



SUPER BREED SPECIAL

JULY 2012 (EDITION #3)



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FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Family, Friends, and Loved Ones:

“Transition is the Mission”. That is, transition our current responsibility to the Afghan security forces. As we continue to draw down in Afghanistan, your Marine’s workload is not decreasing – for a Combat Engineer Battalion, it increases. With a reduction in US forces in Afghanistan, also comes a corresponding transfer of responsibility to the Afghan National Army, and Afghan Police force. Enabling the Afghan Army and Police to do their jobs effectively requires a very heavy engineer effort – much of this revolves around building protective bases and keeping the roads clear of IEDs. The ability to do this will also need to be transferred in the future – something we are diligently working on with our Afghan counterparts.



CEB has been very busy constructing ‘firm base’ locations for the Afghan security forces. These bases are fortified positions that can withstand the harsh weather conditions and the effects of enemy weapons. In addition, we are ‘partnered’ – working side by side with Afghan security forces during operations. I am glad to say that in almost every case, the CEB Marines are reporting that the ANA are ‘Good to Go’ – able to operate on their own and stand their ground. In some cases, we stand in ‘overwatch’, ready to assist if the Afghan’s require our help. This is a huge leap from only 18 months ago.

The ‘Main Body’ is over the half way mark in the deployment. Now is the time to dig in and get tough – this is where the newness of the deployment is gone, and the hardship of being separated start to wear. Patience and persistence are key attributes to be reminded of – both for the Marine deployed and for the families back home. From the looks of the Marines of 1st CEB, they are determined and morale is good. The Marines feel the support and effort on the home front – many friends, family, and support organizations have gone ‘above and beyond’ the call of duty. We’ve got a great support network and are appreciative.

Thank you and take care of yourself, your family and your Marine!
Sincerely,

Sincerely,
LtCol Andy Niebel





SGTMAJ CORNER

Families and friends of 1st CEB,

July is here and almost gone meaning the Battalion Main is over the halfway point! I hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe 4th of July holiday; out here it was much like any other day. The temperature has risen and along with it the wind and dust. Don't be surprised when your Marine tells you he's freezing when he returns and its 72 degrees outside!

The platoon supporting 1/1 arrived here safely and has moved to their areas of operations and shortly the Marines supporting 1/8 will be stepping on the bird beginning that long but welcome journey home. Another platoon home and another milestone passed. The CO and I got out and saw the LAR platoon and the platoon from Okinawa attached to us last week. Both platoons are working hard and the LAR engineers were about the dirtiest bunch I have seen so far! Their spirits were high and they were busting their butts getting the job done, ahead of schedule at that!

Last month I mentioned the date for the Marine Corps Ball (7 Dec 2012), and I hope to have more information about tickets and rooms. To be safe, I would plan on the same pricing as last year. We will be setting up a PayPal account again, and with a little help, we hope to make it easier this time. More information will be released soon as I iron out a few details. If you have any questions or ideas, please forward them to Sgt Clements, and he will push them my way.

I hope everyone at home is enjoying the summer and taking advantage of the beautiful Southern California weather. I'm sure that everyone here will be in agreement when I say we are all looking forward to having some cooler weather!

To my better half, I love and miss you and am one month closer to home.

Semper Fidelis,

SgtMaj Simburger





July 2012

H&S Mailing Address

**1stCEB H&S Company
(Leatherneck)
Unit 40503
FPOAP FP 96427-0503**

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USMC

From the Desk of the Executive Officer

Hello, friends and family! One more month gone, and one closer to coming home. H&S Company has continued to work hard out here, despite the rising heat. All the days out here are between 110 and 120 degrees, and the nights don't cool down like they did when we got out here. It has been pretty windy out here, but it has reached that temperature where the wind is more like a fan in an oven and doesn't give much relief from the heat, and sometimes can make it worse with dust storms. This is the hottest month of the year, however, so it only gets better from here! Your Marines and Sailors have been

doing a great job and, because of them, our Marines and Sailors in the field have been very successful in their missions. Spirits are remaining high and we will keep working hard until our part here is done and we can return to our loved ones back in the states. Your Marines and Sailors appreciate the packages that you have been sending. It's often the little things from our friends and families that keep us going day to day, as well as the desire not to let each other down. In our free time we work on improving our physical and mental abili-

ties. Many Marines and Sailors are taking classes out here to get some college credits out of the way to work toward degrees.

From Afghanistan, your Marines and Sailors love you, miss you, and look forward to seeing you again. However, until we are home again we will continue to work hard and do our part.

-Respectfully
2ndLt Ankeny

From the First Sergeant

Greetings from Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan! As you know we are half way through our deployment and our Marines continue to astonish us with their devoted dedication on supporting the Marines in the field. I know I have said this on the other newsletters but I will say it again; we are extremely proud of your Marines in H&S Company. With your support back home our Marines will continue to perform at such levels. I thank you for all the supportive emails, letters, and care package you continue to send. As I'm sure you have heard, the weather here is a little warm. But don't worry we get plenty



of water and other beverages to drink. We are also enjoying good food here in Camp Leatherneck. Some of our Marines have taken college classes; we are taking advantage of all the opportunities that are presented to us. Most of us are getting our education and maintaining our physical fitness. Again, thank you for

your support and love that we receive from you.

-1stSgt Hernandez

Section Feature: S-2

Greetings family, friends, and loved ones of the S-2 section:

Thank you for all of the care packages and support. We would also like to thank the City of Cerritos for the care packages and support as well. The weather has been hitting highs around or above 110 for the past month so we can relate to the heat wave that has hit back home in the states. In Cpl Russell's free time, he has been working hard at the gym or running despite the heat. In Sgt McKinley's free time, he has been working towards his bachelor's degree in Construction Management. As for myself, despite the busy schedule, I still find time to go to the outdoor gym on our compound to exercise. Overall, everyone in the S-2 section has been doing exceptionally well and staying busy with providing support to the Companies during their operational planning to include providing support during the conduct of operations.

