

# Regional Command Southwest Round-up

Weekly Report, October 29, 2011

The following content summarizes a week's worth of activity from Regional Command Southwest, commanded by Maj. Gen. John Toolan and covering Helmand and Nimroz Provinces, Afghanistan. The content was created by Marine Corps Combat Correspondents, Navy Mass Communication Specialists, Combat Camera and personnel with UK media operations under Task Force Helmand. Feel free to forward our stories to family, friends and loved ones supporting those who are deployed.

## Featured Stories



### Operation Eastern Storm: Marines push through Kajaki Sofla

KAJAKI SOFLA DISTRICT, Afghanistan – The Marines and sailors of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, are engaged in Operation Tofan Sharq (Eastern Storm), a major offensive operation to root out the Taliban-led insurgency in the Upper Sangin Valley region of Kajaki. [\(more\)](#) [\(video\)](#)

*By Cpl. James Clark, Regimental Combat Team 8*

### Bravo Company maintains success in Operation Eastern Storm

OBSERVATION POST MARYLAND, Afghanistan -- "Up to this point, it's been a phenomenal success, and I think it exceeded all of our expectations," said Lt. Col. George Benson, battalion commander, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, about his unit's ongoing participation in Operation Tofan Sharq (Eastern Storm). [\(more\)](#)

*By Cpl. Marco Mancha, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division*



### Afghan Local Police certified in Garmsir

GARMSIR DISTRICT, Helmand province, Afghanistan — The Afghan Local Police were recognized as an official organization of the Afghan Ministry of Interior during a shura held here, Oct. 26. [\(more\)](#)

*By Cpl. Colby Brown, Regimental Combat Team 5*

### One Marine's journey from Alaska to Afghanistan

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan -- One Marine's decision to enlist took him from an icy landscape above the Arctic Circle to the dust-covered deserts of Afghanistan. [\(more\)](#)

*By Cpl. Justin Boling, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Air Wing*



### Through the Ranks: Sergeant Major

GARMSIR DISTRICT, Afghanistan — When Sgt. Maj. Dwight D. Jones enters a room, the atmosphere changes. Marines become more attentive. Side conversations lower to a whisper or stop completely. The heavy rank on his collar tends to have that effect on his junior Marines. [\(more\)](#)

*By Cpl. Colby Brown, Regimental Combat Team 5*

### Royal Marines return from Afghanistan to heroes' welcome

Royal Marines from M Company of 42 Commando have returned home to a rapturous welcome from friends and family after a successful combat deployment in Afghanistan. [\(more\)](#)

*A UK Military Operations news article*



### UAVs reaping benefits in Afghanistan

The RAF's Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are the eyes in the sky keeping tabs on the insurgency in Afghanistan. Report by Andrew Simms. [\(more\)](#)

*A UK Military Operations news article*



### UK Highlanders welcomed home from Afghanistan

Over 100 Highlanders from 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (4 SCOTS) received an emotional and rapturous welcome when they returned to their base this weekend from Afghanistan. [\(more\)](#)

*A UK History and Honour news article*

### A life in our beloved Corps

GARMSIR DISTRICT, Helmand province, Afghanistan — As I sat listening to Master Gunnery Sgt. David Bryan, a man almost twice my age, describe his experience in the Marine Corps, I was hit with an epiphany. [\(more\)](#)

*By Cpl. Colby Brown, Regimental Combat Team 5*



### Shoulder to shoulder: Ohio Reserve Marines support combat operations in Helmand

FORWARD OPERATING BASE NOLAY, Afghanistan - Many of the familiar trappings of life are half a world away from the small base nestled atop a hill on the outskirts of the Sangin Valley, but a handful of the Buckeye State's own who are based here have found echoes of home in each other. [\(more\)](#)

*By Sgt. Justin Shemanski, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Logistics Group*



### Patrol base hustle

GARMSIR DISTRICT, Helmand province, Afghanistan — Home is where the heart is. In Afghanistan the heart of a Marine is usually a patrol base, an expeditionary camp made to house a no more than a squad-sized element of Marines. [\(more\)](#)

*By Cpl. Colby Brown, Regimental Combat Team 5*





**Detection team sharpens skills, protects Marines from IED threat**  
 CAMP DWYER, Helmand province, Afghanistan – Maintaining a Marine's warfighting skills requires rigorous practice and steadfast dedication. Training doesn't stop, not even in a combat zone. [\(more\)](#)

*By Lance Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez, Regimental Combat Team 5*

**Watch caps and MRAPs: Supply provides all for Task Force Belleau Wood**

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – A faded and torn desert MARPAT blouse lies atop a pile of others like it, awaiting an imminent demise faced by many before it. Though now tattered and beaten by the sun and Afghan heat, the blouse is familiar to this warehouse, as just a few months before it was freshly folded and stacked in a crate with all the other size medium regular's awaiting issue. [\(more\)](#) [\(video\)](#)

*By Cpl. Timothy Solano, Regional Command Southwest*



**Marines honor fallen brother in Musa Qal'eh**

MUSA QAL'EH DISTRICT CENTER, Helmand province, Afghanistan – Marines and sailors with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, attended a memorial service Oct. 13 to honor Lance Cpl. Benjamin W. Schmidt, 24, of San Antonio. [\(more\)](#)

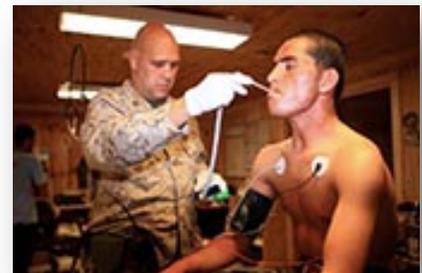
*By Cpl. Tommy Bellegarde, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division*



**Winning hearts and minds: Shock Trauma Platoon brings relief, relationships to Afghan locals**

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELARAM III, Afghanistan - There is a battle of sorts being won in southern Helmand province. The Marines and sailors at Forward Operating Base Delaram II, and specifically the Shock Trauma Platoon there, take pride in 'winning' the hearts and minds of locals. [\(more\)](#) [\(video\)](#)

*By Cpl. Katherine M. Solano, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Logistics Group*



## Why We Run

Video with interviews of four servicemembers at Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, talking about why they are running the Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 30 in Afghanistan [\(video\)](#)

*By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Ross, Regional Command Southwest*



**Marines Push Taliban from Kajaki During Eastern Storm**  
CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Video showing U.S. Marines efforts to push Taliban-led forces from the Kajaki district of Helmand province. [\(video\)](#)

*By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Ross, Regional Command Southwest*

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