



# TIP OF THE SPEAR

**April 5, 1981 -  
Sept. 29, 2006**



**Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL)  
Michael A. Monsoor**



## Monsoor receives Medal of Honor ... Page 28

# Tip of the Spear

**Adm. Eric Olson**  
Commander, USSOCOM

**CSM Thomas Smith**  
Command Sergeant Major

**Col. Hans Bush**  
Public Affairs Director

**Mike Bottoms**  
Managing Editor

**Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer**  
NCOIC, Command Information

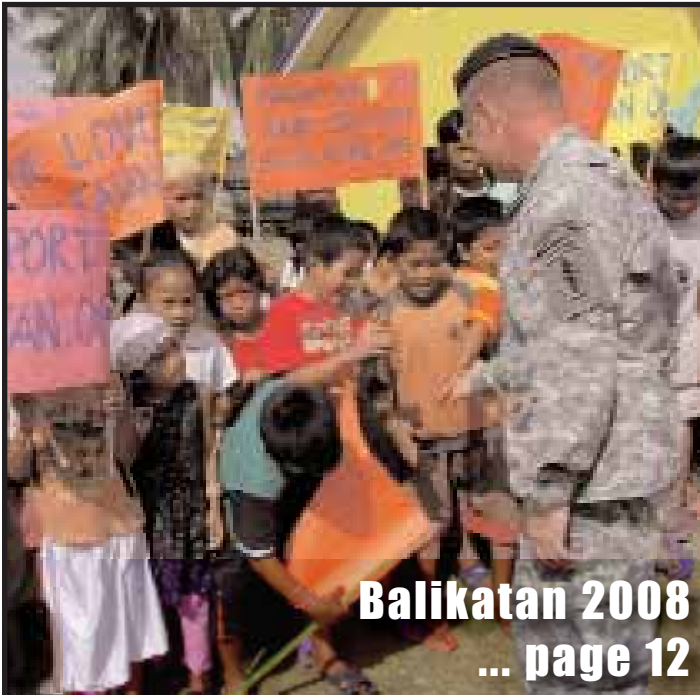
**Master Sgt. Laura LeBeau**  
Staff Writer

**Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Lawn**  
Staff Photographer

This is a U.S. Special Operations Command publication. Contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or USSOCOM. The content is edited, prepared and provided by the USSOCOM Public Affairs Office, 7701 Tampa Point Blvd., MacDill AFB, Fla., 33621, phone (813) 826-4600, DSN 299-4600. E-mail the editor via unclassified network at [public.affairs@socom.mil](mailto:public.affairs@socom.mil). The editor of the Tip of the Spear reserves the right to edit all copy presented for publication.

*Front cover: Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael A. Monsoor (SEAL) was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President George Bush in a White House ceremony April 8. Monsoor, a 25-year-old machine gunner with SEAL Team 3, was providing security at a sniper lookout post Sept. 29, 2006, in Ramadi, Iraq, when a fragmentation grenade hit his chest and bounced to the floor. Positioned next to the single exit, only Monsoor could have escaped harm. Instead, he threw himself onto the grenade. Monsoor used his body to absorb the blast and shield two nearby SEALs. The SEALs and eight Iraqi soldiers survived. Monsoor died a half hour later. Courtesy photo.*

# Highlights



## Departments

### Global War on Terrorism

- SOF-trained commandos capture IED maker ... page 4*
- SOF-led course graduates first Iraqi scout unit ... page 6*
- MARSOC delivers in southern Afghanistan ... page 8*
- Commando school strengthens Iraqi SOF ... page 10*
- South Korean exercise Eagle Resolve ... page 14*
- SOCJFCOM JSOTF training mission ... page 16*

### U.S. Army Special Operations Command

- 7th SFG trains in Nevada ... page 18*
- Tribute to Robin Moore ... page 22*
- Maj. Gen. Harrell ends distinguished career ... page 24*
- 98th Civil Affairs Battalion activates ... page 27*

### Naval Special Warfare Command

- USSOCOM commander visits USS Ohio ... page 34*

### Air Force Special Operations Command

- Cannon AFB hosts AFSOC commander ... page 44*
- AFSOC leads way in UAVs ... page 45*

### Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command

- MARSOC marks 2nd year, groundbreaking ... page 46*
- SOF Marine earns "Lancero" ... page 48*

### Headquarters

- SOCOM hosts International SOF week ... page 50*
- Fallen heroes ... page 51*

# ANA Commandos capture key Taliban IED facilitator



*Afghan National Army Commandos from the 203rd Kandak board a Coalition forces helicopter before conducting security operations in Khowst province, Afghanistan. During the operation, a key Taliban commander suspected of being responsible for several attacks against Afghan National Security Forces, was captured. Photo by Spc. Michael Carter.*

*By CJSOTF-A Public Affairs*

Afghan National Army Commandos from the 203rd Kandak, assisted by Coalition forces, recently captured a key insurgent facilitator in Khowst province.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense announced Afghan National Army forces captured a known Taliban commander, Nasimulla, during a combined operation in the Dand Faqiran area of Yaqubi District.

Nasimulla is suspected of being a key Taliban facilitator responsible for several attacks against Afghan National Security Forces using improvised explosive devices. He is also suspected of commanding an IED emplacement cell based in the Sabari District and traveling throughout Khowst and Paktika provinces to conduct attacks against Afghan government forces

and civilians.

"Taliban insurgents have changed their tactics away from direct attacks against Afghan forces," explained a Coalition soldier. "Now insurgents are turning to IED attacks, however this places the civilian population directly in danger, especially when they place explosives along highly traveled roadways."

"Capturing Nasimulla will help reduce IED attacks in Khowst and Paktika and make the area safer for all residents," the Coalition soldier said.

ANSF and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, along with Coalition forces, are making a concerted effort to disrupt insurgent activity throughout the country. As part of that effort, Afghan National Police in Shkin arrested three men Feb. 6 suspected of facilitating IED operations near the Pakistan border in the Bermel District of Paktika province. Earlier that day, a



local villager alerted the ANP officers of suspicious materials near a bridge in Kakkhel. Upon investigation, the officers found three IEDs, each consisting of a 107 mm rocket and an anti-tank mine. The munitions were covered by dirt and placed in the roadway near a family home.

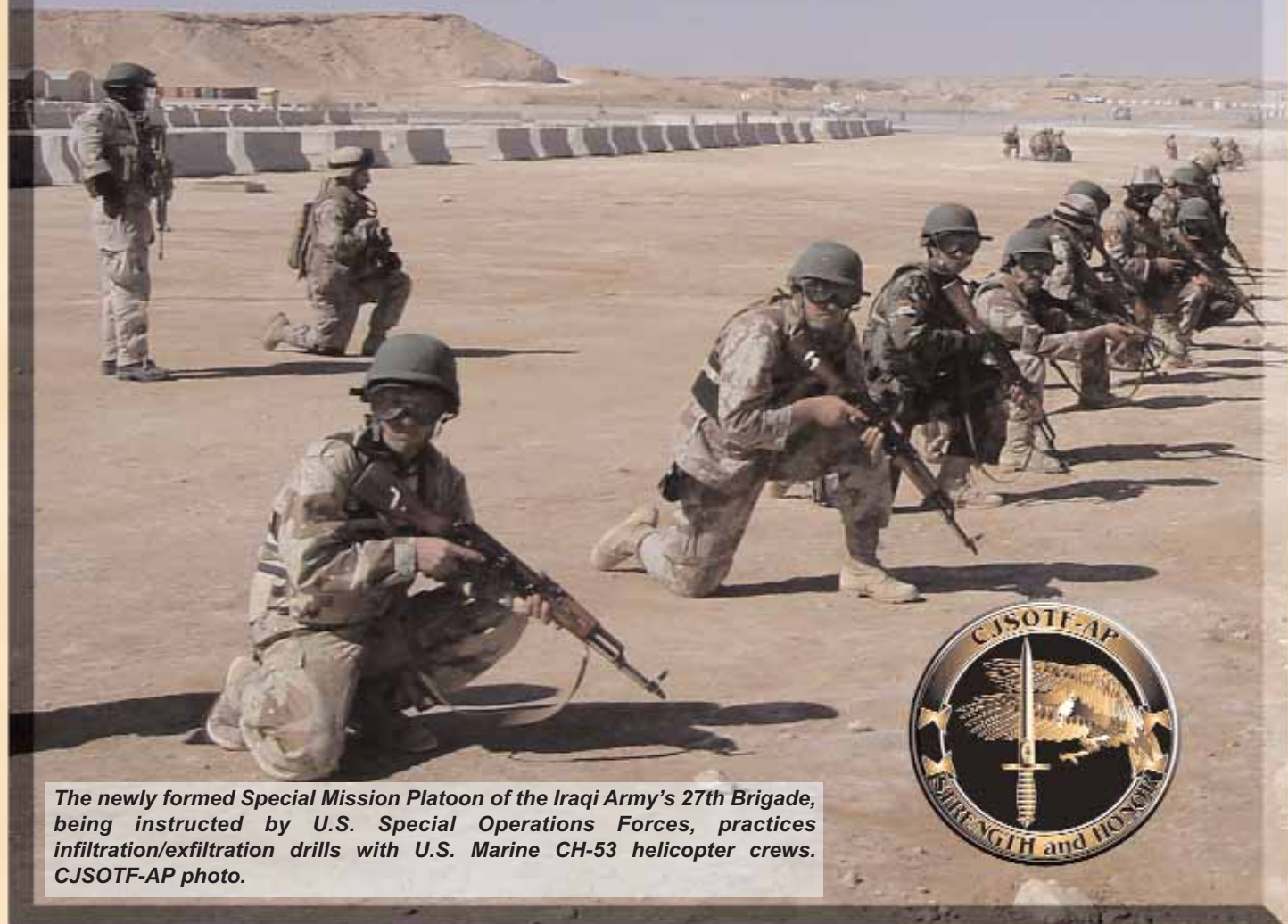
“ANSF, especially the Commandos, performed flawlessly during this operation,” explained a Coalition soldier. “They successfully integrated all aspects of their military training, including complex night airborne assault operations. From planning to execution, to their professional actions on the objective, the Commandos of the 203rd Kandak are working to secure this area of eastern Afghanistan and making the area safe for villagers.”

“This operation shows that the ANSF are keeping the pressure on insurgents throughout the winter,” said a Coalition soldier. “Detaining Nasimulla and taking a large cache of weapons, ammunition and IED-making material will help citizens of the area feel safer.”

*Afghan National Army Commandos from the 203rd Kandak enter a suspected insurgent safe house during security operations in Khowst province, Afghanistan. During the operation, a key Taliban commander suspected of being responsible for several attacks against Afghan National Security Forces was captured. Photo by Spc. Michael Carter.*

# Iraqi Army **27<sup>th</sup>** **SCOUTS** Brigade

Graduates of  
U.S. Special Operations-led  
training course become  
first scout unit of the  
27th Iraqi Army Brigade



*The newly formed Special Mission Platoon of the Iraqi Army's 27th Brigade, being instructed by U.S. Special Operations Forces, practices infiltration/exfiltration drills with U.S. Marine CH-53 helicopter crews. CJSOTF-AP photo.*

**By Tech. Sgt. M. Erick Reynolds**  
**CJSOTF-AP Public Affairs**

Through collaboration between U.S. Special Operations Forces and U.S. Marines, the first ever scout unit for the Iraqi Army's 27th Brigade graduated on March 25. The scout unit is also the first special mission unit in the brigade.

Twenty-two out of more than 50 applicants graduated from the six-week course and became part of a new unit: the Iraqi Army 27th Brigade, Special Missions Platoon.

During the instruction, the Iraqi soldiers learned advanced tactics, weapons marksmanship, reconnaissance and surveillance, close quarters and urban tactics as well as helicopter assault.

SOF served as instructors for the six-week course while Marines provided logistics support.

"When we started assessing the needs for the Iraqi Army to be better able to protect themselves from the insurgency, we saw they needed some specialized training," said Gunnery Sgt. Evan Good, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force Military Transition Team chief. "So we contacted the SEALs to help in the training of this newly formed unit."

Good continued to explain that once the SEALs got involved with the training, the Marines facilitated the requests from the SOF unit and acted as a liaison between the SOF and the Iraqi Army.

"The training was very good," said Turki, one of the graduates. "This was by far the best training I have ever had."

Turki explained that he joined the army because he was tired of living in fear of the terrorists in the once dangerous Al Anbar province.

"We couldn't go anywhere because we feared being captured or killed by the insurgents until the Iraqi Army was formed." Turki continued, "I joined to help make our country safe, and volunteering for this unit helps to kick the terrorists out."

Standing at attention, displaying the professionalism and dedication of a seasoned soldier, another young Iraqi soldier and graduate of the course, Abid, gave two reasons for joining the Iraqi Army.

"I have always liked the army and wanted to be a soldier. So, when I was old enough, I joined. I was also tired of being afraid of going to the market because of the terrorists."

