



SUPER BREED SPECIAL

JUNE 2012 (EDITION #2)

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FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Family, Friends, and Loved Ones:

We have officially entered the summer months in Afghanistan. With this, comes some of the hottest weather in the world. Along with the heat, we're in the windy season. "The Winds of 120 Days" sounds like something from a science fiction movie, but it is a reality. July, August and September are characterized by high winds, enormous sand storms and intense, dry heat. Marines will stock up with extra water and supplies during their missions to offset the effects of these conditions. Last week, while I was in visiting Marines in the upper Helmand River Valley, I felt as if I was walking directly into a hairdryer. The winds that blow over the Hindu Kush Mountains in central and southern Afghanistan heat up and dry out as they descend into valleys. These winds can reach speeds up to 115 mph during the 120-day period between June and September. It has been over two months since our Transfer of Authority with 3d CEB. As with any organization embarking on a new journey, the phases are predictable: Forming, Storming, Norming, and Performing. We are well past the Forming and Storming phases of this deployment. The battalion is now nearly through the Norming phase and is performing well. This is measured through our success in completing our mission sets. The two primary mission sets we are focused on are Transition to the Afghan military and Police, and conducting combat operations against an ever weakening enemy. I can confidently attest that there are none better than the Marines and Sailors of the First Combat Engineer Battalion in completing Division Engineering requirements. We are actively teaching and partnering our Afghan counterparts, and defeating the enemy in our offensive engagements. I recently toured parts of our Area of Operation with the Sergeant Major. We visited teams of 2-3 to entire platoons of 30 or more. Without fail, each member of the 'Super Breed' we spoke with was in high spirits, and motivated to be contributing to our nation's calling. There were care packages all over the place – the support from families and support organizations has been overwhelming – Marines regularly commented on this support and it was an obvious morale booster. Notably, when we'd pass through small towns or bazaars (markets), the young Afghan children would invariably give us the 'Thumbs Up'. The contrast from the 2010 deployment to this one is striking. The Sangin Bazaar, an area that was very dangerous and mostly vacant in 2010 is now a thriving market place with thousands of merchants and locals shopping for fresh vegetables, meats, and other house hold items. This is a common sight.

Several platoons have recently returned home. The Main Body of the battalion is approaching the ½ way mark, which can feel like the longest part of the deployment. I have challenged the Marines to remain energetic and focused, and I ask the same of our families and support networks. Thank you for meeting the mission-

Sincerely,
LtCol Andy Niebel



UNITED STATES MARINES



SGTMAJ CORNER

Families and friends of 1st CEB,

Well another month is almost in the books and we, as a battalion, are fast approaching the halfway point in this deployment. While the kids have just started summer vacation, we have already had two platoons return home. Each is another milestone that moves the mark closer to the battalion's return. Each of your Marines is looking forward to reuniting with loved ones; however, they remain focused on the job at hand.

As the CO mentioned, we just returned from a command visit with the Marines and Sailors of Company C in northern Helmand. At each place, Marines are motivated and morale is high. They were especially thankful to receive the care packages from the Friends of 1st CEB; I guess the homemade cookies were a hit. While they may not have all the amenities of home, the Marines were making do with what they had and were in good spirits. The Marines from my fellow Sergeants positive. Our Marines are doing well them supporting their battalions.

Things here will begin to heat up both metaphorically and literally. just past, the temperatures are on rines will continue to work long hours erations. So while we are moving we still have a long way to go. Sum- experience a marked increase in We have unfortunately experienced rines being sent home from theater. Marines have sustained are minor serves as an example that safety is something that must be considered and not just an afterthought. Please take some time before summer gets into full swing or before you engage in the vast summer activities that southern California has to offer, that you take a moment to cover the bases with regards to safety.



feedback that I received about our Major was also overwhelmingly and they were very thankful to have

over the next couple of months, With the official start of summer the rise. Amid the heat, your Ma- to support combat/retrograde op- closer to an eventual flight home, mer is the typical time when we recreational accidents and injuries. some accidents resulting in Ma- While overall the injuries these and they will make full recoveries, it

Lastly, once we return we have several battalion events that will be occurring in rapid succession, one of these being the Marine Corps Ball. We have a date and location set, Friday 7 December 2012 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego. More information will be forth coming I just wanted everyone to save the date!

To my beautiful bride, I love you and can't wait to see you when I get home.





June 2012

H&S Mailing Address

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



Inside this issue:

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USMC

From the Desk of the Executive Officer

Hello, friends and family! Another month gone here in Afghanistan and your Marines and Sailors are still working hard. We have really gotten into the swing of things here. Everyone has fallen into routines, both with work and gym time. Monotony is broken up by missions here and there for different Marines and Sailors but for the most part we spend our time in our workspaces doing what H&S does best: supporting the Marines and Sailors that are outside the wire fighting the fight every day. Life on Camp Leatherneck is not bad. We have a few chow halls that serve eve-

rything from sandwiches to corndogs to steak and shrimp. They even have special food nights like wing night and Mongolian night (and my personal favorite; Sundae Sunday). There's a PX not too far from where we live where we can get everything we need for daily living. Also, there's the hair salon that pumps Russian techno dance music for a more chic hair cut experience. All of this (plus air conditioners) make life on Leatherneck not too bad, but it can get monotonous and lonely without our loved ones. Please keep sending care packages,

letters, and your prayers to your Marines and Sailors as these are the best way to keep morale up and break up the time. We appreciate all the love and support you have shown so far and please remember that your Marines and Sailors are doing good, important work out here.

