



TIP OF THE SPEAR

U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLA.

April 2004



Naval Special Warfare operators train in Alaska

SECDEF visits USSOCOM

SF soldier earns Distinguished Service Cross

SEAL wives navigate RIBs

SECAF honors Air Commandos

Maj. Mark Mitchell shown in Afghanistan prior to the Battle of Qala-I-Jangi Fortress during Operation Enduring Freedom, November 2001. Mitchell earned the second highest military medal for valor during a prisoner uprising at the fortress.



SF Soldier earns

Distinguished Service Cross

Maj. Mark Mitchell presented first DSC since Vietnam

By Jennifer Whittle, USSOCOM Public Affairs and 1st Lt. Steve Alvarez, American Forces Press Service

The first Distinguished Service Cross awarded since the Vietnam War, and the highest military decoration awarded to date in the war on terror, was presented to Army Special Forces Maj. Mark Mitchell Nov. 14 at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Nov. 14.

Mitchell earned the medal for his leadership during the Battle of Qala-I-Jangi Fortress during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was the

ground force commander of a rescue operation where he ensured the freedom of one American and posthumous repatriation of another.

Central Intelligence Agency Director George Tenet, and Gen. Bryan “Doug” Brown, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, presided over the award ceremony at the command’s headquarters in Tampa, Fla., where Mitchell was pinned the second highest military award for valor.

“Nov. 25, 2001 at Mazar-e-Sharif, Maj. Mark Mitchell demonstrated why courage is one of the four traits that in special operations is non-negotiable,” Brown said after pinning the award on Mitchell’s chest. “He demonstrated one of our core values—courage, courage under the most dire of circumstances, and another core value of commitment, commitment to fellow Americans. He willingly led an attack in the face of overwhelming odds.”

Mitchell, however, seemed uncomfortable in the spotlight. More than 30 of his family

members attended the ceremony, including family members of CIA agent Johnny “Mike” Spann, the first American killed in Afghanistan.

“It is a tremendous honor, but I don’t consider myself a hero,” Mitchell said. “I am not personally convinced that my actions warranted more than a pat on the back. Wearing the Special Forces foreign-service combat patch on my right shoulder and serving with the finest Soldiers in the world is reward enough. I

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Tip of the Spear

Gen. Bryan D. Brown
Commander, USSOCOM

Command Chief Bob Martens
Command Chief Master Sergeant

Col. Samuel T. Taylor III
Public Affairs Officer

Jennifer Whittle
Editor in Chief

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Cover: Naval Special Warfare operators conduct cold weather training in Kodiak, Alaska, in January. Temperatures ranged from -20 to 0 degrees Celsius. The 21-day training course included near-vertical cliff assaults from water, swimming into the beach, water insertion from Zodiacs, and lengthy hikes with rucks. Photo by Petty Officer Eric Logsdon.

was just doing my job and our mission was accomplished.”

Mitchell’s award citation states that he received the Distinguished Service Cross award for “extraordinary heroism in action” during the battle of Qala-I-Jangi Fortress in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, during November 2001, while assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

The three-day bloody battle erupted when a Taliban enemy prisoner of war drew a grenade while being searched, pulled the pin, and killed himself and a Northern Alliance commander.

The suicide attack triggered the uprising where an estimated 500 Taliban prisoners and al Qaeda-trained fighters being held in the fortress at Qala-I-Jangi stormed two CIA agents working at the facility who were interviewing prisoners. Spann, one of ambushed agents, died at the prison and the other agent escaped. Spann’s body would later be retrieved by Mitchell and his men.

Mitchell, 38, a Desert Storm veteran, heard of the attack when a Northern Alliance

soldier rushed into the facility his unit was preparing for humanitarian aid and told him that Mitchell and his men were needed immediately at the prison. Mitchell’s team had been living at the fortress for several weeks and had moved into a new compound just two days before the uprising.

Mitchell organized a team of 16 British and American troops and sped to the prison about 25 kilometers away.

When they arrived, Mitchell led his Soldiers into battle against prisoners who had armed themselves with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars, machine guns and rifles they collected from armories at the prison. Mitchell’s team would endure three days of warfighting, chaos, outbursts of fire, and sustain injuries at the half-mile wide fortress.

Needing information, armed with a rifle and pistol and no body armor, Mitchell climbed to the highest point of the fortress to survey the battleground. From the vantage point, Mitchell’s men began to

call in air strikes on the Taliban. Later that evening, Mitchell and his men withdrew from the prison to plan the next day’s operations.

The following morning, Mitchell’s men returned to the fortress and were greeted by a barrage of gunfire. Mitchell and his unit requested more air support, but misfortune struck when a bomb fell near Mitchell’s team injuring nine of his Soldiers.

After evacuating his injured men for most of the day, Mitchell returned to the fortress under the cover of darkness with five men and directed more air strikes on the enemy positions. By morning of the third day, most of the prisoners had been killed, and those who remained were killed when the Northern Alliance rolled into the compound with tanks. Other Taliban later killed themselves rather than surrender. John Walker Lindh, the Californian who traveled to Afghanistan to help the Taliban, was captured when the battle ended.

Mitchell’s award credits “his unparalleled courage under fire, decisive leadership and personal sacrifice,” which it said “were directly respon-

sible for the success of the rescue operation and were further instrumental in ensuring the city of Mazar-e-Sharif did not fall back in the hands of the Taliban.”

As a captain, Mitchell commanded two detachments for more than four years, what Mitchell said is a little unusual to command that long. He attributes his time spent in a command position prepared him well for the battle at Mazar-e-Sharif. “Every day you can learn something new,” Mitchell said. “You get prepared for a variety of situations. It wasn’t just me, the training of the airmen and the Soldiers just comes together and culminates on the battlefield.”

Mitchell admits it was a difficult situation, but attests to the capabilities of Special Operations Forces. “Special Forces are the finest Soldiers in the world. Wherever SOF goes, and it is almost always in a disproportional rate, we work with the locals and become a force multiplier. It happens time and time again.”

It happened with Mitchell and the Northern Alliance troops.

Mitchell is now assigned to Special Operations Command Central.



Jennifer Whittle

U.S. Army Maj. Mark Mitchell, Special Forces soldier, is pinned with the second highest military decoration for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross, for combat actions in Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan, by Gen. Bryan “Doug” Brown, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, Nov. 14, at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Rangers presented valor awards for actions in OEF, OIF

Heroic actions include rescue of 507th Maintenance Company

By Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs Office

In the past year, it has become a rarity for Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, to be back at Hunter Army Airfield for extended periods of time.

Deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and other regions for months at a time have hindered the opportunity to hold a formal ceremony to recognize their achievements.

Jan. 15, adorned in dress uniforms, the Rangers received awards and recognition for their meritorious service at the Departure and Arrival Control Group building.

Congressman Max Burns was on hand to help present Bronze Star Medals and Army Commendation Medals with Lt. Col. Michael Kershaw, the battalion commander.

“We had a less formal ceremony in the summer where we presented the Soldiers with the valor awards,” Kershaw said. “I’m glad we’re finally able to recognize these Soldiers and all their hard work.”

In March and April, 1st Bn., 75th Ranger Rgt. deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. One of their

missions was to rescue and recover Soldiers from the 507th Maintenance Company, including Jessica Lynch.

“At the time (of the rescue mission), I was attached to (Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn.) on rehab assignment for back surgery,” said Staff Sgt. Josh Marple, Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal awardee. “It was a large-scale mission which required a lot of Rangers, so I volunteered.” Marple was humble and modest in the explanation of his duties during the mission. “Among other things, I drove a truck.”

The Rangers, after returning home in April, departed again in July, going to Africa, where they remained until August. Two months later, they once again deployed; this time to Afghanistan. In mid-December, they redeployed to Hunter.

Although the deployments have meant many months away from home, they have been beneficial to the proficiency of the battalion, according to Kershaw.

“We’ve been able to capitalize on lessons learned in a very short time,” he said. “This is a veteran unit - I don’t worry about these Soldiers when they come under contact. I know they’ll get the job done.”

Kershaw added that his troops are never concerned with how many enemies there are - just where they are.

“Every Soldier in the battalion has contributed to accomplishing the mission,” said Capt. Donald L. Kingston, A Co., 1/75 Rangers, platoon leader and Bronze Star Medal awardee. “In general, I believe there are plenty more who deserve similar recognition.”

Additionally, every Soldier who had participated in combat operations during the deployments was formally presented the coveted combat infantry badge.

As for what the future holds for this frequently deployed, elite fighting force, Kingston keeps it simple.

“We’re going to continue doing what we have to do to support the global war on terrorism - wherever and whatever that may be.



Spc. Sarah Wilkins

Sgt. Jason Parsons, the U.S. Army Special Operations Command's Soldier of the Year, pins another Ranger during a Feb. 12 award ceremony that honored the Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment for their exceptional service while deployed in support of the global war on terrorism.



Memorial service for special operator in Bagram

Sgt. Maj. George Johnson stands before a formation of troops from the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force - Afghanistan as Staff Sgt. Marshall Smith and Spc. Joshua Paschal stand by to fold an American flag during the memorial service held at Camp Vance, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, for Spc. Adam Kinser, Feb. 2. Kinser, a Psychological Operations specialist with the 304th Psychological Operations Company, was killed, along with seven other Soldiers, in an explosion while supporting combat operations with the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry, in Ghazni, Afghanistan, Jan. 29.

Let them never be forgotten

Special Operations Forces who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in the global war on terrorism

Pfc. Nichole M. Frye, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion
 Spc. Adam G. Kinser, 304th Psychological Operations Co.
 Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Mancini, 486th Civil Affairs Battalion
 Sgt. Danton K. Seitsinger, 486th Civil Affairs Battalion
 Master Sgt. Kelly L. Hornbeck, 10th Special Forces Group (A)
 Sgt. Roy A. Wood, 20th Special Forces Group (A)

CJTF helps corner, take down Taliban

*Combined Joint Task Force - 180
 Public Affairs Press Center*

Coalition forces engaged five armed adult males who were fleeing from a known terrorist compound in Oruzgan province Jan. 17, according to Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan officials at Bagram, Afghanistan.

Jan. 17 coalition forces received intelligence there was a gathering of mid-level Taliban leadership in a compound in Oruzgan province, in the Cahar Cineh Valley. Coalition special operations forces and Afghan militia forces were sent to capture or kill the Taliban leaders at that compound.

At approximately 8:00 p.m. that day, five armed men were observed leaving

the compound and moving toward the coalition forces which had cordoned off the compound. The commander on the ground verified that these individuals were armed and, at night, moving toward a known coalition military unit.

At approximately 8:12 p.m., an aircraft engaged the five individuals in a streambed.

According to Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan officials, coalition forces moved toward the engagement site, but a large massing of armed personnel emerged from a nearby compound and gathered near the streambed. In order to avoid a larger engagement in the area of the com-

pounds that might incur civilian casualties, coalition forces halted and observed the activity from secure positions. The armed personnel later recovered the bodies from the streambed.

The next day, coalition forces searched a number of compounds and the streambed without finding anything of significance. Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan officials said the only time coalition forces fired was at 8:12 p.m. on Jan. 17.

In addition, during 72 hours of operation in this area, coalition forces detained six individuals.

SWAT Tour 2003



The SWAT Tour reaches New York City, New York.

By Jennifer Whittle
USSOCOM Public Affairs

Maneuvering a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) might be second nature to Navy SEALs (sea, air, land), but not necessarily to their wives—until the women completed S.W.A.T. Tour 2003, that is.

The SEAL Wives Against Terrorism, or SWAT, Tour rounded up ten SEAL wives who navigated two Zodiac 24' Homeguard Boats for 300 nautical miles from the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., to the former site of the World Trade Towers in New York City, New York, in October.

Their mission: raise awareness about the nature of their husbands' jobs and their own role holding down the home front while their husbands deploy to fight terrorism.

Their goal: raise money for the Naval Special Warfare Foundation—an organization that supports the families of naval special operators.

Their message: Sept. 11, 2001, affected all Americans, but some more than others.

"The general public doesn't understand that these men often miss dance recitals, baseball practice, holidays, and anniversaries with their families," said Carlin Birkey, brainchild for the SWAT Tour and wife of a SEAL chief for seven years. "Our husbands don't get credit for what they do because they can't be in the news," Birkey referred to the clandestine nature of the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) operator. "But they are heroes just like policemen and firefighters."

Since Sept. 11, 2001, five NSW operators have died heroes in the global war on terrorism.

