



TIP OF THE SPEAR

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

April 2005



Special Forces help secure Iraqi election

**Twenty-five years after Desert One
SOF retention incentives approved
SOF contribute to tsunami relief
Q Course transforms for GWOT**

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Twenty-five years ago, Navy RH-53s prepare to transport commandos to a hide site on the outskirts of Tehran, Iran, where former military and then-Other Government Agency member Dick Meadows would be waiting, and from where they would assault the embassy the next night as part of Desert One. The failed hostage rescue mission would be the catalyst for the creation of the U.S. Special Operations Command. See story, page 32.

Tip of the Spear

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Cover: Members of a Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha clear a house during a combined U.S. and Iraqi raid to capture and detain insurgents in the key Iraqi city of Mosul. SF Soldiers and their Iraqi army counterparts conducted a series of raids in the weeks before the successful Jan. 30 Iraqi election to disrupt insurgent efforts to hinder the election. (Photo by Steve Hebert)

Leaders visit SOF at Bagram

By Kathleen Rhem
American Forces Press Service

U.S. troops at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, spent time with two high-level U.S. officials who were in the country in December to attend the inauguration of Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld ate breakfast with U.S. troops and Special Operations Forces in military dining facilities and visited with American service

members in several locations.

While the vice president was visiting with 25th

Infantry Division troops, Rumsfeld was across the air base having breakfast with service members from the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force - A at Camp Vance. Special Operations Forces spearheaded the fight against Taliban and al Qaeda forces during Operation Enduring Freedom and are now based in locations throughout Afghanistan, continuing to pursue anti-coalition insurgents and support the rebuilding of the country.

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“Twenty-five million people have been liberated,” said Rumsfeld. “These (Soldiers) right here will look back in five years and know they have been a part of something enormously important for this part of the world.”

After breakfast, Rumsfeld walked a short distance, shook hands with troops, and spoke to a small formation. There, he told individuals from several military services that what they’re doing is not in vain.

“Every time I come (to Afghanistan) I can see the progress that’s being made,

the energy that exists in the country, the refugees returning home,” the secretary said, noting this was

his eighth visit to Afghanistan since Operation Enduring Freedom kicked off following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

However, he also warned the service members the war on terror is not over in Afghanistan. “There’s still groups of extremists that would like to take this country back,” he said. “But that’s not going to happen.

“You folks are going to be able to look back on your lives in five or 10 or 20 years and feel that you have been a



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld tours the Special Operations Forces camp in Afghanistan with Col. Jeffrey Waddell, CJSOTF-A commander.

part of something enormously important,” he said.

Cheney cautioned troops, there are still dangers. “Our coalition still has important work to do,” he said. “Freedom still has enemies here in Afghanistan. And you are here to make those enemies miserable,” he added, to loud cheers and applause.

Before he left the dining facility, Cheney administered the oath of enlistment to 30 Soldiers who were reenlisting: 26 active-duty Soldiers, and two each from the Army Reserve and National Guard. He also presented awards to six Soldiers, including a Bronze Star Medal, three Purple Hearts, one Joint Service Commendation Medal and one Army Commendation Medal.

Gen. Doug Brown, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, speaks with special operators on the ground in Afghanistan during his latest trip to the area of operations.



Iraqi election sites secured by U.S. Special Forces and Iraqi Commandos

CJSOTF-AP

The Iraqi special operations forces embarked on yet another historic mission when they massed upon an objective Jan. 30. This mission however was not to seize or apprehend suspected insurgents, it was a mission Iraqis have fought for all along: the right to vote.

Elements from two U.S. Special Forces Groups trained the Iraqi special operators, who served with distinction in combat operations in Fallujah, Ramadi, Najaf, Samarra and Baghdad. Iraqi special operations personnel provided outer cordon security on election day throughout Iraq and took a break to cast their own ballots in the first democratic elections in Iraq in more than 50 years. As the Iraqi troops entered polling stations, Iraqi civilians applauded in an emotional show of support.

The Iraqi special operators, along with 50,000 other Iraqi Ministry of Defense forces, protected nearly 5,000 polling sites where millions of Iraqis cast ballots. Nearly 18,000 candidates ran for office

in the new Transitional National Assembly, which will select a new prime minister and draft a new constitution in the upcoming year. Another national election is scheduled for December that will select a permanent government.

Alongside U.S. Special Forces, the Iraqi commandos fight insurgents who attempt to prevent Iraq from moving toward democracy.

In January special operations troops from both Iraq and the U.S. conducted 21 raids, capturing 91 suspected insurgents and numerous munitions. The combat operations were conducted to get insurgents off the streets prior to the elections. Special operators helped secure the polls and contributed greatly to the overwhelming success of the elections.

“The Iraqi commandos are at a stage where they are planning and executing their own missions with their American counterparts advising,” said a U.S. Special Operations Forces adviser. Newly trained commandos are increas-

ing their ranks as well. A third training class was selected and is going through the arduous special operations training. From obstacle courses to close-quarters combat training, Iraqi special operators are learning from the best. Together they conduct vigorous physical training, learn land navigation, practice unconventional warfare tactics and plan direct action missions.

The embedding of the trainer with the trainee so to speak is now becoming the way of the future of doing business in Iraq.

“We already instituted some assistance and training support where we embed trainers with Iraqi units,” said Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Richard Myers.

Following the American SOF model of what is known as foreign internal defense, the Multinational Force Iraq will train alongside Iraqi units and begin to field new equipment to the emerging Iraqi security forces. Nearly 140,000 Iraqis are being trained and

are operating with the Multinational Force Iraq. Iraqi special ops may be only a small part of the total numbers, but their reputation for success on the battle field has been impressive.

“The intent is for these guys to become fully operational on their own,” said the U.S. SOF adviser. “They are very, very effective. They exercise extreme discipline and are totally mission-focused.”

An Iraqi special operator (forefront) and an American Special Forces Soldier work side-by-side to secure polling sites on election day in Iraq.



Steve Hebert



Steve Hebert

An Iraqi special operator takes a break from securing a polling station to cast his own vote during the country's Jan. 30 democratic election.

Iraqi election facts

- The Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq certified results of the Jan. 30 elections Feb. 17
- More than 100,000 Iraqi Security Forces provided protection at more than 5,000 polling sites, enabling more than 8 million voters to cast ballots in a democratic election; no polling station's security was penetrated; voter turnout was more than 58 percent
- The Shi'ite-dominated United Iraqi Alliance claimed the most seats in Iraq's new Transitional National Assembly; the Alliance received 140 seats in the 275-member Assembly; the Assembly's primary task is to draft a constitution
- The Kurdistan Alliance received 75 seats; a group led by interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi received 40 seats
- The population of Iraq is about 27 million; the number of eligible voting citizens was 14.2 million
- More than 18,000 candidates ran for election on the 256 political party lists
- The number of polling centers throughout Iraq was 5,578

CA Soldiers contribute to election success in Iraq

*By Sgt. Ryan Schwartz
411th Civil Affairs Battalion*

After the triumph of Iraq's national elections Jan. 30, coalition troops and U.S. special operations Soldiers were able to rest after a busy week of trying to ensure the historic event's success.

Jan. 25 and 26, the Civil Affairs Tactical Team from Company B of the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion stationed in Iraq assisted with members of the Iraqi Army and officials from the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq in moving election materiel through Salah ad Din province, from its capital of Tikrit to the city of Tuz.

The 411th CA Bn. is an Army Reserve special operations unit from Danbury, Conn., and is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The successful mission was an example of many others that were born in the numerous planning meetings between the involved parties in an effort to coordinate security measures and logistics.

With the help of coalition forces, Iraqi police and the Iraqi Army, IECEI officials established 26 polling centers throughout the eastern section of Salah ad Din province.

A-team doesn't return to base empty-handed in Afghanistan

By Kevin Maurer
Fayetteville Observer

The captain shoulders his M-4 rifle and pulls the trigger. The dog stops barking. It is only a few hours before dawn, and the Special Forces captain from Fort Bragg is looking to start a fight. He figures there are as many as 50 Taliban fighters in the compound, and he hopes to draw them out. If there is going to be a fight, he wants it to be in the dark. His men own the night. Months before, the team was after another Taliban leader and got into a big firefight in the dark. The SF Soldiers were able to pick the Taliban fighters off one by one with their night-vision goggles and scopes. Now that the team is in position around what they believe is a Taliban compound, the captain is hoping for the same sort of luck. Most of the luck he and his Fort Bragg SF team have had on the mission up to this point has been bad.

It's a mission that really began a few days ago, when the team heard that a Taliban commander had settled into a compound near the provincial capital, Tarin Kowt. Word was that he had 50 fighters with him. The Green Berets drew up a plan to attack the compound and coordinated with the 25th Infantry

Division. The day before the raid, they drove three hours from their firebase to the 25th Infantry's sprawling camp. That's when the problems started. A few hours before the team left the 25th's camp, a new intelligence report came in: the Taliban leaders and his fighters were thought to have moved. Using flashlights, the team laid out pictures of the new compound on the hood of a GMV, or ground mobility vehicle (a Humvee modified for SF), and worked out an updated assault plan.

With the new raid plan prepared, the team and its Hazara commandos (members of a minority group always eager for the chance to pay back their Taliban oppressors) loaded up. The Soldiers got behind the wheel of the Hazaras' pickups because it was dark and only the Americans have night-vision goggles.

The men, excited to finally be starting the mission, were keyed up as they cranked the trucks. All of the trucks except one. One of the trucks wouldn't start. The Hazaras jumped out and scattered to the other pickups. The convoy started creeping toward the camp's gate. The trucks moved at a

crawl because the drivers couldn't see; the ground was covered with a fine talc-like dust. Simply walking in it kicked up a haze and the convoy generated an impenetrable cloud. The first few trucks made it out of the gate, but one of the trucks hit something and flipped over. One of the Hazaras was hurt and had to be

taken to the base hospital. The rest crammed in the dwindling number of vehicles. As the convoy passed through the dark, deserted streets of Tarin Kowt, another of the pickups broke down. The captain assigned two Hazaras to guard it. The rest of the men climbed aboard the rest of the vehicles, which were starting to look like those tiny cars that unload a dozen clowns. Soldiers were sitting on roofs or holding on to the sides of the GMVs.

"The only thing we need is circus music," the team's medic said as he forced his way into the back of a truck.

The raid team made it without more breakdowns to a sandy plateau overlooking the village where the target compound was located. The men could see a few lights in the distance, but the night was almost pitch black. Once the team and the commandos were on foot, they had no more problems. The captain and the team sergeant got their bearings and plotted a course while the rest of the team organized the Hazaras into six-man teams. Then, with their night-vision goggles on, nine SF Soldiers led the way to the compound where they believed armed Taliban guerrillas were waiting. They crossed creeks on the way to the village, walking slowly to keep from making noise. At one point, the Soldiers had to sneak through a compound. They could hear people talking and see the flicker of cooking fires. When the team and the Hazara commandos got in position, covering all sides of the compound, the captain shoots the barking dog. It doesn't bring the response he was hoping for. No enemy fighters come out of the compound. The Soldiers settle in to wait for dawn.

The men wait three hours for sunrise, then the Green Berets raid the compound with the Hazaras in the lead. The commandos burst through the main gate and spread through the grassy courtyard. The Soldiers find bird cages in a house. They don't find any Taliban. Only one shot is fired in the raid, an accidental discharge



A Special Forces Soldier kicks in the door of a compound as Hazara commandos watch. The soldiers are clearing a village suspected of hiding Taliban fighters in Afghanistan's Uruzgan Province.



Steve Hebert

Special Forces team members prepare to clear a compound suspected of harboring Taliban.

that takes a chunk out of the thumb of one of the Afghan commandos. He just wraps his wound in a scarf and stands guard outside the compound. He'll wait for treatment when they get back to the 25th's base. The few men in the compound are brought out and told to squat along a wall. But there is no reason to hold them, and it looks as if the mission is a bust. Then a man wanders in from the desert. He is much bigger, much better dressed and obviously better fed than the villagers. He is so obviously out of place that the Soldiers can't miss him. None of the villagers will look at him. The "imam," the village religious leader, denies knowing him.

"We thought he came with you," one of the villagers tells the captain.

The team's communications sergeant, who speaks a little Pashtun, asks the man his name. He says he gets three different answers. Gul Shabar, the team's interpreter, says the man's native tongue is not Pashtun. The captain believes the man was probably out in the desert talking on his mobile phone. That's how Taliban leaders keep in touch and coordinate attacks. To the captain and his men, the man from the desert looks and acts too much like a Taliban leader to be anything else. They detain him and put

him in the back of one of their pickups.

The team will find out later that the decision to grab the man was the right one. He turns out to be a former Taliban brigade commander named Abdul Wadud. The Afghan government has been looking for him.

Even before he knows who the man is, the captain is happy with his catch. He and the team pack up and start back to base. They haven't been on the road more than two minutes before the captain gets a call. It's an intelligence report: Taliban fighters might be in a town three miles away.

