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NEWS

Afghan National Army senior leadership visits Camp Garmsir

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr



CAMP GARMSIR, Afghanistan - Senior Afghan National Army officials visited the soldiers of 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, here, May 2. The visit was led by Lt. Gen. Mohammad Akram, the ANA vice chief of general staff, and Maj. Gen. Sayeed Malook, the 215th Corps commanding general, who traveled to Camp Garmsir to meet with Brig. Gen. Mohammad Ali Sujaie, the 1st Brigade, 215th Corps commanding general and his U.S. Marine partner, Col. Roger B. Turner, the Regimental Combat Team 5 commanding officer. Prior to the arrival of ANA senior leadership, Sujaie and Turner, along with their respective staffs, met to discuss the future of the ANA and Marine partnership in southern Helmand province. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

The complete IED detection team

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez

KHAN NESHIN DISTRICT, Afghanistan – A team of two jumped out of the vehicle as it came to a stop at a chokepoint on the road. While Ace, an improvised explosive device detection dog, wandered around the vehicle, Cpl. Sean Grady, Ace's handler and a pointman with Echo Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, began preparing his sickle and combat metal detector. The pair then proceeded with what they do best: clearing a safe path for their fellow Marines. They moved down the road in a carefully choreographed dance, methodically searching for the disguised and dangerous devices. Grady, a 27-year-old native of Otho, Iowa, launched Ace forward with an array of hand signals and verbal commands, while he swept the path with his CMD. Grady's choice to enlist in the Marine Corps was influenced by the loss of a best friend, Sgt. Jon Bonnell, who sacrificed his life in Al Anbar Province, Iraq in 2008 while serving with 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. "He was one of my best friends in high school," said Grady, who graduated with Bonnell from Fort Dodge Senior High School. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Marines advise, train Afghan National Army

Story and photos by Marine Lance Cpl. Mark Garcia



MUSA QA'LEH DISTRICT CENTER, Afghanistan — In a time of transition, Marines with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment's embedded training team work to establish an effective Afghan fighting force. While deployed, the ETTs main effort is to ensure the Afghan National Army can provide future security and well being for the local population. They see how the ANA operates and what they're deficient at and what areas they need help in. By doing this, the ETT ensures they are able to train, advise and mentor the ANA properly. "We train, mentor and develop the kandak staff and develop the kandakas a whole into a warfighting unit that can sustain the security for Afghanistan after we leave," said 1st Lt.

Richard Marcantonio, the ETT operations officer. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Through dust, heat, ANA lead operation to success

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Timothy Lenzo

TREK NAWA, Afghanistan – The people in Trek Nawa, an area between the Marjah and Nawa district, were witnesses to an unusual sight April 23-26. The Afghan National Army dispatched about 190 soldiers from various tolais within 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, to areas throughout the expanding landscape. During this maneuver, Marines with 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment partnered with the kandak to clear the area during the Afghan-led Operation High Noon 15. To reach their objectives, Afghan soldiers with their Marine counterparts often hiked through a range of open, dry, dusty ground to lush green fields in knee-high plants. During the operation, three Afghan tolais patrolled from north to south, clearing the area, while searching for weapon caches and improvised explosive devices. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



'Eyes on the enemy': Marines man northernmost position in Kajaki

Story and photos by Marine Lance Cpl. Tyler Reiriz



FORWARD OPERATING BASE ZEEBRUGGE, Afghanistan — Key commanders of Afghan and Marine forces took a tour of a vital partnered position in Kajaki, April 20. Brigadier General Abdul Wasea, commanding general of 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, and Colonel John R. Shafer, commanding officer of Regimental Combat Team 6, inspected the position and talked to Marines and Afghan National Army soldiers at Observation Post Shrine. OP Shrine is the northernmost Marine position in Kajaki. It occupies the high ground along the northern side of the Helmand River, preventing insurgent forces from crossing the river and moving south. The commanders asked the Marines and soldiers about the post and what it is like for the men serving there. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Lejeune Marines and Afghan forces unleash Operation Reservoir Dogs