-Respectfully
2ndLt Ankeny

From the First Sergeant

Hello again from Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. The weather out here is now starting to get a little hotter than usual, but as you know your Marine is pretty tough so don't worry, we get plenty of water and other beverages. Also we conduct plenty of physical training here in Camp Leatherneck, so your Marine will come back physically fit. Again, your Marine is performing an outstanding job. I have seen the fruits of labor in the field. The Marines in the field are receiving the best support I seen since we have started this war on

terror. I just conducted a battlefield tour in one of the areas of operation. The Marines are happy to receive all the support that you all have sent to us and the packages of goodies we received from you. From H&S company thank you for all your support and love you send to us.

-1stSgt
Hernandez



From the Chaplain



1st CEB Family,

As I write this, we are nine days until the first official day of summer. However, based on the temperatures, one could assume summer arrived before we landed. The heat seems to increase by the day, and correspondingly the physical and mental stress. We remind the Marines daily to hydrate, wear sun block, and stay inside or in the shade when possible. Our 1st CEB families go through a similar experience during deployment. For many of us, deployment started before we separated, and as the time goes by, it can get harder and harder. But, like the Marines and Sailors who eventually acclimatize to the weather, those at home begin to develop resiliency. Focus on the Family has provided the information below which gives you an idea of what you should, could, or might be experiencing:

Timeframe: Departure through entire first month of deployment

Hallmarks: Spouses left at home feel helplessly trapped on an emotional rollercoaster. Feelings vary widely, ranging from relief that the tense, painful moment of goodbye is over; fear for personal safety and the safety of their service member; excitement at the thought of conquering personal goals during deployment; anger at their spouse for leaving; and hopelessness when looking at the daunting, lonely days ahead.

Timeframe: Second month through second-to-the-last month of deployment

Hallmarks: Spouses left at home find stability and confidence as they tackle difficult tasks alone and discover new hobbies and support groups. Spouses become more comfortable in their "temporary independence" and accustomed to the nuances of living alone.

Take note of these statistical characteristics, and apply them to your situation accordingly. Take proper care—as if you were facing the heat—to keep active, stay positive, and plan for the future. For those of you who are already reuniting, I rejoice with you. We have now sent home two platoons, and another will return shortly. I pray you have a smooth and joyful reunion and transition. I encourage all of you, in the appropriate time, to get educated about the reunion period and its challenges. Please continue to pray for the Marines and Sailors operating, and pray especially for our wounded and lost.

-Blessings,

Chaplain Crone

“We are nine days until the first official day of summer”



Section Feature: IED Detection Dogs (IDD)

The 1st Combat Engineer Battalion Improvised Explosive Device Detector Dogs (IDD) are a great asset for the Battalion, Marines and Sailors in Afghanistan. We are a tight knit group that live with our IDD's everyday, training and working non-stop. When it comes to our IDD's it is like taking care of a three year old child that will give its life to ensure the safety of its handler and those that are behind it. Everyday the handler must ensure that his IDD is properly fed, groomed, cleaned up after and trained on explosive odor.

Our IDD's can not take care of themselves so the Marines have little free time. It is very time consuming throughout the day ensuring the daily tasks of caring for the IDD's are done. It is hard to stay in contact with our families and this is hard on every Marine, but it is very rewarding to have man's "best friend" with them everyday. The IDD's main purpose is to search for IED's and keep Marines and Sailors as far away from the IED as possible. Having the

IDD's make the deployments that much safer for the Marines and Sailors in country. The support of the Battalion, our civilian contractor Chris Runyan, and our families back home make us successful when it comes to working with the IDD's. Thank you all for your support and prayers.

-SSgt Carter

"Our IDD's can not take care of themselves so the Marines have little free time"



Promotion: Major Bock

Time in Service: 21 years 6 months

Time as Capt: 6 years 4 months

Favorite Marine Corps Memory:

-Holding his youngest son for the first time after OIF 1 deployment and seeing his family



Promotion: First Lieutenant Scarfe

Time in Service: 15 years

Time as 2ndLt: 2 years

Favorite Marine Corps Memory:

-Reuniting with the family after long deployments

Promotion: Corporal Dixon

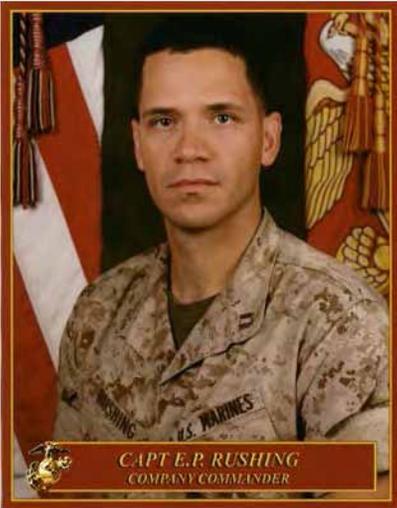
Time in Service: 1 year, 2 months

Time as LCpl: 1 year

Favorite Moment in Marine Corps:

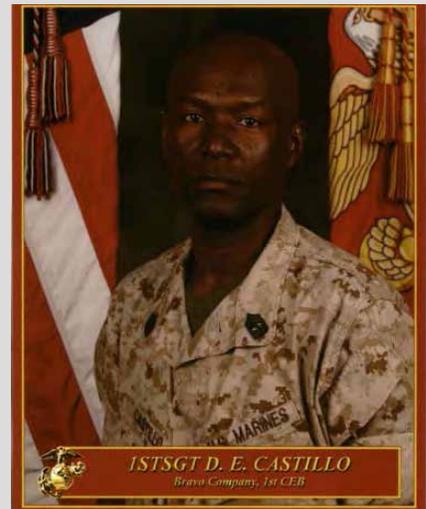
-Hiking in the mountains while training at Bridgeport.