The captain talks with the rest of the team, then agrees to check it out. When the convoy races up a hill overlooking the town, five villagers see the trucks and start running, but the Hazara commandos jump from the trucks and catch them easily. These men are marched through the main street of the village and back to the trucks. The communications sergeant starts questioning them as the rest of the team starts to search. There is no one on the streets.

The village is a collection of walled compounds with dirt paths running through them. Each compound has to be searched. The Hazaras are the first in, kicking in the doors and spreading into

the courtyards. A woman and her two children huddle in the corner of one. Chickens peck at the ground. The smell of manure hangs in the air as the Soldiers go from room to room looking for weapons. The men try to be careful and quick in their search, which turns up a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, a rifle, a .30-caliber machine gun and an AK-47.

The Soldiers also find five bags of opium, worth a million dollars, they say. Opium-producing poppies are Afghanistan's No. 1 cash crop. The Americans don't find anyone who looks like a Taliban fighter. The team's operations sergeant, gives the AK-47 and RPG launcher to the Hazaras. The rest of the weapons and the drugs are thrown in the trucks. The men in the village are squatting in the dust when the trucks drive away, looking sullen as their weapons and drugs disappear.

The Green Berets are going home, or at least what passes for it here in Afghanistan. Before they can even get back, the word has begun to spread that they have captured Abdul Wadud, who may be wanted by the government but still has friends in Kandahar and Kabul. Some of those friends start working to get him out of the Americans' hands.

Capture of former Taliban commander success —

By Kevin Maurer
Fayetteville Observer

The call comes just as the Special Forces Soldiers return from their raid. Release the man you captured. Weeks of working sources, days of planning and waiting, hours of driving across roadless Afghanistan — that's what went into the raid.

A raid that turned up nothing, anyway, until a suspicious-looking man walked in from the desert. The Soldiers snatched him and he turned out to be someone named Abdul Wadud. The captain commanding the Fort Bragg-based Special Forces team talked to the provincial governor, Jan Mohammad Khan, who said Wadud was definitely a Taliban leader. His capture made the work of the raid worthwhile. But now the



Steve Hebert

Special Forces Soldiers provide security while Hazara commandos search a compound in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, for Taliban fighters and weapons.

Fort Bragg Green Berets are being told to let him go. The captain is incensed at the politics. The word the team gets is that Afghan President Hamid Karzai's brother has called the American ambassador in Kabul to complain about Wadud's capture. The embassy called Lt. Gen. David Barno, commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, who called the Special Forces task force.

Meanwhile, back at the team's firebase, the Afghan admits that he is a former Taliban brigade commander. The Soldiers say he tells them that he scouts compounds for Taliban commanders to use as safe houses. Excited, the captain relays the information to the SF headquarters in Kandahar. The intelligence is good enough to earn the team something of a reprieve. They don't have to let Wadud go; instead, they are to put him on the next chopper to the head-

quarters. It is a small victory, but enough for the team. It isn't the first time that politics had a role in dictating policy in fighting the war on terror. At one point, the 10-member team was almost confined to the firebase after killing a group of Taliban guerrillas in a firefight.

The captain says he was told that he and his team were "cowboys" pushing too close to the edge of the rules for operations. What got them off the hook was an intelligence report that said the remaining Taliban had left the area because they were tired of being harassed. Success validates tactics, and the captain believes the SF tactics in Afghanistan are working. The Green Berets are more flexible than conventional forces in a place like Afghanistan. The infantry is built to take on an identified enemy on a battlefield. A Special Forces team is trained to



Steve Hebert

Abdul Wadud, a former Taliban brigade commander, is captured by Special Forces Soldiers during a raid in the Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

ferret out a secret enemy and neutralize it. For the team that captured Wadud, the strategy for doing that is simple: make it hard for the guerrillas to launch their attacks.

According to a special operations staff officer in Afghanistan, there are three pieces to the continued Afghan resistance: the underground supply network; the guerrillas; and the auxiliary to the fighters. The SF Soldiers are targeting the auxiliary. They are the leaders, the link between the supply system and the fighters. When someone like Wadud is captured, a link is broken.

Three days after Wadud's capture, the faint thud of helicopters bounces around the mountains. The echoes make it tough to tell which direction the Chinooks are coming from until the big choppers appear over a ridge. Waiting for the weekly supply flight are 25th Infantry Division and SF Soldiers. The Soldiers are in Humvees and pickups. Some of the SF Soldiers ride four-wheelers equipped with machine guns. The helicopters, dual propellers whirling, set down on a gravel landing pad outside camp. They stir up a huge dust cloud, and the Soldiers wait until it dissipates before moving to the Chinooks. The air crews quickly push supplies off the back of the cargo helicopters into the arms of the Soldiers. The flights provide the camp with everything from vehicle parts and fuel to mail and food. The helicopters are the only regular link between the firebase and Kandahar. Once the supplies are off, Wadud is escorted onto the helicopter. He is blindfolded, and his hands are bound. They have done their job, captured their man. Now it is time to plan the next mission.



U.S. Special Forces operating in Iraq work side-by-side with members of the Iraqi 36th Commandos.

ASD/SOLIC looks at future coalition warfare

*By Samantha Quigley
American Forces Press Service*

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and CIA director Porter Goss are working to ensure President Bush has a full range of options for dealing with terror threats, said a top DOD official in February.

This includes covert and clandestine operations, said Thomas O'Connell, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict (ASD/SOLIC). He also said studies are under way to determine whether all of the CIA's paramilitary activities should fall under DOD jurisdiction.

O'Connell delivered the keynote address during the 16th Annual National Defense Industrial Association SOLIC Symposium and Exhibition in Washington, D.C. He focused on the role of Special Operations Forces in the coalition's Global War on Terrorism.

"The president and a truly historic coalition of more than 90 nations have sought to confront a new and perhaps even more dangerous enemy," O'Connell said.

Special Operations Forces will help to meet the capabilities required of DOD as part of that coalition, he said. SOF are charged with disrupting, defeating and destroying terrorist networks that threaten the United States and its citizens, according to the U.S. Special Operations Command mission statement.

These capabilities must be used in concert with the capabilities of coalition partners as well as other, nonmilitary stabilization capabilities of the U.S. government and the civilian world, said Jeffrey Nadaner, O'Connell's deputy. "We're trying to place stabilization operations on comparable footing with combat operations." This would mean that these types of operations would be considered in all phases of the planning of an operation.

"We're making progress. We're moving forward," O'Connell said. "We're putting together execute orders that will help U.S. Special Operations Command orchestrate its War on Terrorism."

Raising the bar: Transforming the SF training model

By Lt. Col. David Fitchitt
USAJFKSWCS

For the first time in more than a decade, the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (SWCS) is significantly changing the way it trains Special Forces Soldiers.

Throughout all phases of the Special Forces Qualification Course (SFQC) or "Pipeline," the institution is looking to find areas of improvement that will make the SFQC a world-class training and education experience. From the way candidates are processed during the Special Forces Assessment and Selection to the ceremony in which a Soldier is awarded the Green Beret, SWCS is making changes.

The transformation plan focuses on providing the SFQC student with relevant training that concentrates on enhancing core skills for unconventional warfare, linking the program of instruction to the battlefield, and placing greater emphasis on foreign-language training. The transformation is designed to produce an SF warrior who will be better prepared with the skills necessary for

fighting and winning on today's battlefield.

The transformation project began last October when the commander of SWCS, Maj. Gen. James Parker, hosted a week-long conference with his senior officers and noncommissioned officers to draft a blueprint from which the command could develop its plan. The group collectively developed a vision for what the SFQC should become.

At the core of the vision is an updated training methodology and improved quality of instruction. Overall, the pipeline will change from a sequential, linear program to a modular one. During the classroom-training portions, the SFQC student will follow a curriculum much like a high school or college curriculum, with multiple subjects being taught concurrently. Modularization of the pipeline will provide a greater number of the iterations of each major block of training, a better instructor-to-student ratio, and less time that the Soldiers will spend waiting for the next training block to begin. Modularization will also give students multiple training

options, based on the student's unique strengths and requirements.

Phase II, Small Unit Tactics, is the first major training block to be converted to the modular program. Beginning in March 2005, Phase II will be broken into five modules of 75 students each. A new Phase II module will begin every two weeks.

In order to execute the commander's intent SWCS is integrating the latest training methods available, employing more efficient use of time and resources, and leveraging technology. The core military occupational specialty (MOS) programs of instruction will remain largely intact, but they will add material to the curriculum. Additional subjects include intelligence operations, abduction-avoidance and captivity survival, adaptive thinking and learning, and additional training in SF common skills and warrior skills. Even with the additional training, the transformation plan will decrease by two to four months the time it takes for the average SFQC student to complete the pipeline.

Two overarching goals of the plan are that the SFQC will maintain its high standards and that none of the changes will do harm to the current success of the SF Pipeline. The performance of SF in the Global War on Terrorism has validated the majority of the program of instruction for the individual 18-series MOS and for the collective training. To ensure continued relevancy, the Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD) is linked to the battlefield conducting critical task review boards to capture recent lessons learned and get them into the various programs of instruction quickly.

This April SWCS will begin implementing a program whereby a Soldier will know his SFG assignment, the foreign language he will study, and his 18-series MOS at the beginning of his training. That knowledge will allow trainers to organize cohort student

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USAJFKSWCS photo

A Soldier crawls through a portion of the Special Forces obstacle course. The SF Qualification Course is undergoing transformation to meet the requirements of the Global War on Terrorism.

'Blackbirds' return home after series of deployments

By Capt. Tom Knowles and Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

Nine Airmen assigned to the 8th Special Operations Squadron, Duke Field, Fla., were among the last members of the unit to return home in February, following a series of highly successful deployments in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Secure Tomorrow.

"This isn't a ceremony that needs a lot of words," said Col. Tim Hale, vice commander, 16th Special Operations Wing. "Watching the aircraft land and taxi with the (American) flag waving out of the hatch, speaks for itself. When you see families waiting for loved ones, husbands and fathers arriving to open arms, we should all have a lump in our throat."

The squadron, known as the "Blackbirds," has continuously deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism since 2001.

Such a high ops tempo led to the squadron being named the Air Force's most deployed active duty squadron in 2002 and 2003. After Sept. 11, 2001, the 8th SOS was propelled into Operation Enduring Freedom. During that time, nearly the entire squadron was deployed, operating from several locations to unseat the Taliban rulers and install the interim government.

When Operation Iraqi Freedom kicked off, the 8th SOS was once again at the forefront. Its crews were some of the first to

cross the Iraqi border as hostilities began, providing specialized airpower for coalition conventional and Special Operations Forces.

Throughout this period, the unit flew 2,555 combat sorties for a combined total of 6,778 combat flying hours, performed 307 combat airdrops, delivered 6.75 million pounds of cargo and supplied 1.3 million pounds of fuel to 275 helicopters in support of combat operations.

The 8th SOS, assigned to the 16th SOW, is a geographically separated unit located at nearby Duke Field.

The primary mission of the 8th SOS is insertion, extraction and resupply of unconventional warfare forces and equipment into hostile or enemy-controlled territory using air-land or airdrop procedures.



AFSOC photo

A young boy smiles at the homecoming of 8th Special Operations Squadron Airmen.

SF, from page 10

operational detachments for the collective-training phases of the SFQC.

The ability to speak a foreign language is a core unconventional-warfare skill for the SF Soldier. Because of the importance of language skills, the DOTD is developing a comprehensive language-training program that will introduce students to their foreign language early and make language a core part of SFQC training. Once the language program has been fully implemented, language training will be as common to the SFQC student as physical training is now. Foreign-language training is being woven throughout the SFQC as advanced distant learning allows students to study language from home. Higher language proficiency standards are achievable, and are, in fact, already in place. A score of 1/1/1 on the Defense Language Proficiency Test is now required before a student can graduate from the SFQC. More than 95

percent of SFQC students are currently achieving this standard, and some qualify for language proficiency pay, even in the most difficult languages.

Beginning in May 2005, Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) training will be integrated into the initial phase of the SFQC. As early as July 2005, the Peacetime Governmental Detention/Hostage Detention course will also be added.

The capstone event of the SFQC remains the Unconventional Warfare Culmination Exercise (UW CULEX). Up to now, this CULEX has taken place exclusively in the towns and counties surrounding Fort Bragg, N.C., in a mythical country called "Pineland."

In addition to the Pineland experience, in August 2005, SWCS plans to employ two student operational detachments to test a pilot of the UW CULEX at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. SWCS is also adding regionally oriented scenarios to the UW CULEX so that students can

employ their foreign language and cultural awareness. During various situational training exercises, students will encounter dilemmas that are based on Soldiers' recent battlefield experiences.

The graduating class of March 2005 will be the last to wear the Green Beret prior to completing language and SERE training. Beginning with the October 2005 graduating class, Soldiers will be inducted into the 1st Special Forces Regiment and attend their graduation ceremony at the end of all training. Only then will they be awarded the coveted Green Beret, signifying that they are fully prepared to join their brothers on SF operational detachments.

It is not business as usual at SWCS. Everyone understands that the U.S. is at war and that Army Special Forces is at the forefront. With those thoughts in mind, the Transformation Plan is being developed and implemented as quickly as possible. All elements of the plan are scheduled to be in place next year.

