



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

3D BATTALION, 3D MARINES
3D MARINE DIVISION (-)(REIN)
BOX 63018
MCBH KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863-3018

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750

S-3

30 Jun 05

From: Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HDH-4), Headquarters,
United States Marine Corps, Washington DC 20380-0001
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 3d Marine Regiment
(2) Commanding Officer, 3d Marine Division
Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR THE PERIOD 01 JANUARY TO 30 JUNE
2005
Ref: (a) MCO 5750 .1G
Encl: (1) 3d Battalion, 3d Marines Command Chronology
1. Per the reference, enclosure (1) is submitted.


N. L. COOLING

SECTION I: ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Unit Designation.

a. Reporting Unit Code: M13130

b. Table of Organization Numbers:

(1) 1013G Rifle Company, Infantry Battalion

(2) 1013G Rifle Company, Infantry Battalion

(3) 1013G Rifle Company, Infantry Battalion

(4) 1027H Weapons Company, Infantry Battalion

(5) 1037F Headquarters and Service Company, Infantry Battalion

2. Period Covered and Location. From 1 January 2005 through 30 June 2005, Kaneohe Bay, MCBH.

3. Personnel Information.

a. Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Norman L. COOLING
1 January 2005 - 30 June 2005

b. Executive Officer Major Patrick A. BECKETT
1 January 2005 - 30 June 2005

c. Subordinate Commanders

(1) India Company Captain James G. SWEENEY
1 January 2005 - 23 June 2005
Captain Andrew D. LYNCH
24 June 2005 - 30 June 2005

(2) Kilo Company Captain Skyler D. MALLICOAT
1 January 2005 - 23 June 2005
Captain Charles B. KROLL
24 June 2005 - 30 June 2005

(3) Lima Company Captain Eric W. KELLY
1 January 2005 - 23 June 2005
Captain Michael R. HUDSON
24 June 2005 - 30 June 2005

- (4) Weapons Company Captain Kenneth C. BARR
 1 January 2005 - 23 June 2005
 Captain Eric W. KELLY
 24 June 2005 - 30 June 2005
- (5) Headquarters and Service Company
 Captain David A. MCCOMBS
 1 January 2005 - 23 June 2005
 Captain Nicholas C. NUZZO
 24 June 2005 - 30 June 2005
- d. Principal Staff Officers
- (1) S-1 Officer First Lieutenant Jon D. MOHLER
 1 January 2005 - 30 June 2005
- (2) S-2 Officer First Lieutenant Jeffrey P. HAAS
 1 January 2005 - 23 June 2005
 First Lieutenant Michael J. SCHROEDER
 23 June 2005 - 30 June 2005
- (3) S-3 Officer Major Andrew T. PRIDDY
 1 January 2005 - 23 June 2005
 Captain James G. SWEENEY
 24 June 2005 - 30 June 2005
- (4) Air Officers Major Gerald C. GRAHAM
 1 January 2005 - 30 June 2005
 Captain Donald B. BLUME III
 1 January 2005 - 30 June 2005
 Captain Thomas E. LAMI
 1 January 2005 - 30 June 2005
- (5) S-4 Officer Captain Peter L. MORALES
 1 January 2005 - 30 June 2005
- (6) S-6 Officer First Lieutenant Brendan P. MOONEY
 1 January 2005 - 30 June 2005
- (7) Chaplain Lieutenant Commander Paul H. EVERS
 1 January 2005 - 30 June 2005
- (8) Battalion Surgeon Lieutenant Jeremy B. HAMMEL
 1 January 2005 - 30 June 2005
- e. Staff Historian Captain Thomas E. LAMI
 1 January 2005 - 30 June 2005

f. Sergeant Major

Sergeant Major William T. STABLES
1 January 2005 - 30 June 2005

4. Average Monthly Strength.

MONTH	USMC		USN	
	OFFICERS	ENLISTED	OFFICERS	ENLISTED
JANUARY	51	903	3	64
FEBRUARY	51	910	3	64
MARCH	51	912	3	64
APRIL	51	912	3	64
MAY	51	898	3	64
JUNE	51	893	3	64

5. Equipment.

MARES Reportable Assets:

TAMCN	NOMENCLATURE	SECTION	AUTHORIZED	POSSES
A0918	AN/PSC 5	COMM	0	3
A1530	AN/PPN-19 (V) 2	COMM	0	2
A1935	AN/MRC-138	COMM	0	3
A1957	AN/MRC-145A	COMM	5	7
A2042	AN/PRC-150	COMM	4	4
A2065	AN/PRC 104	COMM	3	3
A2069	AN/PRC 113	COMM	5	5
A2070	AN/PRC-119B	COMM	36	38
A2074	AN/VRC-88D	COMM	16	14
A2075	AN/VRC-89D	COMM	2	2
A2079	AN/PRC-119F	COMM	36	44
A2164	AN/VRC-83	COMM	3	3
A2167	AN/VRC-88A	COMM	8	10
A2168	AN/VRC-89A	COMM	2	2
A2169	AN/VRC-90A	COMM	2	2
A2505	SB-3614	COMM	1	1
A2542	AN/GYK47 (V) 7	WPNS	0	1
A2545	AN/GYK47 (V) 7	WPNS	0	1
A8100	OK-648/U	COMM	17	17
B1291	M1731	NBC	3	3
B0730	GENERATOR SET	MT	0	0
D1001	AMBULANCE	MT	2	0
D1002	AMBULANCE	MT	2	0
E1911	AN/TSM-152	ORD	2	3
E1912	AN/TSM-140B	ORD	2	2
E0980	.50 CAL MG	ORD	6	13

E0989	7.62 MG	ORD	29	37
E0994	MK 19 40MM	ORD	11	14
E1045	AN/PAQ3	ORD	2	5
E1159	AN/TVS-5	ORD	18	18
E1475	SNIPER RIFLE	ORD	2	2
E0915	83MM MK153	ORD	18	18
E1065	60MM MORTAR	ORD	9	9
E0180	M2A2	ORD	4	4
E0207	M98A1	ORD	8	8
E0330	AN/UAS-12A/C	ORD	8	8
E0935	TOW M220E4	ORD	8	8
E1095	81MM MORTAR	ORD	8	8
B0953	GENERATOR	ENG	0	2
B2685	WELDING SHOP	ENG	0	0
E1460	M40A3	ORD	8	8
PRINCIPLE END ITEMS TOTAL			326	332

SECTION II: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Command, Operations, and Training

The month of January 2005 began with 3d Battalion 3d Marines (3/3), "America's Battalion," continuing to focus operations on areas identified as security concerns in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, throughout Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) Trinity along the Pakistan border in eastern Afghanistan. Specific areas of focus included the Korengal and Pech Valleys in the Kunar Province, the border regions of Khowst, Paktia and Logar Provinces, and the central regions of Nangarhar and Laghman Provinces. The Battalion continued to conduct security and stability operations while working to promote the Afghan government and indigenous security forces in a battle space roughly the same size as the of West Virginia.

The onset of the Afghan winter, reportedly the harshest in recent history, provided numerous challenges to the companies. With mountain passes concealed by low clouds and accumulating snow, both aviation and ground support were adversely affected. Temperatures dropped below -10 degrees Fahrenheit in some areas, affecting both gear and equipment. Despite these conditions, the companies continued to maintain at least one platoon outside of the Forward Operating Base (FOB) at all times, targeting hard to reach areas to earn the support and cooperation of the local populace while continuing to target insurgent leaders. The Battalion increased the use of dismounted operations and relied on techniques learned during the Pre-deployment Training Program (PTP) in Bridgeport, California. The Battalion, at all levels, incorporated cold weather considerations into all mission planning to mitigate associated risks. The Battalion became increasingly effective at promoting the legitimacy of the Afghan government and its security forces, while revealing the Al Qaeda and Associated Movements (AQAM) as the enemy of the Afghan people. Relationships with the local populace that were formed in the first month and a half of the Battalion's deployment began to bear fruit by producing actionable intelligence that resulted in weapons caches being reported or turned over on a nearly daily basis.

