

Regional Command Southwest *Round-up* Weekly PAQ Report

----- September 18, 2012 -----



NEWS

September 11 remembered, service members pay respect 11 years later

Story and photos by Cpl. Timothy Lenzo



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Service members from different branches and different countries gathered together on Camp Leatherneck by the flag pole. The low sun cast long shadows across the somber faces as the attendants came to remember the events of Sept. 11, 2001. A bell was rung to signal a moment of silence to remember the men and women who lost their lives that day 11 years ago. Sergeant Vincent Laughlin, a motor transport operator with I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group (Forward), remembered hearing about the events while attending Willingboro High School in New Jersey. “They showed what happened after the first plane hit the tower on the news,” said Laughlin. “They started evacuating the school, and I went back home to my house, where my mom sat me down.” Laughlin was born in Manhattan and moved with his mother to New Jersey when he was 11. He returned every summer to the Bronx. He still recalls watching the city he was raised for the first half of his childhood burning on television. ([Read the STORY](#))

1/1 Weapons, brothers in arms with ANA

Story and photos by Cpl. Timothy Lenzo

PATROL BASE DETROIT, Afghanistan – On the edge of Trek Nawa, an area between the Nawa and Marjah districts, stands a small patrol base where Marines and Afghan National Army soldiers come together and work side by side. United by a common enemy, the Marines with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6, and Afghan National Army soldiers with 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, strengthened an already solid friendship. “Our principle role is to guide the Afghan National Army through the transition period,” said Capt. Glen Taylor, company commander with Weapons Company. “We’ll get them fully prepared logistically and tactically to conduct combat operations against the enemy.” Trek Nawa is a known insurgent stronghold, and from the first patrols, the Marines took enemy small arms fire. “We were in the lead during Ramadan while it was difficult for (the ANA) to conduct operations,” Taylor added. ([Read the STORY](#))



VMGR-352 aircraft escorts Ospreys to Arabian Sea, USS Iwo Jima

Story and photos by Sgt. John Jackson



HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Marines with Detachment A, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, primarily spend their day patrolling the skies of Afghanistan as an in-flight gas station for other aircraft. However, a five-man crew successfully completed a slightly different mission, Sept. 6. The KC-130J team spent the morning escorting four MV-22 Ospreys with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261 from Helmand province, Afghanistan, to the USS Iwo Jima in the Arabian Sea. “Our primary mission in Afghanistan is aerial refueling,” said Capt. G. O. Ryberg, a pilot with VMGR-352 and a native of Oceanside, Calif. “But

today, we were a contingency for the Ospreys.” The KC-130 aircraft is able to carry several thousand gallons of fuel while in flight. Additionally, with multiple radios, the plane is able to act as an onscene commander in the event an aircraft makes an emergency landing. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Afghans, coalition forces conduct medical exercise

Story and photos by Cpl. Ed Galo

CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan – Coalition service members, led by the 215th Corps Advisor Team, conducted a simulated mass casualty training exercise, Sept. 9. The combined team included medical professionals from the United Kingdom Medical Group, NATO Training Mission Southwest and Task Force Leatherneck to help train the Afghan National Army. Just before the event started, the combined team’s medical officers pulled aside seven ANA soldiers and directed them to simulate the symptoms of various battle wounds. The injuries ranged from gunshot wounds to improvised explosive devices and many other injuries that can be sustained on the battlefield. “We want to challenge their knowledge about the amount of patients they can take at once,” said Navy Lt. David Clevenger, medical advisor, 215th CAT, Task Force Leatherneck, during a brief before the exercise. “We want to make them understand they’re doing a good job and give them pointers.” [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Afghan pilot follows father’s footsteps, flies in Afghan Air Force

