

# Shoulder-to-shoulder

Embedded Partnering Team mentors ANA to operate independently

Story and Photos by  
**Cpl. Daniel Woodall**  
*Combat Logistics Battalion 3*

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** – For the past two months, 20 Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), have been mentoring approximately 330 soldiers with the Afghan National Army.

While deployed, the team has been tasked with training, advising and mentoring the 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps – an ANA logistics battalion – on the functions of tactical logistics support while preparing them for unilateral operations, said Capt. Victor Kamantauskas, 27, commanding officer, Embedded Partnering Team, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD).

In recent speeches, Afghan President Hamid Karzai has expressed his desire to see coalition forces play a more limited role in current operations, allowing the Afghan National Security Forces to operate autonomously throughout the country.



**Mohammad Zaman, a soldier with the Afghan National Army's 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, serves as a spotter as Cpl. Phillip Sever, 20, Headquarters & Service Company mentor, Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), sights in during a weapons class on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 21.**

Embedded partnering teams have been training Afghan forces to do just that.

Combat Logistics Battalion 3 is the third unit to embed a Partnering Team since 5/1/215's formation in the summer of 2009.

"We have definitely seen a paradigm shift in the ANA where they are more willing to take on their own tasks," said Kamantauskas, a native of Orange, Texas.

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## Donors screen for Walking Blood Bank



**Donors volunteer for the Walking Blood Bank pre-screening, Nov. 20.**

Story and Photos by  
**Cpl. Shannon McMillan**  
*1st MLG (FWD)*

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** – A line of volunteers went beyond the doors of the Combined Aid Station during a Walking Blood Bank pre-screening here, Nov. 20.

More than 140 participants volunteered to have blood drawn for testing. Once approved, donors may be called upon at any time to give blood if additional blood supplies are needed.

"I was overwhelmed with the support of all the commands within

**See BLOOD BANK, Page 3**

# PARTNERING: EPT trains ANA soldiers

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“They are building their confidence and ability to conduct independent operations day by day.”

The soldiers of 5/1/215 are responsible for providing logistics support to three ANA infantry battalions throughout Afghanistan’s Helmand province. To accomplish their mission of providing 5/1/215 with the skills to become a self-sufficient logistics battalion, CLB-3’s EPT conducts daily mentoring sessions spanning a wide-range of logistics and military topics as well as frequently conducting partnered combat logistic patrols.

“We’re taking a ‘back-seat’ approach right now, letting the ANA lead but eventually we’ll wean off of that,” said Capt. Redmond B. Gautier IV, 34, executive officer, EPT, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD), a native of Miami. “That’s not to say our replacing unit won’t have a job, there’s still work to be done. The ANA are definitely taking the lead – more than we expected – and that’s a positive thing.”

The Marines and sailors who compose CLB-3’s EPT were hand-selected prior to their Afghanistan deployment because they are generally considered the most proficient individuals in their respective military occupational specialties.

For Cpl. Phillip Sever, 20, Headquarters & Service Company mentor, EPT, CLB-3, working with the ANA has been an enjoyable experience. Prior to joining the EPT and becoming a mentor, Sever served as a bulk-fuel specialist with CLB-3’s Engineer Company.

“I joined the EPT because I wanted to make a difference, and I knew this would be the best way to do it – working with Afghans in their own country,” the Effort, Pa., native said. “Basically our mission here is to work with the ANA on a daily basis to make them self-reliant so one day we can leave this country. The language and cultural barriers are the most difficult aspects of the job. Their customs are much different than



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Bhavananda Hickox, 24, medical mentor, Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), teaches a class to Afghan National Army medics on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 20. The 20 Marines and sailors with CLB-3’s EPT are mentoring and training Afghan soldiers so they can operate independent of coalition forces.

“As long as there is one drop of blood left in my veins...I will continue to stand and defend my country.”

-ANA Lt. Col. Amanullah Kohbandi  
commanding officer,  
5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps

ours and having to work through interpreters slows the work down a little.”

Fortunately, Sever is not alone in thinking the EPT makes a difference in Afghanistan. Afghan National Army Lt. Col. Amanullah Kohbandi, commanding officer, 5/1/215, believes the joint efforts of Marines and Afghans will help make a better country for his people.

