



# SUPER BREED SPECIAL

SEPT 2012 (EDITION #5)

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## FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

### Family, Friends, and Loved Ones:

Our 'early deployer' platoons have rotated and transitioned back to Camp Pendleton. The 'Main Body' (majority) of the Battalion is on the final stretch of the deployment. 1st CEB's journey here in Afghanistan is in its final stages, but it is important to know that the guidance given to all those close to returning is to finish strong and avoid 'Smelling The Barn.' The expression comes from what a horse experiences when approaching his stable after a long day on the trail – when he begins to 'smell the barn' or his home, a heightened anticipation and renewed speed or energy occurs. The horse can sometimes lose focus, and begin to



run with tunnel vision, ignoring what his rider needs him to do! We all experience the same thing as we approach reunion after a long separation – and it is exciting! However, smelling the barn must be tempered. Many Marines are still operating in a tactical setting that demands their full attention and focus. When departing Afghanistan, many things must be accomplished such as turning in ammunition, accountability of weapons and equipment, after action reports, and a solid turn over with the Marines coming in to replace us. I ask that all family members enjoy the excitement and anticipation of the time leading to the return of a loved one, but please keep your Marine focused so that we all return safely and finish strong.

The weather is cooling down out here. The oven hot days and doggedly hot nights are transitioning to cool nights and warm days. Chow has not changed – it was good to almost everyone when we first got out here, but is now bland. Your Marines keep each other strong – they lean on each other for the smallest things. In this environment, many of them have learned the meaning behind the phrase 'Band of Brothers.'

Support from families, friends and loved ones has not waned. I can't express how important it is for a Marine to know that he's got support and love from home – it is key to his warfighting readiness. Know that your support has directly impacted the fight out here in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Keep it up!

Semper Fi,  
LtCol Andy Niebel





## FROM THE SERGEANT MAJOR

Families and friends of 1st CEB,

Another month down, kids are in school and we are quickly approaching our return to Camp Pendleton. While we are reaching the conclusion of a successful deployment, we still have much ahead of us to keep us focused on our mission here. Between continuing support to operations and the preparation of equipment and records to turn over to 2d CEB, we truly are busier now than we have been at other times in the deployment. This is a good thing in that it will keep our attention focused and make the time pass quickly. Before we know it we will be on our way stateside!

I spoke in depth on the Ball last newsletter, so I hope that you are preparing for and looking forward to the event. Attached is a flyer with some basic information on pricing, hotel costs and how to purchase your tickets using PayPal. The account is the same as we used last year, so we know it works and is ready to go. I know that I didn't cover everything or answer all your questions, so if you have them please contact Sgt Clements and he will forward them on to me.

I'll keep it short and sweet this month and say we are looking forward to getting back home.

Semper Fidelis,

SgtMaj Karl Simburger



## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

1st CEB Family,

Since everyone else mentioned getting close to home, I won't. News out of Afghanistan lately does not provide many with comfort. This battalion has not been spared from the pains. We mourned the loss of one of our own this past week, an exceptional Marine and even better man—Alec Terwiske. Circumstances like this unfortunately reveal the true cost of war. We as a battalion and the whole engineer community have paid a heavy price in Operation Enduring Freedom, but I can tell you with full assurance, we did so with honor and pride. Any effort to secure righteous ideals for humanity, such as peace, prosperity, and freedom requires great sacrifice. Not everyone gives their life or limb, some give only the little time they have with their loved ones. Thank you, for giving of your time and service to this effort. Without you, our efforts

could not have value or meaning. Please remember it is always easier to count the losses; no one can number the lives saved, improved, and lengthened. Your efforts are truly invaluable, beyond measure.

Though we crossed the five month mark, our Marines and Sailors show no signs of fatigue, morale remains high, and work continues at full speed. Please reach out to me if there is anything I can do to assist you in the future transition. My wife and I pray for you daily. RP2 Garcia made runner-up for Sailor of the Quarter last month. This accomplishment reflects his continued devotion to supporting your Marines and Sailors, and the Family Readiness Program.

Blessings,  
Chaplain Crone

"The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together..." (Isa 40:4-5 NKJV).





September 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 again, friends and family! One more month down. H&S Company has been doing a lot of preparation for 2d CEB's arrival to make sure that when they arrive, everything is ready for them to take over. Once they arrive, we will begin handing over all of our daily and operational duties and, when they're ready, we'll hand over command. Once this happens we will be one more step closer to being home with all of our friends and family again.

Please continue to check EMarine for updates on when exactly we'll be back and where to meet us. As the date

draws closer we will be able to release more specific dates and times for when we will return, but until that time, please continue to speak to and encourage your Marines and Sailors as we continue to work hard every day.

It has finally started cooling down here, and we can finally walk around the base without sweating up a storm. This small thing does a lot to improve the quality of life out here. Your Marines and Sailors continue to work hard in an exemplary manner, and I have every confidence that they will continue to do so until we head home.

Stay strong and continue to support your Marines and Sailors. We're about to start turning the corner of the home stretch, and we look forward to being home soon.

-Respectfully  
2ndLt Ankeny



### From the First Sergeant

To our family and friends We are down to less than two months and I know you can't wait to see your Marines and Sailors. Believe me, we cannot wait to see our family and friends as well. I know one thing is for sure we will be home for the Holidays. The Marines here are still conducting and performing in a manner in which would make our fore fathers proud of them. Even as the deployment comes to an end, the Marines are still working hard as if they just got here. I know I repeat myself but, if you can see what I have seen, it would make you very proud. Again all the Ma-

rines here cannot wait to see you, as you can't see us, but keep mind we must continue

to perform our mission and we always have you in our hearts.