Headquarters and Service (H&S) Company and Weapons Company continued to be deployed in a non-doctrinal manner, as provisional rifle companies, due to the demands of the

large distributed battle space. Headquarters and Service Company also continued to provide the guard force for FOB Salerno. Both Weapons and H&S Companies continued to work closely with the Khowst Provisional Force (KPF), a special force trained to provide security on the border between Khowst and Pakistan. Weapons Company and H&S Company also continued to provide security for Fox Battery, 7th Field Artillery as the Battalion positioned them forward, outside of the protective FOB, in order to range various areas along the Afghan-Pakistan border. This action enabled Fox Battery to provide timely and accurate fire support to the U.S. Special Forces and indigenous forces operating on the border on several occasions. Due to the AQAM's lack of success with attacks on Border Control Points (BCP) it was assessed that they were using the attacks as a "graduation exercise" from terrorist training camps to evaluate the courage and innovation of their graduates and/or the mid-level Al-Qaeda and Taliban leaders had few other alternatives to demonstrate to their senior leaders and financiers that they were actively pursuing aggressive operations against the Karzai Government and Coalition Forces.

Weapons Company focused their efforts on the northern and western portions of Khowst Province. On 11 January, 1st Platoon, Weapons Company received enemy contact in the northern village of Zambar, Sabari District, Khowst Province. The patrol was attacked by a squad-size element with AK-47s, Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs), and Russian Medium Machine guns (RPKs). Lance Corporal Hendricks was wounded in action and evacuated to FOB Salerno, where he was treated and eventually recovered. The contact was an indication that Weapons Company's duration operations in the outlying villages of the Khowst region had brought pressure on the AQAM. The Company remained in the immediate vicinity of the contact for several days to develop leads to locate those involved.

Lima Company began to push deeper into the porous border region in the southern area of Nangarhar Province, at the foothills of the Tora Bora mountain range. While on a duration operation in the southern district of Khogyani, 1st Platoon, Lima Company received information during the night from a local national of a weapons cache. On the morning of 17 January, the platoon moved to cordon off the suspected compound and conducted a search with the local Afghan National Police (ANP). As they arrived at the

compound, they began to receive small arms fire. The contact was initiated by two guards protecting a weapons and drug cache inside the compound. Following the contact, the weapons were confiscated and the opium destroyed by the ANP while two detainees were brought to the Jalal Abad Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) for questioning. Despite the fact that specially trained Afghan forces handling the counter-narcotics effort, Coalition Forces were sometimes associated with these efforts and often had to handle the associated repercussions.

The ANA (Afghan National Army) played a role in the majority of Lima and India Company's operations throughout the Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar Provinces. On 12 January, a Transfer of Authority (TOA) ceremony between the 3-3 Kandak (the ANA equivalent of a battalion) and the 23rd Kandak took place in Jalal Abad. The Kandak's Armor Brigade Commander officiated the ceremony, which included a dinner, several speeches, and a formal transfer of colors, followed by a ceremonial dance. The 3-3 Kandak departed knowing that they had made a significant difference while helping to establish security in the Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar Provinces. The 23rd Kandak, a light infantry unit commanded by Colonel Haji Islam Mohdeen, had far more soldiers than the 3-3 Kandak, but were missing some key staff officers and equipment assets that the United States Army Embedded Training Team (ETT) worked to obtain for them. The ETT immediately initiated specialized Area of Responsibility (AOR) orientation training for them, which included specifics on their role and responsibilities in the Afghan Government's counter-narcotics efforts. Special emphasis was placed on how to account for and properly destroy confiscated illegal drugs.

Because the Korengal Valley in the Kunar Province proved to be the most problematic area in TAOR Trinity, it became the focus of the Battalion's main effort. In January the Battalion staff began operational plans to leverage the village elders in the Korengal Valley to eradicate anti-government activists who had conducted numerous attacks on India Company. Operation SPURS then developed as a four-phased aerial insertion operation that combined the efforts of India Company and Lima Company, as well as the ANA and Naval Special Operations Forces.

During Phase I the Battalion held planning conferences to coordinate efforts involving the Intelligence Fusion

Cell to afford real time Signal Intelligence (SIGINT) feeds; completing target folders; determining the best time(s) on target(s) based on pattern analysis and aircraft capabilities/limitations; identifying the best Landing Zones (LZs) to afford tactical advantage; and completing the Information Operations (IO) and Civil Affairs (CA) plans for Phase III. Phase I ended as the Battalion staff and attachments positioned for command and control and execution of the operation.

Weather delayed Phase II until the end of the month. Phase II began on 27 January began with the helicopter insertion of two reinforced platoons from Lima Company and one reinforced platoon from India Company into the Korengal, Pech, and Rechah Lam Valleys. Phase II provided valuable SIGINT from the ground and from the airborne Low Level Voice Intercept (LLVI) as well as substantial amount of human intelligence (HUMINT). Although active sensitive collections did not work as planned, passive sensitive collections gathered sufficient current target location information to make targeted detentions viable. Phase II of the operation coincided very closely to the planned execution checklist and all assets [Task Force (TF) Pirate, the aviation task force, Navy Special Operation Forces (NAVSOF), and the Intelligence Fusion Cell] made valuable contributions to the successes achieved during this phase. Task Force Pirate's work to land Marines and insert NAVSOF in exceptionally difficult terrain, to include tail down and fast rope insertions, was noteworthy.

Phase III of Operation SPURS commenced with targeted Civil Military Operations (CMO). Combined Task Force (CTF) Trinity conducted three separate Medical Capabilities (MEDCAP) events and winter CMO supply distribution missions in the Pech and Korengal Valleys while concurrently conducting security patrols. Participation from the local populace was exceptional as an estimated 500 people benefited from the services provided. Of the participants, nearly 30 females took part. Engagement with village elders and mullahs met with positive feedback and they expressed their desires to rid the Korengal Valley of AQAM influences. All supporting agencies remained flexible and adaptable. The combined efforts of TF Pirate and NAVSOF provided a continuous aerial Quick Reaction Force (QRF) capability through the night as well as fixed wing Close Air Support (CAS) capability. The 23rd Kandak performed critical tasks during Phase III and was the focus of effort for Phase IV.

Phase III of Operation SPURS ended and Phase IV began as the two Marine companies, NAVSOF and the Tactical Command Post (TAC CP) were extracted and the ANA assumed the duration presence mission in the Korengal Valley. In addition, the numerous reports prior to Operations SPURS that indicated a large-scale attack on FOB Asad Abad during the same time period never materialized. Instead, it became clear from all reporting that the AQAM became reactionary to "Americas Battalion" and not vice versa. Along with the continued ANA presence, local radio stations broadcasted information throughout Kunar Province, persuading the local populace to provide information on enemy activities and encouraging low to mid-level fighters to lay down their arms and assist in the reconstruction process.

The Battalion hosted two distinguished visitors during the month of January. On 5 and 8 January India Company and Lima Company respectively hosted Colonel Nicholas R. Pratt, USMC (Ret), professor, The George C. Marshall Institute, at Camp Blessing, FOB Asad Abad, and FOB Jalal Abad. Colonel Pratt visited Marines in Afghanistan and Iraq to conduct research for material in order to write his next book. On 25 January, India Company hosted Major General Eric Olson, Commanding General Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) 76. General Olson received a brief on Operations SPURS and spoke with the Marines from India Company before they inserted for the operation. Throughout the month of January, America's Battalion conducted 378 combat patrols, of which 181 were integrated with the ANA, Khwast Provisional Force (KPF), Afghan National Police (ANP), or Afghan Security Forces (ASF).

