

TF Quantico AUGUST 27 - DECEMBER 31, 2021

In Memoriam

Dedicated to the memory of our fallen brothers and sisters from across the coalition force.

Countless service members made the ultimate sacrifice so that Afghans may know the concept of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Operation Allies Welcome was made possible due to their valor and heroism.

Brig. Gen. Forrest C. Poole III Commanding General Task Force Quantico

Sgt. Nicole Gee

Combat Logistics Battalion 24 1 May 1998 - 26 August 2021 Operation Freedom's Sentinel

Cpl. Daegan Page

2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment 6 February 1998 - 26 August 2021 Operation Freedom's Sentinel

HM3 Maxton Soviak

1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division 22 January 1999 - 26 August 2021 Operation Freedom's Sentinel







*Task Force Quantico had the distinct privilege of memorializing these three service members by naming several facilities on Camp Upshur in their honor.

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O A W Personnel

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A message from Brigadier General Forrest C. Poole III

Commanding General, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, Task Force Quantico

peration Allies Welcome was a Department of Homeland Security-led mission that enabled the resettlement of tens of thousands of Afghans who fled tyranny and oppression in search of hope and prosperity here in the United States.

Up to 5,000 of those men, women, and children were temporarily housed on Marine Corps Base Quantico, where the Marines and Sailors of 2nd MLG and II Marine Expeditionary Force worked tirelessly with our interagency partners to guarantee the best possible quality of life for our Afghan guests.

Every day, I experienced first-hand the hard work and professionalism our Task Force exhibited at Quantico. From the daily distribution of donated goods, to the rapid buildout of provisional living quarters, to the security being provided by the 2nd

Marine Division – Operation Allies Welcome called for a multifaceted mission set that presented new challenges every single day. And yet, our Marines and Sailors rose to the occasion because that is what our Nation demands of us. I know we provided our guests the finest care while they progressed through their journey onward towards becoming fully integrated into American life – and who better to have welcomed them than the U.S. Marines. I leave you with this reminder: We exist to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, the foundational cortex of our Nation that safeguards the freedoms that we hold so dear. We will always honor our oaths of office and enlistment, whether that be through combat operations or humanitarian service, without hesitation or trepidation. And while humanitarian

aid has become a more traditional mission for the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) in recent history, Operation Allies Welcome showcased a unique opportunity for the U.S. Marine Corps to directly exemplify the concepts of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to the Afghan people as they adjust to new lives around the country.

It was truly a privilege for our unit to support this historic mission. I could not be prouder to serve alongside each and every member of our Group. Thank you for what you do every day, whether in Quantico, back home in Camp Lejeune, or deployed across the Globe.

Semper Fidelis,

Brig. Gen. Forrest C. Poole III Commanding General, 2nd Marine Logistics Group Task Force Quantico







Task Force Quantico assisted with a significant number of resettlements to help facilitate the movement of thousands of Afghans to permanent homes from Camp Upshur, Quantico, VA. Ramstein Air Base, Germany, is the largest mobility hub for the Air Force and was the primary first stop from Kabul, Afghanistan.

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Kabul, Afghanistan was the location of Operation Freedom's Sentinel's noncombatant evacuation operation, the largest ever conducted by the United States.

No Better Friend

U.S. Marine Corps supports Operation Allies Welcome in Quantico

BY: CPL. SCOTT JENKINS

"The call came on a Tuesday, and we left on a Wednesday. That's just what we do as Marines," said Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Oliva, acting Coats, unit movement control operations chief with Combat Logistics Battalion 2.

U.S. Marines and Sailors with 2nd Marine Logistics Group are operating temporary living shelters for Afghan evacuees in support of Operation Allies Welcome at historic Camp Upshur on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, while they maintain a humanitarian status during their transition to life in the United States.

In late August, various units around 2nd MLG began planning to leave Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; they were initially told that they would be going to Haiti to provide humanitarian aid in the wake of a significant magnitude 7.2 earthquake.

However, the Marines and Sailors of 2nd MLG were then given a different type of deployment orders. In less than a day, their mission completely changed.

"When I was told we were leaving, I still thought we were talking about Haiti," said Cpl. Jonathan chief with CLB-2. "Everything that I had packed and ready was all to go there, along with all the trucks and gear we had staged was for a specific mission."