"We learned a lot during this training," said Abid. "Most importantly, we learned how to be safer and know what to look for when we are doing missions."

Abid also said the training from the SOF unit was very difficult at first, but as time went on he became more used to the physical training and the motivation tactics of the instructors.

During the graduation ceremony, a religious leader from the 27th Brigade read a passage from the Koran. After the reading, the SOF officer in charge of the training spoke.

"I congratulate you on not only completing a difficult 300 hours of training but also on completing two combat operations," the American officer stated. "With this training, you are now ready to conduct missions with Marines and SOF units alike to help secure your country."

Later, Col. Muhammed Khalaf Sa'ad, commanding officer of the Iraqi Army 27th Brigade, gave some remarks.

"With you completing this training, this will move us forward to help fight the enemies of our country," the colonel stated.

As part of the ceremony, each graduate was given a new patch designed for the unit. The new patch says "scouts" in Arabic across the top and "special missions platoon" on the bottom over a background of the colors of the Iraqi flag with an outline of Iraq and a silhouette of a military helicopter.

Sa'ad continued with an informal speech to the recent graduates before departing the ceremony.

"I will be ready for anything you ask of me," stated Sa'ad. "You soldiers will always be in my eyes. Be proud; be very proud of what you have earned here today."



**The newly formed Special Mission Platoon for the Iraqi Army 27th Brigade, being instructed by U.S. Special Operations Forces, practice infiltration/exfiltration drills with a CV-22 tilt rotor aircraft. CJSOTF-AP photo.**



# MARSOC

## Special Ops Marines deliver in southern Afghanistan

*By Staff Sgt. Luis Valdespino Jr.  
Combined Security Transition Command –  
Afghanistan*

For Marines, “Special Forces” traditionally means Force Reconnaissance units.

Most have heard stories about Force Recon, but they may not be familiar with the role of a Marine Special Operations company. A couple weeks in Helmand province, Afghanistan, with a Marine Special Operations Company deployed from the 1st Special Operations Battalion in Camp Pendleton will change that.

Marine Special Operations, as an organization, has only existed for about two years. The MSOC Marines come from former Force Recon and other infantry units, said a former Force Recon Marine. Their experiences vary, but most have had years of combat experience.

The MSOC Marines, based out of a forward operating base in central Helmand province, operated at a much faster

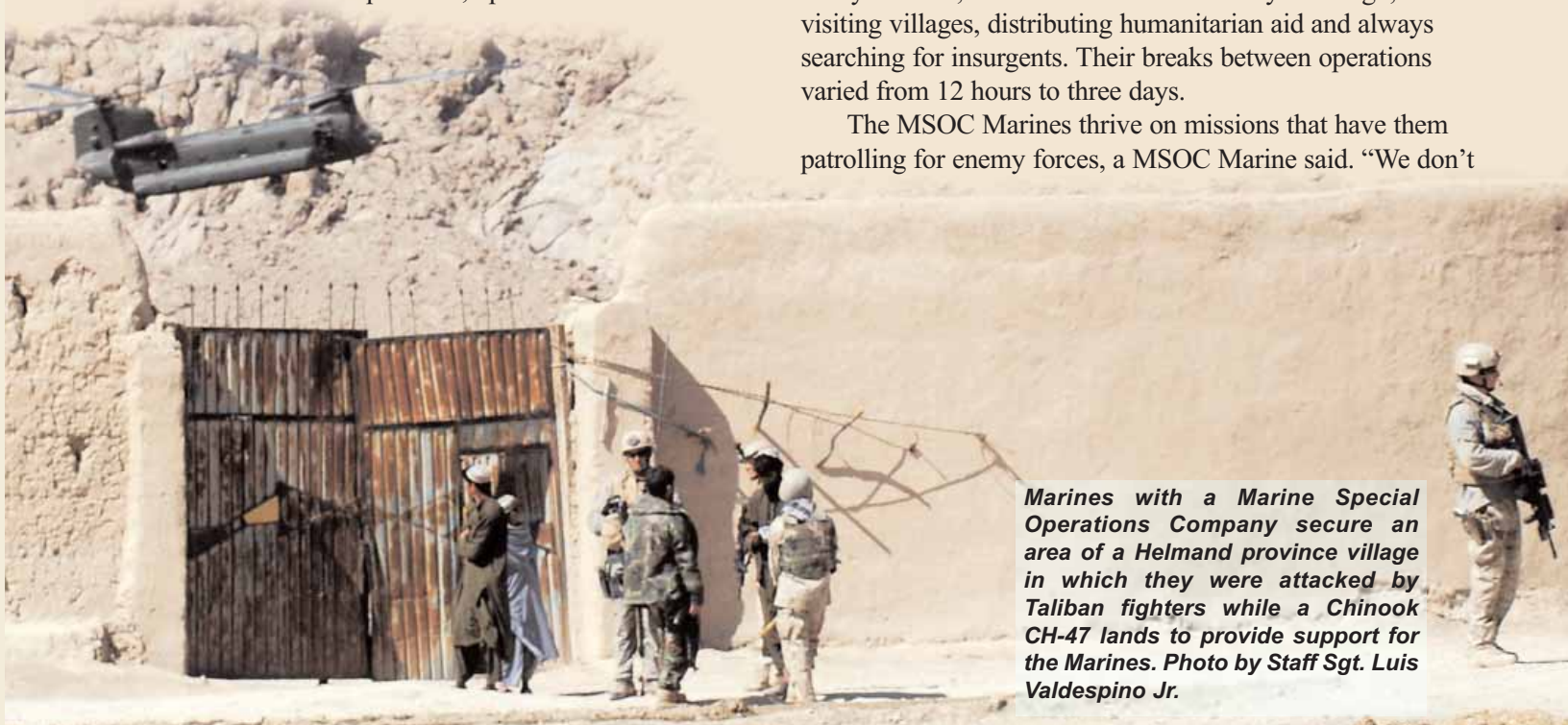


*Marines with a Marine Special Operations Company take aim on Taliban fighters in a Helmand province village in late February. Afghan National Army soldiers and the MSOC Marines were visiting the southern Afghanistan village when they were attacked by Taliban fighters. Photo by Staff Sgt. Luis Valdespino Jr.*

pace than other units in country.

Accompanied by a small group of Afghan National Army soldiers, the Marines were constantly on the go, visiting villages, distributing humanitarian aid and always searching for insurgents. Their breaks between operations varied from 12 hours to three days.

The MSOC Marines thrive on missions that have them patrolling for enemy forces, a MSOC Marine said. “We don’t



*Marines with a Marine Special Operations Company secure an area of a Helmand province village in which they were attacked by Taliban fighters while a Chinook CH-47 lands to provide support for the Marines. Photo by Staff Sgt. Luis Valdespino Jr.*

like being on the FOB.”

Shortly afterward, the unit departed on a mission in northern Helmand province.

A MSOC leatherneck said his Marines were attacked four times throughout the four-day mission. He described how they overcame enemy machine-gun positions, mortar attacks and rocket-propelled grenades.

“Needless to say, we silenced their weapons,” said another MSOC Marine.

On their next mission, a three-day assignment in north central Helmand province, the MSOC Marines visited other villages throughout the districts. At night the Marines slept on the desert ground – in sleeping bags, but not on cots.

While on foot patrol through the first village on day one, it was clear these Marines were not on a time schedule, and they took no shortcuts. In full combat gear, they searched all compounds, streets and paths in the village. When it was secure, they set up distribution sites for the humanitarian aid they took with them.

On the second day the unit came under attack within five minutes of arriving at a small village. Immediately the MSOC Marines positioned themselves throughout the village and began engaging the enemy insurgents.

Halfway into what turned out to be a nearly four-hour battle, a Marine who seemed to never rest, said with a grin, “We’re not done yet.”

He seemed unfazed that earlier an RPG missed him by less than two feet.

Despite several other close calls, the Marines relentlessly pursued the insurgents until they secured the village, and the Taliban fighters were either killed or fled. Before they were done, the MSOC hospital corpsmen cared for and treated villagers injured by insurgents.

Afterward, Marine leaders met with village elders and committed to return with much needed aid and support, as long as the Marines had the villagers’ support.

Shortly after returning to their FOB, the MSOC Marines prepared to depart on another mission. After all, they weren’t done yet.

*Two Marines with a Marine Special Operations Company on the lookout in a village for possible Taliban fighters in late February. The MSOC unit and Afghan National Army soldiers were visiting the southern Afghanistan village where they distributed humanitarian aid to villagers. Photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Luis Valdespino Jr.*



# COMMANDO SCHOOL STRENGTHENS IRAQ'S SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES

*By Master Sgt. Brian Orban  
CJSOTF-AP Public Affairs*

The four Iraqi soldiers stood tightly packed together, weapons clutched in their hands, as they waited next to the doorway. The bright, early morning sunlight took some chill out of the air as they tensed up briefly while they waited.

Go! Go! Go!

The soldiers stormed the open entrance in seconds, weapons now at the ready, as they rapidly scanned the room for terrorists or other threats.

Nothing. The room was clear.

Just as quickly as they entered, the team slipped through the room, keeping an eye on each other's backs just in case someone managed to elude their rapid but thorough sweep.

For now, the training exercise was over, but the students knew their instructor would send them back to do the drill again and again, each time moving faster.

The day's training was another step for these Soldiers to become commandos with the Iraqi special

operations forces. Those with the physical and mental endurance to pass the month-long course will join an elite team of Iraqi soldiers responsible for tracking down and apprehending terrorists, insurgents, extremists, criminals and special groups threatening the security and stability of Iraq.

With classes available six times a year, the school uses experienced Iraqi commandos to teach advanced combat skills and prepare future commandos to capture these "high-value" targets, which include militant leaders, terrorist financiers and weapons smugglers.

The ISOF Commando Course, located at an Iraqi base in Baghdad, is the only military training course in Iraq

teaching advanced combat and counterterrorism skills to the nation's elite special operations forces and counterterrorism teams. The school originated from discussions between Iraqi Army officers and U.S. Special Forces advisors looking to recruit, train and field commandos for ISOF battalions in Baghdad and major cities throughout Iraq.

Missions must often be conducted against armed criminals living within residential neighborhoods packed with Iraqi civilians. Commandos give the Iraqi military the capability to conduct what one senior instructor called "direct action" targeting -- using stealth, speed and overwhelming force to strike very specific targets while minimizing the possibility of collateral damage.

"Commandos provide needed stability in Iraq by getting rid of the 'bad guys' while keeping damage to a minimum," a U.S. Special Forces instructor said.

The all-volunteer classes of commando students include candidates from the Iraqi Army and the civilian sector between the ages 18 to 35. The men must be in good health, not overweight and able to communicate clearly.

"This is the strongest team in the [Iraqi] Army, and I wanted to be a part of it and serve my country," said one new recruit, who proudly considered himself to be among the best Iraq has to offer.

In the first week of training, which some refer to as the "shock" or "stress" phase, students complete a physical fitness test and medical screening and learn some of the specific duties of Iraqi special operations forces. Instructors focus heavily on physical conditioning during these first few days.

This initial phase pushes candidates to the limits of their personal endurance and typically weeds out all those unsuited for the stresses and hardships associated



***An Iraqi special operations forces student descends a rope while his teammates watch during "fast rope" training in Baghdad. This is part of an ongoing effort to prepare ISOF for counter-terrorism operations in Iraq. CJSOTF-AP Photo.***

with military life and the ISOF mission. This phase also builds confidence in the Soldiers while teaching them the importance of teamwork.

“The stress phase was very hard. There were some things we’ve never seen before,” one recruit said as he recounted having to crawl through a river of mud to complete an obstacle course.

Marksmanship training follows in the second week, starting with weapons disassembly, maintenance and zeroing. This prepares the candidates for marksmanship drills that include engaging targets while in close quarters and while soldiers are moving. In addition to using M-4 assault rifles and M-9 pistols, students learn to use large-caliber, crew-served weapons mounted on vehicle turrets. During the third week, candidates must pass a weapons qualification test evaluating their ability to shoot quickly and accurately under physical and mental stress.

“All of this training is difficult and a challenge because it’s all new to me; a very different style of fighting,” one commando candidate said during a break in a close-quarters combat drill. “We’re learning to use new styles of weapons and tactics, which are very strange and new to us.”

With more than half the training behind them, students transition to more advanced training including air-assault procedures, close-quarters combat and drills on how to conduct patrols in urban areas. Lessons culminate with large-scale training assault operations during the day and at night to evaluate each student’s ability to use these skills.

“All the new fighting styles and tactics I am learning are things I can use to help me reach my target wherever it’s located,” one recruit said with a look of confidence.

Only the best become commandos. Of the hundreds of people who start the school, only about half graduate.

However, that may change as the course instructors refine their selection process. With fewer people now needed to fill the commando entry-level ranks, the Iraqi school has greater flexibility to choose more selectively from the pool of potential candidates, according to a senior course instructor. Class sizes at the school shrank to about a quarter of what they were a year ago, with starting classes now averaging around 110 students compared to more than 400 when the school first started.

