



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

3D BATTALION, 3D MARINES
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5
2D MARINE DIVISION (FWD)
UNIT 44070
FPO AF 96607-4070

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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CO
31 Jan 12

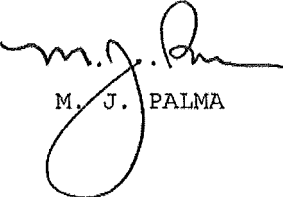
From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Regimental Combat Team 5

Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR THE PERIOD OF 16 DECEMBER 2011 THROUGH
15 JANUARY 2012

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1H
(b) DivO 5750.7D
(c) RegtO 5750.1C

1. Per the references, Task Force 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, Regimental
Combat Team 5, Command Chronology is submitted.

2. The point of contact is Captain Jeremy H. Groefsema and can be reached
via email correspondence at email: jeremy.groefsema@afg.usmc.mil or
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M. J. PALMA

Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR THE PERIOD OF 16 DECEMBER 2011 THROUGH
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

16 DEC 2011 - 15 JAN 2012

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SECTION I: ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. UNIT DESIGNATION. Task Force 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, Regimental Combat Team 5, 2d Marine Division (Forward), II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward)

- a. Reporting Unit Code: M13130
- b. Table of Organization Number: M13130

2. PERIOD COVERED AND LOCATION. 16 Dec 2011 through 15 Jan 2012: Garmser District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2.

3. PERSONNEL INFORMATION

- a. Commanding Officer
Lieutenant Colonel Matthew J. Palma
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- b. Executive Officer
Major Sean P. Carroll
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- c. Sergeant Major
Sergeant Major Andrew T. Cece
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- d. Subordinate Commanders
 - (1) India Company:
Captain Bobby W. Lee Jr.
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
 - (2) Kilo Company:
Captain Barney B. Blaine
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
 - (3) Lima Company:
Captain Richard Zjawin
16 Dec 11 - 30 Dec 11
Captain Raymond L'Heureux
31 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
 - (4) H & S Company:
Captain Owen M. Boyce
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
 - (5) Weapons Company:
Captain Jason C. Armas
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- e. Principal Staff
 - (1) Adjutant (S-1):
First Lieutenant Drake P. Toney
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12

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- (2) Intelligence Officer (S-2):
Captain Jeffrey M. Brewer
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (3) Assistant Intelligence Officer (S-2A):
First Lieutenant Aubrey G. Giblin
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 11
- (4) Operations Officer (S-3):
Major Stephan P. Karabin II
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (5) Assistant Operations Officer (S-3A):
Captain Lowell D. Krusinger
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (6) Operations Chief:
Master Gunnery Sergeant Troy L. Buss
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (7) Battalion Gunner:
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Raymond L. Browne
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (8) Fire Support Coordinator:
First Lieutenant Jared W. Streeter
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (9) Air Officer:
Captain Jeremy H. Groefsema
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (10) Joint Terminal Attack Controllers:
Captain Gareth P. Hughes
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12

Captain John C. Kolb
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12

Staff Sergeant Jeremy L. Hager
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12

Staff Sergeant Justin M. Byrd
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12

Sergeant Scott E. Brose
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (11) Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Officer:
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Felix A. OrtizToro
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (12) Logistics Officer (S-4):
Captain Brian E. Hollier
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12

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- (13) Assistant Logistics Officer (S-4A):
First Lieutenant Ryan P. Gulliksen
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (14) Supply Officer:
First Lieutenant Tyler Short
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (15) Maintenance Management Officer:
First Lieutenant Joseph Schager
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (16) Motor Transport Officer:
First Lieutenant Daniel A. Ledeen
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (17) Communications Officer (S-6):
Captain Joshua Connors
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (18) Embedded Training Team (ETT) OIC:
Captain Raymond L'Heureux
16 Dec 11 - 30 Dec 11
Captain Lance Seiffert
31 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (19) Police Advisory Team (PAT) OIC:
First Lieutenant Jeremy Wheeler
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (20) Chaplain:
Lieutenant Jerry Durham, USN
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (21) Battalion Surgeon/Medical Officer:
Lieutenant Sean M. Stuart, USN
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (22) Assistant Battalion Surgeon:
Lieutenant Eusebio Flores, USN
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (23) Battalion Judge Advocate:
Captain John A Sautter
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12
- (24) Historian:
Captain Jeremy H. Groefsema
16 Dec 11 - 15 Jan 12

