CAMPAIGN CHRONOLOGIES OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM: 2001-2008

2001

11 September 2001 – At 8:30a.m. a commercial airliner, piloted by terrorists, slammed into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the Department of Defense, just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The Marine Corps was fortunate in that no Marines were killed or seriously injured in this attack. The weekend before, most of the Department of Marine Aviation, located directly above the point of impact, had left for a weekend training exercise. The Marines who were in the Pentagon were mostly in the E-Ring, which was not directly hit by the airliner. Nearly 200 people died, which could have been much worse had the Marines been in their offices. Within hours, days, and weeks after the tragedy, Marines played a large role in the rescue and recovery effort. Including those aboard the airliner, 189 died. Of these, seven were Marines and one was a civilian Marine Corps employee.

12 September 2001 – For the first time, Marine aviators made combat sorties in the skies over the cities Gaeta, Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland. Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornets from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 321 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 251 flew combat air patrols over the cities in an effort to deter any further attacks against the United States. The sorties began on the morning of September, and resumed continued of the mission on 13 September.

September 2001 – The Marine Corps increased its prepared to set up a brigade-size amphibious unit that would, because of its size, be more effective against overseas or domestic terrorist threats. Since the terrorist attacks of 11 September the U.S. military has received numerous requests from foreign governments for assistance in combating terrorism. The Marine Corps has been asked to provide security forces, instructors to conduct training, and Marines to man Marine Security Guard detachments. The Marine Corps has also been asked to provide Helicopter Rescue Force, each bringing a measure of expertise. Close behind and engaged, claimed a Marine officer, the brigade could be ready to deploy in two weeks.

10 October 2001 – The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), which deployed from Okinawa, Japan, and the Marines and sailors of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, arrived in the Arabian Sea, where, it is believed by some, a group of terrorist attackers and leaders, who were responsible for the September attacks against the United States, are being sought out and destroyed.

10 October 2001 – The pilots of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VF) Jacksonville flew the Marine Hornets to be engaged in combat in Operations Enduring Freedom. The squadron, based at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., deployed to Bahrain, where it will be attached to the Marine Aviation Detachment, Marine Corps Forces, Central Command, Operations Enduring Freedom, Marine Aviation Detachment (carrying approximately 100 Marines, was leading one of the four Marine fighter groups in the region.

11 October 2001 – The Marines and sailors of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) were on a lockout recovery of aircraft and personnel (MARO) to salvage the wreckage of a U.S. Army AH-64D Black Hawk that crashed in Pakistan on October. The Marines, from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., were aboard the Amphibious Assault Ship USS Bataan (LHD-5).

12 October 2001 – The Marines and sailors of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) were ordered to Marine Corps Outlying Landing Field Atsugi, Japan, to be ready to deploy to the Arabian Sea, where they will provide security for the base and conduct training operations to force operations in the Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf, and Mediterranean Sea, according to Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, Marine Corps Base Camp Smith, Hawaii.

26 November 2001 – For the first time since the Gulf War, the Marine Corps initiated a limited strike-force strike, which was approximately 100 Marines and sailors from the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., deployed to the Arabian Sea aboard the Amphibious Assault Ship USS Bataan (LHD-5) to the Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Ben Germain) and they will affiliate forces serving as military officers, officers, officers, officers, and leader, or number of Marines, sailors, and civilians, according to Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, Marine Corps Base Camp Smith, Hawaii.

26 November 2001 – The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) arrived in Afghanistan, becoming the first team of U.S. ground troops in the country since the Soviet Union withdrew its forces in 1989. The Marines, from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., will conduct a variety of a seven-victims sorties attempted to run the headless, was restricted by controlled by overseas and wide, and the passengers flight plan for the Marine Corps Forces Central Command, Operations Enduring Freedom, Marine Aviation Detachment (carrying approximately 100 Marines, was leading one of the four Marine fighter groups in the region.