DOD approves retention incentives for SOF

USSOCOM Public Affairs

The Department of Defense recently approved a new retention incentive package for Special Operations Forces aimed at maintaining combat readiness and keeping experienced operators in uniform. The initiative uses existing DOD incentive programs including Special Duty Assignment Pay, Critical Skills Retention Bonus, and Assignment Incentive Pay to retain individuals who have years of experience, especially as they become retirement eligible and at the peak of their value to the armed services.

The following retention incentives were approved for U.S. Army Special Forces; Navy SEALs and Special Warfare Combatant Crewmen; Air Force Combat Controllers and Pararescuemen:

- The ranks of E-4 to E-9 in identified U.S. Special Operations Command billets will receive Special Duty Assignment Pay in the amount of \$375 per month.

- A Critical Skills Retention Bonus will be available to senior enlisted service members (pay grades E-6 to E-9) and warrant officers. Contract amounts are as follows: \$150,000 for six years, \$75,000 for five years, \$50,000 for four years, \$30,000 for three years, \$18,000 for two years and \$8,000 for one year.

- Enlisted members and warrant officers with more than 25 years of service will receive Assignment Incentive Pay in the amount of \$750 per month provided the member signs an agreement to stay on active duty for at least an additional 12 months.

In addition to the new incentives, the military services will continue to offer SOF service members Selective Reenlistment Bonuses as needed.

“Our investment in these professionals is great, and the experience gained through years of service makes them invaluable assets to our nation’s defense. Younger replacements can be trained, but experience is irreplaceable in the current worldwide War on Terrorism,” said Lt. Col. Alex Findlay, USSOCOM personnel directorate.



Staff Sgt. John Houghton

Special Forces Soldiers using night vision equipment conduct a reconnaissance mission during Operation Enduring Freedom.



Pararescuemen exit an aircraft during a high-altitude, low-opening airborne operation.

“This retention incentive package is the result of widespread quality-of-life studies, interviews, and town hall meetings with our SOF operators and their families,” said the command’s senior enlisted adviser, Command Chief Master Sgt. Bob Martens. “Our goal is to better understand what is most important to our people and their families in order to determine what we can do to make us the employer of choice for the long term.”

Findlay said the retention initiatives are a first step in keeping seasoned SOF warriors in the command in order to maintain personnel combat readiness.

“We cannot win the GWOT without maintaining our warfighting excellence through an unwavering commitment to readiness. The incentives that were approved are great for our senior SOF warriors. However, we will continue to pursue initiatives and programs that cover the complete lifecycle of SOF – from entry to the senior enlisted ranks to ensure we maintain personnel combat readiness now and well into the future.”

Eligible service members can contact their unit personnel centers for more details on the retention incentives package.



Tech. Sgt. Brian Snyder

A Navy SEAL conducts a beach insertion operation with his boat team.

Special Forces warrant officer incentive pay overhauled

By Kathleen Devine
USAJFKSWCS Public Affairs

When you ask Special Forces warrant officers why they made the transition from noncommissioned officer to warrant, money will rarely be the answer. Instead, Green Berets who've become warrant officers often list job satisfaction and "team time" as top reasons for making the switch.

To help keep them on the job and encourage more Special Forces NCOs to consider joining the warrant officer corps, changes are being made that will impact everything from accessions and education to assignments and pay.

The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School's Directorate of Special Operations

Proponency, Fort Bragg, N.C., is spearheading an effort to review and transform the SF warrant officer career field, which is known by its military occupational specialty code of 180A.

While there are a number of significant initiatives already underway, the recent addition of SF warrant officers to the Critical Skills Accessions Bonus and the Critical Skills Retention Bonus programs are likely to have the most immediate impact on the career field. Under the CSAB program, new 180A candidates are eligible for up to \$60,000 per year, while under the CSRB program eligible SF warrants could get \$8,000 to \$150,000.

Another pay initiative that will have a positive impact on the force is Assignment Incentive Pay for 180As with more than 25 years of service. The 180A must serve in a designated operational billet to be eligible for the

extra \$750 per month.

Green Beret warrants are among the most experienced Soldiers in the special operations community, and they are the only warrant officers in the Army inventory to serve as combat leaders during split-team operations or in the absence of commissioned officers.

Warrant officers have the opportunity to spend five to seven years of "team time" on a Special Forces Operational

Detachment A, or "A-Team," providing subject matter expertise, continuity and the ability to influence long term planning, all key factors in the decision to trade in stripes for bars.

One Green Beret warrant officer assigned to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command says the

challenge for him is the opportunity to develop future SF commanders.

"I would tell you that my goal has been to make a battalion commander out of a good captain when I was on (an SF A-Team)," he said. "I'm seeing those battalion commanders today and I've been a warrant for 11 years now."

According to Chief Warrant Officer 5 William McPherson, chief warrant officer of the Army's SF branch, expanded promotion opportunities for SF warrant officers are another reason noncommissioned officers choose to make the switch. The selection rate from chief warrant officer 2 to chief warrant officer 3 is between 90 and 100 percent, while the rate to chief warrant officer 4 is nearly 100 percent, he said.

The selection rate to chief warrant officer 5 is about 66 to 70 percent, a high selection rate when compared to SF enlisted promotions, McPherson said.

But high job satisfaction and high promotion rates may not be enough to keep existing billets filled, which is why USASOC has made SF warrant officer issues a top priority.

McPherson said he feels the program is a big step in the right direction but that pay issues are something that must be continually reviewed and worked to ensure that the force is filled with the right people at the right time, both now and in the future.

Specific details on the 2005 accession and retention pay incentives are being worked through personnel and finance channels and are in effect from January 2005 to December 2007.

McPherson said that there are also major transformation initiatives underway in the area of military education and professional development based on input from SF warrants worldwide. A new 180A career model will incorporate joint and interagency training and assignments. Warrant officers are attending advanced schooling at the Naval Post Graduate School, and there will be a substantial investment in technology, training and equipment for select SF warrants in the intelligence fusion, information operations and communications areas.

But the most sweeping changes will involve revising the basic, advanced and senior staff warrant officer courses based on current wartime lessons learned.

The SF Warrant Officer Basic Course has been updated and streamlined to an 11-week course from the 19-week version taught in various forms since 1993.

This provides the warrant officer basic student with a more concise curriculum based on lessons learned from instructors who have just returned from supporting the War on Terrorism, McPherson said.



CA train Iraqis on police, weaponry procedures

By Staff Sgt. Susan German

122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Building confidence in their skills and helping them feel safer as they patrol the streets of Baghdad, Iraq, is an important contribution toward an eventual transfer of authority and returning Iraq to its rightful caretakers.

Part of that confidence already exists, and the remainder can be strengthened through training and the reinforcement of tactical as well as technical skills.

Army Civil Affairs teams supporting the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team conducted basic weapons training and a live-fire range exercise for 26 Iraqi police officers from the Al Karkh patrol sector at Camp Independence.

While conducting joint operations, the teams helped identify the need for weapons training during neighborhood assessments. They were told by the commander that members of the Iraqi police in their sector were uncomfortable with their weapons, said Maj. Jim Joos, commander of Company B, 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve special operations unit based in Warwick, R.I.

"This is a very good Civil Affairs mission since there are a lot of cops within the Civil Affairs ranks, and cops know how to handle weapons," said Joos, a police officer from Philadelphia. "This puts them in a very good position to help train the Iraqi police."

For two hours, Sgt. Les Coash, an assistant team leader for a tactical Psychological Operations team from the 307th Psychological Operations Company based in St. Louis, instructed the Iraqi police officers on fundamental marksmanship skills in a classroom setting. He demonstrated each position as he ex-

plained it, using an AK-47 rifle and Glock pistol, the weapons the Iraqi police are most familiar with. A former Marine, Coash has trained more than 2,000 Marines and Sailors, and has provided refresher training to Special Operations Forces.

Another purpose for the training was to improve the Iraqis' shooting accuracy. While out on operations, Coash and his colleagues noticed that at times Iraqi police and National Guard were firing without direction, shooting entire magazines of ammunition at the side of a building with no actual targets.

"That puts our guys at risk, because we've been in those buildings, and all of a sudden we're getting shot at," Coash said. "So we started to work this in to get them trained to try and get away from that to where they can operate safely and accurately."

Moving out to the range, the Iraqi police officers split into two groups, with one group firing while the second group participated in police training. Those on the range were advised to adjust some other shooting factors, such as their breathing, trigger squeeze and muscle relaxation, based on where their rounds were hitting the target.

Safety was the emphasis throughout the day. Examples of unsafe acts were explained to the students. They were warned involvement in any such acts would result in them being removed from the range.

"The range was good. They gave us a lot of information that we didn't know before," said Ibrahim Hussein, who has been on the police force for two weeks since his return from training.

Police procedures training was conducted for the group that wasn't firing, by Sgt. Dan MacDonald, of the 443rd's Civil Affairs Team, who is a police captain in his civilian life.

MacDonald spearheaded the concurrent police training, according to 1st Lt. Ralph Rafaelian, CAT team leader. Instruction included proper procedures for stopping a vehicle, arresting a person, cuffing a person, weapons retention, and using a nightstick or baton.

Before leaving the range, Coash gathered the Iraqi police officers and commended them on their performance during the day. He also advised them that they had one last task before they were allowed to leave the range — policing up the spent brass.

"It was a long day at the range, but we trained to standard, not to time," Rafaelian said. "We did courses of fire, in the 'crawl' stage and hopefully, we'll be doing this again real soon, with either new people or continue with these people here, and maybe go to the 'walk' stage and eventually the 'run' stage."



An Iraqi police officer aims his AK-47 rifle and fires at the range at Baghdad's Camp Independence during weapons and police training led by both Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Soldiers.



Children play soccer off a street in Baghdad, Iraq. Civil Affairs Soldiers gave away soccer balls to hundreds of children in both Iraq and Afghanistan to help bring together communities, engage kids in fitness, and push the message to 'say no to drugs.'

CA Soldiers organize youth soccer league

By Sgt. Jeremy Clawson

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

For leaders in the Helmand province in southern Afghanistan, soccer is more than merely a fun pastime for youth.

Soccer is being used to help keep young men away from drugs. By building a soccer league, local leaders hope to give youth a sense of belonging and purpose by replacing idle hours with a focus on teamwork and fitness.

The Lashkar Gah Minister of Sports, Mohammed Gaus, recently approached Maj. Reginald Truss, a team leader with the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion, at the Lashkar Gah Provincial Reconstruction Team headquarters to inquire about sports equipment for a proposed soccer league.

Truss and his command agreed that the anti-drug message justified funding the project. Truss' CA team spent \$16,000, outfitting not only 25 soccer teams with balls, nets and cleats, but also 25 volleyball teams and 25 cricket teams.

"Getting young guys off drugs by providing a good alternative," Truss said, makes the expenditure worthwhile for the coalition, the local Afghan leaders and their communities.

"Long term, I hope Mohammed Gaus also introduces sports to the girls as well," Truss said.

To bring the community together in a show of solidarity, Gaus and Truss arranged to have a local soccer team play against Soldiers from the Lashkar Gah PRT.

"The game came about to convey an anti-drug message but also that (U.S. troops) are human and like to have a good time," Truss said.

At the game, held at the Lashkar Gah Sports Complex in Karzai Stadium, the CA team also provided a public address system to convey the anti-drug message.

The PRT's commander, Marine Lt. Col. Eugene Augustine, spoke before the soccer game began to a crowd of more than 500 spectators.

"My message today is clear: Say 'no' to drugs, whether it be growing, selling or taking drugs, you must say 'no,'" Augustine said. "Drugs are not the future of Afghanistan; you are the future of Afghanistan. Education, democracy and hard work are the future of Afghanistan. Let us celebrate the future of Afghanistan today by watching these drug-free athletes compete."

The Soldiers who played soccer against the Afghan team were members of the PRT, which includes service members from the 168th Infantry Battalion of the Iowa National Guard, the 450th CA Bn. from Riverdale Park, Md., military intelligence specialists from the 25th Infantry Division and members of the 209th Military Police Company from Fort Polk, La.

According to Truss, this event was a great opportunity for the Soldiers as well as giving to the community.

"This gives our force protection guys something fun to do so they're not just guarding," Truss said. "I hope this pulls the community together as far as not always hearing bad news. This is a good news event that was generated by Afghans and Americans and we hope to do more events like this to pull the community together."

CJTF - Horn of Africa provides treatment to coastal village

By Sgt. Wayne Campbell
CJTF-HOA

In a Djiboutian village on the coast of the Red Sea, service members from the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa provided basic medical care for residents and their livestock during a medical and veterinary Civil Affairs program.

Members of the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion started the medical treatment at the local clinic, which provided caregivers with four rooms to treat patients and a room that served as a pharmacy.

The medical providers treated ailments ranging from the common ear infection to asthma, with the most common being malnutrition, eye and respiratory problems, and skin disease. They also treated minor scrapes and bruises. Each person treated was also given vitamins and a toothbrush with toothpaste.

The team, which included the hospital staff of two doctors and five nurses, treated more than 1,200 patients.