“Because we can be more selective on who we allow into the program, it allows us to conduct more one-on-one

training, which improves the quality of what we teach,” the instructor said.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi instructors continue to take on additional responsibilities to plan and teach the class while relying less on U.S. Special Forces instructors.

“It used to be U.S. Soldiers would teach the course,” one of the senior U.S. Special Forces instructors said. “Then we started building a cadre of Iraqi instructors to teach the course, and that evolved to the point where they had gained the confidence to teach the classes themselves while using the U.S. advisors to do an occasional “spot check.” Within the next three classes, they’ll be fully self-sustaining and will be fine without the need for any U.S. advisors.”

ISOF is also aiming to evolve the course to include additional training into the curriculum and to possibly extend the course if feasible. The extra days would allow instructors to teach outdoor survival, focus more on hand-to-hand and unarmed combat, and teach students how to serve as personal security guards for government leaders and other VIPs. Other possibilities include opening a sniper school to give the commandos additional training in other tactics to conduct surgical strikes against armed and dangerous individuals.

Those who earn the “commando” title leave the school for assignments at battalions across Iraq. New graduates receive additional training at their new duty stations from senior NCOs as they take their place alongside veteran commandos during actual missions in the field to pursue the most dangerous threats to the government of Iraq.

With their identities and tactics shrouded in secrecy, these commandos make their presence known in their own way as they continue hunting down those threatening the stability and security of their country and bringing them to justice. Through the efforts of Iraqi special operations forces, violence continues to drop across Iraq. As their ability to successfully complete surgical strikes against these targets continues to grow, public confidence in both the Iraqi military and the government of Iraq grows, one senior instructor said.

Despite the dangers associated with the profession, the students are proud of the commandos’ mission and want to do their part to defeat terrorism across their nation.

“I joined the commandos to learn how to fight terrorists, and to help protect my country,” one recruit said.



***A student attending the ISOF Commando Course negotiates an elevated tight rope, one of many challenges students will face during the month-long course. CJSOTF-AP photo.***



# Balikatan '08 emphasizes humanitarian assistance

By JSOTF-P Public Affairs

Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines recently concluded Balikatan 2008, an annual Republic of the Philippines - U.S. bilateral military humanitarian assistance and training exercise that took place Feb. 18 to March 3.

During Balikatan 2008, members from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the members of the U.S. Armed Forces conducted humanitarian assistance projects in the southern Philippines. They offered free medical, dental and veterinary care and constructed and repaired schools and other community infrastructure in communities most in need of assistance.

“These humanitarian assistance and training activities enabled our soldiers to get to know each other, train together and provide assistance in communities where the need is greatest,” said U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney. “True to the meaning of the Filipino word balikatan, this exercise entailed Philippine and U.S. Forces shouldering the load together to help the greatest possible number of people in need.”

Balikatan 2008 focused on training both U.S. and Philippine armed forces in providing relief and assistance together in the event of natural disasters and other crises that endanger public health and safety. Military servicemembers conducted combined staff exercises and field training to improve contingency planning and strengthen maritime security in the southern Philippines.

Philippine and U.S. Forces conducted approximately 23 humanitarian assistance projects. U.S. Navy ship visits and a Joint/Combined Exchange Training exercise took place in several locations in the Philippines as well.

In the JSOTF-P area of operations, small teams of U.S. personnel, mostly medical specialists and engineers, worked with civilian authorities and the AFP on this year’s projects. The AFP-U.S. teams offered free medical and dental care to thousands of citizens in Mindanao and offered veterinary care to their livestock. They also constructed and repaired schools and other community infrastructures in areas of Mindanao and the

Sulu Archipelago that were in the greatest need of assistance. In Tandu Batu, a remote village on conflict-ridden Jolo Island, U.S. and Philippine servicemembers provided free medical, dental and optometric care to 1,228 children and adults.

These indirect methods in the Special Operations toolkit paid huge dividends in the AFP’s overall counterinsurgency operation taking place in the southern Philippines.

Such civil-military operations, sometimes known as civil affairs, provide services and promote effective local governance. Military information support teams combat insurgent ideology, spread “wanted” posters of terrorist leaders and explain that peace — not conflict — will bring prosperity to the region.

“If the population has more trust in their military, then they’re more likely to go to them for security than to the militants,” said Col. William Coultrup, JSOTF-P commander.

Balikatan 2008 was the 24th annual event of its kind held under the auspices of the Mutual Defense Treaty and Visiting Forces Agreement.





*(Top Left) Local children receive toothbrushes from a U.S. military servicemember during a clinic that provided free medical, dental and optometric care to 1,228 children and adults. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Nigel Northe. (Top Right) A young patient receives a medical exam as her family observes during a free medical clinic held as part of the humanitarian assistance programs of the 24th annual Balikatan activity. True to the meaning of the word balikatan, AFP and U.S. military medical providers are shouldering the load together to help the greatest possible number of people in need. Photo by Staff Sgt. Adrian Bailey.*



*U.S. Navy Aviation Boatswain's Mate Lowel Shorey III directs an MH-47G Chinook helicopter from the "Night Stalkers" of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment performing deck landing qualifications aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS Juneau (LPD 10) while under way in the Pacific Ocean Feb. 24, during exercise Balikatan 2008. The annual bilateral exercise improves interoperability between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the U.S. military during humanitarian, medical and engineering missions. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Kennedy.*

# Exercise Key Resolve/Foal Eagle



*Members of a Republic of Korea special task force counterterrorism unit practice close combat quarters battle for Exercise Key Resolve/Foal Eagle 2008 on Fleet Activity Chinhae, South Korea, March 4. U.S. Navy SEALs spent the day training with their South Korean counterparts on how to tactically enter and secure a hostile building. The annual joint exercise between U.S. Forces and ROK forces provides training to enhance interoperability and combat readiness. Photos by Petty Officer 3rd Class Nancy diBenedetto.*





# TSOC SOCJFCOM puts “T” in training

*By Mike Bottoms  
USSOCOM Public  
Affairs*



Sailing aboard the newly reconfigured, SOF-friendly USS Ohio submarine is not a place you would think members of Special Operations

Command – Joint Forces Command would serve. Yet, the Ohio is only one of the unique training locations SOCJFCOM travels to with the mission of educating warfighters in the employment of SOF.

“Our command has been part of the training of all the JSOTF’s,” said Col. Wesley Rehorn, commander, SOCJFCOM. “Although we do not have a geographic responsibility, our command has been a part of all the JSOTFs to include Task Force Dagger.”

According to Rehorn, 17 SOCJFCOM personnel formed part of the core of Task Force Dagger when it stood up as a JSOTF in Uzbekistan, prior to the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

As a sub-unified command of U.S. Joint Forces Command, SOCJFCOM trains conventional and Special Operations joint force commanders and their staffs in the employment of SOF. It bases its training on seven core functions: command and control, intelligence, operations, support, plans, communications and effects.

“SOCJFCOM is similar to other TSOCs in that it is a subordinate command for SOF within Joint Forces Command. The difference is Joint Forces Command is a functional command and has no area of responsibility, thus SOCJFCOM’s role is functional and not geographic,” said William Fleser, deputy chief of staff for integration. “Another similarity is that TSOCs handle SOF-related matters for their respective commanders. Special Operations Joint Forces Command performs that same function for Joint Forces Command, except instead of SOF operations in an AOR, we provide SOF support to Joint Forces Command functional programs like joint training, joint concept development and experimentation, and joint integration and interoperability.”

SOCJFCOM’s mission is three-fold. Its primary mission is training Joint Special Operations headquarters. Second, the SOC is the SOF advisor to



**A team from SOCJFCOM trains a Joint Special Operations Task Force aboard the SOF capable USS Ohio submarine. SOCJFCOM trains conventional and Special Operations joint force commanders and their staffs in the employment of SOF. It bases its training on seven core functions: command and control, intelligence, operations, support, plans, communications and effects. Courtesy photo.**

JFCOM. Last, its mission is to integrate SOF initiatives within JFCOM and the Joint Warfighting Center.

“We bring a joint operational perspective,” said Rick MacDougall, SOCJFCOM’s deputy director of training. “Our staff has a great deal of experience in teaching the processes and procedures involved in running a JSOTF.”

In the other 6 TSOCs, Operations, or J3, is the largest branch. In SOCJFCOM, the training directorate, or J7, is the largest branch.

“We were out in SOCKOR and observed the JSOTF aboard the USS Ohio,” said Alan Knox, analyst trainer. “It was neat to see all the things we taught were being used by the JSOTF aboard the submarine. They were using our CDs and our lesson plans we developed to help manage their operations.”

The SOC conducts its training by using analyst trainers and observer trainers. The ATs are civilians who are retired Special Operators with more than 20 years experience each tasked to mentor and support the active-duty OTs.

“Our ATs bring their years of experience and ensure the OTs receive proper, relevant training,” MacDougall said. “The OTs in turn make sure the warfighters receive relevant training.”

SOCJFCOM conducts much of its training through a mission readiness exercise known as an MRX. The MRX brings together the Joint Task Force commander and the actual SOF commanders before they go out on deployment.

“MRXs bring together separate staffs,” MacDougall said. “What we do is establish relationships before deployments, smoothing out the ‘get to know each other phase’ before they get into theater.”

The MRXs bring together conventional and SOF under the watchful eye of senior mentors.

“One of the great advantages is we have senior mentors like retired General Gary Luck who oversee the exercise,” Rehorn said.

The training provided by SOCJFCOM is conducted at three distinct levels.

Level I is Joint Special Operations Force SOF/JSOTF Individual Training, or SOF 101, and is designed for individuals assigned or about to be assigned to a JSOTF headquarters who don’t necessarily have a joint or SOF background.

Level II is Joint SOF/JSOTF in-resident training. The course is conducted at SOCJFCOM in Suffolk, Va. The training is an in-house module of the JSOTF program using presentations, discussion and personal interaction to provide an overview of doctrine, planning, coordination, integration, employment and implementation to an individual augmentee headed into a theater JSOTF.

“Level III is Joint SOF/JSOTF collective training. It consists of joint SOF collective training for joint SOF headquarters. The collective training is where the MRXs are involved.

“We have a real robust Web training program,” said Amy Dearborn, Web designer and developer. “We have functional experts within the command who own their part of the Web training, making it very valuable to the customer.”

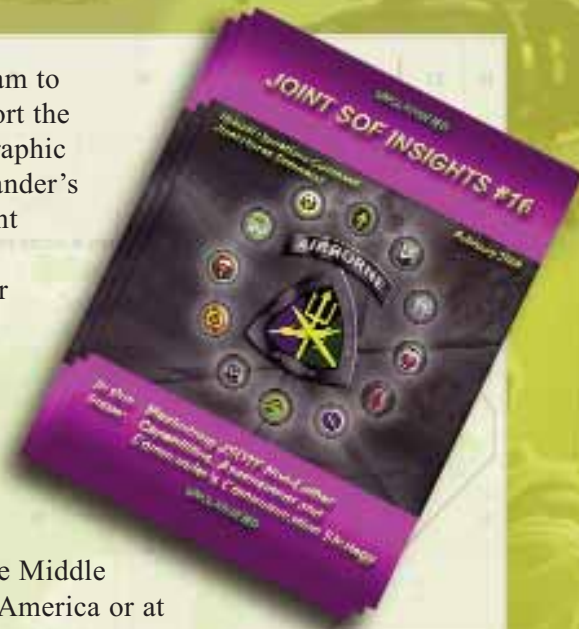
The information gathered during staff assistance visits are published in several ways. Information is submitted to USSOCOM and to the Joint Center for Operational Analysis at JFCOM. A third way is through the SOC’s publication, “Insights,” published every four or five months.

Another important aspect to SOCJFCOM’s mission is they often support the conventional forces commander’s theater engagement plan.

“We sent a team to Paraguay to support the Southcom’s geographic combatant commander’s theater engagement plan,” said MacDougall. “Our team taught the Paraguayans how to utilize their own SOF in military operations.”