1stSgt Hernandez



## Section Feature: S-3

**“The S-3 shop has been busy planning and coordinating for upcoming operations”**



Greetings to all our families back home. We can't wait to see you. It won't be too much longer until we're on our way home, but there's still plenty of work to be done here. Your Marines in the S-3 have been doing an outstanding job supporting engineer operations throughout the battlespace. The Marines of Sapper Platoon continue to teach counter-IED tactics to incoming personnel and have taught over 6,000 Coalition troops so far this deployment. They've taught just about everyone, including Marines, soldiers, sailors, airmen, Brits, Georgians, Afghans, civilians, and even a few congressional delegates. The S-3 Marines working in the Combat Operations Center, or COC, are the direct link between the battalion and all our engineers operating outside the wire. The COC has been hard at work tracking all 1st CEB's movements and being that voice on the other end of the line when patrols reach back to the battalion. The S-3 shop has been busy planning and coordinating for upcoming operations, but we've also been preparing for our turnover with 2d CEB, which means our flight home is right around the corner. We greatly appreciate all the care packages you've been sending and will see you soon.



## Section Feature: S-4

Captain Jason Braud  
Battalion Logistics Officer

"I don't know what the hell this 'logistics' is that Marshall is always talking about, but I want some of it." -- *Fleet Admiral E. J. King*

Everyone wants a little piece of *the four* out here. And we're happy to give it to them. Even if it does mean some long days and nights. Our purpose out here is to provide logistics support to the battalion, especially those Marines outside the wire conducting operations. We coordinate the procurement and movement of supplies needed to keep things running. Logistics involves getting what's needed, where it's needed, when it's needed. This includes getting Marines... home... as soon as possible. All of your Marines are anxiously waiting to be back in the company of children, wives, family, and friends in California and hometowns across the United States.

GySgt Cordova  
Maintenance Management Officer

We have been hard at work these past months. Working hand in hand with all the Maintenance Chiefs to make sure we keep the Battalion's readiness as high as possible. Our goal has been constant, keep readiness high so operations can move forward uninhibited. It has been both a learning experience and, at times, challenging to us as maintenance managers. We have had to adapt and be very proactive with our maintenance programs to ensure we keep our gear operational at all times. As we are coming to a close with this deployment, we would like to thank our families. Their continued support during this time has made all the difference. We look forward to returning home soon. To my girls Gabriella and Isabel, Daddy loves you very much.

Sgt Kevin Inca  
Maintenance Management Chief

I just want to thank all my family and friends for their prayers and support. I'm looking forward to being reunited with you all again. I wish you all well and I will see you soon! To all my family in Peru and Chile, you are always in my thoughts, and I can't wait to see you in Lima! To my beautiful Sister Brittany and Cristina, I can't wait to hug you! To my lovely wife, I can't wait to see you Love! Nick, Felix and Mom, "Ya falta nada" y Arriba Los Tlaquaches!!!!!!!!!! And last but not least, I look forward to seeing all my Oceanside Calvary Chapel family whom I miss dearly! God Bless, and I will see you all soon .



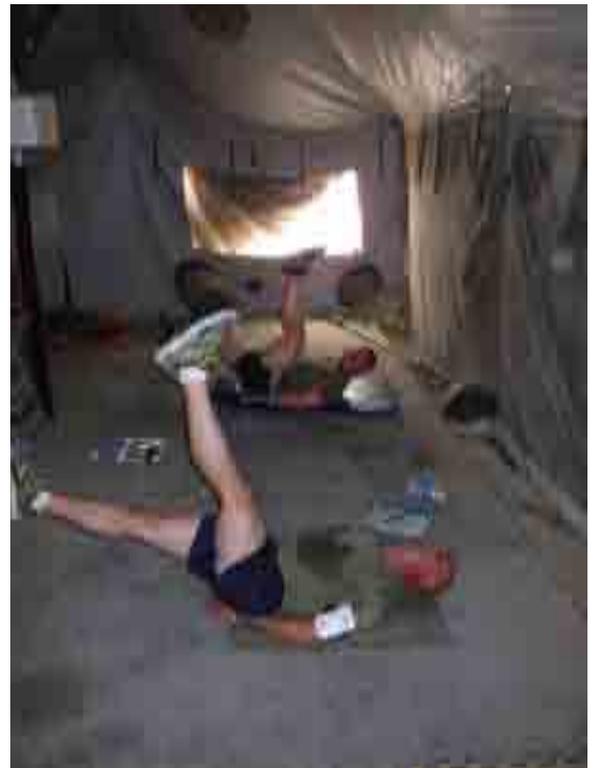
**Reenlistment: Sergeant Major Simburger**



**Reenlistment: SSgt DeleonGuerrero**

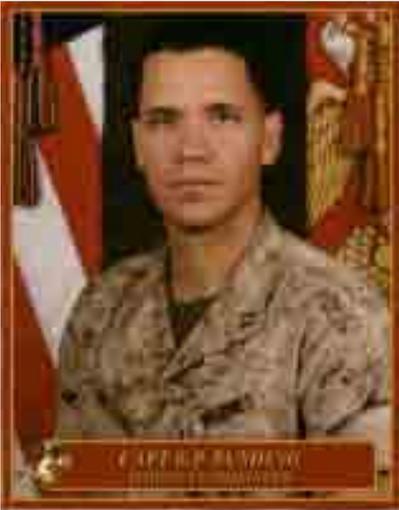


**Old man physical training**



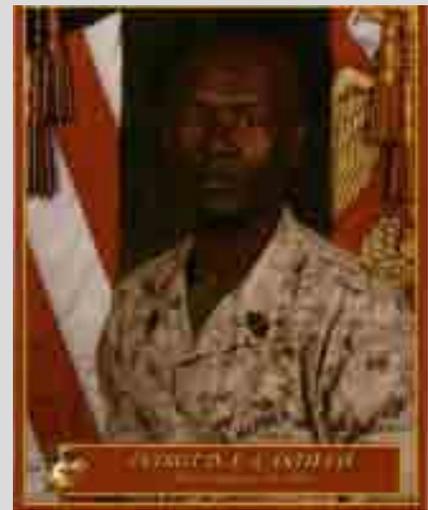
**This was their first exercise and they are already sweating???**





