



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
3D BATTALION, 3D MARINE REGIMENT
3D MARINE DIVISION (-) (REIN)
BOX 63018
MCBH KANEOHE BAY, HI 96863-3018

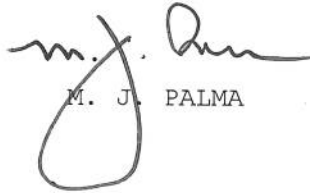
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31 Jan 12

From: Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines
To: Commanding Officer, 3d Marine Regiment

Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JULY THROUGH 18 NOVEMBER 2011

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

1. Per the references, 3d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment Command Chronology is submitted.
2. The point of contact concerning this matter is Captain Jeremy H. Groefsema, at jeremy.groefsema@usmc.mil, or jeremy.groefsema@afg.usmc.mil.


M. J. PALMA



**3D BATTALION,
3D MARINE REGIMENT**

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 JULY - 18 NOVEMBER 2011

Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JULY THROUGH 18 NOVEMBER 2011

3D BATTALION, 3D MARINE REGIMENT

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 JULY TO 18 NOVEMBER 2011

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SECTION I: ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. (U) 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. (U) Period Covered and Location. From 1 July through 27 August, Marine Corps Base, Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. From 28 August through 30 September, Twentynine Palms, California. From 1 October through 30 October, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. 1 November through present, Afghanistan.

3. (U) Personnel Information.

a. Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Matthew J. Palma
1 July 2011 - 18 November 2011

b. Executive Officer Major Sean P. Carroll
1 July 2011 - 18 November 2011

c. Subordinate Commanders

1) India Company Captain Bobby W. Lee
1 July 2011 - 18 November 2011

2) Kilo Company Capt Barney B. Blaine
1 July 2011 - 18 November 2011

3) Lima Company Captain Richard M. Zjawin
1 July 2011 - 18 November 2011

4) Weapons Company Captain Jason C. Armas
1 July 2011 - 18 November 2011

5) H&S Company Captain Owen M. Boyce
1 July 2011 - 18 November 2011

d. Principal Staff Officers

1) S-1 Officer First Lieutenant Drake P. Toney
1 July 2011 - 18 November 2011

2) S-2 Officer Captain Jeff M. Brewer
1 July 2011 - 18 November 2011

3) S-3 Officer Major Stephan P. Karabin II

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1 July 2011 - 18 November 2011

- 4) Air Officer Captain Jeremy H. Groefsema
1 July 2011 - 18 November 2011
- 5) S-4 Officer Captain Joseph D. Elder
1 July 2011 - 25 August 2011
Captain Owen Boyce (Additional Billet)
26 August 2011 - 15 October 2011
Captain Brian Hollier
16 October 2011- 18 November 2011
- 6) S-6 Officer Captain Joshua W. Connors
1 July 2011- 18 November 2011
- 7) Chaplain Lieutenant Jerry D. Durham, USN
1 July 2011- 18 November 2011
- 8) Battalion Surgeon Lieutenant Sean M. Stuart, USN
1 July 2011- 18 November 2011
- e. Staff Historian Captain Jeremy H. Groefsema
1 July 2011 - 18 November 2011
- f. Sergeant Major Sergeant Major Andrew T. Cece
1 July 2011- 18 November 2011

4. (U) Average Monthly Strength.

	MO	ME	NO	NE	TOTAL
JANUARY	62	900	3	50	1115
FEBRUARY	56	1056	3	40	1153
MARCH	56	1054	3	38	1149
APRIL	55	1082	3	37	1177
MAY	60	1119	3	43	1225
JUNE	60	1125	2	48	1235
JULY	56	1128	2	56	1242

5. (U) Legal Action

The Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, is the Special Courts Martial Convening Authority. The following legal proceedings were conducted concerning Marines and Sailors of this Battalion:

General Courts Martial.....1
 Special Courts Martial.....0
 Summary Courts Martial.....8
 Non-Judicial Punishment.....36
 Competency Review Board.....0
 JAG Manual Investigation.....20
 Administrative Discharge (non-EAS).....2

6. (U) Awards

The following numbers of awards were presented to Marines and Sailors of 3d Battalion, 3d Marines:

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and senior.....15
 Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.....12
 Certificate of Commendation.....11
 Meritorious Mast.....1

SECTION II: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Training & Operations

(U) During July, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines continued its training regimen in preparation for its next deployment to Afghanistan OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. The Battalion began EXERCISE SPARTAN RESOLVE 4-11 on 11 July. The first week the Battalion Operations Section Marines and staff participated in classes taught by Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group (MCTOG) on Staff Planning and Combat Operations Center (COC) procedures. These classes helped the Operations Section Marines prepare to conduct COC operations during the exercise. The exercise culminated with a COC exercise involving all the company COCs sending up information and reports to the Battalion COC in order to test the Battalion's COC responsiveness and reporting procedures. The Battalion was also engaged in EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER starting on 18 July. This exercise was designed to present the companies a chance to conduct operations in a counterinsurgency (COIN) environment. This exercise was held at Schofield Barracks and involved civilian role players to create a realistic training package.