“The S-2 section has been doing exceptionally well and staying busy ”



From 1stLt Eichman:

Mom, Dad, and Annie, your packages are great, and the 4th of July package was outrageous, it gave me a good laugh. Please say thank you to everyone that sent the letters; they were definitely a pleasant surprise. Also, please tell the Ft. Wayne Blue Star Mothers thank you for all of the care packages. I love and miss you all and thank you for all of the support and everything you do for me. Laura, thank you for the care packages and all of the support you have given me throughout the deployment; I do not know where I would be without you. I love you and miss you and am looking forward to getting back to our checklist of things to do.



From Sgt McKinley:

To my wife, children, family, and friends thank you for the support and care packages. I am looking forward to getting home and spending time with the family and friends.

From Cpl Russell:

Cpl Russell here, just wanted to thank my wife, family, and the City of Cerritos for the care packages I have received. To my wife- I love you and miss you so much. As you know, everything here is fine, and I can't wait to get back home and see you and the puppies again. I'm just working hard to support the rest of the Battalion with valuable intelligence in support of their operations.

Section Feature: Supply

Greetings family, friends, and loved ones of 1st Combat Engineer Supply Marines!

According to our intelligence cell we are in the season of 120 days of wind and it's getting warmer. I will assure you that the Marines are keeping hydrated and cool. We give personal thanks to our families, city of Cerritos, and Cerritos High school for all your support and most recent care-packages.

The Marines are appreciative of the time and efforts you've devoted in your support. We had two promotions; June and July. Our motivators, Cpl Dixon and Cpl Cannon were pinned by Sgt Jackson and SSgt Deleonguerrero during a section ceremony. Congratulations to Mrs. Dixon and Cannon, everyone back home must be proud of your son's. To Mrs. Vanessa "Deleonguerrero", SSgt did remember your anni-

versary and congratulations.

We wish everyone at home the best, and we thank you for your devoted support.

Sincerely,
1stLt Mata, Gabino

"We wish everyone at home the best"



Promotion: Corporal Cannon

Time in Service: 3 years

Time as LCpl: 2 years 3 months

Favorite part of the Marine Corps:

-Having to opportunity to meet all new people that he would never have met otherwise.



Promotion: Corporal Barbour

Time in Service: 2.5 years

Time as LCpl: 1.5 years

Favorite Marine Corps Memory:

-First time running up 1stSgt's hill on Camp Pendleton.



Promotion: Corporal Saewert

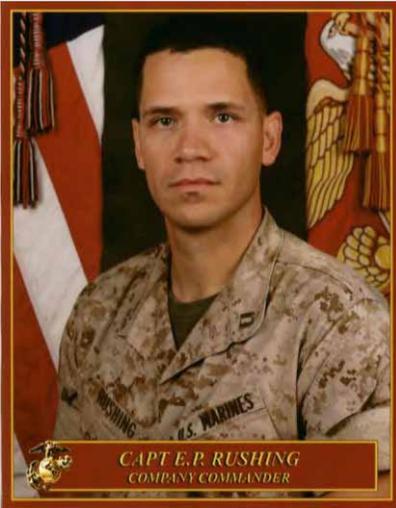
Time in Service: 2.5 years

Time as LCpl: 1.5 years

Favorite Marine Corps Memory

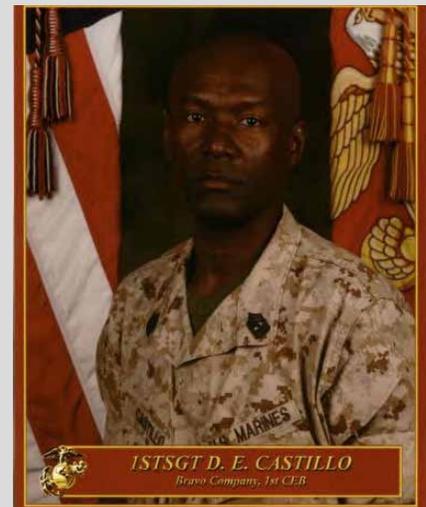
-Coming home from his first deployment.





COMPANY COMMANDER
Edward "Buddy" Rushing

*Bravo Company
1st Combat Engineer
Battalion
Camp Dwyer,
Afghanistan*



COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT
Damien Castillo

Captain's Corner → *HALFWAY THERE!!!*

Ok, maybe we are a few days short of the halfway mark but that has not stopped everyone from being excited to reach this point. This month has been extremely busy as we launched the biggest operation of our deployment so far, with the engineers at center stage. Working in temperatures well above a 120 degrees every day, fighting through high winds and constant sandstorms, the Marines of Bravo Company have blazed their path through Southern Helmand, rapidly building patrol bases in the heart of enemy territory, and allowing Afghan Police to bring safety and security to the people. Word of LAR Platoon's exploits have reached as high as General Gurganus himself and commanders across Southern Helmand are united in their praise and respect for the work of the "boys down south." As one commander remarked, "At this moment, in Helmand Province, there is no one more critical to the overall mission than the engineers."

Thank you so much for the endless string of letters, care packages, pictures, emails, Skype (which is more difficult for some of us to figure out than others), and Facebook messages that drive us on and remind us that after the smoke has settled and the day is done, our family is all that matters.

First Sergeant's Corner

As we approach our three month mark, the Marines of Bravo have not skipped a beat. I can honestly say that morale continues to be high. In the past month the Marines have been involved in huge projects which they conquered with high remarks. Travelling around talking to the Marines you can see the excitement and dedication in their eyes, to get the work done and dedication to each other.

All of these things happen because of your support. I cannot say it this enough, thanks for your continued support. Your Marines love and miss you dearly.



Thermometer at 132 degrees!!



J-Lo is leaving Idol?!? TomKat is over?!? Nooooo!!!