**COMPANY COMMANDER**  
Edward "Buddy" Rushing

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



**COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT**  
Damien Castillo

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## Captain's Corner

Greeting friends and family of Bravo Company. As most of you know September is a busy month with Marines starting to redeploy back to Pendleton and our own redeployment lurking right around the corner. However, we still have a few hurdles to jump before we get on that freedom bird, but the excitement out here is building. We have spread our wings here at Camp Leatherneck and we now control Combat Engineers over the entire Helmand Province. I cannot say enough about the marines in the battlespace; they have been running through the tape and accomplishing amazing feats right up to their rotation date. Lastly, I want to thank my wonderful wife and amazing family for all the wonderful care packages (I now have Lt Druffel beat in that category)! Please send our love to all the families, we are getting close!!

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## First Sergeant's Corner

The countdown has begun, and it will not stop until we are home. As we look back to the time when we first arrived in Afghanistan, time does fly by fast. Although, not fast enough for the families. The summer is over and the kids are back in school. We missed the beautiful California summer, but we are getting back in time for the holidays—Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. This is a wonderful time to be home, and we are blessed to all have many friends and family to share it with. Everybody back home is missed, and we are so anxious to get home. We love you all and will see you soon!



**HEADQUARTERS PLATOON**

**Capt Rushing**  
**1stLt Druffel**  
**1stSgt Castillo**  
**GySgt Branch**  
**SSgt Battles**



**Sgt Young**  
**Sgt Gonzales**  
**Cpl Jaskolski**  
**LCpl Bolen**

**Around the LNK**

**Greeting all! Lt Druffel here, filling in for an over-worked and underpaid CO. As this is my first time writing a newsletter entry, I will keep it long and hilarious. The Marines of Bravo HQ just completed their first month on Camp Leatherneck and are adjusting nicely to the ice cream in the chow halls and the PX that rivals some Wal-Marts. GySgt Branch has been busy turning in gear and SSgt Battles still spends most of the day attempting to get his boonie cover to sit just right. As for yours truly, I have been glued to my computer screen while rocking the “old-man” glasses and thinking about my sweetie. Sgt Young and LCpl Bolen have been running the Bravo Lot and helping returning units clean and prepare their gear for turn in. We recently entered the LNK Draft and were able to pick-up some free agents in the form of Sgt Gonzales and Cpl Jaskolski. They were Marines from the LAR Plt, but they got called up to the show. As for 1stSgt, he is still the lifeline of Company B and a favorite among the Marines. To everyone back home I would like to say thank you for all the continued love and support and we will be home soon! – Lt D-Rod**



1stSgt is the only Marine who smiles even while doing paperwork!



Most Marines look confused or tired (like Gunny here).

**CAB PLATOON**

XXXXXXXXXX

Lt Amato  
SSgt Stolz  
Sgt  
Lancaster



XXXXXXXXXX

Sgt  
Economou  
Sgt Grant  
Sgt Roark  
Sgt Genda

**2d Platoon, Combat Assault Battalion**

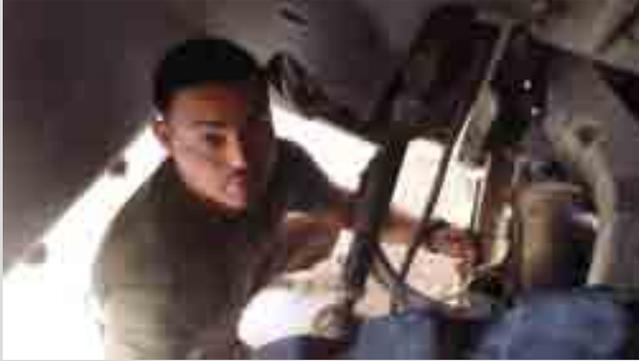
**Greetings and salutations to the family and friends of 2d Platoon, Combat Engineer Company B. Can you believe only couple of months left until we are back home?! I know the Marines are ecstatic to return back home to their loved ones, yet they still realize that there is a mission to accomplish. The Marines continue their antics as always, finding any way to amuse themselves and ping pong is still big within the platoon. We also welcome the Engineer Support Detachment that has just joined us. As always, we love and miss our family and friends. We will be home soon!**



The Marines unwinding after a hard day's work.



Marines grow close during a deployment!



Sgt Amadorsacasa turning wrenches!



LCpl Fallon making sure the generators are good to go.