(U) The Battalion concluded EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER on 4 August, and immediately began preparing for EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11. Marines were trained in High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected driving to prepare for EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER and conditions in Afghanistan. The Battalion's Embedded Training Teams conducted language training from 8-19 August, where they received an introduction to the Dari and Pashtu languages. The Battalion Commander, Company Commanders, and some of the Primary Staff members flew to Twentynine Palms, CA (29 Palms) to participate in the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group (MCTOG) COIN Academy from 15-19 August. On 22 August the Advance Party for EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER traveled to 29 Palms to prepare for the Battalion to arrive and begin training. The mainbody of the Battalion traveled from 24-26 August to 29 Palms, and began Reception, Staging, Onward-movement and Integration for EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11.

(U) During September the Battalion conducted EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11. The companies conducted live-fire training on ranges 410A and 400. The Battalion conducted the latter exercises under a new concept of task organization called the Enhanced Mentor Company Construct. This allowed the Battalion to train how it will fight in Afghanistan during its deployment during OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. The Battalion executed all four of the Clear, Hold, Build exercises, leaving 29 Palms evaluated on its performance of all key missions.

(U) On 1 October 2011 the Battalion began redeploying to Marine Corps Base Hawaii from 29 Palms, CA. On 4 October 2011 its redeployment to home station was complete, and the Battalion immediately began the turnover of all gear and work spaces to 3d Marine Regiment in preparation for its deployment to OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. The Battalion's account was completely turned over to 3d Marine Regiment by 14 October 2011. The Advance party for deployment departed Kaneohe Bay, HI on 11 October 2011, and the Main body of the Battalion followed, beginning on 27 October 2011.

(U) The Battalion arrived in Garmser District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan from 31 October - 9 November. The primary staff, as well as the rest of the Battalion, began its relief in place (RIP) with 1st Battalion, 3d Marines. Throughout the turnover, they learned about the Area of Operations (AO), and adjusted the layout of the companies in order to facilitate the Enhanced Mentoring Company concept rehearsed at EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER. The Transfer of Authority (TOA) Ceremony took place on 17 November 2011. The full TOA of

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the battlespace was authorized at 0001 on 18 November by Regimental Combat Team 5.

Air Office

(U) In July, all Forward Air Controllers (FACs) and Joint Terminal Air Controllers (JTACs) successfully retrograded from Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) on the Big Island of Hawaii. The Battalion Air Officer, Captain "Goofy" Groefsema returned from organizing and conducting the Pre-Deployment Site Survey to Garmser District Afghanistan in preparation for the upcoming deployment in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. During the month of July the air shop conducted annual training by shooting at the rifle range for currency, and as participated in EXERCISE SPARTAN RESOLVE (a command and control exercise) aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe Bay. Several times throughout the month the Battalion was supported in aviation operations assisting each company with helo-borne procedures as well as training Casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) 9-Line and controlling Landing Zones. All of these training events were coordinated with the local squadrons aboard MCBH as well as Army Aviation units located at Schofield Barracks.

(U) August brought with it the flurry of activity that surrounds a deployment workup to include a Battalion Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) shoot coordinated between 3d Battalion, 3d Marines and Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA)-369 "The Gunfighters" of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Camp Pendleton, CA. All coordination was completed and the 10 members of the TACP departed for Camp Pendleton on 14 August 2011 for the week long training evolution. The shoot was conducted at Camp Pendleton Training Area Zulu and was a successful evolution by getting each of the FACs/JTACs multiple controls, and building valuable relationships with the supporting unit for future operations at both EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. Immediately following this training event all members moved to 29 Palms for participation in EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11. During the month of August the TACP welcomed eight new members that completed the Joint Fires Observer course at Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific (EWTGPAC). All members were thoroughly prepared prior to attending school and one, Corporal Injerd, graduated as honor graduate.

(U) During the month of September, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines TACP controlled aviation fires in support of EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11. All members successfully conducted multiple controls and completed the exercise with no deficiencies from Tactical Training Exercise Control Group (TTECG). September came to a close with the retrograde from Twentynine Palms, CA back to MCBH Kaneohe Bay, HI and the execution of the pre-deployment leave block.