“The host nation support for this mission was outstanding,” said Capt. T.J. Reed, team leader, 96th CA Bn. “The doctors and nurses came in to help us on a Friday without question, which is their holy day. The staff was friendly, courteous and willing to work. They were pleased to be able to see as many people as they did.”

In the four months the 96th CA Bn. has been in Djibouti, this was their most successful mission, according to Reed.

“One of the interpreters who was working in the pharmacy said the people were glad to see the Americans and happy that we were able to take time and help them,” Reed said.

While the medical team was treating the people the veterinary team was treating the animals.

The team vaccinated about 125 goats with vitamins and a deworming medication. The day before the project, the Civil Affairs team treated about 270 animals in the village of Waddi, Djibouti.

“I was helping herd the goats and giving them a vitamin injections,” said Lance Cpl. Justin Ginther, administration clerk, CJTF-HOA, who volunteered to help with the mission. “It was difficult to herd the goats; once we caught them we had to have a couple

of people hold them down while I gave them a shot in the hamstring of one of the back legs. We didn’t want them to kick and hurt themselves.”

It was a thrill to see the smiles on the kids’ faces and overall an enjoyable experience, Ginther said.

“This is a non-intrusive way for CJTF-HOA to reach out into the community and exhibit the goodwill that the commanding general is trying to project into the area of operations,” said Maj. Fredrick Little, commander, 96th CA Bn. “Through these good events we can impact the entire community and not just the elites of the community, and show what the U.S. is all about within a day or two.”



First Lt. Gustavo Ramos, physician, 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, examines a patient during a medical Civil Affairs project in Djibouti.

Ceremony marks end of the road

By Sgt. Chad Swaim
CJTF-HOA

Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa hosted a dedication ceremony for the reopening of the Hol Hol road at the 45-foot culvert bridge along the road just southwest of Djibouti City, Djibouti.

The dedication was attended by Djiboutian, U.S. and CJTF-HOA officials as well as members of the 823rd Expeditionary Redhorse Squadron, who toiled on the road.

“Projects such as Hol Hol road are taking place throughout Djibouti and remind us of the strong partnership between the United States and Djibouti,” said Marguerita Ragsdale, United States Ambassador to Djibouti. “The project also reminds us of what we can accomplish when we work together.”

The dedication marked the completion of almost seven months of renovations to the road with a cost of more than \$250,000. During the renovations, a team from the squadron constructed the culvert bridge and nine concrete fords on the 35-kilometer road to prevent it from being washed out during rain and floods such as the ones during April of last year, according to Capt. Scott Stanford, officer in charge, 823rd Redhorse.

The team also used more than 42,000 linear feet of rebar, 1,300 cubic meters of concrete and 11,000 cubic yards of fill materiel in constructing the bridge and fords. The team also hauled and graded the whole length of the road to improve its surface.

Civil Affairs helps make school fun

By Sgt. Wayne Campbell
CJTF-HOA

For many Americans, good memories and close friends were made on school playgrounds during recess.

Six Soldiers from the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion volunteered five days of their free time to help more than 1,100 Baballa children who attend a primary school enjoy going to school a little more by installing playground equipment at their school.

According to Army Staff Sgt. Walter Clay, engineer, 96th CA Bn., the children only had a small soccer field for playtime.

The team installed benches for the students to sit on, a tetherball, a seesaw, slides and a merry-go-round.

The children spend one hour each day playing on the equipment, according to Clay.

The seesaw and the slide are the favorite among the children, according to Ahmed Ali, school director.

“The kids like it and the parents are very happy,” Ali said. “The whole village is talking about it.”

The teachers are also happy about the new equipment. “Not too long ago I came outside and saw two teachers playing on the equipment,” Ali said.

This school was chosen because it is better maintained than the other local schools without help from Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, according to Sgt. 1st Class Michael Rush, 96th CA Bn. infantryman. They provide their own security and are self-sufficient.

“The parents and local village people volunteer their time between sessions to clean the classrooms and prepare them for the next session,” Ali said.

Being in Civil Affairs is new to Rush. “I am used to blowing things up and destroying things,” he said. “This is a complete 180 from what I am used to. We were working on installing the equipment when the children were in school and you can see the excitement in their eyes. When we finished I felt like Santa Claus giving kids presents.”

The Civil Affairs team plans on installing playground equipment to five more schools throughout the area.



Students who attend a primary school in Baballa enjoy their playtime on a seesaw installed by volunteers from the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Air Commandos fly aid to disaster-torn areas

By Master Sgt. Michael Farris
353rd SOG Public Affairs

When Lt. Col. David Mobley arrived in Bangkok as the 353rd Special Operations Group's point-man for disaster relief, he envisioned a steady flow of aid from the kingdom's sprawling capital to devastated provinces in the South.

He never imagined, that in 48 hours, the modest pile of assorted blankets, sleeping mats, food, tarps and medicines would grow into a mountain of material, bulging the seams of two aircraft hangars and spilling out onto the ramp.

On the back side of the international airport sandwiched between two Royal Thai Air Force hangars, hundreds of Thai volunteers sorted the materiel into distinct foothills of the mountain. Blankets were bundled, wrapped in tarps, and piled 25 feet into the air. Cases of medicine from the United States, Greece, Germany and other countries were inventoried and slated for airlift.

"The generosity of the Thai people to help their countrymen is amazing," Mobley said. "The efforts of their friends around the globe are equally impressive."

Royal Thai Air Force leadership and military experts from the country team directed priorities. They assigned items and locations and it was the job of the Air Commandos to make the delivery. The volunteers were given a list of the day's priorities. They built and weighed pallets with the help of Air Force loadmasters. As each plane was loaded, the priorities shuffled up — three tons of dry ice to Krabi, two pallets of blankets to Raynong, 1,500 body bags to Phuket, and so on.

In Phuket, Thailand's largest tourist destination, nearly 5,000 were identified as dead along the coast.

In addition to taking aid and disaster workers into the hardest hit areas, the special operators also brought out the worst of the wounded. Several dozen injured victims of many nationalities were medically evacuated to Bangkok.

An aircrew member with the 1st Special Operations Squadron said the impact was brought home his first day there.

"Bringing a dozen patients back to Bangkok was by far the most meaningful thing I've done," he said. "The sincere thanks and absolute gratitude of people's whose lives have been crushed was amazing. I'll never forget it."

The 17th Special Operations Squadron personnel created daily schedules that pushed the aircrews and maintainers toward a vigorous pace that saw single aircraft flying the round-trip shuttle several times a day.

The flight times were about an hour-and-a-half, but the ground time varied depending on availability of gas trucks, fork lifts and ground support personnel to offload the airplane.

"It's a delicate balance of trying to help everybody," one Airman said. "There's a massive amount of donated aid and a

finite number of planes and crews to transport it all."

"With limited aircrews, a skeleton maintenance squad, a few spare parts and almost no support functions, the work carried out by this team was amazing," Mobley said. "Every Airman there understood that to be doing anything else just wouldn't seem right."

A planner with the 17th SOS said he was happy to be involved.

"I've volunteered to fly south with the aircrews and help unload planes or assist wherever I could. It made me feel proud to pitch in to help make these people's lives a little easier."

Mobley said his troops were enthusiastic about their getting to work early and staying late: it's about making a difference.



A Spanish Red Cross water purification trailer is taken off an MC-130 Combat Talon II.



Airman 1st Class Emily Starcher, 353rd Special Operations Group flight engineer, helps Sri Lankan relief workers unload boxes of vegetables during an Operation Unified Assistance mission in January. The Kadena Air Base, Japan, Airmen helped bring food, medicine and supplies to people affected by the December tsunami.

Army Civil Affairs Soldiers assist civilian aid workers in helping tsunami victims

By Sgt. Kyle Cosner
USASOC Public Affairs

For the Civil Affairs Soldiers helping to coordinate tsunami relief and reconstruction missions in support of Operation Unified Assistance, day-long meetings with civilians can be frustrating but are an important part of their work.

A dozen Soldiers from the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion's (Airborne) Detachment 220 are at work in Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia to assist Combined Support Force 536 with Civil Affairs and civil-military operations, said Maj. Gerry Messmer, officer-in-charge of the detachment's Civil Affairs Team planning and operations element.

The Soldiers serve as the chief liaisons between the military and civilian organizations conducting humanitarian aid projects in Southeast Asia.

The 96th CA Bn., a special operations unit based at Fort Bragg, N.C., is the Army's only active duty CA unit.

Messmer explained that CA help to accomplish tasks like relief and reconstruction projects largely by identifying such needs on the ground in troubled areas and alerting civilian aid organizations.

"We provide continuity between civilian government agencies and (non-governmental agencies) and the military to help make them aware of what is available to them from the military and the U.S. government," Messmer said. "It's not our intention to actually do projects, but to help the agencies identify them and to prioritize funding from the U.S. government."

According to Sgt. 1st Class Bill Gordon, CAT-B team medic, such project identification is done by conducting special, rapid-needs assessments of factors like food and water availability and conditions of local hospitals and schools.

Such assessments are often compiled

into a database format easily shared with the civilians.

Government aid agencies and non-government organizations operating now in Southeast Asia include the United Nations World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the International Red Cross and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Army CA Soldiers have worked extensively with all four agencies in the past.

Constantly meeting helps the CA and the organizations they support stay in step with each other's operations, Messmer said. By integrating into daily situational briefings here, the CAT-B is attempting to establish a credible presence with the NGOs and other agencies here in the region.

"We don't want to do their job – we want to support them and help them do their job," Messmer said. "They're better at doing medical relief and they're better at building houses, so it's very important that we have credibility and make them understand that we're here to support them."

That credible presence will be critical to the reconstruction process in the weeks to come, especially after the majority of more than 15,000 U.S. military personnel now operating in the region depart, Gordon said.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz laid the groundwork for a near-term withdrawal of U.S. troops from large-scale

relief efforts during a Jan. 16 press conference in Indonesia. Wolfowitz announced that he hopes the U.S. military is able to transfer responsibility for relief operations throughout the region to NGOs and host nation governments as soon as possible.

The Civil Affairs Soldiers are expecting to stay in the region after that transition to assist with initial reconstruction efforts.

International efforts to minimize suffering and mitigate loss of life resulting from the effects of the earthquake and tsunami continue as the combined support force of host nations, civilian aid organizations and U.S. Department of Defense work together to provide humanitarian assistance in support of Operation Unified Assistance.



Soldiers from the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., help load their equipment onto a C-130 aircraft at Royal Thai Naval Air Base, Thailand, while preparing to deploy to Sri Lanka in support of tsunami aid efforts.

Rangers receive awards for combat deployment

USASOC Public Affairs

More than 50 Rangers were recognized during a ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga., for their actions during a recent deployment in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Rangers from 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment received awards including two Bronze Stars with Valor Devices, 39 Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts and six Joint Commendation Medals presented by Lt. Col. John Castles, commander of 3rd Ranger Battalion. Several Rangers also received Army Commendation Medals and Combat Infantryman Badges.

Between October 2004 and January 2005, the battalion conducted more than 140 direct action raids between missions in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Castles said.

Sgt. 1st Class James Anderson, platoon sergeant, Company C, 3rd Ranger Bn., was awarded the Bronze Star for his role in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While deployed, Anderson was crucial to mission success, serving as the platoon sergeant and senior non-commissioned officer for his team, according to his award citation.

Reflecting on earning the Bronze Star, Anderson described what earning the medal means to him about his leadership skills. "It lets me know that as a leader, I safely deployed all of my men to combat, led them through numerous combat operations, and brought every one of them back to their families."

Anderson went on to explain that the medal is a small token for the excellence of not only himself, but for his platoon. "Receiving this award is a great honor, but I couldn't do it without my men," he said. "Because of them, we were successful in every operation we conducted."

Capt. Roger Crombie, commander of Company C, echoed the citation on Anderson's award. "Rangers honestly look up to Sgt. First Class Anderson. He is a great leader, Ranger, husband and soon-to-be father."

Anderson, a native of Martinez, Calif., has spent his entire 11-year Army career with the Rangers. During his tenure, he deployed four times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and two times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the ceremony remarks, Castles took time to share a few thoughts with his Rangers and their guests. In addition to recognizing the service, mission success and sacrifices of the battalion, it was an opportunity for Castles to personally thank all of his Rangers, their families and those who support them.



Rangers from 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment stand in formation while Lt. Col. John Castles, battalion commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Hardy, battalion command sergeant major, present awards for a recent deployment in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Spc. Kyle Butcher, Company A, receives a Purple Heart.

Castles concluded his remarks with an important reminder about the missions the quiet professionals in the 75th Ranger Regiment conduct. Though deployments, homecomings and missions cannot always be publicized like some other units because of the nature of the Ranger job, "know that your service does not go unnoticed and is relied upon now more than ever."

According to official definitions, the Bronze Star for valor is awarded for acts of heroism not involving participation in aerial flight, which are of lesser degree than required for the award of the Silver Star. Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit or meritorious service. The required achievement or service, while of lesser degree than that required for the award of Legion of Merit, must nevertheless have been meritorious and accomplished with distinction. The Purple Heart, a specific combat decoration, is awarded to members of the armed services who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy.

