



## NEWS

### Victory is in the BAG – British Advisory Group Soldiers Mentor Afghan Army Led Operation

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Mark Garcia and Sgt. James Mercure



KAKARAN, Afghanistan - To best judge a teacher, look at his students' progress. During Operation Atash June 18 through 20, Afghan National Army soldiers with the 215th Corps cleared the town of Kakaran of improvised explosive devices and insurgents, while British Advisor Teams from the Brigade Advisory Group acted as a mobile quick reaction force. "The operation was to clear the area of insurgents, IED components and IED-making facilities from the lower Gareshk valley," said British Army Maj. Rupert King-Evans, fire support company commander, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and a London native. "The key point from this operation is that it was an Afghan operation supported by

(International Security Assistance Forces) and not the other way around. The Afghans planned the operation. We only offered advice, and when they requested, we provided direct support for them." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

### Afghans ready for security responsibility in Delaram

Story and photos by Marine Staff Sgt. Brian Buckwalter

DELARAM DISTRICT CENTER, Afghanistan – Senior Afghan and coalition leadership discussed an impending Delaram district security transition during a meeting Wednesday, June 27. British Army Brigadier Stuart Skeates, deputy commander of Regional Command (Southwest), traveled to Delaram to meet with the Afghan National Security Force, Afghan government leaders, and Marines with Regimental Combat Team 6. The regiment advises their Afghan partners through embedded and civil affairs teams. "There's real progress," Skeates said about the ANSF and local government capabilities. "There's confidence. The Afghans are up for (the security transition), and they can look after themselves." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## Fire Support Team provides close-air support for combat logistics patrols

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. Michele Watson



HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan-- One of the greatest advantages coalition forces have against insurgents in Afghanistan is close-air support. Close-air support provides fires to destroy, disrupt, suppress, fix, harass, neutralize or delay enemy forces through the use of fixed-wing aircraft and attack helicopters. When Marines are in contact with the enemy, someone must be able to communicate with available pilots for an aerial assault to be effective. The Fire Support Team, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), is the link between 1st MLG (Fwd) units and the support in the sky. "For MLG, our mission is to provide fire support for convoys or engineer operations throughout Helmand province," said

Sgt. Jonathan Broadnax, Joint Terminal Attack Controller, FST, 1st MLG (Fwd). "We do that by utilizing aircraft that provide close-air support, route reconnaissance, armed escort and intelligence." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## RAF protecting Camp Bastion

U.K. Defence News

Personnel from Number 5 RAF Force Protection Wing, based at RAF Lossiemouth, have now been deployed at Camp Bastion for two months where they have responsibility for providing security at the main British base in Helmand province. Number 5 RAF Force Protection Wing, comprising members of the Wing Headquarters, 51 Squadron RAF Regiment and 2622 (Highland) Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment, left RAF Lossiemouth on 16 April 2012 and the personnel are now two months into their deployment to Afghanistan. They are serving with members of No 2 (Tactical) Police Squadron from RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire, soldiers from the Tonga Defence Services and elements of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery, which together form the



Bastion Force Protection Wing. Since their arrival they have taken responsibility for the security of the Camp Bastion complex, one of the busiest airfields in the world with over 28,000 people working on-site. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## Defence scientists 10 years supporting Afghan front line

U.K. Defence News



It has been more than ten years since science and technology experts based at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) first deployed to Afghanistan in support of UK operations. Since then, more than 350 separate deployments have been undertaken by Dstl personnel in a range of roles including the position of deployed Scientific Adviser, which was established in Afghanistan in 2006. Dstl's expert level of scientific and analytical advice has been available, without interruption, to military commanders in Afghanistan since the summer of 2005. This is the longest ever continuous deployment of scientific personnel to an overseas operational theatre since the Second World War. The first Dstl Operational Analyst

deployed to Kabul with 3rd (UK) Division in February 2002 in order to provide scientific and technological analyses in support of military commanders' operational decisions. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## HEROES

### Memorial mortar for fallen Marine begins long journey home

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan – On October 11, 2010, Marines with 81mm mortar platoon, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, lost one of their brothers. Sergeant Frank Zaehringer, a squad leader and native of Reno, Nev., died of wounds he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near a patrol he was leading through Helmand province's Marjah District. "He was like a father figure to me," said Cpl. Zackery P. Haglund, a 21-year-old native of Bayou George, Fla., and team leader with Weapons Co. "He knew his Marines really well, and he wasn't scared of anything. Whenever there was a firefight, he always led towards it." The Marines of Zaehringer's platoon decided to honor him by firing an 81mm illumination mortar on the day of their loss. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## VIGNETTES