(U) October was bittersweet as each member was given the opportunity to take leave and prepare themselves to depart for operations in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. The TACP departed for Garmser District, Afghanistan on 11 October 2011 with the Battalion Advance Party and arrived with no issues at Camp Dwyer, prepared and ready to take control and execute operations. All FAC/JTACs conducted RSO&I aboard Camp Dwyer and then moved to their final positions and began turnover with their 1st Battalion, 3d Marines counterparts. The remainder of October and November were consumed with turnover between 1st Battalion, 3d Marines and 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, as well as learning the AO and successfully controlling CAS. As 3d Battalion, 3d Marines assumed authority of the AO on 18 Nov, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines TACP continued to press forward and support operations, concerning all aviation matters.

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Intelligence

(U) The Intelligence Section's (S-2) focus through the second half of 2011 was to ensure support for multiple Pre-Deployment Training Program (PTP) exercises, to include SPARTAN RESOLVE, ISLAND VIPER and MOJAVE VIPER, and to seamlessly transition control of Garmser District from 1st Battalion, 3d Marines S-2 during the months of October and November.

(U) In July, the S-2 liaised with multiple contractors to provide inputs that enabled the building of a realistic COIN training scenario for the Marines participating in EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER at Army Base Schofield Barracks. Captain Brewer, First Lieutenant Giblin, and Law Enforcement Professionals (LEP) John Criscione and J.D. Waddle helped develop the intelligence/Tactical Site Exploitation (TSE) lane training integral to EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER. Corporal Justin Palmer was sent to Schofield to work with Companies in support of integrated Company-Level Intelligence Cell (CLIC) functioning. Near simultaneously, the S-2 supported MCTOG's CLIC Training during EXERCISE SPARTAN RESOLVE 4-11, held at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Lance Corporal Anthony Nolley-Crosson and Lance Corporal Omar Mills worked dueling day shifts in the mock COC, controlling Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) and disseminating intelligence reports as required. Following the conclusion of EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER in early August, Second Lieutenant Patrick Kimener joined the S-2 from 3d Marine Regiment.

(U) The Section deployed with the Battalion in late August to MCAGCC, 29 Palms for EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER. The Section provided intelligence support to the Battalion for the duration of the exercise, running simultaneous forward and main Intelligence Operation Centers (IOC) for a portion of the exercise. The Section provided five weekly, real-world intelligence update briefs for the Commanders and Staff, along with 21 daily intelligence summaries, four distinct all-source collections plans, four sets of priority intelligence requirements and 10 special products supporting specific company operations or maneuvers. Additionally, the Section completed 600 map products distributed to every level of command, from strip maps and GRGs to wall-size 1:50k 29 Palms "West" Special Maps. The S-2 received and answered 25 Requests for Information and LEPs John Criscione and J.D. Waddle ensured distribution and use of squad level tactical site exploitation gear previously purchased by the Battalion. Additionally, the section conducted and participated in numerous intelligence training events for Palantir and Marinelink programs. The Section's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were refined, including the tactical site exploitation SOP, CLIC SOP, and the Chapter 10 (Intelligence) Battalion SOP. The S-2's performance in 2011, as it was in the Battalion's prior running of EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER in March 2010, rated the highest "all green" evaluations from the TTECG staff, on all evaluated areas.

(U) In early October, the Battalion retrograded to Marine Corps Base Hawaii and prepared to deploy its Advanced Echelon (ADVON) to OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2 in mid-October. On 11 October 2011, Captain Brewer, First Lieutenant Giblin, First Lieutenant Loomis, Lance Corporal Nolley-Crosson, and Lance Corporal Ortiz-Santiago deployed to OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM as the S-2 ADVON, arriving in Afghanistan on 15 October 2011. For the remainder of the month, the ADVON conducted AO familiarization with 1st Battalion, 3d Marines S-2 counterparts and progressively assumed control of the daily functions of the IOC. In Hawaii, the S-2 Main Body, to include 2nd Lieutenant Patrick Kimener, Sergeant Chris Stine, Lance Corporal Omar Mills, Lance Corporal Daniel Shannon, Lance Corporal Aaron Halford, J.D. Waddle and John Criscione prepared for and then turned over the S-2 garrison account with 3d Marines Regiment S-2, before taking leave. On 29 October 2011 the S-2 main body deployed to OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and arrived at Forward

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Operating Base (FOB) Delhi on 4 November 2011. During the formal RIP/TOA, the S-2 gradually transitioned control and ownership of various organic and non-organic collections assets and liaised with Regimental Combat Team (RCT) 5 and other agencies for continued support. The S-2 made approximately 300 map products and designed the Battalion's new AO boundary map; Lance Corporal Ortiz-Santiago worked directly with the Operations Officer to develop a new AO Hammerhead 1:50 wall-size map prior to the TOA on 18 November 2011. Captain Brewer signed for the S-2 deployed CMR account on 4 November 2011.

S-4 Embarkation Section

(U) During this period the Embarkation Section coordinated and executed the movement of equipment and personnel in support of the following operations and exercises: EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER, EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11, and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2.