During the first week of February, Operation Spurs concluded with the return of the 3rd Company of the 23rd Kandak. This was the first significant operation for the 23rd Kandak since their TOA with the 3-3 Kandak in the previous. Although much larger, the 23rd Kandak soldiers were inexperienced and understandably not as proficient as their predecessors. India Company and Lima Company committed themselves to working closely with the Kandak and their ETTs over the next several months to promote their confidence and to increase their field endurance, which were identified shortfalls. The Kandak was the most important asset the Afghan Government and the Coalition have in areas like the Korengal Valley and northern Laghman Province. The residents of the more isolated areas, like

the Korengal Valley and northern Laghman Province, were far more inclined to provide the Kandak with actionable information than they are to provide it to U.S. forces. Combined Task Force Trinity made continual efforts to seek every opportunity to leverage the Kandak's advantages.

Throughout the month of February, CTF Trinity remained focused on building the trust and support of the local populace prior to an expected increase in AQAM activity as the warmer weather approached. As part of this effort, Lima Company worked with Laghman Government Officials and the ANA to consistently increase pressure on known AQAM leaders in northern Laghman while concurrently planning with Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force (CJSOTF) for targeted detention operations in that area. India Company continued to maintain constant pressure on mid-level insurgents in the Pech, Rechah Lam and Korengal Valley areas of Kunar Province, denying them safe haven and convincing the local population that providing them support would only cause more violence and instability. India, Lima, and the 23rd Kandak worked together in both of these initiatives and maintained a regular security presence on the Asad Abad to Jalal Abad Road, a critical line of communication (LOC).

Kilo Company worked with Provincial Government officials to provide CMO supplies to those in Paktia and Logar that had suffered from the extreme cold weather and heavy snowfall. They also continued to work with the local populations in the Khowst-Gardez Pass, Jani Kehl District, and Tera Pass areas to build HUMINT relationships along the critical LOC that ran from Khowst to Kabul. Weapons Company worked adjacent areas, with a special focus on the Sabari District where they uncovered a potential AQAM cell. CTF Trinity continued to plan a "Spring Counter-Offensive" for the TAOR in close coordination with Forward Operating Battalion (FOB) 12, who had responsibility for the Joint Special Operations Area (JSOA) border region between Pakistan and TAOR Trinity. H&S Company continued to guard FOB Salerno while also conducting security patrols and providing escorts for Fox Battery, 7th Field Artillery Division to displace in support of the BCPs in the Khowst Province.

On 15 February, during one of Lima Company's extended operations in northern Laghman Province, a reinforced squad was ambushed by approximately 20-25 AQAM with RPGs and small arms fire in the Alishang District, Laghman Province.

Lima Company remained engaged with the AQAM for roughly 24 hours resulting in no friendly casualties or battle damage. In accordance with the Battalion Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the company remained in the area where contact was made to seek out, capture or destroy those who had fired upon them. The dynamics in the northern Laghman area are unique. The AQAM leaders in northern Laghman are believed to have no specific loyalty to the Taliban, Hezb-i-Islami Gulbuddin (HIG) or Al Qaeda. In fact, most were members of the Afghan Militia Force (AMF) that fought with the Northern Alliance. Rather, they believe that other tribes have received preferential treatment and government positions in the Karzai Government. Due to this sentiment of "disenfranchisement" they conduct anti-government activity and leverage organized crime as necessary to support those efforts. The AQAM take advantage of the situation by providing funding and materials to these gangs to enable them to attack Coalition and Government Forces. The February IO campaign to pressure AQAM leaders to seek out the Allegiance Program or face capture, likely precipitated the attack on the joint Marine - ANP patrol. The Allegiance Program was designed as an interim program to allow low to mid-level Taliban and HIG fighters the opportunity to reconcile with the new Afghan government until an Afghan-run program was established. Lima Company maintained a presence in northern Laghman throughout the month of February and received no further contact with enemy forces as they worked to win popular support for the Coalition and Afghan Government in the area.

India Company continued to focus their efforts in the Korengal Valley area of Pech District, Kunar Province. On 24 February, a patrol base occupied by a platoon of India Company Marines in the Korengal Valley was targeted with five mortar rounds and received numerous indications of follow-on attacks. The company conducted an aerial insert of an additional platoon to reinforce the patrol base. As the insertion was being conducted, the helicopters received small arms fire with no resulting casualties or battle damage. India Company maintained a presence in the Korengal Valley throughout the month of February to locate and/or destroy the AQAM in the area while continuing to win popular support among the local villagers.

Meanwhile reports had begun to indicate that insurgent activity was increasing in the Khowst-Gardez (K-G) Pass, a narrow mountainous road linking Khowst and Paktia

Provinces. Kilo Company pushed 3rd Platoon to the area to investigate the reports. On 26 February, after recovering a fairly large weapons cache in the area, 3rd Platoon received medium machine gun and small arms fire from an unknown number of AQAM at their patrol base near the village of Waza, in the Jadran District, Paktia Province. It was assessed that the locals in Jadran are largely pro-government and that their reporting of the arms cache uncovered by Kilo Company prompted the AQAM to take action. The enemy action was confined to a brief initiation with RPK and AK-47 fire and a rapid displacement by the enemy, in which the platoon returned fire and pursued. The Marines suffered no casualties or damage. The Kilo platoon remained in the area and continued to exploit information provided by the local populace. During the month of February, America's Battalion conducted 353 combat patrols of which 201 were integrated with the ANA, KPF, ANP, or ASF.

Throughout the month of March, India Company continued to focus its presence and duration security operations in the Korengal Valley and Sarkani District areas of Kunar in close coordination with the ANA and Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force's (CJSOTF) Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA). Lima continued to apply pressure to the leadership in Northern Laghman as part of Operation MAVERICKS' shaping phase and continued to conduct duration security missions in the Spingar area of the Nangarhar Province. Kilo Company focused on keeping the K-G Pass free of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and ambushes as the expected "Spring Offensive" arrived. Weapons Company continued to apply pressure to the Sabari District, while also coordinating closely with CJSOTF to conduct security patrols in the JSOA and assist in deterring infiltration. H&S Company continued to guard FOB Salerno while also conducting security patrols and providing escorts for Fox Battery, 7th Field Artillery Division to displace in support of the BCPs in the Khovst Province. All of CTF Trinity's companies incorporated information operations as part of their fire plans for every operation, regardless of their size. The Battalion noted progress in each of the areas of focus, with a significant increase in reliable HUMINT sources and arms caches and IEDs turned in. Additionally, all of the companies worked with their respective PRTs and Provincial Governors to develop a schedule that would enable each Governor to visit every district in their provinces prior to 15 May 2005.

The Battalion Information Operations Working Group (IOWG) provided tailored information operations (IO) packages for each of the Governors' visits with the principal message that the democratically elected Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is interested in every family's well being and is working with notable success toward extending government services throughout the country. Each IO package included specific success stories for each district visited as well as investment and growth plans for the future. The Battalion tasked its Companies to provide security for each visit, while the PRT was tasked with HA and MEDCAP operations where appropriate, and the Tactical Psychological Operations Team (TPT) was tasked to assist with IO product distribution and broadcast. The "Governor's Road Show" was intended to counter and refute insurgent propaganda and seize the information initiative in preparation for the National Assembly Provincial Council Elections.

In another effort to demonstrate the reach of the Afghan Government, and to increase the pressure on the AQAM to lay down their arms and reconcile with the Afghan government, the Battalion executed Operation MAVERICKS in March in northern Laghman Province. Operation MAVERICKS was a four-phased operation following the same phase format of Operation SPURS (planning and shaping, insertion and cordon and knock/search, targeted CMO/IO, and sustained stability operations). During Phase I the Battalion held planning conferences to coordinate efforts involving SIGINT feeds, completing target folders, determining the best time on target based on pattern analysis and aircraft capabilities/limitations, identifying the best LZ to afford tactical advantage and completing the IO and Civil Affairs (CA) plans for Phase III. Phase I ended as the Battalion staff and attachments positioned for command and control at FOB Jalal Abad and Lima Company staged at FOB Mehtar Lam.