“I am thankful the Marines are here to help,” said Kohbandi, speaking through an interpreter. “[As a logistics battalion] we’re the heart of the brigade. If the heart stops pumping, the blood stops flowing.”

The Marines and sailors of CLB-3’s EPT will continue training and mentor-



Cpl. Michael Wimberley, 22, goes over weapons handling with an Afghan soldier.

ing 5/1/215 until the spring of 2011 when CLB-3 is scheduled to redeploy. For the soldiers of 5/1/215, their passion for success is apparent in Kohbandi’s parting words: “As long as there is one drop of blood left in my veins . . . I will continue to stand and defend my country.”

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Vials of blood were collected for testing during a Walking Blood Bank pre-screening hosted by 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) at the Combined Aid Station, Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 20.

# BLOOD BANK

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Regional Command (Southwest) stepping forward to get screened,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Melissa Ramirez, blood coordinator with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). “It shows that we are one team, one fight.”

Flight delays can affect the timely delivery of blood products, and if patients need more blood than what is available, this is when the Walking Blood Bank becomes vital. It replenishes on-demand products within a short amount of time, helping medical personnel at the nearby hospital save lives, explained Ramirez.

The United Kingdom’s Bastion Hospital is one of the largest medi-



Master Gunnery Sgt. Gary Teicher, G-4, Headquarters and Support Company, 1st Marine Division (Forward), volunteers to have blood drawn during the Walking Blood Bank pre-screening at the Combined Aid Station, Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 20. More than 140 volunteers participated in the screening.

cal facilities in theater, treating everything from cuts and bruises to gunshot wounds and improvised explosive device blast injuries. With numerous patients being provided medical care on a daily basis, the medical staff goes the extra mile to make sure they are ready for any situation that may arise. By conducting Walking Blood Bank pre-screenings, the medical staff ensures they have enough volunteer blood donors in case of a mass casualty situation.

Coalition forces of all ranks, as well as civilian contractors, volunteered to roll up their sleeves for the opportunity to help out a ser-

vice member in the future.

“It is paramount to have volunteers,” said Ramirez, 25, from Federal Way, Wash. “Without those men and women who volunteer their time and health to be a donor, the outcome would be severe.”

It’s an opportunity to help those who may need it in a life-or-death situation, said Sgt. Juan Pena, aviation technician, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward).

“If it’s a way to contribute,” Pena said, “I will gladly help to save a fellow brother or sister.”

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# Dubbs takes reins of 7th ESB

Story and Photos by  
Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
1st MLG

**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** -Marines with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group conducted a change of command ceremony here, Nov. 19.

Lt. Col. Phillip Frieze, from Mesilla, N.M., passed the battalion colors to Lt. Col. Daniel Dubbs, from Villa Ridge, Mo., symbolizing the changing of command.

"Eighteen months ago, we began training together for Afghanistan," said Frieze, who is now the regimental executive officer for Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st MLG. "It's been an honor and a privilege to serve with these Marines."

Known as "The Big Red Seven" 7th ESB made a name for itself in Afghanistan for its continuous and tremendous support to operations, such as building new combat outposts, forward operating bases, assembling bridges and conducting road repairs all over Helmand province, Afghanistan.

"This is an outstanding battalion," said Dubbs, the incoming commanding officer for 7th ESB, 1st MLG. "I will continue to get them ready for deployments, maintain the high standards and carry on the proud heritage of the battalion."

Dubbs said he and his family have been serving the Marine Corps for 22 years, and they'll continue their devotion of duty with 7th ESB.



Lt. Col. Daniel Dubbs (left), from Villa Ridge, Mo., takes the battalion's colors, which symbolize the assuming of all duties and responsibilities as battalion commanding officer for 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, during a change of command ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 19. Dubbs said he and his family have been serving the Marine Corps for 22 years, and they'll continue their devotion of duty with 7th ESB.



Lt. Col. Phillip Frieze, the outgoing commander of 7th Engineer Support Battalion, bids farewell, Nov.19.



Lt. Col. Daniel Dubbs, the incoming commander of 7th Engineer Support Battalion, speaks to Marines, Nov.19.



## CLB-1 Marines celebrate Marine Corps birthday

Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, celebrated the 235th Marine Corps birthday at the Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula, Calif., Nov. 16. Combat Logistics Battalion 1 completed a 7-month tour to Afghanistan in April. During their deployment, they provided logistics support to Regimental Combat Team 1.

