



**RECON REVIEW**  
**March 2011**

OEF 10-2 / 11-1



## **A WORD FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER:**

**2d Recon Family and Friends,**

**Hello to all from the men of 2d Recon Battalion Forward. I hope this finds everyone well as we pass the halfway point of our OEF deployment. As I mentioned in the last update, we started a new set of operations in mid-January, and we have been conducting those non-stop ever since. Company B has been operating for over 60 days straight and Company A for over 45 days straight. We have continued to press ahead with these operations by taking the fight to the enemy where he doesn't expect us – behind him and around him, reducing his ability to affect the surrounding areas.**



**Above: 1st Platoon, Company A engaging the enemy from inside one of the many walled compounds.**

**Below: 3rd Platoon, Company A on a mounted patrol along "Route 611" while the preferred mode of Afghan transportation passes by.**



**Sgt Lee Harris, 3rd Platoon, Company A, on a short security halt in a dry canal while on patrol in the Upper Sangin Valley.**



**We have been operating in an area called the Upper Sangin Valley (USV), which is along the Helmand River between the town of Sangin and the Kajaki Dam. Much of what is in the news about the area has to do with our sister battalion 3rd Bn, 5th Marines, who is responsible for the city of Sangin itself and the adjacent areas. We have been working to the north of them – interdicting and disrupting enemy forces, developing relationships with local leaders and villagers, and developing a better understanding of the region. The men of 2d Recon along with our attachments, enablers and Afghan partner forces do extraordinary things every day in the USV, whether it's fighting the enemy or helping the local Afghan people.**



**Sgt Patrick O'Neill (Right) and Sgt Gibson Hein (Left), 3rd Platoon, Company A, take a knee in a farm field in the upper Sangin Valley.**

Operating in this manner, we have been able to have a more sustained presence in areas that normally require a much larger force, but staying operational for 6-8 weeks straight can take its toll on men, equipment and vehicles. To offset this, we have arrayed the companies to allow us to rest, stage, and project forces against the enemy from our current positions. This has also allowed us to gain access to local Afghan leaders and villagers in our region so that we can grow and expand a “security bubble” outward from these patrol bases, thereby decreasing the insurgency’s hold in the area. We have made significant gains along these lines.



**1st Platoon, Company A patrolling through a village.**

We are fighting a determined and devious enemy whose primary tactic is laying Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in paths where he thinks we will walk or drive. Unfortunately, we have had two more Heroes in the battalion as a result (Hero is the term used out here when someone is killed in action; it is fitting, because that is exactly what they are...Heroes). On 17 February, while on a dismounted observation post, Sergeant Matthew DeYoung was struck by an IED and succumbed to his wounds early on 18 February. On 4 March, while conducting a foot patrol, Corporal Jordan Stanton was struck by an IED and unfortunately also succumbed to his wounds. These Heroes are in our thoughts and prayers as we grieve these losses along with their family members and friends.



**Members of Company A on Observation Post DeYoung after the re-enlistment of MSgt Achee and the promotion of Sgt Brokaw.**

**Kneeling: HM1 Lee Boujie, GySgt Jerry Jordan.**

**Standing: 1stSgt Rusty Stowers, Capt Geoffrey Newton, Sgt Michael Brokaw, MSgt Robbie Achee, Capt John Nobles.**

**Flags: Sgt Angel Baeza, Cpl Tyler Johnson, Sgt Tony Coy, Sgt Matthew Pike.**



**2nd Platoon, Company A removing a Taliban flag from the top of OP DeYoung while securing and occupying it.**

Because of our operational tempo and the fact that many of your loved ones are living in Spartan conditions, there are limited means of communication. We are working to expand those opportunities for your Marine or Sailor to be able to contact home. We recently received internet and phone capability for both companies in their forward locations that will provide the means to stay in touch with everyone back home on a more frequent basis.

3rd Platoon, Company B holding a Shura with local village leaders.

Seated are Sgt Will Elkins (Left) and Capt Adam Brochetti (Right); flanking them are our Afghan Army partners.



1st Platoon, Company B geared up with their vehicles before heading out.