It was after retired SEALs Rudy Boesch and Jack Lynch piloted a RIB down the Mississippi River for the NSW Foundation in 2002, that Birkey decided that women—specifically SEAL wives, could also do it. "I spoke to Zodiac CEO J.J. Marie and convinced him we should do a boat tour," she explained. "In October the list of women came together and we set up really quickly. It was important to make our connection with the Pentagon and the twin towers."

The SWAT Tour raised \$38,000 for the NSW Foundation, which provides educational and motivational support, promotes health and welfare programs, and perpetuates the history and heritage of the U.S. Navy commandos. The NSW Foundation has awarded \$66,000 in scholarships to spouses and children. Active duty SEALs and Special Warfare Combatant Crewman are also eligible for educational assistance from the foundation.

The team came together with three widowed wives of SEALs, two wives of retired SEALs, and five wives of active duty SEALs who committed to the trek; women like Patty Roberts, whose husband was killed in Operation Enduring Freedom; and Marge Boesch, who has been married to her husband for 48 years—45 of them while he served as a SEAL. "Patty needed no time to commit," said Birkey. "And Marge is our hero. It was important to us that she be a part of this."

Boesch said it was an honor to be asked to join the SWAT Tour. "I, like Rudy, jumped at the chance to experience something different, not only beneficial to the NSW Foundation," she said, "but also to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow SEAL wives. I felt like a grandmother, being the oldest, but was pleased the young wives accepted me. We had an experience of a lifetime."

The ladies boarded two RIBs and left Washington, D.C., after a wreath-laying ceremony at the Pentagon, Oct. 24. Attended by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict Thomas O'Connell, they honored those who had lost their lives in the war on terrorism.

The next five days the women would navigate Zodiac boats over the 300-mile route. There were lengthy hauls over the Potomac River, Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean.

"Riding was great," Birkey said. "It gave me a whole new respect for my husband's time on a boat. It's very challenging and it can really beat you up. We learned to feel the rhythm of the water and how to work as a team on the boats."

The ten women of the SWAT Tour each spent time at the

SEAL wives brave waters, make statement, raise money

helm. Each boat had a five-woman crew and a coach. Two retired Frogmen were aboard an accompanying safety boat.

“We even did a little night operation in 12-foot seas with a malfunctioning GPS (global positioning system) and no search light,” Birkey said. “That was a little fearful.”

They made it, though. All the way to New York City Harbor where they were greeted by members of the new York City Fire Department and Police Department. The team continued on to Ground Zero where they ended their SWAT Tour with a memorial service for those who died in the towers.

The response of the American people was more than the women expected. “The people we came in contact with

were amazingly generous with their gratitude, emotions and money,” Birkey said. “I never saw anything like it. They had gratitude for the [military] family and the men who go to battle so Americans can sleep at night. People showed empathy to the women who lost their husbands. One death has a huge ripple effect. People got that.”

The tour impacted the women in another way, Birkey said. “The big pay off for us was that we saw three women who had their lives irreversibly changed—they went through an immense healing process. [The widows] could see how much strength they had and the confidence within them was priceless.”

“My husband and I had the opportunity to see the SWAT Tour firsthand in Annapolis, Maryland,” said Marilyn Olson, wife of U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Deputy Commander Vice Adm. Eric Olson. She was most impressed with the young women who had

lost their husbands. “As I talked to one of them who was wearing a picture of her husband and young child around her neck, I could hardly hold back my tears. She, however, was completely poised and eloquent as she spoke of her situation and of how grateful she was for all the support she has received from the SEAL community. I never felt more proud of being part of this community than I did that day.”

“We also showed civilians and other military wives that SEAL wives stick together,” added Boesch.

Olson said she admired the women for what they did when she saw them. “They had a very rough day on the water the day before, but were so gracious to all who had come out to support them,” Olson explained. “They were answering questions, posing for pictures and giving on-camera interviews as though they had been doing them all their lives.”

[See SWAT Tour, next page](#)

The SWAT Tour navigates two Zodiac Homeguard RIBs (rigid inflatable boats) on a 300-mile trek from Washington, D.C., to Ground Zero, New York City, New York.



First SWCC warrant officer commissioned

By Petty Officer 1st Class Sonya Ansarov
NSWC Public Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO2) David L. Wylie, III, Special Boat Team 12 (SBT-12) in Coronado, Calif., was commissioned as the first Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC) warrant officer Oct. 1, at a ceremony held on board Naval Amphibious Base.

Wylie, who was a chief boatswain's mate, is the first of four SWCC chiefs selected to the rank of warrant officer. The other three SWCC warrant officers will be commissioned by early next year.

"The warrant officer program is a giant step for the SWCC community," said Cmdr. Steve Nelson, commanding officer, SBT-12. "This program was designed to fill the 'expertise' billet — warrants are the technical experts, the masters. I cannot think of a better person to fill this billet. Chief Wylie's successful career proves he's the right man for this job, and I'm extremely proud he's the first warrant for our community."

Warrant officers have been around since the inception of the Navy. They were listed as sailing masters, pursers (a ship's officer charged with keeping accounts), boatswains, gunners, carpenters, sail makers and midshipmen. Over the years, the warrant officer rank evolved as the technical experts within their particular field. Today, warrant officers provide an invaluable form of leadership as an officer who has the expertise and authority to direct the most exacting technical operations in an occupational field.

Wylie has been a SWCC for 15 years, will report as the MK-V officer in charge at Special Boat Team 20.



The SWAT Tour receives the George Washington Medal of Freedom from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Left to right are Marge Boesch, Jessie McDonald, Carlin Birkey, Dee Clark and Courtney Retzer.

SWAT Tour continued

The SWAT Tour received national television coverage on CNN, FOX News and NBC's Today Show. "We talked about Navy SEALs—which is a whole new concept for us," Birkey said. "We received pre-briefings at Naval Special Warfare Group Two to secure names and information."

The SWAT Tour had an enormous list of sponsors, said Birkey. "Zodiac provided the boats and accommodations, Bombardier provided the engines, Mustang Survival provided the survival suits—there were many more, including the UDT/SEAL (Underwater Demolition Team/Navy

SEAL) Association Small Stores."

Since the tour, the women were awarded the George Washington Medal of Freedom from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pa., for outstanding achievement that reflects the high ideals of human dignity and fundamental principles of a free society. It is considered the foundation's highest honor.

"We had a media blitz in Philadelphia," Birkey added, "and we were special guests at the Rear Adm. Chuck LeMoyné luncheon where we had a private meeting with Secretary of the Navy Gordon England. He highlighted what the men of NSW active duty


accomplish—and the tour, during his presentation. That was great."

In 1994, LeMoyné was the highest-ranking SEAL and served as the deputy commander of USSOCOM. He was instrumental in the establishment of Naval Special Warfare Command, Coronado, Calif., and passed away after battling cancer in 1997.




What does the future look like for SEAL Wives Against Terrorism?

"You know," said Birkey, "We got really good at what we were doing in the boats and really enjoyed ourselves. The concept got a lot bigger than I planned but it became an important mission so we are going to do it again. The next SWAT Tour will launch from New York City Sept. 11, 2004."

THE NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE FOUNDATION



Providing scholarships to members of Naval Special Warfare and their families. Over \$66,000 in scholarships has been awarded in the past three years. Together, the NSW Foundation and S.W.A.T., SEAL Wives Against Terrorism, are making a difference in the lives of Naval Commandos and their families.

Naval Special Warfare Foundation, P.O. Box 5365, Virginia Beach, VA 23471
Visit us on the web at www.nswfoundation.org
Combined Federal Campaign Number: 2148

NSW reshapes reserves

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Luis Vega
NSWC Public Affairs

Naval Special Warfare embarked on the most ambitious and revolutionary alignment of its reserve community in the last 16 years with the October 2003 commissioning of Naval Special Warfare Operational Support Group (OSG) headquarters at Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, Calif., and Operational Support Teams One and Two in California and Virginia respectively.

The alignment involved creating a greater number of smaller-sized reserve units. The new units and detachments, which mustered for the first time in January, are niche-focused on specific NSW operational skills sets required to support NSW's operational requirements. The alignment supports a seamless integration of active and reserve personnel.

"We felt there was a better way of doing business — more adaptable, flexible, and innovative, having the active and reserve sides coming together," said Capt. William S. Wildrick, commander, OSG, and assistant chief of staff for reserve programs, Naval Special Warfare

Command (NSWC).

"Everyone should feel its impact. It's a complete transformation of the way we conduct our business. Reservists will enjoy better support, better customer service, better training. It makes it easier to align with customer demands, pulse active duty needs, and plug right into those needs. It was, from inception, a collaborative effort (between active duty and reserve)," said Craig Janecek, reserve program manager, NSWC.

Today's volatile global environment and NSW's active participation in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and global war on terrorism (GWOT), have dictated the need for the reserve force. This alignment was initiated to provide a more capable, malleable and focused force.

"We are at war. GWOT is calling on Special Warfare to do much more. Nothing was taken off our plate, but more is now expected of us. It certainly has put the spotlight on reservists because they represent 20 percent of

NSW's manpower today," said Cmdr. Ken Wright, OSG. "This is a marathon, not a sprint."

The NSW reserve alignment promises a positive impact in the way active and reserve forces work together, train and deploy to sustain a wide range of new and ongoing missions around the globe.

There are three simple directives with clear and defined functions: build the infrastructure; align the force; and execute transition. May 16, 2003, Rear Adm. Albert Calland, commander, NSWC, approved the proposed alignment — moving the project forward towards its execution stage and final implementation in 2004.

The goal is to provide theater commanders the most professional, highly-trained, flexible individuals, and units, to perform any task, anywhere, and at any time.

In April, the Naval Special Warfare OSG is set to take full administrative control of 85 percent of its billets from the Naval Reserve Force. The OSG's ability to directly manage its reserve force is expected to result in improved responsiveness to its active duty counterparts.



Lt. John Perkins

Congressman Saxton attends SWCC re-enlistment

Petty Officer 1st Class Edward Drieman of St. Louis, Mo., is re-enlisted in the Navy for four more years by Chief Warrant Officer and SEAL Jake Kollanda as members of the House Armed Services Committee congressional delegation, led by the Honorable Jim Saxton (R-N.J.), and Sailors of Special Boat Team 20, watch in December. Drieman, a Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman, is currently assigned to a Mark-V Special Operations Craft detachment based in Norfolk, Va.

SECAF honors Air Commandos

*By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs*

Twenty base Airmen were honored at an awards ceremony, Jan. 27, for their actions in support of the global war on terrorism, to include Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The hour-long ceremony was held in the corrosion control facility, Hurlburt Field, Fla., and was presided over by Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Lt. Gen. Paul Hester, Air Force Special Operations Command commander.

The event provided an opportunity to recognize members of the AFSOC community, with the presentation of four Silver Stars, 15 Distinguished Flying Crosses and a Purple Heart.

As distinguished guests, families, friends and co-workers looked on, Hester expressed the importance of the ceremony.

"It is important we recognize the heroic actions of these Airmen on the field of battle, in defense of our great nation," the general said. "For those of you that are here representing the greater AFSOC family, this ceremony is a tribute and a salute to the individual actions and collective efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq and in other battle fields around the

world. No one sets out on the field of battle to earn medals. These Airmen rose to unique challenges and displayed courage, skill and an action that comes from a belief larger than themselves."

"Today we honor the warriors who serve on the front line in the war on terrorism," said Roche. "Brave Airmen whose selfless devotion to duty have delivered victory in a time of conflict. We reward their gallantry and heroic service to our nation."

The secretary said those gathered to witness the ceremony demonstrate the solidarity of the community.

"The Airmen and the community that supports them continues to teach me the true meaning of duty, honor, devotion to country and military service," the secretary said. "They teach me about the value of our special ops and provide visible examples of what it means to live life according to the dictates of war."

Distinguished Flying Cross

Lt. Col. Gerald Harris, 16th SOS
Lt. Col. Thomas Markland, 8th SOS
Maj. Ronald Baldinger, AFSOC
Maj. Enrique Gwin, 9th SOS
Maj. Paul Pereira, 16th OG
Capt. Paul Mancinelli, 15th SOS
Capt. Ian Marr, 19th SOS
Capt. Terry Sears, 4th SOS
Master Sgt. Gregg Jones, 6th SOS
Master Sgt. John O'Dell, 16th OG
Tech. Sgt. Robert Fisher, 19th SOS
Tech. Sgt. Charles Swanson, 9th SOS
Tech. Sgt. Burton Touns, 4th SOS
Staff Sgt. Nathan Shero, 15th SOS
Staff Sgt. John Stott, 20th SOS

Silver Star

Capt. Benjamin Maitre, 15th SOS
The three other Silver Star recipients requested their names not be released.

