

FIELDING AN ADVANCED ANALYTIC CAPABILITY IN A WAR ZONE

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) needed an advanced analytical capability that could address the unique challenges that analysts face in a war zone. They chose to deploy the Palantir Defense solution to Marines in Helmand and Nimroz Provinces, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

THE PROBLEM

In a hostile operating environment, several factors conspire to 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 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.

PALANTIR'S SOLUTION

Palantir Defense was fielded to the USMC in Afghanistan in February 2011 to answer their need for an advanced analytic capability. Palantir Defense includes provided Palantir Forward, a specialized standalone version of the analytic platform for disconnected use in low-bandwidth environments. 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 Palantir's Nexus Peering capability, which gave analysts at CONUS and OCONUS reachback facilities access to all theater intelligence as it was updated, empowering them to provide real-time support to units downrange. USMC analysts used Palantir Defense's data integration and 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 its data integrated into a single collaborative environment, the Marines have created a unified, synchronized intelligence picture stretching from analysts in Quantico, VA all the way to company level intelligence cells on the front lines.

PALANTIR'S IMPACT & RESULTS

- » Palantir's forward deployed 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.
- » Helicopter Landing Zone Analysis that formerly took over two days is now completed **in a matter of hours**.
- » "Employment of Palantir does not require any change to the SOPs/habits Marines have operated in the past, but rather enable 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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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