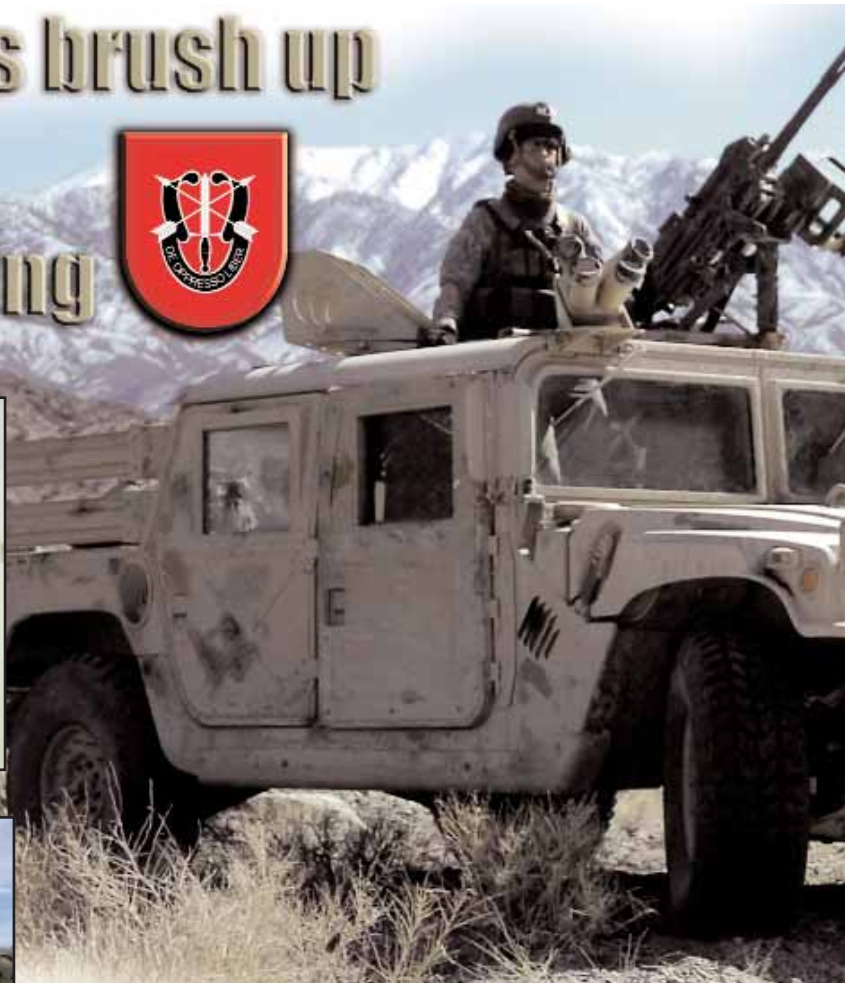
Whether in the Middle East, Asia, South America or at sea, SOCJFCOM’s training mission has a global impact.

“SOCJFCOM is a supporting command. As such, it’s never, ever about us,” said Fleser. “Success is about preparing the units we work with and train with to deal with highly adaptive adversaries and to operate in a complex joint context anywhere in the world. We win when they win.”



**Analyst and observer trainers from SOCJFCOM teach members from the Paraguayan military how to employ and utilize SOF. SOCJFCOM training teams teach how to employ SOF into conventional forces to foreign militaries as part of the geographic combatant commander’s theater engagement plan. Courtesy photo.**

# 7th SFG(A) Soldiers brush up on basics during pre-mission training



1st Battalion captain. “The next time we are performing these actions we will be in Afghanistan, so we take this opportunity to prepare very seriously.”

An important focus of the training exercise was centered on driving through the Nevada desert.

“We’re mobile teams, so it’s important that we use accurate representations of the austere conditions to get the proper training,” said one Operational Detachment Alpha commander. “This is one of the few places we can actually replicate the terrain of Afghanistan.”

During the training they encountered many obstacles that, without the proper techniques, could be impassable or cause great damage to the vehicle.

“It is very important for my men to get experience driving in these conditions, and for the younger drivers to get a taste of what is to come so they won’t be overwhelmed when they enter Afghanistan,” the team leader said. “I’m confident that after this training, my Soldiers will be able to handle whatever terrain Afghanistan throws at them.”

Following a detailed driving class provided by the

*Story and photos by Sgt. Daniel Love  
7th SFG Public Affairs*

U.S. Special Forces Soldiers are renowned for their lethality and adaptability on the battlefield. To ensure these traits stay fresh during their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Soldiers focused on basic skills in March at Hawthorne Army Depot, Nev.

The Soldiers rehearsed many skills they would need to use while deployed. At Hawthorne they rehearsed reacting to ambushes, dealing with IEDs, advanced driving in rough terrain, pre-mission planning, diplomacy, heavy and light weapons operation, medical treatment in the field and other critical skills.

“It’s very common to encounter multiple threats on a single mission when we get downrange, so it is necessary to incorporate that kind of stress into our training,” said a



*(Main photo) 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Soldiers practice IED detection and clearing during pre-mission training near Hawthorne, Nev., March 9.*

*(Opposite page top) A 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Soldier destroys a target with an AT-4 anti-tank weapon during pre-mission training, March 11. (Opposite page bottom) A Soldier fires on targets during pre-mission training, March 11.*

*(Above) Special Forces soldiers maneuver a GMV over the mountainous terrain outside of Hawthorne, Nev., March 10.*

*(Below) 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Soldiers assault a simulated enemy bunker during pre-mission training, March 11.*

High  
Desert  
Ops

instructing team, the Soldiers said they were better prepared to handle the tough obstacles in the Nevada mountains that closely resemble the environment in Afghanistan.

Most of the training was led by former Special Operations Forces members and current Special Forces Soldiers. All have completed multiple combat tours.

“The trainers here are experts on the tactics of the enemy in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and we benefit when they pass that information on to us,” said the battalion captain. “Over there, both sides are constantly trying to outdo each other, so any tactic or knowledge that will give us the edge is valuable.”



# 10th SFG MOUNTAINEER Program



*Soldiers from the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) conduct cold weather training at Vail Pass in the Rocky Mountains. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Noggle.*

*By Staff Sgt. Michael Noggle  
10th SFG (A) Public Affairs*

Special Operations Forces train to operate in the worst possible conditions. They believe they can go anywhere, perform any mission and succeed at any level.

As a Special Forces Mountaineer, individuals will go the highest elevations in the world, live outdoors in the coldest temperatures imaginable and perform any tactical and rescue mission they are sent to do.

Since fall 1996, U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) tasked the Green Berets from 10th SF Group (Airborne) to conduct the 10-week SF Mountaineering Program. In that time, 317 SF, Rangers, Navy Special Warfare and Marines have graduated the Master course

that includes an attrition rate of 25 percent.

To accommodate units with their high operations tempo in today's Global War on Terrorism, the USASFC (A) Mountain Detachment divided the program into three levels, all allowing Special Operations servicemembers to attend while maintaining the same standards.

"The courses initially were run every other year and were roughly two and a half months in length," said Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Oglesby, Combat Environmental Detachment commander. "Master Sergeant Troy Campbell [Combat Environmental Detachment NCOIC] and I talked about two different, shorter courses at five weeks apiece."

The Basic course (Level III) is taught at the Operational Detachment Alpha level by qualified personnel (former graduates of the USASFC (A) Mountain Course). A team member learns 15 basic tasks

to include: navigating in mountainous terrain, rope commands, transportation of a casualty on an improvised litter and rappelling techniques.

Next, they are sent to Fort Carson to attend the Senior course (Level II) where they are expected to know and pass a hands-on test on the basic fundamentals of rock climbing.

“The reason we teach the Senior course is everything needs to be finite,” stressed Oglesby. “All rescue systems — how you conduct yourself on the rock, planning mountaineering operations. There has to be one particular way you do it.”

Throughout the Senior course, students go to extreme heights and drastic measures as they take on the alpine portion of the Mountaineer course. Among the 17 tasks in the Senior course, they must be proficient at constructing a belay point, rappelling point and setting up rescue systems should they need to assist a stranded climber.

“We’re teaching these guys not only how to rock climb, but guiding techniques and how to be competent at rescue techniques,” Oglesby emphasized. “Everything a guy brings with him to the rock that day will also convert to a rescue package if he needs to get someone off the rock.”

The Master course (Level I) is the winter alpine stage of the mountaineering program and begins similar to the Senior course. Students must complete the hands-on test, which is a review from previous tasks.

Previous Master courses have started in Colorado and finished in Alaska. The final 12 tasks familiarize the class with glacier movement, avalanche awareness, ice climbing, bivouac considerations and crevasse rescue.

“When a Senior or Master course graduate goes back to his unit, he is the subject matter expert for that unit on all mountaineering operations,” Oglesby explained. “He is responsible for reviewing all mountaineering training schedules, memorandum of instruction and risk assessment for training and operations.”

Oglesby said he envisions one Mountaineer Detachment in every SF Company throughout USASFC (A).

“We want to ‘make’ more graduates without changing any of the standards and try to make this program grow as much as possible,” Oglesby said.

He added, “It’s a hard task ahead, but it’s an achievable goal with the support we are getting from USASFC (A).”



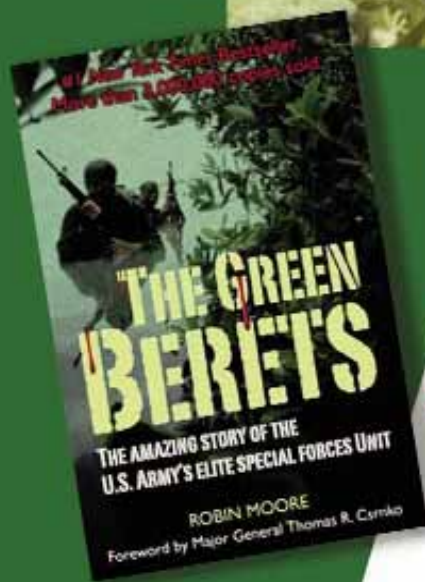
*A 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Mountaineer climbs his way to the top of a frozen waterfall. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Oglesby.*



*(From left to right) A 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Mountaineer navigates up Horseshoe Mountain during a training exercise last year. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Oglesby. A 10th SFG (A) Mountaineer climbs out of Worthington Glacier in the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (A) Master Mountaineer course. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Oglesby. A Soldier from the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) melts snow for drinking water while conducting cold weather training at Vail Pass in the Rocky Mountains. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Noggle. A 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Soldier conducts cold weather training at Vail Pass in the Rocky Mountains. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Noggle.*

# ROBIN MOORE

In Memoriam:  
October 31, 1925 - February 21, 2008



Ballad Of the Green Berets  
by Sgt. Barry Sadler and  
Robin Moore 1965

Fighting soldiers from the sky  
Fearless men who jump and die  
Men who mean just what they say  
The brave men of the Green Beret

Chorus:  
Silver wings upon their chest  
These are men, America's best  
One hundred men will test today  
But only three win the Green Beret

Trained to live off nature's land  
Trained in combat, hand-to-hand  
Men who fight by night and day  
Courage peak from the Green Berets

(Chorus) Silver wings upon their chest  
These are men, America's best  
One hundred men will test today  
But only three win the Green Beret

Back at home a young wife waits  
Her Green Beret has met his fate  
He has died for those oppressed  
Leaving her his last request  
"Put silver wings on my son's chest  
Make him one of America's best  
He'll be a man they'll test one day  
Have him win the Green Beret"

(Chorus) Silver wings upon their chest  
These are men, America's best  
One hundred men will test today  
But only three win the Green Beret

**By Sgt. 1st Class Jason Baker**  
**USASOC Public Affairs**

Soldiers from 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) honored Robin Lowell Moore, the author of "The Green Berets," during his funeral service March 1, 2008.

The modest service took place in the historic Grace Episcopal Church, of which Moore was a member. Several hundred attended the funeral, the majority being former and current Green Berets.

The 82-year-old Moore, a novelist, World War II veteran and Special Forces advocate, died Feb. 21 after a long battle with cancer.

Being a Harvard graduate, and partial heir to the Sheraton Hotel chain, gave Moore the ability to travel the world and have a variety of experiences. Of all his experiences in life, it was his time spent working on "The Green Berets" that had the most meaning and impact on his life.

"It meant everything to him," said his widow, Helen Moore, of his time spent with the Special Forces. "He felt tremendously honored that he was allowed to go through the course and he was allowed to go to jump school and he was allowed to wear the beret as a civilian. He always used to say meeting general Yarborough, going through the training and writing the book made him a man. Before that he always used to say he was a playboy, a hard working playboy, but it's the Green Berets that made him a man."

When starting work on "The Green Berets," Moore was introduced to Lt. Gen. William Yarborough, who told him if he was to do this book he would have to go through the Special Forces Qualification Course and then to Vietnam. Moore accepted the challenge and by doing so earned the respect of the SF Soldiers.

"After Robin had been with us about a week, I said we are going out on an operation tomorrow and we will be leaving about 0300," said retired Maj. Gen. Victor Hugo Jr., the detachment commander featured in the novel. "If you would like to leave with us you can, but here are the ground rules: You take with you whatever you want and that is all you got; no one will carry anything for you; you go out and you don't come back in until all of us come back unless you need a medical evacuation. Those are the conditions would you like to go? To my surprise he said yes."

Hugo then lifted a copy of the original of "The Green Berets" and pointed to a picture on the back cover of Robin just after a successful ambush during the operation. He continued stating Moore's bravery was one of the qualities he remembered most about his friend.



**Soldiers of the 5th Special Forces group escort the casket of Robin Lowell Moore during a memorial service for the Novelist at the Grace Episcopal Church in Hopkinsville, Ky., March 1, 2008. Robin Moore, an advocate for Special Forces, was the author of "The Green Berets," made into a movie starring John Wayne and he is also credited with co-writing the song "The Ballad of the Green Berets" with Barry Sadler. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Baker.**

The respect and admiration for this honorary member of the 5th Special Forces Group is still evident in today's Green Beret.

