

SECTION IV: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
A	"3/3 Marines track down clues, insurgents in the Korengal Valley" From: Dec 31, 2004 <i>Sentinel</i>
B	"USMC Commandant visits Marines in Afghanistan" From: Dec 31, 2004 <i>Sentinel</i>
C	"Marines deliver school supplies in Nangalam" From: Dec 31, 2004 <i>Sentinel</i>
D	"3/3 Marines train with Afghan Security Forces" From: Dec 31, 2004 <i>Sentinel</i>
E	"You've got mail" From: Dec 31, 2004, <i>Sentinel</i>
F	"Marine Snipers Disrupt Insurgent Activity in Afghanistan" From: Jan 4, 2005 <i>www.usmc.mil</i>
G	"Commandant, Sergeant Major visit Marines in Afghanistan" From: Jan 5, 2005 <i>www.usmc.mil</i>
H	"3/3 repels Christmas Eve ambush" From: Jan 14, 2005 <i>www.usmc.mil</i>
I	"Interpreters aid America's Battalion in War on Terrorism" From: Jan 21, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
J	"3/3 honors battalion alumnus" From: Jan 21, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
K	"3/3 gains another ally in OEF" From: Jan 21, 2005 <i>www.usmc.mil</i>
L	"3/3 Marines donate truck to Afghan police" From: Jan 21, 2005 <i>www.usmc.mil</i>
M	"3/3 seizes cache" From Jan 21, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
N	"Letters To The Editor" From: Jan 21, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
O	"3/3 thwarts off early attack" From: Jan 28, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
P	"Gear List" From: Jan 28, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
Q	"3/3 trains Afghan Forces" From: Feb 4, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>

R	"Hawaii Marines take fight to enemy in Afghanistan mountains" From: Feb 6, 2005 <i>www.usmc.mil</i>
S	"PSYOP teams give Marines another voice on battlefield" From: Feb 18, 2005 <i>www.usmc.mil</i>
T	"3/3 helps secure clinic" From: Feb 25, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
U	"3/3 scores major success in Khost" From: Feb 26, 2005 <i>www.usmc.mil</i>
V	"3/3 readies for fair weather fighters" From: Mar 11, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
W	"MARFORCENT deputy CG visits 3/3" From: Mar 18, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
X	"Spring is in the air" From: Mar 18, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
Y	"3/3 Marines stay on the offensive in Afghanistan" From: Mar 23, 2005 <i>www.usmc.mil</i>
Z	"3/3 infantry learn to call, direct close air support" From: Mar 25, 2005 <i>www.usmc.mil</i>
AA	"Dragon Eye keeps insurgents on the run" From: Apr 15, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
BB	"`Jingle all the way'" From: Apr 22, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
CC	"Afghan children find friends in Marines" From: Apr 22, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
DD	"Afghans turn IEDs in to authorities" From: Apr 22, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
EE	"Battle leaves 23 Afghan insurgents dead" From: May 9, 2005 <i>USA Today</i>
FF	"Two Marines killed in OEF" From: May 13, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
GG	"Taliban leader joins Afghan forces" From: May 13, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
HH	"3/3 honors Kilo warriors" From: May 27, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
II	"America's Battalion remembers spirit of brothers" From: May 27, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
JJ	"3/3 returns to Tora Bora for Operation Celtics" From: Jun 3, 2005 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>

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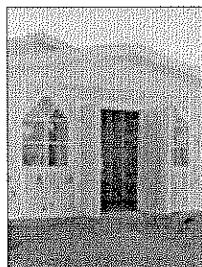
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Wolfhounds patrol
Waza Khwa area
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New chapel opens
at FOB Salerno
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Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Facing steep hillsides, Marines from India Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment search houses in Korangal Valley last week during Operation Cornhuskers.

3/3 Marines track down clues, insurgents in Korangal Valley

By Cpl. Rich Mattingly
3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regt.

KORANGAL VALLEY, Afghanistan - Marines of India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, have been operating at the forward edge of Operation Enduring Freedom, often in isolated areas where support for insurgency against the Afghan government and Coalition Forces remains.

Last week, India Co. entered the Korangal Valley in Konar Province with the mission to capture or kill terrorists suspected of conducting attacks against Coalition Forces, while working to win over the trust of the local villagers.

"We get intelligence that lets us know where the bad guys are," explained 2nd Lt. Roy Bechtold, 2nd platoon commander, India Co. "After we get grid locations, we work with our assets to plan the best way to go in and get them."

The Korangal Valley is infamous for its inac-

cessibility and the numerous defeats the Russians suffered there during their ill-fated campaign to control Afghanistan.

After vertically inserting in CH-47 Chinook helicopters, India Co. set into blocking positions along the roads and maneuvered into their positions.

"The best way to come in is on foot or by air," said Bechtold. "We have to leave as small a signature as possible in order to not spook the guys were looking for into running. If you come in with vehicles, they'll be long gone before you have a chance."

Bechtold admitted that Marines in the past have had difficulty getting into villages sympathetic to Anti-Coalition Forces without having the targets flee.

Once in place, the mission of India Co. evolved to house-by-house searches as the clock started ticking on how long the Marines had until it was

See "Korangal" page 4

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Korangal from page 1

unlikely that their targets remained.

Up and down the bluffs and rocky faces that double as paths between the impossi-

bly stacked-up houses of the valley, the Marines and their Afghan National Army counterparts talked to village elders, shook hands and searched houses from top to bottom.

"It all goes back to attention to detail,"



Marines take a security posture as an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter leaves the landing zone they were inserted into during operations in the Korangal Valley.

Cpl. Rich Mattingly

said Sgt. Shawn Kelly, an acting platoon sergeant in India Co. "You can't stop anything, it could be that one cache or that one guy you miss that could help us stop an improvised explosive device emplacement or attack on Coalition Forces."

India Co.'s attentiveness paid off on the second day of the operation as Lance Cpl. Sean Decoursey, rifleman from Jacksonville, Fla., crawled through a small opening in a floor to find a cache of weapons and ammunition hidden under a pile of hay.

"I found the AK-47s and ammunition," said Decoursey, modest about the find. "I almost didn't look in that hole either - it looked like maybe it only went back about two or three feet until I crawled in there."

With the discovery of the weapons, the Marines held one Afghan man for questioning, confiscating his illegal weapons and ammunition. Their find was a good one. After being questioned, the man named several other anti-Coalition militants operating in the area which put India Co. right back to work in the villages.

"It feels really good to be here and to be getting something done," said Decoursey, who has been in the Marine Corps just over a year. "It feels like we're really making a difference when we can catch one of them."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM A, PICTURE 2

USMC Commandant visits Marines in Afghanistan

By Cpl. Rich Mattingly
3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regt.

CAMP BLESSING, Afghanistan - The 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps visited the Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines Regiment operating in support of Operation Enduring Freedom just before Christmas.

Gen. Michael Hagee and Sgt. Maj. John Estrada congratulated the troops for their dedication to duty at the forward edge of the battle area.

"The American people know what a good job you're doing here," said Hagee, hands on his hips surveying the crowd. "And we know what a good job you're doing here, too."

Estrada echoed the sentiments of the commandant and assured the troops that they were making a difference by

being in the fight.

"Stay vigilant. You're doing important things here and you must always remember that you are a Marine," said Estrada.

The senior enlisted man and the commandant then took questions from the gathered Marines and Sailors who were eager to ask about future deployments, even as they were still in the first few months of their current deployment.

"It was exciting to get to see the commandant and sergeant major" said Lance Cpl. Tim Davis, rifleman with India Company, 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines. "We asked him about maybe going to Iraq. A lot of guys are interested in going where a lot of our friends have gone."

After answering the Marines' questions and passing out coins, the heads of the Marine Corps took time to take pictures with all of the Marines.

"Meeting the 'boss' got me totally

pumped up," said Lance Cpl. James O'Brien, team leader with India Co. "Getting to meet him before we went out [for operations] in the Korangal Valley was motivating."



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael Hagee thanks service members for their efforts in the Global War on Terrorism

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM B, PICTURE 1

Marines deliver school supplies in Nangalam

By **P Rh Attagly**
3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Fgt.

NANGALAM, Afghanistan - Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment manning a base along the Pakistan border recently began a campaign to distribute much-needed school supplies to the children of Nangalam in Kunar Province.

"Whenever we can get out and we have the supplies to distribute, we go out," explained Spc. Chris Hill, an Army civil affairs specialist from Philadelphia who has been attached to India Company.

The coupling of Marine and Army personnel has been effective in realizing the humanitarian portion of the Marines current mission to stabilize and support the democratic government of Afghanistan.

"Having a civil affairs Soldier with us has added another tool for us to interact with the local populace, a way to provide something to them that would otherwise be hard for us," said Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Yantosca, a logistics chief and information opera-



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Yantosca, Camp Blessing logistics chief and information operations officer, passes out school bags and supplies to children in Nangalam, Afghanistan.

Instead of adopting a purely combat-oriented mission posture, America's Battalion has become multi-faceted in its approach to its security and support mission in Afghanistan. By winning "hearts and minds," as the adage goes, the Marines and

Sailors are able to undercut remaining support for insurgency in an area where attacks on Coalition Forces are not infrequent.

"When you start helping them, they start helping us out," said Hill. "They can directly see the benefit of working with us when we can

hand them supplies their children need."

"You've got to be able to flip the script," shared Yantosca. "One minute you're on a patrol, the next minute you're passing out school supplies."

On a trip last week to a school in Nangalam, Hill and Yantosca passed out book bags full of pens and pencils and notepads to school children.

The first thing most children who approach Marines in southern Afghanistan ask for is pens.

Thanks to donations, the Marines can start to provide these supplies on a regular basis as Afghanistan still struggles to recover economically.

Yantosca says the school supplies donation goes deeper than just helping Afghan children for the short term.

"These children are the future of president Karzai's country," said Yantosca while distributing book bags. "Building a relationship with the kids in this way means that as they get older, the relationship can be one of mutual respect."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM C PICTURE 1

3/3 Marines train with Afghan Security Forces

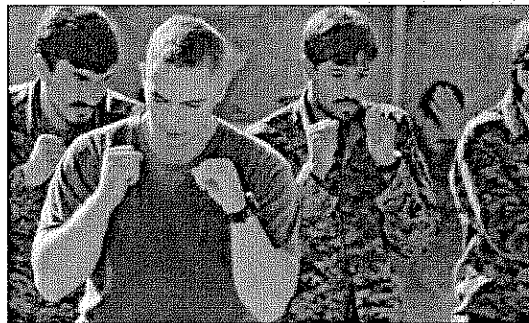
By Cpl. Rich Mattingly
3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regt.

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan - The Marines and Sailors of "America's Battalion," 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment have been training side-by-side with Afghan Security Forces near the Pakistan border since the Battalion arrived in Afghanistan early last month.

In the northern province of Kunar, India Co., 3/3, has taken control of a small forward operating base in the heart of the Hindu Kush mountain range. The Marines' efforts there have focused on preparing Afghan Forces, employed by the Coalition, to take an even larger role in the protection of their country from its enemies in the form of Al Qaeda and remnants of the Taliban.

"Take a stance!" yells Marine 2nd Lt. Gary Bechtold of Green Brook, N.J., to his pupils, a group of ASF soldiers quickly springing into the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program's "basic warrior's stance" next to the concertina wire perimeter of Camp Blessing.

Bechtold, a green-belt martial arts instructor, has been training the ASF soldiers living and working with the Marines in MCMAP for about a month. The Marines hope to have their Afghan counterparts tan-belt qualified soon, the first level of the Marines' mixed martial arts program.



2nd Lt. Gary Roy Bechtold drills Afghan Security Forces Soldiers in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.



Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Cpl. James Rogers, platoon commander of the Afghan Security Forces and India Co. squad leader reminds one of his ASF Soldiers to always be ready to block and react.

"We've been working with the ASF soldiers to train them in military operations in urban terrain, patrolling and MCMAP," said Bechtold. "We're teaching them our leadership traits and core values in addition to some of our basic fight-

ing skills. It's the same training Marines get," he continued.

While the Marine martial arts instructor and platoon commander was putting his eager pupils through body-hardening drills and basic MCMAP movement skills, other Marines were sitting side-by-side with their Afghan counterparts in Camp Blessing's fortified outposts.

"We try to always have an equal number of Marines and ASF soldiers on post and with us on patrol," explained 1st Lt. Justin Bellman, India Co. executive officer, from Newark, Del.

Bellman says that with over 100 ASF soldiers currently stationed at Camp Blessing to augment his Marines, conditions couldn't be better for positioning the Afghan forces to take greater responsibility for providing security for local Afghans.

"Several of these guys are former mujahadeen fighters. Many of them have lost family. They've had brothers killed or been injured themselves because of them having the courage to work with us in fighting the anti-Afghan forces," said Bellman. "What we've learned from the ASF is that people really do want peace in this area, and they're willing to let us help them achieve their goals."

With the ASF squads now divided into Marine-like ranks with Marine squad leaders overseeing their training and employment, the commanders of India Co. are also pleased with how their noncommissioned officers have stepped up to the challenge of integrating with the Afghans.

"We've been doing a left-seat, right-seat with them since we got here," explained Bechtold. "My job has been easy; it's the NCOs who have really run with it. They're alone and unafraid here. The corporals and sergeants have taken ownership of their squads a lot more than if we were doing standard platoon operations," he added.

The Marines say their time with the ASF has also been eye-opening on many levels. On convoys and on patrol, the Afghan forces have proven adept and skillful. Many times, the Marines have been surprised by how perceptive the Afghan Security Forces are to subtle changes in their surroundings, changes which could have been hostile threats.

"One second, they'll be smoking and laughing, and the next they'll be aimed in, deadly serious," explained Lance Cpl. Tim Davis, India Co. rifleman from Enfield, Conn. "They've got this sixth sense about them. I've looked where they're aiming in, and even with my optics I can't see what they just know is out there."

"They're the most courteous people I've ever met," Davis continued. "We've seen nothing but the good side of the Afghan people by working with them."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM D, PICTURE 1

You've got mail

America's Battalion makes it mail call to mail call

By Cpl. Rich Mattingly
3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Rgt.

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Even as their thoughts remain securely on the task of securing Afghanistan, the Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment have found reassurances that 'life goes on' back home to be increasingly important during the holiday season.

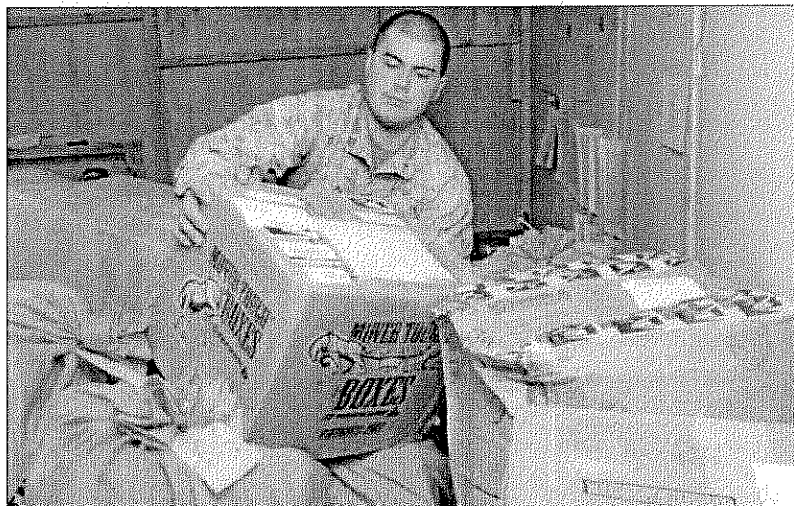
"With being half a world away from family and loved ones, and at what seems to be the furthest edge of the battle area, mail for the platoon is a driving force," explained Staff Sgt. Timothy Ledbetter, platoon sergeant with India Co., 3/3 during a recent mail drop to Camp Blessing. "It greatly improves morale and it brings a little bit of home to the boys."

Letters from home are a time-tested tradition when it comes to American service men and women deployed to combat zones. Even with the modern technology that allows deployed troops to make satellite phone calls and, more often than not, access to e-



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

With up to 70 bags of mail a day, Pfc. Matt Cole stays busy sorting out America's Battalion mailroom.



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Marine Pfc. Matt Cole, administrative clerk with Headquarters and Service Co., 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, faced a mountain of mail every day during the holiday season.

mail and other instant-gratification forms of communication, the Marines of America's Battalion said nothing beats a hand-written letter.

Marines at even America's Battalion's farthest outlying posts recently received a much-needed lift when mail arrived just in time for Christmas.

"It brings the morale level up big-time whenever a bird comes and drops off mail for us," said Lance Cpl. Louis Ihrig, a scout observer for India Co., 3/3.

Mail heading for the large area America's Battalion currently covers in eastern Afghanistan funnels through Bagram Airfield, where Pfc. Matt Cole from Concord, N.C., administrative clerk, handles well over a thousand pieces of mail each week. Cole says that the mail keeps him very busy, especially as holiday packages fill his 'mail hooch' to the rafters.

"I'm doing my job as fast as I can because I know how

important getting stuff from home is," said Cole, who is responsible for sorting the mail of well over 1200 Marines, Sailors and attachments to the Battalion.