HEADQUARTERS PLATOON

Capt Rushing
1stLt Druffel
1st Sgt Castillo
GySgt Branch
SSgt Battles
Sgt Arroyo
Sgt Young



HM3 Barbusca
LCpl Medina
LCpl Bolen
LCpl Oetting
LCpl Romero
LCpl Hammond

Around the Yard

This month started off with a huge celebration as you can imagine for the 4th of July. Smith and Hammond cooked enough steaks to feed a small nation and Cpl Ortiz won the poker tournament...he has not stopped gloating since. We also learned on July 3rd that Staff Sergeant Battles was celebrating a birthday the next day. (A Marine named Battles who was born on Independence Day...am I being Punk'd?) Apparently having a historical and inspirational birthday does nothing to help you throw horseshoes, though, because he was shut down in two rounds by Captain Rushing, who scored a ringer with the first throw...how embarrassing. We must also give a huge shout out to Hammond's mom, Tina, for sending six MASSIVE care packages to all of us here at Bravo Company, giving Hammond all kinds of street cred with the guys. Thank you so much Tina!

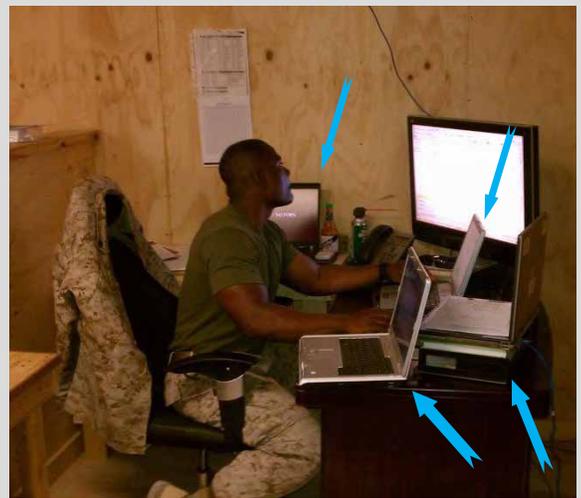
Work continues at a steady pace for the men of Bravo Headquarters as they continue to support the Marines all across the battlespace. Half down, half to go. Before you know it we will be back home and celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday in San Diego!



Medina boasting perfect horseshoe form (he missed)



Hammond and Smith got caught snacking before dinner



SSgt Battles is so busy he needs FOUR computers to keep up!

CAB PLATOON



★★★★★★
1stLt Amato
SSgt Stolz
Sgt Lancaster
★★★★★★

★★★★★★
Sgt Economou
Sgt Grant
Sgt Roark
Sgt Gende
Sgt Mejia
★★★★★★

2nd Platoon, Combat Assault Battalion

Hello to family and friends of 2nd Platoon Combat Engineer Company, Combat Assault Battalion! As the weeks progress into months the morale continues to be high. As you can see Sgt Lancaster and Cpl Harvey think they are buff by going to the gym, but they eat ice cream twice a day! Also, Sgt Gende tries to interact with the locals but they just can't seem to figure each other out, must be that Oregon to Afghani language barrier. And good ole Wengler waits impatiently for the sheep so he can continue with his patrol. We all miss our loved ones and can't wait to be back with you soon.



For those of you who thought WALL-E was just a cartoon, guess again!



Brushing up on some Peyton Manning skills...

LAR PLATOON



XXXXXXXXXX
Lt Pineiro
SSgt Glover
SSgt Wayman
XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX
Sgt Ross
Sgt Gonzalez
Sgt Hewett
Cpl Sirman
XXXXXXXXXX

LAR Platoon

To the friends and family of Bravo Company LAR Platoon: Hello! To start off the month we promoted Michael H. Peddie, and Colby M. Miller to Lance Corporal. The Marines have been working extremely hard building and tearing down bases in our area, and have been doing an outstanding job. They continue to impress 3dLAR with their progress and accomplishments. Their hardwork has proven essential to the turnover of Southern Helmand Province back to the Afghan people, a place that is already showing signs of success throughout our area. The Marines continue to maintain high morale with the completion of each project. Thank you for all the support from everyone back home, it is greatly appreciated.



Imagine working in this environment for over a month with no shower and no bathrooms...AND you get paid for it! Now who wants to join the Marine Corps?

It took three helicopter flights and a six hour ground convoy but we got mail!!!

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**Welcome
To the
Colossus
“Punch”**



Charlie Company

“Colossus”

1st CEB (Fwd), Afghanistan

“ FREE SINCE 1776 ”

JULY 2012

Company Commander

Captain Joshua S. Edwards



Dear Family and Friends of Charlie Company,

Hey there again from the place that is always sunny. I believe I have known people to pay for the weather we are in. Definitely, not your ocean breezes and cool nights that we are all used to in Southern California. We have continued to stay busy throughout the battlespace this past month and have just gained another platoon that is in support of 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. They will be taking over for Charlie Co. 1st Platoon. They are excited to begin work and will carry on the hard work of those before them. The men of first platoon will begin there transition back home soon and as the date approaches we will continue to ensure that the information in regards to there return/reunion gets back to you through the FRO. The abilities and fortitude our men show on a daily basis continues to amaze me. I am personally proud of everything they do and the work ethic they have. As always, thank you again for all of the support that you have shown the company and we look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Semper Fidelis,
Captain Joshua Edwards, “Colossus 6”

Company First Sergeant

1stSgt John J. Pettinato Jr



Dear family and Friends of Charlie Company,

This issue of Colossus will take you to the far reaches of Helmand province of Afghanistan so you can see how the Marines and Sailors of Charlie Company are doing. You might recall last month I was complaining that the CO had left me behind on most of the missions and how badly I wanted to see the company in action. The Captain has kept his promise and this month we have completed a battlefield circulation (BFC) visiting two of the three platoons throughout the battlespace. The BFC team members consisted of Lt. Col. Niebel, Sgt Maj Simburger, Capt. Edwards, 1stSgt Pettinato and some of the headquarters Marines for Charlie Co. For more hours than I can remember we traveled to 2nd platoon in FOB Nalay and then to 1st platoon at FOB White House. The Marines and Sailors looked fit and they all looked like they were doing well. The next few pages will show you photos I've taken along the way, and some are from the Marines themselves. “Enjoy”