COMPANY COMMANDER
Edward "Buddy" Rushing

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



COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT
Damien Castillo

Captain's Corner

Two months already! How can time feel like it is flying by and dragging along at the same time? Bravo Company is experiencing a wide array of feelings right now. 1st Platoon Marines are embracing their loved ones after seven long months apart. 3rd Platoon has come off the battlefield and stands anxiously waiting for that freedom bird to land on the airstrip at Dwyer. For the rest of us...it feels like we have just begun.

The one thing we all have in common is that complex mixture of pride and pain, to be serving our country and protecting our fellow Marines, but at the cost of being away from those most important to us. Our willingness to embark on this unique and challenging journey is why America stands so firmly behind the Marine Corps: They rest easy at night knowing that your husbands and boyfriends, sons and brothers, friends and fathers are here in Afghanistan...preserving their safety.

I want to thank you all for your prayers, expressions of love, rice crispy treats and home made brownies that stand an excellent chance of putting me into a sugar-induced coma. Perhaps I shouldn't have eaten them all in two days...

First Sergeant's Corner

As always, we are keeping busy with several ongoing projects. Here at Bravo Company, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for the time you take to write and send us the care packages. Your involvement with us during this deployment has been outstanding. We look forward to seeing you. I would like to wish all the fathers and soon to be fathers a Happy Fathers day. During this time to honor the sacrifices the fathers make for their children.



Worst sandstorm ever! Ripped our tent off its support and hurled it over the fence!

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

If being busy makes for a happy Marine then the men of HQ Platoon should be ecstatic! Their days more often than not start between 0300 and 0400 with multiple hours in the gym, followed by a quick shower and a quicker breakfast. Then it's on to non-stop action supporting the platoons with everything from Dozers to generators. We are on the verge of writing the Guinness Book of World Records to see if Hammond's coveralls can qualify as "Dirtiest Uniform in History." Sgt Young has embarked on a journey to put on muscle so he can flex in the mirror and stop being blow away by the wind storms (see pictures above). Captain Rushing has finally realized that drinking energy drinks at night makes it difficult to fall asleep, and 1st Sgt Castillo is slowly coming to terms with the fact that his desk is his new battlefield, and his computers are his primary weapons.

-Congratulations to LCpl Bolen on his 4th wedding anniversary.

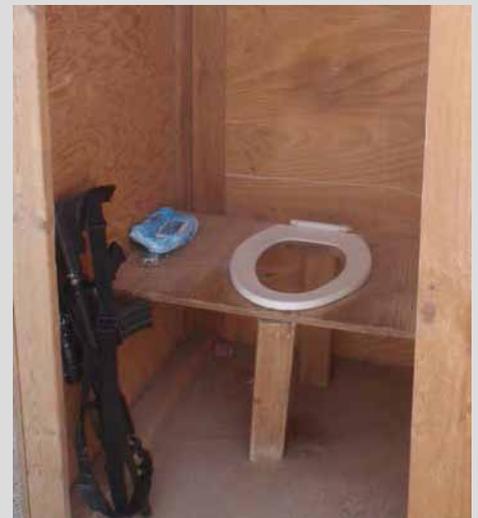
-LCpl Oetting was singled out by LtCol Niebel this month for his outstanding work. SSgt Battles of course took full credit for mentoring Oetting to excellence!



Lt Raymond is now Capt Raymond!



It's not even Afghan Summer yet!



Don't be picky; we're in a war zone!

3RD PLATOON



★★★★★★

1stLt
Winslow
MSgt
Monroy

★★★★★★

Sgt Hamelin
Sgt
Brookshire
Sgt Tooley

Terrible Third

Families, friends, loved ones, the Marines of 3rd Platoon are wrapping up their deployment. We spent seven months supporting 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines. This was an incredibly unique deployment in which we were provided with the opportunity to show competency in our MOS. Operating for the most part as a platoon built more comrade.

Marines such as Cpl Fitzgerald, LCpl Wiseman, Cpl Allies, LCpl Sexton spent over two months operating out of a compound deep in the desert in support of Weapons Company. After two months without electricity, showers and air conditioning, there was fear that they would go native on us (especially Cpl Fitz), alas they did not. Just a few of the notable events during the deployment:

-Cpl Terry and SSgt Roberts had beautiful babies and were able to be there in electrons via Skype.

-LCpl Kowitz requested a front seat window view in the MRAP after having been on 100 convoys operating our communications equipment from the backseat, not knowing what Afghanistan truly looked like.