Cole mentioned that he has also learned that mail has a much higher status as a force-multiplier than he first imagined.

"A couple of things I've learned while sorting the mail is that I'm not allowed to have a trash can in the mail room, just in case something were to get thrown away accidentally, and I've learned that no one, not even a four-star general can bump mail off of a flight to one of our bases," said Cole.

Letters and packages can take up to a month to reach deployed Marines and Sailors in Afghanistan, but the length of time just makes it that much more worthwhile when it arrives.

"Supplies, food, candy, anything we can't get here is always great to get in the mail," added Ihrig. "No matter

how long it takes to get here, it shows us that people support us."

And it's not just friends and families that have been supporting the deployed Hawaii Marines. Thanks to web sites like www.anysoldier.com, www.adoptaplatoon.com and www.adoptasniper.com, America's Battalion's troops have gotten some extra attention.

"I signed up my squad to receive care packages on the internet and we've gotten deluged with mail," said Lance Cpl. Tim Davis, India Co. fire team leader from Enfield, Conn. "It's awesome to get that kind of support when we can't usually get a lot of things here that they send to us."

High on the list of "must-haves" for Marines and Sailors were baby wipes, foot powder and any reading material.

With the help of regular mail delivery, morale remains high and Marines can remain informed even when deployed half a world away.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM E, PICTURE 1

Marine Snipers Disrupt Insurgent Activity in Afghanistan

Submitted by: American Forces Press Service

Story Identification #: 200515145139

Story by Cpl. Rich Mattingly

KONAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan (Jan. 4, 2005) -- In the difficult terrain of Afghanistan's Hindu Kush Mountains, troop movement can be slow and tedious. Often, Marine companies break operations down to platoon and squad elements to locate and close with the enemy.

Since anti-coalition militants are usually well-versed on evasion tactics in the mountains, the snipers of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, give commanders the ability to "reach out and touch someone."

"We've been operating in the Korangal valley for about a month now," said 2nd Lt. Roy Bechtold, a platoon commander with the battalion's Company I. "Our missions have been to disrupt activity and harass the (anti-coalition militants). We've been leaving as small a signature as possible for these missions, and the sniper teams are a large part of making that happen."

The high altitudes of the Hindu Kush mountain range and the wildly fluctuating temperatures of eastern Afghanistan make shooting at long distances challenging, especially when the target is moving.

"Because of the cold, the round tends to drop a certain amount over long distances," explained Sgt. Tucker Stokely on the considerations he and his spotter have to take into account before firing. "The elevation, thinning air and angle of the shot also have a lot to do with how the round will travel through the air."

With aid from his observer, Lance Cpl. Matt Brinker, Stokely said he was able to sight in and take the challenging shot. The sniper said the key to an effective, well-aimed shot is patience and having faith in your observer.

"You also have to be ready to adjust and take that second shot if you need to. You have to stay focused and not get

frustrated or lose your patience," he added.

The M-40A3 sniper rifle Stokely uses in the field is known as a "minute of angle" weapon. Every 100 yards out, the shooter must compensate an inch to hit the same target.

Working in tandem with an observer, Marine Corps scout snipers are trained to quickly determine distances to various points in their field of fire and calculate the proper "dope," or rifle calibration, to accurately engage targets at those locations.

"It requires a lot of waiting," said Stokely. "Ninety-five percent of the time we don't see anything, but we try and prepare for everything."

(Marine Cpl. Rich Mattingly is assigned to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.)

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Photos included with story:

Entry not found in index

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM F, PICTURE 1

Commandant, Sergeant Major visit Marines in
Afghanistan

Submitted by: Combined Joint Task Force - 76

Story Identification #: 20051515134

Story by Cpl. Rich Mattingly

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan (Jan. 5, 2005) -- The 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps visited the Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom just before Christmas.

General Michael Hagee and Sgt. Maj. John Estrada congratulated the troops for their dedication to duty at the forward edge of the battle area.

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here," said Hagee, hands on his hips surveying the crowd. "And we know what a good job you're doing here, too."

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After answering questions and passing out coins, the heads of the Marine Corps took time to take pictures with all of the Marines.

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Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM G, PICTURE 1

Photos included with story:



KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan--
Commandant of the Marine Corps
Michael Hagee thanked service
members for their efforts in
the Global War on Terrorism in
the foothills of the Hindu Kush
mountains as Marines, Sailors,
Soldiers and Afghan Security
Forces look on. Photo by: Cpl.
Rich Mattingly



KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan-- Sergeant Maj. of the Marine Corps John Estrada addresses the Marines, Soldiers and Afghan Security Forces operating out of Camp Blessing in the Kunar Province of Afghanistan. The head enlisted man of the Marine Corps said he was thrilled to have the opportunity to spend time with America's Battalion while they were forward deployed. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan-- Commandant of the Marine Corps Michael Hagee and Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps John Estrada address the Marines, Soldiers and Afghan Security Forces operating out of Camp Blessing in the Kunar Province of Afghanistan. Camp Blessing is a former HIV/AIDS clinic that the Taliban closed, was later used by Coalition Special Forces and is now home to Marines and Sailors from America's Battalion. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan-- When General Michael Hagee took his position as the 33rd commandant of the Marine Corps, he wasn't ready to give just anyone his coveted four-star coin. Whenever Hagee visits service members, he gives a few coins out, but only to those nominated by their company gunny or 1st sgt. At Camp Blessing, the commandant gave out coins to a select few Marines and Soldiers while visiting America's Battalion in Afghanistan. Photo by: Cpl.

Rich Mattingly



KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan--
Commandant of the Marine Corps
Michael Hagee shows America's
Battalion just what he thinks
of their efforts in the Global
War on Terrorism as Marines,
Sailors, Soldiers and Afghan
Security Forces look on. Photo
by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM G, PICTURE 2

3/3 repels Christmas Eve ambush

Cpl. Rich Mattingly

3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marines and Sailors of India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, had an unforgettable holiday, making contact with enemy forces in the Korangal Valley Dec. 23 and again on Christmas Eve.

Coming immediately after a mission where India Company had been pursuing insurgents in the valley, the Marines and Sailors of "America's Battalion" came under small-arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire in the middle of the night.

"It started during a watch change-over, so most of us were awake," said Navy Seaman Jonathon Seaux, hospital corpsman with India Company from Abbeville, La. "I checked on my Marines to make sure everyone was okay, and then I just did the first thing I thought to do: pick up the squad automatic weapon next to me and start firing back."

Seaux didn't even notice the 7.62 mm

round that lodged in his body armor just above his heart until the next day.

"I guess I'm just lucky," said Seaux, proudly displaying the SAPI plate with a hole from which he had extracted a round. "Better me than one of my Marines," added the corpsman, who helped bandage another Marine's bullet wound the very next day.

After taking fire for a solid 20 minutes, the Marines sent the enemy packing for the night with deadly accurate 60mm high-explosive mortar bursts.

With one squad running low on ammunition after the firefight, another squad made a night movement of more than 1,200 meters to make sure their fellow Marines had backed up.

"They didn't complain and they didn't stop," said 2nd Lt. Pete Ankeny, platoon commander from Colstrip, Mont. "They knew they had a job to do."

On Christmas Eve, India Company's Combined Anti-Armor Team went to retrieve the Marines who were maintaining an over watch position in the Korangal Valley. After extracting the Marines, they got their own taste of action in an ambush by heavily-armed forces using fortified positions.

"We heard muted gunfire, RPGs exploding and the sound of rounds hitting the trucks," said Marine Cpl. Josh Burghbacher, machine-gunner from Lima, Ohio. "That lasted for maybe half of a second and then you could hear every single gun in the convoy open up. Everyone just reacted with their training."

Other Marines said Burghbacher, a machine-gunner, calmly helped fix a jammed MK-19 automatic grenade launcher while rounds were impacting around

him.

The ambush was a well-planned attack, according to CAAT platoon commander, 1st Lt. Jonathan Frangakis. The Belle Meade, N.J., native said the enemy had a pile of rocks marking the start of the kill zone.

"We thought at first it was an improvised explosive device, but they knew how many vehicles we had, and as soon as the first vehicle got near the marker, they opened up on us," Frangakis said.

For several Marines, it was their second firefight within just a few hours.

"I heard the rounds impacting," said Lance Cpl. Daniel Alfieri, machinegunner from Syracuse, N.Y. "I just thought, 'Here we go again,'" he said as he cleaned his weapon after returning to Asadabad with his squad.

The Marines assaulted through to the village where much of the fire had originated.

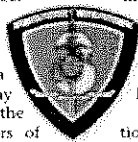
Another close call to complement Seaux's was the shot-through front site post of Sgt. Jason Burch's M-16A4 rifle. Burch, a Deer Lodge, Mont., native said he didn't even notice the damage to his rifle as he continued to return fire on the enemy's position.

It wasn't the start to the holidays the Marines maybe had hoped for, but according to what one Marine had seen on the popular television show "Mail Call" hosted by famous Marine R. Lee Ermey, it seemed to be tradition.

"Before it started, we had just been talking about how I had seen that 3/3 got attacked on Christmas Eve in Vietnam and repelled an enemy assault," said Lance Cpl. Ryan Archambeau, assaultman and MK-19 gunner, from Waynesboro, Pa.

As dawn broke on Christmas morning, the Marines and Sailors joined together in giving thanks for their good fortune that no one was seriously injured in the firefights. After holiday services, the Marines returned to their base of operations in the Kunar Province where, to the man, the Marines broke out cleaning gear and busted the carbon off of their weapons before heading to Christmas chow.

"There isn't anyone I'd rather have spent the holidays with," said Archambeau. "This was the best Christmas I've ever had."



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Sgt. Jason Burch displays his M-16A4 rifle's front sight post, hit by an enemy round during an ambush Dec. 24.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM H, PICTURE 1

Photos included with story: usmc.mil



Navy Seaman Jonathon Seaux, a hospital corpsman with India Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, displays the SAPI plate from his body armor with a hole from which he had extracted a round following a firefight Dec. 23. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Sgt. Jason Burch's displays his M16 A4 rifle that had an enemy round hit the front sight post during an ambush Dec. 24. Burch, a Deerlodge, Mont., native said he didn't even notice the damage to his rifle as he continued to return fire on the enemy's position. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM H, PICTURE 2

Interpreters aid America's Battalion in War on Terrorism

By Cpl. Rich Mattingly
3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Rgt.

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan - The author Rollo May once said, "Communication leads to community, understanding and mutual valuing."

In eastern Afghanistan, where mutual understanding and communication between vastly different cultures is the cornerstone of Operation Enduring Freedom, the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment are making sure that they are able to bridge the lingual and cultural barriers between Afghans and Marines with a new breed of "warrior-interpreters."

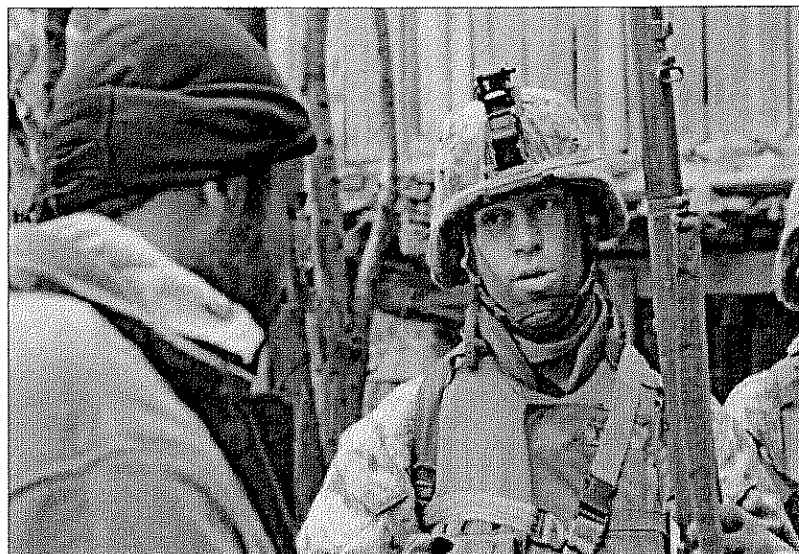
With skilled interpreters embedded with platoons they operate with, Marines have been able to not only increase the effectiveness of their work with the Afghan National Army, but have also dramatically expanded their ability to locate and close with the enemy in many areas where Afghans might otherwise be hesitant to cooperate with Marines for fear of repercussions from Anti-Coalition Forces.

Wadeer, an interpreter with Afghan Security Forces operating side-by-side with America's Battalion, was just finishing his medical school studies when the Taliban took power six years ago.

"I was two weeks away from finding out the results of my final medical school exams when everything changed," said the soft-spoken man who is now as comfortable wielding an AK-47 assault rifle as he is a stethoscope. Before he could find out the results of his tests, the Taliban had overthrown Jalalabad.

"The Taliban didn't care about education," said Wadeer, "I was thrown out of class by a Taliban-approved professor because I did not cut my hair a certain way," continued the interpreter in disgust.

Wadeer is fluent in both



Sgt. Shawn Kelly, squad leader with India Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Rgt., speaks with Wadeer, an interpreter working for America's Battalion about an unauthorized weapon his squad seized from a house in the Korangal Valley.

English and Pashtu, the language of primarily used in America's Battalion's area of responsibility. With two years of medical practice adding to his experience and ability to communicate, Wadeer brings a lot to the fight. With his and the other interpreters' help, Marines are gaining more ground than ever on anti-coalition forces.

"They're our lifeblood for communicating with local nationals and our Afghan Security Forces," said 2nd Lt. Roy Bechtold, platoon commander with India Co. "They'll fight with us to the death, and they're extremely protective of the Marines," said Bechtold.

Wadeer and his fellow interpreters are extremely loyal to the Marines they often find themselves fighting alongside.

"They are good people," said Wadeer, breaking into an easy smile. "They treat us as equals, like we're the same because we fight together."

The general consensus in Afghanistan is that the presence of the Marines is a welcome change. The interpreters echo this sentiment.

happy to share that they are happy to see the new peace and stability that has been a direct result of the Marine Corps' involvement in Afghanistan.

"I think we as Afghans are all happier now," explained Wadeer. "The most important thing is security. There used to be these local commanders and no one had freedom," he continued, referring to tribal warlords who abused the land and its people, allowing terrorism to spread before the Coalition overthrew the Taliban.

"Now we live equal, now there is a chance for us to live free and have a free Afghanistan," he added.

Wadeer plans on returning to the medical field one day, but for now, he feels his place is with the ASF and the Marines of America's Battalion, fighting for his country. With its economy still recovering from the fallout of decades of internal strife, Wadeer can also earn more money for his family working with the Marines than he can practicing medicine in Kabul.

For Afghanistan to recover and completely remove the stigma that terrorists have brought to the war-torn country, the interpreter says that it is imperative that Americans keep faith in his people.

"I think it's necessary for the Marines to stay here," he shared. "The situation is still critical."

Many Afghans share Wadeer's view. With only about 20,000 Afghan National Army troops currently recruited out of the 70,000 the Afghan government says they hope to eventually have, Coalition Forces must still bear the brunt of security and stability operations in Afghanistan.

"The Marines help us to make our government more powerful so that we can take care of the terrorists ourselves," said Wadeer.

With the help of Wadeer and the Afghan Security Forces as well as the entire Joint Task Force operating in Afghanistan, America's Battalion continues to fight to bring a brighter future to Afghanistan.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM I, PICTURE 1



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Marines stand at the sign for Camp Krulak, which is named in honor of a former commander of Lima Company, 3/3, who later became Commandant of the Marine Corps.

3/3 honors battalion alumnus

Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Combined Joint Task Force 76

CAMP KRULAK, Afghanistan — Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, recently dubbed its new home in Afghanistan "Camp Krulak" after the man who not only once led the Marine Corps, but was also once the Lima Company commander as well as the battalion commander who first gave "America's Battalion" its name.

However, being the most well-known battalion alumnus was not the deciding factor in naming Camp Krulak after the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, retired General Charles C. Krulak, as Capt. Eric Kelly, Lima Company commander, explained.

"Force Lima has a proud legacy," said Kelly. "As we look back on the history of Lima, there are a number of Marines and Sailors who have stood up and answered the call. General Krulak epitomizes the spirit and tradition we want to keep alive."

Kelly went on to say that it was Krulak's bravery and devotion to duty under fire that made his name a clear choice to associate with Force Lima's current role in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Krulak joins Navy Cross recipient retired Col. John W. Ripley, the hero of Dong Ha bridge in Vietnam, as a Lima Company, America's Battalion alumnus with an operating base named in his honor. Ripley was honored by the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit last May when it founded "Camp Ripley" in southern Afghanistan.

"America's Battalion is fortunate to have a history of

See CAMP, A-6

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM J, PICTURE 1

CAMP, From A-1

superb company commanders, particularly during the war in Vietnam," said Lt. Col. Norm Cooling, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, commanding officer. "That is especially true in Lima Company's case. Not many companies in the Marine Corps can claim both a Navy Cross winner and a Silver Star winner who went on to become the Commandant," explained Cooling. "I have been fortunate to serve with both Colonel Ripley and General Krulak. Most of us who decided to make the Corps our career hope that we can one day claim that we contributed half as much as either of those two men to our Corps and our Nation. I can also assure you that this battalion's company commanders today, here in Afghanistan, are living up to the legacy set by their forebearers. They are superb."