*Photo courtesy of Combat Logistics Battalion 1*



Marine combat engineers with Bridge Platoon, Charlie Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, put away pieces of a 108-foot bridge during a week-long bridge construction training exercise at Port Huene Naval Training Center, Calif., Nov. 18. By using manpower for almost everything they do, Marines were able to completely build the bridge with minimal heavy equipment support.

# 7th ESB conducts bridge training

Story and Photos by  
Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
1st MLG

**PORT HUENEME NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, Calif.** – Combat engineers with Bridge Platoon, Charlie Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted a week-long bridge construction training here, Nov. 14-19.

“7th ESB has just set up a bridge company so this is a great way to train and familiarize the Marines before we deploy to Afghanistan,” said 2nd Lt. Zachary Pederson, commander for Bridge Plt., C Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG. “It’s a great opportunity that the Navy’s 31st Construction Readiness Group provided us with to allow our Marines to come out and use their equipment for training.”

On Nov. 15, Navy personnel with 31st CRG introduced the tools and equipment that will be available for the Marine engineers to use in the field during the familiarization course. Wasting no time, the Marines got their hands dirty by constructing bridges as



**7th ESB Marines take apart a 108-foot bridge, Nov. 18.**

soon as the training was complete.

To prepare themselves for the big, bridge-building project Thursday, Marines started out with smaller projects to grasp the flow of operation, explained Pederson, 25, from Paola, Kan.

“This is their first time since [military occupational specialty] school that they get to build a bridge,” said Sgt. Christopher Ivester, combat engineer with Bridge Plt., C Co. 7th ESB, 1st MLG. “Even with their lack of experience, the Marines were able to fly through it in a timely manner.”

The Marines were the first group

of service members to completely assemble the 108-foot bridge, then take it apart. Everyone else who had gone before had only assembled half of the bridge and taken it apart in the same amount of time, said Ivester, 25, from Gastonia, N.C.

“As Marines, we do things differently,” said Ivester. “We use manpower for almost everything we do. By doing so, we can complete the bridge with minimum logistical support and therefore, less time consuming.”

With just five days to train, Marines tried to learn as much as they could about the flow of operation and the equipment they will be using overseas, said Ivester.

“The Marines are doing an outstanding job,” said Pederson. “They worked long hours with a heavy work load and never complained. The harder it gets, the more they push. They’ve received nothing but compliments from their instructors, the Navy personnel on base, their peers and myself. They’re ready for their upcoming deployment, and I have no doubt they will accomplish every mission.”

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# The 'Afghanistache'



Sgt. Abel Graciano, supply administration chief, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) is committed to growing a mustache during the month of November, dubbed "Movember," to promote prostate cancer awareness. Men around the globe commit to growing a mustache for 30 days in order to promote prostate cancer awareness. Graciano, 30, from Los Angeles, also participates in Movember in 2009. The funds raised through Movember's U.S. campaign benefits the Prostate Cancer Foundation and LIVESTRONG, the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

## Marines grow 'staches for men's health awareness

Story and Photos by  
Cpl. Shannon McMillan  
1st MLG (FWD)

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** – During the month of November, some Marines in Afghanistan are growing mustaches to raise awareness for men's health.

During the monthlong event, dubbed "Movember," growing a 'stache promotes prostate cancer awareness.

According to the Movember Web site, the mustache becomes the ribbon for men's health, the means by which awareness and funds are raised for cancers that affect men. Much like the commitment to run or walk for charity, the men of Movember commit to growing a mustache for 30 days.

"It's not the norm for Marines to have facial hair and to have it grown for a cause," said Sgt. Abel Graciano, supply administration chief, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), who began growing his mustache Nov. 1. "I am growing it in



support of men's health."

As much as it itches and requires extra hygiene maintenance to keep within military standards, Graciano is committed to growing his "nose neighbor."

"As much as I want to cut it off, I won't because I made a commitment and am in it for the long haul," said Graciano, who also participated in Movember in 2009.

It often gets the attention of close friends and co-workers when an individual grows a 'stache.

"Other males come up and ask me why all of a sudden I'm growing a mustache," said Graciano, 30, from Los Angeles. "I explain to them why and what the cause is for."

