



MAY 30, 2014

The Convoy

DELIVERING QUALITY INFORMATION ON THE 1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP



2014 FIRES 7th ESB and FMD help contain future fires

FEX CLB-15 completes 1st field exercises of year at Red Beach

DESERT SCIMITAR MLG Marines participate in large-scale field exercise

May

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Lance Cpl. Matthew Brown, Engineer Equipment Operator, Support Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, plows brush along a firebreak using a V8T Dozer aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 13, 2014. Facilities Maintenance Division and seven Marines with 7th ESB, 1st MLG, began creating firebreaks May 6, 2014 in an effort to contain wildfires that may start on base and will continue to create them through Aug. 10, 2014.

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 **1st Marine Logistics Group** shared a link via Dakota Meyer.
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FIRE SEASON

7th ESB and FMD help
contain future fires

Story by: Sgt. Sarah Fiocco



Photo by: Sgt. Sarah Fiocco

Lance Cpl. Matthew Brown, Engineer Equipment Operator, Support Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, plows brush along a firebreak using a V8T Dozer aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 13, 2014. Facilities Maintenance Division and seven Marines with 7th ESB, began creating firebreaks May 6, 2014 in an effort to contain potential wildfires expected during the summer. They will continue to create them through Aug. 10, 2014. The project is still slated to meet this completion date despite fires that destroyed nearly 22,000 acres and caused hundreds of service members and their families to evacuate their on-base homes, May 14-18, 2014.



Photo by: Cpl. Sarah Wolf

A heat wave, drought and strong winds created the perfect recipe to feed recent wildfires that spread across Camp Pendleton, Calif., burning almost 22,000 acres, May 14-18, 2014.

This early beginning to wildfire season makes the mission of cutting firebreaks throughout the approximately 120 miles around base more important than ever.

Facilities Maintenance Division and seven Marines with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, began working toward this goal May 6, 2014 and will continue to cover the vast Camp Pendleton areas through Aug. 10, 2014.

“We do this once a year and it starts at the beginning of May every year,” said Randy Branim, a Heavy Equipment Operator who is leading the firebreak operation with FMD. “The concept is to knock all the brush off and clean it up so it doesn’t allow any fire to jump over it.”

The largest, and perhaps the most important firebreaks, which FMD employees and 7th ESB Marines

will maintain, encircle the outskirts of Camp Pendleton.

“There’s a perimeter break around almost all of Camp Pendleton,” said Branim. “This ensures the fire won’t go off base.”

Containing these fires to the site in which they originally ignited does more than help ensure the safety of the locals living in the communities that surround the base.

“Once a fire goes off base, we no longer have full control of it and it can do some damage,” said Ruben Salas, Transportation Mobile Equipment Operator Supervisor, FMD. “Once it’s off base, we also have to pay for the damages, so it saves us millions of dollars a year.”

In addition to the firebreaks that line the base, FMD and 7th ESB will cut out brush surrounding impact areas of the various training ranges.

“It’s important to go around the impact areas, of course, because that’s where a lot of the fires on base start,” said Branim. “All it takes is a spark from small arms fire.”

Most of Camp Pendleton’s firebreaks sit on top steep inclines, so creating these large brushless paths

that can reach up to 20-feet wide is a hazardous task in itself.

“They sit right on ridgelines on the very top of mountains,” said Branim. “Because of the terrain, the areas can be really rocky. If you’re not paying attention, it could get scary.”

For many of these Marines who will gain the bulk of their experience on this equipment while creating these firebreaks, driving the dozers up some of the steepest peaks on base is a daunting task.

“Trying to make level cuts is probably the hardest part. When you’re coming down hill, you’re coming straight down,” said Lance Cpl. Matthew Brown, Engineer Equipment Operator, Support Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG. “Climbing up some pretty steep hills in a dozer is scary. You’re going straight up, so all you see is the sky when you’re driving up hill, but level cuts make it so that the fire trucks can have easier access up to a fire in the mountains.”

Danger aside, the 22-year-old Wylie, Texas native, and his peers, received a firsthand look at how important their role in maintaining the firebreaks are when the recent Camp Pendleton blaze caused hundreds of service members and their families to evacuate their on-base homes. According to Salas, some of the firebreaks created earlier this year near the Fallbrook gate played a vital role in containing the fire in that area.

“Ever since [the fire], it makes us feel like our job is just that much more important,” said Lance Cpl. Jordan English, a 20-year-old Engineer Equipment Operator, Support Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. “We can slow down a fire to the point of containment. It has a big impact on the entire base’s safety.”

As firefighters and other first responders worked to extinguish the flames, FMD halted the creation of firebreaks in certain locations near the affected areas. However, Salas said they are still expected to meet their completion deadline of Aug. 10.

“Marines and civilians are working together to get these firebreaks established,” he added.



Photo by: Cpl. Orrin Farmer



Photo by: Cpl. Sarah Wolf



Photo by: Cpl. Sarah Wolf



Photo by: Sgt. Sarah Fiocco

A V8T Dozer drags a chain across a firebreak to flatten its surface as another dozer clears brush from the path, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 13, 2014. Facilities Maintenance Division and seven Marines with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, began creating firebreaks May 6, 2014 in an effort to contain wildfires that may start on base. They will continue to create them through Aug. 10, 2014. The project is still slated to meet this completion date despite the fires that scarred nearly 22,000 acres and caused hundreds of service members and their families to evacuate on-base homes, May 14-18, 2014.

A total of three fires broke out aboard Camp Pendleton from May 14-18, 2014. The Tomahawk fire burned 5,400 acres, the Las Pulgas fire burned 15,000 acres and the San Mateo Fire burned 1,500 acres. Combined these fires burned almost 22,000 acres. Facilities Maintenance Division and seven Marines with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, began creating firebreaks May 6, 2014 in an effort to contain any future wildfires and will continue this task through Aug. 10, 2014.

FIRST FEX



**CLB-15 PREPARES FOR
DEPLOYMENT WITH 15TH MEU**

Army and photos by Sgt. Leah Fiocco

Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted their first field training exercise this year at Red Beach aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 6-10, gearing up for deployment with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit this fall.

The exercise allowed CLB-15 to practice procedures and protocols they will apply while acting as the 15th MEU's Logistics Combat Element, during its deployment early next year. Providing this support to the MEU is vital to its mission as a crisis response force, ready to answer the nation's call as the first on the scene.