We did have a battlefield memorial this month for LCpl Stevens at one of 1st battalion, 7th Marines positions. I was not expecting to see (4) battle crosses all lined up for the memorial. A true tribute to the heroism these Marines showed during combat operations. The Marines and Sailor of 2nd platoon represented LCpl Stevens very well during the memorial, and Sgt Crabtree's words will be remembered for a very long time.
Semper Fidelis,

First Sergeant John J. Pettinato Jr. “Colossus 8”

Super Breed Thank You: City of Cerritos, MCL-942, Jim Hogan, Calvary Church (Jim & Maria Simpson), Pony Club staff, the USO, and anymarine.com

Charlie Co. Headquarters Camp Delaram II



Capt. Edwards, LCpl Dalton, MSgt Reynolds, Cpl Cristobal, Cpl Phipps
LCpl Rodriguez, Cpl Herzog, LCpl Zapata, 1stSgt Pettinato, Cpl Esparza
SSgt Maliuwelur, 1stLt Saglimbene (not available) HM2 (FMF) Martin



Super Breeder's



Bugging CHq
for awhile



"This time it stays on, or else"



Marine Corps
Placed a few
more NCO's
in your small
family..let's
see what they
do it.
Cpl Phipps
Cpl Herzog

Welcome to the NCO ranks Cpl Phipps

USO is good to go,
thanks for the party
favors.



Mobil Hotel "6" The light is always on

For the next 5 minutes we will have shade



"Colossus"
T-Shirts coming
soon. Get one
or get punched.



War Zog, and E-Sparta



SSgt you can't sit
here. Oh, there's
a seat belt..ok



Colossus Road Warriors



"1371's have a new "Senior Enlisted"

C Co. 1st Platoon 1/8

Welcome v1/1 Engineers we (C1) left everything how we found it, honest...



C1
Warrior Tree
1stLt Reynolds
LCpl Adams
LCpl Jakubisin

Quick lets blow this sock for this months Demo pay...



It's ok, I'll get U a new Generator...



Made in USA
"Rocks not included"

Marine Sqd Ldr
action doll
"Has choke hold action"



My name is Major Phillip Ash I am the Junior Aide to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. During a recent visit to Bethesda we met one of your Marines a LCpl Jakubisin, who was supporting 1/8. I wanted to send you this picture and tell you and his comrades he was in good spirits and had his mother and fiancée with him. Semper Fidelis.



A break for Engineers "answered Prayers"

"Tell my Mama not to cry, Marine Corps motto is Semper Fi. Tell old Jody I'm coming back, and I'll be wanting my Cadillac....."

Warning, now entering Charlie Third Country

Lance Corporal Christopher Repine, an Ohio native; takes time to pose for a "warrior photo" at his FOB. He currently supports Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines.

"This months calendar model"



Cpl Alex Martinez
Dec 14, 1990-Apr 5, 2012



Aztec Warrior, keeping us strong

Cpl Zachary Fenimore, a Wyoming native and heavy equipment operator; pushes dirt at FOB Shirgazy.



Tonka toys have gotten bigger.

Stop those socks...



Corporal Benjamin Landis from Portland, Oregon; just finishes a relaxing run at FOB Shirgazy.

C Co. 2nd Platoon 1/7



The Marines of 2nd Platoon. Half way thru the deployment and still maintaining high spirits and great morale. The platoon has performed beyond expectations while executing their daily missions and tasks. The engineers provide safe paths for their infantry platoons, as well as participate in vertical construction and demolition projects. The Marines in support squad ensure vehicles are maintained, power is on, and on rare occasions, our communications gear works without flaw.



This space is dedicated to our fallen brother. The platoon will not be the same without you, you were a great Marine, good father, and an amazing human being. "We will never forget you"

Lance Corporal Steven P. Stevens II.
July 13, 1988-Jun 22, 2012



LCpl Corrie getting his new LCpl chevrons placed on his shoulder by his squad leader Sgt Hoogsteden during promotion ceremony 5 July.



LCpl Howard, the platoon's generator mechanic has ensured all generators stay operational (most of the time), so we can have A/C.



USO2GO Was a "big show" for Nolay C2 Thx USO

The Marines of 3rd Squad: Sgt Hoogsteden, Cpl Grajewski, LCpl Aguilar, Cpl Lam, Cpl "Colonel" Hutchins, LCpl Corrie. Cpl Ranalli (not in picture) was out hiding during this picture. 3rd squad, in support of Baker Company 1/7 have been constantly employed providing top notch engineer support.



Move It, not Bulldozer it



COMPANY E, "ECHO COMPANY", 1ST COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION

1st Combat Engineer Battalion; *"The Super Breed"*

Our mission: provide mobility, counter mobility, survivability, and limited general engineering support to the 1st Marine Division

COMPANY COMMANDER AND COMPANY 1STSQT

Family and friends of Echo Company

I wanted to take the opportunity to again thank you all for the support you give your Marines, Sailors, and Airmen. That support and connection back home makes what they do out here possible.

Please be aware that mail service directly to Camp Dwyer will cease on 1 August. Mail will still get to your service member after that, but it will only be once or twice per month. On the topic of mail, all mail must be posted no later than 1 Oct. See eMarine for more details.

The new I&I 1stSgt, 1stSgt Brant Fowler, recently sent an email announcing the Return and Reunion Brief for all family members of Echo Company. It is scheduled for 19 October at the Patton Museum auditorium, where we held the pre-deployment briefs. The time is still to be determined, but 1stSgt Fowler will send an update once he can establish the time. I highly encourage you to attend, and bring any family you believe could benefit. Please send an email to 1stSgt Fowler (Brant.Fowler@usmc.mil) no later than 14 July in order to allow him the opportunity to coordinate catering enough for everyone.