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. James Mercure

Marines from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, along with Afghan National Security Forces, descended on the small town of Sabzikar to root out and eliminate insurgents operating in the area during Operation Reservoir Dogs, May 1. In the early morning darkness, MV-22 Ospreys dropped the Marines and ANSF into an open field. From there, they silently moved to their first objective to establish a base of operations before conducting the sweep of the town. At first light, insurgents unleashed an onslaught of heavy machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and sniper fire on the Marines' positions. **(Read the STORY)**



2/5 Marines search suspicious compounds in Musa Qa'leh

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Kenneth Jasik



MUSA QALEH DISTRICT, Afghanistan – During Operation Lariat, Marines and sailors patrolled the Musa Qaleh district to an area previously untouched by coalition forces, April 14-18. Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, engaged in multiple firefights with insurgents while searching suspicious buildings for supplies used by insurgents east of their normal operating area. “Right before we got to the town with our objectives, we started taking fire,” said Lance Cpl. Elliott Del Rio, rifleman with Golf Co. “We moved to a hilltop and held our ground.” During the next two hours of fighting, Golf Co. Marines received heavy fire, but they were able to take control of the situation using accurate machine gun and mortar fire. The Marines had no cover, and one was shot, but many more insurgents were killed or wounded. **(Read the STORY)**

Combat Logistics Battalion 4 expands patrols to include new supply routes

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Mark Stroud

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan— Marines with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), conducted a combat logistics patrol along Route Red-West for the first time and provided tactical logistics support to Forward Operating Base Now Zad, April 21-26. The CLB-4 patrol delivered 235 tons of supplies and 5,000-gallons of fuel during the operation and retrograded 155 tons of supplies and equipment on their return trip. “Taking a new route during a [combat logistics patrol] is a challenge because we have to learn the atmospheric along the route,” said 2nd Lt. Charlise Brooks, platoon commander, 2nd Platoon, Alpha Co., CLB-4. Alpha Co. **(Read the STORY)**



Afghan Army clears area of IEDs

U.K. Defence News



The Afghan National Army's first major operation this spring has resulted in the clearance of improvised explosive devices from a 25-square-kilometre area and the recovery of three weapons caches. Operation SHAFUQ (which means 'dawn' in Pashtu) is a large-scale Afghan National Army (ANA) operation to clear the Bowri Dashte area of Nad 'Ali. The operation was conceived, planned and executed by the ANA, with on-the-ground advice provided by British soldiers. More than 600 warriors from the ANA and 170 International Security Assistance Force advisors, including British soldiers from the Brigade Advisory Group, have been involved in the operation. The ISAF advisors include soldiers from 3rd Battalion The Rifles and 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. The mission began with the clearance of an area known as the 'Shark's Fin'. Afghan Explosive Hazard Reduction Teams took the lead in defeating improvised explosive devices found with guidance and mentoring from UK specialists. **(Read the STORY)**

3 YORKS takes control of Nahr-e Saraj

U.K. Defence News

5th Battalion The Rifles handed over responsibility for security in Nahr-e Saraj (South) in Helmand province to 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment on 29 April 2012. Nahr-e Saraj district is one of three in Helmand where British troops are deployed, and the last where Task Force Helmand retains the lead for security after the successful transition of Nad 'Ali and Lashkar Gah to Afghan control. At a ceremony held in the centre of Patrol Base 2 on Sunday morning, the flag of 5th Battalion The Rifles (5 RIFLES) was lowered and replaced with that of 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (3 YORKS). **(Read the STORY)**