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	OFFICER ENLISTED		OFFICER ENLISTED		OFFICER ENLISTED	
Nov/Dec	60	838	3	70	63	908

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5. EQUIPMENT

Marine Corps Automated Readiness Evaluation System (MARES) Reportable
Equipment:

TAM	NOMEN	RQMT	POSS	EXCESS
A0061	MAST SECTION	6	7	1
A0090	AN/TSR-9 TGRS	1	1	
A0124	REMOTE SUBSCRIBE ACCESS MODULE	4	2	
A0126	AN/VRC-103	0	33	33
A0129	PRC-152	250	228	
A0139	RADIO SET, AN/TRC-209	4	5	1
A0153	RADIO SET, AN/MRC-142C	5	5	
A0172	DDS-R PWR MOD	7	7	
A0174	DDS-R LAN SVC MOD	3	4	1
A0176	DDS-R LAN EXT MOD ON-704/TYC	10	10	
A0197	DDS-R DSM	1	1	
A0234	SWAN D	1	0	
A0243	SWAN D NETWORK PACKAGE	1	0	
A0254	COMBAT OPS CENTER SET III	1	1	
A0255	COMBAT OPS CENTER SET IV	1	0	
A0266	RADIO SET, AN/VRC-104	3	3	
A0932	INTEL OPS WORKSTATION	1	0	
A1260	AN/PSN-13	77	73	
A2042	AN/PRC-150	70	68	
A2068	AN/PRC-117F	55	78	23
A2079	AN/PRC-119F	17	17	
A2555	AFATDS. AN/GYK-60	4	5	1
A2560	TLDHS BLK II AN/PSQ-19A	6	0	
A3252	UAV DRAGON EYE	2	11	9
B0008	AIRCONDITIONER, 5T, 60K	20	24	4
B0014	ECU, A/C, 36000 BTU	40	55	15
B0018	TRLR, INTEGRATED ECU	3	3	
B0027	PANEL, PWR DISTR	5	5	
B0028	PANEL, PWR DISTR	25	65	30
B0029	PANEL, PWR DISTR	10	19	9
B0030	PANEL, PWR DISTR	15	20	5
B0032	PANEL, PWR DISTR	0	3	3
B0063	LOADER, SCOOP TYPE, 624K TRAM	1	0	
B0730	GEN SET, 3KW	15	20	5
B0891	MEP-803 10KW	20	30	10
B0953	GEN SET, 30KW, 60HZ, MEP-005A/B	10	12	2
B0980	GEN SET, MEP 513A	1	1	

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B1021	GEN SET, 60KW, MEP-006A/806B	15	18	3
B1045	GEN SET, 100KW, TQG-MEP-807A	8	7	
B1580	PUMP, FUEL MODULE	6	4	
B2085	TANK, FUEL STORAGE	12	9	
B2086	TANK, WATER STORAGE	8	3	
B2561	FORKLIFT, EBFL	2	1	
D0003	TRK, ARM 7T CAR AMK23	7	9	2
D0004	TRK, ARM 7T CAR W/W AMK25	3	3	
D0005	TRK, ARM 7T EXT AMK27	3	3	
D0006	TRK, ARM 7T EXT W/W AMK28	2	0	
D0015	TRK, WRECKER ARM 7T AMK36	1	2	1
D0023	MARP, AMB HAGA/MAXPRO	2	2	
D0025	MRAP, CAT I 4X4	40	39	
D0027	MRAP, CAT II 6X6	10	8	
D0033	M1152	2	1	
D0036	MRAP, ATV	70	70	
D0880	TRLR, WATER TANK M149A2	8	4	
E0006	IZLID	0	22	22
E0020	SCOUT SNIPER RIFLE	11	13	2
E0042	LASER RANGE FINDER	5	2	
E0055	LAUNCHER TUBE (TOW)	8	8	
E0180	AIMING CIRCLE	4	6	2
E0207	JAVELIN M98A1	8	8	
E0915	SMAW	18	18	
E0980	MACH GUN CAL 50 M2	54	61	
E0989	M240G	95	94	
E0994	MK-19	48	53	5
E1048	LASER RANGE FINDER- VECTOR	25	23	
E1065	M224	9	8	
E1095	M252	8	9	1
E1460	RIFLE, SNIPER 7.62	8	8	
E1475	RIFLE, SPEC OPS APL .50 CAL	4	4	
E1975	SIGHT, THERMAL	95	108	13
E1976	SIGHT, THERMAL	65	59	