At the entrance to Camp Krulak is a sign board where Lima Company Marines

and Sailors can keep updated on the latest America's Battalion news. General Krulak's Silver Star citation is also posted there so Lima Company can learn about their company history in Vietnam.

According to the official citation, General Krulak was awarded the Silver Star, one of America's highest battlefield honors, for his actions during operations west of Con Thien in Vietnam.

In June of 1969, Krulak was instrumental in saving his company from an enemy mortar assault when he skillfully maneuvered his troops away from danger and called in accurate air strikes and artillery while exposing himself to enemy fire. Then, refusing to be evacuated despite his wounds, he sent his troops to attack and subsequently defeat the enemy force that had been attacking them. Only after moving his men to a new patrol base did he allow himself to be evacuated the next morning.

"All the platoon sergeants and commanders thought 'Camp Krulak' would

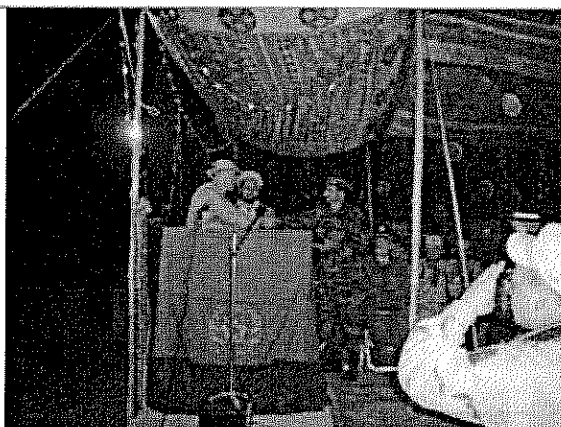
be the most fitting," said Cpl. Josh Wartchow, training noncommissioned officer with Lima Company from Doylestown, Pa. "We've put a lot of work into the camp, and the Marines take a lot of extra pride knowing that we named it after one of our own," he continued.

The Marines of Force Lima have roofed the "hooches," or living quarters, they inherited from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, in the camp. "It's beginning to feel not quite like home, but definitely a place we look forward to coming back to after going out on missions," said Wartchow.

With its hot chow, warm buildings and the ability to send e-mail home, Camp Krulak is a welcome respite for a company which keeps more than half its strength continuously "outside the wire" on patrol in the villages and mountains of Afghanistan.

Force Lima continues to operate in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Combined Joint Task Force 76.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM J, PICTURE 2



3/3 gains another ally in OEF

Submitted by: Combined Joint Task Force

- 76

Story Identification #: 20051273267

Story by Cpl. Rich Mattingly

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (Jan. 21, 2005) -- The Marines of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, gained a new partner in Afghanistan as the 23rd Kandak, or battalion, of the Afghan National Army assumed authority in Jalalabad.

The Kandak, whose soldiers recently graduated from the Kabul Military Training

Academy, were welcomed to the fight by 3rd Bn. at a transfer of authority ceremony held last week.

"The Afghan National Army plays a critical role in protecting and promoting the Afghan democracy," said Lt. Col. Norm Cooling, commanding officer, 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines. "The Marines of America's Battalion will continue to work closely with Afghan forces to improve their training as well as work side by side with the ANA to provide security for the Afghan people."

The Kandaks have been supporting the Marine mission in Afghanistan with the help of the Army's Embedded Training Teams who liaison between the Marines and Afghan forces.

"We're a 14-man team who coach, mentor and train the leadership of a Kandak," said Army Maj. Dave Vesper, deputy team chief, 23rd Kandak ETT. "In a garrison environment we direct formal classes, and during missions we act more as combat advisors as well as go-betweens for the ANA and Coalition forces."

Marines have had many positive experiences working with dedicated Afghan forces. The 3/3 Kandak, which the 23rd replaced, was looked upon highly by the Marines who operated side-by-side with its soldiers.

"The Kandak is an outstanding unit and it has been an honor to work with them," explained 1st Lt. John-Paul Sienicki, L Platoon commander. "They have been vital in helping us develop a positive relationship with the Afghan people."

The 3/3 Kandak is a designated armor unit, but were deployed to Jalalabad as an infantry unit for the Presidential election. As they return to Pol-E-Charki, near Kabul, they will undergo armor refresher training then return to being part of the quick reaction force for the nation, ready to be deployed as an armor unit as needed.

Made up of a diverse mix of ethnicities and tribes from around the country, the Kandaks are widely viewed by Afghans as a source of national pride. In this diverse environment where ethnic tensions still divide parts of the country, the Kandaks are a unifying and stabilizing force for the Afghan people, said Vesper.

"The Kandaks are the future of Afghanistan," he said. "For many people they are the most visible manifestation of the central government. Because of their multi-ethnic composition, they're seen as fair brokers of the peace."

Vesper related that when the ANA first began to operate around Afghanistan, they were not trusted by the Afghan Militia Forces who were the remnants of the warlords' militias who had fought the Taliban regime.

"To the militia guys, the ANA were just another group of guys with AKs," explained Vesper. "Within two months, the ANA had the AMF turning in their weapons and explosives voluntarily. The ANA has built that trust."

The ANA also provides an Afghan face to the government and to the new peace that is being built here. For the Marines, working with the Kandak further demonstrates to the people of Afghanistan that their mission is for the greater good of the country.

"People see their own government helping them, not just other nations, and that's very important to the development of Afghan self-government," said Vesper.

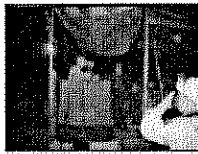
"The Kandak soldiers clearly want to serve their nation," added Cooling. "That spirit of service and sacrifice is an indispensable and fundamental basis for any democracy."

"The ANA soldiers are patriotic," added Sgt. 1st Class Steve Toth, ETT company trainer. "They appreciate the sacrifice of the Marines and soldiers because it's something they understand. They desire a peaceful and secure Afghanistan just as we do."

The transfer of authority ceremony was marked with speeches by Coalition and Afghan leaders and a traditional Afghan dinner. The outgoing Kandak was praised for its hard work and support of the Marines and Soldiers in Jalalabad. After the posting of the Afghan colors, many joined in the Afghan national dance to celebrate the successful transition between units.

- 30 -

Photos included with story:



The 23rd Kandak (Afghan National Army Battalion), who's Soldiers recently graduated from the Kabul Military Training Academy, were welcomed to Jalalabad by America's Battalion at a transfer of authority ceremony held last week. "The Kandak Soldiers clearly want to serve their nation," said Lt. Col. Norm Cooling, commanding officer, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines. "That spirit of service and sacrifice is an indispensable and fundamental basis for any democracy." Photo by: Courtesy Photo

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM K, PICTURE 1



3/3 Marines donate truck to Afghan police

Submitted by: Combined Joint Task Force
- 76

Story Identification #: 20052633049

Story by Cpl. Rich Mattingly

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan (Jan. 21, 2005) -- India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, has been working closely with the Afghan National Police here to increase their proficiency and capabilities.

Recently, the Marines were able to extend an extra hand to the ANP, donating a new pick-up truck to help the police perform their important missions around the province.

"The Afghan National Police have been outstanding in helping us," said 1st Lt. Justin Bellman, India Co. executive officer, adding, "We're here to help them as they work locally to maintain peace and provide a secure environment for the citizens of Kunar Province."

In their new vehicle the ANP can now respond more quickly to reports of illegal activity, such as timber smuggling, as well as transport the confiscated weapons caches they frequently seize.

"It gives them the ability to be a quick-reaction force," explained Bellman. "Now, they're able to take more responsibility for getting out and accomplishing their mission, and they love the truck."

India Co. Marines have been training the ANP as well as other Afghan forces in setting up "snap" vehicle and entry control points. The Marines have had great success with their impromptu vehicle searches, and they are working to pass on their techniques to the ANP. The Marines, with the importance they place on attention to detail when searching vehicles and people, have proved to be excellent teachers as well.

"We'll usually have one Marine, one Afghan Police Officer and one Afghan Soldier all working together to search a vehicle when we're out doing 'on the job training' with them," said Bellman. "It's been great practice for them and they're starting to take the initiative to go out and do it themselves."

Besides giving the Afghan Police a more visible presence, which has worked to bolster their authority as law-enforcers, the ANP has been extremely successful in seizing weapons.

"They've seized RPGs, improvised explosive devices, even an RPK machine gun," said Bellman. "They've been a great ally in the war on terror out here."

The Afghan National Police along with other Government of Afghanistan agencies are continually assuming more responsibility for the security of the country. The Marines of America's Battalion will continue to train with and operate alongside the ANP and ANA as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

- 30 -

Photos included with story:

Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines pose with Afghan National Police in front of the vehicle America's Battalion donated to them in Kunar province, Afghanistan. The vehicle will help the ANP better

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM L, PICTURE 1

3/3 seizes cache

Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Combat Correspondent

KONAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — In what proved to be America's Battalion's most successful seizure of munitions and drugs to date, Force Lima discovered a large cache of rocket-propelled grenades and 7.62mm ammunition, 5 kilos of opium and nearly 2,000 pounds of hashish in the town of Achin this week.

Operating with information from a local source concerning a possible weapons cache, 1st Platoon, Lima Company, swept into Achin in coordination with the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. After establishing a cordon and security with the Afghan forces, Lima sent in its Marines to do a detailed search of the houses where they suspected the weapons were hidden.

"We entered the compound of the third building and saw several Afghan women gathered in the corner, standing next to a large pile of burlap

sacks," said 1st Lt. Michael Berentson, Lima executive officer. "When we checked one bag, we discovered it was full of hashish," he continued. "It didn't take long to realize that all of the bags were full of hashish. We searched the house from there and found more, smaller bags of hash hidden all over the place. All together, we estimate that the bags equaled a little over 1800

pounds in weight."

The Marines' find was further increased after Lance Cpl. Justin Raack, one of Lima Company's attached 81mm mortarmen, shimmied down a 25-foot tunnel to find the target they were originally looking for, a large cache of RPGs and 7.62mm rounds. Nearly every week, Lima Company's

See CACHE, A-6



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Lance Cpl. Justin Raack, 81mm mortarman attached to Lima Company, 3/3, prepares to rappel into a tunnel where Lima Company later found a large weapons cache in the town of Achin.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM M, PICTURE 1

CACHE, From A-1

work has taken significant amounts of arms and ammunition out of the hands of the enemy. Insurgents are well known to hide weapons and explosives in cache sites to be used against Coalition and Afghan government forces at a later date.

After the successful seizure, everyone involved was thrilled with the success of the raid, which again highlighted America's Battalion's efforts to work closely with Afghan forces when conducting operations.

"The teamwork between U.S. Marines, Afghan soldiers and the Afghan National Police is what made this operation such a success," said Staff Sgt. Vinny Russo, a Lima Company platoon sergeant. "Having the ANA and ANP at the forefront of these operations lets the Afghan citizens know that their government is serious about drug eradication and eliminating support for terrorists."

Drug eradication has, in fact, become a significant goal for the Afghan govern-

ment. In his inaugural speech last month in Kabul, President Hamid Karzai pledged to eliminate what has been a large source of income for terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan. The current Coalition policy is that narcotics discovered in the course of conducting security and stability operations are seized and destroyed by Afghan forces.

"The Afghan people are beginning to realize that poppy cultivation and opium production is destroying innocent lives in Afghanistan and around the world," said 2nd Lt. Erik Muniz, 1st Platoon commander.

Afghan forces and 3/3 will continue to conduct joint security and support operations throughout Afghanistan. As Afghan military and police units become increasingly capable of addressing security challenges, the Marines will shift from a primary to a supporting role. For the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, America's Battalion, their ability to do that is a measure of their effectiveness.



FORUM, From A-1

was extremely helpful to her, said Bocci.

"We were able to help this woman by informing her about the MotoMail service," said Bocci.

Now the spouse will be able to send messages and a picture of their ten-month-old son to her husband, said Bocci.

"Just knowing something like that came of the forum made the whole night worth it to me," said Bocci.

"We didn't really have an idea what to expect going into last night since it was the first time actually doing this," said Bocci, "but the event ended up going very well with a great turnout."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM M, PICTURE 2

== LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ==

Spouse asks for discretion

My name is Selene L. Ramseur and I am a wife of a 3/3 infantry officer. As we all know, 3/3 is currently deployed to Afghanistan and 1/3 is deployed to Iraq. With all the changes and danger our Marines are facing, it's sad when their brothers in arms are not supportive.

I recently had an optometry appointment at the medical clinic here on Kaneohe. There were a lot of Marines in the waiting room, so some had to stand outside in the hallway.

That morning may have been the second or third time I had gotten to have a conversation with my husband since he's been over there. Sure, I get e-mails all the time, but that 20-minute conversation put at ease my fears and worries for him.

To sit there and listen to two Marines discuss 3/3 and hear one of them say, "They're sitting over there doing nothing," broke my heart. I started to think about my husband, working on Thanksgiving; and probably will have to work Christmas as well. There are no 96s for them to take. They don't have a chance to lounge at Kahuna's and play games there. With two-thirds of 3rd Marines serving in support of OIF and OEF, to say anyone of them is

just sitting there is an insult. To say something like that in the hearing distance of a spouse who would like nothing more than to have that service member home and safe is intolerable.

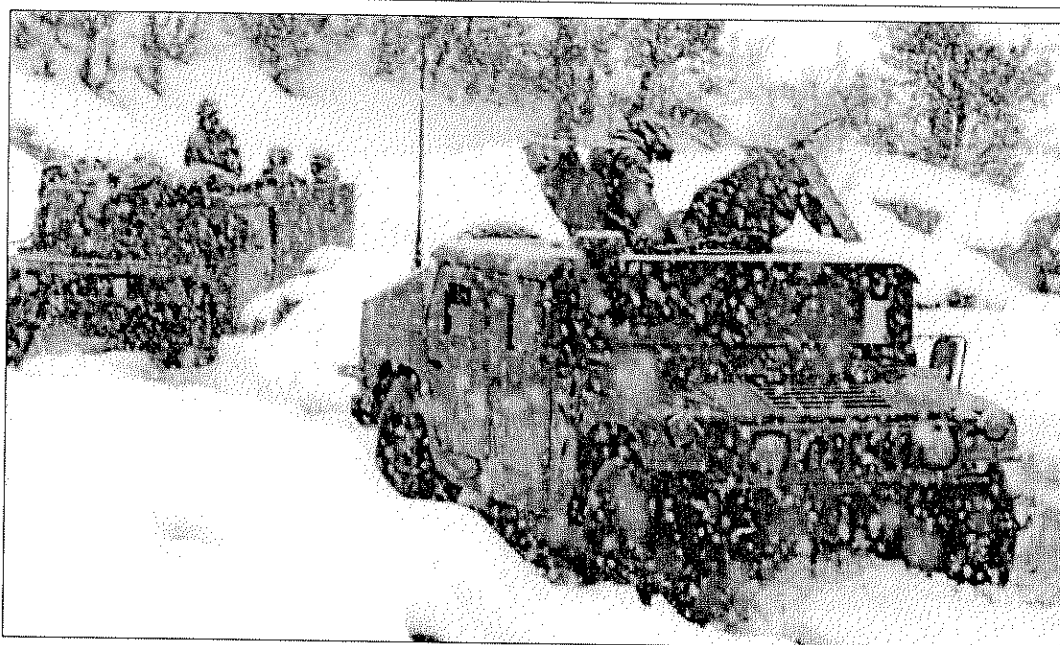
I am quite sure I could have addressed that issue with the two Marines at the time, but I think it is imperative for us all to know that you never know who is listening and words spoken can never be taken back.

So, to the two Marines that were standing outside of the Optometry department Tuesday morning around 9 a.m., you did a disservice to yourselves and your fellow Marines. I doubt you would have made the comments if you knew I was a 3/3 spouse, but it shouldn't take for you to know my affiliation for you to do the right thing.

We are struggling every day to deal with the fallout of the war on terrorism and while the media is constantly harping on the good and bad of the war, we shouldn't have to hear it from one of our own. I just ask everyone to watch what you say and where you say it because you never know who is listening.

*Selene Ramseur
Proud spouse of
1st Lt. Nicolas Ramseur,
currently deployed with 3/3
to Afghanistan*

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM N, PICTURE 1



Cpl. James L. Dyer

U.S. Marines conduct a mounted patrol in the cold and snowy weather of the Khowst-Gardez Pass in Afghanistan. Marines of the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine, are conducting security and stabilization operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

3/3 thwarts off early attack

Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhin
Combined Joint Task Force 76

KHOST PROVINCE, Afghanistan — A single gunshot shattered the early morning quiet Jan. 12.

A few moments of silence followed, as heads spun to find out where the shot came from.

Then, a flurry of machinegun fire erupted from a nearby hill.

Within a matter of seconds, Marines from 3rd

Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment were returning fire on their attackers.

For about 20 minutes, the Marines and their unknown attackers exchanged fire just outside a village in northern Khost Province. In the pitch black of the early morning, the Marines had only the muzzle flashes of the attackers to fire at.

