

Regional Command Southwest *Round-up*

Biweekly PAO
Report

----- April 1, 2014 -----

NEWS

Afghan officials with Nimroz, Helmand meet to discuss upcoming elections

Story and photos by Sgt. Frances Johnson and Sgt. Jessica Ostroska

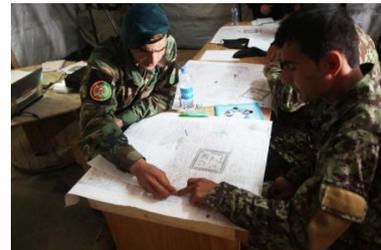


CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan— Nimroz and Helmand provincial leaders met with Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo, commanding general, Regional Command (Southwest), and key members of his staff aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 26 and 29. The leaders met for the security shuras to discuss the upcoming presidential elections and security measures being enacted to ensure the local people are kept safe. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Coalition forces teach map skills to ANA soldiers in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Cpl. Cody Haas

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELARAM II, Afghanistan – Marines and civilian contractors from the Security Force Assistance Advisor Team for 4th Brigade, 215th Corps, Afghan National Army, gave a map skills class aboard Forward Operating Base Delaram II, March 15, 2014. The class was part of a 10-week explosive ordnance disposal course offered by the SFAAT for ANA soldiers in staff leadership billets. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Afghan National Army soldiers conduct advanced training at the Regional Corps Battle School

Story and photos by Cpl. Cody Haas



CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan – Several hundred Afghan National Army soldiers from the 215th Corps' newly formed 6th Kandak completed additional specialized training at the Regional Corps Battle School aboard Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan, March 19. The training is a combination of classes during the final week of each soldier's specific Military Occupational Specialty school, during which they learn proper techniques on how to forcefully enter an enemy-occupied building or compound, explosive ordnance disposal tactics and patrolling methods. All of the ANA soldiers that graduated with 6th Kandak attended the Basic Warrior Training boot camp course prior to their MOS training, and many received additional courses including Military Operations in Urban Terrain training, a D-30 122 mm howitzer class, and casualty evacuation training with the ANA Mi-17 helicopters. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Afghan National Army soldiers graduate Regional Corps Battle School

Story and photos by Sgt. Jessica Ostroska

CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan – More than 1,000 Afghan soldiers graduated from the Regional Corps Battle School aboard Camp Shorabak, Helmand province, Afghanistan, during a ceremony March 20. The training conducted at RCBS is Afghan-led, with Marines advising the Afghan instructors as needed. The Afghan instructors are hand-selected by the Marine advisors and then trained and mentored on how to be an instructor, including how to teach military occupational specialty skill sets to their soldiers. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Coalition forces install culvert denial system to prevent IED placement

Story by Sgt. Jessica Ostroska



HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – United States Army soldiers with the 65th Engineer Battalion led an operation to install culvert denial systems along Highway 1 in Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 24. The mission was to install 20 culvert denial systems at five different locations within Regional Command (Southwest)'s area of operation. The systems are designed to prevent the emplacement of improvised explosive devices in small tunnels along the main highway in Helmand and ensure the safety of the Afghan people traveling along the road. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

1st Combat Engineers clear the way for friendly forces

Story and photos by Sgt. Frances Johnson

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan—The Marines of 4th platoon, Mobility Assault Company, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, conducted a route clearance operation in Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 24. Route clearance missions are conducted in frequently traveled areas around Camp Leatherneck, ridding it of any explosive hazards along the way and allowing for better freedom of movement for coalition forces and the civilian population along the route. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Navy team prepares Afghan medics to operate independently

Story and photos by Cpl. Joshua Young



FORWARD OPERATING BASE NOLAY, Afghanistan - A small team of sailors has been tasked with empowering Afghans to stand on their own as coalition forces draw down and transition full security responsibility in the Sangin Valley. The sailors, Lt. j.g. James M. Nicholson, Petty Officer 1st Class David Morales and Petty Officer 3rd Class Kristopher Krysa, all with Security Force Assistance Advisor Team 2-215, are continuing to build rapport and trust with the Afghan medics to ensure a positive working relationship is maintained. Through this strong relationship, they are able to gain the trust and confidence of the medics. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Two Texas Marines build medical tables for Afghan medics

Story and photos by Cpl. Joshua Young

FORWARD OPERATING BASE NOLAY, Afghanistan - A team of Afghan National Army medics often receives multiple casualties, yet has only two good medical tables and one in disrepair on which to treat patients. With limited resources and logistics, it's difficult to increase their potential casualty-care capacity. Petty Officer 1st Class David Morales, the senior enlisted medical advisor with Security Force Assistance Advisor Team 2-215, and Navy Lt. j.g. James M. Nicholson, medical advisor for the medical team with 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, ANA, noticed their limited ability to treat patients, so they turned to Gunnery Sgt. Guadalupe E. Pineda III for help. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Landing zone study improves efficiency at patrol bases

Story and photos by Sgt. Frances Johnson



PATROL BASE BOLDAK, Afghanistan— A three-man team consisting of two U.S. Marines and a British Royal Air Force airman conducted a helicopter landing zone study aboard Patrol Base Boldak, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 20, 2014. Landing zone studies are performed as often as possible in order to update requirements and the coordination needed to maintain the HLZ, as well as to ensure proper procedures and safety requirements are set in place. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Army medevac crew conducts training exercise in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Cpl. Cody Haas