(U) In August, the Section prepared embarkation for EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11, of over 20 pallets with assorted gear to include three trailers, via C-17, to 29 Palms.

(U) In October, the Section conducted internal embark after training for unit representatives before the deployment in support OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2.

(U) In November, validated dimensional data for Maintenance Decision Support System (MDSS) II deployed Unit Deployment List (UDL) and conducted container management certification with assistance from RCT-5.

(U) In November, the Section began packing and transporting the deployed gear-set in support of Retrograde and Redeployment back to Camp Dwyer.

Supply

(U) The Supply Section supported the Battalion in budgeting and supply operations for EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER and EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11. Supply also received and distributed Special Training Allowance Pool (STAP) and other special allowance items in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. Supply conducted account turnover immediately prior to deployment.

(U) In July and August, the Supply Section supported Operation EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER and various smaller training evolutions. During this time, Supply also drew STAP gear and issued a partial amount in preparation for EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER.

(U) In September the Supply Section split into two teams. The first team deployed to support EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER fiscal and supply issues, while the second team served as the remain behind element to prepare the account and warehouse for turnover.

(U) In October, Supply issued the remainder of the STAP gear, in a four day period, to the bulk of the Battalion. During this time, Supply conducted account turnover with 3d Marine Regiment. Despite the compressed timeline, the account turnover had the least amount of discrepancies and the lowest cost in missing SL3 seen in recent 3d Marines history. Supply spent the remainder of October and November conducting pre-deployment leave and conducting turnover with 1st Battalion, 3d Marines in Afghanistan.

Ammunition Section

(U) The Ammunition Section focused on battalion-level exercises and combat operations to include EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER, EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11, and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. Additionally, they conducted live fire and blank fire ranges, as well as provided direct combat service support to the Battalion.

(U) In July, the Ammunition Section provided support for EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11, supporting five companies on over 70 ranges.

(U) In October, the Ammunition Section assigned the OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM Military Standard Requisitioning and Issue Procedure (MILSTRIP), issued all Marines with their basic combat load, and verified serialized items in the AO.

(U) In November, the Ammunition Section began the Retrograde and Redistribution process, moving years of accumulated ammunition out of the battlespace and fully accounted for all OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM ammunition in custody of the Battalion.

Ordnance Section

(U) The Ordnance Section provided direct combat service support to EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER, EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11, and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. During EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER, the Ordnance Section was tasked to maintain all of the companies organic weapons while training at extended distances. During this time, the section was required to work with two different MEFs, operating on two different maintenance systems (MIMMS and GCSS), but was able to maintain a 94 percent readiness for Battalion ordnance items.

(U) In July, the Ordnance Section began receiving weapons and optics that were embarked as part of EXERCISE LAVA VIPER. The section inducted over 185 pieces of gear into the maintenance cycle, in order to prepare the Battalion for the upcoming EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER.

(U) From August to October, the Ordnance Section supported EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11, and maintained over 2,300 weapons and optics, ensuring that all ranges were supported.

(U) In November, the Ordnance Section provided combat service support of Task Force 3d Battalion, 3d Marines by ensuring that all weapons and optics that were turned over in 3d Battalion, 3d Marines's battlespace were functional and maintained correctly.

Communications

(U) The Communications Platoon participated in multiple Pre-deployment Training Program (PTP) exercises from 1 July 2011 to 17 Nov 2011. During the different exercises the Communications Platoon received accolades from the different unit evaluators.

(U) During the concurrent EXERCISES MOJAVE VIPER 11-2 and SPARTAN RESOLVE 4-11, the Data Section successfully pulled data services from MCTOG servers in California through multiple Standardized Tactical Entry Point (STEP) sites, satellite connections, and firewalls. The Radio Section established a High Frequency (HF) net from the Battalion to the line companies training at Schofield Army Base, HI.

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(U) During EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11, the Radio Platoon utilized an AN/PRC-117G Advanced Networking Wideband Waveform (ANW2) cloud to transfer data from Scout Sniper Team (SST) hide positions to the Surveillance And Reconnaissance Center (SARC) at the COC in order to provide rapid intelligence collection and dissemination. Then, ANW2 was utilized to eliminate dead space by placing ANW2 nodes at retransmission sites, all Command and Control (C2) nodes, and other key positions.

(U) The Data Section utilized two Version 1 Support Wide Area Network (V1 SWAN) systems, two Wireless Point to Point Link Version D (WPPL-D) sets, and several stand alone RF7800 radios to provide data services throughout all training evolutions at MV. The Data Section pulled services over both the Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group (TTECG) issued V1 SWAN as well as the 3d Marine Regiment V1 SWAN. The Data Section provided high availability of all services to the Battalion, the COC, and the line companies during the first few weeks of EMV and during Clear Hold Build (CHB) 4.