SECTION II: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

ADMINISTRATION, ADJUTANT/LEGAL

During 16 December to 15 January 2012, the Administration Section (S-1) undertook its tasks of personnel accountability, awards preparation, fitness report tracking, directives control, legal administration and correspondence management. The following details are provided:

1. Awards Presented to Personnel:

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- a. Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals: 0
 - b. Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals: 0
 - c. Combat Action Ribbons: 0
2. Fitness Reports Submitted:
- a. Officer: 6
 - b. Enlisted: 51
3. Administrative Separations:
- a. Approved: 0
 - b. Suspended: 0
 - c. Pending: 0
4. Legislation and Congressional Action: 0
5. Court Martial Convened: 0
- a. General: 0
 - b. Special: 0
 - c. Summary: 0
6. Promotions:

The following promotions were effected:

Captain	-	0
First Lieutenant	-	0
Staff Sergeant	-	3
Sergeant	-	6
Corporal	-	10
Lance Corporal	-	15
Total	-	31

7. Officers Joined: 0
8. Officers Dropped: 0
9. USMC Enlisted Joined: 0 USMC Enlisted Dropped: 13
- USN Enlisted Joined: 0 USN Enlisted Dropped: 2

TRAINING AND OPERATIONS

From 16 December 2011 to 15 January 2012 the Battalion established a high tempo of operations in order to disrupt enemy activity throughout Area of Operations (AO) Garmser. Numerous cordon and soft knocks, as well as soft clears were conducted with Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF)

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leading the main effort during all operations. The Battalion continued to focus on Afghan National Police (ANP)/Afghanistan Local Police (ALP) development and achieved significant success with the replacement of the District Chief of Police (DCOP).

Deteriorating weather conditions postponed the beginning of Phase I of OPERATION TAGEER SHAMAL, Regimental Combat Team's (RCT-5) Winter Offensive. After the weather cleared and all coordination was complete for the change to Phase I of the operation, the Battalion continued with several important operations. On 25 December 2011 the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps visited Forward Operating Base (FOB) Delhi and met with the Marines. The following day, on 26 December, the Battalion Operations Officer along with the Embedded Training Team (ETT) Staff, met with the 6th Afghanistan National Army (ANA) Kandak Commanding Officer at Combat Outpost (COP) Rankel to conduct a site survey for the 6th Kandak Headquarters and the different Tolai positions throughout the AO. This key coordination was completed on 27 December, and the Battalion began preparations for the arrival of the 6th Kandak Tolais from Marjeh.

On 28 December, the Battalion conducted a soft clear of the Safar Bazaar. The ANA were the main effort in searching and inventorying all the shops in the Bazaar. Everyone inside the Bazaar was biometrically enrolled and emphasis was placed on searching Hawalas and Call Centers. The Battalion continued its operations in the Safar area with cordon and soft knocks conducted at two likely insurgent bed-down locations (BDL) on 29-30 December.

Concurrent to these operations in the south, there was a Religious Engagement Shura held on 28 December at the Mosque and District Government Center (DGC) in Hazar Joft. Major General Toolan, as well as other key International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) and ANSF religious leaders, participated in this event. This shura brought local mullahs from the area to discuss religious issues and concerns, and presented the message of tolerance to local religious leaders.

On 4 January, the Battalion initiated the beginning of Phase I of OPERATION TAGEER SHAMAL. Three companies conducted heliborne insertions on three Battalion Objectives on the western side of the Helmand River. The objectives were cleared by Afghan and Coalition Forces, and Key Leader Engagements (KLEs) were conducted between the Battalion Commander, ANA Kandak Commander and local elders in the vicinity of these three objectives. This was an important operation to build the local populace's confidence in the capability of ANSF to provide security for their areas. Following the clear of these objectives the companies cleared north along the west bank of the Helmand River. These operations resulted in finding a large quantity of poppy seed, and two caches containing Improvised Explosive Device (IED) components. Phase I of TAGEER SHAMAL concluded on 8 January with the aerial retrograde of the companies back to their FOBs on the eastern side of the Helmand River.