Soldier-DJs use airwaves to inform and entertain Afghans

USASOC Public Affairs

It doesn't take requests, doesn't play Top 40 or run contests, but for 18 hours a day Peace Radio, channel 9.365 on short wave radio, entertains and informs residents of Paktika Province with a theme that benefits both coalition forces and Afghan civilians.

Transmitting from Forward Operating Base Orgun-E, Peace Radio is run by three Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve who never expected to be disc jockeys in Afghanistan, but who are enjoying the experience because of its uniqueness.

While being a DJ may appear to be a glamorous job of picking music, that's not the reality for the Soldiers at the radio station.

Most of the operation is automated, but maintaining and monitoring the equipment falls squarely on the shoulders of the three-man crew and remains the backbone of their job.

To keep Peace Radio operating, the station has its own generator supplying power. The harsh conditions of Afghanistan require the Soldiers to remain diligent in their maintenance to stay operational.

"Everything having to do with the radio station we take care of," said Pfc. Donald Olsen, Peace Radio station technician and a member of the 306th Psychological Operations Company, an Army Reserve special operations unit based in Los Alamitos, Calif.

Aside from the job of maintenance, the crew also organizes and transmits a variety of programming.

The station plays music ranging from Afghan to Indian music, and even broadcasts four hours of international music each week.

National and local news are broadcast on Peace Radio in Dari and Pashto each day, along with other messages from the national government and coalition forces.

Children's stories are played every Wednesday and Saturday. Although the radio station hasn't done an official listener survey, those who tune in have given feedback and the Soldiers know they are making a difference. "We know that it is heard in a good part of

(Paktika) province," said Staff Sgt. John Calvin, 320th Tactical Psychological Operations Company, a team that interacts regularly with the Afghan population.

With the remoteness of some villages and a low literacy rate, Peace Radio is the only link to the government for some, Calvin said.

"They appreciate hearing news," he said. "They also like the variety of music."

Peace Radio appreciates the feedback and takes any person listening as a compliment, he said.

"You would be amazed at how many stations are out there," Olsen said.

From stations that transmit out of Kabul, Kandahar and Ghazni, to stations from Pakistan, the fact that people choose Peace Radio makes Sgt. Christi Hamby proud.

Hamby, another Peace Radio station technician, is a DJ as a hobby in the United States.

For her, Peace Radio is a unique experience that she didn't expect to encounter when she was first told she would deploy to Afghanistan.

"It is kind of neat because it is in the same field that I want to work in," Hamby said. "It is a good experience."

Providing a service in a remote area is also another positive aspect for the Peace Radio crew.

"I like the fact that we are making a difference," Olsen said. "People are being informed about current events and learning about their country through the service we provide. That makes me feel good."



A Soldier from the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., pulls security outside of an Afghan radio station where Soldiers from the 13th Psychological Operations Battalion are operating to keep information flowing to the Afghan people.



Senior Airman Konrad Schwinn, 321st Special Tactics Squadron, lowers the first section of a drain pipe to the ground while rappelling from the bell tower of the 12th-Century All Saint's Church at Gazeley, Suffolk, in the United Kingdom.

others could reach and caused the least amount of disruption to the sanctity of the churchyard.

Schwinn lowers the first section of drain pipe to the ground while rappelling from the bell tower of the church. Removing the 100-year old drain pipe from the 12th Century Church gave the Pararescue special operator a chance to practice high angle skills (skills normally used in search and rescue operations), while also saving its congregation an estimated \$6,000.

The building is fast approaching its 700th birthday and is an unusual venue for training and practicing skills used in search and rescue operations, but it works, and there are other benefits as well.

"We've never done anything like this before," Fleming said. "But I thought it would be a special thing to do, and it allows us to give something back to the community.

The church vicar was grateful. There is much to be done around the church and this helps out a lot, the vicar said, who also noted professional removers would've charged about \$6,000 for the work.

"This (type of situation) isn't new to me," Schwinn said. "I did some adventure outfitting and rope climbing before I joined (the service), plus we brought the most important climbing tool of all — the crescent wrench."

Schwinn estimated the first section of 100-year old pipe weighed in at about 60 pounds. He removed two sections and lowered them to the ground via rope before taking a break. Hanging from a rappelling harness can cause one's legs to go numb, and safety is always a paramount concern.

The job took some time much like a real operation. For instance, it can take anywhere from a few hours to a couple of days to prepare and execute a real world rescue depending on location and situation.

"The nuts came off easily, but the bolts are mortared in and that makes it a little more time consuming, but we came out to get the drain pipe down and we will," Fleming said.

Several hours later, Fleming and Schwinn coiled rope and cleared up climbing gear. Sections of drain pipe on the ground, nuts and bolts gathered in a pile on the grass — community mission complete.

According to the vicar, there is still much work to be done on the 13th century structure, but every little bit helps and the Airmen's efforts were much appreciated especially in the face of other expenses.

"The way I see it — a save is a save. We only did a small part, but with a little luck and tender loving care, maybe the Gazeley Church will stand for another 700 years," Fleming said.

Airmen rappel from bell tower at historic UK site

*By Sandra-Dee Fleming
AFSOC News Service*

A quiet village of long barns, stud farms and winding roads, stretches out beneath the Airman assigned to the 321st Special Tactics Squadron — one last knot check, a final tug on the rope, a harness security check, and then he slips over the side.

Vertical work is not new to Senior Airman Konrad Schwinn or Master Sgt. Michael Fleming (belaying the rope from the ground — to "belay" means to make secure, or in this case to stop the descent of the climber during an emergency situation), but the location and mission are different.

Using a simple rappelling system from the top of the All Saint's Church Bell Tower at Gazeley, Suffolk in the United Kingdom, gave the Airmen access to a rusty drain pipe few

Special ops medics test joint capabilities

By Joanna Hawkins

USASOC Public Affairs

A first-of-its-kind joint Special Operations Forces medical training initiative was held in conjunction with a Company C, 528th Special Operations Support Battalion (Airborne) training exercise.

Medical elements from the Air Force Special Operations Command joined Soldiers from the 528th during the weeklong exercise. It combined Army Level I and Level II combat treatment capabilities with Air Force surgical and enroute intensive care.

According to Maj. LoryKay Wheeler, Special Operations Support Command (Airborne) surgeon, the 528th Level I medical facilities handle emergency medical treatment and advanced trauma life support.

It also provides a sick call and preventive medicine capability to units operating in the area of operations. Each team consists of nine medical personnel, including a physician's assistant, seven medics and a preventive medicine specialist.

A Level II joint medical capability already existed "unofficially" within the U.S. Special Operations Command, Wheeler said.

The addition of Level II facilities provides SOCOM a more robust initial entry patient care facility. The Level II team can fall in on any Level I capable unit and will provide four intensive care (ventilator capable) patient beds and six additional beds for regular patient holding.

In addition, the Level II team provides laboratory services, digital X-ray, ultrasound and dental capabilities to the supported SOF. Ten medical personnel, including a critical care nurse, two licensed practical nurses, one Special Operations Combat Medic, one X-ray technician, one laboratory technician, one patient administration specialist, one medical logistics non-commissioned officer and a biomedical equipment repair specialist, make up the Level II team.

In the near future, with additions



Sgt. Joe Healy

Special operators conduct the three-man carry during joint combat medical training.

planned in a new personnel-manning document, the 528th will have the capability to field two separate Level II teams.

"During the planning and development of the Level II team, we wanted to ensure the team was fully modular to provide the right medical care at the right time," Wheeler said. The team can be task organized to meet any mission requirements and can be augmented with a veterinarian, veterinarian technician and an environmental science officer based on the mission.

Combining all components of a Level I facility plus resuscitative surgical capabilities make up a joint SOF Level II medical facility.

During a recent deployment to Iraq, the 528th used its treatment and patient holding in conjunction with the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) dental capabilities. AFSOC added its surgical and critical care evacuation capabilities.

This combination proved highly effective and provided excellent medical care for Soldiers, according to Wheeler.

Wheeler said in May she began

working with AFSOC and suggested that the medical capability be handled jointly.

"This way, SOF would have a joint Level II medical facility with resuscitative abilities," she said.

The Air Force added elements to the exercise too.

The Air Force Special Operations Surgical Team (SOST) conducts "damage control" surgeries, according to SOST Chief Lt. Col. Mark Ervin.

The SOST team includes: a general surgeon, an orthopedic surgeon, an anesthesiologist, a surgical technician and an emergency room physician.

Level II facilities include Air Force Special Operations Critical Care and Evacuation Teams, or SOCCET. This three-person team, including a respiratory therapist, critical care nurse and critical care physician, evacuate post-surgery patients to higher levels of care.

Ervin said the joint medical training is the first of a series of training exercises intended to test and validate proven methods.

"This is round one, making sure the puzzle pieces fit," he said.

NSW operators grant teen's wish to be a SEAL

*By Chief Robert Benson
NSWG-3 Public Affairs Officer*

As long as she can remember, her son wanted to be a Navy SEAL. Even when Cheryl Greiner's 17-year-old boy was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease more than three years ago, he wanted to be a SEAL.

Today Michael's dream hasn't faded, and his wish came true recently, when he and his family visited Naval Special Warfare command in California — courtesy of the Navy and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

He experienced what it was like to begin "Hell Week" during BUDs training late at night, under flares and machine gun fire and screaming instructors; he blasted across the waves in Navy speedboats at white knuckle speeds; he packed parachutes with the Navy's elite parachute jump team, the Leap Frogs; and conquered some of the more manageable parts of the obstacle course.

"This meant the world to him," Cheryl said, who together with her husband David and other son Matt, experienced the day with Michael. "We're so glad we were able to do this. It's been his dream to be part of special operations and I support him in that goal."

The Make-A-Wish Foundation put Michael's wish into motion with a phone call to the Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, Calif. In turn, the Navy generated a full-blown itinerary that included visits to Special Boat Team Twelve (SBT-12), the Naval Special Warfare Center, and the Leap Frogs.

"It was really easy to put together," said Monette Duedell, a volunteer coordinator for Make-A-Wish. "The Navy was really helpful. These kinds of dreams create hope and give a person something to look forward to."

At SBT-12, he spent the morning aboard the team's 11-meter Rigid-Hull Inflatable Boat (RIB), and later aboard the 82-foot MK-V Special Operations Craft. He saw how Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC) operate and maintain the Navy's inventory of state-of-the-art, high-performance boats.

After the rides he was made an honorary SWCC and



Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Logsdon

Michael Greiner (left) helps two Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC) in the MK-V Special Operations Craft in San Diego Bay during his Make-A-Wish Foundation tour. Michael's wish was to be a Navy SEAL for a day.

given a command hat, T-shirt, plaque, mugs, and other memorabilia.

On paper, the SEALs' mission is "to use stealth and clandestine methods of operation allowing them to conduct multiple missions against targets that larger forces cannot approach undetected." Michael saw some of that mission first hand, when BUDs students went through Hell Week, arguably the toughest week of training for a Navy SEAL candidate.

After a lunch of MREs, Michael was paid a visit by the Leap Frogs. Michael, sitting in a chair on the landing zone, was just a speck at 12,500 feet, when seven SEALs and two SWCC jumped out of a plane and conducted free fall maneuvers toward him at 120 mph. But soon all jumpers hit the mark, and huddled around Michael for pictures and discussion.

The day culminated with a tour of the Naval Special Warfare Center armory and obstacle course before Michael was presented with an Honorary Frogman certificate signed by Rear Adm. Joseph Maguire, Commander, NSWC.

"This was definitely a special day, more than I can say in words," Michael said. "Most people can't usually do this, but I was lucky to have the opportunity. These guys are highly skilled, great professionals and really incredible. Words can't describe how much I appreciate this."



ESPN photo

NSW Sailors fit in at Extreme Winter Games

By Petty Officer 1st Class Candice Hale
Navy Recruiting District Denver

Navy Recruiters, SEa-Air-Land (SEAL) Sailors, and a Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman (SWCC) Motivator recently spent five days in Aspen, Colo., recruiting and creating Navy awareness at the annual ESPN Extreme Winter Games.

The ninth annual, free-to-the-public, winter extreme sports competition featured more than 230 athletes from all over the world. They competed for medals and prize money in sports such as Moto X best tricks, Ski, Snowboard (superpipe and slopestyle), and Snowmo-

Competitors jump on snowboards at ESPN's Extreme Winter Games held in Colorado in February. Naval Special Warfare personnel were present at the sporting event to take advantage of recruiting opportunities and promoting Navy awareness.

bile. These competitions attracted over 69,000 spectators throughout the events.

According to Chief Todd Tucker, Zone Five Supervisor for Navy Recruiting District, Denver, the X Games present a perfect venue to reach his target Navy applicant.

"The kids that come to see the X Games are here to see these athletes, who demonstrate courage and commitment, which are the same attributes we look for in a Navy applicant," he said.

"They also admire the athletes because they have jobs that challenge them from day to day. The jobs we offer in the Navy can also be challenging and out of the ordinary. This is the perfect place to show these kids what we have to offer."

