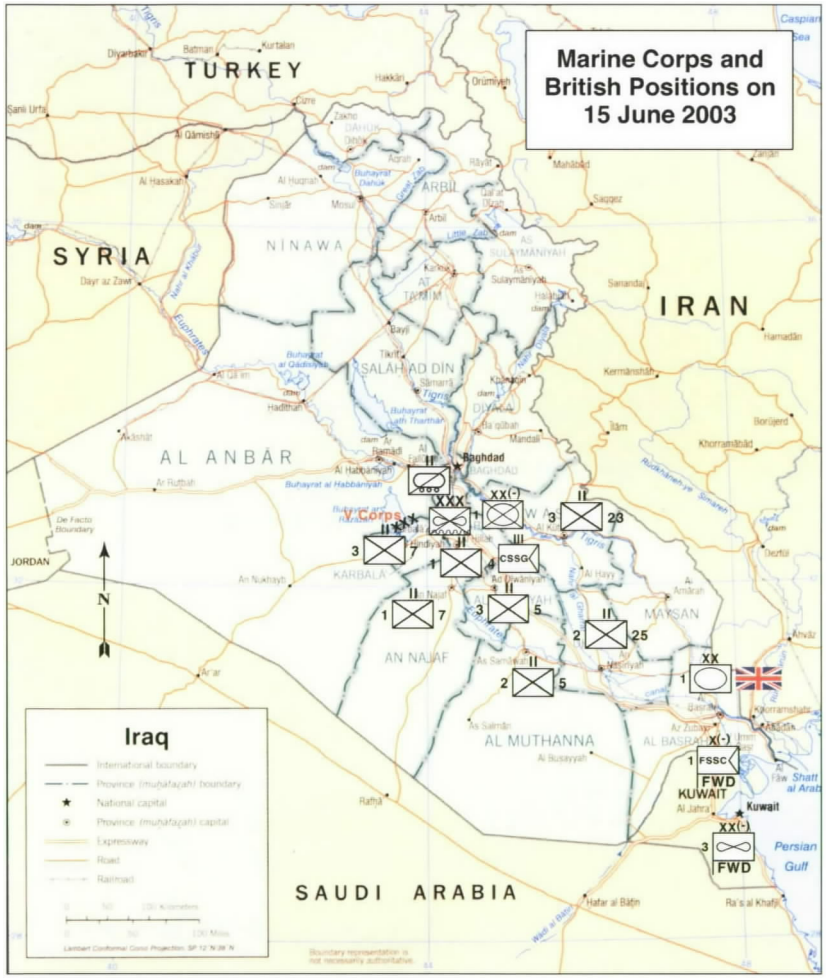


The geographical locations of Marine and British units based on their provincial responsibilities.

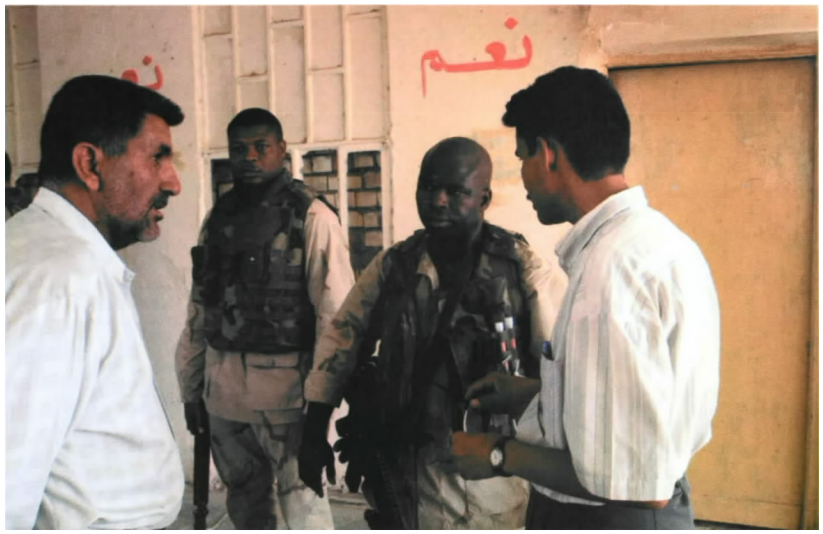
The 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, remained in An Nasiriyah where the local police, fire, and sanitation departments had either been heavily looted or destroyed. Two local police stations were in disarray and the police had gone into hiding. On 23 April, 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, was the only law enforcement organization in

Task Force Scorpion preparing to move out on patrol from Forward Logistics Base Dogwood.