On 5 January, a new DCOP took over the ANP in the Garmser District. Lieutenant Colonel Masloom was brought in to replace Major Niamatullah, who was admonished and reprimanded for corruption problems among the ANP. This change of leadership was a significant victory in Garmser. The new DCOP has immediately changed the way the police are perceived. He has moved all of the Precinct Commanders to new areas, effectively limiting their influence and bringing strong leadership to troubled areas like Safar and Durzay. This

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power shift at the Precinct level has had a profound impact on ANP operations and the local attitude towards the police.

The District Governor has also made further developments in the level of local governance in the District. Governor Fahim initiated a Shura held at the Wakil Sultan Mohammed Compound in Safar to address the continued detention of the former local leader. The District governor arranged for the Shura and the communal meal, where he spoke to over 150 people, including local elders and District Council members.

Two British Engineers assigned to OPERATION TETHYS arrived in AO Garmser to supervise ten different work sites for the Darvishan Canal. The Battalion supported the movement of the two engineers in order for them to view the progress and quality of work on these sites throughout the month. On 13 January a Combined Anti-Armor Team (CAAT) Platoon, in support of Weapons Tolai from the 2/1/215, attached to 2/6 and established a blocking position north in 2/6's AO in support of the 4/1/215 clear of Shorshurak during Phase II of OPERATION TAGEER SHAMAL. They maintained their blocking position past the end of this reporting period.

The transition of the District to ANSF and Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) control has progressed dramatically during this 30 day period. Five Coalition Patrol Bases (PBs) were closed and demilitarized. Patrol Bases: Harris, Doost, Haji Achmed, Kadola Drab, and Hand were closed and the forces consolidated to their platoon positions. This has increased the Battalion's combat power that is free to maneuver throughout the battlespace, and support ANSF operations. On 14 January, the 3d Tolai of the 6/1/215 assumed the battlespace around PB Karma. They took over PBs Karma, Montana, and May from the 2/1/215. This movement is in preparation for the movement of additional forces from the 6th Kandak into AO Garmser at the end of January.

The Enhanced Police Mentoring Company transferred two positions, PB Kupak and PB Laki, to the ANP. The ANP have shown an increased level of competence in conducting independent operations as well as Coalition Force supported operations. On 15 January, the ANP acted on intelligence they had gathered about a suspected IED maker newly arrived into the Jugroom area. The ANP conducted a very proficient cordon and knock. Nothing significant was found, but the high level of effectiveness that the police showed in establishing outer and inner cordons, and the professional manner in which they executed the search shows the improvement that has occurred among the ANP.

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE (H&S) COMPANY

Between 16 December 2011 and 15 January 2012, Headquarters and Service (H&S) Company supported Task Force operations, OPERATION TAGEER SHAMAL and conducted security operations in and around FOB Delhi. Headquarters and Service Company focused security operations primarily within the Hazar Joft Bazaar and supported patrols to the District Government Center. A majority of these patrols have had enablers attached (District Security Team (DST), CAG Civil Affairs Group (CAG), Female Engagement Team (FET), Tactical Psychological Operations Team (TPT), etc.) to facilitate the legitimacy of the Afghanistan Government Officials in the eyes of the Afghanistan people, so that the District Government, ANA and Afghanistan Uniformed Police (AUP) can begin the lead for transition.

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From 4-8 January 2012, H&S Company supported OPERATION TAGEER SHAMAL. Headquarters and Service Company played an integral role during this phase of the Winter Offensive by setting up the Forward Combat Operation Centers (COC), 40 Kilometers south of FOB Delhi, to support over 300 Marines and Sailors from within the Battalion during their clearing missions. Seventy Marines, Soldiers, Sailors and Civilians from H&S Company, partnered with 16 ANA Soldiers, conducted successful integrated combat operations during the conduct of local security patrols and during operations from the Forward COC.

Additionally, H&S Company Marines continued partnering with the Staff Officers of the ANA and AUP. Primary staff members from H&S Company conducted weekly intelligence, security and logistical meetings to discuss Current Operations and Future Operations.

Headquarters and Service Company's Guard Force Platoon conducted an average of two partnered patrols each week. All Guard Patrols are focused on the PIR/SIRs/SORs derived from the Battalion's "First 30 Day" Operations Order. A lack of soldiers within 2/1/215 H&S Company and ANA support for the conduct of the Winter Offensive Operation prevented more partnering with the Guard Force.