During the exchange, the attackers fired several rocket-propelled grenades, including one that hit about 10 feet from a HMMWV that just moments

before had three Marines sleeping on the ground around it.

The attackers fled before Cobra helicopters arrived on scene, leaving one Marine with a gunshot wound to his arm. He was evacuated to Forward Operating Base Salerno, where he was treated and released to his unit later in the day.

Lance Cpl. Ryan Lane believed there were

See 3/3, A-7

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM O, PICTURE 1

3/3, From A-1

between 15 and 20 attackers. An infantryman in Weapons Company, Lane was manning a watch point on the hilltop closest to where the attack came from.

"I tried to count how many flashes there were, but there was so many I couldn't keep track of them," Lane said. "One would pop up, then another one, then a whole line would just light up. After that, my whole squad just started unloading on them."

The Marines had arrived at the location just before sunset the evening before. It was the first night of a scheduled four-day, three-night mission.

Lane, who turned 21 years old on Jan. 12, said he was asleep when at about 3 a.m. his squad leader jumped on top of him. He awoke hearing rounds impacting around where he was sleeping.

At one point during the fire-fight, two of the attackers moved closer to the Marines' position and each fired an RPG, Lane said. One hit the hill below the Marines' position, sending debris flying, and the other RPG whizzed overhead.

"That's when we popped [a flare], and we could see everyone

up there. You could see every person that was up on top of that hill. At one point, they were so close that we could see their faces and their little hats that they wear."

It remains unclear as to who the attackers actually were, but Lane believed it was a well coordinated attack by Anti-Coalition Militants. He said the Marines on fire watch could hear them setting into their positions.

"The way they had a heavy machine gun set in, this was planned out," Lane said. "They were either waiting for us or some other Coalition forces to come in here. They knew what they were doing."

Almost as soon as the sun started to come up, locals from the village started approaching the Marines with information. The Marines spent the majority of the next three days acting on this information in an effort to find the attackers.

While conducting searches throughout the village, they found several weapons.

The Marines were able to accomplish all of the mission's original goals, said Capt. K.C. Barr, commander of Weapons Company. That included setting up a mullah conference, evaluating a well construction project

in the village, conducting patrols with the Afghan National Police, and following up on some old intelligence leads.

Barr said because of the attack, he could have searched any home he wanted to in the village. Instead, he chose to talk it out with village elders and allow them time to solve the problem.

During his dealings with locals following the attack, Barr, a native of Upper Darby, Pa., said he was able to talk from a more emotional level.

"I think we shifted [the villagers' trust] in our direction," Barr admitted.

On the last day of the mission, villagers handed the Marines several weapons, including RPG launchers Barr believes were used in the attack.


Additionally, Barr said the experience was beneficial for the Marines because it served as a "wake-up call" for the Marines, who arrived in Afghanistan three months ago.

"Undoubtedly, this flipped on a whole bunch of light bulbs, and reminded Marines they can never let their guard down in this environment."

The Marines returned to FOB Salerno the night of Jan. 14 without further incident.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM O, PICTURE 2

GEAR LIST

 **Flak Vest With SAPI plates**

New vest, plates save lives

Lower Capt. Shashu Williams
Army Corps of Engineers

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — With the face of war constantly changing, the Marine Corps continues to adapt its gear to properly equip and protect its Marines.

One of the latest innovations is an improved outer Tactical Vest with Small Arms Protective Inserts, which will soon replace the old Personnel Armor System Ground Troop Flak Vest.

"Also, the CVT's defense fragmentation and mine rounds — something the old vest doesn't do," said Maj. Wendell B. Leimbach, combat equipment infantry combat

equipment team leader.

Used with Small Arms Protective Inserts, it provides protection from 7.62mm and 5.56mm rounds.

"While the CVT will stop fragmentation and mine rounds, the SAPI plate is required to spread out the energy of the bullet's impact, therefore, they must be worn as a set," explained Leimbach.

The most noticeable difference between the old and new vests are the mids, moving up to hang things on the front of the CVT, and the pockets in the front and back of the vest to insert SAPI plates," said Gregory L. Hauck, contract support leader for the

equipment team.

"The SAPI plates that go inside the vest are plates made from a ballistic ceramic tile backed by multiple layers of unidirectional ballistic material," said Leimbach. "The ceramic tile breaks up the bullet and the fabric catches the fragments."

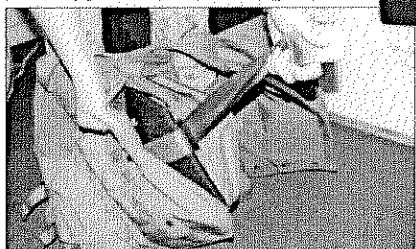
The SAPI plates defeat multiple hits of M80 rounds.

"This vest protects Marines from rounds fired as close as point-blank range," Leimbach said. "You live, like hell, but you'll live."

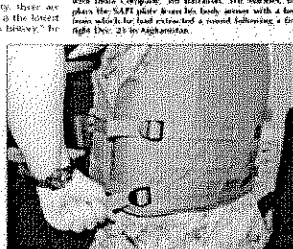
"These vests have made a tremendous change to war history in the casualty rate as well as the cost of the war," he said. "And it is directly attributable to the new armor and the medical attention."



Lower Sergeant Jonathan Smith, a hospital corpsman with 1st Marine Corps, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division, wears the SAPI plate from his body armor with a hole from which he had extracted a round following a firefight Dec. 23 in Afghanistan.




Made from ballistic ceramic tile, Small Arms Protective Inserts add extra weight to the flak vest, but because it can stop rounds from point-blank range, most Marines don't mind the extra pounds.



Above and left — New flak vests have strong Velcro closures and adjustable straps in the jacket. It will stay in place.



Left and above — Lower Capt. James H. Debecki (left) is radio control maintenance, Marine Corps Air Station, and Lower Capt. Ken Chavira (right) is radio station model both new and old gear including flak vests and helmets.

 **Lightweight Helmet**

Lightweight helmet provides better protection, comfort

Lower Capt. Shashu Williams
Army Corps of Engineers

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — When it comes to war, comfort is probably one of the last words that come to mind. But Marine Corps Systems Command took comfort into consideration when the new lightweight helmet was designed to replace the old Personnel Armor System Ground Troop helmet, commonly referred to as "Kevlar."

"The new helmet is lightweight and more comfortable," said Maj. Wendell B. Leimbach, combat equipment infantry combat

equipment team leader.

"The older PASGT helmets are good, but the LWH is better," said Gregory L. Hauck, contract support leader for the equipment team.

The LWH is currently being distributed to the field as fast as they can be produced, as every Marine in Iraq and Afghanistan will have one as soon as possible, Hauck added.

The LWH has improved ballistic protection capability over the PASGT helmet and is one-half pound lighter.

"These LWH helmets provide the best level of protection and the most comfort with the least amount of weight," Leimbach said.

According to Leimbach, it will improve combat effectiveness through greater comfort and fit. "The old helmet, dipped down over your eyes, that you don't have to worry about that as much with this."

Distribution of the LWH began last year. Approximately 40,000 of them have been fielded, and Leimbach says current production capacity, it will take about two and a half years to finish fielding



New lightweight helmets provide better protection and comfort than ever before.



Both Hauck and Leimbach agree that it was time for an update.

Hauck said of the LWH, "This is a revolutionary equipment."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM P, PICTURE 1

3/3 trains Afghan Forces

Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

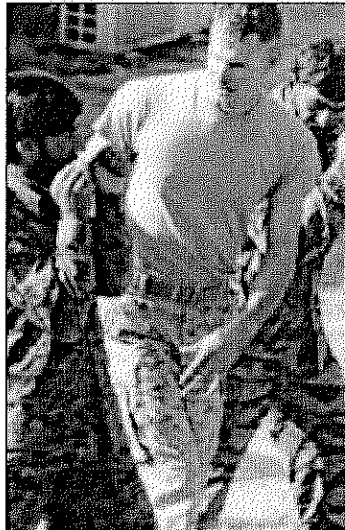
KONAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — "Take a stance!" yelled Marine 2nd Lt. Gary Bechtold to his pupils, a group of Afghan Security Force soldiers. They quickly responded, springing into the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program's "basic warrior's stance" next to the perimeter of their base camp.

Bechtold and other Marines and Sailors of "America's Battalion," 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment have been training side-by-side with the ASF near the Pakistan border since the battalion arrived.

In the northern province of Konar, Company I, 3/3, have built up a small forward operating base in the heart of the Hindu Kush mountain range. The Marines' efforts focused on preparing Afghan forces to take on a larger role in the protection of their country from its enemies — al-Qaida and remnants of the Taliban.

Bechtold, a green-belt martial arts instructor, has been training ASF soldiers who have been living and working with the Marines for about a month. The Marines hope to have their Afghan counterparts tan-belt qualified, soon. The tan belt is the first level of the Marines' mixed martial arts program.

"We've been working with the



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Cpl. James Rogers, Company I, 3/3, squad leader and platoon commander of the Afghan Security Forces, evaluates one of his ASF soldier's technique.

ASF soldiers to train them in military operations in urban terrain, patrolling and MCMAP," said Bechtold. "We're teaching them our leadership traits and core values, in addition to some of our basic fighting skills. It's the same training Marines get."

"We try to always have an equal number of Marines and ASF soldiers on post and with us on patrol," said 1st Lt. Justin Bellman, Co. I execu-

tive officer.

Bellman said that there are more than 100 ASF soldiers currently stationed at their base camp to augment his Marines.

"Several of these guys are former Mujahedeen fighters. Many of them have lost family. They've had brothers killed or been injured themselves because of them having the courage to work with us in fighting the anti-Afghan forces," said Bellman. "What we've learned from the ASF is that people really do want peace in this area, and they're willing to let us help them achieve their goals."

The ASF squads are now divided into Marine-like ranks with Marine squad leaders overseeing their training. The leaders are pleased with how their noncommissioned officers have stepped up to the challenge of integrating with the Afghans.

"We've been doing a left-seat, right-seat with them since we got here," said Bechtold. "My job has been easy. It's the NCOs who have really run with it. They're 'alone and unafraid' here. The corporals and sergeants have taken ownership of their squads a lot more than if we were doing standard platoon operations."

The Marines said their time with the ASF has also been eye opening

See 3/3, A-5

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM Q, PICTURE 1

3/3, From A-1

on many levels. On convoys and on patrol, the Afghan forces have proven adept and skillful.

The Marines said that they have been surprised by how perceptive the ASF are. They are able to detect subtle changes in their surroundings, changes that could have been hostile threats. The ASF aren't just keen battle-tested fighters, though.

"They're the most courteous people I've ever met," said Davis. "We've seen nothing but the good side of the Afghan people by working with them."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM Q, PICTURE 2



Hawaii Marines take fight to enemy in Afghanistan mountains

Submitted by: Combined Joint Task Force

- 76

Story Identification #: 20052802149

Story by Cpl. Rich Mattingly

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan (Feb. 6, 2005) -- 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, completed Operation Spurs this week as part of a combined Coalition and

government of Afghanistan offensive against terrorist threats in Afghanistan during the winter months.

Leaping from CH-47 Chinook helicopters hovering just above the jagged, snow-covered mountains that ring the Korangal Valley, Marines from both India and Lima Companies inserted into different parts of the valley; they quickly cordoned and searched several houses believed to be hideouts for mid-level Taliban and HIG leaders and fighters.

"We flew in fast and low and jumped off just outside one of our main target's house," said 2nd Lt. Caleb Weiss, a Lima Company platoon commander. "They couldn't have had more than a few moments to react to having entire platoons dropped on their heads."

The Marines charged into the village and quickly established a presence, preventing the possibility of their targets escaping. The Marines then detained several men suspected of being members or supporters of anti-government forces without having to fire a single shot.

With helicopter pilots performing precarious two-wheel landings over the treacherous mountain terrain and the Marines and Sailors willingness to eagerly take the fight to the enemy no matter the "clime or place," America's Battalion sent a clear message that security threats to Afghanistan will not be tolerated or allowed to remain in the Korangal Valley.

The Battalion has maintained its high operational tempo despite harsh weather conditions, in an effort to disrupt the activity of anti-government forces here during a time when Taliban and Al Qaeda elements operating in Afghanistan have, in the past, taken time to reorganize and recuperate. Insurgents preparing for renewed attacks on Afghan and Coalition targets in the spring, using heavy snowfall and plummeting temperatures to mask their activity, will continue to be sought out by Marine-driven initiatives throughout the harsh Afghan winter said 3/3's Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Norm Cooling.

"Regardless of how difficult the terrain and weather might be, we have the training, equipment and commitment to take the fight to those continuing to sponsor and conduct terrorist activities in the Kunar Province and that is precisely what we are doing. We are not going to sit around and worry about them exploiting the local populace and attacking us. We are going to keep them worried about us bringing the attack to them," said Cooling.

If insurgents hiding there were distressed to see the arrival of the Marines, many residents of Korangal happily welcomed the Marines and Navy Corpsmen of the Battalion. With the assistance of Afghan doctors, Soldiers from the Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team, and female military police officers from the 58th MP Co., 25th Infantry Division, they distributed winter coats, medication and offered medical help to nearly 500 sick villagers and their children throughout the Korangal area.

"It's great to be able to help the people by giving them medicine and supplies they need," said Army Spc. Dayna Urbank, military police officer from Uniontown, Ohio. "We're not here just to search houses

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM R, PICTURE 1

and detain people. If we show them respect and help them, they'll see that their government can offer them a much better way of life than any of the terrorist groups can."

Several Lima Company Marines also met with the Korangal village elders, who expressed thanks for the medical supplies and coats. One of the elders, who fought the Russians with the mujahedeen, said that the new peace in Afghanistan was a welcome change and he looked forward to a time when it wouldn't be necessary for Marines and the Afghan National Army to look for terrorists in his village.

"We are happy to have the security here and to receive the medical attention you provide us," said one of the elders who hosted the Marines for a meal in his home. Coalition forces hope to further solidify support among the village elders of the Kunar province by continuing to improve conditions there and eliminate the threats they face from insurgents.

Operation Thunder Freedom continues as America's Battalion and Combined Joint Task Force 76, in conjunction with the government of Afghanistan, assess and seek to eliminate threats along the Afghan-Pakistan border.

-30-

Photos included with story:



Lance Cpl. Dan Robert, squad automatic weapon gunner with L Co., charges forward through the deep snow of the Hindu Kush mountains to his squad's next objective during cordon and search operations as part of Operation Spurs. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Corporal Thomas Rooney, rifleman with Lima Co., 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines surveys the village in the Korangal valley where he and his platoonmates their part of Operation Spurs. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Marines from America's Battalion leap from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter hovering just above the snowy hills of Korangal during their insertion for Operation Spurs. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Second Lt. Caleb Weiss, platoon commander, and Sgt. Nick Lentz, squad leader, both with Lima Co. 3/3, lead their Marines toward the next house during a cordon and search of a village in Korangal Valley during Operation Spurs. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Lance Cpl. Paul White, rifleman with Lima Co., monitors satellite communications during Operation Spurs in the Korangal Valley. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM R, PICTURE 2



Marine's from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, charge on to an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter in the Korangal valley as a part of Operation Spurs. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Marines and Sailors from America's Battalion "stack" on a fence moments before entering another house during their exhaustive search of a village in the Korangal Valley. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Lima Co. machine gunner, Josh Ploetz, looks over the sights of his M240G machine gun as another CH47 Chinook helicopter prepares to drop medical supplies near the Marines' position high in the Hindu Kush mountains during Operation Spurs. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Corporals Michael Lazzari and Thomas Rooney, riflemen with Lima Co. quickly search houses in the Korangal Valley while Seaman Nathan Monteil, Lima Co. hospital corpsman, keeps an eye out for enemy movement. The Marines searched houses believed to be hideouts for insurgents in the valley during Operation Spurs this week. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Lima Co. machine gunner Josh Ploetz looks over the sights of his M240G machine gun as another CH47 Chinook helicopter prepares to drop medical supplies near the Marines' position high in the Hindu Kush mountains during Operation Spurs. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Marines and Sailors from America's Battalion "stack" on a fence moments before entering another house during their exhaustive search of a village in the Korangal Valley this week. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly

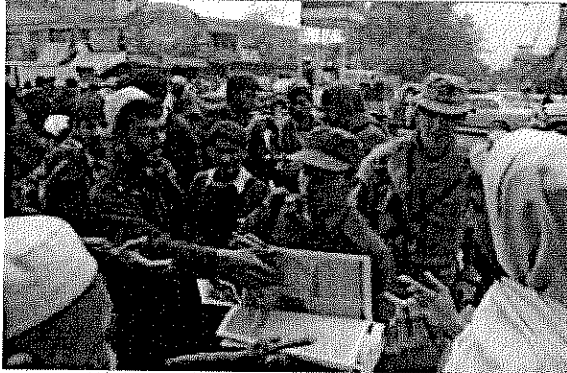
Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert High gives a winter coat to an Afghan boy during a medical and humanitarian assistance effort in Korangal. After securing the village, Navy Corpsman and Afghan medics provided locals with much-needed medical care and supplies. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM R, PICTURE 3



Lance Corporal Tyler Corbaley, Lima Co. rifleman and Army Sgt. Ashley Schroeder-Petersen, a military policeman with 58th MP Co., 25th ID, pass bars of antibacterial soap to an Afghan medic during a humanitarian and medical assistance operation in the Korangal Valley. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM R, PICTURE 4



PSYOP teams give Marines another voice on battlefield

Submitted by: Combined Joint Task Force - 76

Story Identification #: 200522313435

Story by Cpl. Rich Mattingly

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (Feb. 18, 2005) -- The crowd grew in the afternoon fog, eager eyes waiting to see what the soldiers, Marines and Afghan Police were posting on the sign-board they had just

set up in front of the most popular radio station in town.