-LCpl Thomas, after getting his combat on in the Bari, supported 2/9 chow hall, and directly contributed towards extra servings, weight gain of the Engineers and was caught several times dancing to odd music.

-Sgt Bernabe threw over 30 wrenches at generators during emergency late night calls.

I have been honored to serve as the Platoon Commander along with my Platoon Sergeant, newly promoted, Master Sergeant Monroy and my Platoon Guide, Staff Sergeant Roberts with this fine group of very experienced Marines. With a short compressed training cycle, 3rd Platoon Engineers have done an outstanding job for 2/9 and are now looking forward to a nice long weekend, a cold beer, and no more HESCO.



Stringing up wire to keep the bad guys out...



Afghan Engineers: Not bad for their first big mission!

LAR PLATOON



LAR Platoon

To the friends and family of B Company LAR Platoon, time is moving fast. The Marines are in high spirits and greatly appreciate all the support from everyone at home. To kick things off we promoted Phillip M Neff, to Lance Corporal. First, Second, and Third Squad are supporting their respective companies and doing great things. They continue to conduct security patrols and improve the defensive positions throughout their respective areas. Fourth Squad is all over the place conducting various projects such as building new positions and tearing down old positions to allow for a timely turn over of southern Afghanistan back to the Afghan people. The platoon staff is busy planning for new projects and burning the midnight oil.

2nd Platoon, Combat Assault Battalion

Greetings from the Marines of Second Platoon, Combat Engineer Company. Since the last news letter the Marines are still in high spirits as more work comes down. So far the Marines have been building showers so the grunts can keep themselves "so fresh and so clean". During the day the Marines at Engineer Village listen to various types of music as they work, it is quite humorous as they will hammer nails into wood to the beat of the music playing. Additionally the Marines have partnered with the Afghani Engineers to train them, and their interaction is entertaining as they both work through the cultural differences. To friends and family back home we love and miss you.



What do you get when you cross a scrub with a combat-stache?



Amato, please, no gang signs...no I'm kidding, throw it up there



Sometimes you need to just Riverdance...don't judge me!

**INSIDE THIS
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**Welcome
To the
Colossus
"Punch"**



Charlie Company "Colossus" 1st CEB (Fwd), Afghanistan

"ENTIRELY MARINES"

JUNE 2012

Company Commander

Captain Joshua S. Edwards



Dear Family and Friends of Charlie Company,
What a quick month it has been here. We have all been engaged in multiple operations and as we get ready to start turning over to the ANSF we expect it to stay busy until the very end. I would like to thank everyone at home for sticking behind us and all of the support that you have given us. You continue to be our strength at home and forward. I hear Marines talk about home and family with each other and there is nothing but good stories that come out of them. Good to know how much they think of you. Other than that it continues to heat up here as we remain in the 100's for temperatures and without much relief. Tanning definitely not an option right now. Lastly, Many thanks to all of you at home and thanks again for all.
Semper Fidelis,
Captain Joshua Edwards, "Colossus 6"

Company First Sergeant

1stSgt John J. Pettinato Jr



The company and I are at a strange part of the deployment, in my past deployments I'd say we have hit the middle or the halfway mark (That was fast). Since some platoons started to leave before the battalion arrived it now comes time for those platoons to come home. For Charlie Company that will be first platoon (every soon), and then us the headquarters (Wife and boy can't wait). I'd almost say we are moving too fast. I want to see more of what is going on in the AO and more overly the work the Marines have been doing. They are so busy with projects, patrolling, demilitarized, force protection improvement, and for some moving from one place to another. For us at HQ we are going to move from our location were the scenery is amazing to our next location were you can't see anything amazing just high speed traffic and a big PX, and coalition forces hanging around the coffee shops. My wife tells me she just wants' me to be safe. I don't have a lot to say for this news letter cause I've been left behind again, however next news letter I should have more photos and more details for you, the CO is taking me out so we can spend some time with the Marines and Sailors (I'm sure they can't wait).
A special shout out to the USO they are sending the platoons two full "USOTOGO" kits this is amazing stuff, kind of a dream kit for forward deployed.

S/F 1stSgt John Pettinato "Colossus 8"
"Woods now U. S. Marine Corps entirely"
My boy had a birthday on the 8th, he looks like his Daddy. (see)



Charlie Co. Headquarters Camp Delaram II



The power of Almond Butter be fore you

C
O
L
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S
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U
S

Must be
5
O'clock



Capt. Asking for directions



Co. GySgt on the move
Looking good XO



Even without current swim qual they rock



Super Breed

Always on top of things, Phipps



War Zogg



Our "New" Cpl

"Why Red"



Our temp
loan C1/8
1371 does
work for
the CHq
In fine
form



"Headquarters is doing everything the mission requires, and then some"

C Co. 1st Platoon 1/8



Current draw down has caused draw down to pages in newsletter as well....



LCpl Fetsko and LCpl Santana this is how you bring the White House down

Cpl Price crossing the Helmand River on a ferry: Cpl Price crosses the Helmand River with other elements of 1st squad and Alpha Comp to assist with the patrolling effort in the Kajaki District. "Zeus gave him a coin to cross"

Anybody have a breath mint I feel a stink coming on.