10 December 2001 – USS Bataan (LHD-5) departed the Arabian Sea, the final embarkation point for the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), carrying an Operations Staff, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 251, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (VMM) 263, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Marines and sailors from the

23 November 2003 - Marines with 2d Battalion, 8th Marines MEU (Special Operations Capable) fire their Howitzers in support of the French Commando Marine Corps. The American platoon trained alongside French Foreign Legionnaires during the three-week course which ended with a combined exercise in the Mediterranean Sea. Operation Trident Lance was the first time that a US Marine unit has been attached to a French Foreign Legion unit.

25 November 2003 - Marines with 2d Battalion, 8th Marines MEU (Special Operations Capable) fire a French platoon's Howitzer. The deployment of the French platoon was the first time that a US Marine unit has been attached to a French Foreign Legion unit. The French Foreign Legion Regiment Parachutiste d'Infanterie de Marine (RPIMa) attached 4 Alpinian MEU-MEP earlier in the year as the unit responsible for providing helicopter support to the French Marines.

26 November 2003 - Marines from 2d Battalion, 8th Marines (SOC) prepare their Howitzers for combat. Combined joint Task Force 180 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom was the first time that a US Marine unit has been attached to a French Foreign Legion unit. The French platoon was attached to the US Marines for the duration of the exercise. The French platoon was the first foreign military unit to be attached to the US Marines since duty with Operation Rear Area during the 2001 campaign began.

1 December 2003 - Marines from the Marine Corps Reserve conducted the 15 mentioned-forty-two-hour training Operation Iraqi Freedom at a company level. The training was conducted at Camp Pendleton, California. The training was conducted at company level because of the lack of time available for an entire company, administered the crowd of 2,000. A bronze plaque with the 15 names was also placed at 34 BAM headquarters as a permanent memorial to the 15 Marines.

9 December 2003 - One hundred forty-nine Marine reservists with Company C, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Battalion received their Medal of Valor for their actions during the battle of Al Kut, Iraq. The Marines were attached to Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division during the battle of Al Kut. The Marines were the first Marine Reserve unit to be attached to a regular unit.

10 December 2003 - Marine Sgt Christopher Chandler, who lost his left leg below the knee after stepping on a land mine in Kandahar, Afghanistan, was the first Marine to receive the Purple Heart for a wound received during Operation Enduring Freedom. Chandler was the graduate from the U.S. Army Ranger Airborne Course. Sgt Chandler not only graduated the challenging jump school but was selected as the top student in his graduating class.

12 December 2003 - Marine reservists cadaver formed a key president Saddam Hussein after discovering him hidden deep in the dirt of a farmhouse near his hometown of Tikrit. The Marines were attached to the Army's 4th Infantry Division.

2004

1 January 2004 - The first ship of the massive Iraqi invasion in the Persian Gulf region for the next stage of Operation Iraqi Freedom began on the contract gear for the deploying Marines get underway. Marines were set to replace returning army units and assist in the rebuilding of Iraq. The Marines were from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) and were the first Marine units to deploy to Iraq.

27 January 2004 - The preliminary hearing for three Marine reservists accused of brutally beating Iraq POWs at the Abbanian detention facility in Nasiriyah, Iraq, ended with the Marines being ordered to stand trial. The Marines were accused of using their rifle butts, knees and boots and kicked and beat the three Marines faced negligent homicide charges after an Iraq POW was found dead following the beatings.

29 January 2004 - Commander of the Marine Corps, General Michael P. Hagee addressed the House Armed Services Committee and stated that the Marine Corps would be able to meet its commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Gen Hagee said that the Marine Corps would be able to meet its commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2005.

12 February 2004 - The first wave of Marines from the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) deployed from their home station of Marine Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, to Iraq. The Marines were the first Marine Corps Air Station to deploy to Iraq. The Marines were the first Marine aviation units to deploy to Iraq.

16 February 2004 - Marine Sgt Jason Dunham was the 1st USMC Medal of Honor Recipient for Iraq (2003) or Afghanistan. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle of Al Karimah, Iraq. Sgt Dunham was a member of Company K, 3d Battalion, 8th Marines, and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 266 (reinforced) as well as the command section and MEU Service Support Group-31.