An Nasiriyah and Lieutenant Colonel Murphy directed the establishment of a new police department. Major David J. Wolf, the battalion air officer and a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent in his civilian job, and Captain James J. Schutta, the battalion assistant operations officer and a New York City police officer, took charge of the mission. Since many of the Marines in the battalion had law enforcement training, the unit recruited and trained the new An Nasiriyah police force. The local police force

grew from 60 in April to 600 by the end of July.

On 10 May, 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, was assigned the security mission for the entire Dhi-Qar Province. Upon assuming this extended mission, Lieutenant Colonel Murphy became the military governing authority for the entire Dhi-Qar Province. Company E moved north to the city of Ash Shatra and maintained security and stability for the northern section of the province. The company's secondary mission was assisting in the civil operations within this area. Companies F and G, as well as Headquarters and Service Company and Weapons Company, remained in An Nasiriyah.



Sgt Terrance D. James and SSgt Tony C. Harden from Weapons Company, 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, listen as a translator discusses the needs of El Gadisiyatian Middle School with the school principal in An Nasiriyah, June 2003.

During May 2003, the U.S. Army 402d Civil Affairs Brigade joined the command, greatly enhancing the civil affairs capability of 2d Battalion, 25th Marines. This strengthened the battalion's ability to solve problems

Marines in overwatch position during a patrol conducted by Task Force Scorpion.

SSgt Trent Nara from Weapons Company, 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, issues an AK-47 rifle to a member of the An Nasiriyah police force, April 2003. Many of the Marines in the 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, served in civilian law enforcement jobs and assisted the city of An Nasiriyah in rebuilding their police force after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime.

concerning water quality and supply; fuel production; sewage and sanitation; electrical power; hospital, school, police, and fire department reconstruction; food and medical distribution; and insecticide spraying. Also during this time, 11 different non-governmental organizations performed services in the Dhi-Qar Province with the battalion providing security for them. Additionally, the security of the electrical facilities and the fuel and propane lines demanded a concerted effort between 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, and the Iraqi police.

In May, Human Exploitation Team 17 joined the 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, assisting in the systematic search of the Dhi-Qar Province for Iraqi war criminals, former Baath Party members, Fedayeen militants, Al-Qaeda terrorists, Iranian insurgents, and local criminals. Numerous raids over a five-month period yielded approximately 20 prisoners. These prisoners were held and interrogated at Camp Whitehorse. In June, the battalion conducted a successful raid, which apprehended Sheik Rasheed, a suspected organizer of an Iranian backed terrorist group.

On 20 July, 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, completed a relief in place with Italian forces and began movement to Kuwait. By the end of the month, the battalion returned to United States after extensive service in Homeland Defense and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

3d Battalion, 23d Marines

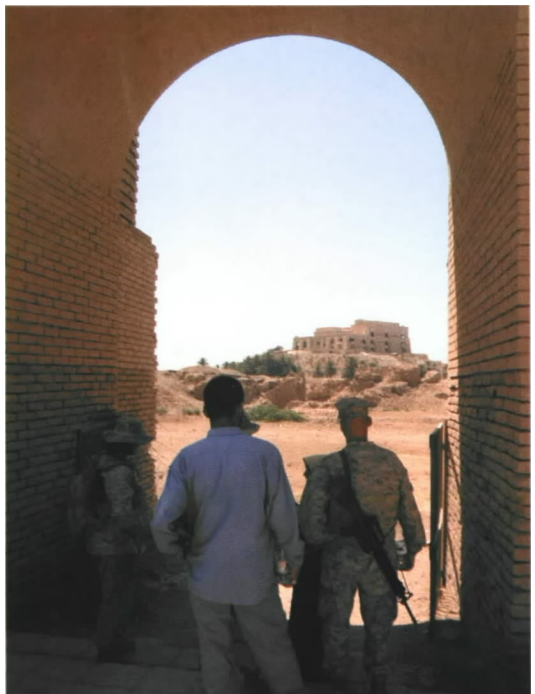
In March 2003, 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, mobilized and made preparations for deployment to Southwest Asia. From 9 March to 20 April, the battalion trained at the Marine Corps bases at Camp Pendleton and Twentynine Palms, California. The battalion focused its training on patrolling, small arms live fire, combined arms exercises with artillery and close air support, and urban warfare.