Phase II of the operation involved the helicopter insertion of Kilo Company (reinforced) along with NAVSOF in the village of Paitak and the ground movement of Lima Company (reinforced) and one KANDAK company into the village of Dawlet Shah, both in northern Laghman. Initially the operation in Paitak produced eighteen detainees. NAVSOF and the Kilo Marines also located an extensive cave network and systematically cleared it. They also discovered a large arms cache in which they destroyed. Lima Company's objective in the south had been affected by

severe flooding and became the focus of HA operations initiating Phase III of the operation early in that objective area. Phase III of Operation MAVERICKS was completed when Kilo Company successfully extracted from the northern objective in Paitak after conducting sustained IO, CMO, and MEDCAP for three additional days. Phase IV of the operation continued with Lima Company working closely with the Governor of Laghman and the Laghman Disaster Response Chief to address needs of the people in and around the southern objectives. Although the washed out roads and non-availability of aircraft prohibited Lima from reaching Dawlet Shah, the Company's disaster relief efforts continued to target those displaced from their initial objective areas by the flooding. Specifically, Lima Company erected a tent village for those displaced, built a retaining wall with Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) funds to protect a threatened area, mitigated effects with sand bag details, and provided MEDCAP operations. The Governor of Laghman assessed that these efforts had a significant and productive impact on the people of northern Laghman and did a great deal to extend his reach there.

Kilo Company's (with NAVSOF) actions on Objective TORONTO (Paitak Village) over three days produced a number of positive effects. In collective memory, this was the first coalition operation in that area. Although the people in the objective area were initially frightened of the helicopters and the targeted detention effort, that effort was followed by approximately 48 hours of MEDCAP and CMO efforts that culminated with the Kilo Company Commander meeting with approximately 60 village elders where the elders pledged their allegiance to the Government of Afghanistan (GOA) and expressed a desire to police up those who were conducting anti-government activity in their region. The MEDCAP had considerable impact, as illness, to include tuberculosis, was widespread in the Paitak region. Operation MAVERICKS produced two significant arms caches to include 90 anti-personnel mines and a large quantity of IED making material. Both caches were video recorded and destroyed. While on Objective TORONTO, LLVI traffic indicated that at least seven of those detained were AQAM sub-commanders. Further traffic and HUMINT reporting on the ground indicated that the AQAM were attempting to develop an attack against Kilo Company, but were unable to execute the attack because of both the weather and fear of repercussion. The status of the four Kilo Company and 14 NAVSOF detainees in the level I detention facility at

Bagram Air Field (BAF) was closely monitored. All were positively identified by the vetted source as participants in violent anti-government activity, and a few were of the level influential enough to warrant keeping them in the BAF level II Regional Interrogation Facility (RIF) indefinitely. The Battalion then began to plan the repatriation of those who did not meet the criteria by arranging a flight back to Paitak to turn them over formally to the village elders with an appropriate explanation for their initial detention and their release. Operation MAVERICKS generated 47 national level sensitive reporting hits associated with Al-Qaeda activity. Phase IV continued with Lima Company and ANA remaining in Laghman following up on all CMO and CERP projects.

In early March, the Battalion S-5 began coordinating with the Asad Abad and Jalal Abad PRTs to arrange a security conference with the Provincial Governors and Police Chiefs of Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman and Nuristan Provinces. The primary purpose of the conference was to discuss means for reducing organized crime (narcotics and timber smuggling, in particular), generating revenue in support of security services (primarily the ANP) and integrating the ANP to reduce the problems associated with tribal affiliations. The conference took place at the Nangarhar Governor's Conference Center in Jalal Abad on 27 and 28 March. The Northern Trinity Regional Governor's Conference on Security ended with the Deputy Governors, ANP Chiefs, NDS Chiefs, Regional Highway Patrol Chief, and Regional Border Patrol Chief all pledging continued communications and cooperation. They agreed to conduct weekly district security conferences among all agencies as well as a monthly, rotating Regional Security Commission. The latter was to consist of the ANP chiefs, the NDS chiefs, the Border Patrol Chief, the Highway Patrol Chief, the ANA Kandak commander and a coalition representative. The first Regional Security Commission meeting was then scheduled to take place in Asad Abad on 30 April. They also agreed to develop provincial election and voter registration security plans and to identify shortfalls where they would need assistance from the ANA and coalition. Finally, they created a regional emergency response unit with each security agency providing one representative in Jalal Abad. This unit will coordinate emergency response within the four provinces.

The Minister of Interior (MOI) representative agreed to address inter-provincial force integration (to address

the problem with local tribal affiliations) and Regional Inspector General services, which the provinces deemed was inappropriate for them to address themselves but ideas worth pursuing with the MOI. At the Regional Security Commission meeting, they also planned to address standardizing weapons and tinted window permits throughout all four provinces, using Nangarhar as a model.

Although sustained duration patrols in the Korengal Valley were credited with deterring AQAM activities in early March, from mid to late March India Company received numerous menacing enemy contacts. On 12 March India Company made contact in the Shoriak Valley, Pech District, Kunar Province. The brief firefight was initiated by the AQAM wounding Lance Corporals Dash and Huey. Both Marines sustained small shrapnel injuries to the shoulder and were routinely evacuated the next morning. The AQAM quickly disengaged after being engaged with 60mm mortar fire.

On 22 March, India Company established a cordon around a compound reported to be the house of an IED-making cell. Three-armed AQAM attempted to flee the compound and the remaining AQAM assumed a hostile posture and were engaged by Marines from the India Company patrol. On 23 March, during security operations, an AQAM element engaged an India company observation post in the vicinity of Landing Zone Lumberyard in the Korangal valley, Kunar province. During the engagement, Corporal Hall Wounded In Action (WIA) and two ANA soldiers WIA, all three were put on a helicopter MEDEVAC to Bagram Airfield (BAF). As a result of the contact, the Battle Damage Assessment (BDA) revealed two AQAM killed in action (KIA).

Finally on 25 March, an India Company patrol received mortar and small arms fire in the Korengal Valley. The patrol returned fire with 81mm mortars, 60mm mortars, and small arms fire. The enemy element fled and no casualties or battle damage was sustained. Following all of these firefights, India Company remained in the respective areas in order to collect information on AQAM location and activity and keep pressure on those who did not want them there.

On 23 March, a small contingent Second Battalion, Third Marines (2/3) arrived in Salerno to conduct their Pre-Deployment Site Survey (PDSS) of TAOR Trinity. They remained in Salerno until 26 March. The 2/3 PDSS team visited Jalal Abad from 26 to 27 March. While in Jalal Abad, 2/3 accompanied Lima Company on a ground security

convoy to Mehtar Lam. In so doing they were able to gain an appreciation for the Nangarhar and Laghman Provinces and the state of the FOBs in each, as well as standard procedures for vehicular patrolling. The weather delay keeping them in Salerno for three days prevented them from getting to the Kunar, Paktia and Logar Provinces. On 28 March, they attended the opening portion of the Northern Trinity Governors' Conference on Security prior to returning to BAF. The conference afforded them an opportunity to meet the provincial ANP Chiefs, NDS Directors, and Deputy Governors of the northern four provinces.

Also during the month of March, CTF Trinity had the pleasure of hosting Brigadier General McAbee, Deputy Commanding General, Marine Central Command (MARCENT), on 6 March at both FOB Salerno and FOB Gardez. The Marines, Sailors and Soldiers greatly appreciated his remarks. They also enjoyed a visit from the Commanding General, MG Eric Olson, who thanked them all for their service and bid them farewell as he prepared to depart on 15 March. CTF Trinity benefited repeatedly from MG Olson's leadership and generosity in dedicating resources to our operations. Most significantly, he gave America's Battalion what Marines value the most: the trust, confidence and opportunity to serve in one of the most challenging regions associated with OEF. On 25 March, the Battalion Bravo Command hosted Brigadier General Champion, CJTF-76 Deputy Ground Commander - Operations (DCG-O) at FOB Salerno. During the month of March, America's Battalion conducted 509 combat patrols of which 301 were integrated with the ANA, KPF, ANP, or the ASF.

