



----- June 25, 2014 -----

NEWS

In peacetime and in war there will always be mail call

Story by Sgt. Frances Johnson



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – The Marines of the Camp Leatherneck post office are few in number but have been working hard during the five months they have been deployed. Ensuring mail is delivered and picked up from all service members and civilians working in Regional Command (Southwest), the Marines of the post office make postal operations run as smoothly as possible. To ensure mail is delivered to, from and throughout Helmand province, the postal Marines push through as they face different obstacles every day.

[\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Weapons Company Marines conduct security patrol in Afghanistan

Story by Cpl. Cody Haas

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – During the late evening hours under the cover of darkness, Marines and sailors with 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, donned their gear, mounted in Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles and convoyed approximately four hours south of Camp Leatherneck. Marines and sailors with Weapons Company, 1st Bn., 7th Marines, provided security for Baker Co. during a patrol in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 19-20. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Service members celebrate Navy Hospital Corps' 116th birthday aboard Camp Leatherneck

Story by Sgt. Jessica Ostroska



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Service members with Regional Command (Southwest) gathered June 17, 2014, to celebrate and honor the 116th anniversary of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps during a ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan. “It is my honor to be here and celebrate the 116th anniversary of the United States Navy’s Hospital Corps, especially while being deployed in Afghanistan,” said Sgt. Maj. Douglas E. Berry Jr., sergeant major, Regional Command (Southwest), during his speech as the ceremony’s guest of honor. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Infantrymen stand by ready to assist during Afghan election runoff

Story by Cpl. Joseph Scanlan

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – The April 5 presidential elections in Afghanistan proved to be tremendously successful yielding the highest voter turnout of recent years. A runoff election was required to determine a final victor, and the Marines of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, stood by ready to assist their Afghan Counterparts if needed, June 14. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Tango Battery provides artillery support for coalition forces in southwestern Afghanistan

Story by Sgt. Frances Johnson



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan— In a noncombat environment, a Marine Corps artillery battery is comprised of two platoons containing one type of weapon system, either M777A2 Howitzer cannons or High Mobility Artillery Rocket System launchers. However, the Marines of Tango Battery, 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, aboard Camps Bastion and Leatherneck have a unique makeup for an artillery battery. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Marines confiscate more than one metric ton of narcotics in Helmand province, Afghanistan

Story by Cpl. Joseph Scanlan

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan – Nearly a month into Afghanistan's summer fighting season, Marines with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, continued a series of disruption operations in Now Zad District. The battalion has established a continuous presence in Now Zad since April, conducting numerous disruption operations in the surrounding area to prevent potential attacks on Camps Bastion and Leatherneck. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



Marine Aircrew with Regional Command (Southwest) supports RC (South) during refueling operation in Afghanistan

Story by Cpl. Cody Haas



MULTI-NATIONAL BASE COMMAND TARIN KOT, Afghanistan – Troops stationed aboard bases in Afghanistan rely on large amounts of fuel for everyday tasks and operations. Occasionally, their fuel supply runs short due to continuously running equipment and constant flights. A Marine aircrew with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 conducted a refueling operation from Camp Bastion, Helmand province, to Multi-National Base Command Tarin Kot, Urozgan province, Afghanistan, June 8, 2014. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

Bravo Company keeps Bastion, Leatherneck secure

Story by Cpl. Michael Dye

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Marines and sailors with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, are tasked with the mission of protecting Camps Bastion and Leatherneck. To achieve this crucial mission, the unit conducted a security patrol near the base in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 3, 2014. ([Read the STORY](#))



Afghan National Army firefighters blaze through live-fire training

Story by Sgt. Frances Johnson



CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan— As the sun lowered below the horizon, prayers were heard rising in the warm summer air and eight Afghan National Army soldiers with the 215th Corps stood in full firefighting attire ready for their next training mission, June 7. The few ANA soldiers who make up the Camp Shorabak Fire Department listened intently to their brief inside the brightly lit fire station, ready to test their mettle in the fire. ([Read the STORY](#))