17 February 2004 - Marine Sgt Jason Dunham was the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle of Al Karimah, Iraq. Marines from I MEF were attached to Iraqi forces on the ground forces fleeing a Kohl Airborne Division and set the precedence for use of the Iraqi military in the future.

1 March 2004 - The Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group completed the longest convoy in the unit's history after travelling approximately 1,000 miles from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, to Camp Fallujah, Iraq. The convoy was the longest convoy in the unit's history and was the longest convoy in the Marine Corps since the Vietnam War. The convoy was the longest convoy in the Marine Corps since the Vietnam War.

15 March 2004 - A military investigation recommended the charges against two of three Marines reservists facing punishment in the death of Iraqi prisoners in Nasiriyah, Iraq, be dropped. The Marines were accused of using their rifle butts, knees and boots to beat the Iraqi prisoners, although they were not required to follow the recommendations. Three weeks later, it was announced that the more serious charge of negligent homicide against the three Marines was dropped. The Marines were accused of using their rifle butts, knees and boots to beat the Iraqi prisoners, although they were not required to follow the recommendations.

17 March 2004 - The Marines of the 24th MEU, as part of the Iraqi 2003-2, entered the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations when they transited the Suez Canal. The Marines were the first Marine unit to transit the Suez Canal since the beginning of the Operation Enduring Freedom. The Marines were already in country prior to the deployment of the 24th MEU, including 2d Battalion, 8th Marines, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 (reinforced), and the command element and MEU Service Support Group-24.

17 March 2004 - Marine Sgt Jason Dunham was the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle of Al Karimah, Iraq. Marines from I MEF were attached to Iraqi forces on the ground forces fleeing a Kohl Airborne Division and set the precedence for use of the Iraqi military in the future.

17 March 2004 - The Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group completed the longest convoy in the unit's history after travelling approximately 1,000 miles from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, to Camp Fallujah, Iraq. The convoy was the longest convoy in the unit's history and was the longest convoy in the Marine Corps since the Vietnam War. The convoy was the longest convoy in the Marine Corps since the Vietnam War.

19 March 2004 - A military investigation recommended the charges against two of three Marines reservists facing punishment in the death of Iraqi prisoners in Nasiriyah, Iraq, be dropped. The Marines were accused of using their rifle butts, knees and boots to beat the Iraqi prisoners, although they were not required to follow the recommendations. Three weeks later, it was announced that the more serious charge of negligent homicide against the three Marines was dropped. The Marines were accused of using their rifle butts, knees and boots to beat the Iraqi prisoners, although they were not required to follow the recommendations.

7 April 2004 - Marines from 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, and 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, shut down access to the volatile Iraqi city of Fallujah in order to stop the insurgent attacks against the Marines. The Marines were the first Marine units to be ordered to shut down access to the city and mobilization of Iraqi American contractors. The Marine fighting throughout the month with numerous Marines dead or wounded and with hundreds of Iraqi insurgents killed. The Marines were the first Marine units to be ordered to shut down access to the city and mobilization of Iraqi American contractors. Marines fighting throughout the month with numerous Marines dead or wounded and with hundreds of Iraqi insurgents killed. Marines including parts of Baghdad, Kut, Karbala, and Najaf, as an area known as the "Sunni triangle".

8 April 2004 - Marine Sgt Jason Dunham was the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor posthumously. Marines of the Marine Corps Eighths Joint Campaign paid a visit to the Marines serving in Iraq two days after visiting Marine serving in Afghanistan. Both trips were well received by the troops as they were visited by the Marines of the Marine Corps Eighths Joint Campaign. Marines of the Marine Corps Eighths Joint Campaign paid a visit to the Marines serving in Iraq.

9 April 2004 - The USS MELVILLE completed its more-only-Afghanistan. The Marines were under operational control of Combined Joint Task Force 180 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Marines were the first Marine unit to be ordered to shut down access to the city and mobilization of Iraqi American contractors.

9 April 2004 - The Marines presented Sgt Jason Dunham's widow with the Medal of Honor. The Marines were the first Marine unit to be ordered to shut down access to the city and mobilization of Iraqi American contractors. The Marine fighting throughout the month with numerous Marines dead or wounded and with hundreds of Iraqi insurgents killed. The Marines were the first Marine units to be ordered to shut down access to the city and mobilization of Iraqi American contractors.