Headquarters and Service Company has been increasing their role of mentorship and integration of the ANA Soldiers and will continue their focus on conducting Professional Military Education (PME) classes regarding Counter IED (CIED) Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs), and small unit patrolling TTPs, in order to facilitate higher's intent.

The Guard Force Platoon conducted security patrols in the H&S battlespace which included seven mounted and 28 dismounted security patrols, seven of which were partnered with ANSF. This resulted in 174 kilometers of patrolling in which they engaged local elders, religious leaders, females and the general population. During the last month, the Guard Force was tasked with 10 Quick Reaction Force (QRF) missions. Two of these missions resulted in supporting EOD for one weapons cache find and one IED find. Within the last month, the Guard Force has enrolled 25 local nationals in the BAT/HIIDE systems and became the first unit in the H&S battlespace to conduct a census of the Hazar Joft Bazaar area. They also conducted security operations in support of the FOB Delhi Christmas visit from the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, and directly supported three OPERATION GRIDLOCK missions in the H&S battlespace.

Within the last month, H&S has seen improvements in the areas of FOB Delhi. Marler Hall has been demilitarized in order to facilitate space for Alaska Shelters to house Marines who will be retrograding to Delhi as positions start to transition and shut down. Guard Posts Three and Four have been reconstructed to better support the guarding of the FOB. A rifle range has also been established at the FOB in order to facilitate monthly reset training for the Marines.

For the remainder of the deployment H&S Company will continue to develop the ANA and ANP in the H&S battlespace and continue to support the District Support Team. Additionally, in accordance with RCT-5 and Battalion directives, H&S Company will support the demilitarization of checkpoints, PB's and COPs throughout the AO.

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Embedded Training Team (ETT)

The ETT's primary focus during this period was the joint planning and execution of Phases 1 and 2 of OPERATION TAGEER SHAMAAL, while continuing to enable the ANA's logistical independence, and mentoring all staff level functions to build proficiency and professionalism. During the operation we assessed the ANA's ability to plan and command and control complex battalion and company-sized operations, to include attending a Brigade Rehearsal of Concept for the independently planned Phase 2. The 3d Battalion, 3d Marines ETT Detachment turned over the security mission for PB Shamshad to the ANA and relocated to PB Gorgak in order to better prepare the southern portion of the battlespace for the introduction in zone of the 6th Kandak.

During this period, the major focus of effort has remained on planning the consolidation of the 2/1/215 into platoon and company sized positions in the northern sector of the AO, while preparing southern Garmser for the arrival of the 6/1/215 in zone. The ETT has been working continuously with the Kandaks' Operations Officers and Commanding Officers in order to develop a plan for the moves, while putting the least amount of strain on ongoing operations.

The latter half of December and first part of January has been spent assessing the lift requirements for the remaining Tolais of the 6/1/215 required to enable their relocation, while at the same time identifying positions throughout the battlespace that will either be closed or transferred to the ANA. We have successfully built a common picture with the ANA as to what positions will remain active as 3d Battalion, 3d Marines consolidates. These actions will allow them to take the lead in security operations.

The ETT continued to conduct Quick Reaction Force missions, intelligence-based operations, and partnering operations. The Kandak continued to respond well to all short-fuse operational requirements and demonstrated solid TTPs.

INDIA COMPANY

One month following RIP/TOA between 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, and 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, India Company quickly settled into their AO. On 16 December, India Company began preparing for OPERATION TAGEER SHAMAL, a battalion-level clearing operation along the Helmand River. Half of the Company was in dedicated support of the operation. However, due to harsh weather conditions the operation was postponed until January 2012. Prior to the execution of TAGEER SHAMAL, the ANA Tiger Team worked out of COP Rankel for approximately one week. The team gathered information for the Marines in densely populated areas such as bazaars and villages.

On 19 December, a CH-53 helicopter, carrying our LEP, J. D. Waddle, landed at COP Rankel. When the landing was conducted, the front landing gear was severely damaged which prevented it from taking off. The CH-53 was down for maintenance until the end of December. That same evening at 2105, First Platoon saw a suspicious individual digging near a well-traveled goat path, 300 meters from Patrol Base Durzay. The Marines engaged the individual with small arms fire. First Platoon missed the target, and the local national was detained after he walked toward PB Durzay. Approximately 20 - 30 minutes after the local national was detained, two more local nationals approached the vicinity of his initial digging position, and were also engaged by First Platoon. First Platoon detained and eventually released the local nationals

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after they were biometrically enrolled and nothing was found at the digging site.