"It's the first time that we've had since our change of command last summer to get together as a battalion and move to the field, operating in an expeditionary environment," said Maj. Brad Van Slyke, the battalion's Operations Officer, of Madison, Wis. "We've come out here to establish command and control and to exercise gen-



Lance Cpl. Dustin Nixon, a 19-year-old, tank mechanic, Maintenance Detachment, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, of Currituck, N.C., stops a vehicle containing two "locals" at the entry control point during the battalion's first field training exercise of the year at Red Beach aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 6-10.

eral engineering, motor-transportation operations, medical services and general base camp services."

The responsibilities of general engineering rested with the Marines in the battalion's Engineering Detachment, charged with establishing a Forward Operating Base (FOB) in the Sierra Training Area aboard the base.

"We had about a 20-Marine detachment sent up there, and they did the planning," said Van Slyke. "[As part of] that FOB, they built a berm around

the perimeter of their camp, established guard towers and an entry control point."

Traditionally, a FOB extends a unit's capabilities throughout an area of operation.

A large part in sustaining Marines in the field is providing them with water.

"We've got the Tactical Water Purification System, or TWPS. It's one of our general engineering services," said Van Slyke. "We established a water point down at [the shore of] Red Beach, and we have a hand full of Marines down there who are purifying water straight from the ocean. That water is being used for hygiene purposes, for drinking purposes and for cooking. It's essential for us to have potable water to run a base camp. That was a significant factor in this exercise."

In addition to the convoys that carry supplies, such as water, to ground troops in need, the motor-transportation operations also consisted of conducting repairs to inoperative vehicles in an austere

environment.

"We actually brought a vehicle with us that stopped working right before we came out here," said Van Slyke. "We specifically did that, so the Marines could practice fixing a vehicle in a field environment, because they don't necessarily have all the tools they would back in the rear."

Marines and sailors with the battalion also put their medical know-how to the test during a very realistic mass casualty drill.

This employed the use of role players from SpecPro Technical Services who used make up to present the service members with authentic-looking injuries.

"Our Health Services Detachment has done a great job of walking the battalion through the procedures for a mass casualty," explained Van Slyke. "It added some very realistic training value to it."

Marines and sailors who participated in the mass casualty even agreed that seeing that much blood, even though it was fake, opened their eyes to what a real emergency medical situation could look like.

"It was actually very realistic," said Lance Cpl. Jeffery Glass, Combat Engineer, Engineer Detachment, CLB-15, 1st MLG and a Cleveland native. "These [wounds] seemed more urgent because the [role players] actually looked like they were really injured. Every other mass casualty I've done is just guys acting like they have a gun-shot wound, but there's nothing there."

This was not the only event role players made seem genuine. Two role players approached the main operating base's entry control point in a vehicle, acting as locals of the "foreign" land. These natives claimed they just wanted to spend a day at the beach; however, the situation grew tense when the Marines declined their request to enter the area.

"They said that it was their land and that they were a little

"...the MEU is the next big [deployment] that we can capitalize on. The Marines are excited and motivated to get out there on ship and do something new." - Maj. Brad Van Slyke

upset that the Marines were on it," said Lance Cpl. Dustin Nixon, Tank Mechanic, Maintenance Detachment, CLB-15, 1st MLG. "I was trying to let them know that we were here for their safety. I was trying to radio it up so that they could speak to someone higher. When it started taking a while, they started getting a little aggravated."

Once the locals started displaying aggression toward the Marines, that's when they were asked to step out of their vehicle.

"We searched the vehicle and found weapons in the back seat of the vehicle," said Nixon, a 19-year-old of Currituck, N.C. "The driver had a pistol in his front belt loop, and we found IED-making material in the back of the car. From that point, we detained them and put them in a secure location and held them there."

Overall, personnel within the battalion say this first training evolution of the year has been successful, and they hope to continue stream-lining procedures up until their deployment during which they will be providing support to approximately 2,000 Marines and sailors.

"Any time you pick up and move away from your home station is a good thing. You learn a lot of things about yourself and a lot of things about the Marines around you and the missions that you're capable of doing," said Van Slyke. "Even coming out here we've learned a lot. With [combat operations] dialing

down, the MEU is the next big [deployment] that we can capitalize on. The Marines are excited and motivated to get out there on ship and do something new."



A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, assists "wounded locals" in receiving medical aid during a mass casualty event as part of the battalion's first field training exercise of the year at Red Beach aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 6-10.



Sergeant Richard Contrady, water support technician, Engineer Detachment, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, adjusts the Tactical Water Purification System during the battalion's field exercise at the shore of Red Beach in preparation for their upcoming deployment with the 15th MEU.

NAVY, MARINE team builds partnerships with CIVIL AUTHORITIES

Story by: Cpl. Timothy Childers

Photos by: Lance Cpl. Shaltiel Dominquez

SAN DIEGO

In October 2007, large-scale wildfires spread across Southern California. Civilian firefighting agencies were overwhelmed, combating fires exceeding their capacity. At the time, policy for requesting support from military assets was not widely or clearly understood and standing operating procedures for Marine Corps units did not address some aspects of interagency operations. In response, the Department of Defense made efforts to improve cooperation, according to the Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned.

In an effort to continue building the relationships established in recent years, senior leaders from the Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard came together with local, state and federal civilian agencies, including Cal Fire and the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX, to dis-

cuss Defense Support of Civil Authorities during a two-day conference in San Diego, Calif., April 29-30, 2014.

The event provided the opportunity for supporting agencies, partners and stakeholders to meet and discuss ideas that would reinforce relations and establish support goals and supporting agency responsibilities during local and national disasters.

“It’s not if [another disaster is] going to happen; it’s when it’s going to happen,” said Maj. Shawn Grzybowski, Operations Officer, Headquarters, 1st Marine Logistics Group. “California will eventually have another major disaster. This is one of the very first steps of bringing the Navy and Marine Corps team to meet with

CONTINUED, PAGE 14



Servicemembers and officials with local, state and national agencies observe the amphibious landing of an Improved Lighterage System Causeway Ferry during a Defense Support of Civil Authorities conference aboard Naval Base Coronado, Calif., April 29, 2014.

those different agencies that we may be working with in the event of a disaster.”

Brigadier Gen. Vincent A. Coglianesse, Commanding General, 1st MLG, opened the summit, emphasizing the importance of cooperation.