Retired Marine and host of the History Channel's "Mail Call" program R. Lee Ermey with the Marines of 3d Battalion, 23d Marines.

Headquarters for Company I, 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, at the Zulu Castle, a fortress built by Iraq during its war with Iran in the 1980s. Located northeast of Al Kut approximately 1 kilometer from the Iranian border, this site was used to monitor border crossings.

In late April, the battalion deployed to Kuwait and moved into Iraq by the end of the month. By 1 May, the battalion completed its movement to Al-Kut in the Wassit Province and relieved 2d Battalion, 8th Marines. Company L, 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, moved to the city of An Numaniyah and relieved 3d Battalion, 2d Marines.

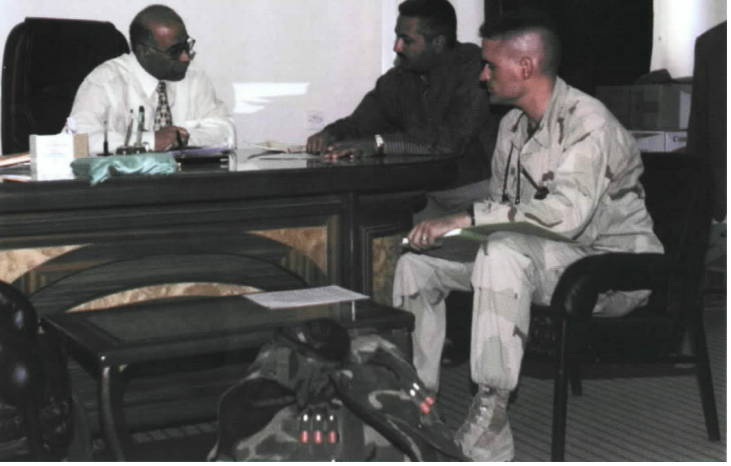
The 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, monitoring the border crossing along the Iraq/Iran border. Iranian troops stand on the berm in the background while Ukrainian troops (left foreground) and Marines work together.



Marines from the 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, and the 4th Civil Affairs Group take a minute to picture what once stood on an area of ruins dating back to 628 B.C.

In conducting security and stability operations throughout the Wassit Province, 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, deployed its companies in the cities of An Numaniyah, Al Aziziyah, Al Zubidiyah, Al Suwayrah, Al Hurar, Al Haay, Al Badrah and Muffuahaq.

From May to August, 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, established vehicle checkpoints, provided public infrastructure protection, conducted patrols and raids on suspected Baath Party loyalist positions and weapons caches, and performed vehicle and house searches. The battalion was also responsible for providing airfield security for the base at Blair Field in Al Kut and dispatched some of its forces eastward for ground and heliborne



Capt Sean R. Dunn, Staff Judge Advocate for 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, talks with Chief Judge Jahour Mahoud at a courthouse in Al Kut. Capt Dunn worked with the Iraqi court system as the country transitioned from the authoritarian rule of Saddam Hussein.

patrols along the Iranian border. In addition, 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, assisted in the reconstruction of the local government and the reorganization and training of the Wassit Province Police Department.

After completing its mission in August, 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, turned over operations to Ukrainian forces and moved to Kuwait. The battalion returned to the United States in September 2003.

Marine Forces Reserve Intelligence Section

A reinforced squad of 14 Marines from the sensor control and management platoon joined the 2d MEB in January 2003 and deployed to Kuwait. This squad consisted of two sensor employment teams and one team of intelligence analysts that worked with the brigade's intelligence section. Both sensor teams moved to the Kuwaiti border with Iraq before the ground assault, employing and monitoring sensors against Iraqi infiltration and probing operations. When the ground war began, one sensor team moved forward with Task Force Tarawa into the city of An Nasiriyah and conducted perimeter security operations. When Task Force Tarawa entered Al Kut, the second sensor team moved forward providing convoy security until joining the brigade's forward element. When the two sensor teams rejoined, they were attached to the 4th Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion and used in the town of Badrah along the border between

Entrance to Camp Babylon.

Iraq and Iran. The teams conducted sensor operations for 10 days before returning to Al Kut. The sensor teams continued supporting the brigade for several weeks in the Al Kut region until May.

