As the Department of Defense scales back military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, units on the ground are faced with the challenge of accomplishing their mission with fewer resources. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) in Afghanistan turned to Palantir to help them maintain and even improve operational effectiveness during drawdown.

THE PROBLEM

Improving the efficiency of Relief in Place/Transfer of Authority (RIP/TOA) processes becomes even more crucial during drawdown. At the Center for Marine Expeditionary Intelligence Knowledge (CMEIK), where instructors train tactical intelligence analysts on the tools they will be using during upcoming deployments, trainees must learn to use several different, independently developed systems to execute their most common workflows. When they arrive in Afghanistan, incoming units have two weeks to conduct Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield (IPB). They need to locate and integrate intelligence previously collected by the outgoing unit, but this information is often spread across different shared drives and desktops, which restricts access to previous analysis, makes the data difficult to search against, and risks the outright loss of valuable intelligence.

PALANTIR’S SOLUTION

With strategically placed servers, both CONUS and OCONUS, Palantir Defense has made dramatic improvements to the USMC RIP/TOA process. By integrating Palantir Defense’s analytic platform and Nexus Peering capability into all critical training modules, the CMEIK is able to train analysts on live data from theater, providing realistic pre-deployment training scenarios that mirror the operational environment. Inspired by Silicon Valley design principles, Palantir Defense includes an award-winning, intuitive user interface that enables new users to attain basic familiarity in hours, proficiency in days, and power user status within weeks. And because users at home stations now have access to intelligence as the units on the ground collect it, incoming personnel are able to conduct their own IPB and targeting prior to deployment. Continuity of operations has been made significantly smoother by Palantir Defense’s usability and data integration capabilities. As force reductions continue, Palantir Defense increases efficiency at every point in the RIP/TOA process, allowing units to leverage the full capabilities of their shops regardless of how many people are deployed forward.

PALANTIR’S IMPACT & RESULTS

» With global knowledge management capabilities, the USMC has been able to increase confidence in intelligence reporting, eliminate duplicative analysis, and maintain the integrity of the Marine Corps knowledgebase.

» The amount of time required for training has decreased by 50%.

» With analysts CONUS working on live data from theater, the USMC will be able to maintain current operations while sending fewer troops forward, thereby reducing costs and keeping more Marines out of harm’s way.

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