(U) Prior to EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER, the Wire Section submitted a telecommunications networking accreditation package to 3d Marines because MVSD did not allow the Battalion us to submit an accreditation package through them. This accreditation package proved to be invaluable when the Wire Section connected a Remote Subscriber Access Module (RSAM) through the 3d Marine Regiment SWAN located at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Three, during CHB-4, and extended services provided by 3d Marines. The Wire Section pulled services and could call MCAGCC, Hawaii, and any Defense Switching Network (DSN) number around the globe. The Wire Marines also succeeded in pushing out another RSAM to India Company's location which provided identical phone services to their COC.

(U) During EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER, the Maintenance Section preformed Limited Technical Inspections on all gear received from Mojave Viper Support Detachment. The Maintenance Section had been extremely broad with the scope of equipment they have repaired. Maintenance readiness maintained an average of 96 percent due to their initiative and leadership, not only towards Communications Electronic Maintenance, but in regards to all other tasks assigned.

(U) The Communications Platoon turned over \$6.5 million worth of gear to 3d Marine Regiment to be reissued to 1st Battalion 3d Marines. The Platoon Sergeant ensured that the Marines had all the gear that they need for the deployment, ensured that all the Marines barracks rooms were ready to be vacated, and all the different administrative requirements that the Marines need before deployment. The Communications Platoon as a whole deployed to Afghanistan between 27 October and 1 November 2011.

Headquarters and Service (H&S) Company

(U) In the month of July, H&S Company conducted their successful redeployment of all Marines and serialized gear to Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay from Operation EXERCISE LAVA VIPER at PTA. The Company's focus of effort shifted to the completion of all annual training requirements, in order to prepare for deployment to both EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11 and in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2.

(U) Throughout both July and August, H&S Company conducted a rigorous training regimen, in order to prepare the Marines for deployment to Exercise EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER (MV) 8-11 and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. The Operations Section (S-3) conducted EXERCISE SPARTAN RESOLVE. The Company completed Tables I-IV of the annual rifle range requirements. Headquarters

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and Service Company provided Marines to become various subject matter experts to enhance their mission accomplishment for the two upcoming deployments. MAGTF Integrated System Training Center (MISTC) training courses were provided to 97 Marines in order to enhance their Combat Operations Center (COC) proficiency and knowledge. Over 300 Marines and Sailors participated in Counter Improvised Explosive Device Master Lesson File (CIED MLF) courses I-VII. Over 30 Marines conducted both Generator Mechanic and Tactical Site Exploitation courses. Nearly 140 Marines became MVOS certified for numerous vehicles to include HMMWV, MRAP and MATV. Fifty Marines from H&S were sent to Combat Lifesaver (CLS). Twenty Marines conducted both the GBOSS and GBOSS LITE course. Thirteen Marines from the Guard Force Platoon conducted the MARCOR Combat Marksmanship Coaches course.

(U) In September, H&S Company conducted their deployment to EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER (MV) 8-11 in 29 Palms. Throughout the time in EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER, H&S Company conducted successful supporting operations for all the companies within the Battalion. Headquarters and Service Company Guard Force and Jump Platoons participated in Clear, Hold, Build (CHB) I-IV where they were able to integrate, in support of, Line Companies conducting the training exercises.

(U) On 1 October 2012, H&S Company returned from deployment to EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11 to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. All serialized weapons, optics and gear were retrograded successfully. On 11 October 2012, the H&S Company Advanced Party, consisting of 119 Marines and Sailors, departed for OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. On 27 October 2012, H&S Company Main Body consisting of 251 personnel departed for OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2.

(U) During the month of November, H&S Company spent their time conducting RIP/TOA with 1st Battalion, 3d Marines. All Marines, Sailors and Civilians and their serialized weapons, optics and gear were successfully transported from Hawaii to Afghanistan. During the month of November, H&S Company assumed tactical command of Forward Operating Base (FOB) Delhi, in the Garmser District of Afghanistan. During November, H&S Company signed over all of their Afghanistan Military Accounts from 1st Battalion, 3d Marines and began tactical operations throughout the Area of Operations (AO).

India Company

(U) In July, India Company focused upon 5000-level training in the Training and Readiness Manual (T&R). The company conducted EXERCISE SPARTAN RESOLVE aboard MCBH and received COC Operations training and evaluation from MCTOG. In conjunction with this, India Company conducted EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER, at Army Base Schofield Barracks, HI.

(U) EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER provided realistic COIN training scenarios, to include simulations of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), small arms engagements, MEDEVACs, shuras, and other theater-specific training enhancements. The training drove Marines to the main pillars of COIN: Clear, Hold, and Build.