**1st Platoon, Company B sharing chow with one of our Afghan National Army soldiers.**

**L-R: Sgt Brent Grover, SSgt Luis Pope, 1stLt Tommy Wallin, Sgt Gray (Signal Intel Marine) and Tex Baba (Interpreter)**

**We have also been able to start rotating the men back to Camp Leatherneck for a brief period to allow them time to rest, re-fit their equipment & gear, fix vehicles, and relax a little. During that time, many have been able to jump on email and phones as well as pick up any mail that had recently come in for them. The men are able to receive both letter mail and packages whether they are out operating or back at Camp Leatherneck, so please keep them coming. It's a big morale boost – probably the biggest one we have.**



**Above: Cpl Michael Keckler, Motor Transport Mechanic for H&S Company, working on one of the damaged vehicles at our compound on Camp Leatherneck.**



**Left: MSgt Cody Abel, Company B Operations Chief, recovering a downed vehicle in the Malmard area.**



**3rd Platoon, Company B**

**As always, your continued support, courage and devotion back home keep all of us going strong out here. It truly is our foundation that helps us drive on each and every day. To that end, the performance of your Marines and Sailors of 2d Recon Bn has been absolutely phenomenal. Be proud of their accomplishments; it is well-justified. Back there in Camp Lejeune, the Family Readiness Officer and numerous volunteers continue to provide information and various opportunities for spouses, fiancées, girlfriends and family members to stay in touch with each other or get together on a regular basis. Take advantage of these opportunities to expand and grow our battalion family readiness network. All my best to you...**

**Semper Fidelis,**

**LK Hussey**

**L.K. Sonny Hussey  
LtCol, USMC  
Commanding Officer**

***True hope dwells on the possible, even when life seems to be a plot written by someone who wants to see how much adversity we can overcome. True hope responds to the real world, to real life; it is an active effort. – Walter Anderson***

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**Battalion Webpage:**

**<http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndmardiv/2ndrecon/Pages/default.aspx>**

## The Chaplains Corner

### ARE YOU COMMITTED TO WHAT YOU SAY AND BELIEVE?

Commitment is a powerful word that is centered on personal integrity, honor, loyalty, and dedication to the promise or vow you have made to someone or to something. Commitments are not something a person should enter into without forethought because what we commit ourselves to represents who we are to those around us.

If you think about the word commitment, it is in all reality an interaction between personal obligations or group obligations. These obligations may be mutual, they could be self-imposed, or explicitly stated, or they may be heart felt convictions. The distinction is often made between commitment as a member of an organization; such as a sporting team, a religion, or as an employee. A personal commitment is often a pledge or a promise to oneself for personal growth, personal change, or ethical and moral checks and balances.

I must admit that there are days when I would just rather stay home than come to work, but I am committed to the ministry, to our military, and to the oath I made. There were even days that I wished that I was not married, but I made a commitment or a vow to my wife to love, honor, and cherish her until death do us part. Your integrity/honor as it pertains to commitment is truly seen by all of those around you during the difficult times or challenges that enter into your life! Will you compromise? Will you give in to the temptation of your flesh? Will you allow a situation to compromise your ethical beliefs that you have committed yourself to?

There are two old proverbs about commitment that I really like! The first says; "Stand for something or you'll fall for anything." The second and possibly the best description of commitment is "persistence with a purpose". Commitment ignites action. To commit is to pledge yourself to a certain purpose or line of conduct that represents your core beliefs. It also means practicing your beliefs consistently no matter what context you find yourself in. It means being ethically and morally right at all times. It means to stand up and say no to a group of people when you believe that what you are committed to will be compromised. At times, it means holding others accountable for the ethical and moral decisions that they are about to make.

For the person whose actions demonstrate their commitment there are great benefits in a community of people. People naturally want to do unto others as they want done unto themselves. For the couple that is committed to one another there is great peace and assurance of relationship. Where commitment is, there is open honesty! Where commitment is, there is growth of Agape love (unconditional love). Why do I love my wife more than myself? Because she openly demonstrates her commitment to me! I remain committed because she remains committed! She remains committed because I remain committed! You see, if either one of us breaks our commitment then we both fall, we both lose! Commitment generates trust, assurance, or what is ahead and unseen.

The Bible says in Matthew 12:34 (KJV) *O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.* It all comes down to what is in your heart and soul! Do not compromise to the pressures of this world but hold the line to what you believe and remain committed. May God grant you peace as you stay the course!



**Company A  
Field  
Chapel  
Service!**

The Chapel staff under the lead of RPSN Seth Turner established an MWR tent for the Battalion. This allows the men a place to come and unwind when they are out of the field. It also allows some in H&S Company who work through the night to have a place to get a snack.

If you would like to send food, RPSN Seth Turner would be grateful.