an emotional Shatto took his place in front of the crowd and thanked everyone.

"I will always have fond memories of my time in the Marine Corps," said Shatto as he reminisced on all his deployments. "But I know it's my time to go."

Shatto said he is retiring for his daughters, but he deployed to Afghanistan for his Marines, something he would never trade for anything in the world.

"I truly enjoyed my time as your bat-

See CEREMONY, Page 3

CEREMONY

Continued from Page 2

talion sergeant major and the joy and challenges that you brought to me as well," said Shatto. "I will leave with fond memories, because I know it is time to pass the torch onto someone else, but I thank you for the past 18 months and for being Marines and sailors of 7th ESB."

Shatto is leaving the Marine Corps after 29 years of faithful service. His personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal with two gold stars in lieu of third award, Combat Action Ribbon and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Monge is leaving the Marine Corps after 20 years of faithful service. Her personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with one gold



Photo by Cpl. Robert C. Medina

Sergeant Major Timothy L. Shatto, battalion sergeant major, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (FWD) and 1st Sgt. Ginger L. Monge, sergeant major, 7th ESB, 1st MLG salute as the national anthem is played during their retirement ceremony, July 22. Shatto is leaving the Marine Corps after 29 years of service. Monge is leaving after 20 years of service.

star in lieu of second award, Navy Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award and Good Con-

duct Medal with silver star in lieu of fifth award.

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MP receives award for leadership and bravery in Afghanistan

Story by

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Main Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — A military policeman with Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, was recognized and presented the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation Annual Military Police Achievement Award during a ceremony held here, July 20.

Sgt. Steven B. Cobb, 30, from Tupe-
lo, Mo., was recognized and presented the 1st Annual Leadership Award for his accomplishments in Afghanistan by Raymond F. Geoffroy, Jr., assistant deputy commandant Plans, Policies and Operations Department and the director, Security Division.

According to the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation, the Annual Military Police Achievement Awards program presents an excellent opportunity to recognize military police who have made outstanding contributions to Marine Corps law enforcement. The award recognizes military police achievement for

bravery and leadership.

"Out of all the MPs in the Marine Corps, and there are quite a few of them, only one of them has been recognized for this award," said Col. Bruce E. Nickle, 44, from Vienna, Va., commanding officer, CLR-17, 1st MLG. "That's a significant achievement."

According to the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation, the nominee is recognized by their seniors, contemporaries and/or subordinates as military police who most exemplify the outstanding qualities associated with each award of leadership or bravery. This nominee must clearly and dramatically demonstrate the ethos of protect and serve, honor, courage and commitment, and a genuine concern for the well being of the Corps and their fellow Marines. The nominee for leadership must set the standard for all Marines to follow. They must exhibit qualities that have made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps, loyalty and mission accomplishment within their unit.

"I'm honored to be the first recipient of the Military Police Achievement Award," said Cobb. "I received the

award because of my Marines."

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Photo by Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank

**Raymond F. Geoffroy, Jr., assistant deputy commandant Plans, Policies and Operations Department and the director, Security Division, presents Sgt. Steven B. Cobb, 30, from Tupe-
lo, Mo., military policeman, Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation Annual Military Police Achievement Award during a ceremony held at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 20.**

Happenings

Free Breakfast

Enjoy a free breakfast of waffles, pancakes, fruit, cereal and juice at the 53 Area Single Marine Program recreation center Bldg. 53341, July 28, at 8 a.m. For more information please call (760) 725-7857.

Padres game

Come and enjoy this free event hosted by the Single Marine Program. You must sign up and ride the buses that will be provided. The trip departs at 3 p.m. from the 21 Area recreation center, July 31. The game includes a free all you can eat buffet.

Forrest Griffin

The top ranked light-heavy-weight mixed martial arts fighter, Forrest Griffin, will be at the Mainside Country Store for a book signing Aug. 8, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information please call (760) 725-6233.

Surf lessons

Come and enjoy surf lessons, July 2 to Sept. 6 at Del Mar beach. Whether you are a beginner or advanced surfer, this class is for you. For more information call (760) 429-8236.

Shopping spree

Kids could win a \$250 Marine Corps Exchange back-to-school shopping spree in the "School is cool" promotion, July 15 to Aug. 8. One child will be selected in each category. For more information visit www.mccscp.com.

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For more information or ideas that you want to see in this publication, please contact the 1st MLG Public Affairs Office at (760) 763-7795.

1st MLG Marines prepare for 10.2 Deployment

Story by
Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Main Staff

BARRY M. GOLDWATER RANGE, Ariz. — Few places are as remote and rugged as Afghanistan, but Combat Logistics Regiment 15 and 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group does their best to simulate the rugged terrain and extreme temperatures Marines and sailors may encounter on their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan while conducting an Alternate Mission Readiness Exercise in Yuma, Ariz.

"Yuma is a desert environment, much like southern Afghanistan," said Lt. Col. Jaime O. Collazo, commanding officer, 1st Supply Battalion, CLR-15, "Even planning the movement from Camp Pendleton to Yuma was a good exercise. On our way down, a vehicle broke down, and we towed it to the training site where [1st] Maintenance Battalion later fixed it."

Collazo explained, Marines in Yuma are conducting combat logistics patrols, recovery missions, security, medical support missions via mass simulated casualties, civilian casualty exercises and providing supplies; the Marines out there have the tools necessary to repair anything.