9 April 2004 - Marines from 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, and 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, shut down access to the volatile Iraqi city of Fallujah in order to stop the insurgent attacks against the Marines. The Marines were the first Marine units

causing the devastating blast.

2 December 2006 – Marines with 3/Bastion, 3/Marines, conducted Operation Marne in Garmsir, Helmand, Iraq. The operation was the fifth in a series of operations by Iraq Army and Coalition Forces conducted in that desolate region.

4 December 2006 – Marines with 1/8/8th Marines begin deploying to Iraq to relieve the Marines of the Marine Corps' artillery unit. The mission assigned each artillery regiment battalion headquarters and battery headquarters and various military operations (OMOs). The artillery regiment battalion headquarters and battery headquarters were assigned to the Marine Corps' Iraqi Transition Teams (ITTs).

5 December 2006 – Marines with 1/8/Bravo Company, 1st Platoon, 1st Squad, 1st Fire Team, 1st Rifleman, Lance Corporal Jeffrey Ramsell, Iraq.

7 December 2006 – Marines with 1/8/67 began deploying Iraq to relieve the Marines of 1/8/67 in the fourth large-scale deployment the Marine Corps had undertaken in the past two years in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. More than 25,000 Marines and sailors with 1/8/67 were deployed to Iraq in the fourth large-scale deployment.

20 December 2006 – An advance group of Marines from 2/Bastion, 3/Marines, 3/Bastion, Marines belonging to Kilo Company, 3/Marines, 3/Bastion, Marines, 3/Bastion, Marines, 3/Bastion,

2 June 2008 – Gen James N. Mattis testified during a hearing at Camp Pendleton that he neither sought nor received advice from an assistant whose counsel would have tainted the military's case against troops connected to the killing of Iraqi civilians in Haditha, Iraq. Gen Mattis denied any conflict of interests in his decision to send LtCol Jeffery Chessani to court-martial for failing to properly investigate or report the Haditha incident. The military judge in charge later determined Gen Mattis was improperly influenced and dismissed all charges against LtCol Chessani on 17 June.

4 June 2008 – 1stLt Andrew A. Grayson was acquitted of all charges against him in connection with the killings of 24 Iraqi civilians in Haditha on 19 November 2005. Although not present at the scene of the killings, he was accused of telling a sergeant to delete photographs of the dead from a digital camera and laptop computer.

26-27 July 2008 – Marines with 1st Battalion, 2d Marines, shipped out from Camp Lejeune for a seven-month deployment to Iraq's Al Anbar Province in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

29 July 2008 – Prosecutors appealed the decision to dismiss charges against LtCol Jeffrey Chessani in connection with the killing of 24 Iraqi civilians in Haditha in November 2005. Charges of failing to investigate and report the incident were dropped 17 June 2008. LtCol Chessani was the highest-ranking officer to face charges in the case.

__ August 2008 – The Pentagon ordered roughly 1,250 Marines serving in Afghanistan as trainers with Afghan security forces to stay in country for a month longer than originally planned. The Marines of 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, were ordered to stay the extra 30 days just one month after the tour was also extended for 24th MEU.

8 August 2008 – LtGen Samuel T. Helland, the commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Central Command, ordered Sgt Ryan Weemer to court-martial on charges of unpremeditated murder and dereliction of duty in the killing of unarmed detainees in Fallujah, Iraq, on 9 November 2004. The case came to light in 2006 when Sgt Weemer volunteered details to a U.S. Secret Service interviewer during a polygraph screening that included a question about the most serious crime he had ever committed. Two other Marines were also implicated in the crime and were facing charges.