“Relationships are key; they’re money in the bank,” said Coglianesse. “When a disaster happens, it’s about calling someone you know and being able to work out the details, cutting through the red tape. What I look forward to this week is that relationship building and for us to understand more about the incident response framework that we have to work in.”

The blue-green team, including servicemembers from the Third Fleet, I Marine Expeditionary Force and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, educated attendees about existing and future capabilities to support disaster relief through conferences and displays of military tactical vehicles, aircraft and equipment.

Marines and sailors with 1st MLG displayed their ability to support operations through engineering, medical and dental services, transportation, supply and maintenance through static displays and dynamic demonstrations aboard the USS San Diego and Naval Base Coronado.

“From my aspect, we’re showing our capabilities of coming from a ship onto a [Landing Craft Utility] and coming off an LCU onto a beach to provide



Sailors with Navy Beachmaster Unit 1 supervise an amphibious landing by a Landing Craft Air Cushion with Assault Craft Unit 5, during a Defense Support of Civil Authorities conference aboard Naval Base Coronado, Calif., April 29, 2014.

any kind of disaster relief, including purified water and electricity,” said Sgt. Jeremy Lea, Electrician, Support Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st MLG. “With these displays, [the civil agencies] see what our assets are and get a visual of those assets in-action. It shows that we are more than just a war-fighting organization. We can provide assistance to even our own country if need be,” added the 28-year-old native of Knoxville, Tenn.

Other displays included: tactical vehicles aboard the USS San Diego by Headquarters Regiment, 1st MLG; Marine and Naval aircraft including MV-22 Ospreys and the MH-60 with a firefighting Bambi Bucket, used to fight wildfires; and the Forward Resuscitative Surgical System and Shock Trauma Platoon, which is capable of providing up to and including surgical care, by 1st Medical Battalion, 1st MLG.

After a final discussion, Vice Admiral Kenneth E. Floyd, Commander, Third Fleet, and Lieutenant Gen. John A. Toolan, Commanding General, I MEF, gave closing remarks. With the conclusion of the conference, thoughts were set on the near future. It seemed very likely that the participating agencies would be working together soon.

“We know with this [Southern California] drought, this fire season is going to be bad,” said Coglianesse. “It’s just a matter of time before a pandemic, earthquake, you name it, is going to happen. We’re going to go back to those relationships and we’re going to respond with the Navy and Marine Corps team.”

A sailor with Navy Beachmaster Unit 1 supervises a seaborne landing by a Landing Craft Air Cushion with Assault Craft Unit 5, during a Defense Support of Civil Authorities conference aboard Naval Base Coronado, Calif., April 29, 2014.



Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, receive parental guidance during Operation Parenthood aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 1, 2014. Operation Parenthood is a one day event designed to help promote the health, well-being and safety of military families who are expecting a baby or have young children.

CLR-1 conducts parent expo

Story and photo by: Sgt. Laura Gauna

Military families often face different challenges than their civilian counterparts, especially when it comes to parenting. Long deployments, work-ups, field exercises, overnight duties and irregular work hours can take a toll on raising children. Combat Logistics Regiment 1 decided to do something about it and help their families succeed.

In 2011, the Family Readiness Officers created Operation Parenthood, an annual event designed to help promote the health, wellbeing and safety of military families who are expecting a baby or have young children.

This year, CLR-1 invited other 1st Marine Logistics Group families to participate in the event which focused on educating parents on topics like parental guidance, mood and anxiety disorders, available summer camps, daycares, life guard training, single-father resources, health care, schooling and family counseling.

Numerous organizations set up informational booths at the event including New Parent Support, First 5 San Diego, Young Marines, Seeds Parenting Group, Military and Family Life Counseling, Prevention & Education and Daddy Corps. The organization SitterCity traveled from Chicago for the event.

“This particular event was about connecting our service members and their families with the resources that they need,” said Lynda Schubert, CLR-1 Family Readiness Officer of Carlsbad, Calif. “As a Family Readiness Officer my job is to empower Marines and their families and to help them succeed in this unique life style.” As summer approaches, families are seeking recreational summer events, camps, summer schools and daycare for their children. The event provided families with these necessary resources.

Upon visiting each informational booth, the more than 200 service members were entered into a raffle, awarding them the opportunity to win prizes such as car seats, gift baskets, a stroller and commissary gift cards.

“It was a great event,” said Gunnery Sgt. Jamil Dudley, a Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Warfare Specialist with CLR-1, 1st MLG, and a native of Patterson, N.J. “It’s good to see that [these organizations] are supporting us and that we can support them. I think this will help Marines with families and those without because whatever they learn here they can take this to their unit and help their fellow Marines. I really appreciated them coming out here.”

DESERT SCIMITAR



TWENTYNINE PALMS

Story and photo by:
Lance Cpl. Keenan Zelazoski

Marines with Bridge Co., perform a four-man carry to move part of a medium girder bridge during Exercise Desert Scimitar 2014 aboard Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 16, 2014. DS 14 is an annual exercise held by 1st Marine Division, in which 1st MLG serves as their tactical logistics support. The bridge they built provided transportation across a 66-foot gap, allowing Marines with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Mar. Div., the ability to engage the "enemy" over the space.

7th ESB demonstrates bridging capabilities

LAY. HO. HEAVE. Marines with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, chanted the commands as they lifted and moved components in unison, demonstrating their bridging capability to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force leadership during Exercise Desert Scimitar 2014 aboard Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 16, 2014.

DS 14 is an annual exercise led by 1st Marine Division, in which 1st MLG serves as their tactical logistics support. The bridge they built provided transportation across a 66-foot gap, allowing Marines with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Mar. Div., to assault the enemy in this year's training scenario.

"We built a Medium Girder Bridge, which is capable of spanning anywhere from 20 feet to over

145 feet," said 1st Lt. Dwight McGurdy, Bridge Platoon Commander, Bridge Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG.

The MGB is particularly useful due to its ease of transportation as well as its ability to withstand the weight of the heaviest military equipment.

"This bad boy can allow pretty much anything from a convoy of 7-tons and Humvees to Abrams tanks and trailers hauling artillery across it," said Cpl. Jervis Hettrick, Bridge Master, Bridge Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG.

As the bridge master, Hettrick played a critical role in the construction of the bridge, providing junior Marines with direction and ensuring everyone's safety in the process.