Breaking bread key to building trust between Afghans, Marines⁵

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Timothy Lenzo



FORWARD OPERATING BASE GERONIMO, Afghanistan – “Shana ba shana” is a Dari saying that Sgt. Christopher Scott has heard since he arrived here in December 2011. The saying translates to shoulder-to-shoulder. Afghan forces say it’s a way to describe someone’s work ethic and shows the effort they put in with others. For Scott, a logistics advisor with the Embedded Training Team, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, it means taking a night off from the gym to spend time with his Afghan allies. “I’ll take my personal time to come over and hangout, watch television and just talk to them,” said Scott, from Ogdensburg, N.Y. About once a month Scott sits down with the Afghan soldiers he trains and serves alongside with to eat a meal and drink chai tea. Sometimes it’s only Scott. Other times it’s an entire squad of Marines. Scott said he sees the time as more than TV and food, but as part of his job and dedication to the Afghans he works with. He said finding ways to build rapport with the Afghan soldiers is very important in order to attain their trust. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Sighting in on the big picture, Afghan sees independence

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Timothy Lenzo

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan—Fifth Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company from Okinawa, Japan, is putting an emphasis on “liaison” in what they do in Helmand province as they support the 31st Georgian Light Infantry Battalion. The ANGLICO units usually have a difficult enough mission as it is, but with Marines at Patrol Base Eredvi supporting the Georgian Army, things get a little more complicated because few of the troops they support speak English. “ANGLICO is designed to provide fire support for units that can’t provide it for themselves,” said Capt. Garick Lue-Chung, team leader. “We provide close air support and mainly artillery for units that don’t have their own air or their own artillery support.” The same is true for the junior enlisted troops in the field. Lance corporals direct fire in from multiple sources: aircraft or big guns, at the same time as working through surveillance feeds from aircraft. All this while being in contact with the enemy. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



HEROES

Bomb disposal troops receive Afghanistan campaign medals

U.K. Defence News



Around 200 soldiers from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Search Task Force gathered at Waterbeach Barracks recently to receive their Afghanistan campaign medals. The Task Force was drawn from 29 contributing units from all three Services, and from four nations - the UK, Denmark, Estonia and the United States. The majority of the soldiers on parade were from 39 Engineer Regiment, which is based at Waterbeach Barracks, and 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), which is based a short distance away in Wimbish. During Operation HERRICK 15, between October 2011 and April 2012, the Task Force was at the forefront of the fight against deadly improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan. Working in teams, the Task Force provides three main capabilities - high risk search, IED disposal and conventional munitions disposal - and is responsible for finding and disposing of all

IEDs and explosive ordnance within Helmand. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

VIGNETTES

From looking after president to watching out for Marines: One man's journey

Story and photos by Marine Lance Cpl. Mark Garcia

MUSA QA'LEH DISTRICT CENTER, Afghanistan — When Sgt. Andrew Jender, watch chief for 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, enlisted in the Marine Corps, he envisioned himself becoming an infantryman but he had no idea he would be looking after the president. Three days after his high school graduation during June 2008, Jender was on his way to recruit training. While there, Jender was screened to become a part of the presidential security detail at Camp David. "I was originally planning to go into the infantry, but they selected me for the presidential security instead," Jender said. "It was rough at first because I joined to be in the infantry so I wanted to be in the fleet doing infantry things. Now that I look back on it though even though, there were some long days, it was worth it. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Wisconsin native leads Marines through firefights during deployment

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Timothy Lenzo



TREK NAWA, Afghanistan – Leadership is a fundamental part of the Marine Corps. Leaders train new leaders: from a fire team of four, to Marines at the highest levels. Corporal Ryan Theis, a squad leader, carries a certain presence with him. He presents a formidable stature at more than 6 feet tall. This is his second deployment, but first as a squad leader. During his time here, he's already led his Marines through various firefights, and found weapons caches and improvised explosive devices; all while taking good care of the Marines under his charge. Theis, a native of Fond Du Lic, Wis., was elevated to the position of squad leader while serving in Afghanistan. "Quality leadership is extremely important in the Marines," said Theis, currently serving with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Georgia native goes above and beyond for man's best friend