Christmas was observed and celebrated by most of the Company at the PBs. Lieutenant Colonel Palma and Sergeant Major Cece visited the Marines at several India Company positions as well.

On 28 December, OPERATION ENTER SANDMAN was conducted. The mission was to clear the Safar Bazaar from west to east. No detainees were taken during the conduct of the operation. There were numerous local nationals that were inducted biometrically.

On 29 December, India Company conducted OPERATION WHIPLASH in response to intelligence reporting that a high value target was bedding down in the India Company AO. The operation was lead by Third Platoon. They cleared several buildings in the area, however the high value target was not found. That same day the Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 371, backhauled the down CH-53 that landed at COP Rankel on 19 December.

After the New Year, on 4 January, approximately 110 Marines and Sailors from India Company conducted OPERATION TAGEER SHAMAAL, a battalion-wide clear of the west side of the Helmand River, west of our AO. The four day operation yielded small cache finds and numerous biometric enrollments.

On 9 January, in continuing with one of the company's top priorities, Patrol Base Harris was demilitarized. The six Marines from PB Harris moved to Patrol Base Karma.

KILO/POLICE MENTORING COMPANY

As of 15 January 2012, Kilo Company's mission to transfer lead security responsibility (TLSR) to local ANSF has progressed with the transfer of five positions. With the removal of Coalition Forces at these positions, ANSF can assume a higher level of autonomy. With the closure of the five positions, Kilo Company is now located at seven partnered positions, with a sixth pending position transfer to occur at PB Shamalan no later than 17 January 2012.

On 2 January 2012, Kilo Company Marines established Vehicle Checkpoints (VCP) and observation posts throughout the AO in support of the RCT-5 Winter Offensive, OPERATION TAGEER SHAMAL. During this operation the Marines of 3d Battalion 3d Marines pushed east to west along the western boundary of the AO; establishing blocking positions in order to disrupt enemy forces west of the Helmand River. The Marines of Kilo Company also established 24 hour VCPs across the AO in order to cut off enemy supply lines and transportation.

On 4 January 2012, Kilo Company initiated an ALP Academy, a three-week course to train basic ALP Patrolmen. The ALP Candidates are trained in professional conduct, physical fitness, tactics, and weapons. Kilo Company and the ALP Police Advisory Team have been instructing the courses with the aid of linguists and civilian police contractors.

On 7 January 2012, Kilo Company received a New ANP Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Ahad Masloom. Lieutenant Colonel Masloom was transferred from Lashkar Gah and has worked for the ANP for over 30 years.

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On 12 January 2012, Kilo Company supported ANP Forces in providing a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) for a cordon and search mission in an attempt to detain Taliban located in the area. The ANP planned and executed the mission without additional support from Marines.

LIMA COMPANY

Lima Company continued its operations in Garmser in December. With the closing of PB Khojibad, Lima Company began the consolidation to platoon positions. On 23 December 2012, Lima Marines conducted a cordon of search of two towns in the Loya Darvishan area. On 25 December 2012, Lima Company Marines provided QRF and GBOSS support for an Afghan National Directorate of Security Operation. The mission was successful and resulted in the capture of a Taliban facilitator. Again, on 27 December 2012, Lima Company supported another operation with an allied nation which resulted in the capture of another important Taliban member. Lima Company finished the year with the start of the Doost Road construction contract and an IED cache find. Marines managed to locate four pressure plates and D-cell power packs before the enemy was able to plant the explosive material.

Lima Company conducted aggressive operations in January, beginning with OPERATION TAGEER SHAMAL on 4 January 2012. Our Marines completed a clear of the towns of Kartaka and Bartaka. We conducted Key Leader Engagements (KLEs) with the prominent local elders and denied the enemy any uses of their bed down locations on the western side of the Helmand River. All Lima Marines returned safely on 8 January and the Company continued our operations in Garmser. From 10-11 January, Lima Company finished the demilitarization of OP Kadola Drab, OP Doost, PB Hand, and OP Haji Achmed and consolidated Marines to platoon positions at PB Sharp and PB Masood. Lima Marines continued to patrol heavily to interdict Taliban movement in the AO following the reduction of positions. As a result, Lima Marines located another IED in the vicinity of OP Kadola Drab's former location. A 20 pound main charge was destroyed by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) before it could harm any Marines or local nationals. Lima Company has transitioned to an overwatch and advisory roll to the ANA, as we slowly transition responsibility for security of the area to ANSF.