**LAR PLATOON**



xxxxxxxxxx  
Lt Pineiro  
SSgt Glover  
SSgt  
Wayman

xxxxxxxxxx  
Sgt Ross  
Sgt Gonzalez  
Sgt Hewett  
Sgt Sirman  
xxxxxxxxxx

**2d Platoon, Company B**

**Greetings from Afghanistan! First, we would like to congratulate 1stLt Pineiro for being career designated and Sgt Hewett for his selection to SSgt. LAR Platoon is in full retrograde mode, cleaning, and turning in gear in preparation for the trip home. It's the home stretch and all Marines are looking forward to being with their friends and family very soon! The Family Readiness Officer will be posting dates and times as we get closer to being home. From the whole platoon we would like to say "thank you" for all the support that was received during this deployment, it has been greatly appreciated!**

Charlie Platoon



\*\*\*\*\*  
Lt Ross  
GySgt  
Galvez  
SSgt Hodge

\*\*\*\*\*  
Sgt Crabtree  
Sgt Soule  
Sgt  
Hoogsteden  
Sgt Dahm  
Sgt Good  
\*\*\*\*\*

2d Platoon, Company C

**It was an exciting month for the Marines of 2d Platoon. First, our own Sgt Crabtree has been selected for SSgt! Also, the Marines successfully built an expansion for our new home and relocated all of our gear. The boys are definitely looking forward to getting home and are working hard to set up our replacements from 2d CEB with an amazing place to live and work. I know all of the Marines have been working hard throughout the entire deployment and they will continue to make their friends and family proud until we leave. We will see you all soon and hope everything is going well back home!**



Cpl Deville, after an oil change on a 7-ton truck.



Cpl Johansen, swearing in during his reenlistment ceremony atop a mountain of gravel.



It takes eight hard-charging engineers to carry one strand of HESCO. The Marines in the platoon emplaced over 2,000 total meters of HESCO barriers during the base expansion project.

# UNTIL...

The Marines of 2d platoon came up with a more efficient way of pulling HESCO by utilizing heavy equipment. This was day 2 of a 12 day build to expand their base.



## 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

As the closing months of the deployment are approaching, please ensure that you are checking eMarine for updated information. Official family readiness information will come from Echo Company's Family Readiness Officer (FRO), 1stSgt Fowler, or 1stCEB's FRO, Sgt Clements, or from the eMarine website. While I completely understand family members being anxious for any and all news or information about when we'll be coming home, we cannot pass any sensitive information. For those who plan on linking up with the company when we return to California, please remain flexible. Please be aware that the company will not be billeted in San Mateo upon our return. The closest hotels to where the company will be located are in Oceanside, near the Camp Pendleton main gate.

Camp Dwyer's mail services have been reduced. While I always advocate as much mail or packages for your Marine, Sailor, or Airman as possible, it may be best to stop mailing those items in the beginning of September.

Please remember about the Return and Reunion Brief for all family members of Echo Company scheduled for 19 October at the Patton Museum auditorium. I highly encourage you to attend and bring any family you believe could benefit. If you haven't done so already, please send an email to 1stSgt Fowler (Brant.Fowler@usmc.mil).

Respectfully,

Major Mike O'Quin

1stSgt Jarnagin

## HEADQUARTERS PLATOON

Family and friends of Headquarters Platoon,

I hope that all had a good summer, and were able to get out and enjoy themselves. Again, to family and friends, thank you for your continued support these past five months. Your Marine definitely looks forward to your correspondence, and appreciates all of the support from the care packages, letters, and e-mails.

This past month headquarters has supported operations for the other platoons with maintenance support, administrative support, and manpower. Corporals Mynes and Prater have spent many of their days this month in support of the line platoons operating gear that enhances the platoon's ability to do their job. The Maintenance Marines have been working hard as usual keeping the company running. All of the Maintenance Marines; LCpl McGregor, LCpl Serra, LCpl Thurby, and Cpl Garcia, and Cpl Wilson will all return from this deployment with an exorbitant amount of knowledge pertaining to all facets of their job in the Marine Corps. Most of them have cross trained in each other's occupational specialties, and will be better Marines because of it.

Headquarters Marines still have taken it upon themselves to maintain a high level of fitness. This has led Marines like LCpl McGregor, LCpl Jackson and HM2 Marquez to win both base wide 3 on 3 basketball tournaments this deployment. The Marines of Headquarters platoon continues to work hard everyday to ensure Company "E" will always be able to complete their missions. Enjoy the last few weeks of your summer.

Semper Fi,  
Gunnery Sergeant Ellison  
Headquarters Platoon Sergeant

1ST PLATOON

Family and Friends,

The month of August saw a brief uptick in kinetic activity. Part of this was mostly a delay in the spring offensive we were expecting from the Taliban. We have been focused on assisting coalition forces to ensure that the routes necessary for the demilitarize process are safe for all who travel the navigable roads in our area of operations. .

In the months prior to our deployment we had the opportunity to learn to use many pieces of equipment and utilize a vast amount of tools to safely accomplish our mission. I can now say that every tool and piece of equipment issued to us has been effectively utilized in some form or another.

I can also report that our IED Detection Dogs (IDD) have been effectively deployed with positive results. Cpl Johnson and his IDD "Ace" and LCpl Allen with his IDD "Moola" have all successfully identified explosive hazards safely and effectively. This allows the Marines in 1st Plt to safely remove and destroy IED's while allowing us the safe distance needed to complete the task.

Semper Fidelis,

The Marines of 1st Platoon



HM2 Galindo and LCpl "motivator" Hite fuel up in preparation for their next patrol.



Cpl's McKinley and Prater and LCpl Bodenbender getting ready to step off on another long day of IED patrols.



SSgt Herrington and Sgt Tate relax after a day of patrols.



Cpl Whyte and LCpl's Pater and Klimek ready for another day of patrols.

2D PLATOON

Family and Friends,

*"Ramadan Mubarak."* Have a happy and blessed Ramadan. 20 July to 20 August was the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan. During this time, Muslims all around the world do not eat or drink from sun up to sundown to observe the *Sawm* (Fast), one of the Five Pillars of Islam. The reason Muslims fast during Ramadan is to help them direct their focus away from worldly concerns, develop their self-discipline, and build empathy for those less fortunate than them.