Respectfully,

Major Mike O'Quin

1stSgt Jarnagin

HEADQUARTERS PLATOON

Family and Friends,

First off, I hope that all of the Dads back home had a good father's day and were able to have some time with their families. Over here we have stayed busy, and as usual the Marines with Headquarters platoon have been working hard. The headquarters Marines have worked to maintain a high level of physical fitness when they are not working their regular jobs. Many of them did very well in their Physical Fitness Test, (PFT) even though they had short notice that they had to take one out here. Congrats to Cpl Iracheta who ran his three miles in 18:02 and maxed out the points for his pull-ups and his crunches. He did a personal best this year and set a good example for the rest of the Marines of Echo Company.

LCpl Brown and LCpl McGregor have also gone on missions this month in support of the line platoons needs. When the Marines are not out with the line platoons they are supporting the platoons with maintenance, Communications assets, administration, supply and medical. In addition to their regular duties, the mechanics built a gazebo for the Marines to take shade in during the day when they have a minute to catch a break.

The Marines in Headquarters continue to work hard and remain focused on the mission at hand. They consistently maintain their high standards despite the triple digit heat and dust.

I hope all are enjoying the summer back in the States; your Marines appreciate your support and your perseverance.

Semper Fi,
GySgt Ellison

1ST PLATOON

Family and Friends,

The month of June for 1st Platoon Co. E 1st CEB has been very eventful. We have expanded our operating area to include Sistani, Nawa, and North of Marjah. This month has also included our first set of Improvised Explosive Device (IED's) finds. For the most part the IED's have consistently been located in the same general area. Requiring us to be busy in Intelligence gathering in order for 3rd Battalion 8th Marines to plan for operations in countering the threat we face in our clearance operations.

The training we received in San Mateo and Twenty-nine Palms has yielded high returns in safe and effective performance in country. We continue to adjust our TTP's as we notice the enemy adjust theirs. How we clear every danger area or approach any possible find is never done the same way. We continue to always be unpredictable.

We continue to keep our tanker traditions alive and well in our platoon even though we have a broad range of Military Occupation Specialty's in every position. The traditions are nevertheless suited for the job at hand and the other MOS's effectively fill in what being a tanker lacks for route clearance operations.

Onto another month in Afghanistan thanks for the love and support from friends and family the care packages are appreciated.

Until next month, take care-1st Platoon Staff



Cpl Bush and LCpl Klimek conducting maintenance on their 7 Ton



1stLt Overly conducts a post mission debrief with the Platoon



Cpl Whyte and LCpl Pater relaxing on a forward operating base (FOB) after a long day of patrols.



Cpl Portale sporting his hard earned "deployment" 'stache

2ND PLATOON

Families and Friends,

In the past month, your Marines and their ANA counterparts have conducted five IED exploitations, found one IED cache, and have sustained zero IED strikes. Your Marines have demonstrated great flexibility and discipline in uncertain, fluid environments and are seeing all the hard work they put into pre-deployment training pay off. Despite the dangerous nature of their job, they continue to carry themselves with the bearing and professionalism we have all come to expect of them. Just as important as their tactical proficiency is their ability to build true and mutually respectful relationships with their ANA partners; the Marines understand the gravity of their mission of promoting ANA independence and how without sincere relationships, no true progress can be made. Your Marines have started off strong on all fronts and I know they will continue to perform in the months to come.

Thank you for your continued courage and sacrifices on the homefront. Your support is what gives your Marines the strength to do what needs to be done.

Respectfully,
2ndLt Alex Wu

3RD PLATOON

Greetings family and friends!

You would be proud of the fantastic job your Marines, Sailor and Airman have been doing here in Afghanistan. They have adjusted well to the environment, our mission and are performing like the consummate professionals that they are. They have also adjusted well with the Afghan National Army (ANA) with whom we sometimes cross paths with. We have introduced them to some American games such as Frisbee and football and in return they have invited us to participate in one their favorite pastimes, volleyball. Just last mission we played a best out of three game with the ANA and believe it or not we actually bested them but it was a close one. Once we adjusted to their style of play we did pretty well. We all appreciate the support that our loved ones have showed us thus far by sending letters and care packages. It really means a lot to us and is definitely a highlight of each day.

Thank you again and Semper Fidelis.

GySgt Marshall



Cpl Sanders AKA "Chameleon", he can blend into any environment



Cpl Sanders or Afghan National Army recruiting poster?

ANA ADVISOR TEAM

Family and Friends,

"Sandbaggin"! Everyone has heard the expression alluding to not giving 100% effort or taking the easy way out, but only a proud few truly appreciate the origin of the expression. My advisor team is among the few. Due to an increased mission load on the partnered platoon, a time sensitive, 2,000 sandbag project fell onto the shoulders and backs of the advisors. After many invitations to join were sent and gracefully declined, 5 Marines began the 2 day process of moving the mountain of sandbags, 1,930 to be exact, from the ground to the back of a 7 ton, to the top of 3 ISO containers. The term "sandbagging" no doubt comes from the slowing effect that moving sandbags has on the body. The 110 degree heat only made matters worse. The bottled water had quickly heated to bath water temperature, but it was still it was preferable to a mouth full of sandbag dust. The advisors kept at it until the mission was accomplished and will surely have painful memories the next time the expression "sandbagging" is used.

Semper Fi!
1stLt Oliver



1stLt Oliver, GySgt McNeal and Sgt Thompson show off there motivation in redefining "sandbaggin"!