Informing others of the cause has not only helped spread the word but has also inspired others to commit to the cause.

The idea for Movember began 2003 in Melbourne, Australia, when a group of men conceived a plan for a

global men's health movement. Since then, Movember has continued to grow each year expanding to the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, Spain, South Africa, the Netherlands and Finland, according to the group's Web site.

The funds raised through Movember's U.S. campaign benefits the Prostate Cancer Foundation and LIVESTRONG, the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

"A few Marines have started to grow a mustache since I told them about it," he said. "I think they support it because it is different."

As November comes to an end, Graciano not only plans to finish his commitment but also plans to make future commitments during Movember.

"It's my way of showing support," said Graciano. "I'm not out there with a flyer or board," he said. "My personal appearance speaks louder than words."

For more information about Movember, visit <http://us.movember.com>.

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# 'Butte' out: Troops commit to quit during Great American Smokeout

Story and Photos by  
Cpl. Shannon McMillan  
1st MLG (FWD)

## CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan

– On Nov. 18 service members here participated in an event that people across the United States were also involved in, the 35th Annual Great American Smokeout, which urges people to stop using tobacco.

The medical staff from 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) visited service members around Camp Leatherneck and provided resources and support for those who wanted to quit smoking and quit using smokeless tobacco.

"The medical staff is making sure the military knows that help is available in country, and that it's never too early to make a change," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Reginald Burton, assistant leading petty officer for Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 1st MLG (FWD).

Service members had the opportunity to talk to medical providers on-site about methods on how to quit smoking. They were given information packets on how to quit, facts about tobacco and smokeless tobacco and available resources around Camp Leatherneck and back in the U.S.

According to the Great American Smokeout website, the event is intended to encourage smokers to make a commitment to stop using tobacco for at least one day.

"To have them stop for 24 hours allows them to see that they don't need it and that they can live without it," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Xavier Bell, corpsman with Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward).

Individuals who are committed to quitting for 24 hours are given points of contacts for classes and counseling.

"We have smoking-cessation classes, counseling and we can



Photo by Cpl. Paul D. Zellner II

**For tips on how to quit smoking, visit the American Cancer Society's Web site by clicking [here](#).**

provide gum and patches to military personnel, [Department of Defense] civilians as well as retired military," said Burton. "We know we helped some people make healthier choices."

"I've quit before but have always gone back," said Cpl. Thomas Davidson, refrigeration mechanic with 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. "But learning about all this stuff, the harmful chemicals, I feel better prepared."

The corpsmen were informative about tips on how to quit and methods that have helped others quit completely, said Davidson.

"I've always wanted to quit but never was in the right mindset," said Davidson, 29, from Jacksonville, Ill. "I know I will feel better quitting."

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### How to quit

1. Make the decision to quit
2. Set a quit date
3. Choose a plan

Source: [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

## Word — on the — Street

*Have you ever tried to quit smoking?*



*"I've tried quitting in the past; it didn't quite work out. I didn't have the drive to quit, not deep down inside."*

**HM1 James Bowes**  
Hospital Corpsman, 1st MLG (FWD)



*"I smoked for four years and quit a month before we deployed. It was the easiest thing I've ever done. I used to smoke five packs a day, then I just stopped one day. It wasn't about the money, it was just boring."*

**Lance Cpl. Meagan Roberts**  
G-6, 1st MLG (FWD)

# Marines learn how to ‘become the hunter’

Story and Photo by  
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin  
1st MLG

**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – Marines with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group attended a 5-day Combat Hunter Course here, Nov. 15-19.

The Combat Hunter Course teaches Marines how to observe, profile and locate dangerous targets. The observation and tracking skills are those similar to the skills used in hunting animals. These same skills can help Marines identify a threat and reduce risk. The goal is to make sure Marines are proactive instead of reactive on the battlefield. When a Marine is proactive they are looking to prevent things from happening instead of being reactive, such as waiting for danger to occur.

“We break down the course into three separate parts because each one has a significant value in becoming a successful hunter,” said Michael Blackwelder, the instructor of the combat hunter course. “The methods are used by hunters as well as police officers,” said Blackwelder, 26, from Carlsbad, Calif.