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELARAM II, Afghanistan – The churning blades threw a cloud of dust in the air as the UH-60 Black Hawk prepared to touch down aboard Forward Operating Base Delaram II, Nimroz province, Afghanistan, March 11, 2014. Waiting at the ready by the door of the helicopter, the crew chiefs prepared to make an expedient exit, watching from the window as the Marines on the ground lugged the litter toward the landing zone. Within a moment of reaching the earth, the doors flew open and the litter was rushed inside. They seemed to depart as quickly as they had arrived, now with a simulated casualty in tow, already receiving medical care as they began to hover once again above the LZ. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Georgian President visits Georgian Infantry Battalion, Marines aboard Camp Leatherneck

Story and photos by Sgt. Jessica Ostroska



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – The maintenance bay was clean and tidy despite the rain and mud outside. Afghan, American and Georgian flags were displayed behind a podium in preparation for the important visitor. Anticipation filled the air as soldiers with the 31st Light Infantry Battalion with the Republic of Georgia and Marines with Georgian Liaison Team 11 stood still in formation as they awaited the arrival of the Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili to Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 15. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Chaplain's mission continues in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Cpl. Cody Haas

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELARAM II, Afghanistan – When service members are deployed to a combat zone, many rely on a chaplain for spiritual guidance and well-being. Chaplains are a source troops can turn to for help. They help counsel service members, often traveling to forward operating bases to provide support, offer a stress-free worship environment and hold classes to help enrich deployed service members' lives. ([Read the STORY](#))



Marine Infantryman becomes father while deployed to Afghanistan

Story and photos by Cpl. Joseph Scanlan



CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan – On March 15, a bright-eyed baby girl was born at South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside, N.Y. However, her father, Lance Cpl. Kalib K. Walker, was thousands of miles away serving his country in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Walker, an automatic rifleman with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and a native of Freeport, N.Y., had been training for his second deployment to Afghanistan when his wife, Mariolbis, told him she was pregnant. ([Read the STORY](#))

PHOTOS

Chief of National Guard Bureau visits deployed guard units in Helmand province

Photos by Sgt. Jessica Ostroska



Army Gen. Frank J. Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau, addresses Army National Guard soldiers from Colorado, Kansas, Utah and Wyoming aboard Camp Bastion, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 24, 2014. General Grass visited the soldiers to assess the welfare and needs of the guard units currently deployed to Regional Command (Southwest). ([See the PHOTOS](#))

Marines, Afghans celebrate Afghan New Year on Camps Shorabak, Leatherneck

Photos by Sgt. Jessica Ostroska

Afghans play traditional music as Afghan National Army soldiers with the 215th Corps celebrate Nowruz, the Afghan New Year, during a sporting event held at Camp Shorabak, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 21, 2014. The event was an opportunity for ANA soldiers to build camaraderie within the unit as they celebrated the new year. [\(See the PHOTOS\)](#)



Marine unit donates potable water trailer to Afghan National Army

Photos by Cpl. Joshua Young



Redeployment and Retrograde in support of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group transfers eight potable water trailers to the 215th Corps, Afghan National Army, aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 25, 2014. The potable water trailers will enhance the Afghan National Security Forces' ability to provide fresh water to their soldiers. [\(See the PHOTOS\)](#)

Marines, British compete for bragging rights in 'March and Shoot' competition

Photos by Sgt. Jessica Ostroska

British soldiers hurry to their next event during the Regional Corps Battle School's March and Shoot Competition aboard Camps Bastion and Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 27, 2014. The "Marines vs. British" competition involved 21, 4-man teams running 7.2 kilometers then each team member firing 20 rounds with their rifle and 20 rounds with their pistol. [\(See the PHOTOS\)](#)



VIDEO

Two Texas Marines Build Medical Tables for Afghan Medics

Video by Cpl. Joshua Young



Lance Cpl. Brandon Goggans, a team member with Security Force Assistance Advisor Team 2-215, and Gunnery Sgt. Guadalupe E. Pineda III, the engineer chief for SFAAT 2-215, build a table for the Afghan National Army medical staff with 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, aboard Forward Operating Base Nalay, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 21, 2014. The table will increase casualty-care capacity and is the second of two tables delivered to the Afghan medics. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)

Kandak Graduation

Video by Sgt. Christopher Tobey

Members of the Afghan National Army graduate their basic training and military specialty training at the ANA training academy at Camp Shorabak-Bastion-Leatherneck. U.S. Marines and British military personnel have advised the ANA instructors, but the instructors of this iteration planned and lead all the training. Many of the graduating soldiers will be on the front lines less than a week after graduation to help secure the Helmand Province during the elections and beyond.

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



Delaram Range

Video by Sgt. Christopher Tobey



Marines at Forward Operating Base Delaram, whose primary mission is to advise and assist Afghan National Army soldiers, conduct a live-fire range to keep their combat skills sharp. The range challenged their rifleman skills, their combat lifesaving skills, as well as their pistol skills. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)

Afghan National Army Training

Video by Sgt. Christopher Tobey

Even when they are not actively patrolling their area of operation, members of the Afghan National Army are improving the security of the Nimroz province. Sergeant Christopher Tobey takes us to an ANA school house in Delaram, Afghanistan. The future training may soon be administered by some of the more advanced students from this iteration. Plans are being made to transition some of the current students to future trainers. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)



AUDIO

Col. Michael Langley

Audio by 1st Lt. Garth Langley



Colonel Michael Langley, 215th Corps Advisor Team officer-in-charge, talks to Leatherneck Magazine, Marine Corps Times, Foreign Policy Magazine, U-T San Diego, American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel about his duties as the 215th CAT OIC, Afghan National Forces training and taking over complete control after the coalition withdrawal, and stabilizing the area for the 2014 Afghan elections.

[\(Listen to AUDIO for Leatherneck Magazine\)](#)

[\(Listen to AUDIO for Marine Corps Times\)](#)

[\(Listen to AUDIO for Foreign Policy Magazine\)](#)

[\(Listen to AUDIO for UT San Diego\)](#)

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