(U) India Company also sent IED Detection Dog Handlers to school in North Carolina, sent one enabler to Joint Fires Observer (JFO) Course, conducted required online PTP courses, performed Combat Fitness Tests, and further prepared for EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2.

(U) In August, India Company's motorcycle riders participated in a Battalion-sponsored motorcycle safety class and group ride. During the third week of August, India Company began sending Marines to MCAGCC, 29 Palms in

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preparation for EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER. By the end of August, all India Company Marines were on deck at MCAGCC, 29 Palms.

(U) September saw a significant amount of basic, intermediate, and advanced training at EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER including Ranges 100, 200, and 400. India Company Fire Support Team (FiST) conducted a successful Fire Support Coordination Exercise (FSCEX). The success during these early ranges and FSCEX, enabled further success during Clear Hold Build Exercise (CHBEX) I, II, III, and IV.

(U) Upon conclusion of EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER and debrief, the Company flew back to MCBH in waves and ADVON began pre-deployment leave on 1 October. The Main Body arrived back from MV and completed STAP issue. India Company participated in the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday Battalion Ball. Upon its conclusion, Main Body went on pre-deployment leave. On 10 October, ADVON departed MCBH for Afghanistan. ADVON arrived in Manas AFB, Kyrgyzstan on 14 October and flew to FOB Dwyer, Afghanistan on 16 October. After a week of indoctrination classes and Battlesight Zero (BZO) of weapons, ADVON departed FOB Dwyer to their respective positions throughout the India Company AO.

(U) India Company ADVON continued to conduct turnover with Alpha, Charlie, and Weapons Companies from 1st Battalion, 3d Marines from this time until 18 November. Main Body returned from leave and departed in early November. They arrived at Camp Dwyer via Manas, Kyrgyzstan. Upon completion of indoctrination training, they continued to their respective positions in India's AO. On 18 November, India Company was transferred authority.

Kilo Company

(U) The month of July brought a quick turnaround from EXERCISE LAVA VIPER, where the company focused on development of squad, platoon and specialty skills training events. A training team from MCTOG assisted with COC operations development by running EXERCISE SPARTAN RESOLVE. Concurrently, Kilo refined a myriad of COIN focused skills at EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER, at Army Base Schofield Barracks. EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER allowed for live role players to give realistic feedback to the Marines.

(U) After Action Reports (AARs) generated from the month of July were addressed during August, in preparation for the Battalion's training deployment to MCAGCC, 29 Palms for EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER. Notable training centered on reporting procedures, motorized operations and partnered force integration. By the end of August, Kilo company was established at MCAGCC and beginning EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11.

(U) Upon return to MCBH, Kilo Company began to echelon pre-deployment leave in preparation for the ADVON's departure for Afghanistan. Final gear issuance, safety briefs and long-term administrative updates were solidified over this time as well. On 11 October, the ADVON departed for Garmser, Afghanistan in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. On 27 October, the Kilo Company Main Body departed Kaneohe Bay for Afghanistan.

(U) Beginning with the arrival to Garmser, Afghanistan on 6 November 2011, RIP was conducted, ending with a formal ceremony on 17 November 2011. Kilo Company completed a thorough turnover with 1st Battalion, 3d Marines during the 12 day period. Kilo Company, as the Battalion's main effort, assumed the Enhanced Mentor Company role, directly partnered with the Afghanistan National Police (ANP). Accordingly, turnover was conducted with the Police Advisory Team, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Weapons Companies of 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, across 14 positions.

Lima Company

(U) Lima Company continued its rigorous training plan after EXERCISE LAVA VIPER in preparation for the deployment to Afghanistan. After 4 July 2011, Lima Company began preparations for field training. The Company went to the Kahukus Training Area from 10-14 July for platoon and squad-level operations. Immediately following Kahukus training, the Company moved to Schofield Barracks Army Base for squad-level live-fire and maneuver training. From 18-28 July, Lima Company participated in both EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER and EXERCISE SPARTAN RESOLVE, where the Company received training on COIN and COC operations.

(U) Lima Company went back to Kahukus Training Area to conduct defensive operations from 8-12 August. For the rest of August, Lima completed preparations and travelled to MCAGCC, 29 Palms to take part in EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER.

(U) After successful completion of the exercise, Lima Company returned to Hawaii on 1 October to begin final preparations for the Afghanistan deployment. The ADVON departed for Afghanistan on the 11 October, with the main body following on 1 November.

(U) On arrival, Lima Company Marines worked with Alpha, Bravo, and H&S Company Marines from 1st Battalion, 3d Marines in order to assume two companies worth of battlespace. This culminated on 11 November when Lima Marines took the left seat and completed the RIP/TOA on 18 November.