### Corpsmen Up: Wing sailors gain combat life-saving experience

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Isaac Lamberth



CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan - The Bastion Role 3 hospital is known in Helmand province for its superb medical care and the extraordinary talent of its medical staff. Completing a three-week tour at the hospital, two sailors from Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 gained combat life-saving experience and were able to apply their training while there. Navy Petty Officers 3rd Class Nicholas Becker and Joshua Blanchard, hospital corpsmen with the squadron, began working at the Bastion-based hospital hoping to put their medical training to use. They would soon be put to the test as the hospital regularly receives combat injuries. Known to some simply as 'Role 3,' the code for the top echelon of

medical care provided, the Bastion hospital is the only one of its kind in Regional Command Southwest and one of three in the entire country. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

### Fighting Irish: deployed crew chief fulfills dream

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Lisa Tourtelot

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Flying over southwestern Afghanistan, a voice came over the radio, drawing the crew chiefs' attention to a large truck and SUVs racing through the desert. Marines with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469, "Vengeance," were performing aerial reconnaissance in the area, looking for any suspicious vehicles or potential insurgent activity. Binghamton, N.Y., native, Lance Cpl. Seamus Clarke, is on his first deployment, much like his squadron, but he is well prepared for combat. "My brother's a Marine, my family was all in the Marine Corps, so it's kind of a tradition," said Clarke. "I joined the Marine Corps because ever since I was a little kid, I've always been taught that you need to serve your country before you can go on and do your own thing in life." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## Houston corpsman holds own, saves lives with 2/5 Marines

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Timothy Lenzo



KAJAKI, Afghanistan – The brotherhood and friendly rivalry between sailors and Marines spans across the history of both military branches. Whether it's a sailor jokingly calling a Marine a "jarhead" or a Marine retorting with calling the sailor a "squid," the two branches are always closely linked. Corpsmen, who support both the Navy and Marine Corps, often find themselves stuck in the crossfire. Petty Officer 3rd Class Norberto Zamora, a hospital corpsman with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6, finds himself surrounded by Marines every day. Service members from the Army, Navy and Air force, can find it difficult to attach to a Marine infantry company because they must earn the respect of the Marines around them. They have to be able to prove themselves. "We always tease (Zamora) about being a sailor," said Lance Cpl. Kevin Wallen, an infantryman

with the battalion. "He jokes back and holds his own with the Marines." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## VIDEOS

### Afghan National Army Soldiers Take Lead in Op Atash-Qalb

Video by Marine Cpl. Mark Garcia

As coalition forces continue to withdraw from Afghanistan, Afghan National Army soldiers took the lead in Operation Atash-Qalb, June 18-20. During the three-day operation over 400 ANA soldiers along with 50 coalition force advisors cleared the village of Kakaran located in the lower Gereshk valley. The operation was designed to clear the area of insurgents and also to secure a foothold for the ANA in the area. The advisor group consisted of British Army soldiers and United States Marines. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)



### Afghans Ready for Security Responsibility in Delaram

Video by Marine Staff Sgt. Brian Buckwalter



Throughout Afghanistan coalition forces are stepping back as Afghans take on more responsibility for security in their own country. As Marine Staff Sgt. Brian Buckwalter reports, in southwest Afghanistan, that transition will happen soon and the Afghans in the region are ready. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)

### This Is My Life, Episode 3

Video by Marine Cpl. Timothy Lenzo

This is my life is a video journal blog of Marines in Afghanistan, documenting their daily life. This episode follows Lance Cpl. Geoffrey West, an infantryman with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)



## **Keeping Our Honor Clean: CLB-4 Detachments (FOB Nolay)**

*Video by Marine Sgt. John Jackson*



This is part five of a series of videos about 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) noncommissioned officers and their professionalism, hard work and dedication to the mission while deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. This video features the Marines and noncommissioned officers of Combat Logistics Battalion 4 who are at Forward Operating Base Nolay. ([Watch the VIDEO](#))

## **Marketed/Republished Combat Correspondent Product**

**Lt. Col. Colin Smith talks with a WRAS-FM reporter**

**On The Ground With Troops In Afghanistan - NPR Tom Bowman discusses his recent trip to Afghanistan which included time in Marjah district.**

**Trip To Afghanistan Gives Uncertain Outlook - NPR Tom Bowman discusses his recent trip to Afghanistan which included time in Marjah district.**

**Sgt Karl Martin talks to a WTKF-FM, N.C.**

**Staff Sgt. Edward Urbany talks to a WTKF-FM, N.C.**

**Sgt. Rolando Ventura on the Pentagon Channel**

**Afghan National Army Soldiers Train with Heavy Equipment on the Pentagon Channel**

**Cpl. Miller talks to a reporter with the South Washington County Bulletin**

---