It was not long ago I can hear the Co. GySgt ask for trash pick up on pickle meadows Blanchard/Ruth "where are you"

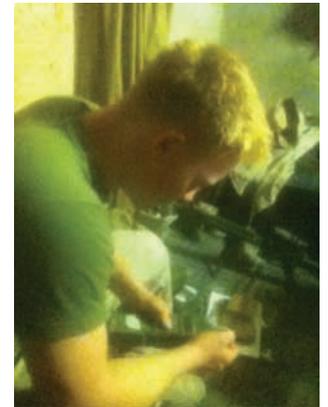
1stPlt can almost hear the bird coming in.



Cpl Blanchard and LCpl Catherino step out on Patrol: Cpl Blanchard and LCpl Catherino, as well as Sgt Adeloyle, LCpl Weaver and LCpl Kintner. Just another night out in town

You are now entering third country, be warned

Lance Corporal Brendin Cerny From Bellaire, Michigan. Applies final touch to make a non-lethal AT-4.



Lance Corporal Garrett Marchese, La Palma, California. Checks shopping list for Plt.

C-4 check, Time fuse check, fly swatters check.



Aztec Warrior, keeping us strong

Lance Corporal Christopher Helms, a wireman from Colorado Springs, Colorado, checks and tests a new military iPod for easy down load songs for detectors.

C Co. 3rd Platoon 2/5

C Co. 2nd Platoon 1/7



Colossus says...
"No rag on your head Doc"



HM3 Brett Boland, 2nd platoon's motivated corpsman. "Devil Doc" Boland has ensured that we all stay healthy by giving us our much needed medications and is always ready to provide top grade medical aid as required when Marines require his assistance.



Lost and Found has
A tooth for claiming



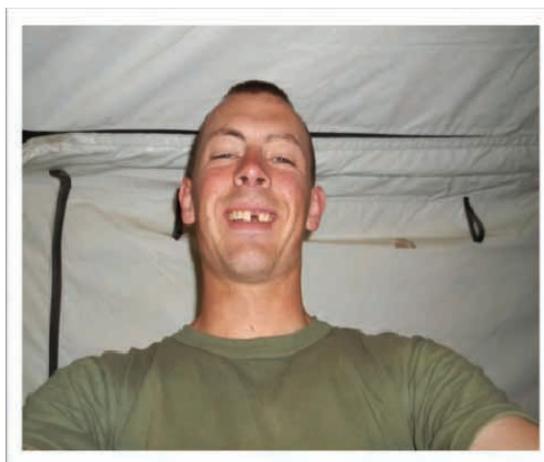
Cpl Alex StClair, As the platoon's motor transport operator, Cpl StClair has driven in over 60 convoys. Cpl StClair is the platoon's load master and MT Operations duty expert, he is able to drive all vehicles but always get excited when he gets to drive his beloved 7 ton Dump.



Wishing these Marines a
safe trip home...

- Cpl Grubbs
- PFC MartinezGuitierrez

Sgt Jared Good, Squad leader for the 4th engineer squad. Excited to finally get a cold energy drink. Him and his Marines are providing engineer support to the Marines of "Animal" Company 1/7. They have a combined over 200 patrols in the area and are helping as advisors and instructors to the Afghanistan National Army.



Cpl Christopher McDowell, from second squad displaying the GAP in his teeth after loosing one of his tooth during a fall. Loosing his tooth didn't make him loose his spirit, now he walks around with a big smile on his face at all times, and if we are feeling down, he will smile at you!



Sgt Lloyd Crabtree congratulating newly promoted Cpl Ferntte at FOB Tabac.

LCpl Sean Roberts and PFC Eric Martinez getting a little dusty after emplacing HESCO around a forward operating base. LCpl Roberts was combat meritoriously promoted to his current rank, demonstrating that hard work does pay off. PFC Martinez and LCpl Roberts provide engineer support to Animal Company. Their role as advisors to the ANA is key in ensuring the Afghans are able to protect their own country.



LCpl Mark Cutright, the platoons electrician takes a minute to get some shade during a hot day with some local Afghan kids. Even without able to speak the local language, LCpl Cutright managed to get some of these kids to go the market and get him potato bread and an orange soda.

LCpl Johndeo Quezon, the platoon's heavy equipment mechanic has been busy repairing and up keeping all HE equipment. He has ensured all gear is operational for constant HE requirements. LCpl Quezon always know how to fix the problem, if not he'll "Google" 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"!

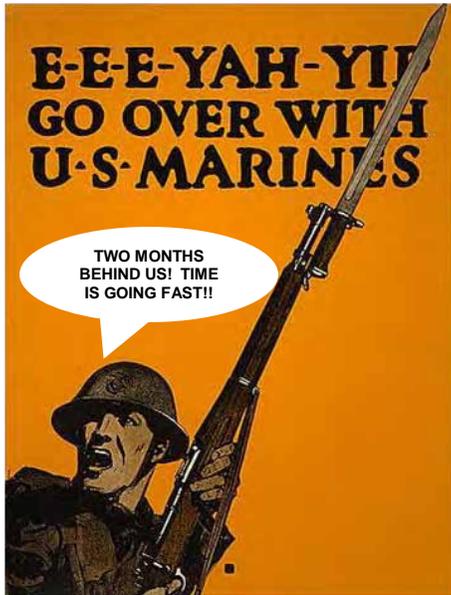


A new fitness routine is sweeping Camp Dwyer; you too can achieve muscularity like this in a mere 8 weeks with the revolutionary "sandbaggin" workout!