Purple Heart

Airman 1st Class Douglas Batchelder,
347th Rescue Wing

While the ceremony honored Airmen who've returned from the war on terrorism, the secretary asked everyone to also remember those who didn't.

"Let us never forget all the fallen members from each of the services and their families," he said. "They made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom we Americans enjoy everyday. Our lost warriors are forever with us in spirit."

SECAF visits HQ D-Cell

During a visit to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Secretary of the Air Force James Roche (right) speaks with members of the U.S. Special Operations Command Deployment Cell, or D-Cell, before taking a group photo Feb. 11. Roche visited D-Cell to better understand their mission and see what kind of packages the group puts together and delivers in support of deployed Special Operations Forces.



Staff Sgt. Rachel Davis

Tankers keep the AC-130 Spooky flight operating full speed ahead

By Capt. Timothy Pere
380th AEW Public Affairs

“The real reason to fear the night” is a saying used by the 4th Special Operations Squadron flying the AC-130U Spooky, a special operations aircraft, somewhere in Southwest Asia.

Their’s is a mission shrouded in secrecy and darkness, but vital to the continued global war on terrorism.

This mission would be much more daunting however, without the support of the men and women of the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing here.

The AC-130 flies close air support, air interdiction and force protection missions. Special Operations Forces on the ground, such as Army Green Berets, and Marine Force Recon, rely on it when engaging the enemy for cover fire and enemy fire suppression.

They fly nightly over enemy territory exposing themselves to danger to take the fight to the enemy.

“Every time there are troops on the ground in any conflict or a non-combatant evacuation operation an AC-130 is there providing support,” the mission commander of the 4th SOS said. “There are only a limited number of AC-130s in the world, so we could not be effective in our mission if it were not for the KC-135 refuelers extending our range.”

The KC-135 Stratotankers from the 380th AEW regularly fly missions supporting AC-130s throughout Southwest Asia

“The ability to refuel in the air keeps us from having to land and further expose ourselves to enemy threats,” the mission



The AC-130 gunship flies close air support and force protection missions for Special Operations Forces on the ground. The KC-135 refuels the AC-130 in air to keep the gunship flying.

commander continued. “And that type of exposure could mean the difference between life and death, as well as mission success for these tactical troops.

The amount of equipment and firepower carried on an AC-130 stretches the airframe to its absolute limits of performance for every mission.

“Refueling an AC-130 is a task saturated job,” according to a KC-135 pilot previously assigned to the 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron here.

“We have to fly much lower and slower than normal over hostile territory, and with no lights,” the pilot said.

There is always the potential for enemy fire and the Spooky has to use all power available just to catch the boom, said the 4th SOS mission commander. “We know we are asking the tankers to do things they didn’t

sign on for, and we appreciate what they are doing for us.

“Army and Air Force Special Operations Forces on the ground count on our ability to provide them with armed reconnaissance or close air support,” he continued. “The support of tankers helps us stay in the air longer, and provide the maximum support needed. Tankers are the key to our success.”

The KC-135 flies supporting missions for several different special operations platforms, along with conventional fighter, bomber and cargo aircraft.

It’s the efforts of the men and women of the 380th AEW both on the ground and in the air make the AC-130U the real reason to fear the night.

7th Special Operations Squadron takes top unit

By Tech. Sgt. Dennis Brewer
352nd SOG Public Affairs

America's dependence on Air Force Special Operations Command's "Quiet Professionals" became a little more evident when the AFSOC commander announced the squadron of the year award, Jan 5.

Lt. Gen. Paul Hester announced the 352nd Special Operations Group's (SOG) 7th Special Operations Squadron as the AFSOC Squadron of the Year for 2002. The unit was one of five command squadrons to earn the award.

"After careful consideration, I've decided this honor cannot be bestowed on only one squadron," Hester wrote in a congratulations letter to the units. "I was speechless after reading the accomplishments of the outstanding men and women of AFSOC. Their dedication, devotion to duty and most importantly, their ability to work as a team with other AFSOC units are keys to our Nation's success in the war on terror."

This is the first time in the command's 13-year history that more than one squadron was named squadron of the year. In the letter, the general said 2002 was a challenging period for the mem-

bers of the command. Something the men and women of the 7th SOS can attest to.

At the start of 2002, unit members still found themselves deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom flying missions into Afghanistan as part of the American-led global war on terror.

The unit's final OEF mission numbers reveal the dedication of squadron members. The 7th SOS posted more than 125 combat missions, flying numerous combat hours while offloading approximately 2 million pounds of wartime supplies to the joint war fighter to drop zones and airfields in every geographical quadrant of Afghanistan. Its mission effectiveness rate for all operations during the conflict was greater than 99 percent.

The litany of 7th SOS accomplishments in the air and on the ground for 2002 reads like a definitive sampling of the Air Force and special operations mission



Members of the 7th Special Operations Squadron unload passengers evacuated from the Ivory Coast. The evacuation of more than 430 American citizens and foreign nationals was one of the numerous missions the unit flew, which earned them Air Force Special Operations Command's Squadron of the Year Award for 2002.

playbooks. They performed nearly every possible type of contingency from humanitarian operations to direct action engagements.

Other AFSOC units earning top command honors were: 5th SOS, 919th Special Operations Wing (SOW), Duke Field, Fla.; 20th SOS, 16th SOW, Hurlburt Field, Fla.; 24th Special Tactics Squadron (STS), Pope Air Force Base, NC; and 320th STS, 353rd SOG, Kadena Air Base, Japan.



10th Combat Weather Squadron goes tactical to practical

Cameraman John Daniel, Edelman Productions, films Tech. Sgt. Lesley Rouell, combat weatherman, Detachment 4, 10th Combat Weather Squadron, during a combat maneuver exercise at Hurlburt Field, Fla., Jan. 13. The production company covered the 10th CWS for an episode of "Tactical to Practical" to air on the History Channel in April.

Capt. Denise Boyd

Gunship crew earns MacKay trophy

By 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson
16th SOW Public Affairs

An AC-130H Spectre gunship crew from the 16th Special Operations Squadron was awarded the Clarence MacKay Trophy recently for most meritorious flight of the year.

The 14 Airmen of “Grim 31” received the Air Force-level award for saving the lives of 82 U.S. soldiers and two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and crews during a close-air support mission. The mission was over Afghanistan’s Shah-e-Kot Valley on March 2, 2002 — the second day of Operation Anaconda.

Enemy forces surrounded 10th Mountain Division soldiers the first day of the operation, according to the award citation. As a fierce battle ensued, the company needed medical evacuation for critically injured soldiers. The crew of Grim 31 was tapped to escort two HH-60 helicopters for the evacuation.

“We typically fly at night, but on this occasion they woke us up and sent us in there early so we would be in position over the target area right when it got dark,” said the fire-control officer, a lieutenant colonel.

The Grim 31 crew worked closely with an enlisted tactical air controller on the ground to engage enemy positions, clearing the way for the rescue helicopters, he said.

As the two Pave Hawks landed to collect the wounded, a rocket-propelled grenade exploded 20 feet behind them. The Grim 31 crew quickly engaged the enemy position clearing the evacuation for takeoff.

“A few days after the mission, almost everyone who was in the valley that night came to our tents to thank us,” said the sergeant. “There’s no award in the world that could make us feel any better.”

AFSOC Hall of Honor dedicated to command's heritage

By Master Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller
AFSOC Public Affairs

The triumphs and tragedies played out around the globe by Air Commandos and Rescue Warriors is the focus of the Hall of Honor, a stretch of passageway within the headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command building at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

The AFSOC commander officially dedicated the Hall of Honor, Jan. 30, as a “small, but fitting tribute to the service and sacrifice of the men and women who built the legacy and history of our command,” said Lt. Gen. Paul Hester.

The centerpiece for the Hall of Honor begins at the headquarters’ entrance, with an encased wood heraldry. The device was commissioned shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, to honor the airmen from AFSOC who paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, said Hester.

“The heraldry is dedicated to the men and women who have died in defense of our nation while supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom,” said the general. “When the day comes our president declares an end to the global war on terrorism, we will gladly retire this heraldry. Until then, it is only fitting that every time anyone who visits or works in this building enters the main doors the first thing they will see is the tribute to our fallen Air Commandos and Rescue Warriors.”

The actual Hall of Honor begins just off to the right of the heraldry, with a quote inspired by William Shakespeare’s play, “Henry V.”

“...then shall their names be familiar in our mouths as household words — GENERALS MANOR, ADERHOLT AND KIGHT, COLONEL KITTINGER, CHIEF FISK AND SrA CUNNINGHAM — and in our flowing cups be forever remembered.”

The names listed on the wall highlight some of those whose efforts as Air Commandos and Rescue Warriors have



Retired Brig. Gen. “Heinie” Aderholt and retired Lt. Gen. Leroy Manor talk following the dedication ceremony of the Hall of Honor, Jan 30.

left a lasting impact on the AFSOC family, said Hester.

Brig. Gen. “Heinie” Aderholt, Lt. Gen. Leroy Manor and Col. Joe Kittinger are considered by many to be founding fathers of Air Force Special Operations. Brig. Gen. Richard Kight and Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Fisk are key figures within the rescue community. Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, a Pararescueman, was killed during Enduring Freedom while supporting Operation Anaconda.

Generals Aderholt and Manor were among the honored guests attending the dedication ceremony of the Hall of Honor.

Airman 1st Class Andy M. Kin



Special operators in full gear conduct an exercise in the city of San Salvador, El Salvador.

SOCSOUTH fine tunes evacuation training

*By Capt. Ricardo Castrodad
SOCSOUTH Public Affairs*

Had the people of San Salvador not read the newspapers that week, they could have thought that something had gone wrong the morning of Nov. 21, 2003, after hearing the sound of military helicopters hovering over the Salvadorian landscape and landing right in the middle of the city.

The level of concern among the Salvadorian people may have increased significantly when U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) came storming out of their helicopters fully dressed in combat gear and ready to engage any threat.

Luckily there was no need for alarm

since the commotion was due to an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE) named Swift Response. It was conducted by personnel of the U.S. Embassy and Special Operations Command South (SOCSOUTH) to train on evacuation procedures for Americans.

Swift Response practiced the embassy's emergency action plan in case of a natural disaster that would require the evacuation of U.S. citizens.

"The EDRE was an excellent training opportunity for everyone involved," said EDRE joint task force commander. "Personnel were able to meet all their

emergency deployment timelines throughout the exercise."

During the EDRE, SOF evacuated more than 110 volunteers, comprised of embassy personnel and U.S. citizens, from the U.S. Embassy using UH-60 Blackhawks and CH-47 Chinook helicopters. Evacuees were flown to the intermediate staging base at El Salvador Ilopango Airport. Once there, the volunteers proceeded to board a C-130 Hercules aircraft that took them to the designated safe haven at El Salvador International Airport in Comalapa, which as part of the EDRE, simulated another country.

"The exercise went very smoothly," said a SOF officer, whose team provided planning assistance to the embassy staff and military personnel days prior to the execution of the mission. Their job was to ensure a safe and efficient handoff of the evacuees. He said the U.S. Embassy was in charge of designating and prioritizing the type of evacuees, while the military provided security for, registered, manifested and transported evacuees.

SOCSOUTH, located in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, and one of six theater commands of U.S. Special Operations Command, oversees an area of responsibility that covers South America. Commanded by Brig. Gen. Sal Cambria, the general said that evacuations are only part of the SOCSOUTH mission.

"Our special operators focus on a wide variety of missions, including training of partner nation forces and unilateral training to meet numerous contingency requirements," Cambria said. "Swift Response was just another way to keep our force trained, capable and ready."

Capt. Ricardo Castrodad



SOCSOUTH moves

Personnel from Special Operations Command South (SOCSOUTH) pack equipment in preparation for the theater command's move from Roosevelt Roads Naval Base, Puerto Rico, to a new headquarters site at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. SOCSOUTH is the subordinate unified command that provides command and control over Special Operations Forces (SOF) operating in the United States Southern Command area of operations throughout Central and South America.

10th Special Forces Group soldiers work SOCEUR mission

A Special Forces team sergeant demonstrates equipment to Malian soldiers as part of the Pan Sahel Initiative, or PSI. The 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) is conducting the PSI which is a State Department Program designed to provide assistance to Mali, Miger, Chad and Mauritania to enhance their border protection capabilities.



The government travel card, a great asset for the traveler, but abusing the privilege can lead to serious trouble

By Don Benedix
USSOCOM Fiscal Policy Analyst

The government travel card (GTC) is a great tool to possess for Department of Defense (DOD) military and civilian personnel for the purpose of temporary duty travel (TDY).