"Hettrick is a no-nonsense Marine who is dedi-

ated fully to completing the mission, which sometimes means setting aside others' wants and needs in order to see the mission through to the end," said Staff Sgt. Timothy Liners, Operations Chief for Bridge Co.

As a unit that supports I MEF, 7th ESB wanted to demonstrate the mobility aspect that engineers provide in an expeditionary environment.

"For example, if [an infantry] unit sees an avenue of approach they want to take across a wet or dry gap, we build the bridge and they continue pursuing the enemy," said McGurdy, a native of Tavernier, Fla.

In addition to providing that mobility for the infantry units, the MGB is built piece-by-piece,

"Given the adverse conditions that my Marines faced with the heat and terrain, my Marines performed in an exemplary manner."

- Staff Sgt. Timothy Liners

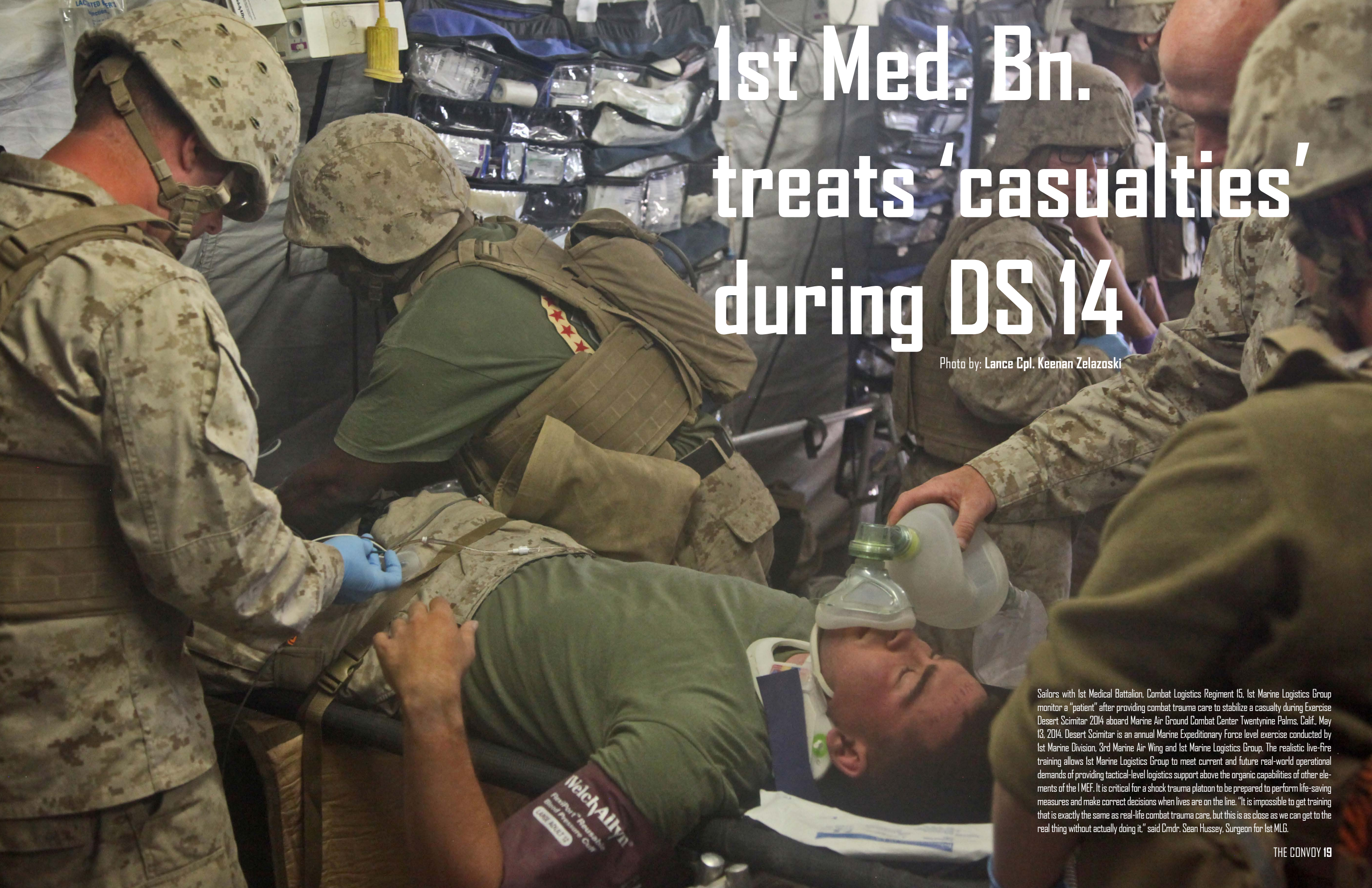
so if the bridge were bombed, for example, only the pieces that received the damage would need to be replaced. Each piece weighs 380-600 lbs., making it a challenging, but manageable weight for Marines to maneuver during construction and repair of a bridge.

"Given the adverse conditions that my Marines faced with the heat and terrain, my Marines performed on an exemplary level," said Liners, a native of Brooklyn Park, Minn.

According to Liners, this bridging exercise reinforced the confidence of leadership at 1st Mar. Div. and I MEF, showcasing the capability of Bridge Co. in maintaining mobility in expeditionary environments.



Marines with Bridge Co. work together to move components of a medium girder bridge on a roller beam system, demonstrating their bridging capabilities to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force during Exercise Desert Scimitar 2014 aboard Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 16, 2014. DS 14 is an annual exercise held by 1st Marine Division, in which 1st MLG serves as their tactical logistics support.



1st Med. Bn. treats 'casualties' during DS 14

Photo by: Lance Cpl. Keenan Zelazoski

Sailors with 1st Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group monitor a "patient" after providing combat trauma care to stabilize a casualty during Exercise Desert Scimitar 2014 aboard Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 13, 2014. Desert Scimitar is an annual Marine Expeditionary Force level exercise conducted by 1st Marine Division, 3rd Marine Air Wing and 1st Marine Logistics Group. The realistic live-fire training allows 1st Marine Logistics Group to meet current and future real-world operational demands of providing tactical-level logistics support above the organic capabilities of other elements of the I MEF. It is critical for a shock trauma platoon to be prepared to perform life-saving measures and make correct decisions when lives are on the line. "It is impossible to get training that is exactly the same as real-life combat trauma care, but this is as close as we can get to the real thing without actually doing it," said Cmdr. Sean Hussey, Surgeon for 1st MLG.