Are we done yet?!!

MOBILITY ASSAULT COMPANY



MAC BATTLE CRY: E-E-E-YAH-YIP

E-E-E-YAH-YIP: A BATTLE CRY DEPICTED ON WWI RECRUITING POSTERS. THE POSTER (DEPICTED TO THE LEFT) AND THE BATTLE CRY WERE IN USE THROUGHOUT WWI. THE BATTLE CRY IS NOW COMMONLY USED AS A FORM OF GREETING AMONG MAC MARINES.

COMPANY COMMANDER & COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

Greetings to Family, Friends, and Loved Ones,

Before we get into any specific news and details allow us to say that your Marines and Sailors are performing beyond all expectations. Not a day passes that these young men do something that impresses us. It is an absolute privilege to lead them.

The month of June has been an incredible challenge for MAC. Not only have your Marines & Sailors been deeply involved in operations throughout Afghanistan, but we moved all of our personnel from Delaram II to Camp Leatherneck. **DO NOT PANIC** – **THE MAILING ADDRESS HAS NOT CHANGED!**

This move was not easy and we would like to acknowledge the incredible hard work of the men of 1st Platoon, 1st Lt Jeffrey W. Park (Company XO) and SSgt Tommy G. Boughton (Company GySgt). They managed to move the entire unit and still allowed us to conduct operations. Simply amazing!

As always, the letters and packages from family and friends is the high-light for all of the men after missions. We cannot express our appreciation enough for your dedication to your Marines and Sailors. A special thank you to the very generous City of Cerritos; they almost BURIED the company with care packages.

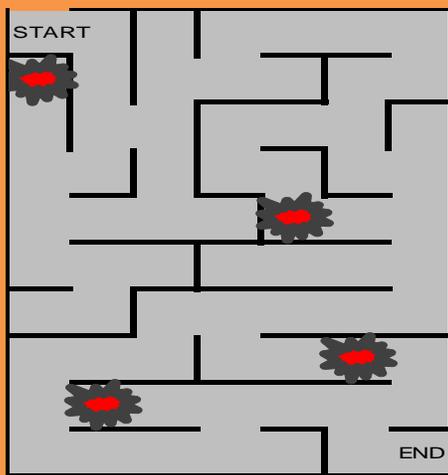
A friendly reminder that **ALCOHOL** is not authorized while deployed in Afghanistan. Help us keep your Marine or Sailor out of trouble by not sending contraband to them. Thanks!

Finally, Happy Father's Day to all of the fathers out there.

Respectfully,
Stuart D. Glass
First Sergeant / USMC

Sincerely,
Christopher Y. Kim
Captain / USMC

?? CAN YOU CONQUEOR THE IED MAZE ??



**TRY TO GET THROUGH THE MAZE.
AVOID THOSE IEDS!!**

PROMOTIONS FOR MONTH OF JUNE

**COMBAT MERITORIOUSLY PROMOTED
TO CORPORAL-
WILLIAN K. LEWIS**

**PROMOTED TO CORPORAL-
JOHN M. HENRY**

**PROMOTED TO LANCE CORPORAL-
JOSEPH S. PETROZZELLI**

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'

Hello Family and Friends of First Platoon,

Another month of our deployment has come and gone. Although it was not quite as busy as last month your Marines made use of all of it.

Sgt Herrera took advantage of the heat to train the Platoon in Marine Corps Martial Arts. LCpl's Martinez and Petrozzelli both earned their grey belts. Also belting up to their brown belt were the Lieutenant, Sgt's Cruz, Olivares and Redhouse along with Cpl's Armstrong, Hall and Piastuch.

The upcoming months are looking very busy for us so if the letters and emails aren't as fast as they have been, don't worry as y'all are always in the thoughts of your Marines and Sailor.

We would also like to wish all of the father's of and in first platoon a happy Father's Day.

Respectfully,
Bryan C. Walker
GySgt / USMC

Sincerely,
Michael J. Kilmartin
1stLt / USMC



Cpl Warren & IED Detection Dog Harley conduct training aboard Delaram II.



Cpl Holka (kneeling) & LCpl Gravely work on IED sweeping during reset training aboard Delram II.



GySgt Walker (right) provides detailed instruction to LCpl Terwise during monthly demolition training aboard Delaram II



First Platoon Martial Arts Graduates:
Back Row (L to R): Cpl Armstrong, Cpl Hall, Sgt Herrera, Sgt Olivares, & Lt Kilmartin
Front Row (L to R): Cpl Piastuch, Sgt Cruz, & Sgt Redhouse

MOBILITY ASSAULT COMPANY

SECOND PLATOON 'BEDOUIN 2'

To Family and Friends of Second Platoon:

Hello to everyone back home. As we look back at the previous two months of our deployment, I promise you that you have a lot to be proud of in what your Marines & Sailor have accomplished. Over the past few weeks the platoon participated in a large operation that took the fight straight to the Taliban. Our involvement was primarily aimed at clearing routes of explosive hazards throughout the area of operations. In the end, the platoon was able to find and explosively reduce (9) improvised explosive devices (IEDs) while taking (0) strikes; an accomplishment that cannot be understated.