The GTC allows you the ability to pay for all your official travel expenses associated with your TDY. Where the card is not accepted, you can obtain cash from your card before you depart for your trip or from thousands of automated teller machines (ATM) nationwide. ATM locations are available by zip code by accessing the web at www.visa.com and click on the ATM locator button.

Upon filing of your travel voucher, monies are directed from your final settlement to pay your GTC directly. The policy of split disbursement is mandatory for military and highly encouraged for civilian employees.

Unfortunately, there are a small percentage of individuals who are not treating their GTC with care and are using their card for personal purchases. There are others who are just not paying their GTC bills.

All personnel traveling on official business are subject to the Code of Federal Regulation, U.S. Code and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

GTC abuse is a concern receiving great amounts of congressional interest and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld "is moving forcefully" to correct these problems. Establishment of more stiff penalties for employees who misuse their cards is sponsored in both the House and the Senate.

Abuse or non-payment of the GTC will leave you subject to termination of DOD employment, imprisonment, probation, restitution, fines, and demotion. Additionally, not paying your bill

on time can affect your credit rating, and the loss of your security clearance and possibly termination.

Numerous investigations by the General Accounting Office over the past three years has revealed that military and civilians employees were abusing their cards, using them to pay for golf games, clothes, mortgage payments and personal trips.

Delinquent cardholders also have pocketed money the government reimbursed them rather than pay card charges and have written bad checks to cover charge card payments.

A Florida man, who pleaded guilty to using his government travel card for personal use was sentenced to 18 months in jail and 36 months probation, and ordered to pay restitution.

A Texas man, who pleaded guilty to card misuse was fired and sentenced in federal court to a \$3,000 fine and \$1,400 in restitution. These examples only reflect a sample of the investigations currently being conducted by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

Cumulatively, the amount of money being lost to credit card abuses is staggering. The money being spent by the government to investigate these abuses could go to fund bombs, bullets and readiness.

The bottom line is when not "on official government travel," do not use your GTC and when you are "on official government travel," use your GTC appropriately.

For a more detailed explanation of all your GTC benefits and any clarifications for the proper usage of your GTC, contact your individual Component Agency Program Coordinator or your unit point of contact.

The command coordinator is Karen James at DSN 299-3567.

Secretary of Defense gives exclusive interview at HQ

Printed courtesy of FOX News and affiliate anchor John Wilson.

Q: Mr. Secretary, we're glad to have you in Tampa.

Rumsfeld: Thank you. I'm glad to be here.

Q: Let's talk about, probably the most pressing issue for all of us, is Iraq. I wonder with these constant attacks that are going on, with all these outside influences and with this mounting American death toll in Iraq, are things as bad as they seem or is it a little bit better than the picture we're getting since it's on the other side of the world?

Rumsfeld: It's a fair question. I talk to members of the House and Senate and the military people who go to Iraq and come back and their impression is that things in Iraq are considerably better than they had by way of an impression before they went. What does that mean? I guess it's not surprising that the bad news gets reported. The good news is that the hospitals are open, the clinics are open, the schools are open, the children are back in school, they have textbooks, the oil production's back up and the Iraqi security forces have gone from zero to 200,000. There is an Iraqi governing council. Most of the people in Iraq are currently being governed by provincial councils and city councils that in one way or another they respect and are happy to be living under as opposed to a vicious dictator. The jails that Saddam Hussein had are empty of the political prisoners he held. The killing fields and the mass graves are being exposed and all the tens of thousands of Iraqis that were killed by the Saddam Hussein regime, their families, are finally getting closure. Now 25 million people in Iraq have been liberated. That's not a bad story. That's a good story. Is it perfect? No. Is it a dangerous place still? Yes, it is a dangerous place still. But is progress being made? You bet.

Q: Can I ask you a little bit about the politics here of dealing with the Muslim country? Paul Bremer may have the most difficult job in the world trying to help that country develop a constitution and some democratic form of government. But I see that he wants to do two things. He wants to propose a government that is religious-friendly in a Muslim country and a government that is more tolerant of women. Is that possible in a Muslim country that's never been as tolerant?

Rumsfeld: Sure it is. Ambassador Bremer is a personal envoy of the President. He is implementing the President's policy and the President's policy is not complicated. It is a policy that suggests there should be a single country, not broken into pieces; a country that's at peace with its neighbors and doesn't have weapons of mass destruction; and a country that is respectful of the various elements in the country, men and women, the religious minorities and the religious majority. That's something that you need look no further than Turkey for a Muslim country that has a democratic system, a system that's respectful of people in the country of differing religions and differing views.

Q: Mr. Secretary, these attacks on our coalition forces and American forces, do we know who these people are? I've seen Lebanese passports, I've seen Iranian passports. Do we know who's doing this to us?

Rumsfeld: We do. It's a mixture. There are clearly still some former Saddam Hussein regime elements that exist in the country that would like to go back to a Ba'athist regime, a dictatorship. They're not going to succeed. But they're still there and they still have money, still have weapons. There are also terrorists that are

Secretary Rumsfeld, Gen. Brown walk HQ Hall of Heroes

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (right) is escorted by U.S. Special Operations Command Commander Gen. Bryan Doug Brown through the Headquarters Hall of Heroes during the Secretary's visit Feb. 17. The Hall of Heroes honors all Special Operations Forces Medal of Honor recipients. During the Secretary's visit he held an exclusive interview with FOX News anchor John Wilson.



Master Sgt. Steve Huard

coming in from other countries, across the Iranian border, the Syrian border, and they're determined to have a radical regime, a regime that would be supportive of Osama bin Laden and people of that ilk. Then there are also some people who are criminals and they're getting paid probably by one of those two elements to kill people, and they're there. But progress is being made, there's no question about that. We now are passing off more and more responsibility for the security of the country to the Iraqi people, the Iraqi army, the Civil Defense Corps, the police.

Q: Let me ask you a National Guard question here. There was a time when that really meant weekend warrior. It doesn't mean that any more, of course, as we see with the National Guard troops deployed alongside regular enlisted. It's been almost a year now for many of them. They've left their homes and families. Do we need another draft? Do you need the National Guard so much that you have to deploy them in combat zones?

Rumsfeld: Well, that's what the National Guard and the Reserve is about. It's a total force concept. I was a Naval Reservist for years and years and years. When you sign up for it you don't sign up just for one weekend a month and two weeks a year, you sign up because you know that in the event there's a conflict you could be called. I must say the men and women in the Guard and Reserve are wonderful. They step forward, they do it voluntarily, and they're proud to be serving.

Q: What about a draft?

Rumsfeld: There's no need for a draft, no need at all. The people we have today on the active force, the Guard and Reserve, every one of them is there because they want to be there. They're all volunteers. It's a wonderful thing and God bless them for what they're doing, and they're doing an absolutely superb job in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and elsewhere.



Q: Since we're here at the Headquarters of the U.S. Special Operations Command, I wonder what role you would see special ops playing in dealing with terrorism in the future.

Rumsfeld: In the last three years the role of the Special Operations Forces has just increased and increased and increased. They are such enormously talented and dedicated people. They are about as well trained as any cadre of military forces on the face of the earth. They have done a superb job for the country and they're well led, they're well trained, they're well equipped, and they're getting better at what they do every day.

Q: Another question about Iraq. Everybody knows how long it took Japan and Germany to recover from World War II. They were Fascist regimes, of course. But here you have a repressive military dictatorship and a country that's pretty much been



Staff Sgt. Rachel Davis

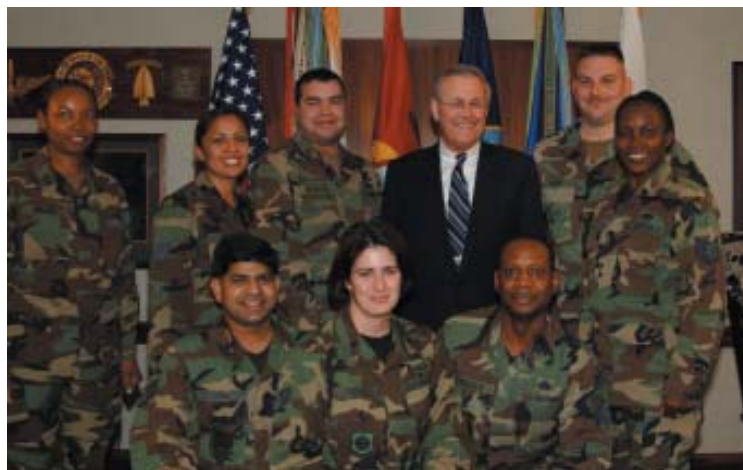
Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld prepares for his exclusive interview from Headquarters, U.S. Special Operations Command, Feb. 17.

decimated to a large degree by him as well as by some heavy combat that was taking place when we went into Iraq. How long will it take for Iraq to return to some semblance of civilization in there?

Rumsfeld: Actually it's making good headway already. If you think about it, this conflict was marked by precision weapons. There was not a lot of random damage and destruction. The damage and destruction that was done in that country was done for the most part by the Saddam Hussein regime. They were using hospitals and schools for military headquarters and weapons storage areas. They went through several decades where they refused to open their country up as the UN requested and as a result they were denied billions of dollars in oil revenue under the Oil-For-Food Program. And the infrastructure decayed for years.

Q: We wish you well, Mr. Secretary, and we thank you for your time here today.

Rumsfeld: Thank you, I enjoyed it.



Secretary Rumsfeld takes a photo with a group of Headquarters enlisted personnel.

Civil Affairs troops celebrate completion of three Baghdad projects

By Sgt. Mark S. Rickert

372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In the western region of the Abu Ghraib district in Iraq, the community has plenty to celebrate. In less than two months, their water was safer to drink, the condition of the mosque is better and residents now have a medical clinic close at hand.

The 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit based in Utica, N.Y., gathered with the residents of a small community within the Abu Ghraib neighborhood to celebrate the completion of a medical clinic, the restoration of a mosque and a new water system during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 24.

Now that the Abala Medical Clinic is open to the public, it will provide primary medical treatment for the area. Until now, the people there traveled 10 miles for the nearest hospital—a long distance for a people with little transportation, said Sgt. Amy Fish, a member of the direct support team for the 414th.

“We’re proud to open the medical clinic here because it is providing medical service for an under-served population,” said Col. John Huntley, commander of the 414th.

While contractors started rebuilding the clinic, the civil affairs team also acquired funds to repair the mosque next door. According to Staff Sgt. Louis Poliselli, leader of the 414th direct support team, backing this second project supported the coalition forces’ overall goal of winning the

hearts and minds of the people.

“This shows that we’re working with religious leaders,” said Poliselli. “It doesn’t matter if they are Christian or Muslim, we want to help everybody out.”

“They see that we’re willing to do anything we can to help rebuild the country,” said Fish. “This means a lot to the people here.”

As the funds for the two projects came in, the civil affairs team went a step further and obtained enough money to reroute the community’s drinking water. According to Fish, the people in the area drew from wells with a high concentration of sulfur. This made the drinking water unsafe to consume.

“Now we’ve tapped into a mainline that is hooked to a purification system,” said Fish. “From the mainline, we ran drinking-water pipes to the schools in this area, as well as the medical center and the mosque.”

Now, as the residents of the community celebrate this step toward better living conditions, the civil affairs Soldiers also celebrate the progress they’ve made. As Huntley said, it’s only a small step toward a promising future for Iraq.

“We are in the business of pulling together infrastructure,” said Huntley. “It’s going to help the county carry on by itself after we leave. So we’re very interested in setting the stage for success. It’s just a start, but we’re going to use this as a springboard to continue progress here.”



Sgt. Jack Morse

CA works irrigation

Lt. Col. Randy Fritz with the 308th Civil Affairs out of Homewood, Ill., examines an irrigation ditch in a village outside Balad, Iraq, Jan. 4. A pump pulls water from the ditch into nearby homes. A more sanitary system is in its planning stages.

CA team focuses on rural Djibouti

By Lance Cpl. Adam C. Schnell
CJTF - Horn of Africa

A convoy of vehicles passes over countless miles of mountainous lava rock terrain in eastern Djibouti with one mission in mind, to improve the health of the people in the region.

After two flat tires and hours of spine-jarring bumps, members of the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, based in Whitehall, Ohio, made it to their destination to find several families waiting for their opportunity to receive medical attention.

Two teams from the battalion treated more than 450 people in the villages of Guistir and Assamo from Feb. 8 to 12. Also during the first Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa Medical and Veterinarian Civic Action Programs performed in the area, service members treated more than 400 area livestock.

The battalion, while in support of CJTF-HOA, conducts missions to increase stability in the region by cooperating with host villages. The teams conduct various tasks to help provide clean water, functional schools and improved medical facilities.