PHOTOS

Weapons Company mans main entry point

Photos by Cpl. Michael Dye

Corporal Zachary Minick, a squad leader with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, and a Hickory, N.C., native, ensures all drivers at the main entry point exit their vehicle prior to conducting a thorough search aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 20, 2014. The Marines at the main entry point are responsible for thoroughly searching all vehicles before they enter the base. ([See the PHOTOS](#))



Crash Fire Rescue Marines recognized by Royal Air Force in Helmand province, Afghanistan

Photos by 1st Lt. Garth Langley



U.S. Marines with Regional Command (Southwest): Sgt. Neal E. Alford, Cpl. Jared E. Sherrell, Cpl. Nathaniel J. Wells, Cpl. Whitford L. Horton, and LCpl. Stefan R. Swanson and U.K. Royal Airmen pose for a group photo in front of the Bastion Airfield Crash, Fire and Rescue station aboard Camp Bastion, Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 17, 2014. Marines with CRASH 5, Marine Wing Support Squadron-274, Regional Command (Southwest), received certificates of commendation from the 903 Expeditionary Air Wing for assisting U.K. forces while responding to an emergency. ([See the PHOTOS](#))

Soldiers celebrate 239th Army birthday aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan

Photos by Cpl. Cody Haas

Soldiers with various Army units supporting Regional Command (Southwest) salute as the national anthem is played during the 239th Army birthday ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 14, 2014. The ceremony was not only a time to celebrate, but also a time to reflect on their illustrious history.

[\(See the PHOTOS\)](#)



Alpha Company takes night watch, early morning patrols to keep Bastion, Leatherneck perimeter safe

Photos by Cpl. Michael Dye



Marines and sailors with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, prepare to conduct an early morning security patrol after observing the area around Camps Bastion and Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, overnight, June 14, 2014. These patrols allow the Marines to observe and disrupt any potential activity or threats during the night and early morning hours in order to keep the base safe. [\(See the PHOTOS\)](#)

1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, strengthens body, mind during martial arts training in Afghanistan

Photos by Cpl. Michael Dye

First Lt. Jonathan Armacost, a platoon commander with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, and a Baltimore native, demonstrates the proper technique in executing a figure-four choke hold on Lance Cpl. Sean Melvin, a rifleman with the unit and Miramar, Fla. native, during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program class aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 14, 2014. The hand-to-hand combat program is not only designed to instruct Marines in martial arts, but also instills knowledge, discipline and confidence in Marines. [\(See the PHOTOS\)](#)



VIDEO

Service members celebrate Hospital Corps' birthday in Afghanistan

Video by Cpl. Cody Haas



Service members with Regional Command (Southwest) celebrate the 116th Hospital Corps' birthday aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 17, 2014. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)

Advisor Team turns over base in Sangin Valley, reflects on relationship with Afghan counterparts

Video by Cpl. Joshua Young

Service members with Security Force Assistance Advisor Team 2-215 speak about their time working with 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, Afghan National Army, while serving aboard Forward Operating Base Nelay, Spring 2014.

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



Shoulder to Shoulder

Video by Army Sgt. Chiquita Pena



U.S. Marine Major Shawn T. Robinson, advisor to the Afghan National Army's 215th Corps wrote a children's book. The book, "Shoulder to Shoulder," is about a U.S. and Afghan family that becomes friends during the war. The book will be available in Dari, Pashto, and English print and audio versions.

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

Freedom File: Navy Hospital Corps Birthday

Video by Army Sgt. Christopher Tobey

Navy Hospital Corpsmen assigned to Marine Expeditionary Brigade Afghanistan celebrate their 116th birthday. They explain why it is important to commemorate their birthday even as their combat mission shifts to an advise and assist mission with their Afghan counterparts. Includes sound bites from PO1 Rudy Contreras, Independent Duty Corpsman MEB-A; PO1 Aaron Spaulding, Senior Medical Representative with MEB-A and CMC Frank Dominguez, Command Master Chief, Regional Command Southwest. [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)



To see more news, videos and photos of Regional Command (Southwest) Marines, sailors, soldiers, airmen and our coalition partners, please visit our Facebook page by clicking below.