Within the platoon I would like to send special congratulations to Corporal William Lewis and Corporal John Henry who were promoted to their current rank this month. The Marine Corps newest Non-Commissioned Officer's are very deserving of this coveted role and will make us proud. Special recognition is due for Cpl Lewis who earned his promotion through a very selective Combat Meritorious Promotion board.

As always, thank you all for the care packages and letters! Regardless of whether or not they are able to tell you, it means a lot to the Marines and nothing goes wasted. The Marines here continue to exceed expectations on a daily basis and are repeatedly setting the standard for others to follow. The cohesion within this platoon far exceeds the norm and that keeps our attitudes consistently upbeat. Everyone plays a role here and the pieces just seem to fall together perfectly; we have an outstanding group of men.

Lastly and most importantly, to the entire group of Father's out there have a very special and happy Father's day! We'll be thinking of you on this special day and hope you're able to enjoy it for all that it means. We continue to think about you all on a daily basis and want you to know were all doing very well!

Respectfully,
Gerhard W. Tauss
SSgt / USMC

Sincerely,
Ryan J. Chrobak
1stLt / USMC



MOBILITY ASSAULT COMPANY

THIRD PLATOON 'BEDOUIN 3'

Dear Families and Loved Ones of Third Platoon,

We are excited to have the opportunity to update yet another newsletter.

The temperature is rising and time is beginning to go by. Third Platoon has been extremely busy in the recent weeks. We have just completed a 3 week operation where the men of Third Platoon were very successful and performed beyond expectation. Their actions directly resulted in the safe movement of countless personnel and vehicles throughout the area of operations.

Upon our arrival back to Camp Leatherneck, there were multitudes of care packages and letters awaiting us. Because of this, the morale of the platoon is extremely high and we are very appreciative of your support.

We would also like to extend our best wishes to you all back home and a Happy Father's Day to all of our supporting Fathers. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact myself at phillip.vanderweit@afg.usmc.mil.

Respectfully,
Stephen J. Green
SSgt / USMC

Sincerely,
Phillip H. Vanderweit
1stLt / USMC



Cpl Lam (left) & LCpl Rosinski enjoy chow between missions.



LCpl Garner (lft), Sgt Nicholson (mid), & LCpl Sarver (rgt) play a game of "washers".



Marines stand-by for word (lft to rgt): Sgt Turpin, Sgt Greyeyes, LCpl Johnson, & Sgt Garcia



Third Platoon heads home after a successful mission.

Engineer Support Company

*1st Combat Engineer
Battalion*



*Camp Leatherneck
Afghanistan*

Over two months down and Engineer Support Company is busier than ever. We've had some meritorious promotions this month, received some much needed cheer from home, and have been deep in the mix supporting the battalion!



From the Company Commander...

By the time you read this, your Marine or Sailor will be finishing up the first third of their deployment in Afghanistan. The daily routine here gets measured in missions, trucks repaired, workouts, and at times even meals – but the ultimate milestone will always be the families and loved ones we can't wait to come home to. Time often seems relative to how busy and engaged you are, and it's because of this that last few months have veritably flown by for Engineer Support Company.

There are surprising changes across our Area of Operations that have improved the quality of life for the Afghan people and enabled their new protectors, the Afghan National Security Forces, to tiptoe into taking the lead from us as we look to wind down our operations. The company has its fingerprint on nearly every operation conducted by our battalion, adding mission critical equipment and expertise to our sister companies. In Engineer Support Company, we don't do much dancing in the end zone – we throw the 250 pound crushing block that clears the way for the running back as he makes the game winning play.

No matter how rapidly our operations unfold or how heavy the burden becomes, the Marines of Engineer Support Company are always up to the task. In a society always looking for American Idols and people with the "X Factor," men like yours are pretty special. They win the game and walk off the field, without fanfare or spotlights. They do it with hard work, skill, determination, and most of all, with nobility. You should be proud of them.

I know I am - every single day.

R.P. Gerbracht



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



First Sergeant's Corner...

Three of the company's Marines, Lance Corporals Ross and Ramos, and Corporal Veracruz, were promoted meritoriously this month to Corporal and Sergeant, respectively. The Marines of Engineer Support Company continue to work hard and push beyond our expectations for their success. Living and working in Afghanistan isn't easy, as you might imagine, whether you're inside the wire or out conducting missions. Your letters and care packages greatly motivate the Marines and help keep smiles on their faces during even the toughest of long days. We know you share their sacrifice from a distance, and for that you have the thanks of the entire company.

Best Wishes,



Jason Haney
First Sergeant, USMC
Company First Sergeant
Engineer Support Company

Maintenance Platoon

Families, we have made it through another busy month and once again your Marines have met the challenge. Maintenance Marines have conducted and will continue to conduct contact maintenance support throughout the area of operations. I am continually impressed with the resolve and fearlessness that your Marines display when faced with adversity. Whether faced with sandstorms or intense heat, their performance has been awe-inspiring.

For his outstanding performance last month, Maintenance Platoon recently recognized Private First Class Christopher Hodge with a Meritorious Mast for his excellent performance. Since his arrival, he has sustained an unswerving desire to succeed and a work ethic that is unparalleled by any that I have seen in his grade. His devotion to duty and initiative clearly set him apart from his peers.



Semper Fi,

Cerráio K. Villarouel
CWO2, USMC



LCpl Vasquez installing armor on the M9 ACE.