The sites for the MED/VETCAPs in the region are chosen for many different reasons. These were chosen because of their remote location and basic medical care is unavailable and medicines are too expensive for the people in the region.

A lot of animals were also treated to include goats, sheep, donkeys and camels. The villagers relay very heavily on these animals, without them they wouldn't survive, said 1st Lt. Amy K. Peterson-Colwell, a Fredericktown, Ohio, native and staff veterinarian for the 412th.

The idea is to get to know the villagers on a personal level, said Sgt.



Staff Sgt. Joseph Roberts

CA pull security in Iraq

Spc. Dereck Humbles, 304th Civil Affairs Company, Philadelphia, Pa., pulls security on the rooftop of the mayor's cell in Ar Ramadia, Iraq, Jan. 15. The 304th CA Company is working with the people of Ramadia to rebuild the city's infrastructure and foster good will between Iraqis and coalition forces.

1st Class William J. Dickson, a team sergeant for the battalion. There was one herder who came back on the second day of the VETCAP after her sick donkey was treated and said it was doing much better thanks to them.

"It's a great feeling when people come back to just tell you thank you," said Dickson, a West Palm Beach, Fla., native.

Taking this approach when coming into a new village helps to build a strong foundation for relationships that will last for years. It also helps build confidence in the villagers when it comes to medicine they provide to them.

"They go home and tell their neighbors that they feel better because of the medicine," said Abdi Said Ali, a translator at the MEDCAP. "Word of mouth gets around quickly, and more people come on the second day."

During the VETCAP, a nickname was given to the staff veterinarian by local villagers for her uncanny work with donkeys, animals similar to the horses she worked with in her civilian life. Peterson-Colwell, dubbed the "Donkey Whisperer"

by villagers, was given the name because of her techniques of talking to the animals in a soft voice to calm them down.

"Many people don't understand that sometimes all the animal needs is a gentle touch or a soft word," she said.

Besides working with the animals to make them better, the members have to work with the villagers to better diagnose their animals. Peterson-Colwell said being a veterinarian is really about working with people.

"The more you attempt to learn their language and culture, the more open they are to you," said Peterson-Colwell. "The more open they are, the more they trust that you will help their animals."

Besides building lasting relationships and providing medicine to the people in the villages, the four-day long VET/MEDCAP was used as a training tool for the civic action team who arrived in Djibouti only a month ago. It helped the team become better prepared for future VET and MEDCAPs.

PSYOP Rangers compete

By Sgt. Kyle J. Cosner
USASOC Public Affairs

Their reward will be combat parachute operations and air assaults into enemy territory, some of the toughest training in the U.S. military, and so many deployments that woodland camouflage uniforms might become nothing more than a distant memory.

But don't be fooled by the shoulder tabs and combat scrolls they seek — the mission of these motivated recruits won't be to capture or kill terrorists in distant lands. Winning the hearts, minds and

cooperation of their countrymen is the name of this game.

A handful of hopefuls from the 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C., began a week-long assessment and selection course Feb. 2 that, if they're successful, will land them a coveted two-year tour with Tactical PSYOP Detachment 940 — the 75th Ranger Regiment's PSYOP force provider of choice.

"Our Soldiers are the only

(PSYOP specialists) that get to go to Ranger School," said Staff Sgt. Robert Browksi, TPD 940's detachment sergeant. "To become Ranger qualified, they've got to come to this detachment. To come to this detachment, they've got to go through the selection process."

The five volunteers are all young, junior-enlisted Soldiers trying to be all they can be — the PSYOP equivalent to the Rangers of the renowned infantry unit. But before the week even kicked off, the five quickly became four as one Soldier was injured during intense buildup to the tough five-day trial.

Throughout the week's assessment, detachment leaders would make it clear to the remaining four that if they want to perform wartime PSYOP missions, they'd need to prove that they are themselves warriors first.

Training Day

For one particular candidate, a young specialist, it had already been a long day, and it wasn't even 7 a.m. yet. The Soldier, from 4th POG's 8th PSYOP Battalion, was carrying almost 90 pounds of gear, plus his body armor, while briskly road marching the third of many off-road miles when a 940 assessor demanded a rendition of the Ranger Creed.

"Recognizing...that I volunteered...as...a Ranger," the Soldier stammered between out-of-breaths, "fully...knowing..."

The assessor just shook his head. It's going to be a long week for these Soldiers.

No Pain, No Gain

Out of necessity, the assessment process is rigorous. Because of the peak performance that Ranger commanders demand when they employ TPD 940, Browksi said the detachment's assessment and selection course is essential — unit leaders must know that a Soldier can accomplish the mission and make it out alive.

Due to the unit's high operational tempo, PSYOP task competency and the physical strength and endurance required to keep up with the Rangers are factors that must be known before a Soldier can be accessed into the detachment, said Capt. Frank Gasca, TPD 940's detachment commander.

"What we have to do is find the best possible PSYOPers that we can find, those that will be able to move with the regiment and operate at a level that the regiment operates at," Gasca said.

Designed to balance the assessment of recruits between mental and physical factors, the week's event would include a mix of classroom and field time designed to overwhelm hopeful Soldiers. More than 11 classes and 30 miles of running and ruck marching over five days would help the best candidates rise to the top, Browksi said.

"The stopping, the going — we're trying to ... see how they think and operate once they are mentally and physically fatigued, because that's what they're going to experience on-duty during a mission," Gasca said. "We have to find that person that's not going to quit."



During the Tactical Psychological Operations Detachment 940 (Ranger) Assessment and Selection Course, a soldier conducts combat loudspeaker operations. Five candidates spent the week in tough physical and mental trials while vying for spots in the detachment, which provides direct PSYOP support to the 75th Ranger Regiment.



Staff Sgt. Robert Browski, team sergeant for Tactical PSYOP Detachment 940, quickens the pace as Sgt. Silas Soto tries to catch up during a 10-mile-long team building exercise Feb. 4. Soto and the three other Soldiers were participating in a weeklong assessment and selection course for assignment to TPD 940, which provides direct PSYOP support to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

to become best of both worlds

“Some of the practical exercises we do are very much in line with what we may be held to do in support of the regiment, and many of the psychological operations problems and applications are geared toward what we have done in the past and what we anticipate doing in the future.

“This happens once to twice a year,” Gasca added. “We do it when we actually need people because of our turnover rate. Last assessment, we accessed eight Soldiers into the unit, and there were about 20 to 30 guys trying out. This time, we don’t need as many, so we elected to have a smaller class.”

Gasca said that by identifying potential candidates for his unit, he was grooming the psychological operations career field’s best Soldiers to mentor others.

“Once they come out of this unit, they go back into the PSYOP world as leaders,” he said.

Team Building

With a comprehensive team building exercise

scheduled for the morning of Feb. 4, the third day, the TPD 940 cadre hoped to see just how hard they could push their young recruits.

During the team exercise, the assessors would push hard, but the volunteers pushed back harder.

“In between phases of today’s operation, they’re going to do about a 10-mile trek through the woods,” Gasca said. “They’ve done ... four to five miles with rucks on their back, then we’re doing a transition phase where we’re going to try to fatigue them a little bit more, then they’ll ... go on a run for another five miles. They’ll end up in about the same place, go through some more transitional exercises, and then they’ll do a buddy-carry for another mile back to the unit — but they don’t know that yet.”

The “transitional exercises” that Gasca referred to were what normal Soldiers would call “getting smoked.” The Soldiers were subjected to a number of uphill runs during the ruck march, all while wearing body armor and their

buddies on their shoulders — carrying total loads easily in excess of 200 pounds.

Why? “We have to find that person that’s not going to quit,” Gasca reiterated.

Quickening the pace, the cadre took the Soldiers off the road through the rough terrain of the woods. Such unexpected turns are what successful candidates can expect during real-world operations, Browski said.

With a variety of rucksack weights among the recruits, TPD cadre try to encourage teamwork by having the Soldiers share each other’s loads, which ranged from 50 pounds to more than 90.

After the five-mile road march portion of the event, the Soldiers were directed to move supplies intended for an entire unit, including a mountain of meals-ready-to-eat boxes and five-gallon water jugs. The only catch was, they had to sprint uphill with all of the supplies, with one of the candidates still wearing the 90-pound rucksack.

“Get it on! Get it on! Hurry up,” were among a colorful

collection of shouts directed toward the already-fatigued Soldiers. “That’s your Ranger element up front, TPD, you’d better get up there with them!”

Staff Sgt. Jason Gaboury, a TPD 940 team leader, just smiled as he put on his tennis shoes in preparation for the upcoming five-mile run.

PSYOP Rangers Lead the Way

Administratively situated in the 9th PSYOP Battalion’s Company B, TPD 940 is known among psychological operations specialists at Fort Bragg — and Armywide — as one of the most competent field PSYOP elements in the business. Constant deployments over the past two years have made the detachment one of America’s busiest special operations units.

When the Rangers go, so does 940.

If the Rangers are called in, commanders generally need guaranteed results — and fast. According to Gasca, some of those results can usually be directly attributed to his Soldiers’ PSYOP work while deployed with the regiment.

Continued next page

PSYOP Rangers from previous page

“The Rangers have a great appreciation for PSYOP, and especially Detachment 940,” Gasca said. “We’ve created a good name with them and we’ve created a good working relationship, so they really understand our mission and they utilize us pretty thoroughly. There’s no lack of work once we get on a mission.”

Well-known among the PSYOP volunteers is how four TPD 940 Soldiers received combat jump devices for their participation in the 75th Ranger Regiment’s parachute assault onto Objective Rhino at Dry Lake Airstrip in southern Afghanistan Oct. 19, 2001. The jump, which effectively began U.S. ground combat operations in the war on terrorism, was the first mass tactical combat parachute drop since the 75th and the 82nd Airborne Division jumped into Panama during Operation Just Cause in December 1989.

The PSYOP Soldiers parachuted with approximately 200 Rangers into Afghanistan to operate portable loudspeaker equipment designed for broadcasting surrender messages to opposition forces, and was exactly the type of mission Gasca said the unit constantly trains for.

However, more typical unit missions can range from leaflet dissemination coordination and radio transmissions to more conventional loudspeaker broadcasts. But Gasca said that no matter the method, most of the detachment’s work is done face to face “mixing with the culture and the local leaders.”

Head Games

“We don’t just scuff them up,” Browski said, referencing the numerous times the young troops were exhausted physically by the training or forced to hit the deck after careless or unsatisfactory performances. Although only the most physically fit psy-operators are accessed into TPD 940, Browski said it is just as essential to get troops who can flex their mental muscles during operations in enemy territory.

“We need guys that are smart, that can think on their feet. And they’ve got to be strong. We need the complete package — exactly what any com-

mander would want.”

Although it’s not as flashy as the field stuff, time spent training in classroom environments is a big part of the detachment’s selection process, Browski said. So big, in fact, that the classroom phase can often equate to the Soldiers cramming for exams.

But Browski said that for the bits of enjoyment experienced during the assessment, there were plenty of aching bodies, broken egos and self-doubt to go around for the recruits, who are forced to operate at full physical capacity, as a team, with little reinforcement from detachment leaders during the field assessments.

“All we tell them is the duty uniform and where to be, so there is a lot of anticipation on their part,” he said.

Reality Bites

Feb. 5, the fourth and second-to-last day, the volunteers embarked upon the assessment’s capstone exercise — a simulated real-world PSYOP mission in a Military Operations in an Urban Terrain environment.

Within the confines of a gray, cement-blocked mock city, the recruits were to be assessed on a variety of combat PSYOP applications, including village assessments, combat loudspeaker operations and detainee interrogations. The evaluations were all based on events that Gasca said new TPD 940 members were sure to see not long after joining the unit.

The scenario — an Afghan village, wary of American forces and in need of its first ground assessment — is one many TPD 940 Soldiers have actually experienced for themselves, according to unit leaders. Ultra-realistic training is the best way to determine a Soldier’s potential, Browski said.

Putting the week’s classroom time to work, precede their entry into the village with a loudspeaker broadcast — in Russian. To add a sense of realism to the exercise, the Soldiers are provided with a role-playing interpreter to help them communicate with the villagers, who will only speak that language.

The PSYOP Soldiers began to interact with the village role-players immediately after stepping into the city, and right away made a critical mistake — they identified themselves to a villager as psychological

operations specialists, a move the 940 assessors would later denounce during an after action review as contrary to establishing credibility with foreign nationals.

The TPD 940 recruits are then led through a maze of dark rooms, at the end of which they are introduced to the village elder. “Please, please, come sit down,” said the somewhat convincing role-player, himself a PSYOP specialist.