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Timothy Lenzo

TREK NAWA, Afghanistan – Many children beg their parents for a dog. The floppy ears and wagging tail seems to attract children to man's best friend. But many parents know that caring for a dog means a lot of responsibility, training and effort. Dog handlers in the Marine Corps not only shoulder those same responsibilities — they volunteer for it. Then take on the responsibilities of being deployed to Afghanistan as well. A dog handler's job can be exhausting, with an additional month of dog handler school, combined with months of predeployment training. For Cpl. Jeffery Rodriguez, a dog handler with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, those responsibilities are more like a privilege. What sets Rodriguez apart from other dog handlers is the personal effort he puts into Dharma, a 4-year-old Labrador retriever. "He's the best dog handler I've ever seen," said Sgt. Edward Welsh, Rodriguez's squad leader. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Marine and Afghan soldier transform dirt, rocks into detailed map

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Timothy Lenzo



FORWARD OPERATING BASE GERONIMO, Afghanistan – Marines and Afghan National Army leaders stand around the 10-by-10-foot box, marked off with 2-by-4-inch construction wood and rope. The designated area that was nothing more than dirt and rocks the day prior is now a detailed map of roads, formations and geographical obstacles. Next to solid mud walls and away from the tents and buildings inside the compound, the group of military leaders discusses their next operation. Among those in attendance are Capt. Stephen Walker, the operations advisor with the Embedded Training Team, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment and ANA 1st Sgt. Mubarak, the operations first sergeant with 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps. Together they transformed an unused part of a base into a briefing area for the kandak staff. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Flag from a father-to-be: Marine in Afghanistan dedicates flag to baby boy

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. Michael Cifuentes

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — First Lt. Phillip M. Downey has a unique gift from Afghanistan for his soon-to-be-born son at home. He is sending his upcoming baby boy the Stars and Stripes, which flew 50 feet above the Task Force Leatherneck compound here, April 28. Downey is currently serving a year deployment to Helmand province with 1st Marine Division (Forward) and said he doesn't think he'll be able to make it home in time to see his son born, so he dedicated a flag to him. "One day I want him to understand that there was a reason why I wasn't there," said Downey, a 25-year-old St. Louis native. Downey is combat engineer officer by trade, but serves as a fragmentation order manager working in the combat operations center at the Task Force Leatherneck compound – the ground combat element command and control cell for Marine operations here. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Texas Marine cooks on the go in southern Helmand

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez



KHAN NESHIN DISTRICT, Afghanistan - U.S. Marine Cpl. Kleber Villalva, a section leader with Echo Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, is currently serving his third combat deployment in southern Helmand. Villalva, a 22-year-old Houston native, has consumed his fair share of Meals Ready-to-Eat during long training exercises and previous deployments to Iraq in 2008 and Afghanistan in 2010. These packaged meals are a staple in the diet of most Marines and sailors participating in a field operation or serving a combat deployment. But when he stepped foot here in October 2011, he decided to break from the time-honored diet, and challenge himself to stick to an MRE free selection of food. "Being on my third deployment, I figured that I was tired of eating just packaged food," said Villalva. "Sometimes your stomach can get backed up with what they put in the MREs." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Saipan native keeps artillery battery rolling

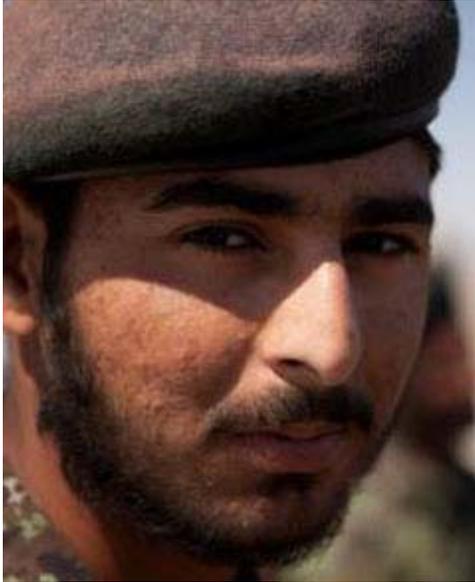
Story and photos by Marine Sgt. James Mercure