"Whenever they see the 'speaker truck,' people know we have information to disseminate, and we'll attract a large crowd very quickly," observed Army Sgt. Joshua Hale, psychological operations specialist with the 13th PSYOP battalion, referring to his unit's popularity among the Afghan people and the recognition the speakers mounted to his humvee brings. "Everyone wants our pamphlets and papers," he explained. "Every Afghan I've met wants to know what's going on in the country. We give them information that they might not get any other way about what's going on." Within minutes of their arrival, several hundred newspapers and leaflets are gone, and carried off in eager arms.

A recent media survey performed by an independent research group found that 80 percent of Afghans say they find it "very important" to be informed about nationwide events. While the overall literacy rate remains around 30 percent, Afghans voraciously consume any news about their country they can find. For the Afghan Government and the Coalition, this eagerness to remain informed is a large part of the democratic process and another vehicle for them to spread their message of Afghan solidarity.

"For a country whose government is moving forward toward legitimacy on a global scale, having an informed populace who supports their own freely-elected government and its programs is important," said Marine Capt. Tony Apisa, information operations officer with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines. "PSYOP's provide Marine units an additional asset in communicating with the local populace. In an environment where information operations are often the main effort, PSYOP units are crucial."

Psychological operations, with a name that conjures images of war movie propaganda, in actuality has everything to do with getting the truth out to the public. Their "product," as it is referred to, carries certain messages about government programs and general information in addition to news. PSYOP material often includes health and hygiene tips and warnings about what to do if Afghans find unexploded ordnance or mines, a common problem lingering from earlier conflicts.

"What we do is not propaganda," said Hale emphatically. "Propaganda is lies, and we don't lie to anyone. We're here to get the truth out so that they can make decisions on their own."

Army PSYOP soldiers feel they are making a difference that is tangible in the questions they are asked by Afghans when out on patrols with the Marines. More and more, they say, people are asking questions about government programs or how they can join the Afghan National Army, which continues to recruit heavily.

PSYOP teams assigned to 3/3 Marines are helping not so much to "win" hearts and minds in Afghanistan as informing Afghans, allowing them to make up their minds on their own.

"We're helping to legitimize the Afghan government intellectually the same way the Marines help to legitimize the Afghan government by working with the Afghan National Army," explained Hale.

For Marines working to destroy any foothold for terrorism or anti-government insurgency in

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM S, PICTURE 1

Afghanistan, the psychological operations portion of their mission has become an important part of making Afghanistan a safer, more independent country. "They are able to provide everything from conducting command and control missions to distributing leaflets and posters informing the Afghans of local government programs," said Apisa. "They are integrated into nearly every phase of operational planning."

Issuing messages such as "lay down your weapons and you will not be harmed" or "medical treatment will be given at the village mosque today," from their powerful speakers, the PSYOP Soldiers can help spread messages and diffuse situations in a way that increases the battlefield resources available to the commander.

"Third Battalion, Third Marines has been very fortunate to have Tactical PSYOP Teams in direct support of the battalion. Their experience and special skills bring a 'non-kinetic' fire support asset that the Marines have come to rely on," concluded Apisa.

The Marines of America's Battalion continue to conduct stability and support operations in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Their focus remains upon providing a stable environment for the Afghan government to continue to progress, and supporting the Afghan National Army and Police forces as they take larger responsibility for the peaceful future of Afghanistan.

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Photos included with story:



Sergeant Josh Hale, psychological operations Soldier, fastens new flyers to a "product board" outside of Sharq Radio in Jalalabad. The flyers ranged in topic from how to avoid injury when unexploded ordnance is found to the Afghan constitution. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



While Cpl. Josh Wartchow, Lima Co. rifleman, watches, the crowd pushes around an Afghan National Police Officer handing out PSYOP newspapers this week in Jalalabad. The PSYOP papers are eagerly received whenever ANP or ANA passes them out. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Afghan National Police Officers pass out PsyOp papers to a crowd in the center of Jalalabad. The papers' main purpose is to inform Afghans of government programs and news. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM S, PICTURE 2

3/3 helps secure clinic



Cpl. Ramirez Ricardo, from Quebradillas, Puerto Rico, pulls guard duty around a clinic in Khost Province, Afghanistan during a medical assistance assessment visit to the village, Feb. 21. Ricardo is assigned to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, "America's Battalion," from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. During the medical visit, coalition forces provided critical medical assistance to more than 660 Afghans.

Marines maintain security, enable Afghan citizens to receive medical treatment

Capt. Juanita Chang
Correspondent Task Force 76

KHOST PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Nearly 1,000 people came to Khlitbasat village to see if the announcements they heard over a loud speaker were true. They heard broadcasts that coalition forces would be providing free medical care for local residents. Neither they, nor some of the coalition soldiers, could believe what they saw.

"The people are really happy that Americans are here today," said a local boy in broken English, talking from over a stone wall to a Marine who was pulling guard duty.

"I am from a third-world country, but this was very shocking for me to see," said Spc. Thia T. Valenzuela, who moved to the United States from Guyana in 2001, joined the United States Army the same year, and now calls Decatur, Ga., home.

"While I was disarming them I was looking at their teeth. They were all rotten and so unhealthy," said Valenzuela, a dental assistant from Company C, 725th Main Support Battalion stationed out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

"It was so shocking to see all the children not wearing shoes," Valenzuela said, this being her first time out of the secure military facility, or "outside the wire" as service members in Afghanistan refer to it. "It was freezing cold, and there were so many who were barefooted."

"It was a culture shock," admitted Sgt. Teresa A. Trevino, of Corpus Christi, Texas. "The

See MEDICAL, A-7

MEDICAL, From A-1

females have no rights. They can't say or do anything without a male family member," she said. This was also Trevino's first time "outside the wire." She is also assigned to Company C, 725th Main Support Battalion out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The majority of patients seen were treated for upper respiratory tract infections. Additionally, every person over age two was given a deworming treatment. Worms are a very common ailment there. Many patients complained of stomach aches and diarrhea that has lasted for years, signs that they their worms have gone untreated for years.

"Most people go to Walgreen's and buy medicine like Motrin, but these people simply do not have that option. It is not available and they do not have money," explained 1st Lt.

Julie A. Sheets, of Grove City, Ohio. Sheets, the senior female medical practitioner on site, is a physician's assistant assigned to Company C, 725th Main Support Battalion from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and.

It is customary in Afghanistan for female Afghans to be seen by only female medical personnel. In some cases, Afghan women will die of ailments before being seen by a male doctor, because of the strict cultural laws.

Sheets said this village also had a higher rate of leishmaniasis than usual. Leishmaniasis is a skin disease caused by an insect spread parasite. It causes lesions that fester and leave disfiguring scars.

"For us to go out and show good will — that we are here to treat their families and their children — shows the people here that we are here to help them," explained Master Sgt. Edith Horn, officer in charge of the mission, assigned

to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team.

"This was a key location to conduct the mission because of the influence of the people who live in the area," Horn said. "There is still negative influence in that area."

"The smile on the children's faces and the thanks that the people give us showed us that they were very thankful and that we were well received," said the Army Reservist and full-time police officer in Indianapolis, Ind.

During this single-day mission, the team provided medical care to 338 adult males, 73 women, and 249 children. They also distributed 450 kg of rice, 500 kg of beans, and 64 kg of cooking oil to people in need.

Dr. Rasul, the director of the Mamoor Ah Jan Hospital in Khost Province, was also on scene for the Cooperative Medical Assistance. Dr. Rasul, who goes by only one name, as is customary in Afghanistan, said he enjoyed work-

ing with American doctors and he learned much from them. He also provided local insight into the problems experienced by the villagers.

Some people literally walked all day, barefoot, in temperatures in the 40s, to seek medical care. There are no paved roads in Sabari District — nor many cars. Many came on crutches. Others that came wore prosthetics, evidence of the decades of war and land mines polluting their country.

The medical assistance and assessment visit, coordinated by the Provincial Reconstruction Team located in Khost Province, is essential to identifying illnesses in a particular area so they can address the issues. There are currently 19 PRTs throughout Afghanistan. Each PRT conducts civil assessments and assists the local government with reconstruction and security in each region.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM T, PICTURE 1



3/3 scores major success in Khost

Submitted by: Combined Joint Task Force - 76

Story Identification #: 20053313525

Story by Cpl. Rich Mattingly

KHOST PROVINCE, Afghanistan (Feb. 26, 2005) -- Under the light from a pale, yellow moon, the Marines moved swiftly across the cold and barren wadi, hand and arm signals mobilizing squads and

fire teams silently into position around the village. Shifting in and out of the shadow of trees and low rock walls in the surrounding fields as they neared, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, sealed a seamless cordon and prepared to search for several men they suspected of perpetuating terrorist activity and attacks on Afghan and Coalition forces in the area.

Only when the night's reverie was split by the blaring sounds of psychological operations' surrender appeals and the roar of Cobra gunships appearing a few hundred feet overhead, did the inhabitants realize they had been surrounded. By the break of dawn, the Battalion was well underway to completing one of its most successful operations to date in the region.

"We moved over 44 kilometers at night, dismounted a few (kilometers) away, and surrounded the village where we believed the enemy to be hiding by moving in on foot. Our enemies had never seen anything like this before, so they weren't ready for us and they had no chance to escape into the mountains," explained Capt. Ken Barr, commanding officer, Weapons Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, whose company planned the operation over a month and a half, gathering key human intelligence on anti-government militia forces operating in the Khost province. Over the course of two days, Weapons and Headquarters and Service Companies, who combined forces for the operation, set up shop quite literally in the suspected terrorists' backyards. Both companies are organized as provisional rifle companies in the Battalion's expansive area of responsibility.

The battalion was able to capture eight men believed to be members of anti-government militias and seize a significant amount of illegal weapons and explosives. And they did it without a single shot being fired.

One of Weapons Co.'s platoon commanders explained the relationship that they have tried to foster in the area over the course of the last few months that has improved their successes and ability to go in hard and fast without disrupting friendly ties.

"The local populace has begun to trust us more and more as we've built a relationship with them through local patrols with Afghan police and the medical and humanitarian relief efforts we've performed," said 2nd Lt. Luke Lazzo, second platoon commander, Weapons Co., 3/3. "We try to stress to them that it's their community and they have to take responsibility for the actions of those they live with. We're here to help them with that. That allows us to go into a town the way we did and successfully find our enemies without too much resistance from the locals."

The Marines and sailors of 3/3 are operating with a high level of cultural and societal awareness and attention to detail in order to strike a certain balance with the local populace during security and stability operations, said Barr, something he believes is a reflection of his Marines' professionalism as they complete more complicated missions.

When Weapons Co. entered the village, the commander's first action was to meet with the village elders and give them a chance to give up the men who were wanted in connection with the attacks.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM U, PICTURE 1

"We went to the village elders and mullahs and asked them how they would like us to handle searches of houses in their villages," continued Barr. "We told them that if they would give up the men responsible for attacking Marines and Afghan forces in the area, then we wouldn't be forced to cordon and search their villages. The Marines and sailors have upheld their end of things admirably, which improves our chances of even more future successes."

It was that approach that led to the operation's success, said 3/3 Battalion commander Lt. Col. Norm Cooling.

"It's easy to get on line and fight a clearly defined enemy," said Cooling. "In our situation, you can't always locate, close with and destroy the enemy in a straight forward manner. You have to establish human intelligence relationships to locate the enemy and then devise creative ways to close with him. While doing that here in Sabari, we sent a significant message to the villagers that by helping us they can help make their town and their country a safer place."

The Marines of 3/3 were very successful in their searches, which were done with the supervision of the town's elders. In the suspects' homes they found everything from grenades shoved into sacks of flour, to weapons buried in dung heaps, and plastic explosives and blasting caps stuffed in an old car tire. One squad even recovered a belt of illegal armor-piercing AK-47 rounds hidden under an infant in a crib.

"I, for one, understand the mentality of a homeowner who doesn't want some stranger coming into their house," said Sgt. Chris Bloom, squad leader with Weapons Co., whose squad recovered several stockpiles of munitions from the suspected insurgents. "This is their country and we always have to be aware of that. What we did by waiting for the elders to go in with us and let them give up the guys we were after was very important to maintaining the trust of the people. We just want to take the guns and explosives away from the people who shot at us and make sure they pay for their crimes."

"It comes down to the golden rule," said Barr. "You have to treat others here the way you would want to be treated in their situation. This war is going to be won by the use of well-aimed, non-kinetic rounds," he said; referring to successful information and psychological operations campaigns that win the proverbial "hearts and minds" of the populace. "You may be able to kill a lot of the bad guys with bullets, but you can also lose this war that way."

Weapons Co. plans on following up their successful round-up of suspected terrorists with medical assistance operations in the area. America's Battalion continues to operate throughout Eastern Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

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Photos included with story:



Lance Cpl. Kevin Neale, rifleman with Weapons Co., 3/3, searches a basement room for weapons during cordon and search operations this week in Afghanistan. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Second Lt. Luke Lazzo, platoon commander with Weapons Co., 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, takes a knee and gets his bearings before leading his Marines the final distance to where his platoon was responsible for insuring no suspected terrorists slipped through the Marines' cordon. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Captain Ken Barr, Weapons Co., 3/3 company commander, meets with the mullahs and elders of the village his Marines plan on searching for suspected terrorists and weapons caches. Barr said he found the elders to be responsive and willing to help the Marines complete their mission. America's Battalion has focused on villagers having more accountability

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM U, PICTURE 2



for the actions of their village members. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



Battalion Gunner Robert Sundstrom, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, examines the plastique, blasting caps and nitroglycerin his Marines discovered while searching a suspected terrorist's house during operations this week. Sundstrom said he believed seizing the explosives made the roads in the surrounding area a lot less likely have emplaced improvised explosive devices in the future. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly



A Marine with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines uses a metal detector to search for hidden weapons and ammunition at a location identified as housing possible terrorists. Weapons Co. of America's Battalion conducted the operation with the support of local village elders. Photo by: Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM U, PICTURE 3

3/3 readies for fair weather fighters

Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhon
CTF Thunder Public Affairs Officer

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan — As the temperatures gradually begin to rise and the snow starts to melt throughout Afghanistan, anti-government and anti-coalition militants are expected to resume attacks.

Historically, fighters take respite during Afghanistan's harsh winters and re-emerge in the spring with a brief increase in attacks.

In the last few weeks, several people claiming to be Taliban spokespersons have called media outlets to let them know they will launch their "spring offensive" when the weather gets fairer.

However, these fair-weather fighters shouldn't expect to catch the coalition on their heels this year, said Maj. Duke Davis, operations officer for Combined Task Force Thunder at Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khost province.

"We've already experienced the attacks, and anything that they launch at us, we'll be ready to address," Davis said.

Compared to near zero level of activity during the winter, Davis said any event or attack is going to seem like an increase, but he certainly doesn't expect an overwhelming offensive.

Instead, he expects a small increase in low-level attacks, but thinks the enemy is banking on a historical trend and perhaps even a bit of hope that their forces are going to come out and conduct major attacks when the warm weather comes.

"But I'm not so sure their message and their threats are associated with any distinct capabilities that they've shown," Davis said. "They're making those statements perhaps in hope, and



Second Lt. Caleb Weiss (center), platoon commander, and Sgt. Nick Lentz (right), squad leader, both with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, lead their Marines toward a house while conducting search of a village in Korangal Valley during Operation Spurs. Historically, Afghan fighters take respite during the country's harsh winters and re-emerge in the spring with an increase in attacks.

based on trends, that their insurgent fighters are actually going to come out and do that. I certainly would not give credit to an overarching operational or strategically coordinated action."

Task Force Thunder is still conducting its own "winter offensive." Operation Thunder Freedom, which was developed to exploit the success of last year's presidential election. The purpose of the operation was to stay active, throughout the winter, against the enemy and continue training the Afghan National Army

and Afghan National Police so they are able to address enemy attacks in the spring.

"There's a lot of emphasis on what the enemy is going to be able to do, but I will tell you that the ANA and ANP, in conjunction with U.S. forces, are set and our capabilities are greater than they've ever been," Davis said. "The enemy is going to do what they typically do, which is increase attacks in the spring, but they're going to run into an ANA and an ANP force that is much more capable of addressing those threats on their own feet — let alone with

assistance from the U.S."

Unlike the enemy, U.S. and coalition service members continued operations throughout the winter, no matter the weather.

Sgt. Orlando Arocho, a squad leader with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, said he and his fellow Marines are always ready for anything the enemy throws at them. "When they weren't out on missions, Arocho said he and his fellow Marines were constantly training to maintain their readiness — even when it was cold outside.