Story and photos by Cpl. Timothy Lenzo



CAMP TOMBSTONE, Afghanistan – Afghan Air Force MI-17 helicopters arrive in a whirlwind of dust and debris as their rotors disrupt the ground below them. The entirely Afghan-manned crew will support an Afghan National Army brigade during Operation Azadi, which means freedom. It is the first major operation in the area with ANA and AAF forces working together. “We can help with different types of air support,” said AAF Capt. Najibullah Khogianai, a pilot with 441 Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron. “We move passengers safely from one place to another and can bring supplies.” Khogianai’s crew takes the lead for air support during the operations, with coalition forces behind them. Their main objective is

to resupply the Afghan soldiers on the ground. The soldiers will conduct clearing and holding operations and need the air support to work efficiently. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

VIGNETTES

An Afghan soldier's desire for Afghanistan

Story and photos by Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Countless men and women have stepped up and honored their country by serving in their nation's military. In Afghanistan, it is no different, but Capt. Kamal is one of the many Afghan soldiers who has dropped everything and came running in the defense of his country. Kamal is the commander of an explosive ordnance disposal company with 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps of the Afghan National Army and currently serves in Helmand province. "I have been in the Army for the last two years and love it," said Kamal. "I enjoy knowing that I am contributing to the improvement of my country. It is an honor." Growing up, Kamal had ambitions like those of most children and led a traditional childhood. "Growing up was normal like any other childhood," said Kamal. "We all wanted to be doctors or lawyers or soccer players." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



From Virginia to Afghanistan, Marine develops his own legacy

Story and photos by Cpl. Timothy Lenzo



PATROL BASE DETROIT, Afghanistan – The Marine Corps is filled with stories of young men and women looking for something different. They are brought together by a bond from the day they receive their Eagle, Globe and Anchor and officially earn the title of United States Marine. Lance Cpl. Ethan Payne, a machine gunner with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6, realized the Marine Corps offered an opportunity to build his own story. It was the end of high school when Payne, from Louisa, Va., began to feel the urge to do something more with his life. He had recently quit sports for work, and like other young adults, he wanted to make his own name. "I felt like I hadn't done (anything) special," Payne said. "I just wanted to do something different than what my friends and family had done." The Marines meant more than a paycheck to Payne. It meant building his own legacy apart from his family and twin brother, Elijah. "Growing up (my brother and I) played every sport imaginable together," Payne said. "(Joining) was my way of doing my own thing while making my family and friends proud of me." Payne played a variety of sports including football and basketball and found his brother as an instant rival. "I'd say my whole family is competitive," Payne admitted. "My brother and I are the most competitive though." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Idaho twins reconnect, unite in combat zone

Story and photos by Sgt. John Jackson

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – While Sgt. David Haines and Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Haines do not necessarily compete against one another, the 24-year-old twin brothers often wrangle back and forth as if they are teenagers fighting for a Playstation controller. Whether they are trash talking about the others military branch or arguing about dates of events, the brothers playfully interact like adolescents still living together on a daily basis. Growing up, the Haines brothers had different interests. Michael ran track, worked and even spent the better part of a year living in Italy with his sister. David spent his free time practicing the piano, playing in a jazz band and taking drama classes at the local college. However, the brothers have always remained close. The two graduated from Moscow Senior High School in Moscow, Idaho, during June 2006. After spending a few months out of school, David knew he wanted something different. "I needed a change of pace," David said. "My brother-in-law was trying to talk me into the Navy, but the Navy didn't really interest me. The Marine recruiter was right next door and totally sold me." During January 2007, David left Idaho to become a Marine, and his twin brother was thinking about doing the same. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Mississippi family man turns Marine communicator

Story and photos by Cpl. Ed Galo



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Standing over six feet tall, Lance Cpl. Justin Nobles can look pretty intimidating. But for anyone that spends more than five minutes talking to him, they quickly find a soft spoken guy with a country accent. Nobles, radio technician, Regimental Combat Team 6, grew up living mostly with his father. His father would work long hours to be able to better provide for him, which is where Nobles says he learned to work hard himself. “I’ve always looked up to my father,” he said. “He always worked shift work, ever since I can remember. He would sometimes work 12 to 18 hour shifts to provide for me. Since my dad worked so much, I spent a lot of time with my grandparents,” he

continued. “They were like a second set of parents. My grandfather is a real great man. He even started the school system where I live. He definitely taught me how to be a man.” [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Afghan Patriot fights for better tomorrow