With the arrival of April, the Battalion discovered that this was the time of year when poppy fields begin to bloom. Several poppy fields were discovered in full bloom in Kunar, deep in the valleys in northern Laghman, and in the hard to reach areas of Nangarhar. Poppy cultivation, however, reportedly decreased by up to 80 percent from the previous year. The Battalion reported the fields to higher headquarters as well as to the respective Provincial Governors so that the Central Poppy Eradication Force (CPEF) (the Afghan equivalent of the Drug Enforcement Agency) could take action. Immediately following the turnover between Kilo Company's 2nd platoon and Lima Company's 3rd Platoon. Kilo Company conducted the repatriation of seven detainees from Operation MAVERICKS to

Paitak village in northern Laghman and distributed CMO supplies in the area.

Lima Company continued their duration missions in the Khogyani, Surkh Rod, and Muhmand Dara Districts. Although HUMINT patterns indicated that there was clearly some AQAM and AQAM sympathizers in the Khogyani area, Lima received a very positive reception overall. The local nationals continued to show support for the Karzai Government, but were dissatisfied with the progress of government services and infrastructure repairs - particularly the roads in their districts. The Marines emphasized that infrastructure improvements occur in those places that are secure; and security requires the local population to take active measures against AQAM activity by reporting that activity to coalition or government forces. Throughout the month of April, India Company maintained their focus on the Pech, Sarkani, and Dangam Districts in coordination with the PRT and ODA.

In April, the assessment of TAOR Trinity remained unchanged. As predicted, reports of AQAM activity had increased with the arrival of spring. Although IED emplacements increased, in most cases the ANP and the local populace had secured, reported, or disarmed them before they could cause any harm. The AQAM were left with a struggling insurgency in which they had to rely on inaccurate indirect fire attacks from maximum range, small scale hit and run, direct fire attacks at maximum range and the emplacement of IEDS. Additionally, most AQAM attacks appeared to have been directed toward GOA security forces vice Coalition Forces. These were all signs that the Government of Afghanistan (GOA) and its security forces were gaining credibility, legitimacy, reach, and capability.

Combined Task Force Trinity remained focused on providing sustained combined security presence with the ANA and ANP forces in every district of the TAOR while improving their capabilities and effectiveness. The Battalion also remained committed to enhancing good governance by GOA officials at the provincial and district levels through oversight of government practices and the select application of resources such as CERP funded projects. Concurrently the Marines, Sailors, and Soldiers continued to collect HUMINT through daily interaction with GOA security forces and the local population to identify and target AQAM and their ever-decreasing support base in

Afghanistan. As Pakistan increases its effectiveness in the border region, this is a counter-insurgency being won.

Particularly successful during the month of April was the Allegiance Program. On 6 April in Kunar, Moman (also known as Akhoon, a vetted target and Najmuddin's bodyguard) brought nine individuals into Camp Blessing to apply for the Allegiance Program. Following these lower level applications, on 10 April, Najmuddin (a vetted second targeted mid-level insurgent commander responsible for multiple attacks in the Pech District) also surrendered to India Company at Camp Blessing, which clearly indicated that the tide had begun to turn in the volatile Pech region. India Company worked to exploit intelligence from Najmuddin while working with Kunar's Governor to ensure his activities were monitored. Najmuddin stated he decided to turn himself in because he saw the good things the Coalition Forces were doing in the Pech District and was tired of hiding and fighting. India Company's sustained presence forced him to reconcile. On 14 April Kunar's Governor, Governor Wafa, held a reconciliation ceremony for Najmuddin with approximately 250 Afghans in attendance, to include local media. Governor Wafa saw the positive impact Najmuddin's reconciliation ceremony had with his district leaders. On his own initiative, the Governor conducted a similar ceremony for Mohammed Arif, who had turned himself over to the ANP in Asad Abad two weeks earlier. Although Najmuddin's reconciliation did not immediately end anti-government and AQAM activity in Kunar, it was a significant step that will pave the way for other insurgent leaders.

Debriefs with Najmuddin provided valuable insights on AQAM operations and the effectiveness of our Tactic Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) for both duration security missions and targeted detention operations. The most effective method to combat the AQAM remains emplacing conventional forces in the areas from which they operate (typically those areas isolated in difficult terrain) for periods of long duration. Maintaining pressure on the AQAM sends a clear message that we are there to stay, and makes it too uncomfortable to continue resistance. When done in conjunction with CMO, it helps elicit support from the village populations to increase their own pressure on AQAM to turn themselves in and cease their activity, which more readily leads to the surrender of lower level fighters. The bottom line is that it is normally more effective than targeted detentions where gaining viable, actionable

intelligence and isolating the objective area are normally problematic. Kilo Company began taking this same approach in the isolated mountain villages of the northern Laghman Province, and Lima Company began to work with CJSOTF forces to do the same in the Tora Bora region.

On 19 April, Abdul Hadi Wahidi, a known AQAM leader in Nangarhar Province, initiated Allegiance Program paper work with Lima Company in Jalal Abad. Also of concern during this time was the fact that many of the Taliban associates in the border regions of Pakistan were making overtures to the GOA in hopes of returning to their homes in Afghanistan. (The GOA and Coalition will need to closely monitor those accepted into the Allegiance Program to prevent the AQAM from reseeding the eastern region or infiltrating the GOA. Those AQAM who remain dedicated to Islamic extremism are struggling to find consistent safe haven and Afghans willing to contribute to their cause. The critical vulnerability remains government corruption and efforts must continue at all levels to address it.)

Other successful strides made towards reducing the number of active AQAM in TAOR Trinity during the month of April included the detention of an IED cell in Kunar and a targeted capture in Khowst. On 5 April, several members of a known IED cell in Sarkani were captured. After months of HUMINT collection by Coalition Forces in Kunar Province and led by the ODA, sufficient information was developed for the ODA to successfully target, vet, and capture Gul Mast and Mir Zah, two regional leaders of the cell. Other Coalition Forces (OCF) and ODA also detained nine other targets that were believed to be part of the IED cell. Additionally, NDS captured Kari Safar, another member of the cell, and turned him over to India Company. Although the financier and other members of the cell remained in Pakistan, it was assessed that these detentions significantly disabled the transit and emplacement portions of the Sarkani cell.

Prior to turning over their battle space in Khowst to 2-504 PIR, Weapons Company successfully captured Hazrat Jamal on 22 April, a CJTF vetted target, which led to additional actionable HUMINT in the province. Although the AQAM clearly began to search for the means to conduct a high impact attack beyond ineffective, long-range rocket attacks and largely ineffective IED emplacements, their alienation from the Afghan population restricted their maneuverability and support.

Lima and Kilo Companies also continued to stay on the offensive in searching for AQAM fighters. On 3 April, a platoon from Kilo Company was engaged with ineffective RPG and small arms fire at their patrol base and observation post (OP) in the Charkh District, Logar Province. The patrol attempted to close with the enemy forces, but was unable to do so prior to the enemy's egress. There were no casualties or battle damage as a result of this engagement.

On 10 April, India Company sustained RPG and small arms fire at Camp Blessing and both Marines and ASF returned fire with small arms and crew served weapons. The ASF was sent to investigate but were unable to locate the enemy forces that had engaged at maximum range and swiftly egressed. There were no resulting casualties or battle damage.

On 11 April, FOB Jalal Abad sustained an ineffective 107mm rocket attack with all three rounds landing 1000 meters to the east of the FOB. Again there were no resulting casualties or battle damage. On 19 April, FOB Salerno also sustained a 122mm rocket attack. Four impacts were reported and confirmed with the Counter-battery radar (Q-36) identifying the points of origin (POO) on two of the four rockets. Counter-battery fire was initiated based on Q-36 acquisition and then adjusted utilizing the forward observer team that was pre-positioned on BCP 2 and AH-64's. The AH-64's reported dismounted troop movements and adjusted indirect fire while directing Close Air Support (CAS) from A-10's and AC-130's.

