

Hero remembered in Sangin: brother, friend, Marine remembered by 1/5

Story by Cpl. Benjamin Crilly

PATROL BASE JAMIL, Helmand province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan - Marines and sailors from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, paid tribute to the life and service of Lance Cpl. Joe M. Jackson during a memorial service at Patrol Base Jamil, Sangin, Afghanistan, May 4.

Jackson was killed in action April 24 on a foot patrol while conducting combat operations in Sangin. A squad automatic weapon gunner for Alpha Co., Jackson was born in Tacoma, Wash., and raised primarily in White Swan.

The 2007 White Swan High School graduate came from a lineage of military heritage and enlisted in the Marines following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. He was the type of Marine people saw staying in the Marine Corps and expressed interest in making it a career.

"Joe was by far the best Marine I have ever had the pleasure of leading," said Cpl. Andres C. Carrillo, a member of 3rd Platoon. "Lance Cpl. Jackson wanted to achieve the rank of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps and many of us saw his potential and drive to achieve his goal."

His toughness and discipline were among the traits that made him so memorable.



Photo by: Cpl. Nathan McCord

Marines with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 8, await the signal to march forward and construct a battlefield memorial at a ceremony in Sangin, Afghanistan, May 4. The ceremony was for Lance Cpl. Joe Jackson, who was killed in action while conducting combat operations in support of International Security Assistance Forces and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"He had a quiet toughness about him," said 1st Lt. Benjamin J. O'Donnell, platoon commander for 3rd Platoon, Alpha Co., from Apalachin, N.Y. "I never heard him complain no matter how unfavorable the circumstance."

Despite the harsh conditions throughout pre-deployment training and on deployment, Jackson remained strong and brought humor to difficult situations.

"He never showed any weakness in any situation he was in," said Cpl. Nicholas J. Rinchuso, a team leader for 3rd Plt., Alpha Co. "I remember times at Bridgeport and Mojave Viper when everyone was freezing cold, packing on warming layers and him making fun of everyone for doing so."

Jackson knew when to tone down the sarcasm and demonstrate discipline driven into Marines from training day one of recruit training.

"From the time he was first under my charge until the time we split up to different squads, Lance corporal Jackson met every challenge and order given to him without flinching or asking the question 'why me?'" said Carrillo, from Oklahoma City.

His ability to temper his sense of humor with discipline on patrol will be missed by the Marines of 3rd Platoon. When on patrol in Sangin he was the Marine who motivated others through his sense of humor and perseverance.

"His motivation was infectious and in-



Photo by: Cpl. Nathan McCord

Marines with Alpha Co., 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 8, place helmets atop rifles to create a battlefield memorial during a ceremony at Patrol Base Jamil, Sangin, Afghanistan, May 4. The ceremony was for Lance Cpl. Joe Jackson, who was killed in action while conducting combat operations in support of International Security Assistance Forces and Operation Enduring Freedom.

spiring, not because it was something out of a recruiting video or something a brand new recruit will spit out as a reflex, but because it was real, it was genuine, and it was thought through," said Navy Lt. David D. Kim, the 1/5 battalion chaplain, from Mineola, N.Y.

The Marines of Alpha Co. and his friends and family back home mourn the loss of a brother and friend with Jackson's passing.

Division leaders awarded Bronze Stars



Photo by Lance Cpl. Afired Lopez

Major William P. Ghilarducci, an operations officer with 1st Marine Division G-3, is awarded the Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device by Col. Robert F. Castellvi, the chief of staff of 1st Marine Division (Fwd), during an awards ceremony at the Headquarters 1st Marine Division Fleet Marine Force building, May 11. Ghilarducci was awarded for heroic service in connection with combat operations against the enemy while serving as a joint terminal attack controller with India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, from Aug. 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011. As the only JTAC at the most remote combat outpost, Ghilarducci wrought havoc on the enemy and saved numerous lives through his expert employment of aviation fires, according to his award citation. He often directly exposed himself to enemy fire to accomplish his mission. He conducted more than 100 terminal controls of close-air support that expended more than 80 heavy bombs, thousands of gun rounds, numerous rockets and encompassed 11 lifesaving medical evacuation missions. Ghilarducci, 35, is from Las Vegas.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Glen Santy

Captain Richard J. Stinnett Jr., the commanding officer of India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, who are currently attached to 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, and 1st Sgt. Vernon E. Derby III, India Battery first sergeant, receive congratulations after receiving Bronze Stars during an awards ceremony at Camp Las Pulgas, May 12. The 11th Marines recently returned from a seven-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where the battalion conducted counterinsurgency operations and supported other ground units on mounted and dismounted patrols. The Bronze Star medal is the nation's third highest award for combat valor and is presented to any service member who distinguishes him or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service. The combat distinguishing device was authorized for Stinnett's award. Derby is from Melvin, Fla. Stinnett is from Wake Forest, N.C.

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“The Professionals” return from Afghanistan

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Alfred Lopez

Cheers of celebration warmly greeted Marines and sailors of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment at the Camp Horno parade deck, May 11.