No matter how chilly it got, the Long Island, N.Y. native said the Marines never decided it was too cold to go on missions.

"No ... no, that never happens," he scoffed. "The Marine Corps just doesn't do that. We have plenty of cold-weather gear that the Marine Corps issues us, and that's just no excuse."

Between their fear of the cold and their tactics, Arocho said he doubts the fortitude of the enemy fighters.

"They like to hit and run — it's almost like a sport to them," he said. "They're playing with people's lives here and trying to suppress the country, and it's just not going to happen. They're just cowards. They get no respect."

Even if the enemy does re-emerge from its hibernation and attack, their abilities are questionable. After all, staying indoors for several months probably hasn't helped their war-fighting skills.

"In our opinion, they have not improved at all," Davis said. "They just went into hibernation. What we've done is we've actually improved ourselves. We're coming out that much better and that much better prepared because of what the ANA and ANP have done throughout the winter months."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM V, PICTURE 1

MARFORCENT deputy CG visits 3/3

Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Combined Joint Task Force 76

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan — Marines of Third Battalion, 3rd Marines, "America's Battalion,"

marked what was most likely their halfway mark in Afghanistan with a visit from Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, deputy commanding general of Marine Forces Central Command this week.

In front of the battalion's

Combat Operations Center, as helicopters flew in and out of Salerno's busy airfield, McAbee talked to the gathered Marines and Sailors from Headquarters and Service Company and Weapons Company about what was happening throughout the United States Central Command and the Marine Corps.

"Every Marine has performed with distinction in the Central Command Area of Responsibility," said McAbee, speaking proudly of what Marines have accomplished in both Iraq and Afghanistan. "You are truly the nation's second greatest generation."

The brigadier general, who formerly commanded Marine Corps Base Hawaii, stressed the importance of the United States' ongoing commitment to fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

"If we are to maintain our way of life as Americans, then this is a

fight we must win," he said, continuing his pep talk. "In America we have the smallest military we have had in decades, while our population continues to grow. You should be proud of what you're doing. You will always be able to call yourselves patriots."

As for the state of the Marine Corps, McAbee assured the Marines and Corpsmen that life, as they knew it, would continue on once they returned to Hawaii. No changes to special duty assignments such as Marine security guard, drill instructor or recruiter are currently anticipated, he said.

The operational tempo of the Marine Corps remains high, he continued, saying that Marines in deployable units could expect to remain on a regular "seven months out, seven months back" schedule for the foreseeable future.

See 3/3, A-7



Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, deputy commanding general of Marine Forces Central Command, talks to Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, March 7, at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM W, PICTURE 1

3/3, From A-1

Units around the Marine Corps can expect to be refreshed with 3,000 new Marines who are currently being trained, said McAbee. Despite reported recruiting shortfalls Department of Defense wide, the Marine Corps will be able to augment the existing force structure and expand its size by two battalions.

Because of this, the Marine Corps should be able to avoid any need to implement stop loss policies or involuntarily extend Marines and Sailors who have reached their end of active service, he said.

McAbee concluded by speaking to the future of the Middle East, which will remain the focus of overseas troops for many years to come.

"The futures of Iraq and Afghanistan have never looked brighter," said McAbee. "There are a lot of positive things going on because of our involvement in the Middle East. Iraq and Afghanistan are free, Lebanon will soon be free from Syrian control and never have Israeli-Palestinian relations looked closer to resolution. You are a part of that change."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM W, PICTURE 2

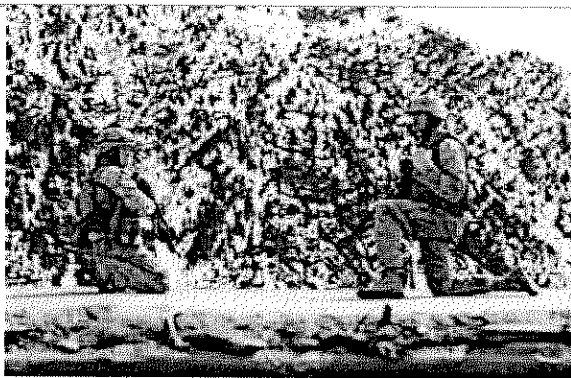
Spring is in the air



Lance Cpl. Darrell Jones talks to local elders about helping them rebuild houses that have been damaged by the harsh Afghanistan winter during a security operation in Khowst Province, Afghanistan, on March 8. Darrell is assigned as a rifleman with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, that is conducting security and stabilization operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Cpl. James Yarboro

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM X, PICTURE 1



3/3 Marines stay on the offensive in Afghanistan

Submitted by: Combined Joint Task Force - 76

Story Identification #: 2005439557

Story by Cpl. Rich Mattingly

LAGHMAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan (March 23, 2005) – Third Battalion, 3rd Marines, completed Operation Mavericks this week, successfully rounding up

suspected anti-government militia members and confiscating several weapons and explosives caches in the still snow-covered mountains of Eastern Afghanistan.

K and L companies combined their efforts during the battalion operation, simultaneously pursuing several targets they believed were hiding in the Alishang District of Laghman Province. Kilo also worked with Navy Special Operations Forces who shared a third of their objective among the hilltop villages.

Both the Navy SEALs and Marines said pooling their resources was mutually beneficial during Mavericks.

"Working with NAVSOF was great," said 2nd Lt. Michael Poliquin, K Co. platoon commander, adding, "We do business in a very similar manner. We're both very methodical and detail-oriented with mission-accomplishment being the top priority."

Many of the SEALs and Marines, having had experience working with the other service as part of a Marine Expeditionary Unit, were able to speak the same operational language, which the Marines said kept the mission focused.

"I've never seen something go as 'according-to-plan' as this did with as many variables as we had," said Capt. Skyler Mallicoat, K Co. commander.

The Marines were the first coalition forces many of the villagers had ever encountered. Dealing with the culture shock and keeping everyone calm was essential to the success of the mission.

"There are some uncertainties on both sides, among the young Marines who have never experienced this culture before and from the Afghans who see us swoop in on these huge machines and walk around with all our gear," explained Sgt. Michael Villanueva, K Co. squad leader.

"Things became heated between one of the Marines and a man whose house we needed to search. Afterwards, though, when everything had calmed down the Marine and the Afghan man shook hands. I think seeing that, everyone understands we're not here to disrupt anyone's way of life or hurt anyone who isn't out to hurt other people. Maybe an Afghan child seeing that will get the right idea about who we are and why we're here instead of believing whatever stories they are told about us."

The Marines distributed humanitarian assistance supplies to the people of the villages after they had finished their search, and set in for a cold, wet night on the mountainside. Numerous indicators, to include information from sympathetic villagers, gave warning to possible attacks during the night against their position.

The Marines waited, but the enemy never appeared.

"At this point, they know what we bring to the table," said Mallicoat, referring to the enemy's hesitation

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM Y, PICTURE 1

to engage the Marines. "They know they are a defeated force and they cannot match us."

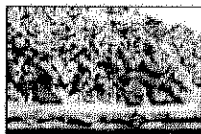
"We accomplished a lot out there," said Lance Cpl. Rob Gaye, a machine gunner with K Co. "When the villagers realized we weren't there to hurt them, they calmed down. If we cause any damage during our operations, we do what we can to fix or replace it. It feels good to be able to do the right things for the people."

"It's all about seeing the broader perspective," said Villanueva. "Once they see that we're focused on making their villages safer, they help us."

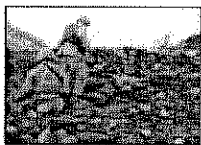
America's Battalion continues to dig deeper into territory Coalition Forces have yet to breach as the temperature change draws insurgents back into Eastern Afghanistan from their winter hideouts. The Marines will continue their security mission in the coming months as they anticipate an increase in activity from terrorists as the weather improves.

-30-

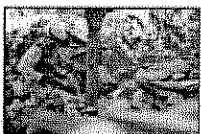
Photos included with story:



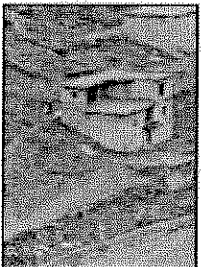
Cpls. Thomas Stickles and John Pollander, both riflemen of K Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, provide security on a rooftop while other Marines conduct searches through buildings during Operation Mavericks, an operation that Marines conducted to capture suspected terrorists in the vicinity of Methar Lam, Afghanistan on March 19, 2005. 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines is conducting security and stabilization operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by: Cpl. James L. Yarboro



Marines of Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment climb a stone wall on the way to a village during Operation Mavericks, an operation that Marines conducted to capture suspected terrorists in the vicinity of Methar Lam, Afghanistan on March 19, 2005. 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines is conducting security and stabilization operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by: Cpl. James L. Yarboro



A Marine of Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment climbs a stone wall on the way to a village during Operation Mavericks, an operation that Marines conducted to capture suspected terrorists in the vicinity of Methar Lam, Afghanistan on March 19, 2005. 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines is conducting security and stabilization operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by: Cpl. James L. Yarboro



Marines of Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, patrol on the outskirts of a village during Operation Mavericks, an operation that Marines conducted to capture suspected terrorists in the vicinity of Methar Lam, Afghanistan on March 20, 2005. 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines is conducting security and stabilization operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by: Cpl. James L. Yarboro

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM Y, PICTURE 2



3/3 infantrymen learn to call, direct close air support

Submitted by: Combined Joint Task Force
- 76

Story Identification #: 20054374954

Story by Cpl. Rich Mattingly

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE
SALERNO, Afghanistan (March 25,
2005)** – Marine small unit leaders with 3rd
Battalion, 3rd Marines, recently polished
their skills in effectively employing and

controlling rotary-wing aircraft during joint close air support drills.

As the Marines continue to hunt down insurgents and maintain security for Afghans in the rugged mountains along the Pakistan border, enemy contact is often made at the small unit level. Closing with and battling insurgents who habitually retreat as quickly as they attack is greatly enhanced by calling for fixed or rotary-wing air support.

"This is probably some of the best training they're going to receive outside of basic infantry skills," said Air Force Master Sgt. John Knipe, a joint terminal air controller who has been training 3rd Bn. Marines and accompanying them on operations around Afghanistan.

"In an infantry squad, you don't have many 'big guns' available to you," he continued. "If Marines need to pursue or break contact with an enemy, they may not always have the organic fire power to do that. Being able to call for and effectively employ fixed and rotary-wing aircraft with the weapons systems they have can save that squad or platoon."

With two AH-1 Cobra helicopters from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, "Red Dog," screaming overhead, Marines from Headquarters and Service and Weapons Companies, 3/3 – both of which are largely organized as provisional rifle companies operating in Khowst, made radio contact with the pilots and then directed them to strike "enemy" targets.

"We're having the Marines mark the targets, which the Cobras subsequently engage. We wanted to make this training as realistic for them as possible," said Maj. Gerald Graham, the battalion's air officer.

The Marines fired 40 mm smoke grenades and M-240 G and M-2 .50 caliber machine guns while the Cobras engaged and adjusted their fires as directed by the Marines acting as observers. Firing their 20 mm cannons and 2.75 inch rockets, the Cobras made the range look like a very real battle space after just a few passes.

The Marines each got 10-20 minutes of "station" time with the pilots, during which they were coached by Knipe and Graham on everything from radio etiquette to how to adjust fire when multiple aircraft were available to engage a target.

"It's important that they gain the confidence to talk to the aircraft," said Graham. "Now that they see the firepower a section of Cobras can bring to the fight, I think they'll be more willing to take control of a real-world situation where they might need that support."

"It was motivating," said Sgt. Orlando Arocho, Weapons Co. squad leader, after directing an air strike. "Our enemies know the area better than we do and can sometimes move a little faster, but they can't run from a pair of Cobras."

The pilots who stopped at the range afterward to discuss the training with the Marines were positive.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM Z, PICTURE 1

APRIL 15, 2005

Dragon Eye keeps insurgents on the run

Lt. Rich Martinelli
(Contributor)

KHOWST PROVINCE, Afghanistan — A low, buzzing sound was heard as the unmanned aerial reconnaissance vehicle known to U.S. Marines as the Dragon Eye, swooped over the patrol leader's head and out through the jagged, mountainous terrain, guided by its two nose-mounted cameras and its operator located a few miles away. The operator, maintaining close control of the vehicle, monitors the site from which he believed terrorists had recently fired rockets at his patrol.

The use of the Dragon Eye by the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, "America's Battalion," in Afghanistan marks the first time a Marine Corps unmanned aerial vehicle has been used in the Operation Enduring Freedom theater. On the heels of its successful employment during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Fallujah, the Marines of the battalion are using the Dragon Eye in the high elevations and difficult terrain of eastern Afghanistan to gain an important advantage over insurgent threats.

The small, kooky and fiberless vehicle has been giving the Marines on the ground a whole new perspective and a tactical edge.

Just a few years since being designed at the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab, the Dragon Eye is coming into its own as "over-the-next-hill, around-the-next-corner" surveillance technology. The Dragon Eye can go completely unnoticed by the enemy, weighing in at just five pounds and leaving only the radar signature of a bird.

Every company in America's Battalion, including Headquarters, is utilizing the Dragon Eye and Service Company, which has been task organized to conduct provisional rifle company operations.

"They don't see or hear the Dragon Eye at all when I raise the altitude," said Cpl. Richard Derby, battalion maintenance chief and Headquarters and Service Company Dragon Eye operator. "I can see what the enemy is doing without alerting them or putting a nearby patrol in danger." Derby added, however, that the Dragon Eye could also be a powerful deterrent when flown at lower altitudes. "People tend to scurry away when they see it coming in low," he said.

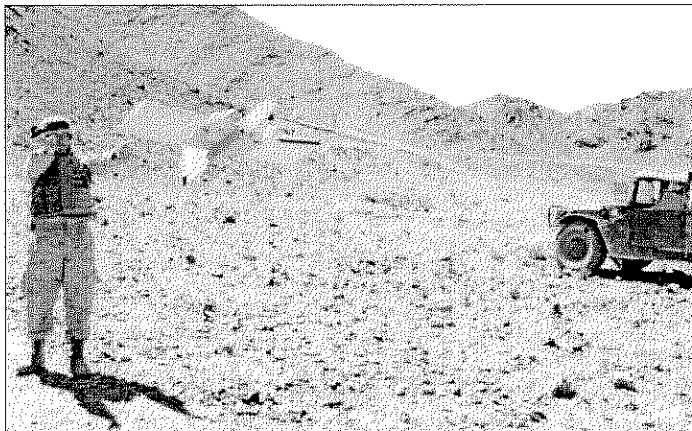
Two Marines who use either a large rubber band or a running start to get the vehicle airborne easily deploy the craft. Once in the vehicle is in the air, a Marine controls the craft using a small computer. The Dragon Eye is specifically designed for the kind of small-unit fight the Marines of America's Battalion are experiencing, according to Derby. When man-hours are a precious commodity and a commander needs real-time intelligence with situational awareness in his battle

See DRAGON EYE, A-5



Cpl. Richard Derby, battalion maintenance chief and Dragon Eye operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 3/3, monitors what the Dragon Eye's cameras see during surveillance missions.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM AA, PICTURE 1



Cpl. Richard Derby, battalion maintenance chief and Dragon Eye operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, launches a Dragon Eye over the mountains of Afghanistan.

DRAGON EYE, From A-1

space, the Dragon Eye comes into play.

"We use it to check out potential rocket points of origin and improvised explosive devices or even fighting positions that Marines might have difficulty picking out from the ground," said Staff Sgt. Khalif Ahmad, platoon sergeant with the battalion's headquarters and Service Company. "It's definitely keeping our situational awareness at a higher level."

With a UHF transmission capability of 5 kilometers and a 100-meter field of view, the aircraft can record video and take still shots of the battlefield, all of which are relayed in real time to the operator.

"While squads are out and searching an area, I can fly the Dragon Eye to more outlying areas to see what's going on," said Derby. "It saves us a lot of time and increases our effectiveness."

In addition to its effectiveness in a combat zone, the Dragon Eye is extremely easy to

use and to store. Unlike other unmanned aerial vehicles that require constant control, the Dragon Eye is controlled by a small laptop computer on which the operator enters a preset route and then monitors the cameras through a glasses-like video screen. The vehicle itself can be broken down into five separate parts for easy storage.