On 26 April, a platoon from Lima Company along with ANA was targeted by two IEDs followed by a small arms ambush from three insurgents. One of the insurgents fled and began firing an AK-47 from behind a nearby taxi van full of civilians. The presence of the civilians restricted coalition fires and allowed the insurgents to escape. Three local nationals were MEDEVAC'd with gunshot wounds and all eventually recovered at Bagram Medical Facility. Lima Company seized upon the fact that the AQAM had used the local nationals as cover as an operation for effective information operations with the local national population.

After the Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) 76 change of command in late March, America's Battalion saw the reconfiguration of TAOR Trinity and the arrival of Second Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment (2-504 PIR) in early April. Based on a warning order from CJTF-76 given

on 3 April, 3/3 convened an Operational Planning Team (OPT) to create a Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) for conducting a Relief in Place (RIP) of the southern provinces (Khowst, Paktia and Logar) and consolidating CTF Trinity in the northern provinces (Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman). Two months from a RIP and TOA with Second Battalion, Third Marines (2/3), the Battalion began to expedite this process in order to have the equipment account relocated in time for a smooth RIP. With the Battalion consolidation, 3/3 faced the complete construction of a new Command Post to house the Battalion COC and H&S Company guard force, literally from the ground up at Jalal Abad Airfield (JAF) while simultaneously executing normal Battalion operations as part of Operation DETERMINED RESOLVE in support of OEF.

On 14 April, the 2-504 PIR arrived in Salerno and began the RIP of TAOR Trinity South, which would be re-designated TAOR White Devil. While roughly half of the 3/3 personnel in Salerno convoyed to JAF, the Battalion leveraged the airlift that embarked the 2-504 PIR into Salerno in order to displace the remaining 3/3 equipment and personnel. By 19 April, the Alpha Command Group had displaced to JAF to direct Operations DETERMINED RESOLVE and CELTICS in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman while the Bravo Command Group managed the RIP with 2-504 PIR in Khowst, Paktia and Logar. Also during this time, H&S and Weapons Companies conducted a turnover with Alpha and Bravo Companies, 2-504 PIR with Weapons Company detaching 2nd Platoon back to its parent unit, Lima Company, in Jalal Abad. Concurrently, Kilo Company conducted a turnover with Charlie Company, 2-504 PIR while sending 2nd Platoon to Mehtar Lam to conduct a turnover with 3rd Platoon, Lima Company in the newly established forward operating base (FOB) in Mehtar Lam, Laghman Province. Throughout April, extensive construction continued at both FOB Mehtar Lam and JAF in order to set 2/3 up with the best possible facilities in TAOR Trinity.

The only distinguished visitor to TAOR Trinity in the month of April arrived at FOB Gardez on 3 April, as Kilo Company and the Gardez PRT hosted Dr. Jeffery Nadaner, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Stability Operations. During the month of April, America's Battalion conducted 516 combat patrols, of which 290 were integrated with the ANA, KPF, ANP, or ASF.

On 1 May, a ceremony in Salerno completed the TOA of TAOR White Devil (formerly TAOR Trinity South) to the 2-504 PIR. The Bravo Command Group and Weapons Company participated in the TOA ceremony at FOB Salerno, then quickly completed their respective Ground Assault Convoys (GACs) to Jalalabad Air Field (JAF) in order to join the ongoing task of FOB construction and the guard force for the new camp at JAF. By 3 May, the Battalion had completed consolidation of TAOR Trinity in the northern provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman. During May, America's Battalion's priorities became: 1) Task force operations in support of CJTF-76 Operation DETERMINED RESOLVE (with the main effort being Operation CELTICS in the southern Nangarhar/Tora Bora region); 2) Consistently improving the infrastructure aboard both Jalalabad Air Field (JAF) and FOB Mehtar Lam; and 3) ensuring our equipment set was fully prepared for RIP with 2/3 in June. India Company continued security operations throughout Kunar Province while conducting VCPs in the vicinity of the Nowabad Bridge and along the Asad Abad to Jalal Abad Road. Kilo Company conducted security operations in the northern regions of Laghman Province supplemented with VCPs along Highway One in the southern district of Qarghayl. Lima Company also continued security operations in the Nangarhar Province conducting VCPs along Highway One, particularly in the vicinity of the Khyber Pass, as part of shaping for Operation CELTICS.

On 8 May, 2d Platoon, Kilo Company was ambushed while on a presence/security patrol in the Mayl Valley. The Kilo Company element received a barrage of RPG, RPK, and small arms fire from a platoon sized enemy element. Kilo Company returned fire, forcing the enemy to take cover in nearby caves as they continued to fire. Second Platoon continued to close with the enemy while calling in air strikes from A-10s. After the air strikes on the caves and the resulting lull in gunfire, an element from 2d Platoon began to assess battle damage when two Marines conducted a search to confirm the status of a slain enemy combatant. Corporal Schoener and Lance Corporal Kirven suffered gunshot wounds sustained from small arms fire emitting from a nearby cave where two combatants were well concealed. While the two injured Marines returned fire, the combatants threw a fragmentary grenade, which killed Lance Corporal Kirven. Severely wounded by the fragmentation, Corporal Schoener continued to return fire despite his injuries and remained trapped in the enemy line of fire. The remainder of the

squad maneuvered around the cave while returning fire and throwing grenades into the cave. It was only when the Marines had destroyed the enemy in the cave that they were able to come within reach of Corporal Schoener, who expired shortly thereafter. Additionally, during this engagement three Marines were wounded in action: First Lieutenant Boada, Corporal Chinana, and Lance Corporal Lynch.

The police chief of Alishang, Commander Sharif, confirmed that the enemy combatants were fighters of the insurgent commander of the region, Pashtoon. Sharif reported that most of the AQAM dead and wounded were brought to Kanday Village where it was confirmed that six enemy personnel were wounded in action (WIA) and 15 enemy personnel KIA. Four WIA and twelve KIA were positively identified, to include two of Pashtoon's brothers and his uncle. Kilo Company remained in the immediate vicinity of the contact for several days to develop leads to locate any more individuals involved in the skirmish. Combined Task Force Trinity, along with an entire grateful nation, mourned the loss of the two fallen Marines who are truly American patriots. On 13 May, a memorial ceremony was held at FOB Mehtar Lam and on 18 May, Camp Trinity at JAF was re-named Camp Schoener-Kervin as a tribute to these Marines' sacrifice.

On 10 May, India Company sustained ineffective mortar fire near their patrol base in the Korengal Valley, Pech District, Kunar Province. The enemy fled before the company could close with them and there was no resulting battle damage or casualties. On 12 May, an India Company patrol received RPG and small arms fire from a squad-sized enemy element in the vicinity of LZ Lumberyard. The patrol returned fire with 60mm mortars. The contact resulted in one enemy KIA and one ASF KIA. Also on 12 May, the Battalion Executive Officer's vehicle sustained an IED blast while on a Ground Assault Convoy (GAC) in support of the Battalion's Pre-Relief In Place Commodities Inspection Tour. There were no casualties, but the vehicle was a mobility kill as a result of the blast. On 24 May, Kilo Company sustained an ineffective IED attack in the vicinity of the Alishang village that resulted in no casualties and minimal battle damage. Again, on 28 May, Kilo Company sustained an ineffective IED attack in the vicinity of the Alishang District, Laghman Province resulting in no casualties or battle damage.