With less than 12 hours to finalize mission planning, the Marines and Sailors left Camp Lejeune in buses and tactical vehicles with little details about what exactly they would be doing and for how long.

"When we started the drive, we hadn't even made sleeping arrangements for all 181 Marines. We all had our two-man tents with us, and we knew that would get us through if there was nowhere on base available," said Oliva.

After a long convoy north, 2nd MLG arrived at Marine Corps Base Quantico to support the whole-of-government effort that involves working alongside the Department of Homeland Security, Department of State, and various non-governmental organizations.



Lance Cpl. Jesse Walker, a combat engineer, saws a piece of wood on Pioneer Village, Sept. 13, 2021. Photo by Lance Cpl. Mitchell Johnson Overview of Pioneer Village on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, Sept. 18, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins

The unit got to work right away that first night; they only had three days to transform the former officer candidates school squad bays at Camp Upshur into "Upshur Village," a living area for up to 5,000 men, women, and children.

"The first two days, it felt like all we did was clean for 14 hours," said Cpl. Matthew McCully, landing support specialist with CLB-2. "Mowed grass, mopped floors, moved beds; it never stopped, there was always something that needed to be done."

When Afghan evacuees arrived a few days later, Marines and Sailors starting checking them into the camp and facilitated their move into a living space.

"We do everything from doing laundry, fix AC units, and source barbers for the people who live here," said Coats.

Currently, Upshur Village maintains several thousand people awaiting resettlement to permanent homes around the country; this was made possible by several expansions to the site with assistance from local government contractors.

Even with these increases in capacity, there was still a need for more space. Therefore, military and government officials called for another location. However, unlike Upshur Village, this second site would need to be built from the ground up in a local training area nearby Camp Upshur.

It proved to be no challenge for the Marines and Sailors of 8th Engineer Support Battalion.

"We arrived here on buses in the late afternoon, we looked out and just saw an empty field that Marines were still mowing the grass on," said Cpl. Elijah Nelson, a combat engineer with 8th ESB. "That's what we love to hear as engineers, 'Something needs to be built, and in a hurry,' that's exactly what we did."

The Marines and Sailors constructed the site now known as "Pioneer City" to temporarily house 1,000 people in less than 36 hours. The unit accomplished this by utilizing general purpose living tents that service members are often accustomed to setting up for field exercises and other operations. "We started working as soon as we arrived. We lived in two-man tents on site for the first week and took shifts working around the clock," said Nelson.

After a day and a half, 78 tents were setup. With a foundation in place, 8th ESB now works continuously on site improvements using their unique construction backgrounds in both Upshur Village and Pioneer City.

Through their unwavering support to Operation Allies Welcome, the Marines and Sailors of 2nd MLG have once again answered the nation's call and brought new hope to people in need.

"The Marines here are so motivated to work on something so meaningful," said Nelson, "to help put an end to the story that our brothers and sisters before us started so many years ago."

A U.S. Marine cleans a temporary housing facility to prepare for the arrival of Afghan guests, Aug. 27, 2021. Photo by Lance Cpl. Mitchell Johnson

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U.S. Marines set up temporary structures for Pioneer Village, Sept. 7, 2021. Photo by Tia Dufour



U.S. Marines guide Afghan guests to a welcome aboard brief at Camp Upshur, Virginia, Aug. 29, 2021. Photo by Lance Cpl. George Nudo



Afghan guests move into living quarters, Aug. 29, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins

The Department of Defense, through U.S. Northern Command, and in support of the Department of State and Department of Homeland Security, quickly provided transportation, temporary housing, medical screening, and general support of up to 50,000 Afghan evacuees at suitable facilities, in permanent or temporary structures.

This initiative provided the Afghans essential support at secure locations outside Afghanistan.





Lance Cpl. Helen Murray, a translator, helps translate for Afghans during a check in process, Sept. 6, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins



Lance Cpl. Tyler Zaki, interacts with Afghan children, Sept. 18, 2021. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brian Bolin Jr.

Donation Drive

Marine Corps University's Expeditionary Warfare School Launches Donation Drive for Afghans

BY: LANCE CPL. PAIGE M. VERRY

U.S. Marines, staff and students with the Expeditionary Warfare School, Marine Corps University, Training and Education Command, held a donation drive for arriving Afghans on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, Aug. 28-29, 2021.