During Ramadan, your Marines and their partnered Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers continued operations and conducted many hours of both partnered and independent training. The largest training events were partnered Crew Served Weapon and Personal Weapon Ranges. During these ranges, each individual ANA soldier shooting had a Marine supervising and providing guidance and recommendations for improvement. Despite their fast and the summer heat, the soldiers were still in good spirits and enthusiastic about the training.

Your Marines are doing important work out here by supporting and developing the brave soldiers of the Afghan National Army. Without your support, they would not be able to focus on this most critical mission.

Thank You for your continued support,

2ndLt Alex Wu

3D PLATOON

To the family and friends of 3d Platoon-

The Marines continue to stay focused and concentrated on the mission at hand even as our time here in Afghanistan continues to expire. They are doing a great job at being disciplined and not letting complacency affect their ability to do their job safely and professionally. We have been running a high tempo mission set that keeps up busy and helps time go by fast, which is a plus. Your Marines recently completed a mission in support of another battalion that we haven't worked for in the past and it took us to a part of Afghanistan that we haven't been to yet. As a result we got to stay at one of Alexander the Great's castle that the Marine Corps have turned into a Combat Outpost. The Marines enjoyed experiencing a little bit of history as you can see from the pictures posted to this newsletter.

The platoon also welcomed Sgt Stillwell and Sgt Fearon from the Sappers for our last mission. They were tasked with running missions with our company in order to update the battalions SOP/TTP for route clearance and dismount operations. They both got along well with the Marines and were a great asset to our mission and also to our volleyball game we played against the ANA (Afghan National Army). The platoon would like to thank everyone for all of the care packages and letters that you send to us over here. It's much appreciated and a great morale booster.

3d Platoon Staff



Sgt's Fearon and Stillwell helping the platoon in a volleyball game versus the ANA



Cpl Brown and LCpl Holt at the Castle

ANA ROUTE CLEARANCE ADVISOR TEAM

Hi all. We've stayed reasonably busy during the last of Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr at the last half of the month. It was a little slow activity wise as we wrote reports, continued to assist the new BAT team with getting settled and camp improvement projects.

Training is constantly on going. Sgt. LaClair developed and taught a GPS class to 26 ANA soldiers and officers. This gave them the knowledge to enable better battlefield control and tracking. Further in depth training was given to a senior EOD sergeant, Anwar, allowing him the ability to teach and train his junior ANA soldiers. This is one of the culminating steps in the education of the ANA in land navigation and reporting.

In between class sessions, Sgt LaClair had asked to not to be put on watch on a particular day, late in the month. To our slight surprise, he just wanted to celebrate his birthday with out watch! Well, Sgt LaClair, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**  
P. S. You have no watch!

GySgt McNeal took a couple of hours and a loner MRAP to give an operator's familiarization course to some of the medical staff from the Combat Surgical Hospital (CSH, pronounced "cash"). Their enthusiasm to see who they have supported in their tenure here at Camp Dwyer and our appreciation of their service to us as most of the other medical support has retrograded back to Camp Leatherneck.

The ANA RCC Advisor Team



Sgt. LaClair providing additional training to SSgt. Anwar of the ANA on waypoints with assistance of Said's linguistic skills



The Advisor Team strike's a pose in front of a RCC vehicle gear set.

## MOBILITY ASSAULT COMPANY

### COMPANY COMMANDER & COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

Greetings to Family, Friends, and Loved Ones,

It is with a very heavy heart that we write this newsletter. As some of you may be aware, the Marines & Sailors of Mobility Assault Company experienced the loss of a fellow Marine earlier this month. Lance Corporal Alec R. Terwiske was killed in action while conducting combat operations. This loss was felt by each and every person in this unit. The battalion memorialized this Marine on 12 September and it was very moving to hear how this young man impacted so many lives during his short time with us.

In addition to the loss of Lance Corporal Terwiske, two other Marines were wounded in action during the same incident: Corporal John C. Hootsell and Lance Corporal Frederick L. Street IV. By the time you read this, both of the Marines will be back in the states on the road to recovery with family by their sides. They are both receiving the best care possible. We ask that you keep these young warriors in your thoughts and prayers.

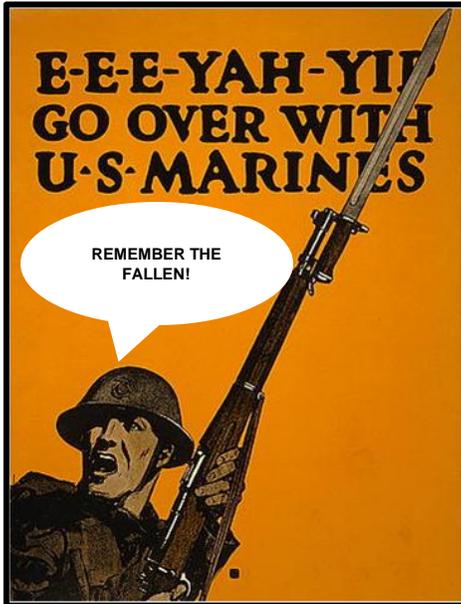
Though these losses weigh heavy on each of us, we are more determined than ever to continue the mission. We can honestly say that the Marines and Sailors are invigorated and even more eager to take the fight to the enemy. You have loaned our country incredible men and they have never once faltered. There is not a mission or task that they do not eagerly complete to the best of their abilities. Thank you for your trust and confidence.

As we draw ever closer to our return home we would like remind everyone that you should not send mail to your Marine or Sailor after 1 October – it may not arrive in time. Yes, we are that close to finally returning home to our friends and loved ones!