During the meeting, the TPD assessors stop the meeting abruptly when the recruits persist in trying to communicate with the villagers in English and hand gestures.

One senior assessor imparts advice that he said would be critical when deployed — “If you’ve got an (interpreter), you’d better use him!” The assessor emphasized that knowing how to use available resources is the key to success for PSYOP field operators.

Browski reminds the volunteers, “We don’t have to sit, drink tea and eat cookies — we have to stay mission-focused.”

With only one short day left for the Soldiers, the assessment is almost over. But for the Soldiers selected to join the unit, it would only be the beginning.

Making the Cut

“We do it because we want to be leaders,” said Spc. Alec Petkoff, a recently accessed PSYOP specialist in TPD 940. “Everybody knows about the assessment, but out of everybody in 4th POG, these five people came out for the assessment. Whether they make it or don’t make, it doesn’t matter. They’ve already set themselves apart.”

Gasca said the one thing that the Soldiers chosen for accession into TPD 940 could expect upon arrival to the unit was to make the transformation from combat supporter to warfighter.

TPD 940 has seen the Taliban. And the Fedayeen Saddam. They’ve met with indigenous peoples all over the U.S. Central Command theater of operations in an effort to soften hard targets for the Rangers. They are constantly training. And they’re ready to do it all over again — TPD 940 is always mission ready, from the newest Soldier to the most veteran — because hard work makes hard men.

“We’re trying to change a behavior, and we’re going to do whatever we can,” Gasca said, “to accomplish the Ranger mission.”

Stars in Stripes

In the enlisted spotlight for March is **Staff Sgt. Louis Sisneros**, Headquarters Commandant Office. He is an Army training noncommissioned officer and his responsibilities include in- and out-processing personnel for U.S. Special Operations Command; setting up, conducting and administering the Army physical fitness test twice a year; and serving as the Army Training Resources and Requirements System (ATRRS) representative for Army schools.

Sisneros is an Army Ranger and deployed twice to Operation Enduring Freedom and once to Operation Iraqi Freedom. "I spent about ten months total deployed," Sisneros said. "My time spent there was very exciting and at the same time a great learning experience. In my opinion, the morale of the guys was for the most part high, I admit there was times it was low due to soldiers missing their families and loved ones, but who wouldn't?"

First Sgt. Robert Postlewait is Sisneros' supervisor. "Sgt. Sisneros is an outstanding soldier," Postlewait said. "He shows concern for getting the job—any job—done right the first time. Lou's positive attitude is what is expected of a sergeant here at the U.S. Special Operations Command. We are proud of him. He recently earned the Bronze Star with 'V' Device."

Sisneros has worked at the Headquarters for six months. "My time here at USSOCOM continues to be a good learning experience," he said. "I get to see how the administrative part of the Army works. I do miss being with the boys. I can't wait to finish my time here and get back to doing the fun stuff."



HQ Civilians of the Quarter



Photos by Jennifer Whittle

Civilians of the 3rd Quarter stand with Deputy Commander Vice Adm. Eric Olson after a ceremony Nov. 3 at the Headquarters. Shown left to right are Vickie Girouard, Center for Acquisition and Logistics (SOAL); Marcy Whittle, Center for Intelligence and Information Operations; and Margaret Arnborg, SOAL.

Civilians of the 4th Quarter take a photograph with Deputy Commander Vice Adm. Eric Olson Jan 29. Shown left to right are Servet Kenning, Center for Information and Intelligence Operations (SOIO); Phillip Nelson, SOIO; and Katherine White, Center for Operations, Plans and Policy.



HQ Service Members of the Quarter



Senior enlisted adviser Chief Master Sgt. Bob Martens pins Staff Sgt. Michael Flythe with the Joint Service Achievement Medal for being selected as Service Member of the Quarter, 3rd quarter, during a ceremony at the Headquarters in November. Flythe works in the Center for Operations, Plans and Policy.



Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, Gen. Bryan Doug Brown congratulates Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Curtas for being named Service Member of the Quarter, 4th quarter, Jan. 20. Curtas works in the Center for Special Operations.

CBRN conference rallies 'the right stuff'

By Jennifer Whittle

USSOCOM Public Affairs

The U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Center for Operations, Plans and Policy (SOOP), Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Defense Branch hosted a four-day chemical conference Dec. 2-5 in Tampa, Fla. The event was co-sponsored by the National Defense Industrial Association



Capt. Daniel Saenz

Members of the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Department's Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Response Team demonstrate a mock rescue in full protection gear during the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear conference held in Tampa, Fla., in December. Fire rescue chief Chris Reynolds said his 'domestic soldiers' are joint, like Special Operations Forces, with the Tampa Police Department and medical response teams. The CBRN conference offered a forum for the U.S. Special Operations Command to do technological sharing with personnel who carry out the Federal Response Plan under Homeland Security.

(NDIA) to accomplish one overall goal: find better ways to support the Special Operations Forces (SOF) warfighter in the global war on terrorism.

The CBRN conference gathered 95 national and international vendors with exhibits, more than 500 attendees, included a demonstration from the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Department's Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Response Team, and unprecedented in the past, the voice of special operators at the 'tip of the spear.'

A key success from this year's conference included orientation briefs to corporations that specialize in CBRN defense products to support USSOCOM. "Of particular benefit to the attendees were the new acquisition policy changes within the Department of Defense, and specifically, how to do business with USSOCOM," said Maj. Matt Stork, SOOP. "We reviewed technologically advanced and innovative CBRN defense products that potentially could fulfill our warfighter's individual CBRN needs while we fight the global war on terrorism."

Concerns of the CBRN conference were equipment, doctrine, policy, training and education. "We harnessed information on these types of issues simply to turn around a better focus for the warfighter who is out there dealing with Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in an operational environment," Stork said.

"What was different about this year's CBRN conference was that we used the Headquarters' Electronic Innovation Center (EIC) to connect with special operators' top CBRN issues and we could do that in a classified forum," Stork explained. "We had SOF from each of the components including Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) speak from their own personal experiences directly to the CBRN defense industry. Pararescuemen, Combat Search and Rescue personnel, SEALs (sea, air, land), Rangers and Special Forces were each represented by enlisted troops—troops who were on the ground in Operation Enduring Freedom and/or Iraqi Freedom."

"Many times, when a new piece of equipment is fielded, the first thing someone asks is 'Who's idea was this? We don't need this...I wish they had asked me,'" said Lt. Col. John Campbell, USSOCOM chemical officer. "During the CBRN conference, we asked."

Campbell explained that it wasn't just asking, it was also the forum provided by the EIC that helped in the conference's success. "The EIC is an excellent tool for gathering information from a large group of people, rank ordering the data, and presenting the findings in a manner that better reflects the true need," he said. "The CBRN conference was able to gather a good group of USSOCOM operators, present a series of questions,

Favorable changes in survivor benefits

In November 2003, Congress took action in two areas to enhance certain benefits for survivors of service members who are killed on active duty. First, Congress increased the death gratuity from \$6,000 to \$12,000. This is a lump sum, tax-free, payment made to the surviving next of kin of service members who die while on active duty or inactive duty for training. Congress further made this increase in payment retroactive for deaths occurring on or after Sept. 9, 2001.

Second, Congress extended the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity. In the past, if a member died before being retirement eligible, SBP was automatically paid to the surviving spouse, if there was one. However, the amount of spousal-SBP is offset by the amount of Dependent Indemnification Compensation (DIC), another benefit paid to surviving family members, received by the surviving spouse. Now, the SBP annuity may be paid to dependent children, instead of the spouse, to avoid the DIC offset. For some of members, particularly junior members, this can make a big difference in the amount their surviving family members will receive. Contact your servicing casualty assistance office for further information.

Lessons learned in OEF, OIF become strategy for future of SOF logistics

By Jennifer Whittle
USSOCOM Public Affairs

The 2003 Special Operations Forces (SOF) Logistics Conference brought together senior logistics leaders from the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), its component commands, theater special operations commands (TSOCs) and the Pentagon for a three-day working conference held at the Mission Planning Center, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., in December.

“Combat Service Support for SOF” was the theme and the lessons learned in both Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom were evaluated by hundreds in the SOF logistics world as the foundation for the way ahead. Keynote addresses were provided by Gen. Bryan Doug Brown, commander, USSOCOM; Vice Adm. Gordon Holder, director for logistics, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C., and Lt. Gen. Chris Christianson, Army chief of Logistics.

“Anyone who says they are independent in logistics just isn’t clear,” Holder said in his opening remarks to conference attendees. Logistics is a large, worldwide operation, he said. “It’s a sequence. It has moving elements. It involves politics, coalition, requirements, laws, repair and consumption factors.”

And when SOF is combat loaded, Holder said, things like the weight on a ship is critical information. “Sometimes you just can’t get two more RIBs (rigid inflatable boats) onboard.”

What it all comes down to, Holder said, is getting what SOF needs, when SOF needs it—not too much, not too little. “It’s the factory to the foxhole theory. You know, we can move a lot of stuff in 10 days. And with web-based tracking and positioning, the system gets better and better.”

Lt. Col. Roy Johnson, Center for Acquisition and Logistics,



A special operator rides horseback in Operation Enduring Freedom. Special operators need SOF-specific logistics to adapt to their environments.

Operations and Strategy Division, said the 2003 conference was different than in previous years. “Our last SOF Logistics conference was held in 2000,” he said. “Back then before 9/11, we worked on issues synchronizing the moving pieces with a strategic focus as a resourcing combatant command headquarters with service-like responsibilities. Now, in addition to the strategic focus, we are talking about improving logistics at the tactical and operational levels, specifically for the warfighter engaged in direct combat operations in the field. We are focusing on better ways to support the global



The Center for Acquisition and Logistics procured Toyota Tacomas for SOF in Afghanistan.

war on terrorism through more effective use of our limited organic combat service support (CSS) assets, and leveraging the services’ conventional CSS capabilities to support our early entry SOF units.”

Capt. Rodrick Webb, SOAL, was part of the planning cell for the conference. “Base operating support (BOS) and CSS for SOF is different than with

conventional forces,” Webb said. “And this conference produced a better game plan to present SOF needs to the services.”

The difference with SOF logistics, said Col. Jack Hampton, director, USSOCOM Logistics, is the moving of SOF-peculiar equipment. “Our Title 10 designates logistics for SOF to the services,” he said. “Therefore the big services are responsible to get SOF equipment to SOF units, where ever SOF needs them. The very nature of special operations; the fact that SOF can need support 100 miles behind enemy lines; and that SOF is often the first on the ground—all make SOF logistics unique. There isn’t always a formalized support structure available.”

“Combat Mission Needs Statements, or C-MNS, identified many urgent SOF materiel requirements in Operation Enduring Freedom which included the procurement of Toyota Tacomas and Polaris ATVs with modifications for SOF,” Johnson added. “The C-MNS identified the requirement which was validated by the Directorate of Operations, Plans, and Policy, and SOAL coordinated the rapid acquisition, modifications and transportation to get the vehicles into the hands of the special operators who needed them in combat. That immediate surge in mission capability in an austere, bare base environment is logistics success.”

Another conference success, Webb felt, was the input from the logistics personnel at the TSOCs. “We had special operators from the theater areas of responsibility personally validate their logistic experiences,” Webb explained. “The conference offered a forum for their firsthand solutions.”

Also, said Hampton, conference attendees reviewed the overall doctrine that supports SOF Logistics. “We looked at changes in doctrine that would improve the way we do business. That will consume all our time in the near future.”

Holder summed it up. “You,” he pointed to his audience, “are the warriors who make things happen. Getting you tailored and agile support when and where you need it falls right in line with readiness and transformation for the global war on terrorism.”



Commander jumps with STS personnel

Gen. Bryan Doug Brown, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command (center) and his senior enlisted adviser Command Chief Master Sgt. Bob Martens (right) prepare to board an MC-130 Talon II for an airborne operation with members of the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron and 720th Special Tactics Group. Their exit was at 10,000 feet. The military free fall parachute training exercise was held at Hurlburt Field, Fla., Jan. 22.



'Need to know' means need to know

*Column by Mike Sweat
USSOCOM OPSEC Officer*

Need-to-know Part One

Need-to-know has been a cornerstone of our system for protection of operational information which Operational Security is so vitally concerned. However, with the evolution of secure computer systems need-to-know has become much less defined or at least it seems that way. Computer systems are great tools and enable us to do many things at lightening speed. As in all security areas responsibility lies with the individual and is no different with the information that is found on computer systems: someone had to put it there. Perhaps understanding need-to-know a little better or a refresher is helpful in protecting this vital information.

