

THE BLUE DIAMOND

The official newsletter of 1st Marine Division



Print:

Fallbrook Marine awarded Silver Star Medal for heroic actions in Afghanistan



MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – In the clearness of the Afghan night, a platoon of Marines began their assigned mission. Suddenly they found themselves surrounded by enemy insurgents who initiated waves of attack on their position. Over the next six days the Marines experienced the toughest battles they saw during their deployment. Marines with 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, led by Platoon Commander 1st Lt. Kenneth Conover, defended against a six-day organized enemy attack while operating in Qaleh-ye Gaz, Afghanistan. In the midst of the attack, Conover identified and destroyed an enemy firing position, directed the employment of 38 tank main gun rounds, organized four artillery strikes and four close air support strikes. His efforts resulted in repelling 23 direct enemy attacks, 10 of which were enemy attempts to overrun their position. [Click here to read more](#)

Marine awarded Bronze Star Medal for actions during six day operation

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS--Under the cover of darkness, Marines and Afghan National Army soldiers filed from multiple helicopters and began forming a security perimeter on the outskirts of Qaleh-ye Gaz, Afghanistan. The reconnaissance element of the platoon began searching for a patrol base location, while the remaining members established communications with their company. Soon after the landing zone was secure, the platoon was pinned down by heavy fire from machineguns and mortars in the wide open terrain. As the strength of the attack increased, Staff Sgt. Joshua Brodrick, a platoon sergeant with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, knew decisive action needed to be taken to protect his Marines, eliminate the enemy and complete the mission. [Click here to read more](#)



1/7 Marine receives Silver Star Medal for heroic actions in OEF



MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. - Under a moonlit night in the heart of Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Marines with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, exited their helicopter and immediately rushed to secure the landing zone. The squad leader issued the order for a reconnaissance mission to be conducted which was followed by one of the hardest fought engagements during the battalion's deployment. Shortly after leaving the platoon, the reconnaissance squad was ambushed. They quickly found themselves under mortar and small-arms fire. With rounds impacting all around him, the squad leader directed suppressing fire, destroying nearby enemy positions and successfully repelling the ambush. [Click here to read more](#)

Culminating event strengthens interoperability at Cobra Gold

CHANTHABURI, Thailand - The roar of jets overhead diverts the attention of the crowd to the sky as aircraft drop various types of ordinance. The rumble of tanks approaching is heard at the same time as the crack of the explosion. The combined arms live-fire exercise has started. Marines from the Republic of Korea, Kingdom of Thailand and United States came together in CALFEX to officially mark the end of Cobra Gold 2014, Feb. 21 at Royal Thai Navy Tactical Training Center Ban Chan Krem, Kingdom of Thailand. [Click here to read more](#)



Thai, ROK, US Marines train, build friendships



BAN CHAN KREM, Kingdom of Thailand – Royal Thai, Republic of Korea and U.S. Marines trained together Feb. 17 at Ban Chan Krem, Kingdom of Thailand during Exercise Cobra Gold. The purpose of the day's training was to learn the tactics, techniques and procedures of the three country's mortarman military occupational specialty. [Click here to read more](#)

Exercise Cobra Gold 2014 concludes

CHANTHABURI, Thailand - Exercise Cobra Gold 2014 concluded Feb. 21 following a multilateral combined arms live-fire exercise at Royal Thai Navy Tactical Training Center Ban Chan Krem, Kingdom of Thailand. Cobra Gold is the largest multinational and multiservice exercise in Southeast Asia, which takes place annually throughout the Kingdom of Thailand. This year's iteration included forces from the U.S., Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Indonesia, and several other observer countries. [Click here to read more](#)



Cpl. Jason L. Dunham honored in dedication ceremony



TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. - Marines with 4th Platoon, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment were conducting a reconnaissance mission in Karabilah, Iraq, April 14, 2004. After the ambush of their commanding officer's convoy, Cpl. Jason L. Dunham, squad leader, led his Marines to provide fire support and were met with returning fire. [Click here to read more](#)

Video:

4 Marines with 1/7 awarded Silver Stars, Bronze Stars with Combat V

Two Marines with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment will be awarded the Silver Star and two more the Bronze Star with Combat V. All the Marines are being recognized for their actions during six days of near constant fire fights from June 22, 2012 to June 27, 2012. The Silver Star is the nation's third highest award for valor. Live from Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California. Available in high definition. [Click here to watch](#)



Cpl Jason L. Dunham Mess Hall Dedication Ceremony



The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center is holding a ceremony for the dedication of the Cpl. Jason L. Dunham Hall. The Combat Center dedicates this facility to one of its own Marines, who paid the ultimate sacrifice, saving the lives of his fellow Marines, while deployed to Iraq with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. [Click here to watch](#)