In response to an inaccurate Newsweek article, Mullahs, educators, and Islamic students staged large demonstrations in the city of Jalal Abad, Nangarhar Province on 11 May. The demonstrations turned destructive in some areas as tires and vehicles were burned, rocks were thrown, looting occurred, and several United Nations' compounds were targeted. America's Battalion stood postured to respond at the request of the Governor, but patiently directed ANP and then ANA forces to disperse the demonstrations and restore order in the city. The Battalion Commander met with the Governor of Nangarhar, Haji Din Mohammed and the provincial police chief, General Hazrat Ali to discuss the riots. Both believed that the events in Jalal Abad were, in fact, not riots but planned and orchestrated attacks on the NGO and government buildings. Both also believed that the attacks were directed by a handful of AQAM exploiting some radical students. Simultaneous riots in several Afghan cities, using the alleged Koran flushing incident as a pretext, seemed to support their assessment. In the aftermath of the demonstrations, the Governor spoke with a Shura of 62 Mullahs who then condemned the attacks; visited the fundamentalist Bajazi Mosque and gained their condemnation of the attacks; met with effected business owners whose businesses suffered damage; orchestrated the Jalal Abad elders' apology to the UN and the Pakistan Consulate and their offer to repair the damages; and made an appearance to announce the conduct of a MOI investigation and the formation of a commission to address grievances with the government in a non-violent forum. The Governor also offered the two guesthouses of his complex to the UN as offices until their building could be repaired. The Governor expressed his concern of the departure of most aid organizations and the fact that the attackers burned a mosque, several Korans, and the Shura Office - all clear anti-Islamic actions - that capitalized on the hypocrisy of those who participated in the attacks because of the alleged Guantanamo Bay incident. The Coalition and GOA also exploited the fact that Afghan Security Forces handled this situation on their own, without the involvement of Coalition Forces, which could have dramatically escalated the grievances of those involved.

The Governor stated that four were killed and 65 wounded/injured (of which six were police). The number of participants was estimated at approximately 500. The ANP

detained and questioned 27 individuals; and questioned the 59 wounded participants to ascertain the leadership that instigated the event. Combined Task Force Trinity then focused on posturing and rehearsing the ANA for assisting the ANP in meeting threats, such as riots, within the Province, to include the downtown area of Jalal Abad. Kabul also sent the National Chief of ANP, 150 extra policemen and an MOI investigation team to assist Governor Din Mohammed. Predictably, the Governor requested that the Coalition suspend significant operations until he could get a complete assessment of the events. The Battalion continued security patrols the outlying areas and in coordination with the ANP and ANA. In those areas where riots were anticipated, CTF Trinity requested presence patrols by the ANP and ANA with Coalition Forces standing by to assist as necessary.

Governor Din Mohammed, the UN, and the Coalition all used the NGO withdrawal from the unsafe areas as part of the IO campaign against the AQAM by explaining and demonstrating how it slowed economic assistance and development. Armed with the target audiences identified by the Provincial Government Officials, the Battalion IOWG put together IO products for dissemination in each province. These products emphasized Coalition and U.S. respect for Islam and Afghan culture and asked that we be judged by our actions here and not some alleged incident in Guantanamo Bay. CTF Trinity also continued to advertise the obvious improvement in strength of the GOA through the fact that Afghan Security Forces handled the violence effectively without the need for Coalition involvement and that Coalition Forces exercised great restraint while avoiding involvement to prevent unnecessary escalation. Combined Task Force Trinity also used the Newsweek situation as an opportunity to educate Afghans on the need to openly discuss such accusations prior to organizing demonstrations/inciting violence particularly with the Mullahs and University and High School students. It was also pointed out that Coalition forces are occasionally accused of acting on "false witness". In the case of these violent demonstrations, however, the "false witness" was acted upon by those who participated in the riots. All of these IO messages were delivered in consonance with targeted CMO to further reinforce the positive role of the Coalition Forces.

Based on the information battle, a perceptibly offensive battalion operation would have risked creating a

situation that the AQAM could exploit. Because of this and the lack of actionable intelligence of AQAM presence in the Tora Boras, later phases of operation CELTICS were delayed and then modified. With the shaping phase complete, and the necessity of targeted detention negligible, the Battalion adjusted the rest of the operation by reinforcing Lima Company to conduct village assessments for targeted CMO, MEDCAPs, and Humanitarian Aid drops as the main effort along two suspected AQAM infiltration routes in southern Nangarhar. India Company, Kilo Company, and a platoon from Lima Company conducted Vehicle Checkpoints (VCPs) in order to control the major LOCs running from Pakistan toward Kabul through TAOR Trinity. Operation CELTICS placed a significant coalition signature in the Khogyani and Pachir Wa Agam Districts, but did not spark significant SIGINT activity on tactical or national assets. Although there are AQAM sympathizers and facilitators in those districts, it was proven unlikely that formal training camps or any related activity existed there as assessed by the CJTF-76 CJ2. The disposition of the people in Pachir Wa Agam was significantly pro-GOA/Coalition. The people there were waiting to see the results of the Phase III Alternative Livelihood Program to replicate the profits they lost in giving up poppy growing. The disposition of the people in Khogyani was tolerant of Coalition Forces and anti-District Government. Numerous people in the area felt terrorized by the current sub-governor, and they perceived that Governor Din Mohammed protected him. Dedicated airlift from TF Sabre allowed the main element for Operation CELTICS to reposition Marines and insert, as well as airdrop, CMO supplies into remote areas along the targeted infiltration routes. Throughout the operation, America's Battalion distributed over 38,000 pounds of food and equipment and provided medical assistance and supplies to an estimated 2,000 Afghans.

In May, CTF Trinity continued to see thriving participation in the Allegiance Program. On 7 May, Najmuddin visited Camp Blessing and brought four individuals, who began processing for allegiance. In Laghman, on 13 May, vetted target Wakil surrendered himself and 30 of his men, along with their arms, to Governor Safi for reconciliation as a direct result of Kilo Company's combat actions in the Alishang Valley and presence patrols in the Alingar Valley. In Kunar Province, vetted target Gul Amir enrolled as a candidate for reconciliation and the Allegiance Program process was initiated. Gul Amir stated

that he had not been involved in attacks against Coalition Forces and just wanted to be allowed to live without fear of detention. The Governor held a ceremony to publicly acknowledge Gul Amir's reconciliation and support for the GOA on 31 May in Asad Abad. On 29 May, four individuals from the Saparay Village, Sarkani District, Kunar Province turned themselves in to Governor Wafa for reconciliation. These individuals were suspected to be members of the IED cell in the Sarkani-Ganjigal area. CTF Trinity has assessed that continuous presence in these areas have contributed greatly to the numerous allegiance participants.

In the last weeks of May, duration security missions were underway in the Achin and Chaparhar Districts, Nangarhar Province, Dawlet Shah District, Laghman Province and Pech District, Kunar Province. The CTF Trinity staff conducted operations with the 2/3 ADVON to prepare battalion task force level operations targeting Ahmad Shah in Kunar and Pashtoon in northern Laghman. The shaping phase for both of these operations were part of the RIP, and 2/3 was postured to execute Phase II (targeted detention) if targetable locations emerged. In response to HUMINT reporting, India Company conducted duration security operations in a portion of the Pech District where there were suspected arms caches. Kilo Company continued duration operations in the northern Alishang and Dawlet Shaw Districts in an attempt to confirm Pashtoon's location. Lima Company continued security operations in the southern Nangarhar Province to prevent AQAM from reseeding in the Tora Bora region. H&S Company continued the guard force mission, while Weapons Company continued FOB construction at Camp Schoener-Kervin. All companies continued to conduct combined VCPs along the key LOCs running to Jalal Abad and Kabul as an opportunity to train local ANP forces and to deter AQAM transporting arms and IED material into the populated areas.

On 12 May, Lieutenant General Eikenberry, Combined Forces Command Afghanistan (CFC-A), visited FOB Asad Abad and met with government officials in the Kunar Province. On 30 May, Commanding General CJTF-76, Major General Kamiya visited FOB Mehtar Lam and Camp Blessing. During the month of May, America's Battalion conducted 468 combat patrols of which 277 were integrated with the ANA, KPF, ANP, or ASF.