Story and photos by Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

DELARAM, Afghanistan -Americans have been known to use the word “patriot” to describe members of the U.S. Armed Forces, however, the same can be said for those serving in the Afghan National Army. The soldiers of the ANA fight daily for their country and have been doing so since the inception of their organization. Soldier Amarnodeen is one of several Afghan patriots who has found his way into the ANA to defend and protect his country. Hailing from the Takhar province in northern Afghanistan, the 32-year-old professional soldier decided to join the Army after some push in that direction by his brother. “I have a brother who is a commander in the Army and told me about how good of a job the Army is,” said Amarnodeen, who is the middle brother. “He made a good point, and I decided to join.” [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Georgia native, corpsman serves country on first deployment

Story and photos by Cpl. Mark Garcia



COMBAT OUTPOST SHIR GHAZAY, Afghanistan – As a senior in high school, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Ricky Lattimore made the decision to serve his country. One month after his May 2008 graduation, he was on his way to basic training. Lattimore, a corpsman with 3rd platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Tank Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6, joined the Navy in an effort to better his life. After playing football and basketball since his sophomore year, he did not receive a scholarship to play sports in college. Unable to afford continuing his education, he enlisted in the Navy. “After my senior year, I didn’t get a scholarship to play football or the chance to go to acting school,” said Lattimore, from Dublin, Ga. “My mom couldn’t afford to pay for it, so I had to figure out a plan to get out of there. At the same time, I had to get an education. One day I met a Navy recruiter who had stopped by my job. He asked me if I wanted to join the Navy, and I was all for it after that.” Not wanting a manual labor job, Lattimore decided to get a job in the Navy that would challenge him mentally. “I didn’t want some kind of hard labor job. Instead I was looking for a job where I would need to work with my mind,” Lattimore said. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

VIDEOS

Regional Command Southwest's "9/11" Memorial Ceremony

Video by Sgt. John Jackson

B-Roll of Regional Command Southwest's 9/11 Memorial Ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. Soundbite from Maj. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, Commanding General, Regional Command Southwest. Also available in high definition. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)



HMLA-469 Air Interdiction Force

Video by Cpl. Gregory Moore



U.S. Marines with the air interdiction force (AIF) assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 469, Marine Aircraft Group 13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, conduct Operation Aero Hunter with other Regional Command (Southwest) elements in Helmand province, Afghanistan Sept. 7, 2012. AIF was used as a quick reaction force in support of counter-insurgency operations in southern Helmand. Also available in high definition. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)

VMGR-352 Aircraft Escorts Ospreys to Arabian Sea

Video by Sgt. John Jackson

B-Roll of a KC-130J with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 escorting four MV-22 Ospreys with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261 from Helmand province, Afghanistan, to the USS Iwo Jima in the Arabian Sea. Produced by Sgt. John Jackson, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Also available in High Definition. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)



Brother, Friend Marines Gather to Honor Fallen Comrade

Video by Cpl. Mark Garcia



On a hot sunny, somber Saturday morning more than 100 servicemembers gathered to pay their final respects to Cpl. Daniel L. Linnabary II, a fallen brother during a memorial ceremony in the sweltering Afghanistan sunlight, Sept. 1. Soundbites include 1st Lt. James Nash, officer in charge of 2nd platoon, Bravo Co., 2nd Tank Bn., Staff Sgt. John Kramer, platoon sergeant for 2nd platoon, Bravo Co., 2nd Tank Bn., Lance Cpl. Nicholas Matarese, tank gunner with 2nd platoon, Bravo Co., 2nd Tank Bn. Also available in high definition. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)

Marketed/Republished Combat Correspondent Product

Sgt. Shawn Jackson talks to a WTKF-FM reporter about his job working with military civil affairs.

Capt. Amaury Gallais talks to a WTKF-FM reporter about his job as the executive officer for the Marines civil affairs detachment for RCT6.

Cpl. Daniel Cassis, from Maine, talks to a WTKF-FM reporter about his duties as an infantryman working in a Combat Operations Center during his deployment to Afghanistan.
