



## NEWS

### The Green Zone: Security and stability are staples in Kajaki, a former Taliban stronghold

Story and Photos by Sgt. Bobby Yarbrough

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ZEEBRUGE, Afghanistan— Standing on the roof of Afghan Uniformed Police Outpost Mamanzi, 1st Lt. William McPherson asked the outpost commander where insurgents in the area lived.

Kneeling behind a mounted Soviet machinegun, the AUP policeman smiled and opened his arms wide, motioning with both hands to the other side of the Helmand River.

The policeman pointed to a small, abandoned compound across the river and told McPherson they have received fire from there in the past. McPherson, who is a member of the U.S. Marine-led Kajaki Police Advisor Team, asked if they had been fired upon from any other locations. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



### Tower Climbing Marines keep communication running

Story and photos by Sgt. Bryan Peterson



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan - Climbing telephone poles, easy day. But, climbing towers at least 150 feet high, it's night and day.

Four Marines with 8th Communications Battalion have spent the past five months climbing towers here and at other bases throughout the Regional Command (Southwest) area of responsibility making needed repairs and conducting preventive maintenance. They work around the clock and at extraordinary heights to ensure units throughout Helmand Province are able to communicate.

"I'm not afraid of heights, but climbing a telephone pole isn't exactly that high," said Sgt. Nickolas Auvil, a field radio operator and one of four tower climbers. He said it's not easy work but the Marines

enjoy their job, which encompasses everything from installing wireless point-to-point links for internet and phone services to weatherproofing tower equipment. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## Combat Engineers bridge gap for security forces assistance

Story and photos by Sgt. Ned Johnson

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan— A bulldozer flattens piles of dirt and rock that formerly protected the perimeter of a patrol base, while Marines relocate 40-pound sandbags.

Miles down the road, a Marine uses a metal detector to locate improvised explosive devices and mark a safe lane for vehicles and ground troops. Still farther down the road, a squad transports materials for a new bridge across the Helmand River.

The Marines of 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 7, provided this and other engineer support to multiple battalions and numerous Security Forces Assistance Advisor Teams during a seven-month deployment here. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## Deployed Marine given reminder of fallen brother's sacrifice

Story and photos by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Spencer Kenyon



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan—The rugged hand-painted sign reads:

CAMP WEIS

In memory of

Maj. James Matthew Weis

Killed in action July 22, 2010

Trek Nawa, Helmand Province, Afghanistan

For the past year, it has been displayed outside the Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron flight line on Camp Bastion, but soon it will return to the United States to honor the memory of the AH-1W Cobra pilot who gave his life in service to his country.

Weis' brother, Scott, a Marine major currently serving with Regimental Combat Team 7 in Helmand province, accepted the sign from Lt. Col. Garrett Hoffman, the commanding officer of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, Apr. 26, here. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## VIGNETTES

### Long Island Marine keeps generators running

Story and photo by Sgt. Ned Johnson

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan— A Marine is working inside a combat operations center on a forward operating base when the lights go off and his electronic equipment shuts down.

A simple check tells the Marine the electricity is off, and he knows he can't continue his mission until it's working again.

On most bases here, electricity is supplied with military generators and Lance Cpl. Kyle Ford, an electrical engineer technician specialist with Regimental Combat Team 7, helps ensure they are running properly. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## Marine mom misses moments— makes Mother's Day

Story and photo by Sgt. Ned Johnson



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan— A two-year-old little girl with dark eyes and dark, curly hair appears on the Marine's computer screen and screams with joy. After she runs around excitedly, the young girl runs back to the computer, blows her mom kisses and shows off her toys.

She may not say it, but her actions prove seeing her mom who is more than 9,000 miles away on a deployment to Afghanistan, is her favorite part of the day.

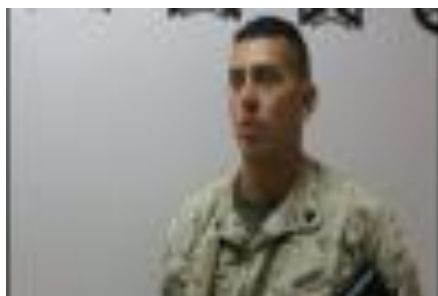
For Staff Sgt. Mariajose Borja, a linguist manger with Regimental Combat Team 7, the smiling face of her daughter, Isabella Smith Borja, is her motivation to work hard. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## VIDEO

### Shooting Package Keeps Marines on Target

Video by Cpl. Kowshon Ye

U.S. Marines assigned to Operational Coordination Center – Regional, conduct live-fire training on Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 12, 2013. The training was conducted to prepare the Marines for situations they may encounter while conducting their routine mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Marine Corps motion imagery by Cpl. Kowshon Ye) Also available in high definition. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)



### NCO Symposium Enables Marines, Coalition Forces to Share Ideas

Video by Sgt. Bryan A. Peterson

Regional Command (Southwest) leadership created a Noncommissioned Officers Symposium for U.S. and Coalition Forces so service members could collectively discuss issues NCOs are facing in Afghanistan.

[\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)

## **Marketed/Republished Combat Correspondent Product**

**Pfc. Donald P. Bachert**, talks to a KCDZ 107.7 FM Online reporter in Joshua Tree, Calif., about his job as a field wireman, working at the data help desk and being in the Marine Corps.

**Navy Chaplain Commander Mike Williams** talks to a Kodiak Daily Mirror reporter, in Kodiak, Alaska, about what led him to his current position as a chaplain and his current duties in Afghanistan.

**Lance Cpl. Terrill M. Clark** talks to a Crawford Broadcasting reporter, for their Hero of the Week segment, about why he joined the Marines instead of another military branch and his job duties during his deployment to Afghanistan.

**Staff Sgt. Mariajose Borja** talks to a Newark Patch reporter about her family, a bone marrow transplant her family was involved in, growing up in Newark, N.J., her deployment to Afghanistan and her work with assigning translators to units.

**ANA commandos train new soldiers on 60mm mortar system** – Story about Afghan Army commandos training new soldiers about the M224 60mm mortars was republished in the Afghan War News info website.

**CLC Marines get creative, use ingenuity in Afghanistan: Part 4** – Story about Marines who find ways to save Marine Corps money was republished in The Bluffton Today, a newspaper from one of the Marines' hometowns in the story. It was also republished on Military.com.

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**Stronghold**– Story about how police advisor teams are making gains with the Afghan Uniformed Police in Kajaki. The story posted in Human Events, an online conservative voice website and USA Today.

**Chaplains tour Helmand, provide services to Marines**– Two chaplains with Regimental Combat Team 7 toured Helmand Province, and the Kodiak Daily Mirror, a newspaper in Kodiak, Alaska, was able to interview one of the chaplains, Cmdr. Williams who is from Kodiak. The article was published in the paper shortly thereafter.

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