The Production and Analysis Company deployed three detachments in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. A detachment of 35 Marines was mobilized in January 2003 and worked with the I Marine Expeditionary Force, augmenting the staff of the 1st Intelligence Battalion. This detachment traveled to Kuwait and was assigned to the Tactical Exploitation Group. The group provided time-sensitive interpretation of imagery received from a variety of sources, including national and theater level collection platforms. The group also identified hundreds of Iraqi order-of-battle targets, provided bomb damage assessments from coalition aircraft, and built databases of high-priority targets.

Another detachment, consisting of four Marines, was assigned to the Photographic Interpretation Group within I Marine Expeditionary Force. This group provided in-depth analysis of combat imagery to units in the 1st Marine Division. Hundreds of feet of film was analyzed and combined with topographic products, providing commanders with detailed mapping of Iraqi armored and mechanized units. Subsequently, Marines from this detachment served in the intelligence operations center working in collections and targeting operations.

The third detachment consisted of 14 Marines, which

worked at the imagery branch of the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity in Suitland, Maryland, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. These Marines assisted in the creation of terrain studies used by combat forces during operations in Iraq. The duties performed by this detachment included the following: analyzing the suitability of roadways for movement routes of coalition forces; participating in studies of potential expeditionary airfield sites; and the development of studies on coastal landing locations.

In preparation for Operation Iraqi Freedom, 15 Marines from the counterintelligence section deployed to Kuwait and conducted human intelligence missions in February 2003. Later, a detachment of six Marines moved to Northern Iraq and served as a human intelligence exploitation team with U.S. Army Special Forces. In addition, 32 Marines served with I MEF in various operations in the Horn of Africa, Bahrain, and Iraq.

Marines from the 3d and 4th Civil Affairs Group provided a critical link between the Iraqi population and coalition forces in rebuilding the country.

3d and 4th ANGLICO

The 3d and 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Companies (ANGLICO) were mobilized and sent to Southwest Asia. These units, along with Marines from 1st ANGLICO, provided supporting arms liaison teams and firepower control teams to the regimental combat teams in the 1st Marine Division as well as to elements within the United Kingdom's 1st Armored Division. During combat operations, these Marines directed fire support for I MEF and made a significant contribution in the destruction of Iraqi armor, artillery, air defense, and infantry.

During the security and stability operations, Marines from 3d and 4th ANGLICO guarded contractors working in the Rumaylah oilfields, patrolled the border with Iran, and provided coalition liaison support for I MEF. Serving in the role of coalition liaison support, the ANGLICO Marines provided fire control teams to the Polish, Spanish, and Ukrainian brigades. The fire control teams specifically provided fire support planning and coordination in the use of Marine air support.

Marines from the 3d Civil Affairs Group, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, and 1st Combat Engineer Battalion engage paramilitary forces in a firefight near the Palestine Hotel in downtown Baghdad.

3d and 4th Civil Affairs Groups

During security and stability operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 3d and 4th Civil Affairs Groups provided an important bridge between the Iraqi population and Marine units assigned with the civil and military

BGen James L. Williams, the commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Command Element, presents the Bronze Star Medal to SSgt Jeremy E. Stafford during a ceremony at the Parker Center, Los Angeles Police Department Headquarters. SSgt Stafford, a weapons instructor with the Los Angeles Police Department Training Division, received the naval service's fourth highest award for heroism for his actions as a Civil Affairs Team Chief in combat operations near Sumar, Iraq, April 2003.

SSgt Dan D. Conners, a civil affairs team chief with the 4th Civil Affairs Group, and Maj Richard Howell, the civil affairs team officer in charge, meet with local government officials in As Samawah to solve problems with the town's water system.

functions in various cities and provinces in southern Iraq. The civil affairs teams supervised the selection of town councils, distributed salaries to local civil servants, supervised the restoration of local infrastructure and utilities, and assisted in the return of regular operations for the local banking system. Additionally, the teams performed a vital function in creating critical links between coalition forces and religious, tribal, and political leaders.

GySgt Joel Pearson of the 4th Civil Affairs Group, attached to Task Force Tarawa, hands out newsletters to the people of Al Kut at a newly reopened municipal building. The newsletter provided information about the Marine Corps' efforts to return public services to normal operations.

Air Operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom

The reserve contribution to the aviation component of the Marine air-ground logistics team was extensive in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The following units and sections in the 4th Marine

Gen Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, answers questions from members of Marine Aircraft Group 42, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, in a hanger near the flight line at Naval Air Station, Belle Chase, Louisiana.