"I had an opportunity to spend some time and talk to Robin," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Csrnko, commander, Special Forces Command. "He was an absolutely amazing man. If you read all of his bio, I would say he lived a full life. It is quite an accomplishment that he has given back so much to the Special Forces community as well as the nation."

To end the service, full military honors were given ending with the playing of "The Ballad of the Green Beret," the song Moore co-wrote with Barry Sadler that is now the theme song for all those who earn the right to don the honored headgear.

Moore will be buried in a cemetery near his home town of Concord, Mass. later this spring.

# Deputy Commanding General reflects on long, memorable career



*By Sgt. 1st Class Jason Baker  
USASOC Public Affairs*

There are times in life when a seemingly inconsequential decision can lead to a dramatic shift in a life.

For a young high school student in the late 1960s the decision came about with the initial goal

of trying to find a way to avoid one more torturous hour of algebra.

“A guy came around when I was in high school, and I was getting ready to go to algebra class,” said Maj. Gen. Gary Harrell, deputy commander, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, reminiscing about the first step in what would become a long military career. “The announcement came out that if you wanted to know about ROTC or an ROTC scholarship, go down to room such and such. I kind of knew what ROTC was, but more importantly I knew it wasn’t algebra. I got the ROTC pitch. I had always been interested in a career in the military; didn’t really know how I was going to pay to go to college, so I went down and filled out the paperwork, and the rest is history.”

After graduating from East Tennessee State University in 1973 and earning his commission, the young lieutenant figured he would reach the rank of captain and then return to civilian life, but life had other plans and adventure in store. First, was his assignment to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry of the 82nd Airborne Division.

“I’m not much about being airborne, but I like hanging around folks who are,” said Harrell thinking about what motivated him to become a part of the airborne community. “It was a step above. There are lots of things in life that are what I call ‘gut checks,’ and stepping out of a plane with a parachute on your back at a thousand feet is one of them. I thought folks who volunteered to do that would be pretty neat to hang around with and command. It turned out to be true.”

After a few years with the 82nd Airborne Division, Harrell went on to the Special Forces Qualification



*Maj. Gen. Gary Harrell, U.S. Army Special Operations Command deputy commander, reminisces about his long military career. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Baker.*

Course. Once qualified, he was stationed in Panama with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) There, working with the first Commander-in-Chief, in-extremis force, his eyes were opened to the many opportunities within the Army, and specifically, the Special Operations community.

“I was already in Special Forces, and I had already lined a job up. Nothing definite, but I was leaning that way,” remembers Harrell. “And they came up with something called the CINC in-extremis force, [Southern Command] and I wound up as team leader for the CINC, in-extremis force in SOUTHCOM. I came back here [Fort Bragg] to train up guys for those types of forces. I got interested in that and decided to stay a little longer, and one thing led to another.”

Those ‘things’ would be more than 30 years of service at the tip of the spear in some of the nation’s most important and sensitive operations.

He would go on to serve in Grenada as the assistant G-3 with the 82nd Airborne during Urgent Fury. He led Soldiers as a troop commander with the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta during Operation Just Cause in Panama. He participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was a squadron commander during the defeat of Pablo Escobar in Colombia and then operations in Somalia. At the start of the War on Terrorism, he served as the assistant division commander for the 10th Mountain Division during Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan. He later went on to command Special Operations Command-Central at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom assembling the largest Special Operations Force since World War II. His final assignment was deputy commanding general for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

Though the Army sent him to various and remote locations throughout the world, he knew, because of his wife he was always assured there would be a home he could return to, said Harrell.

#### **The ‘rock’ he could always count on**

Harrell met his wife, Jennifer, in high school, and the two have been together for 36 years. Coincidentally, she happened to be the niece of the major who gave him the pitch for the ROTC scholarship program.

Harrell credits his wife with being the one who always established and made sure wherever the Army sent them would be their home.

“She has been the rock our family has been built around,” said Harrell. “I would go places and find where we were going to live. Jennifer would come and make it a home, and she made sure she made it was a home for our kids. I’m more proud of being a father of our three kids than being a two-star general, and I give the credit to my wife. Not only did she take care of the kids, make sure they had an education, make sure they got to the football game or basketball game; she did all that while I was thousands of miles away.”

A Soldier knows time spent training is important to lay the foundation for essential skills; Harrell discovered quality time spent with your wife can help lay the foundation for a good relationship.

“One of the ways I got ready for selection was I would go home, throw on a ruck sack, pick up my wife,

and we would go for long walks around the post,” recalled Harrell. “That is the way I toughened my feet up and did a lot of the things to get me in shape for selection. I also discovered it’s not bad for your marriage to go on long walks with your wife. So I got a ‘two-fer’ out of that one.”

Just like the long walks around Fort Devens, Mass., it would be his wife who would be by his side when difficulty came his way.

During his career, he had suffered injuries that required serious medical attention. One of the most serious times was during operations in Somalia when he was wounded by a mortar strike. His wife, as always, was there to meet him as he came in on the medevac, remembers Harrell.

Not only was she there for her husband, but also for the many other Soldiers and families in his units.

“When we lost folks, she was an integral part of going to the home to comfort the family,” said Harrell.

“One thing a commander never likes doing and making a notification when someone is hurt or killed. She was very supportive of doing that with me when I was here as well as when I wasn’t. She was just there to

*“I look back and think it has been a heck of a ride.”*

— *Maj. Gen. Gary Harrell*

offer a shoulder of support.”

He credits his wife with helping to establish a family support group before it became the priority it is in today’s Army.

#### **Current state of Special Ops**

Harrell believes Special Operations is vital to winning the War on Terrorism and credits the work of Maj. Gen. James Parker, commanding general, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School with growing the force necessary to succeed.

“We have made huge strides,” said Harrell. “Jimmy Parker has done a tremendous job with the schoolhouse because he has just about doubled the output. He pays attention to the standards; makes sure the product that comes out still meets the standards. I admire the hard work he and all his folks have done to grow the force.”

Harrell says he is proud of his career and knows it is the right time to retire.

“I look back and think it has been a heck of a ride,” said Harrell. “I’ve really had, in my opinion, a good career in terms of what I expected to do because I was planning on getting out as a captain. So the rest is gravy. I have done a lot of interesting things, and more importantly, I have had the privilege of working with and commanding some outstanding people.”

# Maj. Gen. Harrell says goodbye to Army during retirement ceremony

*By Sgt. 1st Class Jason Baker  
USASOC Public Affairs*

Several hundred members of the Joint and Special Operations communities gathered on Meadows Parade Field March 6, as Maj. Gen. Gary Harrell, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, celebrated and formally ended his 34-year Army career, most of which, was spent within Special Operations.

“Now let’s be honest, Gary is no ordinary Soldier,” said Lt. Gen. Robert Wagner, commanding general, USASOC. “He is an extraordinary professional. Gary has spent his career always at the extreme margin of difficulty, complexity and critical importance to our nation. Not easy jobs. In each assignment, he has been at the tip of the spear. If it was complex, difficult or critical to our nation, Gary was there. Fortunately most Americans, and even most Soldiers, will never know or experience life in that arena. They won’t have to know or worry, because Gary did that for us. That is his legacy. That was his service to our nation.”

During the ceremony, Harrell was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, a Certificate of Retirement and a Certificate of Appreciation signed by President George W. Bush.

His wife, Jennifer Harrell, received an Outstanding Civilian Service Medal and a Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation for her service as an Army spouse.

To end the ceremony, Harrell took time to thank the many Soldiers and other servicemembers who served with him. He placed a special emphasis on thanking his “high-school sweetheart” and wife of 36 years.

“She was always there. I could not have asked for a better teammate,” said Harrell of his wife. “On more than one occasion, she would go out to meet the MEDEVAC bird when it came in. She shouldered that burden very well. She went with me to homes when we told spouses their husbands weren’t coming home. I could not have done that without her. Her quiet strength carried me through situations nobody should have to do.”

Harrell was commissioned as a second lieutenant December 1973 after graduating from East Tennessee State University, and his first assignment was with the



***Maj Gen. Gary Harrell, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, speaks to the Soldiers, friends and family who came to honor him at his retirement ceremony held on Fort Bragg, N.C., March 6. Photo by Gillian Albro.***

2nd Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment. He successfully completed the Special Forces Qualification Course in 1977 and went on to serve in both the 7th and 10th Special Forces Groups. From 1986 to 2000 he served at both the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta (Airborne) and the Joint Special Operations Command, working his way up to taking command of 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta from 1998 to 2000.

Later he served as the assistant division commander for the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan during Operation Anaconda in 2001. At the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he commanded Special Operations Command - Central. During this time he led 20,000 Special Operations troops, the largest Special Operations Force since World War II.

His career culminated with his assignment as the deputy commanding general for USASOC.

During his career, he participated in several major operations to include Operation Urgent Fury, Operation Just Cause, Operations Desert Shield and Storm, Operation Continue Hope, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# Active duty CA battalion activated

By *Bonita Riddley*  
*USASOC Public Affairs*

Following a morning ceremony in March, there was a fresh-looking set of battalion colors in the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne).

Commanded by Lt. Col. Ray Malave, the 98th Civil Affairs Battalion is the newest addition to the growing active duty component in civil affairs.

Malave greeted his troops in Spanish, the native tongue of Latin American countries his battalion will support.

“Although today marks the activation of this fine organization, it does not start today,” said Malave. “The history book for the 98th Civil Affairs Battalion, the ‘Bridge Between Battalion,’ has a few pages already written.”

Currently 98th CAB Soldiers are participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom and operations in Africa. Malave explained that other 98th CAB Soldiers will deploy in support of the Global War on Terror later in the year.

Col. Ferdinand Irizarry, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (A) commander, said he was humbled by the courage and daily sacrifices made by his Soldiers and their families.

“Make no mistake about it, there is no greater ambassadors of our capability than the fine Soldiers standing before us and those serving in the field today,” said Irizarry.

Irizarry acknowledged the contributions of Soldiers of

the 95th’s elder sibling, the 96th CAB, and how their role made today possible.

“I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge that this day was made possible by the two decades of achievements by the Soldiers of the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne),” said Irizarry. “Their accomplishments made expansion of an active component an irrefutable argument.”

The 98th CAB is the only active duty component available to the U.S. Southern Command.

Malave reminded his troops and guests that even though the focus of the War on Terror is the Central Command area of operations, they must not lose focus on events in their own back yard.

“This war has no territorial boundaries, and regionally aligned units are now operating globally,” said Malave.

Malave said this region presents significant challenges from its unbalanced income, poverty, increasing crime rates and its role in supplying the majority of the world’s cocaine, to name just a few.

“The Soldiers of the 98th Civil Affairs Battalion stand ready to face these challenges and those emerging around the world as well,” announced Malave.