"The sheer amount of stuff pushed was incredible," said Capt. Aaron Moshier, operations officer with MCB Quantico Base Motors Transportation. "The specific breakdown of items was right on the money."

Within 16 hours, drive coordinators collected enough supplies to fill two 30-foot trailers. By day two, volunteers filled a 53foot tractor-trailer with donations.

"It really was a total team effort," said Lt. Col. Christopher Upton, deputy director of EWS, MCB Quantico. "The faculty, the students and the staff all came together to provide blankets, pillows, hygiene gear, toys and supplies for babies."

Overall, within 36 hours the EWS network collected and loaded more than 5,100 items to support MCB Quantico's effort in housing Afghans. The Department of Defense, through U.S. Northern Command is providing transportation, temporary housing, medical screening and general support for at least 50,000 Afghans at suitable facilities across the country, in permanent or temporary structures, as quickly as possible. This initiative provides Afghans essential support at secure locations outside of Afghanistan.



Lance Cpl. Victor Rangle unloads supplies for Upshur Village, Sept. 23, 2021. Photo by Tia Dufour

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A U.S. Marine passes out new pillows to Afghan guests, Sept. 23, 2021. Photo by Tia Dufour



Communication Through Pashto

Marine Couple sent to Upshur Village to help Translate for Afghan Guests

BY: SGT. KAITLYNN HENDRICKS

n late August, Lance Cpl. Russ Fisher and his wife Lance Cpl. Sarah Fisher packed up and made their way from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, in support of Operation Allies Welcome. The Marines, who are with II MEF Information Group, were chosen because of their unique skills as linguists in Pashto. As thousands of people are evacuated from Afghanistan and brought to the United States, linguists like the Fishers play a critical role in bridging the language gap.

Many of the Afghans who arrived speak Pashto or Dari dialects, and very few know English. As a result, they have relied heavily on interpreters and Marines knowledgeable in the languages.

"Thanks to my training, I'm able to bridge the communication gap between the travelers and the Marines," explained Russ "which means that I can help solve problems and ensure the process goes smoothly."

The Marines learned Pashto at the Defense Language Institute, which is a Department of Defense school specializing in language instruction. The couple met while learning Pashto during the 64 week course and have been using the language in their personal lives and while working together.

"Having a partner that understands what you're doing is a big help," Russ said.

Afghans have relied on interpreters and others knowledgeable in their language since arriving at Upshur Village. "I have also been able to assist in the medical center translating questions from doctors and nurses and the responses from the patients

responses from the patients so the medical team can accurately treat personnel," Sarah said.

Being able to communicate fluently in their language has helped ensure daily mission success. Depending on the shifts they are on, they might have a lot of down time or may have to take on bigger roles.

"The day shift tends to be busier," she mentioned. "Travelers are awake so we get more of a chance to interact with them... the night shift tends to be less busy until medical opens and people start coming in to be seen," she continued.

"The impact of a secondary language is huge," he stated. "The people who just arrived to America have many needs that must be met and they may not know English. I can help them get treated at medical, solve disputes, and stay informed, which are all crucial to the operation here."

Marine interpreters are working daily to help complete the overall mission for Operation Allies Welcome, creating a smoother communication and operational flow as the travelers go through their visa process.

Lance Cpl. Russ Fisher communicates with Afghans using Pashto, September 9, 2021. Photo by Sergeant Kaitlynn M. Hendricks Lance Cpl. Sarah Fisher, a linguist and native of White Bluff, Tennessee, holds an Afghan baby, Oct. 12, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins





Navy Medicine A CLOSE LOOK AT SUPPORT PROVIDED

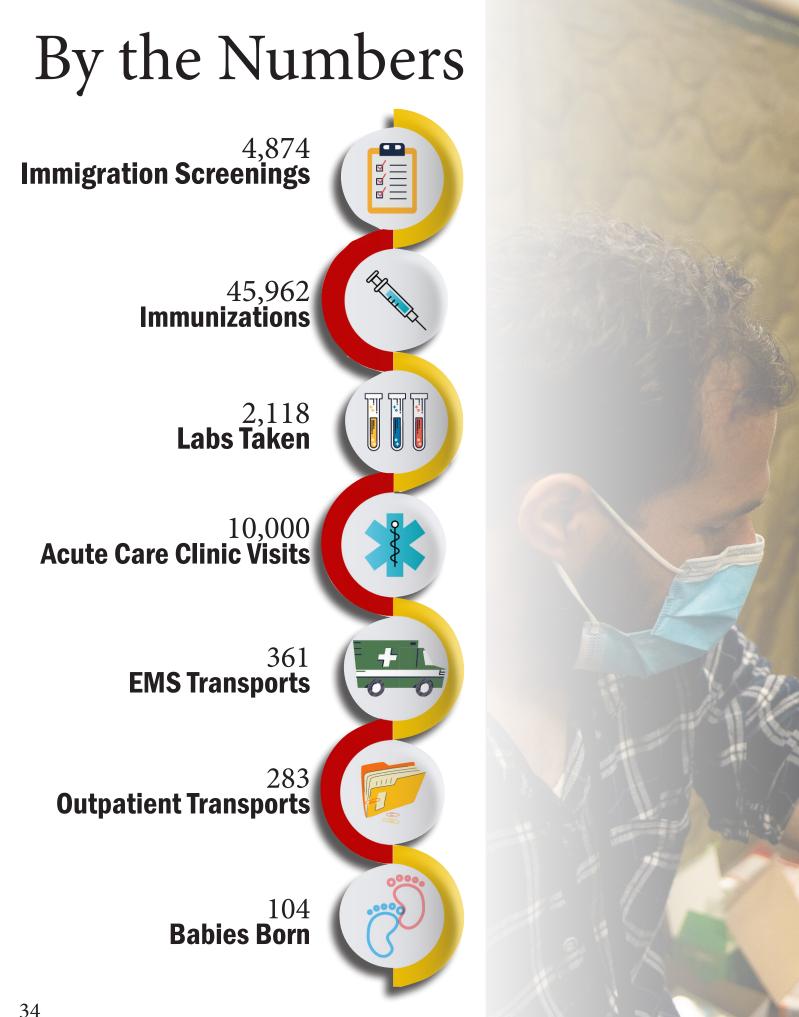
U.S. Navy Lt. Marissa Singh, a dentist with 2nd Medical Battalion, provides dental care to an Afghan man, Sept. 25, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins



U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Glyn Vicnaire, with 2nd Marine Logistics Group and a native of Clearwater, Florida, prepares a vaccine vile for use, Sept. 13, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins

U.S. Navy Lt. Cdr. Emily Elliott (left), a doctor and native of Friendswood, Texas, and Lt. Jg. Steven Hartzer, a physician's assistant and native of Hiawatha, Iowa, fill out medical files for Afghans, Sept. 13, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins







Lance Cpl. Rachael Scott interacts with an Afghan child, Sept. 1, 2021. Photo by Tia Dufour





II MEF @iimefmarines

6:24 PM · Oct 9, 2021 · Twitter Web App



United States Repres from left) of Virginia a tour of Upshur Vill @MCB_Quantico, V #OperationAlliesWe



9:00 AM · Oct 8, 2021

#Visitors

U.S. Northern Command 🥝 No surprise... the Marines at @MCB_Quantico are squared away! Thank you for hosting Gen VanHerck and SgtMaj Porterfield alongside Gov. Markell and Mr. Fenton @Allies_Refuge and showing the great efforts of the Interagency Team supporting #OperationAlliesWelcome.



U.S. Army North #JFLCCresponds and 3 others 2:08 PM · Sep 22, 2021 · Twitter Web App

sentative Rob Wittman (second waves to Afghan children while on age with @2ndMLG leadership on irginia, Sept. 10, 2021. elcome @DeptofDefense



Kai Kahele 🥑 @kaikahele

Today, I visited Upshur Village at MCB Quantico, where the U.S. has safely evacuated over 3,700 vulnerable Afghans who await permanent resettlement. As we have done many times before, our great nation stands as a beacon of hope for those fleeing danger and seeking a new home 🏠

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U.S. Senator @timkaine, of Virginia, far left, and (U.S. Senator Comments of Virginia, iar leit, and leaders of #TackEnraniantin on @MCR alk with