In an effort to directly showcase the Navy's 'extreme' job opportunities, six Navy SEALs and a SWCC Motivator traveled from San Diego, Calif., to assist the Navy recruiting effort.

Navy SEALs and SWCCs could be considered extreme athletes because of the rigorous training and daily challenges that come with their jobs. According to SWCC Motivator, Petty Officer 1st Class

Anthony Edwards, the common thread between the athletes featured at the X Games and the Sailors who attended is the mindset that has made them successful.

"You have to set a goal, and then take on the physical and mental challenges that come along with it. In order to be successful in anything, whether you're a SEAL, SWCC, professional

athlete, or in any other profession, you have to set priorities according to what makes you happy and in the meantime, you'll reach a positive end result that represents that mind set."

Navy SEALs and SWCCs are vital components of elite combat units of Naval Special Warfare, a service component of the U.S. Special Operations Command. These units are organized, trained, and equipped to conduct a variety of missions to

include unconventional warfare, direct action, special reconnaissance, foreign internal defense, counter terrorism missions, and support psychological and civil affairs operations in maritime and riverine environments. They're deployed worldwide to conduct operations with other conventional and unconventional forces.

Edwards says the Naval Special Warfare team has coordinated with Navy recruiting efforts for the past three years as a force multiplier for recruiting events.

"Having the actual SWCC and SEAL members on hand brought attention to the venue. With events such as the X-Games, we are able to interact with all ages, male and female. It gives NSW the chance to 'billboard' our SWCC and SEAL programs."

According to Tucker, the opportunity to work with the NSW team was invaluable.

"The SWCC and SEAL involvement was an amazing asset. These folks are the best of the best. They demonstrated that Navy SEALs are real people just like everyone else. Additionally, the Navy couldn't be represented better at an extreme sports venue than by their own version of an extreme athlete."

SEALs explain the rules of 'Navy SEAL Says' to spectators. Participants tried to be the best at following the SEALs' directions to win a 'Navy' snowboard.



Navy SEALs sign autographs.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric S. Logsdon



Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric S. Logsdon

Navy's top leaders visit NSW Headquarters

NAVSPECWARCOM Public Affairs

Two of the Navy's top admirals — Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark and the Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John B. Nathman — visited west coast Naval Special Warfare commands within days of each other earlier this month.

Both admirals were briefed on current NSW operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism and had an opportunity to talk to and answer questions from operators who recently returned from deployment in the Central Command theater.

Rear Adm. Joseph Maguire, commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, was quick to point out the significance of the visits. "The CNO and his vice chief have a lot of important things going on, but they took time out of their very busy schedules to visit with our troops," Maguire said. "They are aware of our successes overseas and know the difference we're making in the Global War on Terror. They want

to support us and are looking to support us in a big way, with the Navy's number one asset — its people."

Timing is good for the Navy to support NSW. The service's new Human Capital Strategy, aimed at transforming its active component, reserve component, and civilian work force, has the Navy drawing down its active duty end strength over the future years defense program.

A Program Decision Memorandum (PDM) signed out by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in 2002 provides for an additional 272 NSW billets, 136 which will come online in FY06 and 136 in FY08. Currently, NSW plans to expand its existing eight SEAL teams by adding 18 techs, or support personnel, and 16 operators (SEALs) to each. By adding platoons or task units to existing teams, vice creating two new SEAL teams,



Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark (left) speaks with Intelligence Specialist First Class Christopher Phillips during a brief with Naval Special Warfare Group One.

people can be put in place sooner, overhead requirements are reduced, and the need for military construction is eliminated.

"It's a win-win. We are looking to provide for a more robust NSW Squadron deployed forward, and the Navy is in a good position to help us do that," Maguire said.

NSW command names Junior Sailor of the Year

By Chief Austin Mansfield

NAVSPECWARCOM Public Affairs

Naval Special Warfare's headquarters staff selected Cryptologic Technician - Administration 2nd Class (Surface Warfare/Aviation Warfare) Olivia Steve as its Junior Sailor of the Year for 2004.

Steve is the headquarters' assistant special security officer, and supervises five Sailors in three separate work centers. In preparation for an annual Sensitive Compartment Intelligence Facility (SCIF) inspection by the Defense Intelligence Agency, she produced numerous in-depth standard operating procedures, updated more than 100 personnel file folders, initiated a SCIF-related emergency action plan, and ensured the SCIF contained the physical security accreditation requirements to support the intelligence operations of deployed members of NSW and the Department of Defense.

In addition to her regular duties, Steve holds many collateral responsibilities as well, including assistant command physical readiness coordinator, department training petty officer, and system security officer, to name

just a few. Much of Steve's off-duty time is spent studying toward her baccalaureate degree in psychology, and helping physically impaired people through the Special Olympics volunteer program. Her frequent efforts helped ensure that various activities and meals were available, providing a friendly and comfortable environment for more than 300 special children.



Petty Officer Second Class Olivia Steve is the Naval Special Warfare Command headquarters Junior Sailor of the Year for 2004.

Soldier earns top special operations medic award



1st Lt. Joseph Coslett

Staff Sgt. David Glenn (front) earns the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Special Forces Medic of the Year Award. Glenn's SF operational detachment alpha team (shown) flew in from Fort Bragg, N.C., to congratulate him for the award.

By 1st Lt. Joseph Coslett
USSOCOM Public Affairs

A 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) medic earned the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Medic of the Year Award at the Special Operations Medical Associations annual conference in Tampa, Fla.

Staff Sgt. David Glenn's actions during the Global War on Terrorism earned him the medic of the year award.

During a mounted patrol in Afghanistan, he and his operational detachment team were ambushed by terrorists using an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. Glenn was

severely injured in the initial blast but remained confident and calm while giving instructions to his team on how to patch him up.

"I can't tell you about Dave's career but what I can tell you is on Sept. 23 after our convoy hit a landmine my little brother was dying and choking on his blood and teeth. He spit out all of the stuff, he sat up and told me what to do," said Sgt. 1st Class Johnny

Glenn, 3rd SFG weapons sergeant.

The wounded medic gave instructions to Sgt. 1st Class Glenn and Troy Lettieri, assistant operations sergeant, on how to save his life.

The rest of Staff Sgt. Glenn's ODA traveled from North Carolina to surprise and congratulate him on his accomplishments.

Sgt. 1st Class Glenn ended his presentation to David by saying, "I couldn't do what you did, you are more of a man than I have ever seen. When I came here I didn't know what the award was, but if anyone deserves it — it's you."

HQ Service Member of the Year

By 1st Lt. Joseph Coslett
USSOCOM Public Affairs

An Airman won top honors by earning the U.S. Special Operations Command's Service Member of the Year award during the annual awards ceremony held at the MacDill Air Force Base Noncommissioned Officers Club Feb. 22.

Staff Sgt. Michael Morgan, D-Cell Electrical Systems NCOIC and the USSOCOM Airman of the Year, was selected over the other USSOCOM Service winners; Staff Sgt. Louis Sisneros, Soldier of the Year; Sgt. Michael Spears, Marine of the Year; and Petty Officer 1st Class Derrick Francis, Sailor of the Year; as USSOCOM's top service member.

"It was an honor to just be nominated

for Service Member of the Year, to be held in the same regard as the other nominees," Morgan said. "To receive this award leaves me stunned, especially considering the caliber of the other nominees."

Morgan's accomplishments include: Supervising up to 10 personnel while deployed in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Winter Strike; ensuring the installation, inspection, troubleshooting, and repairs of all electrical power systems for Joint Special Operations Task Forces; managing more than \$1.32 million in electrical equipment; preparing, palletizing and deploying 440,000 pounds of equipment for Hurricane Ivan; serving as the only



Air Force jumper on the USSOCOM Command Parachute team with more than 75 jumps; maintaining a 4.0 grade point average during multiple deployments accumulating 61 credit hours towards a Community College of the Air Force Associate's Degree

in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

He supported community projects to include the Lakeland Air Show, Drug Awareness Resistance Education program, Great American Teach-in and Habitat for Humanity, Tampa Chapter.

"Morgan leads and finds ways to make things better," said Master Sgt. Kenneth Ivie, D-Cell Superintendent. "He earned and deserves this award."

Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston speaks with Master Chief Petty Officer Gary Welt, U.S. Special Operations Command Navy senior enlisted adviser, during his visit to USSOCOM in February. Preston was sworn in as the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army in January 2004. He has held a variety of leadership positions throughout his career ranging from cavalry scout to command sergeant major. As Sergeant Major of the Army, Preston serves as the Army Chief of Staff's personal adviser on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier training and quality of life.



Master Sgt. Steve Huard

SMA Preston visits USSOCOM Headquarters

*By Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser
USSOCOM Public Affairs*

The Sgt. Maj. of the Army, Kenneth Preston, visited MacDill AFB, Monday to spend time with U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command troops.

He held two enlisted calls, and spoke at a luncheon where he presented awards to the top Soldiers in the joint commands, Army National Guard, Reserves, Recruiting and Junior and Senior Reserve Officer Training Programs.

During the calls, Sgt. Maj. Preston covered important topics such as Army transformation and the performance of the Army Guard and Reserve units deployed overseas.

“Two things transformation gives our Soldiers and their families are predictability and stability,” he said. “We have grown the Army by three brigades and by 2006 this number will increase to 10. These new brigades and the ones already transformed in their respective divisions will have a ‘three-year lifecycle.’ Troops in these brigades will remain together — train, deploy and redeploy as a team over a three year period. So when a Soldier goes to one of these new brigades, he or she can plan on being with the unit for at least three year stay at a given location. When the three years are up, Soldiers can PCS to a new base or possibly remain where they are for another cycle.”

Transformation also means a shuffling of personnel.

“We have a lot of troops in ‘Cold War’ jobs,” Sgt. Maj. Preston said. “I call these ‘high-density, low-demand’ fields. The Army is going to rebalance those people to ‘high-demand, low-density’ fields like military police and Civil

Affairs. Somewhere between 100,000 to 115,000 Soldiers will transform to new positions.”

According to the sergeant major, Civil Affairs “low density” is a legacy of the Cold War.

“There was not a big need for Civil Affairs units back then,” he said. “So the Army shifted most of the requirements to the National Guard and Reserve.”

But with long engagements in Afghanistan and Iraq just to mention a few areas of responsibility, Civil Affairs units have been extremely busy.

“The Guard and Reserves are doing a wonderful job,” he said. “We are not looking to take the mission away from them, but we want to build a good balance between active-duty forces and the Guard and Reserves.”

Special operators are also in a low-density field. The proposed 2006 Defense Budget has Army Special Forces plussed up by 1,200 Soldiers, and special retention programs are already in place to help keep experienced Soldiers in Army Green.

“I had the distinct honor to see them, (Special Forces), in action during Iraqi Freedom,” the sergeant major commented. “They are the man hunters — they take down the high dollar targets. Special Forces did, and are still doing, a magnificent job.”

According to Sgt. Maj. Preston, even with the need for transformation, the Army is the best it has ever been.

“I’m very proud of what our Soldiers are doing,” he said. “I hope when they finish their tours, they can look back and say ‘I helped make the world a safer place.’”

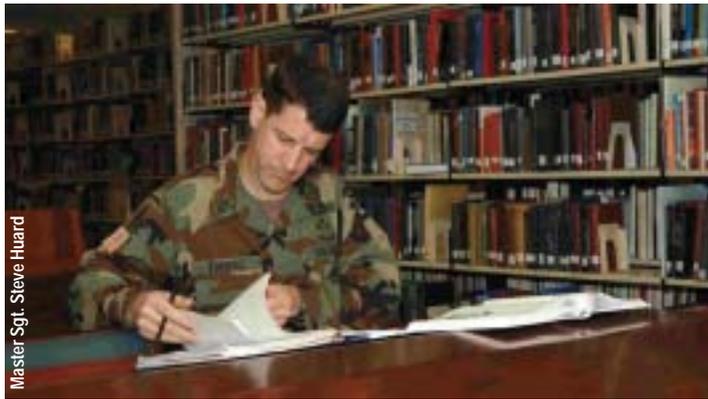
USF teams up with Special Ops Command for degree completion opportunities

By Boyd Ballard

USSOCOM Knowledge and Futures

U.S. Special Operations Command recently teamed up with the University of South Florida to provide a unique opportunity for Special Operations Forces to pursue, and succeed in, their personal life-long learning goals. The SOF College Undergraduate Degree Assistance Program is envisioned as one which will allow an active duty SOF operator assigned to USSOCOM units to complete a college undergraduate degree that they have been working toward, but because of high ops tempo, multiple deployments, or other circumstances, have made it difficult or impossible to secure that bachelor's degree.

"The intent of the program is to allow select, active duty enlisted and warrant officer SOF operators, who are within a year of obtaining a bachelor's degree, to attend USF full-time in residence to complete their degree," said Brig. Gen. Paulette Risher, the Director of the Center for Knowledge and Futures at USSOCOM.



Master Sgt. Andrew Farkos studies for his next class at the University of South Florida. He is the first person to take advantage of the Special Operations Forces College Undergraduate Degree Assistance Program.