AFGHANISTAN

Story and photos by: Cpl. Cody Haas



Corporal John Chavez, a Motor Transportation Operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, adjusts a chain attached to a Tractor, Rubber-Tired, Articulated Steering, Multi-Purpose vehicle during a retrograde operation aboard Forward Operating Base Nolay, Afghanistan, May 4, 2014. During the operation, Marines and sailors collected two TRAMs and two living quarter containers for future use aboard Camp Leatherneck.

CLB-7 'HITS THE ROAD' FORWARD OPERATING BASE NOLAY, Afghanistan-

Units currently deployed to Afghanistan are conducting retrograde missions to decrease the amount of gear and personnel aboard Forward Operating Bases and Combat Outposts. One of the units providing this type of support is Combat Logistics Battalion 7.

Marines and sailors with CLB-7, Regional Command (Southwest), conducted a logistics patrol to Forward Operating Base Nolay for the last time during a retrograde operation in Helmand province, Afghanistan, May 3-5.

During the operation, Marines and sailors collected two Tractor, Rubber-Tired, Articulated Steering, Multi-Purpose vehicles and two living quarter containers from FOB Nolay to bring back to Camp Leatherneck. To and from FOB Nolay, Counter Improvised Explosive Device equipped vehicles drove ahead for security to make sure the route was clear of threats.

"The equipment retrograde will still be useful to the Marines on base," said 1st Lt. Bryan Colbourn,

Executive Officer for Transportation Company, CLB-7.

Prior to leaving their lot at Camp Leatherneck, the Marines thoroughly checked 14 tactical vehicles to ensure a breakdown-free, 65 mile trip.

Once they arrived at FOB Nolay, the process of loading the TRAMs and living quarter containers took approximately one hour.

"It was pretty quick," said Colbourn. "The Marines did a good job, as usual. They took care of it and got the job done."

The Marines and sailors planned the mission tactics more than a week prior to the start of the operation for a smooth undertaking.

"Our Marines were extremely well prepared before we went to Afghanistan to operate in an improvised explosive device rich environment," said 1st Lt. Seth Monroe, Motor Transportation Platoon Commander with CLB-7. "We also had a route clearance platoon, [working] with us to provide a hasty but deliberate clearance of each route in order to accomplish the mission."

The closing of FOB Nolay has significance for the Marines, but also for the security of Afghanistan. Leaving the FOB, which housed the last remaining Marine brigade advisor team, marked the end of Marine advisors and coalition service members in Sangin, a one time insurgent stronghold.

Marines transferred control of the FOB and full security responsibility of the region to soldiers with the Second Brigade of the 215th Afghan National Army Corps.

"This was the final tactical withdrawal of Nolay," said Monroe. "We need to set the conditions right for the Afghan National Army," said Colbourn.

The mission was complete after 48 hours, which consisted of 14 driving hours and more than 30 Marines and sailors coordinating en route without incidents.

"It definitely went above expectation," said Monroe. "They are all well trained and eager for future retrograde missions in Helmand province."



A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 adjusts a PVS-14 Monocular Night Vision Device prior to a retrograde operation aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 4, 2014. During the operation, Marines and sailors collected two TRAM vehicles and two living quarter containers from Forward Operating Base Nolay for future use aboard Camp Leatherneck.

"We need to set the conditions right for the Afghan National Army..."
- 1st Lt. Bryan Colbourn

Bottom left: Corporal Kenyon Myers, a Motor Transportation Operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, signals down while loading a TRAM vehicle during a retrograde operation aboard Forward Operating Base Nolay, Afghanistan, May 4, 2014.

Bottom right: Corporal John Chavez, a Motor Transportation Operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, tightens a chain holding a TRAM vehicle during a retrograde operation aboard Forward Operating Base Nolay, Afghanistan, May 4, 2014.



CLR-15 CHANGES HANDS

Story and photos by:
Lance Cpl. Keenan Zelazoski



Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, march the colors onto the parade deck during their change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif. May 22, 2014.

Colonel Tracy King, Commanding Officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, passed on the responsibility, authority and accountability of CLR-15 to Col. Seth Ocloo, during a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 22, 2014.

Ocloo, a native of Accra, Ghana, is coming from his duty as the Assistant Chief of Staff for logistics at the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. He has also served as the G-4 Operations Officer with 3rd Marine Division, a Battalion Logistics Officer, as well as the Marine Corps Aide to the Vice President of the United States at the White House.

“He is a family guy with great values,” said Brig. Gen. Vincent A. Coglianesse, Commanding General, 1st MLG, as he welcomed Ocloo to 1st MLG.

As King passed on the responsibility of CLR-15, he spoke a few words of the pleasure it has been commanding his Marines and sailors.

“I mean look at these guys standing behind

me,” said King, a native of Oklahoma City, as he referred to the Marines and sailors of CLR-15. “They are absolutely magnificent.”

During the ceremony, Coglianesse explained what kind of leadership King displayed during his time with CLR-15.

“[King] was always putting up his hand to get his Marines deployed and volunteering his Marines to support every mission,” said Coglianesse. “Even if a Lance Corporal said, ‘Hey, I heard we might be going somewhere,’ Col. King was in my office saying, ‘Put me in coach, my Marines want to go.’”

Ocloo paraphrased a quote from Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune, stating, “the relationship between officer and enlisted should be that of a father and son or a scholar and teacher.”

“That is my aim, and you deserve nothing less,” said Ocloo as he addressed the Marines and sailors of CLR-15. “It is an honor to serve alongside the Marines and sailors of this regiment.”



(Above) Brigadier Gen. Vincent A. Coglianesse, Commanding General, 1st Marine Logistics Group, shakes hands with Col. Tracy King, Commanding Officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st MLG, during the unit's change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 22, 2014.