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8:13 PM · Sep 24, 2021 from Camp Upshur · Twitter for iPhone

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@Upshur

Holiday Festivities

A father and daughter walk through the fall festival, Oct. 31, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins



Fall Festival

After more than two months of hosting the Afghan Guests, the Marines of Task Force Quantico introduced them to the American Fall Tradition of Halloween. Marine engineers carved wooden decor and built holiday themed characters for the celebration, while food service Marines decorated the area with pumpkins and strung spider webs. Afghan children lined up to have their face painted by volunteers from different agencies. The children chased after Marines with backpacks filled with candy. Games were played and laughter and excitement filled the air.





Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 2 set up fall festival decorations, Oct. 31, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins



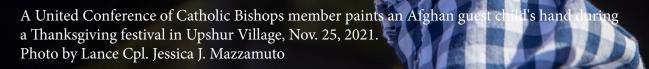




Photo by Lance Cpl. Jessica J. Mazzamuto





Cpl. Andrew Dusap, with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, helps an Afghan guest put together a kite during a Thanksgivtival in Upshur Village, Nov. 25, 2021. by Lance Cpl. Jessica J. Mazzamuto

Thanksgiving Celebration

Marines introduced the Afghan guests to the traditional holiday of Thanksgiving. At the village's basketball court, children were seen flying kites, an activity that is banned in Afghanistan by the Tailban.

Marine Corps Birthday Celebration

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Brig. Gen. Forrest Poole, commanding general of Task Force Quantico, uses a noncommissioned officer sword to cut a piece of cake during a Marine Corps Birthday cake cutting ceremony, Nov. 10, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins





U.S. Marines bring the birthday cake forward during the Marine Corps Birthday cake cutting ceremony, Nov. 10, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins

Maj. Carla McGirr, a civil affairs officer with Task Force Quantico, interacts with an Afghan girl, Oct. 8, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins

MINSTRUTTO

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Courtesy: Ed Hose Illustration



The Commandant's Own

Drum and Bugle Corps Plays at Task Force Quantico



Afghan guests watch as the U.S. Marine Corps "The Commandant's Own" Drum and Bugle Corps march while playing in Upshur Village, Nov. 4, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins



An Afghan child taps a drum of the U.S. Marine Corps "The Commandant's Own" Drum and Bugle Corps after playing in Upshur Village, Nov. 4, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins







Volunteers teach Afghan children to use tablets for learning, Oct. 21, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins



Quantico Fire Department Fireman Tyler Pressley demonstrates the fire suit to Afghan guests during a static fire truck display to teach and familiarize them with the fire department, Oct. 25, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins



Afghans receive classes on American culture and civil affairs, Sept. 19, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Sean Potter



An Afghan child interacts with U.S. Marines, Sept. 1, 2021. Photo by Sgt. Kaitlynn M. Hendricks



U.S. Marines interact with Afghan children, Sept. 1, 2021. Photo by Sgt. Kaitlynn M. Hendricks







U.S. Marines with 8th Engineer Support Battalion tear down Pioneer City, Nov. 20, 2021. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jessica J. Mazzamuto



Pioneer City



Crates of tents used to temporarily house Afghan guests sit in the landing zone that was Pioneer City on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Nov. 20, 2021. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jessica J. Mazzamuto

U.S. Marines continue to deconstruct Pioneer City, Nov. 20, 2021. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jessica J. Mazzamuto



Members of the International Organization for Migration finish providing documents to an Afghan family before they depart temporary housing, Sept. 22, 2021. Photo by Cpl. Scott Jenkins



The remaining Afghan guests load a bus in Upshur Village, Dec. 22, 2021. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jessica J. Mazzamuto





U.S. Marines wave goodbye to an Afghan family departing from Upshur Village as they begin resettlement in the U.S., Oct. 5, 2021. Photo by Tia Dufour

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Lt. Col. Quinci Martin, operations officer with Task Force Quantico, gives her rank insignia to an Afghan child before she departs from Upshur Village, Dec. 22, 2021. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jessica J. Mazzamuto Task Force Quantico expresses its thanks to our various interagency partners from across the northern Virginia region and United States that made Operation Allies Welcome such an overwhelming success.