Finally, thank you for supporting your Marines & Sailors throughout this combat deployment. We remain committed to providing the best leadership possible to your men.

Respectfully,  
*Stuart D. Glass*  
First Sergeant / USMC

Sincerely,  
*Christopher G. Kim*  
Captain / USMC



**ALEC R. TERWISKE**

**6 JULY 1991 TO 3 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Marine, Warrior, Friend, Son, Brother, Uncle...he was many things to many people.

We honor him everyday by completing our missions and remaining faithful to our God, Country and Corps.

**COMBAT MERITORIOUSLY PROMOTED TO CORPORAL**

**- JOSEPH I. CORDES V**

**MERITORIOUSLY PROMOTED TO CORPORAL**

**- JARED R. GRAVELY**

**DEPLOYMENT MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**FIRST PLATOON 'BEDOUIN 1'**



The 'iron cross' display for LCpl Terwiske's memorial.



The Marines of 1st Platoon attend the memorial of LCpl Terwiske



Sgt Cruz and his IED Detection Dog Duke take a rest between missions.

Hello Families and Friends of Bedouin 1,

By the time y'all are reading this your Marines we will be almost complete with the deployment. Over the past month, which was a tough one, your Marines have been out supporting both Baker Co 1/7 and Special Operations Task Force West. We have started to work with 1/7 to build up a forward presence to set our replacements up for success.

On 3 September, Lance Corporal Alec "Wiske" Terwiske made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country, giving his life for his brothers in arms. Our heart felt condolences go out to his family for their tremendous loss.

Corporal Hootsell and Lance Corporal Street, who were also injured that day, are now back in the states beginning the recovery process. We wish those two warriors a speedy recovery, as they and their families go through these trying times.

On Sept 12th we held a memorial service for LCpl Terwiske to say farewell to our brother in arms as he joins his fellow fallen warriors at their final post, guarding the streets of heaven.

**Rest in Peace  
Lance Corporal Alec R. Terwiske  
July 6, 1991 to September 3, 2012**

Respectfully,  
*Bryan C. Walker*  
GySgt / USMC

Sincerely,  
*Michael J. Kilmartin*  
1stLt / USMC



First Platoon works together to build an Alaska Tent at a Combat Outpost.

# MOBILITY ASSAULT COMPANY

## SECOND PLATOON 'BEDOUIN 2'

Dear Friends and Family of 2d platoon,

The last month went by in a flash and it feels good to know that our time is winding down here in Afghanistan. At the same time, we all know we still have a job to do for these last remaining weeks and our full focus is on the missions/operations we'll continue to be tasked with. This month was a mixed bag of work for us as we initiated some of our partnering operations with the Afghan National Army (ANA) and continued to support route clearance missions throughout the battlespace.

During a recent platoon mission, we conducted route clearance for an Army logistics unit tasked with re-supplying a remote patrol base in the Helmand Province. During our initial insert we found one IED but also had two vehicles become immobilized in a choke point leading to our objective. Although our clearance capabilities were reduced, the Marines never gave in and did everything in their power to ensure mission accomplishment. Against poor odds, the Marines continued the clear until another vehicle was immobilized and prevented us from moving any further. You would be very proud of your Marines for their unrelenting attitude and desire to accomplish what was asked of them under dire circumstances. Ultimately, the Marines of 3d platoon reinforced us and the mission was a success. On our way out, we found two more IEDs and cleared them from the battlespace ending on a high note.

As we continue down the road in the weeks ahead, the platoon will give its full attention to combined training and partnering with Afghan forces. The platoon will be conducting three simultaneous missions: one mission will be to train ANA in Delaram, one mission will be to train ANA in Kabul, and the final mission will be to support the Company Command Element. For the Marines going to Kabul it will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to see a modern, developed side to Afghanistan that shows the progress Marines and other Coalition Forces have made while operating in this country.

Respectfully,  
*Gerhard W. Taus*  
SSgt / USMC

Sincerely,  
*Ryan J. Chrobak*  
1stLt / USMC



Doc Crisano takes a breather during the training of ANA.



LCpl King (kneeling) works with an ANA Engineer on IED detection.



Marines, Sailors, & Airmen of 2d Platoon: Another mission complete!

# MOBILITY ASSAULT COMPANY

Dear Family and Friends,

## THIRD PLATOON 'BEDOUIN 3'

I am happy to say that things are continuing to go very well for 3d Platoon. Although the return home is fast approaching, the platoon has continued to meet the demands that come with being a Route Clearance Platoon.

Some of the most exciting news for 3d Platoon is that we have recently established a forward staging and living area at a distant patrol base. Although we live the life of wanderers and are consistently living on and out of our trucks, we are happy to report that the generators, air conditioners, and refrigerator have made the times we have spent at the 'new place' very enjoyable thus far.

During the last month, we were able to support multiple combat operations with a Georgian Battalion, Tanks, Reconnaissance, and even a fellow platoon. Needless to say, the platoon met the challenges with impressive performances and allowed our supported units to complete their mission without the threat of any IEDs in their way.

Lastly, I want to offer special congratulations to Corporal Joseph I. Cordes V, who was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Corporal. As we move closer to the end point of this deployment, we want you to know that 3d Platoon is grateful for your continued support of the amazing job your Marines do. We very much look forward to our return home.

Respectfully,  
*Stephen J. Green*  
SSgt / USMC

Sincerely,  
*Phillip H. Vanderweit*  
1stLt / USMC



Iron Chef LCpl Jojo prepares "dinner" for his platoon.