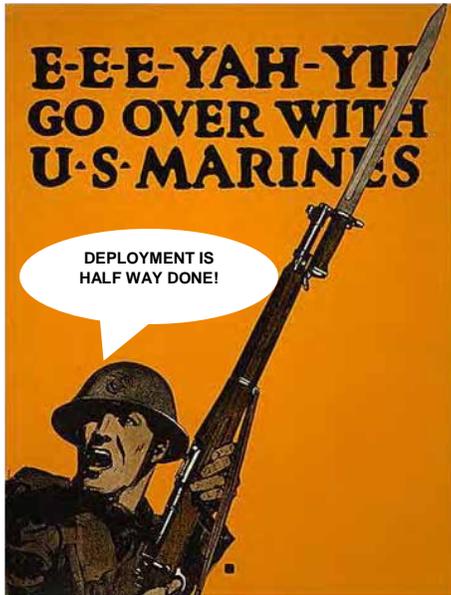


A new fitness routine is sweeping Camp Dwyer; you too can achieve muscularity like this in a mere 8 weeks with the revolutionary "sandbaggin" workout!



Are we done yet?!!

MOBILITY ASSAULT COMPANY



MAC TRIVIA CHALLENGE FOR JULY (CONTEST FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS ONLY!)
NAME THE INFANTRY BATTALION THAT LANDED IN AFGHANISTAN POST-9/11 & ALSO PROVIDE THE NAME OF THE CAMP THEY BUILT. SEND YOUR ANSWER TO STUART.GLASS@AFG.USMC.MIL
THE FIRST CORRECT ANSWER WILL BE MENTIONED BY NAME IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!!

COMPANY COMMANDER & COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

Greetings to Family, Friends, and Loved Ones,

It is simply amazing that we are already writing the third newsletter of the deployment! By the time you read this we will be half way complete! The Marines and Sailors are eager to get home, but they remain focused on the missions still ahead.

Things have been challenging. Cpl Timothy A. Huntley was struck by an improvised explosive device (IED) while out on mission. The constant hard training of 3d Platoon resulted in Cpl Huntley being medically evacuated from the scene back to a secure area. Doc Earl L. Revolta's incredible medical aid seconds after the explosion were critical. Cpl Huntley is currently recovering from his wounds in Balboa Naval Hospital, San Diego, surrounded by his family and friends. He will be making a FULL RECOVERY. His skill, knowledge, and friendship will be missed, but never forgotten, as we continue the mission here in Afghanistan.

As you can see by the front page, LCpl Jared R. Gravely recently won the 1st CEB Marine of the Quarter. He is an outstanding Marine and we are proud to serve along side him.

All of the Marines and Sailors continue to perform at the highest level in the most austere of conditions. Though we had a brief respite in early July, the missions and operations continue to challenge us. Your packages, emails, and letters continue to be a huge morale booster.

Finally, we hope everyone had a safe and festive 4th of July. We look forward to corresponding with you next month.

Respectfully,
Stuart D. Glass
First Sergeant / USMC

Sincerely,
Christopher Y. Kim
Captain / USMC



**1ST COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION
MARINE OF THE QUARTER
LCPL JARED R. GRAVELY**

SAILORS WHO EARNED THE FLEET MARINE FORCE WARFARE QUALIFICATION BADGE

**HM3 JOSHUA V. CRISANO
HM3 ERIC L. HOBDY
HM3 EARL J. REVOLTA**

PROMOTIONS FOR MONTH OF JULY PROMOTED TO HOSPITALMAN 3RD CLASS EARL L. REVOLTA

PROMOTED TO CORPORAL- CHRISTOPHER D. WALLACE

PROMOTED TO LANCE CORPORAL- SPENCER K. JOHANNES DAVID A. KING DAKOTA L. RHODES SETH K. SCHUM FRANKIE L. WEBB JR.

DEPLOYMENT MAILING ADDRESS
RANK LAST NAME FIRST NAME MI
1st CEB MA COMPANY DLM
UNIT 40506
FPO AP 96427-0506

MOBILITY ASSAULT COMPANY

FIRST PLATOON 'BEDOUIN 1'

Greetings and Happy 4th of July from First Platoon!

We recently finished up a twelve day operation and the Marines are in good spirits. They all performed great and contributed to the overall success of the mission.

Upon returning to Camp Leatherneck, the Marines got to settle into new living spaces which are a significant upgrade from the tents we used to have! The dog days of summer are upon us in full effect here in Afghanistan so the Marines have been doing what they can to stay cool and enjoy some downtime before our next mission.

Lastly, congratulations to LCpl Joseph Petrozelli and LCpl Spencer Johannes on their recent promotions.

As we approach the halfway mark in our deployment, we hope all of you are enjoying your summers back home and staying safe during the holiday. Semper Fi!

Respectfully,
Bryan C. Walker
GySgt / USMC

Sincerely,
Michael J. Kilmartin
1stLt / USMC



LCpl Pelphrey (left) & LCpl Petrozelli (right) assist Cpl Isaac (center) with maneuvering in a 'bomb suit'.



Sgt Herrera (left), Doc Hobdy (center), & Sgt Olivares (right) take a quick photo break between missions.



The warriors of 1st Platoon take a quick group photo prior to departing from Forward Operating Base Price.

To Family and Friends of Second Platoon:

With another month down in the books I am happy to say things are continuing to go very well over here. As we move into the summer months the heat continues to pick up, often reaching well above 100° on most days. Although that's pretty warm it actually sounds worse than it is since it's mostly a dry heat and not as bad as some of the humidity you find back home.

