

FIELDING AN ADVANCED ANALYTIC CAPABILITY IN A WAR ZONE

THE STORY

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) needed an advanced analytical capability that could address the unique challenges that analysts face in a war zone.

In a hostile operating environment, several factors disrupt the real-time flow of the latest intelligence across all military echelons. Operating with low bandwidth and limited connectivity, forward companies often lack an accurate and updated intelligence picture of the area of operations. Meanwhile, the information that analysts at reachback facilities need in order to support forward units is typically spread across disconnected databases and cannot be accessed through a single interface. For these reasons, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) sought an advanced analytic capability that could integrate its existing data sources quickly, improve situational awareness at all echelons, reduce the amount of time users spent searching for data, and empower analysts to focus on complex, higher-level analytic tasks.

OUR SOLUTION

We fielded Palantir Defense to the USMC in Afghanistan in February 2011 to fulfill their need for an advanced analytic capability. Palantir Defense includes Palantir Forward, a specialized stand-alone version of the platform for disconnected use. Palantir Forward provided forward units at the battalion and company level with multi-dimensional analytic capabilities and automatically synchronized new data when connectivity to base stations was restored. Palantir Defense also includes our Nexus Peering capability, which gave analysts at CONUS and OCONUS reachback access to all theater intelligence, empowering them to provide real-time support to units down range. USMC analysts used Palantir's data integration, search, discovery, and analytic capabilities to fuse data in ways never before possible. Analysts detected correlations between weather data and command wire IED attacks and linked biometrics collected on explosive devices to individuals and bomb-making networks. With all data integrated into a single environment, the USMC gained a unified, synchronized intelligence picture from analysts at base to company level intelligence cells on the front lines.

IMPACT & RESULTS

*Our engineers had the server at a forward operating base online and operational **within one hour of arrival** and uploaded all the data from the headquarters server that same night.*

*"Employment of Palantir does not require any change to the SOPs/habits Marines have operated in the past, but rather enables the analysts, at the lowest level, to perform analysis from the full spectrum of information in Military databases. **The speed Palantir brings to analysis truly allows the Marine Corps Intelligence Community to drive operations more rapidly and accurately than ever before.**" - U.S. Marine, 1st RECON BN, S-2/A*