

# Regional Command Southwest *Round-up* Weekly PAO Report

..... July 17, 2012 .....



## NEWS

### Belleau Wood Marines conduct historic transfer of authority in Helmand province

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez



HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Since their activation in 1917, 5th and 6th Marine Regiments have courageously fought for America, most notably in World War I when they fought side-by-side in the bloody Battle of Belleau Wood. In December 2011, Regimental Combat Team 6 arrived in northern Helmand province to support Operation Enduring Freedom, joining RCT-5 on the same battlefield for the first time in 94 years. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

### 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) celebrates 65th Anniversary

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. John Jackson

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Marines and sailors with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) celebrated the 65th Anniversary of the Logistics Group during a morning colors ceremony on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, July 2. The ceremony, which was conducted by the noncommissioned officers of 1st MLG (Fwd), began with the raising of morning colors. Following morning colors, 1st MLG (Fwd) Marines and sailors took time to remember the four 1st MLG (Fwd) heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice since the group assumed responsibility as the Logistics Combat Element for Regional Command (Southwest) in February. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



### Marines and sailors prepare for Ramadan aboard Camp Dwyer

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez



U.S. Navy Cmdr. Mark Winward, the Regimental Combat Team 5 chaplain, speaks to Marines and sailors with RCT-5 during a brief on Afghan culture and religion here, July 7, 2012. Members of RCT-5 received the brief to increase their awareness of Afghan customs ahead of the upcoming Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Daoud Parwani, the RCT-5 cultural advisor, and Lt. Col. Sultan Muhammad, an Afghan National Army religious and cultural affairs officer, also spoke to Marines and sailors about the upcoming holiday. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

### Sailors earn Fleet Marine Force pins aboard Camp Dwyer

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Mark Winward, the Regimental Combat Team 5 chaplain, pins a Fleet Marine Force Qualified Officer insignia on Lt. Benton Garrett, a chaplain with Regional Command (Southwest) and 35-year-old native of Ingleside, Texas, during a ceremony here, June 17, 2012. Garrett and Seaman Carlos Hall, a religious program specialist with RC (SW) and 20-year-old native of Detroit, both earned their FMF pins by balancing their busy schedule of traveling the RCT-5 area of operations in support of religious operations with the rigorous FMF qualification process. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## VIGNETTES

### Marine from Micronesia wraps up second Afghan tour

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Kenneth Jasik



FORWARD OPERATING BASE ZEEBRUGEE, Kajaki District, Afghanistan – Marines seem to come from all walks of life, some more abstract than others. For one Marine, growing up in Micronesia was his childhood. Corporal Jordi Inoke, a radio operator with 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6, says he's proud to be in Afghanistan, on his second deployment and supporting International Security Assistance Forces. "I like deploying to Afghanistan," said Inoke. "I feel like we're doing good work, and we are truly earning our paychecks out here." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

### Disbursing Marine keeps the cash flowing

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Ed Galo

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SABIT QADAM, Afghanistan — Even those who are deployed to combat zones need money. Sometimes Marines need cash to buy basic gear or hygiene necessities, other times units need to pay for battle damages they've caused. Corporal Steven Kessler, disbursing agent, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), is responsible for handling money distribution for the Marines with 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6, and others aboard Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam. "We deal with US currency and Afghan currency as well," said Kessler of Cottage Grove, Minn. "We do a lot of claims payments, like battle damage claims." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



### Marine builds gym during down time in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Ed Galo



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – It's a scene out of Mad Max; two-by-fours and pipes nailed together fill a tent as dirt-covered Marines lug around steel plates and cables. The Spartan structures – a dip bar, bench press, and other gym pieces - are the handiwork of Cpl. Frank McDermott, embark chief, Regimental Combat Team 6. "Growing up, I didn't really have a lot of toys," he said. "So I'd always be with my dad when he would build stuff. My grandfather built his first two houses and my dad built his house." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## Ash Flat Marine bridges gap for Afghan women, coalition forces

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. Michele Watson

PATROL BASE EREDVI, Afghanistan – Sgt. Julie Nicholson grew up on a farm and had never left her home state of Arkansas, but when she heard that her friend's family would not be able to make it to his Marine Corps recruit training graduation, she knew she had to be there for him.

"I was working at Wal-Mart and didn't have a lot of money so I sold one of my cows and bought a plane ticket to San Diego," said Nicholson. "I was there at his graduation and decided it was something I wanted to do. So I joined the Marine Corps." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## VIDEOS

### Operation Bold Yak

Video by Army Sgt. Frank Thompson



Artillery Tolai 4th Kandak 1/215 Corps, Afghan National Army conduct a live fire artillery range with the aid of the RCT-5 Combat Support Advisory Team. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)

### HMH-362 Episode 1

Video by Marine Cpl. Isaac Lamberth

Part one of a series documenting the final days of HMH-362 before the squadron's aircraft will be deactivated and replaced by the Osprey. Also available in high definition. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)



### Keeping Our Honor Clean: General Support Motor Transport Company

Video by Marine Sgt. John Jackson



This is part six 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 General Support Motor Transport Company who are responsible for escorting Afghan truck drivers throughout Helmand Province to deliver fuel. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)

Marketed/Republished Combat Correspondent Product

**Maj. Gen. Charles Gurganus live interview with Pentagon**

**Sgt. Chelsea McCourt Sgt. Chelsea McCourt talks to a Crawford Broadcasting reporter**

**Sgt. Chelsea McCourt Chelsea McCourt, Conyers, Ga., talks to a WRAS-FM reporter**

**1stLt Trey Kennedy talks to a WTKF-FM reporter**

**PFC Miouly Dessources talks to a WTKF-FM reporter**

**Face of Defense: Deployed Marine builds gym in spare time**

**Jacksonville Daily News - Deployed Marine builds gym in spare time**

**Face of Defense: Marine reflects on second Afghan tour**

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