

Regional Command Southwest Round-up

Weekly Report, November 5, 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



Marines in Kajaki Sofla begin transition in Operation Eastern Storm

KAJAKI SOFLA DISTRICT, Afghanistan – Just weeks after the outset of Operation Tofan Sharq (Eastern Storm), the Marines and sailors of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, are turning their attention to strengthening relationships with local leadership in the vicinity in an effort to further eliminate insurgent forces in the area. [\(video\)](#) [\(story\)](#)

Story by Cpl. James Clark, Regimental Combat Team 8

Video by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Ross, Regional Command Southwest

Operation Eastern Storm returns commerce, residents to Kajaki Sofla Bazaar

KAJAKI SOFLA DISTRICT, Afghanistan – Columns of mopeds, caravans of pack animals, and an endless stream of trucks, tractors and trailers heralds the return of local residents to the Kajaki Sofla District.

[\(story\)](#) [\(video\)](#)

Story by Cpl. James Clark, Regimental Combat Team 8

Video by Cpl. Marco Mancha, 2nd Marine Division



Runners endure Marine Corps Marathon Forward in Helmand province

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – The sound of a 105mm howitzer thundered through the morning air on Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province as more than 300 coalition service members began the Marine Corps Marathon Forward, Oct. 30. [\(more\)](#) [\(video\)](#)

Story by Cpl. Bryan Nygaard, Regional Command Southwest

Video by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Ross, Regional Command Southwest



2nd MLG moves north along 611, supports 'Eastern Storm'

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Combat Logistics Battalion 6 and 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), are pushing north on Route 611, building patrol bases, combat outposts and village stability platforms in support of Task Force Leatherneck and Operation Tofan Sharq (Eastern Storm). [\(more\)](#) [\(video\)](#)

Story by 2nd Lt. James Stenger, 2nd Marine Logistics Group
Video by Cpl. Marco Mancha, 2nd Marine Division



US Marines honour UK paratrooper for actions in Afghanistan

A paratrooper has received an American military honour for 'his decision, actions and calm leadership in the face of chaos' while serving alongside US Marines in Afghanistan. [\(more\)](#)

A UK History and Honour news article

Private Matthew James Sean Haseldin killed in Afghanistan

It is with regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of Private Matthew Haseldin from 2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment (2 MERCIAN) in Afghanistan on Thursday 3 November 2011. [\(more\)](#)

A UK Military Operations news article



Marines launch tactical officers' course at Helmand academy

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – The inaugural running of the Tactical Leaders' Course, a training program for small unit-level Afghan officers, has begun aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province. [\(more\)](#)

By MC2 Jonathan Chandler, Regional Command Southwest

Afghan police commander held captive, returns to fight insurgents

MARJAH DISTRICT, Afghanistan — In the late 1990s when the Taliban seized Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul, the country was plagued with territorial and religious micro wars. The nationalists of Afghanistan, led by General Ahmad Shah Massoud, stood up against their extremist opposition to take back their country. [\(more\)](#)

By Sgt. Earnest J. Barnes, 2nd Marine Division





From moon dust to city: Leatherneck grows to service war fighters
CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Over the last two years, Camp Leatherneck, located in Helmand province, has dramatically evolved. When Marines and their Navy counterparts first started building the base it was a mere 400 acres. Now, at more than 1,600 acres, the base serves as the main hub for all units operating within Regional Command Southwest's Helmand and Nimruz provinces [\(more\)](#)

By Cpl. Meredith Brown, Regional Command Southwest

Afghan Uniformed Police, Marine partnership makes progress in Musa Qal'eh

PATROL BASE MEHRAJ, Helmand province, Afghanistan – Afghan Uniformed Police patrolmen and Marines from 3rd Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, have been conducting partnered patrols in Musa Qal'eh district, Helmand province, in recent weeks to show a strong, partnered presence in the platoon's area of responsibility. [\(more\)](#)

By Cpl. Tommy Bellegarde, 2nd Marine Division



Victory in Nawa: standing on the cusp of transition

NAWA DISTRICT, Afghanistan – They arrived early by vehicle convoy to the small Afghan National Army outpost named Dangar in the northern part of the district. Marines and sailors with 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, stood beside their Afghan counterparts, ready to depart for the four-day trek that lay before them. [\(more\)](#)

By Cpl. Jeff Drew, 2nd Marine Division

US ambassador visits Nawa, sees progress firsthand

COMBAT OUTPOST JAKER, Afghanistan – Ryan Crocker, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, visited the Marines and sailors of 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment here, Oct. 31. [\(more\)](#)

By Cpl. Timothy Solano, Regional Command Southwest





On third Afghan tour, Marine brings experience, leadership to Marine wing support mission

PATROL BASE ALCATRAZ, Afghanistan - Capt. Michael Gagnon, a logistics officer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, is on his third deployment to Afghanistan in two years. [\(more\)](#)

By Cpl. Brian Adam Jones, 2nd Marine Air Wing

'Everything you want in a sergeant:' Motor vehicle operator plays integral part on task force

PATROL BASE ALCATRAZ, Afghanistan -- On a recent convoy in the Helmand River Valley to construct helicopter landing zones, Sgt. Eric Zauner, a native of Greendale, Wis., led the charge. [\(more\)](#)

By Cpl. Brian Adam Jones, 2nd Marine Air Wing



'America's Battalion' arrives in Afghanistan

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan — Over seven months of training, the Marines and sailors of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, have become hardened for war. [\(more\)](#)

By Cpl. Reece Lodder, Regimental Combat Team 5

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[RCT-8](#)

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