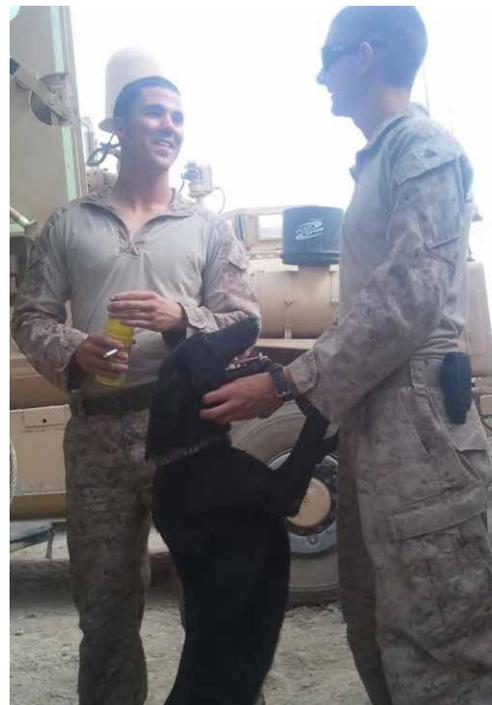
Our operational tempo continues to remain high which helps greatly in passing the time. Recently we supported 1st Battalion, 7th Marines out of Twenty-nine Palms, CA. Our mission continues to remain focused on the removal of explosive hazards from the battle space although we often find ourselves completing a multitude of tasks. Our efforts have had a direct impact on making sure ground forces are able to maneuver across the area of operations unimpeded with the IED threat. We have also been a force multiplier on the battlefield directly influencing the operational area on multiple levels. Adjacent units continue to hold the work of your Marines with high regard, continually offering praise for what they have accomplished.

I want to offer special congratulations to Lance Corporal's David King, Dakota Rhodes, and Frankie Webb Jr. who were promoted on the 1st of July. I can assure you that they are very deserving and overdue for this promotion.

As we move towards the half-way point of this deployment I ask for your continued support of what your Marines do on a daily basis. Their noteworthy accomplishments have not gone unnoticed and you should be very proud of what they've done so far. At the same time please know that what you do for us and our families is greatly appreciated and held with high regard. We know that this deployment is not only a sacrifice on our part but yours as well and we thank you for that. Last but not least, Happy 4th of July!

Respectfully,
Gerhard W. Tauss
SSgt / USMC

Sincerely,
Ryan J. Chrobak
1stLt / USMC



Cpl Stewart (left), IED Detection Dog Harley, & her handler, Cpl Barrett (right) discuss upcoming operations.



Cpl Pugapera poses in next to his damaged vehicle.



Cpl Henry prepares for another day of route clearance as the sun rises.

MOBILITY ASSAULT COMPANY

Dear Families and Loved Ones of Third Platoon,

THIRD PLATOON 'BEDOUIN 3'

3d Platoon has had a very successful month, completing two major operations throughout the Northern Helmand Province.

Your Marines have much to be proud of as these missions were part of the largest offensive operations in Helmand Province to date. The Marines have become acclimatized to the hot and arid weather which reaches temperatures in excess of 120 degrees and produces continuous wind and dust. Even in these austere conditions your Marines continue to enjoy each others company, maintain high morale, and succeed above the expectations set before them.

We would also like to congratulate our newly promoted Marines: Lance Corporal Schum and Corporal Wallace. These Marines, like all the others within the platoon have become experts in their trade, and their experience is invaluable to the Platoon and the Marine Corps.

Lastly, all of 3d Platoon would like to send our best wishes and hopes for a quick recovery to Corporal Timothy Huntley and his Family. Cpl Huntley was wounded by an IED blast on our recent mission in the Sangin River Valley and is expected to make a full recovery at Balboa Naval Hospital and the Wounded Warrior Battalion on Camp Pendleton.

We would like to extend our appreciation for your continuous support, thoughts, and care packages. We are focused on our mission here in Afghanistan but look forward to our return home. Happy 4th of July from Afghanistan!

Respectfully,
Stephen J. Green
SSgt / USMC

Sincerely,
Phillip H. Vanderweit
1stLt / USMC



Sgt Garcia desperately attempts to fly home to rejoin his family! Good Luck!



3d Platoon Promotion formation: From left to right: SSgt Green, Lt Vanderweit, Cpl Wallace, and LCpl Schum.



Cpl Huntley on the road to recovery!!



The men of 3d Platoon take time for a quick photo prior to mission departure.

Engineer Support Company

1st Combat Engineer
Battalion



Camp Leatherneck
Afghanistan



Time continues to march on through our deployment, and while Engineer Support Company is busier than it has ever been before, our Marines and Sailors continue to carry their operational burdens with professionalism and pride. Afghanistan is smack in the middle of its fabled "120 days of wind," and despite the fact that a cool breeze might be welcome these days, the winds here bring little more than heat, dust, sand, and more heat. Regardless, there is little that can hope to erode the accomplishments the company's Marines have achieved to this point. We have travelled literally from one side of our Area of Operations to another, from the lush greens that pepper the Sangin River Valley to gritty urban streets and back alleyways along the Iranian border. Day or night, on foot or on wheels, your Marines and Sailors continue to make us successful.

A big part of the emotional "survival" of any deployment comes from a strong, personal, positive mental state. Engineer Support Company's Marines have this in spades, but more than that, they have a spirit of camaraderie that enables them to succeed at a rate that has heretofore bordered on failure-proof. At this rate, it would take 120,000 more days of wind to slow us down!

R.P. Gerbracht

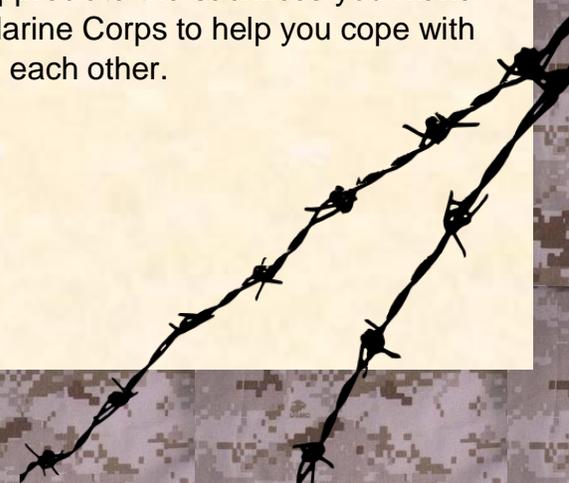
Commanding Officer
Engineer Support Company
1st Combat Engineer Battalion
1st Marine Division (Fwd)



The Marines and Sailors of ESC have been hard at work supporting operations throughout Western Afghanistan. I have had the pleasure of serving beside some outstanding young men who are making you proud through their achievements. As you endure the final months of this deployment please be patient and understanding towards your deployed Marine/Sailor. As we enter the deployment's final stretch our operational tempo will continue to increase, making contact with your loved one harder to achieve. Know that we are thinking of you and appreciate the sacrifices you make alongside us. Please continue to use the resources provided by the Marine Corps to help you cope with deployment related stress and don't forget the greatest resource of all: each other.