Weapons Company

(U) The Company returned from the Independence Day 96 hour liberty on 6 July. The Pre-Deployment Site Survey (PDSS) returned in the same time frame after surveying Garmser with 1st Battalion, 3d Marines. Throughout the course of July, the company conducted language training, the annual rifle range, platoon-level training and EXERCISE SPARTAN RESOLVE. SPARTAN RESOLVE was a company and Battalion-level command and control exercise, consisting of classes and practical application to prepare the Company for future operations in Afghanistan.

(U) Also during the month of July, the Company participated in EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER at Army Base Schofield Barracks, HI. The Marines had the opportunity to train in COIN with Local National roleplayers, and received language and culture classes. On 14-16 August the Company returned to Schofield and conducted a platoon live fire-attack, with supporting arms at KR-5, increasing all three Platoons' ability to successfully act as rifle platoons.

(U) In September, the Company conducted EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11 at MCAGCC, 29 Palms. During the month-long training exercise, the Company completed numerous training events and ranges, with the exercise serving as the culmination of the PTP.

(U) During RSO&I at MOJAVE VIPER, the Marines from CAAT 1 and CAAT 2 shot over 50 TOW missiles and two Javelins at Blacktop Training Area. During the same time period, 81mm Mortar Platoon conducted a mortar range at Blacktop Training Area and all Marines BZO'd their personal weapon systems.

(U) During MOJAVE VIPER, 81mm Mortar Platoon focused on their 0341 skills by successfully providing the Battalion a reliable and accurate indirect fire capability in FSCEX, CHB II, and CHB III. The Headquarters Platoon acted as

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the Battalion Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC) and effectively coordinated and approved fires during those same events. CAAT 1 and CAAT 2 provided the Battalion with independent motorized platoons. The Battalion relied on the Scout Sniper Platoon to provide long range reconnaissance, accurate sniper fire, and observation and adjustment of fire support assets. Both CAAT 1 and CAAT 2 were able to run Range 410, in addition to the regular MOJAVE VIPER events, showcasing their ability to act as rifle platoons in addition to their traditional CAAT roles. The final training event at MOJAVE VIPER was CHB IV, where the Company came together and functioned as a traditional rifle company, and received valuable training for Afghanistan.

(U) Upon return from MOJAVE VIPER in October, the Company took care of all administrative and personnel issues in preparation for the deployment to Afghanistan. On October 7th, the Marines in the company attended the Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Sheraton Hotel in Waikiki. Immediately following, the Company began block leave. The ADVON departed for Afghanistan on 11 October and Main Body departed on 30 October.

Substance Abuse Counseling Officer

In July, the Substance Abuse Counseling Officer (SACO) continued random drug testing for the unit by conducting three urinalysis tests and participating in other events that would lead to points for the MCBH, Kaneohe Bay 101 Days of Summer competition.

In August, the SACO continued to provide counseling and testing for Marines during the PTP. Alcohol and Drug cases had noticeably decreased across the Battalion compared to the start of the PTP. The additional work load of an aggressive Battalion training plan while maintaining a drug free and alcohol responsible work place set the unit apart from others aboard MCBH, Kaneohe Bay.

In September, the SACO continued to conduct random urinalysis testing even while conducting training at MCAGCC during EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER.

The 101 Days of Summer ended in October with recognition for 3d Battalion, 3d Marines as the winner of the competition, the Battalion continued to responsibly prepare for deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 11.2.

Upon arrival in Afghanistan, the SACO continued to push hard with an aggressive urinalysis testing program, even when forward deployed, which sets the precedence that drug abuse will not be tolerated in the command no matter where the Battalion is located.

Family Readiness Officer (FRO)

(U) In September, the FRO launched the Unit's eMarine website, per the Letter of Instruction (LOI) for eMarine Implementation. In accordance with the COMMARFORPAC Naval Letter, Commanders shall direct all sponsors to register in eMarine within one week of the upload of the sponsor database with the goal of achieving 100 percent sponsor participation. The total number of sponsors for our unit is 1207, and the total number of subscribers is currently at 1110.

(U) In October, the FRO conducted three separate pre-deployment briefs for the Marines, Sailors and Family members of the Unit. The FRO and the Family Readiness Assistants (FRAs) participated in the send-offs of each company by providing refreshments and tents to the Marines, Sailors and Family members of the unit.

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providing refreshments and tents to the Marines, Sailors and Family members of the unit.

(U) In addition, the FRO conducted daily communications with spouses and family members of 3d Battalion, 3d Marines and assisted with resources and referrals, as requested or needed.

Chaplain

(U) On 15 July, Chaplain Durham began revitalizing and training 3d Battalion, 3d Marines's Lay Leaders in order to effectively deploy to EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER. Additionally he began visiting each of the companies in order to introduce the Religious Ministry Team (RMT) and establish a positive working relationships within the Battalion.