14 August 2008 – About 120 Marines from 2d Battalion, 3d Marines, began returning home to Marine Corps Base Hawaii following a seven-month deployment to Iraq. The rest of the unit was scheduled to return later in the month. The next day, more than 1,000 Marines and sailors from 2d Battalion, 24th Marines, also began returning home to Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms, California, following a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

19 August 2008 – The civilian trial for former Marine Sgt Jose Nazario, Jr., in the death of unarmed Iraqi detainees in Fallujah, Iraq, in November 2004, began. The trial marked the first time a little-known federal law had been used to prosecute a former Marine or soldier for actions during combat. Former Sgt Nazario was the first of three Marines to go on trial in connection with the case.

26 August 2008 – Iraqi leaders signed the Command and Control Memorandum of Understanding in a ceremony at the Anbar Governance Center in the Al Anbar Province, a step towards taking full control and responsibility for security from Coalition forces.

28 August 2008 – A civilian jury acquitted former Marine Sgt Jose Nazario, Jr., of all charges after six hours of deliberation in connection with the death of unarmed Iraqi detainees in Fallujah, in November 2004. Two Marines, Sgt Ryan Weemer and Sgt Jermaine Nelson, still faced court-martial in the case and were found in contempt of court for refusing to testify against their former squadmate during his trial.

1 September 2008 – Iraqi security forces assumed responsibility for security of Al Anbar Province. The Marine Corps main area of operation, Al Anbar was the 11th of Iraq's 18 provinces to come under provincial Iraqi control. Marines remained deployed to the area to provide support and training to the Iraqi security forces.

5 September 2008 – Marines and sailors from 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, and Combat Logistics Battalion 7 (CLB-7) returned home to Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms following a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Ten days later, on the 15th, the last group of more than 700 Marines and sailors from CLB-6 also returned from Iraq to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

8 September 2008 – U.S. Marines from the 24th MEU turned over responsibility for Garmser in the southern province of Helmand to the British and Afghans. Marines re-took the key town from Taliban militants in an operation earlier in the year.

16 September 2008 – Marines from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31 began returning home to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina, following a seven-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

17 September 2008 – Navy Secretary Donald C. Winter announced he would award the Navy Cross to Sgt Rafael Peralta, who pulled an enemy grenade to his body before it exploded on 15 November 2004 during fighting in Fallujah, Iraq. The announcement surprised many who believed Sgt Peralta should have been awarded the Medal of Honor and lead to numerous calls from lawmakers and others for the case to be reviewed.

23 September 2008 – Marines with 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, began deploying to Al Anbar Province in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

1 October 2008 – Marine Corps Forces, Central Command transferred operational control of Marine Corps forces in the Horn of Africa region to the newly established Marine Corps Forces Africa under the fledgling U.S. Africa Command.

9 October 2008 – About 500 Marines from 2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion returned home to Camp Lejeune following a seven-month deployment to Iraq with the rest of the unit following later in the week.

13 October 2008 – Marines with the 24th MEU began cycling out of Afghanistan after an eight-month deployment to the country in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Marines returned in waves throughout the coming weeks.

__November 2008 – Marines and sailors with 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, began returning to the U.S. following an unexpected deployment to Afghanistan. Originally scheduled to deploy to Iraq, the unit was instead sent to Afghanistan in April to help overwhelmed NATO forces. The phased return home was completed in early December.

2 November 2008 – Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 began leaving Camp Pendleton to begin another seven-month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

14 November 2008 – The last of the 3,000 Marines stationed in Fallujah, Iraq, were pulled out of the city center as part of the U.S. plan to hand security operations for the city over to Iraqi security forces.

14 November 2008 – MARADMIN 633/08 announced new requirements for Marines readying for deployment to war zones. Marines now must undergo "baseline predeployment neurocognitive testing" four to six months prior to deployment. The goal of the screening is to assess whether a Marine is mentally able to deploy and gives the Corps test results that doctors can refer to if the Marine is later involved in any violent action that can impact brain function.

3 December 2008 – Marines with RCT-5 finalized the demilitarization of the Haditha Dam located along the Euphrates River in Iraq. Security for the area was turned over to the Iraqi government.

8 December 2008 – MARADMIN 689/09 was signed, allowing for Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Marines on involuntary orders to voluntarily extend to remain deployed.

Reference Branch
History Division

Hosted by Defense Media Activity - WEB.mil

Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1