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ZEEBRUGGE, Afghanistan - What if the first steps you took on American soil were upon the yellow footprints at the gateway to Marine Corps bootcamp? Private First Class Damian Hideo, motor transport operator, Golf Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, was recruited from his hometown of Afetna, Saipan, and his first time flying overseas was to become a Marine. "I joined right at 17 to go along with the Marine Corps lineage in my family," Hideo said. "I went to boot camp with two of my classmates from school in Saipan, so I knew they were going through the same things as I was, and it helped me get through it." While growing up in Saipan, a part of the United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hideo learned how to work on engines from his father. He also knew that he wanted to follow his family's tradition of service in the Marine Corps, and so signing up as a motor transport operator seemed like the right fit to him. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Afghan mechanic serves country for better future

Story and photos by Marine Staff Sgt. Brian Buckwalter



FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELARAM II, Afghanistan – For some in the Afghan population, joining the Afghan National Security Forces for is not just about finding a better life for themselves, but for their entire country. Staff Sgt. Jan Mohammed represents this segment. He didn't have to join the army – car mechanics are needed just about everywhere – but he says “it's the way I help my country.” He encourages more Afghans to do the same, saying there are many ways to serve and support the Afghan government. Mohammed is one of 13 Afghan National Army soldiers with 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, who graduated April 26 from a month-long mechanics course at Delaram. He was the top graduate in the class, recognized with a certificate for his achievement. He had an advantage over the other students, working as a mechanic before joining the Afghan National Army, fixing Toyotas Corollas and other types of civilian vehicles in Gardez city, Paktia province. Now, he says, he can use his experience to fix the ANA's diesel trucks. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

For instant morale – just add water

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. Michele Watson

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WHITEHOUSE, Afghanistan – After a 12-hour foot patrol in the baking heat of the Afghan desert, a shower to wash away the grime and the grit could be the one oasis the Marines and sailors here look forward to upon completing their arduous task. When Marines from Support Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) first arrived at Forward Operating Base Whitehouse, the oasis was only a mirage. Within a few weeks, a team of three Marines turned a forgotten luxury into a reality and organized the construction of shower and laundry facilities for service members at the base. “When we got here there was nothing,” said Cpl. Tammy La Pierre, the water point non-commissioned officer-in-charge at FOB Whitehouse. “It was basically for the morale of the Marines here with [1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment] to provide laundry and showers.” Nicknamed “Water Dog,” La Pierre was the only water purification specialist at the FOB and had a big mission to fulfill. To help with the task, two Marines from Support Co. joined the “Water Dog” team and received on-the-job training. Lance Cpl. Bobby Branch, an electrician, used his skills to provide power to the structures after they were built. “To get the showers up and running, I ran wires from the generator to the power distributor,” said Branch. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



From Texas to Afghanistan – Marshall native leads Marines on deployment

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. Michele Watson



FORWARD OPERATING BASE WHITEHOUSE, Afghanistan – The day that Forward Operating Base Whitehouse, Afghanistan, came under attack started out like any other day. As a landing support specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), and the team leader for the Helicopter Support Team at the FOB, Lance Cpl. Thomas Beranek and the Marines under his charge live next to the landing zone where aircraft frequently come in. “We were sitting in the tent, and we heard shots being fired,” said Beranek, 20, a Marshall, Texas native. The group of Marines quickly put their gear on and began to exit the tent as bullets started punching holes through the tent walls. “We were up on the berm engaging the enemy, and we heard that someone got shot,” Beranek said. “As I was getting accountability, I realized it was one of my Marines.” Prior to deployment, Marines receive a class on combat life saving that teaches basic medical care that can save lives in a firefight. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

VIDEOS

Armored Personnel Carrier Test Drive, Package

Video by Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Symonds

Members of the Estonia Army gave soldiers of the U.S. Army a test drive in an armored personnel carrier. The vehicle is used by at least ten countries around the world. Includes soundbites from Staff Sgt. Peeter Juurik, National Support Element (NSE-12) Estonian Army. Lead: When taking a car for a test drive from the local dealer, you might not think about how tactical the vehicle really is. Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Symonds got a chance to take a very different kind of vehicle out for a test drive. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)