1stSgt Jason Haney

Promoted: LCpl Bush
NCO of the Quarter: Cpl Ortega
Meritorious Mast: LCpl Livingston





Maintenance Platoon

Greeting families, from your warriors here in Afghanistan. Another month has passed and your Marines have continued to excel. Their outstanding professional performance is a direct result of your unrelenting support. As you may have already heard, equipment readiness is kind of a big deal. Because of this, our work is non-stop as we strive to keep readiness up and the battalion moving. Despite losing personnel to support missions, we get the job done and make things happen. June was a hectic month, and we have experienced our share of highs and lows; nevertheless we have stayed focused on the mission at hand. This month we spotlight LCpl Livingston for his tremendous technical skills and impressive leadership. His hard work and determination did not go unnoticed. The heat is unrelenting but we deal with it (albeit tongue in cheek). Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers, and know that your selflessness and dedication is greatly appreciated.



Semper Fi,

Cerráio K. Villarouel
CWO 2/USMC



Sgt Buford ensuring the bridge makes the gap.



Cpl Couch operates the AVLB.





Utilities Platoon

Dear Utilities Platoon Family,

The bottom line up front is this: your Marines are at the halfway point of this deployment. There still remains a great deal of work; these men continue to raise the bar on their performance and tactical support to the warfighter on a daily basis. This month we had the opportunity to train a class of twelve Afghan National Army soldiers in the areas of electrical safety, generator operations, and basic generator maintenance. This is a giant step forward in molding competent and proficient Afghans to take responsibility of their people and communities. Please know that your Marines miss you just as much as you miss them and that your continued support is what keeps us going. "Keeping the lights on."

Thank you for support and prayers.

Sincerely,

CWO3 Christian C. Gonzales
Commander



Sgt Israel wishing he was not a generator mechanic during a 110 degree day in sunny Helmand



SSgt Cruz and LCpl Hubberstey, en route via helicopter to provide electrical support to the battlefield.



SSgt Cruz and LCpl Hubberstey supporting partnering efforts with the Afghan National Army.





Operations Platoon

The Marines of Operations Platoon have been tremendously busy the last few months supporting operations throughout the battlespace. Your Marines continue to uphold the reputation and work ethic that Engineer Support Company has established throughout Helmand Province. Congratulations go out to LCpl Bush on his promotion and Cpl Ortega on his selection as the Battalion's NCO of the quarter. As always we appreciate the continued support from all of our friends and families back at home. Please continue to show your support and love as we enter the second half of this deployment. Our thoughts and prayers are constantly with all of you.

Semper Fi,

SSgt Mathew McNulty
Operations Platoon Commander



The Medium Crawler Tractor crossing an Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge (AVLB) to support the British Army.



Sgt Ponder pushing earth to create a smaller gap for the AVLB in order to launch the bridge across the canal.



Sgt Delbosque uses a Ground Torch to clear out brush and trees to increase visibility for coalition forces.



MARINE DEPLOYED ADDRESSES



Bravo Co:

Bravo HQs
1st CEB Bravo Headquarters (DWR)
Unit 40515
FPO AF 96427-0515

Mail Cut-off
1 Oct 2012

Headquarters:

Rank Name
1st CEB H&S Company (LNK)
Unit 40503
FPO AP 96427-0503

Mail Cut-off
1 Oct 2012

1st Plt
NAME
2/6 Unit 73190
H&S Company, CEB
FPO AE 09510-3190

Mail Cut-off
1 April 2012

Charlie Co:

C Co HQ:
Rank and Name
RCT-6 (1st CEB)
Unit 73805
FPO AE 09369-3805

Mail Cut-off
1 July 2012

3d Plt
NAME
2/9 Unit 74115
H&S Company, CEB
FPO AE 09510-4115

Mail Cut-off
1 May 2012

2d Plt
Rank and Name
1/7
Unit 41510
FPO AE 96427-1510

Mail Cut-off
17 Sep 2012

LAR
Name
3d LAR Battalion
H&S Company, 1st CEB BLAR
Unit 41695
FPO AE 96427-1695

Mail Cut-off
20 July 2012

3d Plt
Rank and Name
2/5 H&S Company
Unit 40350
FPO AP 96427-0350

Mail Cut-off
28 Aug 2012

2d Plt
2dPlt CEC, Combat Assault Battalion
Rank Last Name, First Name/Initials
3dBn 8th Mar, HQSCV Co
Unit 73275
FOB Geronimo
FPO AE 09510-3275

Mail Cut-off
18 Oct 2012

4th Plt (in support of 1/1)
Rank Name
1st CEB H&S Company (LNK)
Unit 40503
FPO AP 96427-0503

Mail Cut-off
7 Sept 2012

Echo 4th Tanks

1st CEB Echo Company (DWR)
Unit 40520
FPO AP 96427-0520

Mail Cut-off
1 Oct 2012

Engineer Support Company

Rank Name
1st CEB Support Company (LNK)
Unit 40507
FPO AP 96427-0507

Mail Cut-off
1 Oct 2012

MAC

Rank Name
1st CEB Mobility Assault
Company
Unit 40506
FPO AP 96427-0506

Mail Cut-off
1 Oct 2012



* As mail cut-off dates become available for our units we will ensure to post them to our eMarine website. We appreciate all the love and concerns passed through the many care packages that we have received!!! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.





GOD
COUNTRY
CORPS



UNITED STATES.



**THE MARINES AND SAILORS OF 1ST COMBAT ENGINEER
BATTALION HOPE YOU ALL HAD A WONDERFUL
4TH OF JULY!!!**