Dinner is served! LCpl Benson, LCpl Finley, LCpl Wiemers, & LCpl Schum (front to rear) move through the chow line.



Cpl Arroyo (left) & 1stLt Vanderweit (right) pose for a photo on top of their Buffalo.



The members of 3d Platoon take a rest after a long day of building their new living area.

- Cpl Lam Combat Inventory:
- Rifle? CHECK!
  - Anti-Tank Rocket? CHECK!
  - Stuffed Lamb Toy? Uh..CHECK?

# Engineer Support Company

*1<sup>st</sup> Combat Engineer  
Battalion*



*Camp Leatherneck  
Afghanistan*



Stay faithful, stay hopeful, and think fondly of your warriors as they prepare to come home. This has been a long deployment with more than its share of peaks and valleys. For many of us, it is merely another step in a long Marine Corps journey; for most of us, it will be one of life's more memorable and formative milestones.

If this is only the first deployment you have weathered with your loved one or even the fifth, know that your love and support are endlessly appreciated as the foundational basis for our success. There are still miles to go before we rest, but rest we will, and soon.

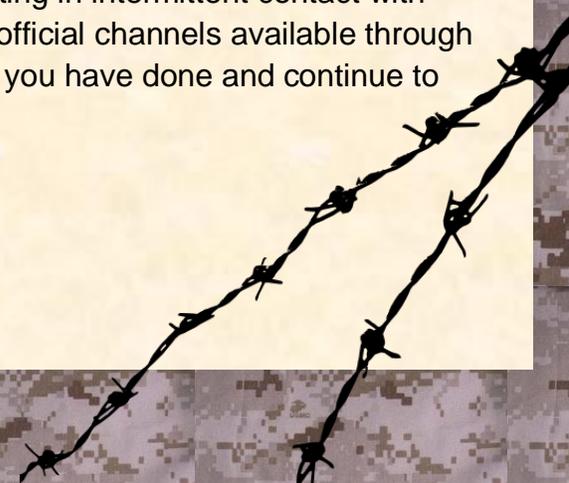
*R.P. Gerbracht*

Commanding Officer  
Engineer Support Company  
1<sup>st</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion  
1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division (Fwd)



The most exciting part of deployment is just around the corner, our trip home! As we close on the final weeks in country there will be increased stress for you and your loved one. Know that there are resources out there that help answer the combat related questions you may have regarding the post deployment reunion. The Marines and Sailors of ESC will need to stay focused on the mission here in Afghanistan. With that said, please continue to show patience as the operational tempo will only increase as we prepare to turn over with our replacements, often resulting in intermittent contact with your deployed Marine/Sailor. Stay in touch with our progress through official channels available through the FRO. Again, our greatest resource is your support. Thanks for all you have done and continue to do for ESC throughout this deployment.

1stSgt Jason Haney





## Maintenance Platoon

Well we are nearing the end of this deployment but you'd never guess that by the way your Marines continue to perform. They are still very much focused on the task at hand and continue to work just as hard if not harder now that some of their brothers have since redeployed. The month of August brought about some changes for maintenance platoon as we have shifted Marines throughout the Area of Operations in order to accomplish the mission. Your Marines remain motivated and are up to the challenge (which seems to be the reoccurring theme throughout this deployment). Some of you have been reunited with your loved ones and the rest of us are looking forward to that moment as well. Until then, there is still work to be done as we prepare to conduct a turnover with our replacements. This month we recognize Sergeant CortesCortes, "the Castle-maker," for his hard work in creating his masterpieces which will be on display at the Ball.

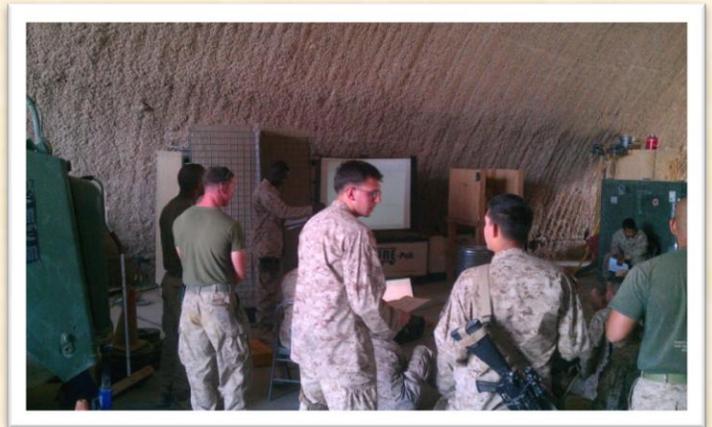


Semper Fi,

Cerráio K. Villarouel  
CWO 2/USMC



Marines lift the MCT with the M88.



School is in session.



Corporals Alacron and Wright get their Halo on.





## Utilities Platoon

Family and friends,

It is getting close to a well deserved reunion. We have endured our fair share of “ups and downs” throughout this deployment. Recently we sent a few of our brothers’ home. We were sad to see them leave but relieved at the same time; with their departure it marked our last leg of this Afghanistan deployment. However, until we board the plane to come home, we will continue to provide our services until the job is done and we are satisfied with the outcome. Your Marines continue to impress me with their work ethics and principles; with only a few of them left they have continued to “push the envelope”. They truly are the top 10% of the American population. You should be proud of their hard work and dedication. Thank you for all of your love, support and continued prayers.