The homecoming brought back the third batch of more than 250 warriors of 2/1 from their seven-month deployment in Afghanistan. The battalion, also known as “The Professionals,” performed crucial multi-faceted missions in Garmsir District, Helmand province.

“Our battalion focused on counterinsurgency operations in Garmsir, the first significantly populated area between Afghanistan and Pakistan,” said Maj. Theodore C. Bathea II, the executive officer of 2/1. “We focused on security, improving governance, reconstruction and development, and training the Afghan national security forces.”

“The Professionals” hold the best improvised explosive device find rate of any Marine unit. They detected/defused 96 percent of more than 400 IEDs they encountered during their tour.

“I think we did a tremendous job,” said Lance Cpl. Andrew Haskenhoff, a machine gunner with Fox Company, 2/1. “The mission didn’t rely on one person; it was on all of us. I had a strong group of guys that I worked with every day, so it all worked out.”

As Haskenhoff waded through the

crowd of eager friends and family, he was nearly tackled to the ground by his very excited girlfriend, Dani Arnold.

“It’s a relief being home,” said Haskenhoff, a 21-year-old from West Union, Iowa. “After seeing and living with the same people for seven months, it’s awesome to finally see my loved ones.”

As a collective cheer from friends and family welcomed the group of warriors onto the parade deck, Cpl. Marlon H. Bateman III, a team leader with Golf Company, 2/1, could not help but smile as he spotted a welcoming committee of his family and friends.

“They’re all from northern California, so it’s an easy trip for them,” said Bateman, from Lincoln, Calif. “It’s awesome they’re here. I’m glad they were able to come.”

Bateman hugged each of his family members and expressed to everyone of them how much he missed them over the last seven months. The last person to greet him was his father, Marlon Bateman II. The elder Bateman welcomed his son with a proud and loving embrace.

“We’re glad to get him back,” said the proud patriarch. “He’s come back healthy and safe and I’m pleased about that. I’m really grateful for the efforts they made over there. I know they did some good for the people of Afghanistan.”



Sergeant Paul Dekker, motor transport operator, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, holds his son at San Mateo, May 4, after a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan. Approximately 200 Marines and sailors returned home from the deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

1st CEB returns home from Afghanistan

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Glen Santy

Marines and sailors with 1st Combat Engineer Battalion were welcomed home by their family and friends at the San Mateo multi-purpose room, May 4.

Approximately 200 Marines and sailors returned home after a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The battalion’s primary mission in Afghanistan was route clearance and supporting ground units for both mounted and dismounted patrols.

“I’m feeling really anxious right now,” said Ashley Hall, wife of Cpl. Ramone Hall, supply administration and operations specialist, 1st CEB. “I can’t wait to see him and watch him embrace his child. He hasn’t seen his son since he was a month old.”

“We’ve really missed him,” said four and five-year-olds Julian and Elias Brihanes, sons of Sgt. Julian Brihanes, engineer equipment operator, 1st CEB, before the Marines and sailors arrived. “We really want to play with him and wrestle him. The first thing we’re going to tell him is ‘I love him.’”

The families and friends

packed the parking lots of San Mateo, waiting to see their loved ones march up and be dismissed.

The Marines arrived at San Mateo at approximately 11 p.m., and stepped into a formation to be formally dismissed to their families.

Once dismissed, bagpipes bellowed and the crowd broke into a cheer. Balloons and confetti filled the air as the families anxiously searched for their loved ones.

“It feels amazing to be home,” said Cpl. Robert Anderson, automotive technician, 1st CEB. “It was a long seven months and it feels really good to be back home with my wife and son.”

The Marines and sailors did not linger for long. Many wasted no time to go home and spend time with their families.



Corporal Robert Anderson, automotive technician, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, kisses his son, Carter, during the homecoming at San Mateo, May 4. The battalion’s primary mission while in Afghanistan was route clearance and supporting ground units for both mounted and dismounted patrols.



Corporal Marlon H. Bateman III, a team leader with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, poses for a photograph with his family during the battalion’s homecoming at the Camp Horno parade deck, May 11. The homecoming brought back the third batch of more than 250 warriors of 2/1 from their seven-month deployment. The battalion, also known as “The Professionals,” focused on security, improving governance, reconstruction and development and training the Afghan national security forces in Garmsir District, Helmand province, Afghanistan. The Bateman family is from Lincoln, Calif.



ANA, Marines search for weapons, IED materials

Story and photos by
Cpl. Benjamin Crilly

PATROL BASE FULOD, Helmand province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan - The Marines of 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, while on patrol with their Afghan National Army counterparts, searched an abandoned structure on a routine security patrol to ensure it was not being used to store weapons or IED components.

Culturally, the ANA serve a vital role when the Marines search inhabited compounds since they are able to explain to local homeowners the intent of the search and be accepted as doing their job instead of seen as an outside threat to the Afghan's privacy and freedom.