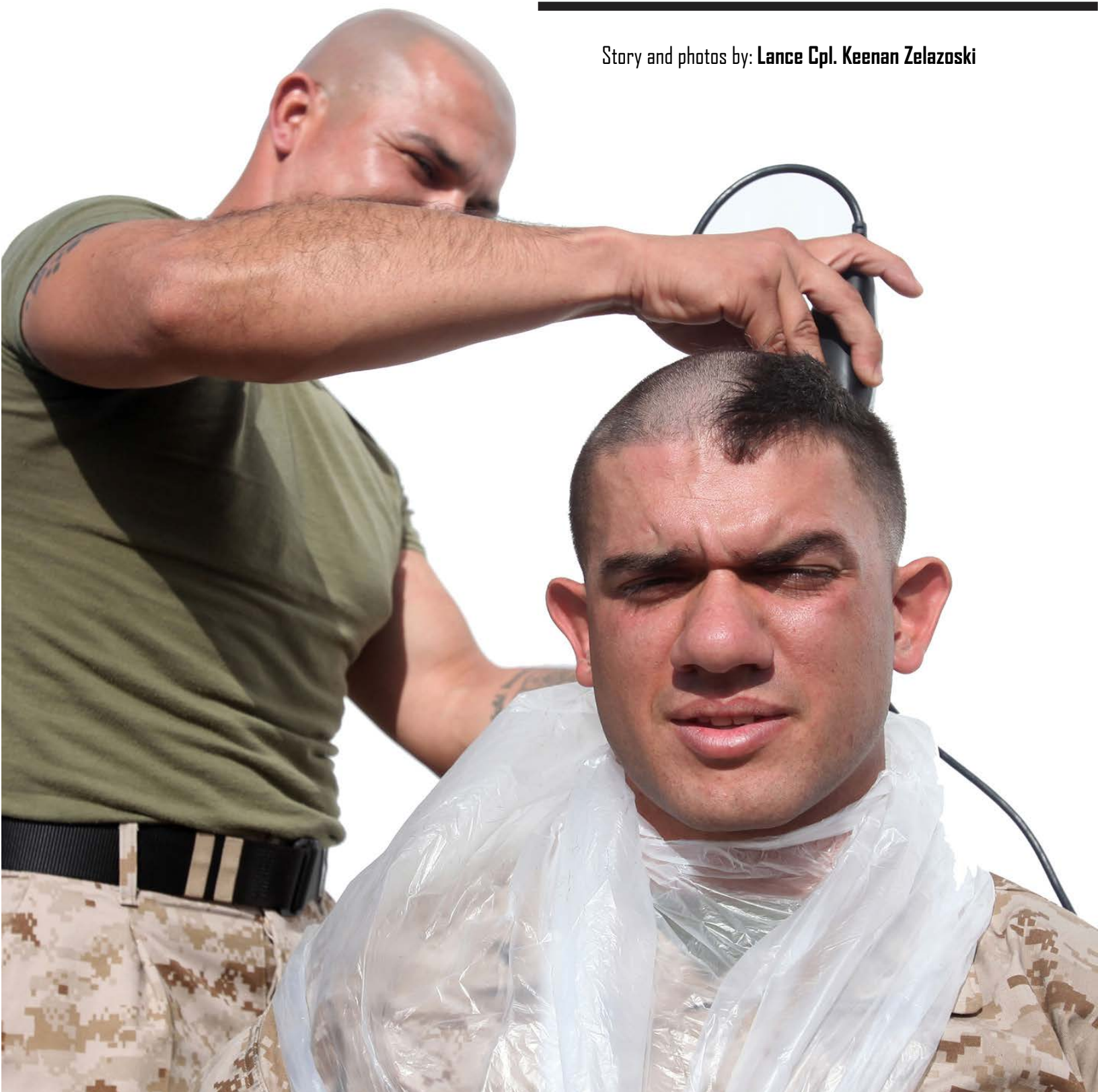
(Right) Colonel Tracy King, Commanding Officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, passes his regiment's colors to Col. Seth Ocloo during a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 22, 2014.

(Below) Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Band marches across the parade deck during a change of command ceremony for Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 22, 2014. Colonel Tracy King, Commanding Officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, relinquished command of CLR-15 to Col. Seth Ocloo, who recently served as the Assistant Chief of Staff for logistics at the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.



Buzzed bald for cancer

Story and photos by: Lance Cpl. Keenan Zelazoski



Ordinarily, the sound of clippers and a bunch of Marines getting haircuts would just mean another Sunday afternoon before the work week, but on May 5, 2014, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., that sound held special meaning for Staff Sgt. Juan Garcia, Platoon Sergeant, 2nd Platoon, General Support Motor Transport Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Nineteen Marines with 2nd Platoon shaved their heads with Garcia to show their support for his cousin who is a cancer patient at University of California San Francisco Children's Hospital.

"He sent out a mass text just letting us all know that he shaved his head, and he would be holding a fundraiser for his little cousin who has leukemia," said Lance Cpl. Rocco Carrino, Motor Transport Operator, 2nd Plt. GSMT Co., CLR-1, 1st MLG. "I told him I would go ahead and shave my head too. My mother had a struggle with breast cancer about a year ago, so I know kind of how he feels. It was like a chain reaction. Everyone started volunteering to shave their heads."

After his cousin's parents got divorced, Garcia helped raise Diego Romero, now 16-years old.

"I helped shower him, feed him, stuff like that, when he was just a couple years old," said Garcia, of Stockton, Calif. "He isn't just a cousin to me. It's like a father-son relationship. He is special."

Garcia chuckled as he recalled his cousin worrying about being bald for prom.

"I just told him chicks dig bald guys," said Garcia. "Shaving our heads will help show him that being bald isn't a bad thing."

Before Romero was hospitalized for his leukemia treatments, he was in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, a federal program sponsored by the



Staff Sgt. Juan Garcia, Platoon Sergeant, 2nd Platoon, General Support Motor Transport Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, visits with his 16-year old cousin diagnosed with leukemia, Diego Romero, at University of California San Francisco Children's Hospital on April 19, 2014.

United States Armed Forces to familiarize high school students with military discipline.

"I was his inspiration," said Garcia of his cousin who wants to be a Marine. "It hurts to see a kid with that drive and that energy to just be lying in bed with tubes sticking out of him."

During his time of need, Garcia's platoon came together to support him and his cousin through this hardship, highlighting the band-of-brothers bond that Marines share with each other.

"In the Marine Corps, if you have a brother that is struggling, you have to go back and help pick him up and struggle with him," said Carrino, a native of Boston.

Garcia, and his Marines, will continue to support Romero as he faces his illness head-on.