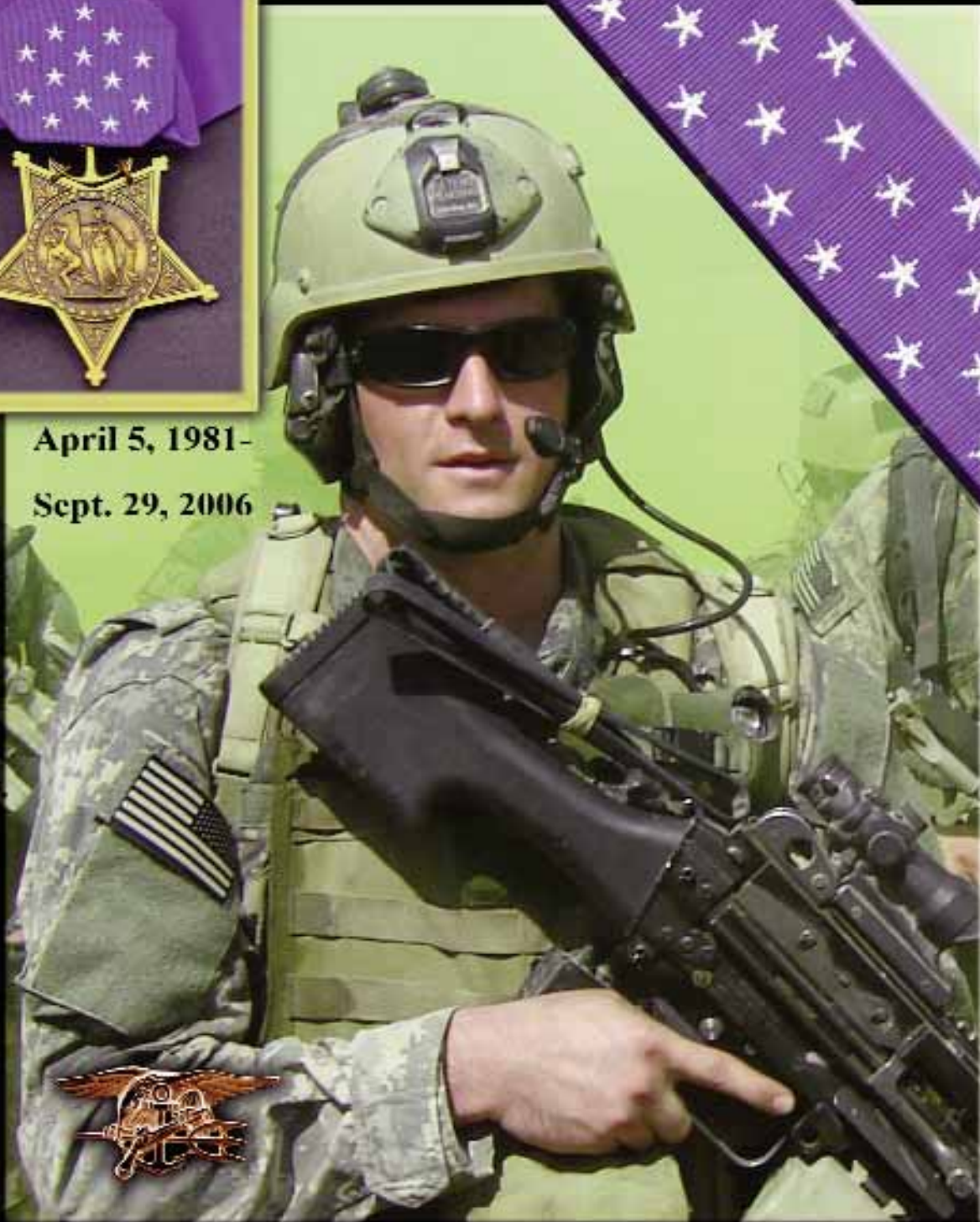
U.S. Army Special Operations Command continues its growth and reorganization as the 91st Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), represented by the encased colors, goes into carrier status with an activation date next year on March 14.



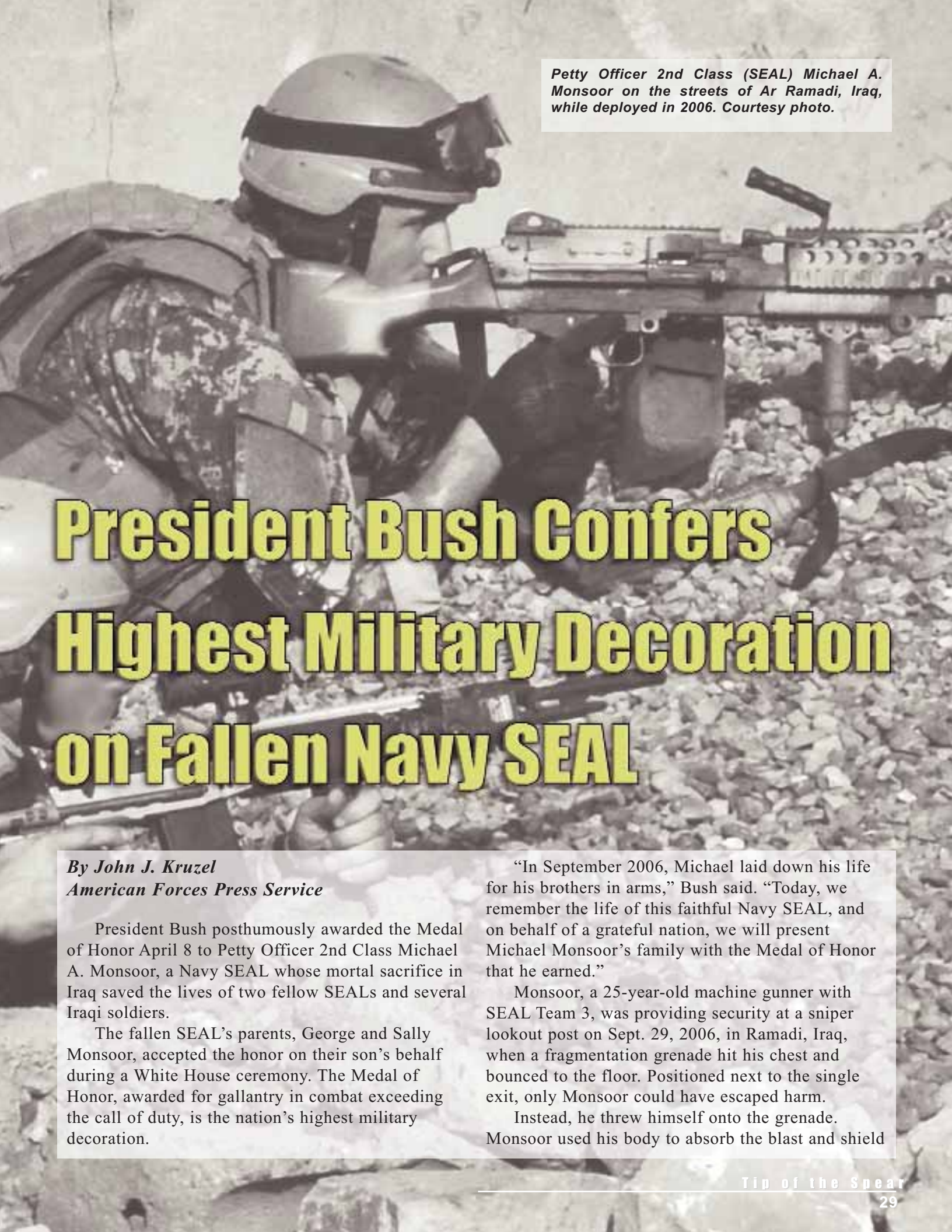
Command Sgt. Maj. William Wright unfurls the new 98th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) colors as Lt. Col Ray Malave, commander, 98th CAB, looks on. Photo by Cherish Washington.



**April 5, 1981-  
Sept. 29, 2006**



**Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL)  
Michael A. Monsoor**



*Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor on the streets of Ar Ramadi, Iraq, while deployed in 2006. Courtesy photo.*

# President Bush Confers Highest Military Decoration on Fallen Navy SEAL

*By John J. Kruzal  
American Forces Press Service*

President Bush posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor April 8 to Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael A. Monsoor, a Navy SEAL whose mortal sacrifice in Iraq saved the lives of two fellow SEALs and several Iraqi soldiers.

The fallen SEAL's parents, George and Sally Monsoor, accepted the honor on their son's behalf during a White House ceremony. The Medal of Honor, awarded for gallantry in combat exceeding the call of duty, is the nation's highest military decoration.

"In September 2006, Michael laid down his life for his brothers in arms," Bush said. "Today, we remember the life of this faithful Navy SEAL, and on behalf of a grateful nation, we will present Michael Monsoor's family with the Medal of Honor that he earned."

Monsoor, a 25-year-old machine gunner with SEAL Team 3, was providing security at a sniper lookout post on Sept. 29, 2006, in Ramadi, Iraq, when a fragmentation grenade hit his chest and bounced to the floor. Positioned next to the single exit, only Monsoor could have escaped harm.

Instead, he threw himself onto the grenade. Monsoor used his body to absorb the blast and shield



**Petty Officer Second Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor patrolling in Iraq while deployed in 2006. Courtesy photo.**



**George and Sally Monsoor look at the Medal of Honor presented to them in honor of their son by President George W. Bush Tuesday, April 8, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House. Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for diving onto a grenade to save his teammates in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Sept. 29, 2006. Monsoor also received the Silver Star for his actions in May during the same deployment when he exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to rescue and treat an injured teammate. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Aho.**

two nearby SEALs. The SEALs and eight Iraqi soldiers survived, some with wounds, others unscathed. Monsoor died a half hour later.

“One of the survivors puts it this way: ‘Mikey looked death in the face that day and said, ‘You cannot take my brothers. I will go in their stead,’” said Bush, quoting one of the SEALs saved by Monsoor.

In remarks April 8, the president characterized the petty officer as an unlikely candidate for the SEALs. As a child, he suffered from asthma attacks and coughing fits routinely landing him in the hospital, Bush said.

But the asthmatic child resolved to wean himself off his inhaler, strengthening his lungs by challenging his siblings in swimming races. The determined child grew into a young man who eventually completed SEAL training, which Bush called the “ultimate test of physical endurance.”

“Less than a third of those who begin this training become SEALs,” he said. “But Mike would not be denied a spot.”

As the maritime component of U.S. Special Operations Command, Navy SEALs are expert reconnoiters and stealth warriors, often performing clandestine operations larger forces cannot conduct

undetected. April 8 Monsoor became the first SEAL to earn the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq and the second SEAL to receive the award since Sept. 11, 2001.

Monsoor has been inducted into the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, where his name will be engraved alongside some 3,445 recipients of the nation's highest honor.

Monsoor previously was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with combat "V" device, and a Purple Heart before becoming the fourth servicemember to receive the Medal of Honor since the beginning of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Awarded by the president in the name of Congress, the Medal of Honor was created in 1861 as a personal award of valor for members of the Navy. Today, every service branch confers the rare honor upon those who distinguish themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life."

"The Medal of Honor is awarded for an act of such courage that no one could rightly be expected to undertake it," the president said. "Yet those who knew Michael Monsoor were not surprised when he did."

**Summary of Action**  
**Petty Officer Second Class (SEAL) Michael**  
**Monsoor**  
**For actions on Sept. 29, 2006**

Petty Officer Michael A. Monsoor, United States Navy, distinguished himself through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a Combat Advisor and Automatic Weapons Gunner for Naval Special Warfare Task Group Arabian Peninsula in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on Sept. 29, 2006. He displayed great personal courage and exceptional bravery while conducting operations in enemy held territory at Ar Ramadi Iraq.

During Operation Kentucky Jumper, a combined Coalition battalion clearance and isolation operation in southern Ar Ramadi, he served as automatic weapons gunner in a combined SEAL and Iraqi Army sniper overwatch element positioned on a residential rooftop in a violent sector and historical stronghold for insurgents. In the morning, his team observed four enemy fighters armed with AK-47s reconnoitering from roads in the sector to conduct follow-on attacks. SEAL snipers from his roof engaged two of them resulting in one enemy wounded in action and one enemy killed in action. A mutually supporting SEAL/Iraqi Army position also killed an enemy fighter during the morning hours. After



*Petty Officer Second Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, while deployed in 2006. Courtesy photo.*



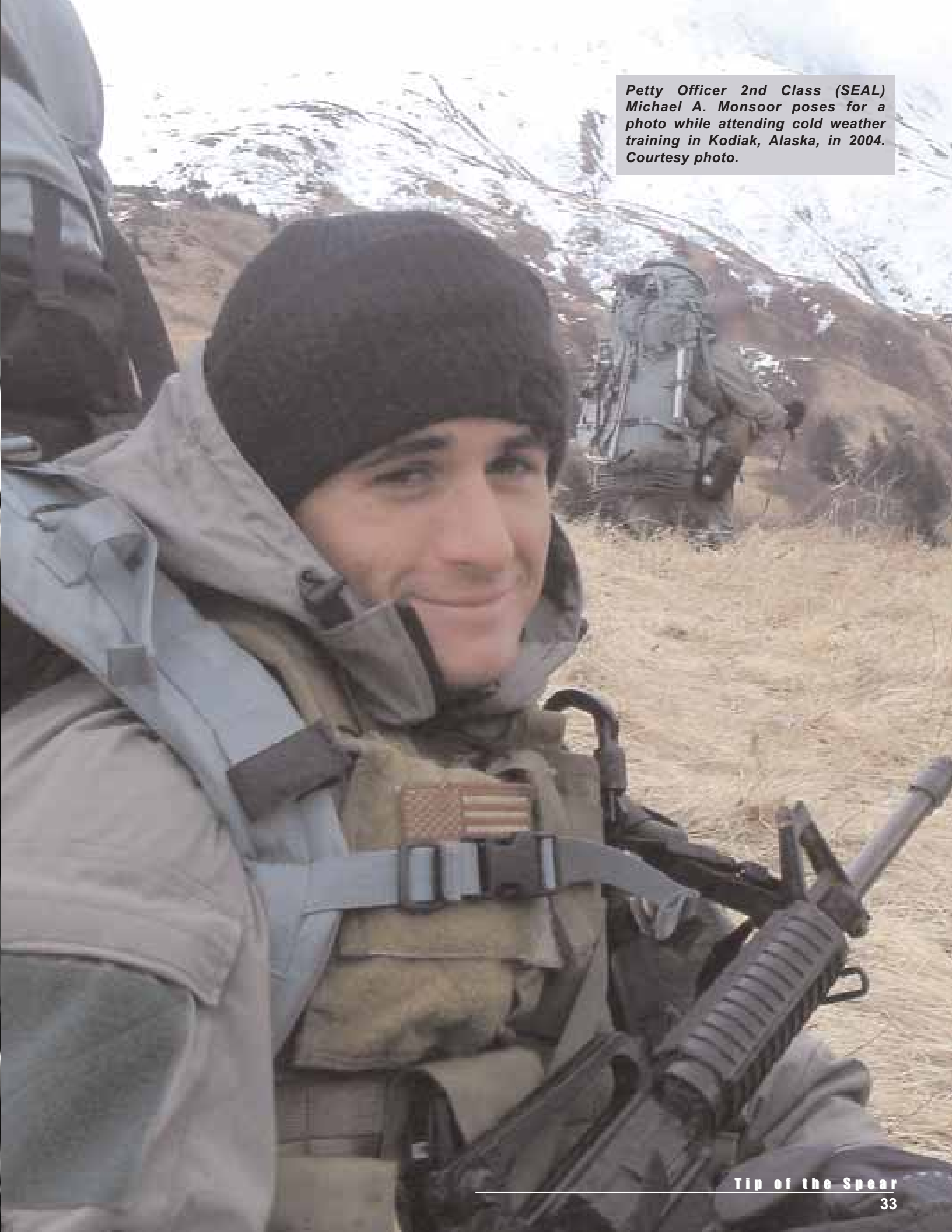
the engagements, the local populace blocked off the roads in the area with rocks to keep civilians away and to warn insurgents of the presence of his Coalition sniper element. Additionally, a nearby mosque called insurgents to arms to fight Coalition Forces.