"We know that at times they cannot conduct searches on their own and collect all the necessary intelligence that we see as important," said Sgt. Kevin W. Zarefoss, a squad leader with 2nd Plt. "It is still important for us to put their face to it. We are putting an Af-

ghan face on an Afghan problem.

"This also allows the Afghan soldiers to see how to properly search for, collect and document evidence by watching the Marines. If they see the Marines care about respecting the culture and the property, the soldiers might have more trust in the Marines," said Lance Cpl. Patrick C. Hawco, a point man with 2nd Plt.

The ANA are an invaluable asset to the Marines when searching large abandoned compounds. In Afghanistan multiple families can live in the same part of a compound and that complexity makes it hard for the Marines to distinguish what each room was used for at times. With this particular compound the Marines had been to the multifaceted loca-



Corporal John Wienke, a team leader for 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, searches an opening in a compound wall when conducting a search in Sangin, Afghanistan, May 10. Obvious places that need to be searched are easy for the Marines to identify, but the Afghan National Army assist them by alerting them when something is out of place. Wienke, 23, is from Casper, Wyoming.



Sergeant Kevin W. Zarefoss, a squad leader for 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, and the Afghan National Army squad leader stop a vehicle outside of Patrol Base Fulod, Sangin, Afghanistan, May 10. The ANA assist the Marines in stopping vehicles on patrols and talking to the drivers to see if there is anything suspicious. Zarefoss, 25, is from Strongsville, Ohio.

tion before, but had never had the chance to search it thoroughly.

"Despite walking through this compound before briefly, we had not been able to piece together what it had functioned as and therefore did not know what could have been out of place," said Zarefoss, 25, from Strongsville, Ohio. "Knowing your area and having a good grasp of what goes on in it does not mean going on one patrol."

Some of the senior Afghan soldiers have been here in Sangin for a while, said Hawco, 24, from Tivoli, N.Y. They know what part of the house they are in and they know what should and should not be in that part of compounds.

"For us that is tremendous," said Hawco. "They see the little things that are out of place and can point it out to us."

Their ability to identify abnormalities also works the other way, said Keith R. Ablard, a law enforcement professional for Charlie Co., 1/5. By having the

Afghan soldiers search with Marines, the soldiers are able to identify, eliminate and pick out the important evidence to be brought back and processed by analysts. This enables Marines to ensure that they are not trying to get some mundane household item processed as intelligence substantiation.

"It helps the processing of evidence because if you were to bring in information that is not even evidence, you are wasting the analyst's time that could be used to process more important things," said Ablard, a former Marine with 13 years of law enforcement experience as a Virginia police officer, from in Philomont, Va.

When Marines search with Afghan soldiers, they are able to work together to maximize the efficiency of the search and find a lot more information about a place, said Hawco. That intelligence allows partnered forces to better employ their assets to improve the security of Sangin.

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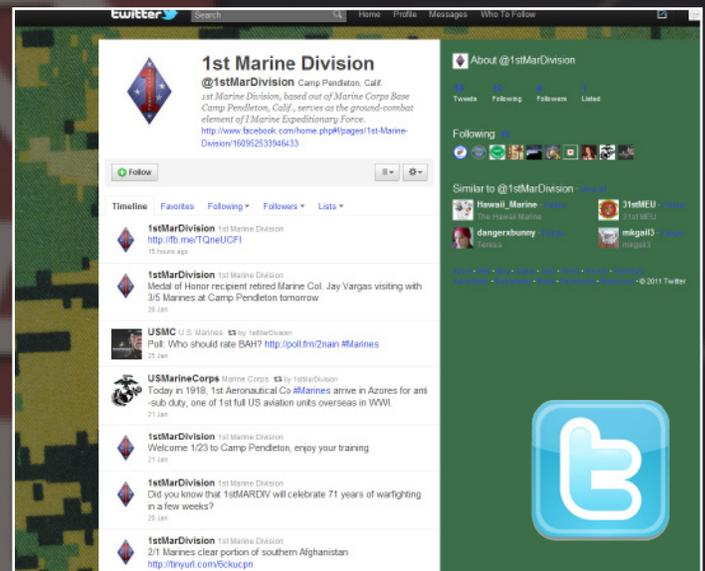


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Facebook page for 1st Marine Division. The page includes a profile picture, cover photo, and several posts. One post from 3/1/11 shows photos of Marines in action. Another post from 3/1/11 shows photos of Marines in a control room. A post from 3/1/11 includes a link to a news article: "Defense.gov News Article: Petraeus Progress in Letter to Troops".

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Twitter page for 1st Marine Division (@1stMarDivision). The page shows the profile picture, bio, and several tweets. One tweet from 1stMarDivision says "Medal of Honor recipient retired Marine Col. Jay Vargas visiting with 3/5 Marines at Camp Pendleton tomorrow". Another tweet from 1stMarDivision says "Welcome 1/23 to Camp Pendleton, enjoy your training". A third tweet from 1stMarDivision says "Did you know that 1stMARDIV will celebrate 71 years of warfighting in a few weeks?".

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