Sgt Buford and PFC Hodge working on an Assault Breacher Vehicle.



Utilities Platoon

Family and Friends,

As we enter the third month in country your Marines are now in the full swing of things. We have made it to all the outlying camps where we have 1st CEB Marines. I can tell you that it is just as nice for us to see them as it is for them to see us. We acknowledge that they are the ones conducting security missions and more importantly now, partnering with the Afghans to transfer the mission to them. Just as important, we continue to provide them the electrical support needed so they can accomplish their mission. Know that your Marines are trained professionals eager to make a difference every single day. They have the self motivation and all the tools necessary to accomplish the mission and make you proud. "Keeping the lights on."

Thank you for your support and prayers.

 Sincerely,
CWO3 Christian C. Gonzales
Platoon Commander



Utilities Platoon- Grateful for all the care packages we receive from our family and friends back home.



LCpl Kress, dressed and geared up for providing electrical support to the Marines in the fight.



LCpl Jones, taking care of the generators to "keep the lights on."



Operations Platoon

The Marines of Operations Platoon have been kept very busy over the last month with many operations throughout the battlespace. We have traveled around a big portion of the Helmand Province thus far and we are continuing to keep our gear in top performance for missions yet to come. A great portion of the platoon has not only remained vigilant while on mission, but still continue to educate themselves by completing MarineNet courses, Marine Corps Institute exams and Professional Military Education courses.

Our missions up to this point have ranged from patrol base construction, to obstacle emplacement, to reconstruction and demilitarization. Even with their busy schedules the Marines also continue to enhance their physical fitness; we have all completed our annual Physical Fitness Tests and the scores were quite impressive. We have had three Marines meritoriously promoted since we have arrived and I know they will continue to push each other to better themselves daily. The platoon's success is not only our own, but is also a direct reflection of the love and support of the families and friends who help keep them motivated and for that, I thank you.



Staff Sergeant Matthew P. McNulty
Platoon Commander



The panoramic view of all the vehicles involved in supporting a recent operation. Operations Platoon had an impressive footprint.



Corporal Ortega reorganizing the Heavy
Equipment section's tool room.



Corporal Nickum combat loads an MCT bulldozer
onto an 870 trailer.



Corporal Bhutia conducting maintenance on
the Multi Terrain Loader attachments.



MARINE DEPLOYED ADDRESSES



CEB Headquarters:

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

Mail Cut-off
1 Oct 2012

Charlie Co:

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

Mail Cut-off
1 July 2012

Bravo Co:

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

Mail Cut-off
1 Oct 2012

1stPlt
NAME
HQ SVC CO
1/8 UNIT 73200
FPO AE 09510-3200

Mail Cut-off
1 Jun 2012

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

Mail Cut-off
20 July 2012

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

Mail Cut-off
17 Sep 2012

Echo 4th Tanks

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

Mail Cut-off
1 Oct 2012

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

Mail Cut-off
28 Aug 2012

MAC

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

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



* 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.





EMARINE DIRECTIONS

HTTP://WWW.EMARINE.ORG

To subscribe to our battalion's site as a Marine or Family Member, click on the Find a Unit Site button at the top of the page. Click on California, and then look for Camp Pendleton. Click on 1st Marine Division > 1st Combat Engineer Battalion (**California, UIC: M11400**)

I have uploaded all the Marines in our Marine Online (MOL) database. Sailors must be entered manually per request if they are not in MOL. I will be updating our database every Friday which will add new CEB members and remove members who PCS or EAS.

If you are subscribing as a **Marine**, you will need to provide information about yourself including your name and last four digits of your Social Security Number. If the data you enter matches with the data in the Unit's Sponsor Database, you will immediately become a subscriber and be granted access to the site.

If you are subscribing as a **Family Member**, you will enter your information and the information regarding your "Sponsor of Interest." Your sponsor is your Marine/Sailor. If the data you enter matches a Marine within the Unit's Sponsor Database (uploaded via MOL), and you are on the Marine's Family Member List, you will immediately become a subscriber and be granted access to the site.

****You MUST be in your sponsors MOL to be granted access. You sponsor is the only one who can add you into his MOL account. ****

If the Sponsor data does not match, you can easily contact me (the FRO) of the site or Technical Support by clicking on the Contact Us link at the top and bottom of every page or email me directly at matthew.clements@usmc.mil.

Questions? Feel free to call me!

Sincerely,

Sgt Matthew Clements
Office (760) 763-7892
BB: (760) 405-7692

The screenshot shows the eMARINE website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Login, and Contact Us. Below this is a search bar and buttons for "Find a Unit Site" and "Technical Support". A main navigation menu includes Home, Getting Started, Support, Featured Links, Resources, and Private Help 24/7. The main content area features a "Please Log In" section with a login form containing fields for "User Name" and "Password", and a "Login" button. Below the login form are links for "Forgot your login info?", "Join a Unit", and "FAQs". A "Notice" section follows, containing a "Security Warning" with a list of conditions for using the system. At the bottom, there is a search bar and a table of regional time zones: EAST COAST (12:34:32 1/6 Fri), WEST COAST (9:34:32 1/6 Fri), HAWAII (7:34:32 1/6 Fri), JAPAN (2:34:32 1/7 Sat), and AFGHANISTAN (22:04:32 1/6 Fri).