Understanding Need-to-Know

Do you know that many of the most damaging espionage cases in the last decade were carried out by "insiders," i.e., fully-cleared individuals with access to classified information? Do you also

know that in almost every case, these "insiders" gained access to additional information by circumventing the need-to-know principle? They did so by taking advantage of their coworkers' failure to properly control access to the classified information for which they were responsible.

The espionage case which dramatically reveals the importance of the need-to-know principle is the case of Jonathan J. Pollard, a former counterterrorism analyst for the Naval Investigative Service. Because his co-workers violated the "need-to-know" principle, Pollard easily obtained documents which dealt with Mid East and Far East countries. Pollard's area of responsibility was the U.S. and the Caribbean. Pollard was charged in 1985 with selling classified material to the Israeli Intelligence Service, and in 1987 was sentenced to life imprisonment.

A Frequent Dilemma!

Most Agency personnel encounter situations in the conduct of their daily

duties which cause them to question whether an individual has the need to know certain information.

Suppose for a moment that your organization is involved in a very sensitive classified project. Suppose, too, that an individual from another organization calls you and inquires about the project. You know he has a green badge and is fully cleared for Top Secret, Sensitive Compartmented Information, but you're not sure whether he should be given information about this project. You certainly don't want to appear to be unresponsive or disrespectful to the individual.

What should you do? Determination of need-to-know is the personal responsibility of everyone, but if there is ANY doubt in your mind as to an individual's need-to-know, you should always check with your supervisor before releasing any classified information. In the example above, the individual should be denied access to the project information until you are able to determine his need-to-know.

Expect Need-to-know Part Two in the next issue.

Command Parachute Team kicks off 2004 season with style

By Cmdr. Jason Washabaugh
Command Parachute Team

The U.S. Special Operations Command Parachute Team participated in its first demonstration of 2004 by performing to a sold out Raymond James Stadium crowd at this year's Outback Bowl, New Year's Day, in Tampa, Fla.

The four jumpers were Lt. Col. Pete Davis, Legislative Affairs, who carried the game ball and the Outback Bowl flag; Maj. Cris Fucci, Center for Operations, Plans and Policy (SOOP), who flew the University of Florida flag; retired Col. Al Vernon, Command Operations Review Board, who flew the University of Iowa flag; and retired Master Sgt. Andy Serrano, parachute facility manager, who brought in the U.S. flag.

Reinier Cruz, deputy of Special Operations Joint Inter-agency Collaboration Center, narrated the jump to a cheering crowd. The ground crew supporting this year's Outback Bowl demonstration were Lt. Col. Steve Walters, CORB legal adviser; Lt. Col. Andy Burch, deputy chief of the Operational Preparation of the Battlespace Division; Staff Sgt. Robert Oehler, Center for Special Operations; and Senior Master Sgt. Pat Sampson, Command Surgeon General office and ground medic for the team.

The team booked the 2004 season with more than 35 demonstrations so far across Florida and the East Coast. The CPT will perform at airs shows, motor sports events and high school football games. One of the biggest air shows scheduled will be the MacDill Air Fest, April 3-4, where headquarters personnel can see the team in action.

All members volunteer for the team in addition to regular USSOCOM duty and the team is looking for a few good jumpers or ground support crew members. For a complete



Jay Conner, Courtesy The Tampa Tribune

Lt. Col. Pete Davis, Special Operations Legislative Affairs, approaches the playing field of the Outback Bowl with the game ball during a Command Parachute Team demonstration jump Jan. 1 that kicked off the college football bowl game between the University of Florida and the University of Iowa at Raymond James Stadium, Tampa, Fla.

list of the 2004 schedule or questions about joining this team of teams, contact Officer in Charge Lt. Col. Curt Brandt, Center for Force Structure, Requirement, Resources and Strategic Assessments, at (813) 828-6756. The team encourages all USSOCOM personnel and family members to come out and enjoy demonstrations, learn a thing or two about skydiving, and see the positive impact the team has upon the community.

CBRN Conference from page 24

and gather a consensus on what the CBRN priorities of the command should be. I was impressed with how the EIC helped focus the CBRN effort.

"This command has some unique challenges not seen in the big services," Campbell elaborated. "We have to carry everything we need with us to the battlefield. Thus USSOCOM looks for systems that do not require large amounts of water, fuel, batteries—or 10 years to field. Our basic need to protect SOF remains, but how we do can vary from conventional needs. I think our industry conference-goers got that message.

"Special operations have always been called upon to execute difficult missions under difficult conditions," Campbell continued. "A nuclear, biological or chemical (NBC) environment is probably the harshest environment in which any force could operate. We in the CBRN community strive to mitigate the effects of this harsh environment on our forces so they can continue to execute their mission without unacceptable risk."

Overall, Campbell felt that the conference was a success. "We brought together the right folks, in the right forum, and talked about the right stuff," he said. "Now the hard work begins. We have to act on the informa-

tion we gathered, move programs along, and close all CBRN capability gaps."

The relationship between the military and industry is an established one, and bringing in the warfighter's point of view isn't anything new, Stork added. "But as USSOCOM moves forward in the global war on terrorism, it has never been more critical to identify problems and discover solutions for the people in the field using the equipment. That's when the conference became more than a gathering—it became a USSOCOM tool."

Quality of Life Corner

Commander, SEA initiate Tiger Team

Editor's note: The *Tip of the Spear* introduces the Quality of Life Corner column to address SOF retention issues.

By Maj. Thomas Ballard
Directorate of Personnel Office

Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, Gen. Bryan Doug Brown, and USSOCOM senior enlisted adviser Chief Master Sgt. Bob Martens hosted a senior noncommissioned officer (SNCO)/chief petty officer (CPO) town hall meeting to address retention of Special Operations Forces senior enlisted personnel issues in December 2003.

Twenty SNCOs and their spouses from the components gathered at the Headquarters to generate feedback specifically on retention initiatives. As a result, Brown directed the formation of the USSOCOM Quality of Life (QOL) Tiger Team to review these initiatives,

develop appropriate courses of action, and provide USSOCOM leadership with recommendations for implementation. One issue addressed the possibility of Special Operations Forces personnel receiving more college credit for training and experience.

The American Council on Education (ACE) Guide recommends college credit hours for military training and experience. For example, the ACE Guide recommends college credit for SOF training on courses from Basic Underwater Demolition Training to the Advanced Operational Techniques course and all SOF language courses. It also recommends college credit for SOF experience from Special Forces sergeant to freefall jumpmaster.

Most universities that recognize the ACE Guide will accept up to 30 credit hours for military training and experience. The average SNCO qualifies for at least that many through the ACE Guide. It's worth a look at

www.militaryguides.acenet.edu to see how many college credits you could get.

Also, before you chose a university's bachelor program, ensure they accept ACE Guide recommendations. It is imperative that the word gets out so that everyone can take advantage of this opportunity.

The next step is for Tiger Team to find universities that accept more than 30 credit hours for SOF training and experience. The Tiger Team is working with the Joint Special Operations University specifically researching SOF-friendly universities willing to develop a SOF bachelor degree; award more than 30 college credits for SOF training and experience; have on-line capability and satellite locations; and provide financial course matching for spouses.

The results will run in a future "QOL Corner," along with other initiatives. The next issue will run information on SOF-friendly supplemental insurance.

Who was Col. Arthur 'Bull' Simons? — USSOCOM History Office

Since 1990, the presentation of the "Bull" Simons award has been a key event of Special Operations Forces Mess Night. The criterion for the award says that recipients should embody "the true spirit, values and skills of a special operations warrior." "Bull" Simons possessed these attributes in full measure.

A career soldier, Simons led special operations in World War II and Vietnam. Born in New York City, N.Y., in 1918, Simons graduated from the University of Missouri in 1941 with a degree in journalism and served in the Pacific theater in World War II. He rose to company commander in the 6th Ranger Battalion and participated in several amphibious landings in the Philippines. On one noteworthy occasion, he and his men scaled a steep oceanside cliff under cover of darkness and overwhelmed a garrison of Japanese soldiers at the Suluan lighthouse.

Simons left the Army after World War II, but returned to duty in 1951. He completed the Special Forces Officers Qualification Course in 1958 (at the age of 40) and took command of a detachment in the 77th Special Forces Group (Airborne). From 1961 to 1962, as head of the White Star Mobile Training Team, he served as the senior military advisor to the Royal Lao Army.

In 1965, Simons returned to Southeast Asia as a member of Military Assistance Command Vietnam's Studies and Observations Group (MACV- SOG). Serving under then-Col. Donald Blackburn, Simons commanded OP-35, one of three operational directorates within SOG. For about two years, he led OP-35 on an interdiction campaign against the North Vietnamese Army along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos and Cambodia.

Simons left Vietnam in 1966, but returned in 1970 as the

Deputy Commander of Joint Contingency Task Group Ivory Coast—the Son Tay Raiders. The task force was formed after American intelligence had identified Son Tay Prison, near Hanoi, as a POW detention camp. After six months of planning and rehearsals, Simons led a raid into the prison compound in an attempt to rescue American POWs. As a result of their meticulous attention to detail and contingency plans, the raiders executed the entire operation in 28 minutes, successfully faced an enemy force of approximately 350 men, and left with only 2 injuries. Although the raid at Son Tay failed to accomplish its principal objective, it sent a clear message to North Vietnam, and the treatment of American prisoners improved somewhat thereafter.

Simons retired from the Army in 1971, but he was to conduct one more special mission. In 1979, Ross Perot asked Simons to rescue two of his employees: the Iranian revolutionary regime was holding them in a Tehran prison and was demanding a \$13 million dollar ransom. In April of that year, Simons led a civilian rescue party into Iran and safely extracted the American hostages. Just one month later, Simons suffered a massive heart attack and died.

The previous Bull Simons Award recipients are H. Ross Perot, Gen. Edward "Shy" Meyer, Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr., Col. Aaron Bank, Lt. Gen. Samuel V. Wilson, Lt. Gen. Leroy Manor, Honorable Sam Nunn, Honorable William S. Cohen, Gen. James Lindsay, Maj. Gen. John R. Alison, Col. Charlie Beckwith, and Brig. Gen. Harry "Heinie" Aderholt. This year's Bull Simons Award recipient is retired Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest K. Tabata.

CSM Tabata earns the 2004 Bull Simons Award

By Navy Capt. John DeNicola
USSOCOM History Office

CSM Tabata is first enlisted recipient

Retired Command Sergeant Major Ernest K. Tabata began his military career in June 1946 as a volunteer in the Hawaiian Territorial Guard. Two years later he enlisted in the U.S. Army at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and completed basic infantry training, and then the advanced combat engineer school at Ft. Belvoir, Va. In March 1950, he arrived in Japan for occupation duty with the U.S. Far East Command.

June 1950 Tabata found himself among the first American soldiers sent to South Korea to repel the invasion by the North. He was assigned to the 14th Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry

Division. Tabata participated in warfare that saw the Americans retreat, advance, retreat and advance again in some of the fiercest fighting ever experienced in the history of the U.S. Army.

Following Korea, Tabata returned to Hawaii and received an Honorable Discharge in September 1952. He reenlisted into the army in January 1955. Tabata served for the next six years as a paratrooper in the 82nd and 11th Airborne Divisions. In January 1961, Tabata became a “triple volunteer” when he applied for duty with the U.S. Army Special Forces.

After his Special Forces training at Ft. Bragg, Tabata volunteered for a clandestine

Mobile Training Team, named White Star. Led by then-Lt. Col. Arthur “Bull” Simons, these 7th Special Forces Group soldiers wearing civilian clothes, arrived in the Kingdom of Laos in October 1961. Tabata began training a Royal Lao Army battalion on the *Plaine des Jarres*, located 100 miles north of the Laotian capitol of Vientiane.

Soon afterwards, Tabata encountered the *Kha*, a group of mountain tribesmen who were fierce fighters. Tabata helped to train the *Kha* as a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) with the primary mission of protecting their villages from attack by the Pathet Lao.

In February 1962, Tabata

was stricken with hepatitis and evacuated back to the United States for treatment. Following three months convalescence, Tabata was assigned to the Special Forces Training Group as a demolitions instructor. Two years later, fully recovered, Tabata joined the 1st Special Forces Group, but only four months later, in August 1964, he received orders to the Republic of South Vietnam. Tabata joined the 5th Special Forces Group, and again trained mountain tribesmen; in this case, *Montagnards* as the French called them. He worked with the Montagnard *Rhade* tribesmen who formed CIDG groups; both for village protection and to patrol against the communist Viet Cong units.

In January 1965, reassigned to 1st Special Forces Group (A) in Okinawa, Tabata served as a team sergeant on one of the High-Altitude-Low-Opening (HALO) teams. A few months later, Tabata and his ‘A’ team went to Korea and prepared South Korea’s elite White Horse Division for combat prior to its departure for South Vietnam the following year.