"We really do a lot," said Collazo.

The first personnel arrived in Yuma, July 5, and will return in early August. The month-long ex-



Photo by Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik

Marines from Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group load into a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter near Yuma, Ariz., as part of the Alternate Mission Training Exercise, July 20.

ercise is designed to test Marines on nearly any scenario they might encounter while deployed to Afghanistan. Since their arrival, motivation has been high.

"The Marines are excited because they are being challenged," said, Collazo. "Temperatures have been up to 121[degrees]."

The extreme desert temperatures forced the Marines and sailors to push themselves while also taking special precautions to avoid becoming casualties from

the heat.

"I'm way out of my comfort zone," said Pfc. Brandon R. Swarts, radio operator, communications, Headquarters Company, CLR-15. "It's good training."

The Marines and sailors are preparing for their upcoming deployment in September. This was their first opportunity to train together as a deploying unit. Many Marines and sailors attached to 1st MLG recently specifically to deploy.

"I have been surprised by how

well reservists and active duty Marines work together," said Swarts, 19, Augusta, Ga.

The flexibility of training in Yuma gave the Marines a one-of-a-kind experience relative to their counterparts who train in Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms.

"It's a unique experience," said Collazo. "General Support doesn't get Mojave Viper, but we have many direct support and recovery missions in Afghanistan. We have to familiarize ourselves at the battalion level so we can be as prepared as other units deploying."

One of the big differences between the Arizona desert and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms is that there is nothing set up. When the Marines arrived in Yuma, they had to start from scratch.

"In Mojave Viper," said Collazo, "There is an infrastructure for ranges, units and instructors, but here we have to create all of those things."

In the end, the training was about how the Marines came together and learned as much as they could about each other and themselves before they deploy. A foundation of teamwork within the unit must be strong before arriving in Afghanistan.

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Marines transport heavy equipment to Kajaki Dam



[Click here to view](#)

Video by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer

Helicopter pilot and crew preparing to transport heavy equipment. Scenes include Landing Support Marines attaching a M777A2 Howitzer to a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter to transport to Kajaki Dam, aerial shots of a humvee hanging from a helicopter, and aerial shots of Kajaki Dam.

Field MPs supplying safety to 1st MLG

Story by
Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
The Convoy Staff

BARRY M. GOLDWATER RANGE, Ariz. — Combat logistics patrols are a necessary part of 1st Marine Logistics Group's mission; the encumbrance of looking out for those in the fight by providing supplies rests on the shoulders of 1st MLG, but whose responsibility is it to look out for those on CLPs?

Field military police officers step up and take the responsibility in escorting CLPs to provide imperative security.

"Field MPs are necessary because we keep the [CLPs] safe," said Sgt. Tom M. Stark, squad leader, Security Co., Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st MLG. "We watch over the combat

logistics patrols."

Some people see all MPs as simply the interior guard and not a combat-ready deployable unit.

Stark, 31, Louisville, Ky., explained that field MPs are not like the other MPs. Field MPs are more about keeping Marines secure from the enemies while the other MPs are more about controlling crime within the Marine Corps.

MPs enjoy their job because it gives them a chance to help out with whoever needs security when leaving a forward operating base.

"I like having a chance to get out there and help out with the mission," said Lance Cpl. Jennifer S. Ratliff, MP, Security Company, CLR-15, 1st MLG.

Being a field MP is not easy; it

See MP, Page 5

Field MPs

Photos by Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik

(Right) Lance Cpl. Mark D. Day sights in on his M240 Bravo automatic weapon while on a foot patrol in the desert near Yuma, Ariz., July 20. The patrol was part of a training exercise for Marines and sailors deploying with 1st Marine Logistics Group.



MP

Continued from Page 4



A Marine from Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group drives a forklift during the Alternate Mission Readiness Exercise, July 19. The AMRX was held for Marines and Sailors of 1st MLG who are deploying to Afghanistan in September.

requires the Marines to be constantly alert as the enemy can attack at any given moment.

Versatility is the key to making a security team strong. The MPs never truly know what they will face.

"You have to know a little about everything," said Ratliff, 19, Wyandotte, Mich.

"From weapons, to vehicles, to communications, you learn about other people's jobs and you need to retain it."

Stark stated that during the Alternate Mission Readiness Exercise in Yuma, Ariz., MPs from CLR-15 had a good chance to refresh their skills

on route reconnaissance, CLPs, personal security detachments, prisoner of war handling, entry control points and military operations urban terrain.

It's the job of these Marines to protect not just the gear a CLP is transporting but also the other Marines on the mission.

The Field MPs make the trip safe by any means they can. After the mission is accomplished, they are the ones who kept the CLP and the Marines out of harm's way.

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Marines from Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group drive through the rugged terrain of the Barry M. Goldwater Range, east of Yuma, Ariz. The Marines were on a combat logistics patrol as part of the Alternate Mission Readiness Exercise held from July 5 to early September to prepare the Marines of CLR-15 and CLR-17 for their upcoming deployment in August.

(Right) A Marine from Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group climbs into a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle while on a combat logistics patrol as part of the Alternate Mission Readiness Exercise at the Barry M. Goldwater Range, Ariz., July 21.



(Left) A field military police officer from Security Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group mans a turret aboard a Humvee while on a combat logistics patrol in Yuma, Ariz, July 21. Marines from 1st MLG are completing an Alternate Mission Readiness Exercise in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.