Attack on FOB Whitehouse

Courtesy Video



U.S. Marines and Sailors with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6 engage enemy forces at Forward Operating Base Whitehouse in Kajaki, Helmand province Afghanistan March 19, 2012. U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. James M. Mercure, Combat Correspondent, narrates how Marines, Sailors, and Afghanistan National Civil Order Police repelled an enemy attack of combined small arms fire from a nearby ridgeline that ultimately ended in the capture of multiple insurgents armed with heavy machine guns and precision rifles. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)

Operation Jaws

Courtesy Video

U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Daniel F. O'Brien , Alpha Company Commander with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6 talks about Operation Spear Gun in the village of Urmus, Helmand province, Afghanistan Apr. 4, 2012. Operation Spear Gun was a 5 day operation during which coalition forces were sent to disrupt the insurgents' finances, control threats, and discover any improvised explosive devices that may be present in the village prior to Afghan forces assuming control. **(Watch the VIDEO)**



Capt. Daniel F. O'Brien

Courtesy Video



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Marines Say Goodbye to Fallen Brother

Video by Marine Lance Cpl. Mark Garcia



On a hot sunny, quiet Friday morning over 100 Marines gathered to honor Cpl. Alex Martinez, a fallen comrade during a memorial ceremony in the Afghanistan sunlight, April 13. He was killed in action, April 5 while conducting combat operations in Now Zad District. Soundbites include Lt. Col. Jason Perry, commanding officer of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Lt. Col. Andrew Niebel, commanding officer of 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Navy Lt. Loren Crone, 1st CEB's chaplain and Cpl. Brandon A. Derrick, combat engineer with 1st CEB. **(Watch the VIDEO)**

MORE NEWS

Brigade Advisory Group prepare for Operation SHAFUQ

Marine truck convoys begin base closure

Cyclops fuels up 1st Tanks

Marine welder keeps heavy-duty trailers operable in Afghanistan, saves Corps thousands

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The bucket List: Seabee's wish granted, courtesy of country music legend

SAAM: 'We will not tolerate sexual assault,' says NMCB-11

MEDIA COVERAGE/Interviews

Thank you for your service based on Featured photo and Story by Sgt. James Mercure, Doc with "million dollar wound" still helping Marines on second deployment

painfoundation.org/ Exit Wounds based on Featured photo and Story by Sgt. James Mercure, Doc with "million dollar wound" still helping Marines on second deployment

business insider.com “This badass medic Got shot in a firefight and just kept saving lives” Featured photo and Story by Sgt. James Mercure, Doc with “million dollar wound” still helping Marines on second deployment

times247.com “Medic ignored wounds and kept fighting, saving lives” based on Featured photo and Story by Sgt. James Mercure, Doc with “million dollar wound” still helping Marines on second deployment

liveleak.com “Attack on FOB Whitehouse” based on Video by Sgt. James Mercure, Attack on FOB Whitehouse

Military Times - Frontline Photos based on (Featured photo by Cpl. Lodder), The Last Patrol: ‘America’s Battalion’ Marines near completion of Helmand tour

Bomb Detection Duo - The Long War Journal (Featured photo by Cpl. Lopez), The complete IED detection team

Marine shares his love of Corps, culinary arts(Article based on story by Cpl. Lopez) Cooking for a company: Virginia native serves 1st LAR in Afghanistan)

In Focus: Afghanistan 2012 - The Atlantic (based on featured photo by Cpl. Lopez), Marines and sailors remember caring, fearless brother in Marjah)

Military Times - Frontline Photos based on (Featured photo by Cpl. Lodder), Navy corpsmen treat Afghan police wounded by suicide bomber

War Dog - MilitarySpot.com (Story by Cpl. Lodder)

Navy Seaman (HN) Elliott Johns, talks to talks to a WTKF-FM reporter in Morehead City,N.C.

Gunnery Sgt. Christina Aultman – Fox Sports Radio-National

Keep me current/ Sun chronicle: the Interview with Brandon Audie

