



## NEWS

### SFAAT corpsmen advisors growing increasingly confident in their ANA counterparts

Story and Photos by Sgt. Bryan Peterson



FORWARD OPERATING BASE NOLAY, SANGIN, Afghanistan – On March 20, Afghan National Army soldiers with 5th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, engaged in a firefight with insurgents in the Sangin District, during which three soldiers were wounded and required medical evacuation.

At Forward Operating Base Nolay, ANA medics at the 2nd Brigade Aid Station readied their ambulances, medical supplies and litters.

Medical staff with the Marine-led Security Force Assistance Advisor Team, Petty Officer 1st Class Federico Sanchez, the SFAAT's medical chief advisor and two corpsmen, Petty Officer

3rd Class Jeffrey Casassa and Seaman Mason Heberly, immediately made their way to the aid station. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

### ANA Kandak commander leaves big impression

Story and Photos by Sgt. Bryan Peterson



FORWARD OPERATING BASE NOW ZAD, Afghanistan - Sitting in a meeting room here March 18, Afghan National Army Lt. Col. Shirali Noori spoke to his Marine counterparts, taking brief pauses between his words to hide his emotions.

"I report to Jalalabad in four days," said the saddened Shirali, commander of 4th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps.

Captain Nicolas Rapkoch, a U.S. Marine advisor with 4th Kandak, 2/215th Corps Security Force Assistance Advisor Team, and fellow Marines on his team were shaken and without response. For three months, Rapkoch had worked alongside Shirali and developed

respect and admiration for his counterpart. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

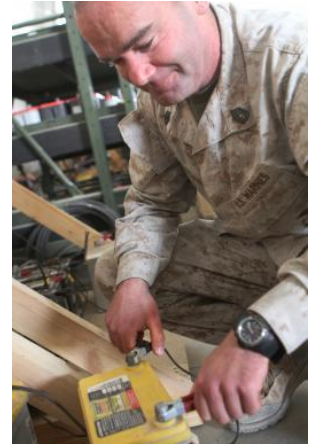
## CLC Marines get creative, use ingenuity in Afghanistan: Part 2

Story and photos by Cpl. Lia Adkins

Editor's Note: This is the second of a six-part series about projects initiated by Marines of General Support Combat Logistics Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, while deployed in Afghanistan.

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Aboard Camp Leatherneck, there was an entire lot of used and discarded 12-volt batteries waiting to be properly disposed.

Gunnery Sgt. Christopher D. Robbins, the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the engineering section for General Support Combat Logistics Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, knew the batteries were expensive and thought there must be a way to repurpose them. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



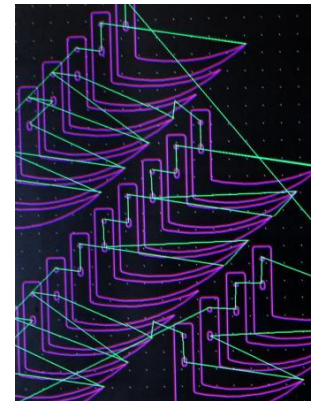
## CLC Marines get creative, use ingenuity in Afghanistan: Part 3

Story and photos by Cpl. Lia Adkins

Editor's Note: This is the third of a six-part series about projects initiated by Marines of General Support Combat Logistics Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, while deployed in Afghanistan.

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – As a young boy, Cpl. Robert C. Richardson III was taught the value of being able to fix things with his own two hands. He was only 12 when his father taught him to weld, and at 13 he received his first chainsaw.

Richardson, a machinist with Maintenance Repair, General Support Combat Logistics Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, put his skills to good use recently here when he helped 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, CLR-2, construct sickle sticks, a tool used by EOD teams to locate and identify improvised explosive devices. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## VIGNETTES

### Calif. Marine connects Marines, wants to travel globe

Story and photo by Sgt. Ned Johnson



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan— When people talk about traveling the world, they might think of places like Rome, Australia, and the Caribbean.

Lance Cpl. Nickolas Franklin said Helmand province, Afghanistan, is just one of the many destinations he wants to visit.

Franklin, a data network specialist with Regimental Combat Team 7, said he joined the Marine Corps to travel the world and see faraway places. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## Path to higher education leads New York Marine to citizenship

*Story and photo by Sgt. Ned Johnson*

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan— Serving in the military does not guarantee a path to U.S. citizenship for immigrants, but it does make the process simpler.

For one Marine from Honduras, his reasons for joining extended beyond citizenship.

Lance Cpl. Jose Avila, a refrigeration mechanic with Regimental Combat Team 7, earned his bachelor's degree in business administration in Honduras and then moved to New York with plans to join the Marine Corps and then earn his master's degree. ([Read the STORY](#))



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**GySgt. Jared Hoversten**, talks to a Times Citizen reporter in Iowa Falls, Iowa, about becoming a 1st Sergeant with the Marine Corps, redeploying to California, his family and his work with the Marine Corps

**LCpl. Nicolas Franklin**, Richmond, Calif., talks to a KCDZ reporter in Joshua Tree, Calif., about his job with the Marine Corps as a Data Networking Specialist in Afghanistan.

**Cpl. James T. Carter**, Upland, Calif., talks to a KCDZ 107.7 FM Online reporter in Joshua Tree, Calif., about his work with RCT-7 Marines as a personnel Non-Commissioned-Officer at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.