The program grew from a conversation between USSOCOM Commander Gen. Doug Brown and USF President Judy Genshaft at a meeting in June regarding areas where each organization might interact with, and benefit from, one another. The command recently supported the September dedication of USF's Joint Military Science Leadership Center on their main campus in Tampa, and an October symposium sponsored by USF for state-wide college and university Reserve Officer Training Corps on "Joint Perspectives for Future Service Leaders and Officers."

The University of South Florida offers world class academic programs across a wide spectrum; more than 200 majors and programs in 10 colleges, ranging from engineering to education, criminal justice, anthropology, biochemistry and geology, to name a few. SOF personnel who may have gathered an eclectic selection of completed coursework from various institutions should be able to apply or transfer much of that work to a field of study at USF.

The new program will be competitive. For the initial program, which has a goal to get at least one SOF member into USF in January 2005, a joint USSOCOM and USF selection process will confirm eligibility and select the most qualified individuals who complete and submit nomination packages. For SOF personnel not presently assigned to MacDill AFB in Tampa, Fla., (Headquarters, USSOCOM, or to Special Operations Command Central) the program will work with the losing organization and the Services for a permanent change of station to fill a billet at the Headquarters. Program candidates will be allowed up to one full year to complete their degree, and then serve out the remaining portion of their tour at USSOCOM.

University of South Florida will assist USSOCOM in the selection and registration process to maximize the transferal of academic credits from other institutions, and ensure that candidates can complete a USF undergraduate program within a year.

See USF, page 33

Anti-terrorism Level One Awareness Training

In accordance with Department of Defense Instruction 2000.16, all DOD personnel, to include contractors, are required to complete the Antiterrorism Level One Awareness Training annually, (calendar year). Prior to going overseas (TDY or deploying), personnel must have completed this training. Deploying personnel must also have received a specific country threat briefing

within three months of the travel date.

Anti-terrorism Level One Awareness Training at SOCOM is conducted through a computer based training website on the unclassified LAN.

The address is www.at-awareness.org and the codeword is aware. After completing the scenario awareness course, print out a certificate. Please e-mail your certificate of completion notice to

sparrl@socom.mil or fax a copy to (813) 828-4242. To obtain a specific country threat brief, please contact SCSO-J2X personnel at 828-9033 for an appointment.

The POC for J2X is SGT Langton/828-9033. The HQ USSOCOM point of contact for AT Awareness Training is Tech Sgt. Larry Sparr, SCSO-J32-AT, (813) 828-2673.

Chem-bio experts gather for in Tampa for SOF warrior

By Jennifer Whittle
USSOCOM Public Affairs

Special operators confiscate a laptop containing plans for a weapon of mass destruction attack on the City of Tampa, Fla. A Liberian-flagged freighter headed into Port of Tampa is identified as the delivery vessel. The Homeland Security team reacts: the FBI contacts the U.S. Coast Guard, Tampa Police Department and Tampa Fire Department. A joint interdiction is planned to stop and complete a thorough search of the vessel. A tactical assault is conducted and Coast Guard helicopters approach the vessel, hazardous materials are found by searchers, the Liberian crew is arrested, the WMD hot zone is identified, and the area is secured.

The demonstration is flawless. It exercises the joint operation of Tampa officials fighting the homeland threat to chemical and biological warfare.

The scenario, enacted in December in Tampa Bay during the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Conference, showed experts in the chem-bio defense industry what joint operations are like — similar to the ones conducted by Special Operations Forces

in international waters at any given time.

The possibility of chemical and biological threats to Special Operations Forces is taken very seriously by the U.S. Special Operations Command. So seriously that each year the command invites the technological gurus of the industry to meet in Tampa for a give-and-take forum with not only SOF operators from the field but the heavy-hitters at the U.S. Special Operations Command who make the acquisition and defense decisions for those operators. This year the conference was held at the Tampa Convention Center and more than one-third of its attendees were in uniform.

Lt. Col. John Campbell, CBRN Branch officer, explained that the 2005 conference is a one-of-a-kind forum for the exchange of critical CBRN information.

“That information is exchanged between USSOCOM operators, government agencies, academia and industry,” he said. “It is not like most ‘trade shows.’ It is focused on problem-solving from many different angles to get the right equipment for SOF troops.”

The conference was co-hosted by National Defense Industrial Agency, or NDIA, which handled most of the logistical issues like registration and vendor booth displays, said Maj. Matthew Stork, CBRN Branch. “Our

USSOCOM branch was responsible for guest speakers, conference agenda and break out sessions with SOF operators as the focus,” Stork said. “The result was evolutionary and revolutionary information in an unprecedented environment. USSOCOM was given a glimpse into the future and industry was shown the warrior in the field who needs protection and lightweight equipment.”

“I think we were able to provide a great balance between technical briefings, acquisition-centric issues, and operator topics this year,” Campbell said. “And the demonstration exhibited the type joint of atmosphere USSOCOM warriors operate in, but with civilian elements. With Gen. Doug Brown’s opening remarks, conference attendees knew first-off that the conference is held in high regard.

“On display for the first time was the SOF-developed XM-53 gas mask,” Campbell noted. “This mask allows SOF to better shoot, move and communicate in a CBRN environment, particularly when wearing Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. SOF will see these masks within the next year. Other improved items on display where lighter-weight Military Oriented Protective Posture, or MOPP suits, and better decontamination systems.”

CBRN photos



The family of future protective masks that were on display at the CBRN conference consists of (left to right) Joint Service Survivability Escape Mask, used by military and civilians as an emergency mask to allow the evacuation of contaminated area or during terrorist attack; the M-50 Joint Service General Purpose Mask (JSGPM), replacement for the M-40 series and MCU-2P masks and currently used by USSOCOM personnel; and the Joint Protective Air Crew Ensemble (JPACE), to be used by AFSOC personnel.



SCAR Program photo

Two retired Navy SEALs test fire and evaluate the Special Operations Forces Combat Assault Rifle for future use by special ops.

Command conducts first critical review for SCAR program

By Jennifer Chait
Strategic Communications, SCAR Program

The U.S. Special Operations Command announced in December that it conducted the first critical design review for the Special Operations Forces Combat Assault Rifle (SCAR) with FN Herstal since the company was awarded the contract Nov. 4. The purpose of the three-day meeting was fourfold: to discuss the SCAR program, to accelerate to the concurrent fielding with SCAR Light (a 5.56 mm version) and EGLM (grenade launcher), to test the weapons on the range and to make ergonomic adjustments and to advise on other improvements with the developers together with the operators. Upon conclusion, FN Herstal delivered a modified prototype within 24-hours based on discussions.

USSOCOM's SCAR program, conducted through a full and open competition, will provide the first 21st century, modular assault rifle designed and built from the ground up for the finest fighting forces in the world. This week's meeting is the first of

several over the developmental lifetime of the combat assault rifle.

Troy Smith, SCAR Program Manager said, "The meetings in Belgium have been very productive. We have begun a process with FN that will continue throughout the SCAR developmental process. Having fired prototypes on the range and having met to review each element of the prototypes, I am extremely pleased with the progress thus far. In the 10 months since our USSOCOM request for proposal last January to today, there have been many highlights. This critical design review was another. We look forward to giving the operators the best of what technology has to offer."

In having the developer work side by side with operators, the team was able to make immediate changes and improvements to prototypes and designs. Operators tested the weapons on the range to gauge the initial capabilities of what they had previously outlined in the requirements.

Specifically, the Critical Design Team's objectives were:

- To discuss all aspects of the SCAR program,
- To accelerate the development of SCAR-H to concurrent fielding with SCAR-L and EGLM
- To cover in detail the Engineering Change Proposals (ECP's) and make ergonomic and other improvements side by side with the developers and operators.
- To conduct live fire familiarization with both the SCAR-L especially for those personnel who had not had the opportunity to fire them before.
- To conduct a live fire debut of the SCAR-H (prototype), which none of the government team had fired before.
- To officially represent the program for a visiting Congressional delegation.

The SCAR program was:

- Conducted in a full and open competition
- Operator envisioned, tested and chosen with full operator involvement
- Developed to provide the flexibility to match the way SOF operations are conducted — with an increased need for modularity and reliability that reduces maintenance, improves effectiveness and maximizes the efficiency of weight carried by Soldiers.

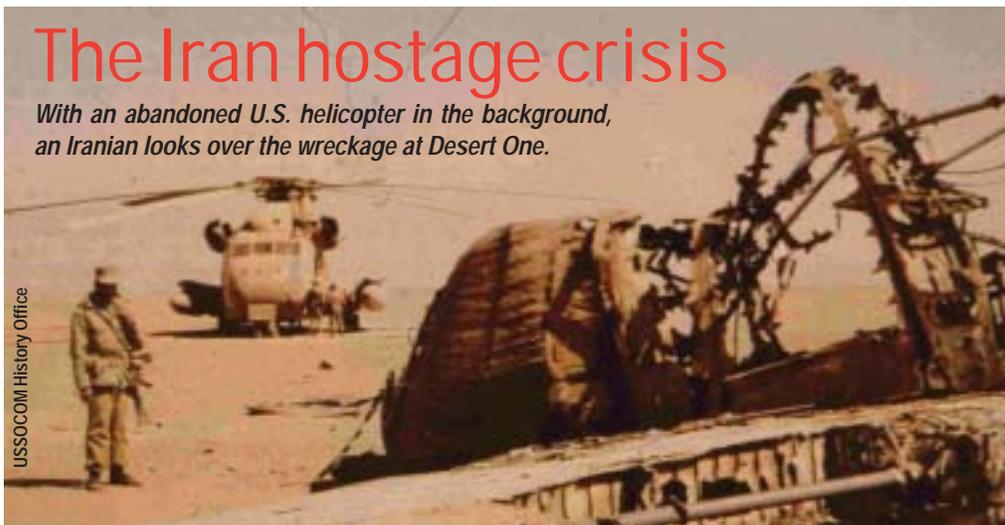


Special Operations Forces Combat Assault Rifle (SCAR)

The Iran hostage crisis

With an abandoned U.S. helicopter in the background, an Iranian looks over the wreckage at Desert One.

USSOCOM History Office



By Navy Capt. John DeNicola
USSOCOM History Office

After the deposed Shah of Iran, Mohammed Pahlavi, came to the United States for medical treatment in November 1979, more than 3,000 Iranian militant students stormed the American Embassy in Tehran. Initially 66 hostages were taken. After initial diplomacy failed, President Carter ordered a military rescue. It would take an audacious plan to reach the hostages. The embassy was surrounded by four million Iranians and 700 miles of desert and mountains.

During the first night of the plan, eight Navy RH-53s flew from the *USS Nimitz* in the Gulf of Oman to the rendezvous point of Desert One. Three MC-130 Combat Talons would fly from Masirah, Oman, to deliver a group of commandos, combat controllers and others who would rescue the hostages. Three EC-130s would land to refuel the Navy RH-53s. After refueling, the helicopters would fly the commandos to a hide site on the outskirts of Tehran, where former military and Son Tay Raid veteran Dick Meadows, waited and from where they would assault the embassy the next night.

On the second night, the MC-130s and EC-130s flew into the country with 100 Army Rangers to an airfield at Manzariyeh. The Rangers would assault the field and hold it while two C-141s could land and ferry the hostages and commandos to freedom. Three AC-130 gunships would be used to provide cover for the Rangers at Manzariyeh and for

close air support for forces at the embassy.

Secrecy and surprise were critical to the plan. The entire mission would be accomplished under the cover of darkness. “This mission required a lot of things we had never done before,” said Bob Brenci, the lead MC-130 pilot.

Just before sunset on April 24, Brenci’s MC-130 took off for the rendezvous and refueling point from Masirah. The other C-130s left Masirah after dark, and the helicopters launched from the *Nimitz*.

The first challenge was locating Desert One. Maj. John Carney, a combat controller, previously flew into Iran and set up a landing strip. Brenci was a couple of miles out when he used a remote to light up the “diamond and one” pattern of the landing strip seen through his night vision goggles. The plane touched down, and Col. Charlie Beckwith’s commandos and a combat control team went to work.

Once over Iran, the helicopter pilots encountered severe weather. Flying at 500 feet, the helicopters got caught in a blinding dust storm. Just two hours into the mission the first helicopter aborted, and only 145 nautical miles from Desert One a second did. Upon approach, a third helicopter had second-stage hydraulic system failure, deemed irreparable, and the mission was aborted.

At liftoff from Desert One, a helicopter kicked up a blinding dust cloud and drifted left into an EC-130. The two aircraft exploded in an inferno, and three

Marines and five Airmen were killed in the collision.

April 25 was a defining moment for President Jimmy Carter, the American people, and America’s military. At 7 a.m., a somber President announced to the nation and the world that a secret hostage rescue mission had failed, eight American servicemen were dead, and several others seriously injured.

The lessons learned at Desert One paved the way for the success of today’s special operations. The lack of a standing Joint Task Force, lack of clear command relations, and lack of a full-scale rehearsal were key problems. Their solutions were the establishment of both a counter-terrorism JTF and a special operations advisory panel.