Some of the details they learned in the class were that certain colors and items on clothing can symbolize something important, such as religion, sacrifice or struggle. They also learned that observing how locals act and respond to the presence of Marines can lead to



**Marines with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, receive instruction during the Combat Hunter Course at Camp Pendleton, Nov. 17. The Combat Hunter Course teaches Marines how to observe, profile and locate dangerous targets. The observation and tracking skills are those similar to the skill set used in hunting animals. These same skills can help Marines identify a threat and reduce risk.**

valuable intelligence information the military can use against the enemy.

“The way people walk and act gives hints that something is wrong,” says Pfc. Sean Washington, a combat engineer with 7th ESB, 1st MLG. “The training provides good information so you can tell who is a threat before they can cause damage.”

Graduates of the course were trained to notice small details and use strange behavior of locals or things out of place to track an insurgent.

According to Blackwelder, the concept of the Combat Hunter Course

was conceived in 2007 by Gen. James Mattis, the commander of U.S. Central Command, when, as the commanding general, I Marine Expeditionary Force, he saw the need for Marines to have the mindset of predators instead of prey.

“I want to have a different mindset and outlook on the enemy,” said Lance Cpl. Brandon Porford, a combat engineer with 7th ESB, 1st MLG. “I want to be able to determine the enemy from the innocent civilians,” said Porford, 21 from New York.

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## American Idol semi-finalist performs for troops in Afghanistan

*Photos by Sgt. Brian Lautenslager*



(Left) Ayla Brown visits with troops during a visit to Camp Leatherneck, Nov. 14. (Above) The country singer crooned during a concert for the troops, Nov. 15.

# 'Beasts' dominate in playoffs

Story and Photo by  
Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
1st MLG

**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. --** "This is it, Beasts. Remember what all of you have been waiting for. Remember how we were practicing yesterday and wanting this as we watched the first game of the playoffs. Well, here's your time to take what you want. This is our house, the Beasts' house, and tonight, we're unleashing the Beasts," said Marvin Hill, head coach for 1st Marine Logistics Group football team, the Beasts.

After a successful regular season finishing second in the league, the Beasts defeated the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego's Titans, 19-0, at their first game in the playoffs at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 16.

Hill was confident coming into the game. He had no doubt that the team would come out victorious.

"The players have been working hard all season long and they're not going to stop now," said Hill.

Even though the MCRD Titans lost, they gave the Beasts a run for their money. For the first half of the game, the Titans' defense prevented the Beasts' players from getting into the end zone. By intercepting the ball and recovering two fumbles, the Titans' end zone remained untouched. However, they were not able to break through the brick wall of the Beasts' defense, the first half ended 0-0.

As the Beasts struggled to move the ball, Hill decided to make a few adjustments to the line-up and gave the team a renewed confidence.

"Everyone here can be a champ, so you've got to start thinking like a champ and start playing like a beast," said Hill. "You need to come together like you have [done] through the season. You can't start falling apart now that we're in the playoffs."

After the pep talk, the Beasts



**Eric Rogers, number 24, running back with the 1st Marine Logistics Group football team, the Beasts, rushes the ball toward the end zone during a playoff game against Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego's Titans at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 16. 'The players have been working hard all season long and they're not going to stop now,' said Marvin Hill, head coach for the Beasts, who was confident that his team would win.**

came into second half of the game with a different mentality. The passes were more accurate, the runs were tighter, offensive linemen prevented the Titans' defense from getting to the quarterback and running back, giving them enough time in the pocket to execute the plays.

The adjustment paid off as the Beasts scored a touchdown eight minutes into the third quarter, setting the new pace for the game. The Beasts' defense did their job by intercepting the ball, which gave possession back to 1st MLG. Just eight minutes later, they scored their second touchdown and a field goal, putting 13 points on the board for 1st MLG.

With a few minutes left on the clock, the Beasts shut out the

Titans' offense and scored their final touchdown of the night, ending the game at 19-0.

"The score board didn't show how we played," said Hill. "The three weeks off didn't help us at all. We need to work harder if we want to win the next game against [the School of Infantry.]"

Winning the first round of the playoffs put 1st MLG Beasts in the semi-finals. They are one step closer to the championship. The coaches and players encourage Marines and sailors of 1st MLG to come out and support the team. They've gotten through the first round, and are eager to take on their next challenge.

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