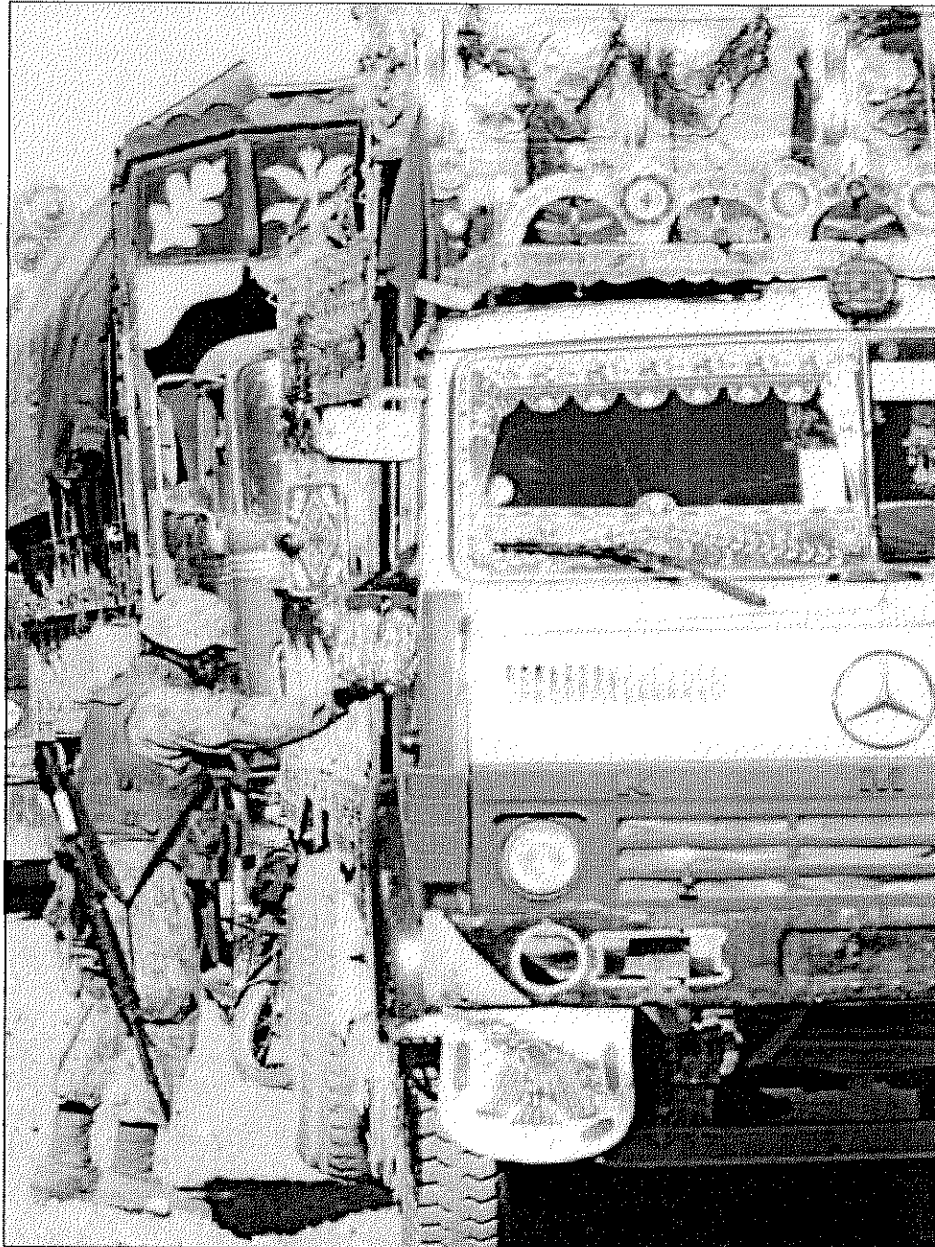
Having a "bird's eye view" of the terrain is a plus for the Marines.

"I'm the eyes abt for the patrol leader, and I'm always just a call away when he needs more information or for me to check out an area," said Derby, whose training on the Dragon Eye consisted of an intensive four-day class after which he was able to deploy and maneuver the craft in the field with little difficulty.

"The trick is in dealing with all of the mountains," said Derby. "The terrain here is tough on Marines, and it's tough on the Dragon Eye's sensors, too. It's a learning process for me to improve its handling and work around some of its limitations."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM AA, PICTURE 2

'Jingle all the way'



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Lance Cpl. Carlos Carrillo, rifleman with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, checks out a "jingle" truck while his squad performs vehicle searches in coordination with the Afghan National Police in the Khowst province. Looking for weapons caches brought in from Pakistan by insurgent groups, the Marines of "America's Battalion" stay ever vigilant. The brightly decorated "jingle" trucks, so-named by Marines for the ever-jangling chains that hang from their frames, are used throughout Afghanistan to transport goods.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM BB, PICTURE 1

Afghan children find friends in Marines

'America's Battalion' aids teen to get prosthetic eye

Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Children suffering from difficult-to-treat medical conditions in rural Afghanistan may have no better friend than the Marines of "America's Battalion."

Over the course of their deployment to Afghanistan, the Marines and Navy hospital corpsmen of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, have come to the aid of several local children who otherwise were not receiving treatment for very serious injuries. One such local teenager named Syed Ullah, recently received a prosthetic eye after Marines on patrol in Nagalam discovered his wounds.

Last year, an insurgent's 107 mm rocket landed in Syed's village during an indiscriminate attack that has become the mainstay of [the insurgents'] tactics. The rocket sent shrapnel into his face and arms, disfiguring

him," said 1st Lt. Justin Bellman, executive officer, India Company, 3/3. "The Coalition forces flew Syed to Bagram Airfield in order to receive medical attention, but despite sewing up numerous wounds and reconstructing Syed's nose, the doctors could not save his left eye."

Syed, promised a prosthetic eye by the Coalition forces, went back to his village and waited. He thought he had been forgotten when Marines came upon him during a patrol through his village.

"He was told when he was injured last year that he would get a prosthetic eye," explained Bellman, "but it never happened."

It's important to show the Afghan people that no matter what unit is here, the Coalition is working together to fulfill our commitments.

With the help of the Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team and Task Force Victory, both located at Bagram Airfield, Syed was transported back to Bagram to receive an evaluation at the Egyptian Hospital. It was determined by the Egyptian doctors that the eye socket would support a prosthetic eye.

Petty Officer 1st Class Rodrigo Martin, Navy hospital corpsman with 3/3, joined Syed and traveled to Kabul for the prosthetic

fitting at the Nor Eye Hospital in Kabul.

"He was a bit nervous about the whole process," Martin said of Syed's reaction to driving through the busy traffic of Kabul. "He's from a very small village where life is much different than it is in Kabul."

Once in Kabul, the doctors were able to examine Syed and fit him for an eye on the same day. He returned to Bagram and was homeward bound the next day. "I am very grateful for the Americans' help," Syed said through an interpreter. "My family and I will be praying for their safety." Syed even offered to work at the nearby Coalition base for free in order to repay the favor the Marines did for him.

"We try to do everything we can for Afghans we encounter who need medical treatment," explained Martin. "Sometimes we can't help, but when we can, it's a really great feeling."

Humanitarian assistance projects such as this constitute an important part of America's Battalion's operational approach to their security mission in Afghanistan. Wherever possible, the battalion leverages the rapidly developing Afghan government to provide or assist in these services. These projects help gain and maintain the trust and support of the Afghan population, which is critical to fighting a successful counter-insurgency.



Photo Courtesy of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment
Syed Ullah sports an Operation Enduring Freedom T-shirt and a fresh bandage over the prosthetic eye that the Marines and Sailors of "America's Battalion" recently helped him receive.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM CC, PICTURE 1

Afghans turn IEDs in to authorities

Press Release

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Afghan citizens, police and soldiers turned in three caches of munitions at separate locations near Bagram, Sunday.

Together, the caches contained more than 400 mortars, 75 artillery rounds, 31 rockets, 10 rocket-propelled grenades, nine hand grenades, and hundreds of small-arms rounds.

One cache was destroyed where it was discovered, two others were transported to Coalition bases for later destruction.

Two improvised explosive devices were also discovered the same day in Helmand province — one by the Afghan National Army outside of Lashkar Gah, the other by the Garmser district police along a dirt road leading to a small village in that district. Both Afghan citizens and Coalition forces travel the road frequently.

"Today, more than half of the IEDs are discovered before they detonate, and 90 percent of all discoveries are the result of an Afghan coming forward with the information," said Army Lt. Col. Jack Knox, commander of the Coalition's IED task force. "Afghans are reporting the discovery of an IED to either the Afghan National Army, the Afghan National Police or directly to coalition forces."

Knox also noted that only four percent of the IEDs turned in are linked to monetary rewards. "The remaining 96 percent are the direct result of a desire to cooperate with the Afghan government and with Combined Joint Task Force 76," he said. "Overall, there's been an upswing in the turn-in of caches. People realize that winning the IED fight is a means of the return of stability and law and order to this country."

See IEDS, A-6

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM DD, PICTURE 1

IEDS, From A-4

In Dawlet Shah, a district in eastern Laghman province, the local police chief turned over another weapons cache to the Afghan National Police, Saturday. The ANP, in turn, handed the cache over to the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, at its forward operating base in the province.

This cache consisted of various munitions and weapon parts, including three 82 mm mortar rounds, three Russian machine guns (circa 1940s), three RPG launchers, six rocket launchers, one DShK machine gun, and 38 boxes of 12.7 mm ammunition. All items were in serv-

iceable condition, and are awaiting disposal by explosive ordnance disposal personnel.

(Compiled from Combined Forces Command Afghanistan press releases.)

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM DD, PICTURE 2

Battle leaves 23 Afghan insurgents dead

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. Marines tracked down a band of insurgents in eastern Afghanistan and sparked a battle that left about 23 rebels and two Americans dead, the U.S. military said Monday, in the latest sign of a revived Taliban-led insurgency.

The military said warplanes also joined the five-hour clash with about 25 insurgents on Sunday evening in Laghman, a province of an eastern opium-producing region where U.S. forces have regularly fought with militants.

Acting on intelligence about the rebels' whereabouts, U.S. Marines "located the insurgents and an engagement ensued," a brief statement from the U.S. military said. "Two U.S. Marines were killed."

A second statement said "two insurgents were confirmed killed and another 21 suspected dead."

The military said the Marines initially came under attack with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades from insurgents who split into two groups, one of which fled to a village and the other to a cave on a nearby ridge. The two Marines died while clearing the cave after A-10 ground attack planes had pounded the

rebels holed up inside, the statement said, without elaborating.

Militants opposed to the U.S.-backed government of President Hamid Karzai have made good on threats to step up their three-year-old insurgency, carrying out assaults and bombings that have killed dozens of Afghan and U.S. troops and government officials in recent weeks.

However, they have suffered heavy casualties in clashes where American warplanes have caught them in large groups on open ground.

The Marines died days after the bloodiest fighting in Afghanistan in nine months, when U.S. and Afghan forces including American warplanes clashed with large groups of insurgents in two southern provinces.

Sixty-four rebels, nine Afghan soldiers and an Afghan police officer were reported killed, while six American troops were among the wounded.

American commanders insist they are wearing the insurgents down and persuading villagers along the Pakistani border to stop sheltering them.

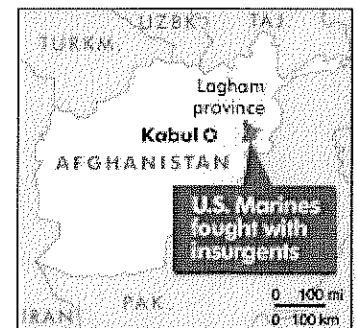
They have also suggested that the United States might withdraw some of its 18,000 troops in Afghanistan after the Sept. 18 parliamentary elections supposed to crown the country's democratic rebirth. But that depends on the success of a reconciliation plan which has prompted a string of former Taliban allies to give up the fight.

Sunday's deaths brought to 143 the number of American troops killed in and around Afghanistan since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001, according to Defense Department statistics.

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U.S. Marines killed

U.S. Marines and a band of insurgents sparked a battle in eastern Afghanistan Sunday night, leaving 12 rebels and two American troops dead.



Source: AP

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM EE

Hawaii MARINE

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VOLUME 35, NUMBER 19

WWW.MCRH.USMC.MIL

MAY 13, 2005

Two Marines killed in OEF

Compiled by
Public Affairs Office
MCR Hawaii

WASHINGTON — Two U.S. Marines assigned to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, were killed during an intense, five-hour

gun battle in Afghanistan's Laghman province Sunday. As many as 23 insurgents are suspected dead.

According to military officials in Afghanistan, the Marines were conducting support and stability operations in the area when they received reports of insurgent activity near their location.

As the Marines maneuvered to

investigate, about 25 individuals attacked using small arms and rocket-propelled grenades. As the fighting continued, the insurgents split into two groups, one of which fled to a village and the others to a cave on a nearby ridge.

Air Force A-10 aircraft engaged the insurgents in the cave, and a squad of Marines went to assess the situation.

The two Marines were killed while clearing the cave area, military officials said.

"You did not need to meet these Marines to know them," said Col. Chris Blanchard, the officer-in-charge of the Marine Coordination Element at Combined Joint Task Force 76. "If you know any Marine, you know that they died courageous-

ly to protect all of us from the threat of terrorism. We mourn their deaths and extend our prayers to their families and loved ones."

Both Marines, Cpl. Richard P. Schoener, 22, of Hayes, La., and Lance Cpl. Nicholas C. Kirven, 21, of Richmond, Va., were supporting

See CASUALTIES, A-6

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM FF, PICTURE 1

CASUALTIES, From A-1

Operation Enduring Freedom and were assigned to Combined Joint Task Force 76 while serving in Afghanistan.

Schoener enlisted in the Marine Corps under the delayed entry program Sept. 6, 2001, and reported for recruit training at Parris Island, Calif., Dec. 11, 2001; he graduated from the School of Infantry April 23, 2002. He then attended Marine Corps Security Force training May 25 to July 19, 2002, before reporting to the Marine Corps Security Force Company at Kings Bay, Ga. He reported to his unit at Kaneohe Bay, Aug. 3, 2004, and deployed to Afghanistan Nov. 11, 2004.

Schoener is survived by his mother and father. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

Schoener was born in Pottsville, Pa., and his home of record is Hayes, La. He graduated from Bell City High School in Bell City, La.

Kirven enlisted in the Marine Corps Dec. 13, 2001, and reported for recruit training at Parris Island, Calif., Aug. 26, 2002. He graduated from the School of Infantry March 14, 2003, and reported to his unit at Kaneohe Bay March 26,

2003, before deploying to Afghanistan Nov. 11, 2004.

Kirven is survived by his mother and father. His awards include the Navy Unit Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with second award. Kirven is a native of Richmond, Va., where he graduated from Douglas Freeman High School.

Taliban leader joins Afghan forces

Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan
— A former insurgent commander swore allegiance to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Asadabad, recently, agreeing to turn in his weapons and cease hostilities against Afghan and coalition forces.

As coalition forces have been hunting near the Afghan-Pakistani border for insurgent leaders, Najmuddin turned himself in to India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, abandoning his run as one of the more elusive insurgent leaders.

The Marines were informed by a message that explained where the commander was located and his intent. The India Company leadership moved quickly to the designated location and, crossing over a bridge into the compound, came face-to-face with the man they were able to recognize only from an outdated photograph.

The former insurgent commander has been allowed to participate in the Allegiance Program, a program currently offered to Taliban and Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin fighters who wish to stop fighting and start participating in the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

"We've been working on this guy for a long time," said 1st Lt. Justin Bellman, India Company executive officer. "It was just a matter of time before either we captured him, killed him, or he turned himself in. He made the right decision, and we're going to hope that he becomes a positive force in his community."

A ceremony which was attended by nearly 300 civic and religious leaders from across the Kunar province was the first step in the process of repatriation for Najmuddin, who explained to the Marines, through an interpreter, the reason he turned himself over to them.

"I am tired of running," said the former insurgent. "I realized that my community was suffering because of attacks on the coalition, and I did not want that any more."

His participation in the Allegiance Program comes on the heels of extensive duration operations around the areas Najmuddin was known to frequent in the Pech Valley. Aggressively approaching the detention of insurgent leadership in the area afforded Marines the success that had eluded other units.

"This individual orchestrated several attacks against coalition forces before we got here and began to conduct attacks against us in Nagalam from the moment we arrived. It did not take us long to let him know that we were not going to sit back and take that," said Lt. Col. Norm Cooling, commanding officer, America's Battalion. "Instead we took the fight to his backyard — to the difficult, cold and mountainous terrain of the Korangal Valley — a place where roads do not take you, and a place where coalition forces had not gone for any length of time before."

The Marines of India Company, once

See TALIBAN, A-6

TALIBAN, From A-1

tasked with eliminating the threat Najmuddin posed to stability in the area, applied constant pressure on him for two and a half months.

"In that time, he didn't have time to conduct attacks against our installations," said Cooling. "He was too busy trying to survive, and he finally got tired of it."

While he said the constant presence of well-trained Marines was the ultimate reason he turned himself in, it was also the humanitarian outreach and rehabilitation projects in his area that Marines participated in that convinced the former insurgent leader to come forth.

Bellman, who spoke with Najmuddin, said he expressed happiness with many of the good things he saw the Marines doing in the Pech Valley and that he knew his area was improving because of the Afghan and coalition forces.

Everyone greeted Najmuddin warmly in attendance at a meeting of Afghan elders, religious leaders and government officials, known as the shura, which coincided with the ceremony. Both he and the community leaders present expressed a sincere desire for peace. After giving a short speech, he was sworn to uphold his end of the agreement by the governor of Kunar. India Company Commander Capt. Jim Sweeney was present for the ceremony and signed the official document as a witness.

"He has sworn to cooperate with the government," said Sweeney. "Once he's in the program, he has to meet with community leaders, elders and

coalition forces on a regular basis to check in."

The governor of Kunar, Asadollah Wafa, said the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan hopes the program will put an end to local insurgencies and further drive a wedge between Afghans and the foreign-national terrorists who have been operating in Afghanistan. By accepting former insurgent "middlemen" like Najmuddin, he hopes that the money and support that keeps the insurgency alive in eastern Afghanistan will dry up.