During the first part of June, India Company continued operations to pressure Ahmad Shah in the Pech District and to deter further IED attacks in the Watapor and Sarkani Districts. Kilo Company continued to maintain its presence in Northern Laghman to locate and destroy Pashtoon and members of his cell. Lima Company continued to maintain presence in the southern Nangarhar Region to prevent AQAM re-seeding of the Tora Bora Region. Although AQAM were undoubtedly there, the population continued to appear overwhelmingly supportive of coalition forces, even in those areas that were greatly dissatisfied with their provincial and district governments (like many in Khogyani District). H&S Company continued the guard mission aboard Camp Schoener-Kirven. Both H&S Company and Weapons Company continued FOB construction at Camp Schoener-Kirven.

By 6 June the main body for 2/3 began to close on the FOBs in TAOR Trinity. Combined Task Force Trinity organized a command tour of TAOR Trinity for Koa 6 (2/3 Commanding Officer) that included meetings with the GOA principal officials in each province. Missions in Southern Nangarhar Province, Northern Laghman Province and the Pech District of Kunar concluded as the companies began to receive 2/3 Marines and begin their retrograde to Bagram Air Field (BAF). Combined Task Force Trinity's company and platoon leadership and one squad (-) from each platoon remained in place until the companies transferred authority on 14 June. As part of the company reliefs in place, 2/3 Marines participated in duration missions with 3/3 leadership in Kunar, Laghman, and in the Southern Nangarhar/Tora Bora Districts. Along with these introductions to duration security missions, the commanders conducted leader engagements with the Governors, ANP chiefs and NDS chiefs of Kunar, Nangarhar and Laghman Provinces, while also turning over force protection responsibilities.

During June, AQAM affiliated individuals in TAOR Trinity continued to reconcile with the Afghan government. On 6 June, Darwish met with Governor Safi and Kilo Company in Mehtar Lam. He pledged his support for the government, stated that he would collect his weapons to turn in, and will assist in locating and capturing Pashtoon.

On 4 June, Combined Anti-Armor Team A (CAAT A) from India Company was engaged with small arms fire while conducting a GAC from Camp Blessing to Camp Eggers in Asad Abad. The India Company element returned fire with small

arms and called for fire from the 105mm howitzers that responded with Rocket Assisted Projectile (RAP) rounds. CAAT B reinforced the element and they all remained in the vicinity of the contact overnight. The following day, CAAT B received RPG and small arms fire from a ridgeline in the vicinity of Dag Village, Pech District, Kunar Province. CAAT A conducted a RIP with CAAT B, and CAAT B returned to base to pick up a platoon for reinforcement. Also on 4 June, 3d Platoon, Lima Company was targeted by an RCIED while en route to Khogyani that exploded in the middle of their convoy. No casualties or battle damage were incurred. On 7 June, another RCIED went off in Shinwar District, Nangarhar Province in the vicinity of a United Arab Emirates SOF convoy and two rockets were fired at FOB Torkham. Both attacks resulted in no casualties or battle damage.

The main body of 2d Battalion, 3d Marines began to arrive at their respective FOBs on 7 June. By 14 June, all of the companies had completed the TOA of their FOBs and respective areas of operation. India Company conducted a TOA ceremony with Echo Company 2/3, Kilo Company conducted a TOA ceremony with Fox Company 2/3, Lima Company conducted a TOA ceremony with Echo Company 2/3, and Weapons and H&S Companies conducted a TOA with their 2/3 counterparts. As 2/3 Marines arrived at the respective FOBs, 3/3 Marines retrograded through BAF where they received Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) classes, Battalion garrison SOP classes, and went through customs. From BAF, the Marines proceeded to Manas International Airport where they took various flights to redeploy to MCBH. By 20 June, the entire battalion had been received at MCBH where the Marines had a brief reunion reception after which they proceeded to the armory to turn in applicable weapons and serialized gear.

During the third week of June, all Companies conducted CMR accountability, turned in gear to the Temporary Allowance Pool (TAP) and Consolidated Issue Facility (CIF) to include Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) protective gear. Those Marines moving back into the barracks recovered their possessions from the Transportation Movement Office (TMO) and settled into their respective facilities. On 24 June, America's Battalion conducted a battalion run, SNCO Professional Military Education (PME), Pre-leave Safety Stand down, and Awards ceremony, after which all of the enlisted Marines were excused for block leave. An Officer's Hail and Farewell

was held at the Officer's Club aboard MCBH, after which the officers were excused for block leave.

There were no distinguished visitors to TAOR Trinity in June. During the month of June, America's Battalion conducted 171 combat patrols of which 88 were integrated with the ANA, KPF, ANP, or ASF.

Legal Action

The Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines is the Special Courts-Martial Convening Authority for the five separate companies: India, Kilo, Lima, Weapons, and H&S. As such, the following legal proceedings were held at this level.

General Courts-Martial	0
Special Courts-Martial	1
Summary Courts-Martial	8
Non-Judicial Punishment	18

Awards

3d Battalion, 3d Marines recognized its outstanding Marines by presenting them with the following awards:

Purple Heart	9
Army Commendation Medal	4
Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal with "V"	2
Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal	67
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal	1
Certificates of Commendation	80
Meritorious Mast	45
Letter of Appreciation	5

S-4/Logistics and Embarkation

During the time period from January to June 2005 the S-4 and Logistics cells played a critical role in support of Battalion operations. One of the largest obstacles during the winter months in Afghanistan was the road conditions. From January through March the S-4 was faced with ensuring the combat readiness of all vehicles across an area of operations the size of West Virginia. Operationally, during this same time frame, 3/3 was in the process of conducting battalion level operations in the Kunar Province, targeting mid-level insurgents within the Korengal, Rechah Lam, and Pech Valleys. Faced with the monumental task of supporting battalion operations in addition to the daily rigors of normal patrol operations, the S-4 ensured that all equipment, gear, and vehicles were properly maintained and serviced when necessary. During the month of April, the Battalion faced an even greater task in building a FOB at the Jalal Abad Airfield due to a redistribution in battle space. On extremely short notice, the S-4 was responsible for sending over one hundred jingle trucks to the airfield to be received by the Battalion Quartering Party that constructed the new camp aboard the airfield. In approximately one month's time, all gear, equipment, and vehicles had been received or were en route to JAF from Salerno in support of the move. The Deployed Unit Support Team (DUST) located in Bagram contributed significantly by sending tents and associated gear to accommodate the Battalion's arrival in Jalal Abad.

Facilities

From January to April, Headquarters and Service Company located in Salerno, Afghanistan operated under the blanket of an Army and Kellogg, Brown, and Ruth Base Operations cell. Throughout this time period, H&S Company was able to focus efforts on the guard force consisting of a provisional rifle company comprised of Marines from each of the sections. Upon relocation to Jalal Abad Airfield in April, Headquarters and Service Company took on several other roles. As Camp Commandant at the airfield, H&S was faced with the task of uniting several different coalition agencies. Among these challenges was a unified effort to consolidate airfield services such as trash collection, and the establishment of a consolidated Local National Dining Facility to accommodate the needs of ODA, OCF, and OGA which were all located in close proximity. As a result, the

groundwork for contracts was laid, and weekly coordination meetings were held to ensure all agencies were spun up on the latest developments.

Battalion Aid Station

During the winter months the Battalion Aid Station (BAS), located at FOB Salerno, played a vital role in supporting H&S Company and Weapons Company for a multitude of MEDCAP operations in Khowst Province. During these MEDCAPs, BAS supported the local population in secluded areas by bringing these villages medicine, blankets, and other winter necessities. Corpsmen from the 3/3 medical team also conducted numerous local national medical assistant visits throughout TAOR Trinity during the deployment. Their efforts provided immediate care to many who could not afford local care and greatly assisted relationships with the local population. During the spring months BAS continued to support the Battalion in providing preventative measures for sicknesses and diseases normally accompanying the spring/summer weather in Afghanistan.