In the early afternoon, enemy fighters attacked his position with automatic weapons fire from a moving vehicle. The SEALs fired back and stood their ground. Shortly thereafter, an enemy fighter shot a rocket-propelled grenade at his building. Though well-acquainted with enemy tactics in Ar Ramadi, and keenly aware the enemy would continue to attack, the SEALs remained on the battlefield in order to carry out the mission of guarding the western flank of the main effort.

Due to expected enemy action, the officer in charge repositioned Monsoor with his automatic heavy machine gun in the direction of the enemy's most likely avenue of approach. He placed him in a small, confined sniper hide-site between two SEAL snipers on an outcropping of the roof, which allowed the three SEALs maximum coverage of the area. He was located closest to the egress route out of the sniper hide-site watching for enemy activity through a tactical periscope over the parapet wall. While vigilantly watching for enemy activity, an enemy fighter hurled a hand grenade onto the roof from an unseen location. The grenade hit him in the chest and bounced onto the deck. He immediately leapt to his feet and yelled "grenade" to alert his teammates of impending danger, but they could not evacuate the sniper hide-site in time to escape harm. Without hesitation and showing no regard for his own life, he threw himself onto the grenade, smothering it to protect his teammates who were lying in close proximity. The grenade detonated as he came down on top of it, mortally wounding him.

Petty Officer Monsoor's actions could not have been more selfless or clearly intentional. Of the three SEALs on that rooftop corner, he had the only avenue of escape away from the blast, and if he had so chosen, he could have easily escaped. Instead, Monsoor chose to protect his comrades by sacrificing of his own life. By his courageous and selfless actions, he saved the lives of his two fellow SEALs and he is the most deserving of the special recognition afforded by awarding the Medal of Honor.

*Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor poses for a photo on a rooftop in Ar Ramadi Iraq, while deployed in 2006. Courtesy photo.*

A close-up photograph of Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor. He is wearing a dark beanie, a grey hooded jacket, and a tactical vest with an American flag patch. He is holding an M4-style rifle. In the background, another soldier is visible in a snowy, mountainous landscape.

*Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor poses for a photo while attending cold weather training in Kodiak, Alaska, in 2004. Courtesy photo.*

# USSOCOM *visits* USS OHIO

## *By Submarine Group 7 Public Affairs*

During a brief stop for personnel transfer, Adm. Eric T. Olson, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, visited the guided-missile submarine USS Ohio (SSGN 726) in Apra Harbor, to see for himself the fully operational deployed capabilities of the guided missile and Special Operations Forces platform.

Olson also met with members of the SOF team who are deployed on Ohio to discuss the successful integration of the significant capabilities unique to the SSGN.

Ohio is completing the first regular scheduled voyage repair period of a one-year deployment in the 7th Fleet area of

responsibility. During the year-long deployment, Ohio will conduct a brief voyage repair and crew swap at regularly scheduled intervals of approximately three months.

Ohio is the lead ship of the Ohio-class trident ballistic missile submarines and the first in its class to be converted from a ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) to a guided-missile submarine (SSGN).

The approximate \$1 billion per boat conversion gives the SSGN additional clandestine capability and strike capability in the form of 154 Tomahawk missiles. Twenty-two missile tubes on the platform allow the submarine to host unmanned aerial vehicles and unmanned undersea vehicles, in addition



*(Main photo) USS Ohio (SSGN 726) getting underway from Naval Station Pearl Harbor for deployment to the Western Pacific. Photo by Seaman Apprentice Luciano Marano. (Above) Capt. Andrew Hale, commanding officer, USS Ohio (SSGN 726), explains special operations systems installed to Adm. Eric Olson, commander, USSOCOM, during a surfaced underway tour in Apra Harbor, Guam, Feb. 4. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Andrew Acomb.*



# SSGN-726

to the Tomahawks.

“While other submarines can carry Tomahawks and deploy Special Forces teams, the Ohio-class SSGNs can carry significantly more of both, and for a much longer sustained period,” said Capt. Andrew Hale, commanding officer (Gold).

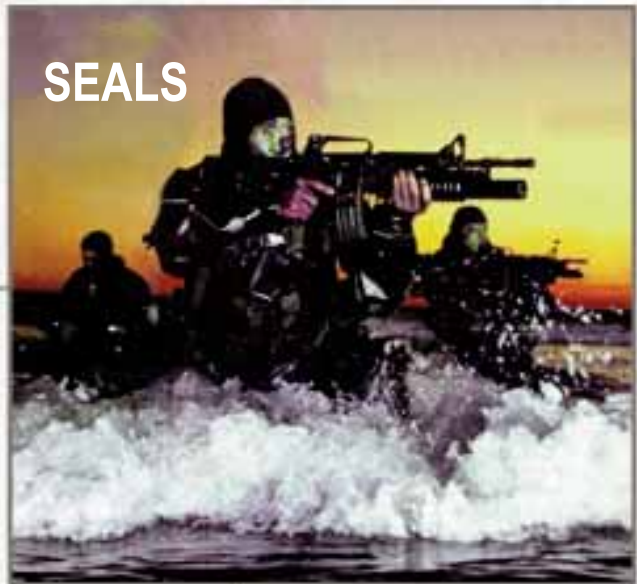
Ohio is much more than just a big, fast, attack submarine. Its size and capabilities ensure an increased number of SOF personnel can remain on board, in shape and ready to operate for significantly longer periods than before.

USS Ohio is homeported at Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor, Wash. The first of the SSGN’s to deploy following conversion, Ohio currently serves under Commander, Submarine Group 7, headquartered at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

USS OHIO



SEALS



SEAL - SDV



# OPERATION THUNDERHEAD



**HANOI HILTON**



*Lt. Melvin Spence Dry*



*Lt. Philip "Moki" Martin*



# Spence Dry: A SEAL'S STORY



*Melvin Spence Dry being promoted to the rank of lieutenant on July 1, 1971, by SEAL Team One commander Lt. Cmdr. Dan Hendrickson. Courtesy photo.*

*By retired Navy Capt. Michael Slattery, and retired Navy Capt. Gordon Peterson*

*Early in 1972, two U.S. Airmen being held as prisoners of war at the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison set in motion an escape plan. In response, the U.S. Pacific Fleet orchestrated what became known as "Operation Thunderhead," a rescue mission that played out that June in the Red River delta.*

Special Operations Forces from SEAL Team One and Underwater Demolition Team (UDT)-11 were assigned to assist the POWs. One of them, Lt. Melvin Spence Dry, was killed on the classified mission—the last SEAL lost during the Vietnam War. His father, retired Navy Capt. Melvin Dry, a 1934 Naval Academy graduate and a submariner, spent the rest of his life trying to learn the circumstances surrounding his son's death. The details, however, were long shrouded in secrecy.

Following his Naval Academy graduation in 1968, Spence Dry reported to postgraduate school. Sea duty followed on the destroyer USS Renshaw (DD-499), but he wanted to join the special warfare community. Late in 1969, he reported to the 20-week Basic UDT/SEAL Training course at Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, Calif.

Class 56 initially numbered 12 officers and more than 100 enlisted men, including an Academy classmate, Lt. j.g. Michael Slattery. At graduation in June 1970, the class numbered five officers and 22 enlisted. The officers—Mike Cadden, Spence Dry, Jerry Fletcher, Jim Hoover and Mike Slattery—formed a particularly close bond. Four of

the officers, including Dry, were assigned to UDT-13 and deployed within a few months to the Republic of the Philippines. Dry soon moved on to the Republic of Vietnam, where he served for three months as officer-in-charge of the team's Detachment Hotel, based near Danang. There he led his detachment on river reconnaissance, combat demolition and search-and-destroy operations along Vietnam's Ky Lam River.

Upon their return from Vietnam in 1971, Slattery, Fletcher and Dry were assigned to SEAL Team One. The team's primary mission was to engage in unconventional warfare, conducting counter-guerrilla and clandestine operations in coastal and riverine areas. But with President

Richard Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy in full swing, the only combat assignments were one-year tours as advisers to South Vietnamese units.

In November 1971, Dry was given the chance to form his own contingency platoon and prepare it for a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific. Lt. Robert Conger Jr.,

Dry's assistant officer-in-charge at the time, recalled that he and Dry spent two weeks screening more than 80 enlisted volunteers to identify the 12 best qualified for SEAL Team One's "Alpha" platoon.

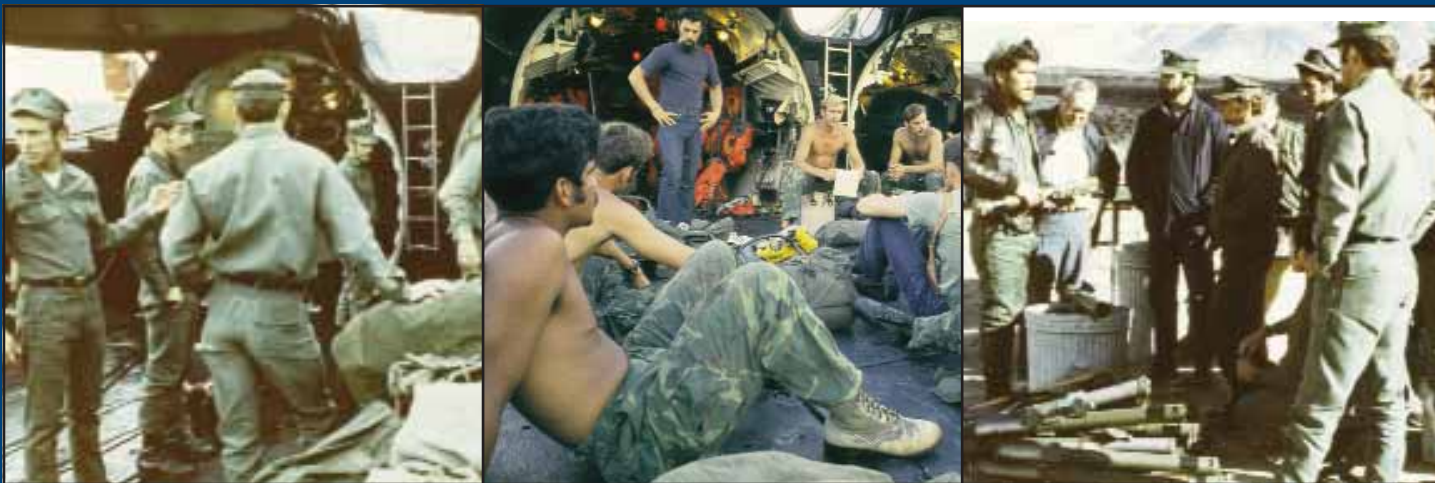
"Spence was sure of his direction, and the positive, yet attainable goals he set for himself gave the platoon a unity and esprit de corps seldom found in any organization," Conger said. One of the more experienced combat veterans in the platoon described Dry as one of the best officers Team One ever had. Chief Petty Officer (soon to be Warrant Officer) Philip "Moki" Martin, a highly experienced SEAL who had served multiple combat tours in Vietnam, rounded out the platoon's leadership. He considered Dry an "operator"—just about the highest accolade a SEAL can give. The 11 other enlisted men also reflected a wealth of combat experience.

Platoon Alpha deployed to Okinawa for additional training and stood by.