The Allegiance Program is a program designed to bring many former, prominent Afghans into the new government, he said. As long as an individual has committed no crimes against humanity, he may get a second chance at citizenship.

"Everyone is happy that he finally turned himself in," said Sweeney. "The community supports his decision to do so, and I think that will make a big difference in how some other Taliban fighters react to us."

According to Sweeney, Najmuddin is only the first in a line of insurgents who he thinks will decide to lay down their arms and cooperate with the Afghan government. To facilitate that, America's Battalion will continue its aggressive operations throughout Afghanistan's eastern region.

"A lot of people want to come forward," said Najmuddin. "They are scared because they're not sure what will happen once they come forward. Once they see how well I have been treated, they will decide to turn themselves in."

Hawaii MARINE

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MAY 27, 2005

3/3 honors Kilo warriors

Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE
MEHTAR LAM, Afghanistan** —
Third Battalion, 3rd Marine
Regiment, America's Battalion, hon-
ored two fallen heroes in a memori-
al service, May 13.

Kilo Company stood tall under
the brutal afternoon sun, the wind
whipping up a storm of dust around
perfectly aligned desert boots while
Lance Cpl. Nicholas "Nick" C.
Kirven and Cpl. Richard "Ricky" P.
Schoener's names were read on the
final roll call.

The ceremony was part and parcel
of Marine Corps tradition — hon-
oring Marines lost in combat the same
way they have been honored for

over a century.

Rifles were inverted by their
squad members and set into the
ground, bayonets first; Kevlars rested
on the buttstocks and empty boots
locked at attention.

After a prayer from America's
Battalion Navy Chaplain (Lt Cmdr.)
Paul Evers, the company stood at
parade rest and listened to eulogies
read by Marines from 2nd Platoon.

"In my brief time in the Marine
Corps, I have had the opportunity to
work with some outstanding
Marines," said Sgt. Robert Campbell,
the Marines' squad leader. "Lance
Cpl. Kirven and Cpl. Schoener were
the best. These Marines made the
ultimate sacrifice to defend the liber-
ties we so often take for granted."

Campbell continued, "Nick and

Ricky were the driving force behind
2nd Squad. They always made a bad
situation into a positive one."

He then shared a story of when
both Marines had come to the aid of
the squad's spirits.

"During a three-day mission in
the village of Paitak, the weather was
as bad as it could possibly be,"
he said. "After drenching us with
persistent rain, it decided to start
snowing. The platoon decided to
move to a nearby house to avoid
hypothermia. We were still miser-
able, but Ricky and Nick started to
tell stories to brighten everybody's
mood. Their stories helped us forget
how bad things were."

"Their positive attitudes always

See **FALLEN**, A-8



Marines from Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, pay their final respects to
Lance Cpl. Nicholas "Nick" Kirven and Cpl. Richard "Ricky" Schoener, May 13, at
Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM HH, PICTURE 1

Fallen, From A-1

emerged to motivate and inspire the Marines around them. Nick and Ricky loved us so much that they gave their lives to ensure our safety on the mountain that day. We can never begin to repay the debt we owe to them. Our hearts and thoughts go out to their families. Know that your sons are heroes," Campbell concluded.

Next, Lance Cpl. Nicholas Collier, Kilo rifleman, spoke to the assembled Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Soldiers.

"Friend. That word is an understatement. Brother, more appropriately, is what he is and always will be," he began. "Nick was one of those people you are immediately attracted to — a personality that was larger than life. He had a magnetic aura around him that automatically drew you to him. He could make a bad time good and a good time better."

Collier related stories of the time Kirven managed to scoop supermodel Brooke Burke away from her NFL-playing boyfriend on the dance floor in Waliki, and another time, he convinced an entire club that he and his friends was the rock band "Incubus."

He also spoke of his selflessness and caring for others. "These traits undoubtedly came from those he held closest to him — his family. There wasn't a day that went by that he didn't tell a story about time spent at James Madison University with his sister Pride, or how crazy his father Rusty is, or a vacation with his older brother Joe, or how loving a home his mother Beth, stepfather Michael and brother Joseph have."

"I learned how not to squander your time here," he continued. "Even if you live to 150, it's still not long enough to accomplish everything. He lived by the motto 'No day wasted; no experience unfulfilled.' We celebrate a life lived without limits, without regrets and we rejoice. In our happiness is where Nick lives on forever."

The final speaker was Cpl. Nathan Valencia, Kilo rifleman.

"I had never met anyone like Ricky before, the kind of person who made you laugh

no matter what," he began. "I asked myself, 'How much better of a person am I because of him?'"

"We were total opposites. He was a country boy from Louisiana who liked to drive a jeep in the mud and go fishing. I'm a city boy from Chicago who never experienced those things. Hanging out with Ricky, I learned so much: How to drive stick shift in his jeep, how to chop wood. I even learned to like country music and that appearances aren't always what they seem."

Valencia spoke both of Schoener's easy-going kindness and drive to do the very best at everything he did.

"I looked up the definition of ambition and it said 'a desire to succeed.' Ricky was the most ambitious person I ever met. He put his heart into everything he did, all the time. I thank him for that and for opening my eyes to a different world."

He concluded, "My prayers go out to Ricky's mom and family. I hope they know he will never be forgotten."

After the playing of "Tap," the company was dismissed to pay their final respects to Nick and Ricky. The Marines and Sailors who served with them gathered close around their rifles

and boots, touching the dog tags and remembering the laughter their friends say Kirven and Schoener would most like to be remembered by.

Three Marines stood to the side, playing "Amazing Grace" on the guitar and "Irish Whistle" as the crowd thinned. Almost an hour later, their rifles stood alone on the parade deck, allowed to rest as much as the Marines themselves who dedicated their lives to bringing joy to their brothers in arms are now allowed to.

"I remember Nick giving away toys, candy, food, whatever he had to the local kids when we would be out on patrol," said Collier. "I remember him looking at their smiles and saying, 'See, it really makes it all worthwhile.'"

The two Marines were killed in fighting in the Laghman Province of Afghanistan on May 8.

Kirven, from Fairfax, Va., was 21-years-old. His father Leo Kirven, his mother Beth, sister Mary-Pride, brothers Joe Purcell and Joseph Belle, and stepfather Mike Belle survive him. Schoener of Hayes, La., was 22 and is survived by an extended family including his mother, Bonnie Breaux.

CHIEF, From A-1

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM HH, PICTURE 2

America's Battalion remembers spirit of brothers

Cpl. Rich Mattiney
Combat Correspondent

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE
MEHTAR LAM, Afghanistan** — The
squad and platoon-mates of two Marines
killed in a bloody clash with insurgents,
May 8, gathered throughout the past week
to reflect on memories of their fallen
brothers.

Sitting in a tent where just a week prior
they had prepared for their latest mission
with Cpl. Richard "Ricky" Schoener and
Lance Cpl. Nicholas "Nick" Kirven, the
mood among the squad-mates was
sombre, the sounds of battle still ringing
in their ears.

From the rafters still hung the
American flag they had all signed, two sig-
natures slightly more noticeable than the
rest, as afternoon light filtered through
the fabric. There was a lingering sense that
the tent should have been filled with
laughter and talk of what the Marines
planned to do when they returned home.

However, close to the surface their feel-
ings of loss and grief were the Marines of
Kilo Company only spoke of the positive
light they said their friends Nick and Ricky
brought to everything they did. As they
took turns telling stories and sharing
memories, they said that they will remem-
ber them as friends, heroes, and as Sgt.
Charles Bennett, Kilo Company squad
leader emotionally recalled, "The two
finest young Marines I have ever seen."

"They were happy-go-lucky guys," said
Cpl. Jason Valencia, rifle team leader with
2nd Platoon, 2nd Squad, Kilo Company,
3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines. "They were
both the kind of Marines who were serious
enough to always do their job or give you

See **BROTHERS**, A-9



Cpl. Rich Mattiney
Lance Cpl. Nicholas "Nick" Kirven (left) and
Cpl. Richard "Ricky" Schoener, team leaders
with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd
Marines, pose in a picture taken during their
deployment to Afghanistan. The two Marines
lost their lives in combat, May 8, in
Laghman Province, Afghanistan.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM II, PICTURE 1

BRONNERS, From A. I.

The start of their back had never ones to take any situation too seriously, let you be seen.

The other Marines agreed, every man showing strokes of Kievan and Schreiner's incredible ability to make the best out of any situation, their freewheeling spirits and their love of their family.

"We were in this place called Takab," said Lance. "Ed, Nick, Colton, Rickman and I close friend of Haveli. And I think have been 20 before and we were impossible. Nick came up to me and started taking my pictures and I was just to relieve the misery. For the time we were done. I forget how fast they had at a time it was. That's the kind of joy he was."

Jimmy was well known for being a practical joker, and his flashy style, or "dope" and "crunk," as he would say, spread members jokingly called him "Pats" and named him for the time he spent riding his bike. But his Marines, and his superiors alike, also knew him as a strong leader and a godfearin' instrument in his specialties as an assault climber and a Marine Corps Water Survival Instructor.

"The way is just a matter of time," recalled Staff Sgt. James Horvath, second platoon sergeant, Kilo Company. "He taught me how to be a better swimmer at 53 by alerting his injuries. He had that maturity to handle and instruct all levels of Marines and all levels of abilities."

"We also had him as a team leader," continued Horvath. "Usually a misanthropic fellow, officer's habit, but in our line of work, you have to get the right man in there to do the job, and he was the right man."

"He was one of the original 'kike boys,'" said 1st Sgt. Vincent Santiago. Kinsinger's first sergeant, referring to Kinsinger's unpopularity, moved around with the company. "He was always brutal always had a smile for everyone. I remember seeing doubt with him for lunch and discussing the beans. He told me that he was considering making with kids for another deployment. Looking to inherit the youngest Marines. When a Marine makes statements like that, you know he really cares about those around him."

Cpl. Schooner, or "Bicky" as his friends call him, is remembered as an immature young man who told raucous and often untrue stories to share for any situation.

Schneider came to Kilo Company in August of 2004, just in time to begin training for deployment in Afghanistan. After spending the first part of his enlistment in Marine Corps Security Forces as a sentry at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Basin in Georgia, Kilo Company Marines said he made the transition to his new "grunt" unit seamlessly.

The district judge presiding in the trial of the 100th Airborne's leadership to work in El Salvador. Horowitz, "Without Arming in El Salvador," *Washington Post*, 1984. Since a good dog bit a square hole," he imagined his own skills lost while he did. "I contained, reflecting in the valuable knowledge of Clay, quipped both Schuman possessed."

Other Marine mentioned his prowess as a pilot in their flight-line galley at PCE-4, in itself and his growing talk of leaving soon for his small-business town.

"He visited his sister and his mother," said one Marine. "He was always calling them, them and how he couldn't wait to get home to see them."

The hour that changed the lives of everyone surrounding these two young men was a final rehearsal, as the strength of their character and spirit.

When Schoepel and Klevor had the way toward the lifeless body of an insurgent and were fired on from a nearby cave with automatic weapons, wounding both, their squad said they never wavered. As their fellow Marine quipped: "We're on the cave, both men continued fighting the ferocious enemy until the last man no enemy grenades had their face."

The rest of the plan can continue the assault, clearing the coast of enemy fighters and bringing in reinforcements to take the island.

ପ୍ରତିଦିନ ଲାଭକାରୀ ହେବା ପାଇଁ ଏହି ପ୍ରକାରର ଗୁପ୍ତତା ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ। ଏହା ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଦେଇ ଏକ ନିୟମିତ ଲାଭ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଥାଏ। ଏହା ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ଏକ ନିୟମିତ ଲାଭ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଥାଏ। ଏହା ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ଏକ ନିୟମିତ ଲାଭ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଥାଏ।

through the mountain back to their place of home, looking for cities with large oil accumulations, one of which had reached a thickness of 100 ft. The study, they claimed, showed that Karsen the entire way.

"They would not let go of their brothers' said eggs. Both Clangstaff and Squard leached. "We could only walk maybe a few hundred feet or so before we had to rest," says Clangstaff. But we would

never kept them isolated. They'd have done the same for me."

"These Marines are a family. These are wise, the kind of men whose Marines refused to put them down ... even though they looked like they couldn't possibly take another step," said Roberts. "That says a lot about a man."

A few nights later, a Marine aimed a perfect for at the shadow of a spot and showed pictures and

describes the Nick and Kicky by a group: "backwoods
 people like phonying themselves as nerds."

Marines who were officers "larger than life" were respected and admired along with the economy and celebration of their lives including their Marines' joining US national identity across

every face that my Marine or Sailors who served alongside them will carry for the same.

Hawaii MARINE

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3/3 returns to Tora Bora for Operation Celtics

America's Battalion work with villagers, give aid

Sgt. 1st Class Rick Scavetta
U.S. Army

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — When the U.S. Marine Corps' 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, ventured into the Tora Bora mountains recently to hunt down enemy fighters, they instead found Afghans eager for a fighting chance.

The mission, dubbed Operation Celtics, began as an offensive in an enemy sanctuary — the rugged mountains of Nangarhar province that stretch along the Pakistani border. It was one of several missions launched last week by coalition troops to locate insurgents. Afghan National Army soldiers took part in the operations. Lima Company Marines were prepared for a fight, but

found themselves sipping tea with village elders. In the first few days of the operation, the Marines distributed roughly eight tons of chile aid. And not a shot was fired.

"It's a sign of success that we're not getting shot at," said Capt. Eric Kelly, Lima Company commander.

Insurgents operating in the area would likely rely upon local villagers for support while transiting through the high-altitude passes, Kelly said. Marines patrolled into remote villages, set up security, and talked with local citizens to assess their needs and gain information on enemy activity.

Keying the radio, Kelly called to battalion headquarters at Jalalabad Airfield, where aviation assets from the U.S. Army's Fox Company, 3rd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment — known to troops as "Big Windy" — were on standby to af-



A U.S. Marine shakes hands with an Afghan boy during a pause in operations in Nangarhar, Afghanistan, May 23. Marines of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, are conducting operations in concert with Afghanistan Army soldiers in the region.

See 3/3, A-6

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM JJ, PICTURE 1

3/3, From A-1

lit bundles of civic aid.

Within minutes, Marines heard the heavy "thud-a-thud" of the CH-47 Chinook echoing through the valley. A U.S. Air Force controller working with the Marines popped a canister of green smoke to mark the landing zone and talked to the approaching Army pilot. Marines rushed into the blowing dust to pull bundles of supplies off the helicopter's tail ramp.

"When fighting an insurgency, the way to win is to get the people on your side," said 1st Lt. LT Semicki, 25, of Long Valley, N.J. "When you're handing out food and blankets to help people in this rugged, austere landscape, you're helping out on the most personal level."

Security during the mission was key, said Semicki. Tim's weapons platoon commander. The Marines hope "set up for success" by having Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II jet fighters overhead during the mission's initial stage, he said. A platoon from the Afghan National Army marched alongside the Marines, contributing to interaction with the Afghan citizens and establishing perimeter security when the troops stopped near villages.

"If our Army works hard with the Americans and gets back on its feet, then we will no longer need the U.S. for support," said Jalel Ghul, an Afghan soldier from Chaparai province.

Ghul and his fellow Afghan troops use their knowledge of the local culture to assess progress during the military operations, Ghul recalled how the Korean soldiers skinned his horse and killed his father. The coalition forces' approach makes Afghans feel more comfortable, he said.

"Before, they did not like foreigners," Ghul said. "Now, they see (the United States) building the country, and they are happy."

On a ridge overlooking the Pachir Agni Valley, Marines set up camp outside the Gerakhal Primary School, a 12-room edifice built in 2004 by a U.S.-led provincial reconstruction team. About 700 local boys who once studied out in the open now have furnished classrooms, said Capt. Michael Greer, 35, an Army Reserve officer from the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion.

"You build a school, and you make people choose," Greer said. "It's either help rebuild the Afghan government and its coalition allies or supporting the bad guys."

Nearby, Afghan villagers clustered around the helicopter landing zone. Sgt. Joshua Allison, of Stroudsburg, Pa., spent the afternoon of his 23rd birthday loading the arms of Afghan boys with bundles of blankets, rugs, food and medicine. In the village, Navy Corpsman Daniel Mayberry, 21, of Gaithersburg, Md., began treating ailments and injuries in a makeshift clinic.

"We're trying to better this country's problems and let them know we care," Mayberry said. "The local people are trying to get on with their everyday lives, and there's people — Taliban and al Qaeda — threatening their lives. If we show them that we're here to help, they may tell us where the bad guys with the

weapons."

Gaining the locals' trust is the only way to get their support, said Cpt. Stephen Patterson, 22, of Conyers, Ga.

Patterson often mans a 60 mm mortar on Marine firebases. But when he gets out on patrol, he sees the Afghanistan's future in the

dances of children who swarm around Marine

"There's something about kids," Patterson said. "Their parents saw what other foreign armies did here, but the kids are exposed to it anyway we are doing things. Maybe they can tell their parents about what we're doing and remember what we've done for them."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM JJ, PICTURE 2