(U) On 23 August, the RMT departed for EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER in order to execute pre-deployment training in preparation for the upcoming deployment in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2. Religious Program Specialist Second Class Smith concentrated on personal security training and circulated throughout the companies to provide worship services.

(U) On 27 October, Chaplain Durham and Religious Program Specialist Second Class Smith deployed with 3d Battalion, 3d Marines in support of combat operations for OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2 in Garmser District, Afghanistan.

(U) Chaplain Durham assumed religious ministry responsibilities in 3d Battalion, 3d Marines's battlespace aboard Forward Operating Base Delhi, Garmser District, Afghanistan on 18 November.

Battalion Aid Station (BAS)

(U) During the OEF 11.2 PTP, the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines BAS concentrated on improving post-deployment medical readiness from 77% to 92% for over 1200 personnel. The 3d Battalion, 3d Marines BAS saw over 2100 patients from 3d Battalion, 3d Marines and other 3d Marine Regiment Marines requiring medical coverage.

(U) During this time period, 13 HMs were promoted, four reenlisted and 13 new corpsmen joined the unit. The BAS deployed to EXERCISE LAVA VIPER supporting the Battalion in its preparations to deploy in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. This support included administering approximately 300 immunizations, performing 75 physicals, over 200 sick call encounters, and seven ground MEDEVACs to a higher level of care.

(U) Following retrograde from EXERCISE LAVA VIPER and completion of MV, 89% of the required Post-Deployment Health Re-Assessments were completed. Key training evolutions included: 5 HM's obtained Audiology Technical certification, 75 Combat Life Saver certified Marines, six HM's attended the trauma course at the Naval Trauma Training Center, eight Cold weather medicine training, 52 BLS and 25 OEMS. Additionally, the corpsmen received over 34 hours of medical didactics.

(U) The 3d Battalion, 3d Marines BAS deployed to Garmser District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. They successfully covered positions and assisted in all medical evolutions throughout the area of operations. The BAS evaluated and treated over 100 Marines and Sailors and conducted one air medical evacuation.

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SECTION III: SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

July

1-8 July	Battalion Safety & Maintenance Stand-Down
7 July	Battalion CO Town Hall Meeting
5-15 July	CAOCL Culture & Tactical Language Course
11-15 July	Kilo Co Live-Fire Training Schofield Barracks
11-15 July	Lima Co Patrol Exercise Kahukus
11-22 July	KD-21 Rifle Range
11-29 July	SPARTAN RESOLVE 4-11
15-17 July	Bayfest
18 July-4 August	EXERCISE ISLAND VIPER
25-26 July	MSG Screening

August

1-4 August	KLE Commanders Language Training
1-4 August	Lightweight 60mm Mortar Training
8-11 August	Heavy Machine Gun Sight System Fielding
8-19 August	Mentor Team Language Training
15-19 August	MCTOG COIN Academy
17-19 August	Combat Policing Course
28-31 August	EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11 RSO&I

September

1-30 September	EXERCISE MOJAVE VIPER 8-11
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October

3-7 October	OEMS/CTMM Training
7 October	Marine Corps Ball
17 October	OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2 ADVON Departs
27 October - 4 November	Mainbody OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11.2 Departs

November

1-18 November	RIP/TOA with 1st Bn 3d Mar
17 November	TOA Ceremony

SECTION IV: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Item 1: "America's Battalion celebrates 236th Marine Corps birthday in Afghanistan"
Cpl. Reece Lodder
10 November 2011
<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/79903/americas-battalion-celebrates-236th-marine-corps-birthday-afghanistan>
- Item 2: "Lest we forget: Remembrance service honors Garmsir fallen"
Cpl. Reece Lodder
15 November 2011
<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/80053/lest-we-forget-remembrance-service-honors-garmsir-fallen>
- Item 3: "Transition in Garmsir: America's Battalion replaces Lava Dogs in southern Helmand"
Cpl. Reece Lodder
17 November 2011
<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/80284/transition-garmsir-americas-battalion-replaces-lava-dogs-southern-helmand>
- Item 4: "Bringing governance to ungoverned places: District governor, Marine leaders interact with citizens of southern Garmsir"
Cpl. Reece Lodder
22 November 2011
<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/80555/bringing-governance-ungoverned-places-district-governor-marine-leaders-interact-with-citizens-southern-garmsir>
- Item 5: "Killing Time: Fighting through the wringer"
Cpl. Reece Lodder
25 November 2011
<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/80592/killing-time-fighting-through-wringer>
- Item 6: "On post or patrol, Guard Force Platoon maintains security in Garmsir"
Cpl. Reece Lodder
28 November 2011
<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/80892/post-patrol-guard-force-platoon-maintains-security-garmsir>