Tabata returned to South Vietnam in November 1965—his third combat tour—for assignment to a unit with an intentionally obscure title: Military Assistance Command, Vietnam—Studies and Observation Group. Usually referred to as MACV-SOG or simply SOG, the unit had some

Continued next page



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest K. Tabata shown working on the mobile training team White Star in Laos, October 1961. Tabata began training a Royal Lao Army battalion on the *Plaine des Jarres*, located 100 miles north of the Laotian capitol of Vientiane.

of the most dangerous missions in Southeast Asia.

In SOG, Tabata became a reconnaissance team leader in the Command & Control North (CCN), the element that conducted missions against the Ho Chi Minh Trail running through southern Laos. These top-secret missions, code-named Shining Brass, were conducted by Green Beret-led teams usually comprised of three U.S. and three to four Montagnard soldiers.

Extraordinary circumstances resulted in extraordinary demands on Tabata who led SOG reconnaissance teams, identified by their now-famous radio call-sign "One Zero." Tabata emphasized the need for thorough pre-mission rehearsals, putting his team through incessant training, whether the mission was to identify targets for airstrikes, or insert on the heels of a B-52 "Arc Light" strike to conduct bomb damage assessment.

On one mission into Laos, Tabata led a team to destroy Russian artillery pieces, discovered during a previous reconnaissance. No sooner had the reconnaissance soldiers leaped from their helicopters onto the landing zone, they received fire from a larger enemy force. Tabata called for an extraction and engaged the enemy. He and his radio operator were wounded.

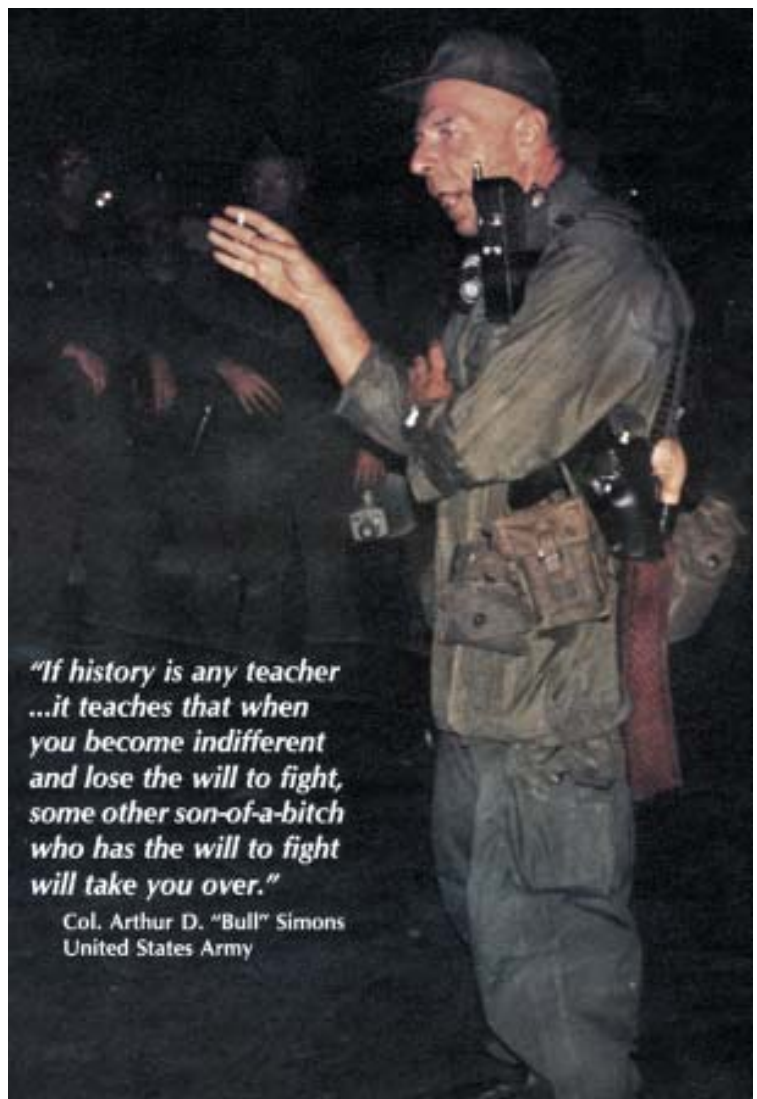
In another display of courageous airmanship, South Vietnamese helicopter pilots, known by their radio call-sign "King Bees," braved savage enemy fire to extract the trapped team. Tabata recalled the King Bee motto, "we take

you in, we take you out," with considerable gratitude. For his role in the mission, Tabata received both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal for Valor. He was subsequently medically evacuated to Okinawa where his convalescence took five full months.

In July 1969, Tabata returned to Vietnam for a second tour with MACV-SOG, this time in Operation 34, the Ground Studies Branch within SOG's headquarters. Tabata put his hard-earned experience to good use training and mentoring future reconnaissance team leaders. This fourth combat tour also provided Tabata with the freedom to put his experience and talents almost anywhere and everywhere within the organization. He also supported several launch sites locations, where teams were staged prior to going on a mission. He served as an LNO, or liaison officer, between launch site and MACV-SOG.

During this tour, he moved among the SOG sites, evaluating their operations for combat effectiveness as well as morale. By this late stage of the war many of SOG's best NCO leadership were gone, killed in action or worn down by a decade of high-risk combat. Yet Tabata still found the camaraderie and high morale he encountered—and no doubt help generate by his presence—impressive in its impact on him. He attributed this to the feeling that no matter where a Special Forces soldier found himself, he felt as if he were part of a close knit family.

Returning to Ft. Devens, Mass., in August 1970, Tabata served in the following years



*"If history is any teacher
...it teaches that when
you become indifferent
and lose the will to fight,
some other son-of-a-bitch
who has the will to fight
will take you over."*

Col. Arthur D. "Bull" Simons
United States Army

with the 10th Special Forces Group as well as a tour with the 12th Engineer Battalion.

Upon his promotion to sergeant major he served as the senior enlisted Aadvisee to the Assistant Division Commander, 8th Infantry Division, in Mainz, Germany. His return to Special Forces came in 1978, with an assignment to the 7th Special Forces Group. He was active in Central and South American mobile training teams. He also went on a "Show of Force" mission to Liberia, Africa.

Tabata retired in December 1981 after 30 years of active duty service. But Tabata could stand only two years away from the military. In November 1984, he returned

to the Special Forces Training Group as a civilian instructor. He currently teaches Special Forces A-Team engineers the skills of their specialty. He also provides demolitions instruction to Special Forces warrant officers. At age 73, he still participates in static-line parachute jumps as required in the course of his duties.

As a teacher, mentor and role model for today's Special Forces soldiers, Tabata has become an icon in the select world of American Special Operations Forces. CSM Tabata exemplifies in all ways the warrior spirit of the Bull Simons Award that U.S. Special Operations Command will present to him this SOF Week in May.

Special Operations Forces history

Underwater Demolition Teams conduct critical missions in World War II

By Stephanie Broker
USSOCOM History Office

By mid-February 1945, the plan to invade Iwo Jima was in place. This island, 650 miles off the coast of Japan, had steep mountainous terrain and hidden caves. Its highest point, the now famous Mt. Suribachi, rose 546 feet above the ocean. Adm. Chester W. Nimitz decided it was important to invade Iwo Jima because of its close proximity to Japan and to eliminate the substantial airpower based on the island, which made it difficult for U.S. B-29 bombers from reaching Japanese cities.

Days before the invasion, which would take place Feb. 19, 1945, four U.S. Navy Underwater Demolition Teams (UDTs 12, 13, 14 & 15) arrived to survey the island. The UDT “Frogmen” were specially trained and equipped to survey shorelines and beaches for impending invasions. They were responsible for locating and destroying obstacles and traps set up by the enemy to impede in invasion. Each of these teams was trained by other veteran UDTs, but teams 14 and 15 were the only two that had actually seen action before. In fact, the frogmen of UDT 14 had participated in a total of 33 landing operations prior to Iwo Jima.

The plan for the UDTs in Iwo Jima was to partake in reconnaissance missions and destroy underwater obstacles and booby traps. One team reconnoitered a beach to check out a possible “secret weapon.” The Japanese supposedly had created a new weapon that involved oil drums designed to pour flaming gasoline on the landing force. Other than this, the teams were not fully briefed on what they were looking for in case they were captured.

During the morning of Feb. 16, 1945, a flotilla of landing craft loaded with men motored toward the eastern coast of the island where the Japanese had established a formidable defense. Once in place, UDTs unloaded into the cold waters of Pacific. Greased up to keep warm, UDTs swam underwater as much as possible to avoid the enemy gun fire. The frogmen managed to deceive the enemy on the east side of the island while others conducted operations along the real landing sites clearing out all obstacles.

Meanwhile, a handful of gunboats sat offshore. Even though they received the brunt of the enemy fire, they still provided a tremendous support to the men of UDTs 12, 13, 14

and 15, saving the lives of many swimmers. When the UDTs returned to these ships, they hardly recognized the vessels due to all the damage caused by the gunfire.

Remarkably, the frogmen avoided serious casualties with one swimmer reported lost and a dozen slightly wounded. But

that evening, after all the teams had returned from their mission, the men of UDT 15 suffered their biggest loss of the campaign. A surprise attack by a Japanese plane destroyed the team’s transport, the *USS Blessman*.

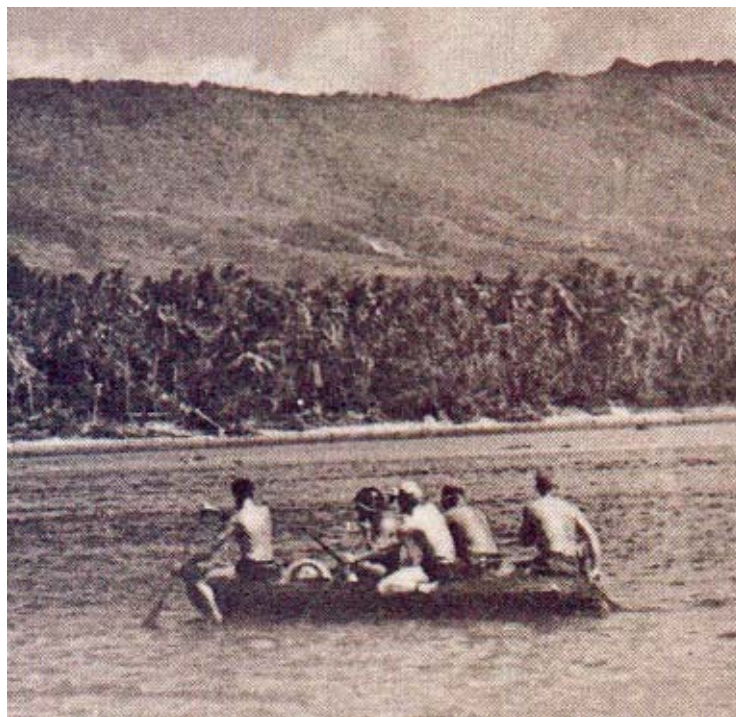
Eighteen men were killed and another 23 were seriously wounded; consequently, making this mission the worst disaster for UDTs for the entire Pacific war.

Despite the

losses, the operation was a success. By Feb. 19, 1945, the invasion of Iwo Jima was underway when three Marine divisions stormed the coast. By the 23rd, Marines reached the top of Mount Suribachi and marked the occasion by raising the American flag. After five weeks of fighting and thousands of deaths later, Iwo Jima fell into the hands of the Americans. By the end of March, the operation was declared complete.

Over a nine day period in February, UDTs cleared out all the beaches of Iwo Jima. They removed over 100 obstacles including disarming 60 Japanese land mines and booby traps, and the possible “secret weapon” turned out to be storage drums.

UDTs learned valuable lessons from Iwo Jima. In fact, Iwo Jima was a lesson in itself. It was a miniature version of what was to come. The invasion of Okinawa was next and would be the largest UDT operation of the Pacific war. As a result, underwater demolition teams were increased in size and strength and were given additional fire power by expanding the number of gunboats and destroyers used in UDT operations.



An Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) approaches Iwo Jima to conduct reconnaissance missions prior to the island’s invasion, 1945.

Psychological Operations in Iraq



The team chief with the 361st Psychological Operations Company (Tactical) distributes Baghdad Now to locals of Baghdad, Iraq. Whether they are concerned citizens or children who like to read, the free newspaper is drawing enormous attention. The paper a useful tool for the 361st Psychological Operations Company, an Army Reserve Unit from Bothell, Wash.