WEAPONS COMPANY

Weapons Company continued focused operations in the Banadar region of Garmser District, and supported ANSF focused COIN and stability operations in zone. The company conducted three named operations during this time period, and one major significant event occurred.

On 27 December, a section from CAAT 1 escorted a MWSS recovery team from FOB Payne to COP Rankel in order facilitate the recovery of a damaged CH-53 helicopter in the LZ at Combat Outpost Rankel. On 28 December, elements from CAAT 1, 81mm Mortar Platoon, and Headquarters Platoon took part in OPERATION ENTER SANDMAN, the clear of Safar Bazaar in India Company's AO. Although nothing significant was found, the Company searched over 150 shops and dwellings, successfully denying the enemy freedom of movement in Safar.

On 30 December, a partnered patrol consisting of a squad from 81mm Mortar Platoon and ANA soldiers received a local national tip about an IED emplacement. The Local National escorted the patrol to the site, where the patrol was able to confirm the presence of the IED using sickles, CMDs, and an IDD. EOD successfully exploited the site and found a pressure release IED

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with an anti-tamper device. They conducted a controlled detonation and were able to send parts of the IED for biometric exploitation.

On 4 January, the Company took part in Phase 1 of the Winter Offensive, OPERATION TAGEER SHAMAL, a deliberate clear of known Taliban bed-down locations on the western side of the Helmand River. The Company successfully conducted a combined heliborne and ground assault into Shinsengi, a village on the western side of the Helmand River. Over the next five days, moving from south to north, the Company cleared 90 square kilometers of ground, and discovered seven different caches consisting of a total of over 500 pounds of poppy seed. The Company also identified and conducted tactical site exploitation on a compound that functioned as an IED training area.

On 12 January, CAAT 2 partnered with the ANA in an Afghan led operation, Phase 2 of the OPERATION TAGEER SHAMAL. This phase focused on supporting 2d Battalion, 6th Marines in Shorshurak. The platoon established multiple blocking positions and VCPs, interdicted Local National traffic, and denied the enemy freedom of movement. The ANA partnered with CAAT 2 detained three Local Nationals for suspected ties to the Taliban during the operation, and the operation showcased the capabilities of the ANA as Coalition Forces move towards overwatch.

The Company has worked closely with the Afghanistan Border Police (ABP) and ANA, focusing on training and mentoring the local security forces to enable them to take the lead in security. Patrols are partnered whenever possible, and ANSF, at all Weapons Company positions, have planned and led their own unpartnered patrols. The ABP acted on a local national tip and arrested a suspected IED emplacer without any support from the Marines.

The Company conducted a total of four indirect fire illumination missions during this period, with two missions fired by 81mm Mortar Platoon at PB 00 and two missions fired by Headquarters Platoon at COP Torbert. The Company also conducted a mortars registration with six rounds of high explosive ammunition in the uninhabited Eastern Desert, increasing the accuracy of the only indirect fire support capability available to the Company. Five ranges were conducted, and the company trained on and fired weapons systems to include small arms, machine guns, 60mm mortars, and demolitions. 3d Battalion, 3d Marines Combat Engineers completed construction of an on-base range at COP Torbert. This facility will give the company the ability to conduct frequent BZO ranges, ensuring the combat accuracy of all weapons systems.

Numerous shuras were held during this time period at COP Torbert with the District Council Member, Mahboob Khan and the local elders, continuing the progress to increased Afghan governance in the area. The shuras gave the locals an opportunity to express their concerns and grievances with their local government representative, and have been used as a forum to gain support for the ALP program and increase security in the Banadar area. The Afghans continue to take a larger role in the shuras, which is a positive step towards transition.

Weapons Company has continued its focus on increasing the overall level of development in the area through small scale projects and coordination with GIRoA. The Company established a tent community center in Sar Banadar that is also providing a location for a school. The school has a regular attendance of 30-40 local national children and the teachers have registered with the District Government. The Company is now focusing on creating a