"That my Marines came up with this idea, and are willing to do this for my little cousin who they have never met, is truly amazing," said Garcia. "It's the best feeling. I've been in the Corps for 10 years, and I've never seen anything like this. It is unforgettable. I will never forget, they will never forget, and I know my little cousin will never ever forget their faces



Marines with 2nd Platoon, General Support Motor Transport Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, pose for a platoon photo aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 5, 2014. All the male Marines pictured with 2nd Platoon, General Support Motor Transport Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, shaved their heads in support of their platoon sergeant's 16-year old cousin, Diego Romero, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif. Staff Sgt. Juan Garcia, Platoon Sergeant, 2nd Plt., has a father-son relationship with Romero. He sent out a mass text letting his Marines know that Romero has leukemia, and that he shaved his head to support his cousin. His Marines decided they would shave their heads as well, showing that the Corps is a family, and showing Garcia that he has their support.

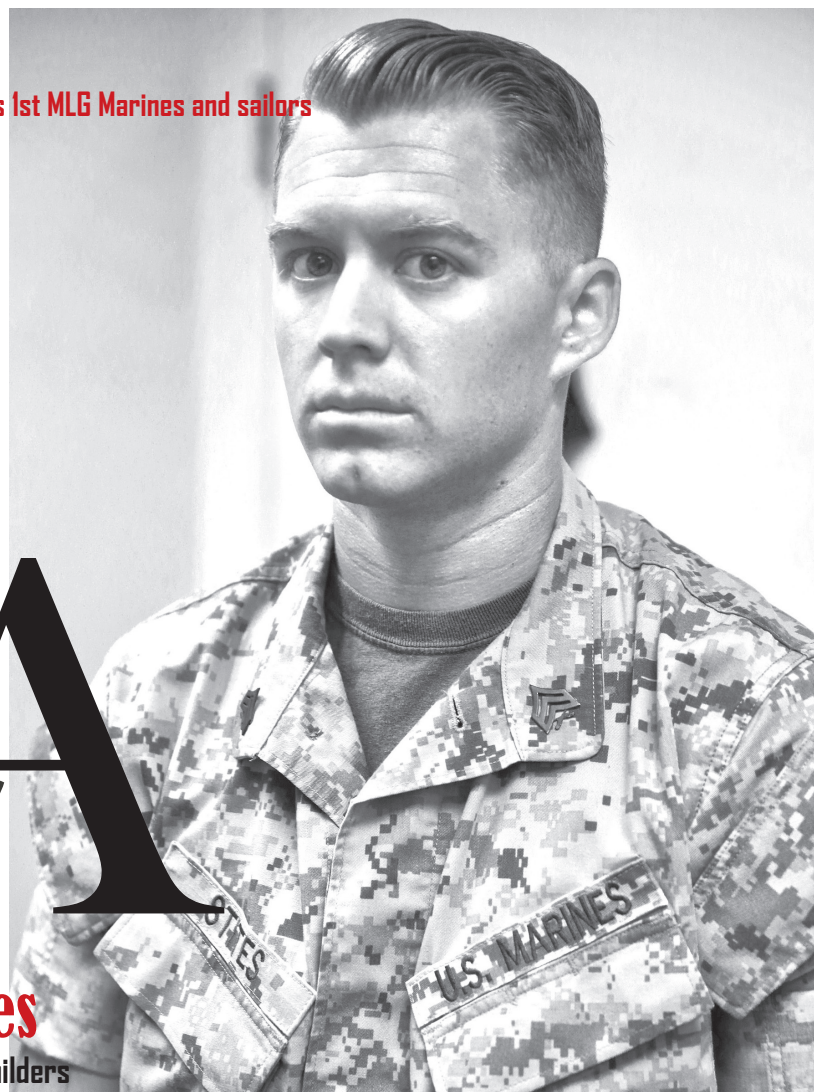
VOICES OF THE GROUP

Voices of the Group is a monthly interview that features 1st MLG Marines and sailors

Q & A

With Sgt. Ryan M. Stites

Story and photos by: Cpl. Timothy Childers



Sergeant Ryan M. Stites has always enjoyed his job as an Ordnance Maintenance Chief and Amphibious Assault Mechanic and he hopes to share his passion with his Marines. Speaking from his experience, he has formed his own opinions on how to lead Marines. He applies his style of leadership at his new command, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Q: What do you do at CLB-5?

A: “I’m the Ordnance Maintenance Chief with Maintenance Detachment. I’m in charge of the ordnance section for the light armored assault vehicles, amphibious assault vehicles, tank mechanics, artillery mechanics, optics and armorers. I currently have only four Marines under me, but when the unit is fully staffed,

we will have more.”

Q: Your unit, CLB-15, is slated to deploy next year with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Do you look forward to that?

A: “This is my first deployment on a MEU. I’m pretty excited. I requested to go on a MEU when I reenlisted. I’ll be able to do my job, while having various [military occupational

specialties] underneath me. I’ll be able to learn a little bit more about their jobs and how they do things.”

Q: How long have you been a Sergeant of Marines, and what keeps you going?

A: “I picked up Sergeant on April of 2011. I just do my job to the best of my abilities and ensure the Marines are taken care of. This, and the

satisfaction I get from my job motivates me every day. I also have two children, which I need to provide for. I want my children to grow up and have a respectable father who served in the Marine Corps.”

Q: How do you lead your Marines?

A: “I always learned by doing things myself, and it was how I was brought up at home and as a Marine. If a Marine needs help, I’ll provide guidance, but I let them figure it out. This way, they will learn first-hand instead of me just telling them, which they will forget later.”

Q: What leadership trait do you believe is most important?

A: “Dependability. This is important for my job field. When we work on a vehicle, we own it. If the Marines working on it are not dependable enough to get the job done correctly, the vehicle may not be safe when it is returned. It’s



Sergeant Ryan M. Stites, Amphibious Assault Vehicle Mechanic, Maintenance Detachment, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Headquarters Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group, attaches a tow-chain to a M88 Recovery Vehicle before towing a downed bulldozer aboard Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook, Calif., May 21, 2014.



Marines with Maintenance Detachment, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Headquarters Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group, tow a downed bulldozer with an M88 Recovery Vehicle aboard Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook, Calif., May 21, 2014. The bulldozer, owned and operated by the National Forest Service, was used to create firebreaks and help contain the wildfires that spread across Southern California beginning May 14. Sergeant Ryan M. Stites, an amphibious assault vehicle mechanic, and his team of Marines, volunteered to recover the bulldozer for the Forest Service using their M88 Recovery Vehicle.

also important that I am dependable enough to provide the oversight so the job gets done right. If I’m not dependable, they won’t take my word and do what I tell them.”

Q: What would you say to someone who is thinking about going into ordnance MOSs?

