

(WEST PALM BEACH) ---- Congressman Allen West (FL-22) met with Marines from the 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liason Company(ANGLICO) today in West Palm Beach to learn about their experiences serving in Afghanistan in preparation for the Congressman's own trip to Afghanistan, June 24th.

Congressman West met for an hour with Marines who have recently returned from tours in the war torn country. The group discussed the challenges Marines face in Afghanistan, the equipment being used, and the overall mission itself.

"Before I travel to Afghanistan, it is imperative that I talk with members of our Armed Forces and learn about their experiences," West said. "These brave warriors are on the ground fighting this fight, and no one knows better than they do, what the conditions are for this combat operation to be a success."

Congressman West will be traveling to Afghanistan June 24th-29th with other members of the House Armed Services Committee as part of a Congressional Delegation (CODEL). The purpose of the visit is to receive local and regional political, military and economic updates from United States and Afghan leaders on the ground, especially in the days before the July 1st drawdown of soldiers in the country.

"We are honored that Congressman West came to meet and hear firsthand from our Marines," said Lieutenant Colonel Max Goralnick, Commanding Officer, 4th ANGLICO.

As a 22-year Army veteran, Congressman West spent many years serving in the Middle East, including 2 1/2 years in Afghanistan from June 2005 to November 2007, while working as a DOD contractor training Afghan soliders.

"We trust that he will take the information he learned today from our Marines as well as the

information he learns on his trip to Afghanistan to better steer our country in the right direction in this ongoing conflict," said Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Marx, Inspector-Instructor, 4th ANGLICO.

*The West Palm Beach ANGLICO unit has more than 200 Marines training at its base every month. The unit has been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan more than a dozen times since 2003. The mission of the ANGLICO unit is to provide Marine Commanders a liaison capability, with foreign area expertise, to plan, coordinate, employ, and conduct terminal control of fires in support of joint, allied and coalition forces.

Click [here](#) for a downloadable picture of Congressman West and the 4th ANGLICO unit.