Sincerely,

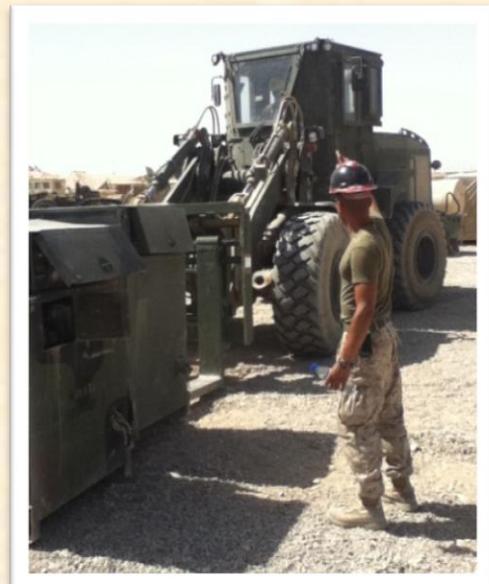
SSgt Cruz  
Utilities SNCOIC



Marines congratulating LCpl Hernandez



Slane Operating a floodlight



LCpl Jones: ground guiding at its finest!





## Operations Platoon

As you are reading this we can almost see the finish line, but our work out here is far from over. In fact our work load has almost tripled, since we have spread our Marines throughout Helmand Province in order to provide additional support to our Engineers. Some Marines have relocated and have had barely any time to settle in before the missions started rolling in. Our Southern detachment has been linked up to support the V3/8 Engineers out of FOB Geronimo and have been working hard non-stop to ensure that the mission still gets accomplished as well as setting up shop for our replacements. Our Northern detachment has been linked up to provide support to V1/7 Engineers out of FOB Shamsher. The Northern detachment has been busy with reconstructing the base that they will occupy for the remainder of the deployment as well as running logistical convoys throughout North Helmand Province. These Marines will be starting from the ground up in order to ensure that our replacements are set up for success once they arrive. Our Leatherneck detachment is still maintaining its high tempo with 1/3 as many Marines as before which definitely helps the time fly by. As always your love and continued support is appreciated we are eagerly waiting for that next plane ride home.

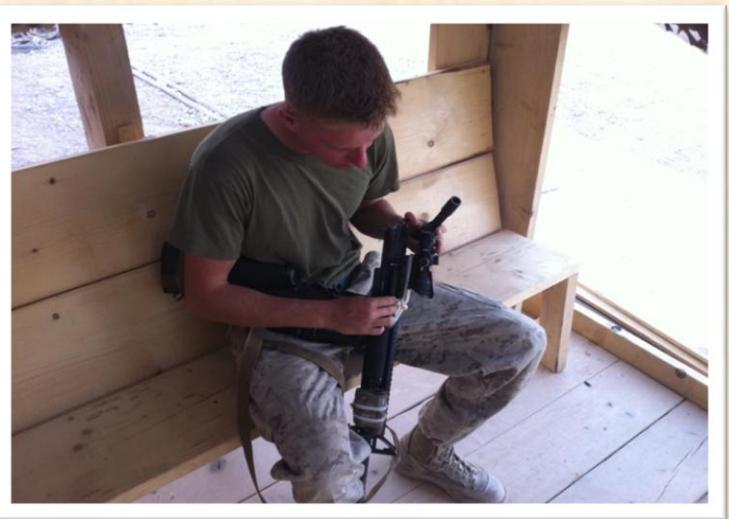


Semper Fi,

SSgt Mathew McNulty  
Operations Platoon Commander



LCpl Barraca ground guides LCpl Gaba in a Multi Terrain Loader.



LCpl Lee conducts weapons maintenance to ensure his M16-A4 service rifle is clean and ready to use.



1st Combat Engineer Battalion

Date: 12/07/2012

Time: 1900

# 237th Marine Corps Birthday Ball and Battle Streamer Ceremony



## Sequence of Events

- ◆ 1800-1845 Cocktails
- ◆ 1900-1930 Ceremony
- ◆ 1930-2100 Dinner
- ◆ 2100-0000 Dancing

Please join us as we celebrate the 237th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel in Downtown San Diego, CA

Tickets are on sale now!

\$55.00 (NCO and below)

\$65.00 (SNCO/Officers)

\$75.00 (All Guests)

Cash through Company Reps  
or via PayPal.



## 237th Marine Corps Ball Information



### Lodging:

The battalion has secured a block of 100 rooms at the venue for the night of the event. Room prices are at the government per diem rate and range from \$133 to \$158 (plus tax-double occupancy). There is an extra fee for extra occupants (max 4 per room) and will cap at \$188 (plus tax). Parking for guests will be over half-price (\$9) and each room includes (2) breakfast buffet tickets (approx. \$40 value). Please contact the hotel for reservations and mention the unit name. Phone number is (619) 232-1234 or register online using this link:

[https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_ei\\_new&eventID=10100973&utm\\_source=414&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=18170738](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=10100973&utm_source=414&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=18170738)



### PayPal Instructions:

#### Setting up new PayPal account:

Go to <http://www.paypal.com> and click on the sign-up button (below user name and password). Select type of account you would like (most common is personal). Enter the required information to verify the user and create an account.

#### After establishing the PayPal account:

Login to your PayPal account. Click on "Send Money".

Enter [matthew.mcnulty@usmc.mil](mailto:matthew.mcnulty@usmc.mil)

In the account that you want to send money to. Enter the appropriate amount of money for your tickets. In the subject line enter a brief description of your purchase (i.e. 1 SNCO/1 Guest ticket). Then send an email to SgtMaj Simburger ([karl.simburger@usmc.mil](mailto:karl.simburger@usmc.mil)). In the subject line enter "PayPal purchase" and in the body enter the specifics about your purchase (Ex. 2 NCO tickets). Please include your full name, rank and company. Once the money has been deposited in the account your tickets will be distributed.