A: “The ordnance field is a good field to be in. I enjoy it, where else are you going to work on, what is essentially, a floating tank and be able to drive it?”

Q: When was the last time you re-

covered a vehicle?

A: “There was a bulldozer that caught on fire, which was helping contain the fires out on [Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook]. It was creating firebreaks and ended up catching on fire. The driver made it out safely. We took the M88 [Recovery Vehicle] out there and loaded it up on a low-bed [trailer]. It was two of my Marines’ second recovery and they did a good job. It was a good practical application of their training. It’s something you don’t get to do every day.”

Stites, 26, grew up in the small town of Arcanum, Ohio. He continues to encourage his Marines to take initiative, a leadership style he first developed from his family and apply it to instructing and developing his Marines. He looks forward to when his battalion attaches to the 15th MEU later this year.

FAMILY FIRST

Sailor provides better life for wife and daughter

Story and photos by: **Lance Cpl. Keenan Zelazoski**

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael James Soliven, a Biomedical Equipment Technician with 1st Dental Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, against all odds, is now providing a better life for his family as a dedicated sailor aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Long before finding his way to the United States, the now 40-year old Soliven was raised in the Philippines by a traditional family. One of the traditions in the Philippines is that a man should not court a lady until he can provide for a family on his own.

“Despite the tradition, I was trying to court my wife, at an early age, but she turned me down, and I tried again a few years later and she turned me down again,” recalled Soliven. “It wasn’t until much later that I tried again and I guess I got lucky because she said yes, and we started dating when we were in our freshman year of college.”

In 2000, the couple became parents with the birth of their daughter, Beatrice Soliven, now 14 years old.

Around this time, Soliven’s mother, who moved to the U.S. in 1987, filed a petition to bring her children to the states, Soliven, and his younger brother.

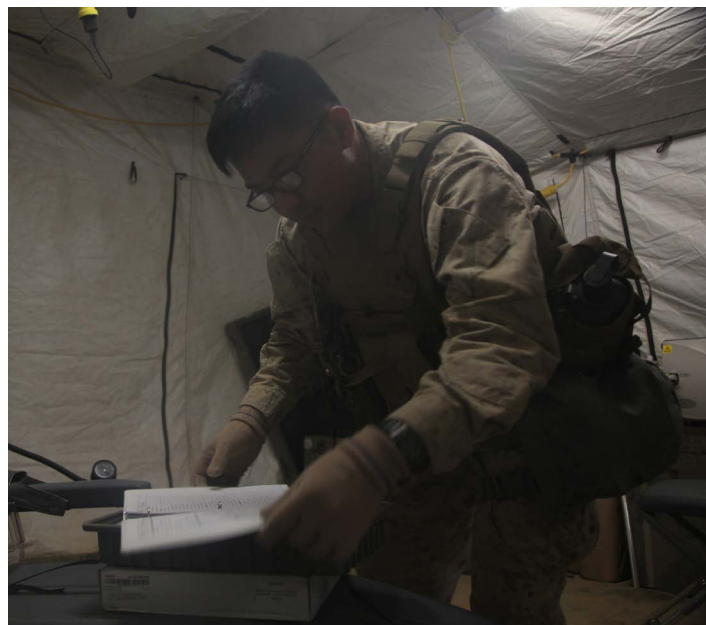
“My brother came here before me, and he came down to the Philippines for vacation,” said Soliven. “I saw he was living the life. He was paying for everything when we went out, and when I asked him what he did, he said he was a corpsman in the Navy.”

After his mother filed the petition, and he saw the success his brother had, Soliven set off to the states on his own to find a better future for his family.

After enlisting in the Navy and graduating his recruit and initial training, Soliven took vacation to the Philippines and married his wife, Angelica A. Soliven.

“I guess you could say, as cheesy as it sounds, it is like a fairy tale,” said Soliven. “You could call it true love, it was very painful to leave them, but it was worth it in the end.”

In addition to being a family man, Soliven is a



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael James Soliven, a Biomedical Technician with 1st Dental Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, refers to a manual to troubleshoot a piece of dental equipment during Exercise Desert Scimitar 2014 aboard Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 12, 2014. DS 14 is an annual exercise held by the 1st Marine Division, in which 1st MLG serves as their tactical logistics support.

leader in the Navy where he works hard repairing medical equipment while ensuring the welfare of his sailors.

I think his family is his primary motivation,” said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jessica Burton, a Dental Assistant who has worked with Soliven for nearly two years at 1st Dental Bn., 1st MLG.

According to Soliven, his primary goal every day is to bring happiness to someone or make someone smile.

“He never complains, and never turns someone away when they need help,” said Burton, a native of Anchorage, Alaska.

According to Soliven, he sees his sailors as his own family, and strives to set an example for them to follow.

“He is an excellent sailor and an excellent leader,” said Burton. “He never makes any excuses, and he has a personality that you aspire to [emulate]; a true role model.”

AROUND THE GROUP

June 4:

Hiring Heroes Career Fair:

Pacific Views Event Center. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m..

Local and national employers seeking to hire wounded service members, transitioning service members, veterans and spouses.

June 4:

Nutrition 101: Paige Fieldhouse Classroom, Mainside. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m..

Learn how to prepare meals and maintain a healthy diet.

June 6:

USAA Commanding General’s Cup Active Duty Mud Run

Lake O’Neil Road. 8:30 a.m.

10k, 5k and 1k Kids Run options for the 21st year. Free shuttle services provided for the event.

June 10:

CIA Information and Career Brief:

Base Training Center (Base Theater). 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

The CIA is the U.S. Government’s foreign intelligence gathering organization. It seeks diverse applicants from a variety of academic and technical skilled background.

Register at: www.mccscp.com/marine-family-programs.


June 27 & 28:

SMP Leatherneck Comedy Show: Time to be determined.

School of Infantry.

PARTING SHOT

By Lance Cpl. Keenan Zelazoski



Lance Cpl. Christophe De Casanova, Combat Engineer, Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, levels terrain with a pickaxe to provide a steady surface for the construction of a medium girder bridge during Exercise Desert Scimitar 2014 aboard Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 16, 2014. DS 14 is an annual exercise held by 1st Marine Division, in which 1st MLG serves as their tactical logistics support. The bridge they built provided transportation across a 66-foot gap, allowing Marines with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Mar. Div., the ability to engage the “enemy” over the space.