



NEWS

Afghan soldiers conduct patrol training exercise in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Cpl. Cody Haas



CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan – Marines with Task Force Belleau Wood advised Afghan National Army soldiers with 4th Tolai, 6th Kandak, 4th Brigade, 215th Corps, on patrolling techniques during a training exercise aboard Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan, April 19. Approximately 100 soldiers with the 4th Tolai were recently assigned as a security detail for Afghanistan's presidential elections. Now, these soldiers will combine forces with TFBW and assist with perimeter patrols in the area surrounding Camps Leatherneck, Bastion and Shorabak in the near future.

[\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Infantrymen disrupt Taliban lethal aid in Helmand province

Story and photos by Cpl. Joseph Scanlan

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – As the majority of Camp Leatherneck's residents were still asleep one typical Thursday morning, infantrymen with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, reinforced with Afghan commandos, prepared to depart friendly lines, April 17. Their two-day mission was to disrupt lethal enemy aid and to search three compounds of interest in an area suspected of Taliban influence. The compounds were suspected to contain a homemade-explosive lab, a cache for narcotics and be home to local Taliban leadership. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Georgian Liaison Team, 31st Georgian Light Infantry Battalion conduct air raid led by Afghan National Army soldiers

Story and photos by Sgt. Frances Johnson



HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan- A platoon of Georgian soldiers with the 31st Georgian Light Infantry Battalion and Marines with the Georgian Liaison Team conducted an air raid led by Afghan National Army soldiers in Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 12. The mission was to conduct a synchronized helicopter-borne and motorized raid in order to capture a high-value target.

[\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Coalition forces enhance leadership skills during noncommissioned officer symposium

Story and photos by Cpl. Cody Haas

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Multinational noncommissioned officers with Task Force Belleau Wood enhanced their leadership skills during a Coalition Committed and Engaged Leadership Symposium aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, April 20. Task Force Belleau Wood is comprised of approximately 3,400 Marines as well as a multitude of NATO International Security Assistance Force personnel to include 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment; a squadron from the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force referred to as TFBW's Force Protection Wing; the 31st Light Infantry Battalion from the Republic of Georgia and a Jordanian Armed Forces Task Force. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Service members celebrate Holy Week in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Cpl. Joshua Young



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan - Service members celebrated Holy Week and Easter aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 13-20. Holy Week is the last week of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, repentance and reflection, culminating with the celebration of Easter. Throughout the week there were many opportunities for people of the Christian faith to meet and share a fellowship with their fellow believers.

[\(Read the STORY\)](#)

PHOTOS

Helicopter dedicated to fallen 1/9 Marine

Photos by Lance Cpl. Zachary Martin

Marines with Motor Transportation Platoon, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, pose for a group photo with a helicopter that was recently dedicated to a fallen Marine aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 21, 2014. The helicopter was dedicated to Lance Cpl. Caleb Erickson, a motor transportation Marine with the battalion who was killed in action, Feb. 28, 2014. (USMC Photo By: Lance Cpl. Zachary B. Martin/released) ([See the PHOTOS](#))



Multinational Transatlantic Opinion Leaders visit Regional Command (Southwest)

Photos by Sgt. Frances Johnson



From left to right: Eric Povel from the Netherlands, Dr. Henning Riecke from Germany, Dr. Daniel Markey from the U.S., Dr. Vittorio Emanuele Parsi from Italy, Dr. Oliver Guillard from France and Peter Quentin from the United Kingdom, all Transatlantic Opinion Leaders, prepare to board a CH-53E Super Stallion aboard Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam, Afghanistan, April 14, 2014. A select group of multinational opinion leaders visited Regional Command (Southwest) as part of the Transatlantic Opinion Leaders tour of Afghanistan to see the different elements of International Security Assistance

Forces as well as the transition process across the region, April 14 and 15. While in Helmand province, the leaders were able to observe a principle security shura with key leaders from the province and RC(SW), and they visited with the District Executive Officer and other leaders of Sangin District aboard Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam. Additionally, they were able to visit the Afghan National Army Regional Corps Battle School aboard Camp Shorabak, as well as the Redeployment and Retrograde in support of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group's lot aboard Camp Leatherneck. (USMC Photo By: Sgt. Frances Johnson/released) ([See the PHOTOS](#))

R4OG Leadership Transfer of Authority ceremony held aboard Camp Leatherneck

Photos by Sgt. Frances Johnson

Colonel Joseph S. Whitaker, left, incoming commanding officer of Redeployment and Retrograde in support of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group, gives his remarks during a transfer of authority ceremony for R4OG aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, April 22, 2014. The unit is the Marine Corps' task-organized provisional retrograde and redeployment force. It is comprised of approximately 350 Marines and sailors of more than 60 military occupational specialties and sourced from 95 parent commands within all three Marine Expeditionary Forces and the Marine Corps Forces Reserve. The mission of R4OG is to facilitate the retrograde and redeployment of the Marine Air Ground Task Force from Afghanistan by receiving all reusable Marine Corps equipment and supplies that it deems excess to its mission. (USMC Photo By: Sgt. Frances Johnson/released) ([See the PHOTOS](#))



Dustoff Splash Dash 5K brings color to runners in Helmand province

Photos by Sgt. Frances Johnson



Participants throw colored cornstarch into the air to celebrate completing the Dustoff "Splash Dash" 5K aboard Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, April 19, 2014. The medical evacuation squadron known as the "Dustoff" hosted a 5K run for service members aboard Camps Bastion and Leatherneck to bring a little fun and stress relief to the coalition forces of Regional Command (Southwest). Participants were encouraged to dress in costumes and accessories for the run and come out to build camaraderie. (USMC Photo By: Sgt. Frances Johnson/Released). ([See the PHOTOS](#))

Girl Scouts donate cookies for service members in Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan

Photos by Cpl. Cody Haas

Navy Lt. j.g. David Hostetler, left, a chaplain for Regional Command (Southwest), carries three boxes of donated Girl Scout cookies for troops aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, April 24, 2014. The Girl Scouts of Nassau County, New York, donated more than 5,700 boxes of cookies to service members in Helmand province. (USMC photo By: Cpl. Cody Haas) ([See the PHOTOS](#))



VIDEO

Deployed Marines run triathlon in honor of MARSOC Foundation

Video by Cpl. Joshua Young



Marines with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, United States Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466, participate in the 2014 Leadman Triathlon "Afghanistan Edition" aboard Camp Bastion, Helmand province. The Marines ran the triathlon in honor of the MARSOC foundation and Master Sgt. Aaron Torian, a MARSOC Marine who was killed in combat operations earlier this year. The event included rowing, cycling and running. ([Watch the VIDEO](#))

Here's Your War: Guardians of Nolay keep advisors, camp secure

Video by Cpl. Joshua Young

A team of Marines assigned as the general support unit with Security Force Assistance Advisor Team 2-215 is known as the "Guardians of Nolay" aboard Forward Operating Base Nolay, Helmand province, Afghanistan. Their mission is to ensure the safety of everyone aboard the base and to provide security for advisors, medics and the helicopter landing zone. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)



Freedom File: Valued Training

Video by Army Sgt. Chiquita Pena



Marines and coalition forces advise Afghan National Army soldiers at the Regional Corps Battle School at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan.

[\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)

Freedom File: Three Teams, Two Birds, One Country

Video by Army Sgt. Chiquita Pena

The U.S. Marine Georgian Liaison Team, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron HMH-466, and the Republic of Georgia's 31st Light Infantry Battalion conduct a compound search training mission and aerial reconnaissance mission.

[\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)



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