After Desert One, Urgent Fury and failure to “fix” the special operations joint mobility issues, Congress passed the Nunn-Cohen Amendment which mandated that the President create a unified combatant command for special operations with control over its own resources.

The U.S. Special Operations Command was formed in 1987 and given capabilities to organize, train and equip U.S. Special Operations Forces from the Army, Navy and Air Force. Those capabilities have been validated over and over again in the years since USSOCOM was established.

“Since then, we have galvanized our joint capabilities into a world class special operations force skilled enough to execute the most challenging missions,” said Gen. Doug Brown, commander, USSOCOM. “At the onset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Army special operation helicopters launched from Navy ships with Army Special Forces and Navy SEALs onboard and linked up in-flight with their Air Force special operations counterparts. They made a Special Operations Forces joint team and successfully conducted missions more complex and tougher than Desert One—not once, but 23 times—in addition to dozens of joint ground missions across Afghanistan. That capability was available in 2001, because of 1987.”

OPSEC and COMSEC monitoring: Fraternal twins or distant cousins?

By Rick Estberg, IOSS

Submitted by Mike Sweat, USSOCOM OPSEC Officer

Whenever this topic comes up, you can always count on a lively discussion. The question is whether communications security (COMSEC) is actually just a synonym for OPSEC; whether they are only loosely connected; or whether they are distinct and have nothing to do with one another. We at the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff believe the answer is somewhere in the middle.

The most important thing to keep in mind is that OPSEC is not security discipline. It is an analytic process that transcends any particular security program and applies evenly to all such disciplines, as well as other key elements, (public affairs, logistics and obviously operations). COMSEC on the other hand is a particular piece of an overall security program, not unlike physical or emanation security. Thus, the two are far from synonyms.

Here is another way to look at it: good communications security increases an organization's overall OPSEC posture; poor COMSEC hurts that posture. But it is very conceivable that a poor OPSEC posture might be the result of something other than less-than-stellar COMSEC. Examples might include overly descriptive public affairs announcements, inadequate gate protection for particular buildings, or outdated personnel security/background check folders.

Does this mean that those involved in COMSEC monitoring are not "doing" OPSEC? Let's put it this way: they are not employing the five-step approach to the OPSEC analytic process.

Beyond this, no one actually "does" OPSEC. Instead, OPSEC is a way of viewing overall operations, assessing whether you have identified your critical information, then taken steps to ensure that no adversary can learn it and take advantage of it. That being said, identified COMSEC weaknesses which are subsequently "fixed" have now improved a unit's overall OPSEC posture, so we can definitely say that COMSEC activities support healthy OPSEC.

Finally, regarding assessments/surveys, there is an important distinction between OPSEC and COMSEC monitoring. When an organization asks for IOSS assistance in an OPSEC assessment, we assist them as they actually perform their own assessment. It would be difficult if not impossible, for example, for the IOSS to determine accurately a particular unit's critical information — only the unit in question can do that. The IOSS can be of great assistance in this and subsequent steps, to include determining vulnerabilities and countermeasures. But at its essence, and OPSEC assessment is conducted by the requestor and "belongs" to the requesting unit or organization. COMSEC monitoring, on the other hand, is provided by a group of COMSEC specialists working on behalf of, but usually not in direct contact with the requestor during the actual assessment. Once the assessment is complete, be it OPSEC or COMSEC, the end results are shared with all appropriate personnel in the requesting organization.

In summary, OPSEC and COMSEC monitoring while far from synonymous, are partners in helping organization become more secure in their activities and operations. Anyone involved in either pursuit is a member of this great team.

USF, from page 29

The intent is to move from this initial pilot program to a recurring one, scheduled to best align the competitively selected personnel to match their PCS move and the academic semester schedule which will allow them to complete their desired undergraduate major in a year or less. Whether the program will become a spring competition to allow a

summer move coupled to a fall semester start remains to be determined. The main objective is to look to meet the needs of the individual, without undue complication or detriment to mission accomplishment.

To be considered for the program, candidates must be an active duty SOF noncommissioned or warrant officer currently assigned to a USSOCOM unit; not currently possess a bachelor's degree or equivalent; have retainability to accept a PCS assignment to USSOCOM; possess sufficient transferable academic hours/credits to be eligible to complete an undergraduate degree

by attending up to one year as a full-time student; have a grade point average of greater than 2.5; have completed one year of a foreign language at the college level, or two years of a foreign language at the high school level, or be able to obtain an equivalency waiver through an accredited language program such as the Defense Language Institute or Defense Language Placement Test.

All school-associated costs for the program are the responsibility of the individual. The individual may be able to obtain service and GI Bill funds to defray some costs. The USF tuition rate is at the in-state rate for active duty military assigned to Florida.



1st Lt. Joseph Coslett

Master Sgt. David Powers, senior Special Forces operator, speaks with University of South Florida ROTC cadets. He spoke to more than 150 joint USF ROTC program cadets, along with Brig. Gen. George Flynn, U.S. Special Operations Command Chief of Staff; Lt. Col. James Sculerati, command briefer; and Senior Chief Petty Officer Richard Lamoureux, senior Navy SEAL; about leadership and special operations in combat environments.

Foundation assists children of fallen special operators

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

Sixty-six children of fallen military special operators have used Special Operations Warrior Foundation-provided scholarship grants to earn college degrees over the past 24 years, the organization's head official noted.

The SOWF began soon after the U.S. military's unsuccessful rescue attempt of 53 American citizens held hostage in Tehran, Iran, by Iranian militants, said retired Col. John Carney Jr., a former Air Force special operations officer and the foundation's president and chief executive officer.

Eight U.S. special operations members died on April 25, 1980, when two military aircraft collided and burned in the Iranian desert, causing the mission to be scrubbed, recalled Carney, who was a member of the "Desert One" rescue team. The deceased servicemembers, he noted, left behind 17 children whose ages ranged from 2 months to 15 years old.

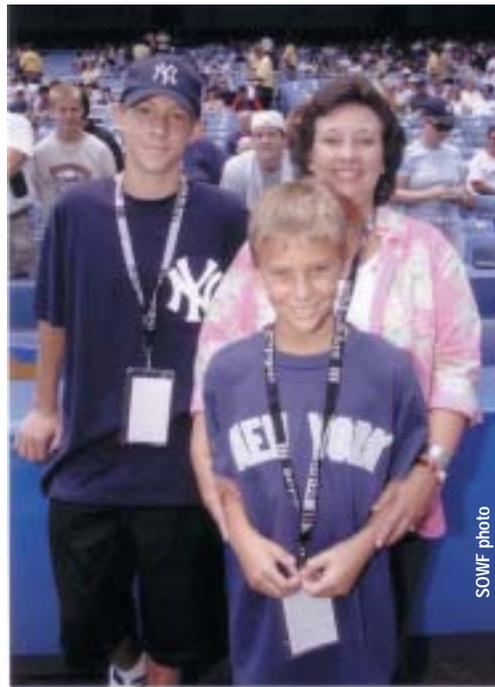
Desert One's survivors "passed the hat" to provide for the children, Carney recalled, and the SOWF was born. He credited Benjamin Schemmer, a West Point graduate and Army Ranger, as being among the organization's key founders.

"We decided that we would attempt to put the children through college," Carney said, noting that Dr. Jim Lewis, the son of C-130 pilot Capt. Hal Lewis, who perished during the Desert One mission, was put through medical school by the SOWF.

Today, the SOWF continues to provide scholarship grants covering tuition, room and board, and books for surviving children of active, Reserve or Guard special operators who've



Special Operations Warrior Foundation President John Carney, Jr. (left), with SOWF student Stephanie Matos, and Mayor of Cody, Wyoming, Ken Stockwell, gather for a photo after Matos speaks about her scholarship experience with the SOWF.



Alicia Buehring and her sons, Nick and Drew, on the field at Yankee Stadium for a pre-game ceremony that honored her husband, Army Lt. Col. Charles Buehring, who was killed in Iraq in 2003. Nick and Drew will have their college education provided by the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

been killed during the performance of duty, Carney noted.

"If the fallen warrior was assigned to special operations — Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine — and they lose their life during training or during an operation, we will put their children through four years of college," he said.

The organization is currently funding college educations for 92 children of fallen service members, Carney reported. Next year, he said, "we'll have as many as 120 children in college."

Service members, Carney observed, are the primary contributors to the SOWF through the annual Combined Federal Campaign.

Most special operators who have died on duty are young men, he noted, and haven't completed making financial arrangements for their children's education. This makes the SOWF especially important, Carney pointed out, because "we at least relieve the Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine of one concern, and that's their children's education."

The SOWF provided more than \$650,000 in scholarship grants, educational programs, and financial aid counseling in 2003, according to the organization's web site.



The Special Operations Warrior Foundation will celebrate its 25th year by hosting a commemorative dinner in honor of those who participated in the 1980 Iranian hostage rescue mission, also known as Eagle Claw. The dinner is being held April 24th at the Emerald Coast Conference Center in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Tickets can be purchased online at www.specialops.org

Special operators who lost their lives

-serving in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom

in the Global War on Terrorism will never be forgotten

SGT Thomas Allison
 CPL William M. Amundson
 SPC Marc A. Anderson
 1Lt Tamara L. Archuleta
 CSM Edward C. Barnhill
 SFC William Bennett
 CPL Mark A. Bibby
 SGT Jay A. Blessing
 HMC Matthew J. Bourgeois
 SPC Charles E. Jr. Bush
 CPT Paul J. Cassidy
 TSgt John A. Chapman
 SFC Nathan R. Chapman
 CPL Andrew F. Chris
 PFC Matthew A. Commons
 1SG Christopher D. Coffin
 SGT Timothy M. Conneway
 TSgt Sean M. Corlew
 SGT Bradley S. Crose
 SrA Jason D. Cunningham
 MSG Jefferson D. Davis
 SSG James Dorrity
 SPC Jonn Edmunds
 CPT Daniel W. Eggers
 CW2 Jody Egnor
 MAJ Curtis Feistner
 MSG Richard Ferguson
 MSG George A. Fernandez
 SGT Jeremy Foshee
 SSG Gregory Frampton
 SSgt Jacob L. Frazier
 SPC Bryan L. Freeman
 SSG Kerry Frith
 SPC Nichole Frye
 CW3 Thomas Gibbons
 SSG Robert S. Goodwin
 CW2 Stanley L. Harriman
 SPC Julie R. Hickey
 SSgt Jason C. Hicks
 SSG Aaron Holleyman
 MSG Kelly Hornbeck
 SFC Mark W. Jackson
 SPC Joseph A. Jeffries
 TSgt William J. Kerwood
 SPC Adam G. Kinser
 SSG Daniel Kisling
 SFC Mitchell A. Lane
 SSG Nino D. Livaudais
 SPC Ryan P. Long
 MSgt Michael H. Maltz
 SFC Curtis Mancini
 SSG Paul C. Mardis



MSgt William L. McDaniel
 SFC Robert K. McGee
 SSG Orlando Morales
 MSG Kevin Morehead
 SFC Robert J. Mogensen
 SFC Pedro A. Munoz
 SSG Tony B. Olaes
 SGT Michael C. O'Neill
 SSG Michael G. Owen
 CPT Bart Owens
 CW3 Mark O'Steen
 BM1 Brian J. Ouellette
 SFC Daniel H. Petithory
 LTC Mark Phelan
 SrA Jason T. Plite
 Maj Steven Plumhoof
 CW2 Bruce Price
 SSG Brian Prosser
 IC1 Thomas Retzer
 SSgt Juan M. Ridout
 CPT Russell B. Rippetoe
 ABH1 Neal C. Roberts
 SFC Daniel A. Romero
 SSG Bruce Rushforth
 A1C Jesse M. Samek
 CPL Jonathan Santos
 SSgt Scott D. Sather
 SGT Danton Seitsinger
 LTC Anthony L. Sherman
 SSgt Anissa A. Shero
 SFC Christopher Speer
 SGM Michael B. Stack
 PFC Nathan Stahl
 MAJ Charles Jr. Soltes
 Lt Col John H. Stein
 SPC Kristofor Stonesifer
 SGT Philip J. Svitak
 SSG Paul A. Sweeney
 MAJ Paul R. Syverson
 PH1 David M. Tapper
 CPT Michael Tarlavsky
 SFC John E. Taylor
 CPL Patrick D. Tillman
 SSgt John H. Teal
 SFC Peter Tycz
 SSG Gene A. Vance
 SSgt Thomas A. Jr. Walkup
 TSgt Howard A. Walters
 SGT Roy A. Wood
 SGT Jeremy Wright
 SFC Mickey E. Zaub

**“As our SOF heroes have seen first
 hand, the price of freedom is enormous,
 but essential to protect what we cherish.”**

*Gen. Doug Brown, commander,
 U.S. Special Operations Command*



Sgt. 1st Class Sammy Metzger



Snow Drop

Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force - Afghanistan air drops humanitarian supplies including food, medicine and blankets to people in a remote region of Afghanistan. Civil Affairs Soldiers arranged drops after discovering villages that were affected by harsh winter conditions. SF Soldiers received and distributed the supplies.