## **Operation Thunderhead**

Armed with fresh intelligence the prisoners were planning to steal a boat and travel down the Red River to the Gulf of Tonkin, Adm. Thomas Moorer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on May 15, 1972, authorized the U.S. Pacific Command to execute Operation Thunderhead, a rescue plan proposed by the U.S. Pacific Fleet a month earlier. Full details of the operation were known to only a handful of officers individually cleared by Adm. John





*(From left to right) Lt. Melvin Spence Dry, far left, directs the loading of gear and supplies on USS Grayback (LPSS-574) in April 1972. Lt. Dry (in center holding paper and facing camera) briefs his SEAL Platoon Alpha on the deck of the submarine USS Grayback after his unit reported aboard in April 1972 at Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. (Chief Petty Officer Philip "Moki" Martin is visible at left in the foreground) Chief Philip "Moki" Martin conducts training on the M-72 Light Anti-tank Weapon with members of Platoon Alpha, SEAL Team One on Okinawa, Japan, in April 1972. Courtesy photos.*

McCain Jr., the PACOM commander.

Dry's platoon left Subic Bay in April in the amphibious-transport submarine USS Grayback (LPSS-574), skippered by Cmdr. John Chamberlain. The Grayback, formerly a Regulus guided-missile submarine, had been converted in 1968 to support clandestine operations. The diesel-electric submarine was modified to carry approximately 60 troops, plus four SEAL Delivery Vehicles in two "wet" hangars on its bow. The SDVs were small, free-flooding, unpressurized fiberglass minisubmarines equipped with rudimentary

navigational equipment.

The rescue plan was straightforward but challenging. Dry and Martin would launch at night from the submerged submarine in an SDV piloted by two UDT-11 operators already embarked in Grayback and head for a small island near the mouth of the Red River. There, the two SEALs would establish an observation post and watch for any sign of the escapees. "The time Spence and I were to spend on the island was a minimum of 24 hours and up to 48 hours," Martin remembered. "We were to look for a red light on a boat during the night and a red flag during the day."



*(Top) SEALs attached to Platoon Alpha, make their way to USS Grayback on a combat rubber raiding craft after conducting training in April 1972. (Right) Members of Platoon Alpha inspect a SEAL Delivery Vehicle during Operation Thunderhead. Courtesy photos.*

Should the escaping POWs be sighted, the two would intercept them and coordinate their rescue with the waiting ships of the Seventh Fleet. North Vietnamese soldiers garrisoned the island. Occasional Vietnamese fishing boats plied the waters, and enemy patrol boats were always a possibility. There were other concerns, including a night underwater lock-out and launch from the Grayback in an underpowered SDV; a cold, submerged transit to the island in the confined and totally dark hold of the unproven free-flooding Mark VII vehicle; strong currents and tidal conditions; and the need for precise underwater navigation (in the days



*(From left to right) Members of Platoon Alpha, including Lt. Dry (second from left) and Chief Petty Officer Philip "Moki" Martin (far right), conduct weapons training prior embarking on USS Grayback to commence Operation Thunderhead. SEALs attached to Platoon Alpha, SEAL Team One, pose for a photo in Okinawa in April 1972. SEALs attached to Platoon Alpha, SEAL Team One take in some sun atop USS Grayback (LPSS-574) in April 1972. Courtesy photos.*

before the Global Positioning System).

Seventh Fleet helicopters conducted overwater night surveillance along North Vietnam's coast as the date for the escape approached. Grayback arrived on station June 3, 1972. Chamberlain and Dry decided to conduct a clandestine SDV reconnaissance mission that night. After dark, Chamberlain launched the vehicle at the end of flood tide to provide a maximum amount of slack water; he planned to recover it on the ebb tide. "Operation of a four-knot SDV in a two-knot current was extremely challenging," Chamberlain recalled, "and required not only excellent driving skills but also a fine understanding of navigation."

Dry, Martin and the two UDT Operators, Lt. j.g John Lutz and Fireman Thomas Edwards, launched from the submerged Grayback shortly after midnight, but a combination of navigational errors and the strong current took them off course. After searching for more than an hour without sighting the island, the crew was compelled to abort the mission and, unable to locate the Grayback, scuttle their underpowered SDV after its battery power was exhausted. They planned to head out to sea if they could not locate the submarine.

The men were treading water a few miles off the coast when rescued early the next morning by a combat search-and-rescue HH-3A helicopter assigned to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron (HC)-7. To preserve operational security, Lutz used the helicopter's door gun to sink the SDV, which was too heavy to be retrieved. The four men were flown to the nuclear-powered guided-

missile cruiser USS Long Beach (CGN-9), the command ship for Thunderhead, where they debriefed, communicated briefly with the Grayback, and planned their next steps.

**"We've got to get back to Grayback"**

Dry, aware of the impending launch of the second SDV, knew that he and his men had to return to the Grayback quickly. The Navy was prepared to let the mission run up to three weeks, if necessary; given Dry's key leadership role and Martin's combat experience, both were needed if a follow-on SEAL insertion using another SDV was to succeed.

The decision was made to transport them by helicopter from USS Long Beach for a night water drop or a "cast" next to the Grayback at 11 p.m. June 5. The plan called for the helicopter's crew to make visual contact with the Grayback's infrared signaling light atop the submarine's snorkel mast, which operated in beacon mode during Operation Thunderhead. In this configuration, it was a revolving, flashing red light. During briefings with the pilots, Dry and Martin emphasized that the maximum limits for the drop were "20/20"—20 feet of altitude at an airspeed of 20 knots, or an equivalent combination.

The weather was overcast, with sea state 1-2, indicating a maximum wave height of approximately four feet. HC-7's "Big Mother" crew was faced with finding the Grayback while maintaining radio silence in cloudy weather on a dark night. Martin noted high winds and two- to three-foot swells as he boarded the helicopter on Long Beach.

Problems began soon after the helicopter arrived near the Grayback's expected position. Multiple passes failed to reveal the submarine. To complicate matters, Dry could not communicate directly with the helicopter's pilot. Only the crew chief, Petty Officer First Class John Wilson, and Lt. Cmdr. Edwin Towers, a Seventh Fleet staff officer temporarily assigned to the operation, were linked through the helicopter's internal communications from the cabin to the pilots in the cockpit.

As the aircrew desperately searched for the Grayback's beacon, Dry and his men prepared to enter the water and lock in to the submerged submarine. Several approaches were aborted when it proved impossible to confirm the submarine's presence. At one point the helicopter inadvertently passed over the surf line and flew over North Vietnam when the crew mistook lights from a dwelling for the submarine. "It was a very hair-raising night," Wilson remembered.

During another difficult approach to the intermittent light just prior to the helicopter's last pass, the pilot overshot, flared the helicopter to

dissipate airspeed as he transitioned to a hover and then backed down toward the light. He descended within 10 feet of the surface in a tail-down attitude. Water splashed into the cabin and almost swamped the helicopter before the pilot, warned by his crew chief, waved off for another try.

In near desperation Wilson passed his helmet (with its lip microphone) to Dry so he could talk directly to the pilot about his concerns with the helicopter's altitude and speed. Dry and Martin had ample reason to worry.

According to a post-mission assessment, Dry informed the helicopter crew they were too high, too fast and downwind. Specifically, they were approaching the drop point with the winds, estimated at 15 to 20 knots, on the helicopter's tail. The velocity of the tail wind, added to the helicopter's forward speed, was well beyond the 20-knot ground speed needed for a safe jump. "They wanted us out, and we felt the altitude was too high and the speed too fast," recalled Martin, an experienced parachute jumpmaster. "As drop master, I was looking for the tell tale signs of spray from the helo— either coming in the door or when I looked toward the rear and below the helo."

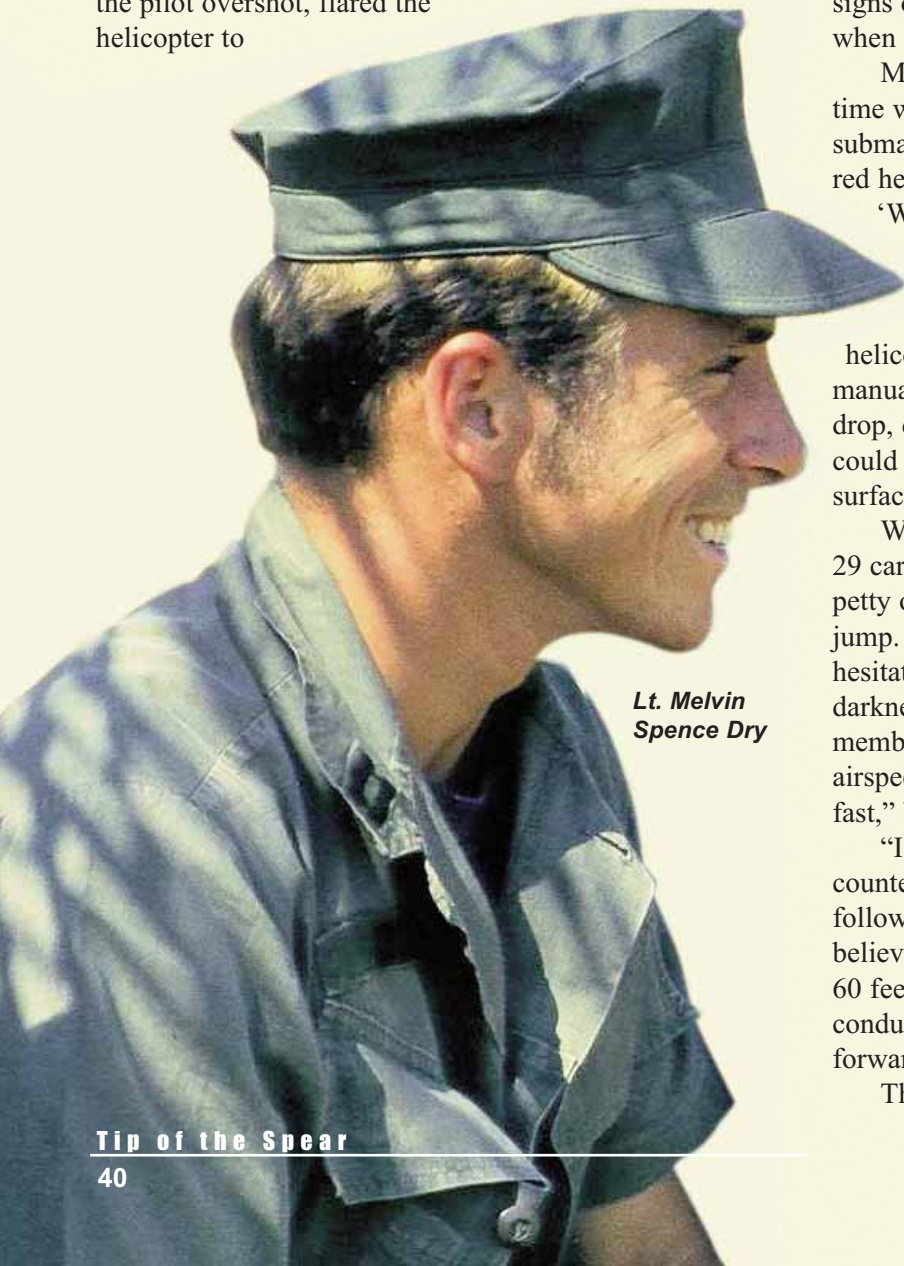
Mindful of the helicopter's fuel state, Dry told Martin time was running out; they needed to return to the submarine. "I remember seeing Spence's face in the dim red helo light," Martin said. "His last words to me were, 'We've got to get back to Grayback.'"

Finally, the helicopter crew observed a flashing light and assumed they had sighted the submarine's beacon. The pilot, not trusting the helicopter's automatic stabilization equipment, made a manual approach and, as he neared a hover, called, "Drop, drop, drop." "It was dark and windy," Martin said, "but I could see the helo's sea spray, especially on the dark sea surface."

Wilson, a veteran combat search-and-rescue diver with 29 career rescues to his credit when he retired as a chief petty officer, slapped Dry on the shoulder—the signal to jump. The final decision rested with Dry, but there was no hesitation. He dropped from the helicopter into the darkness, followed in quick succession by his three team members as the helicopter began to gain altitude and airspeed. "I knew right away that we were too high and too fast," Wilson related, "but it was too late."

"I was third in the drop," Martin said. "I exited and counted— one thousand, two thousand, three thousand . . . followed by 'God dammit,' and then I hit the water. I believe by my count that I was over 50 feet, possibly even 60 feet." Again, according to Martin, the cast was conducted downwind, adding another 15 to 20 knots of forward velocity when the jumpers hit the water.

The Chief of Naval Operations told Capt. Dry that his



*Lt. Melvin  
Spence Dry*

son had exited the helicopter at about 35 feet, but the survivors have no doubt that the helicopter was much higher. “A combination of too much speed and altitude [did] not allow any jumper to get a proper body position to enter the water. All four of us were injured,” Martin said.

Dry died immediately of “severe trauma to the neck” caused by impact with the water, according to the Navy’s death report. Two other team members were badly shaken, and one was seriously injured. Martin and Lutz answered one another’s call, but there was no reply from their other teammates. Martin set out to find them. Edwards had broken a rib and was semiconscious when Martin found him and inflated his life vest. Visibility in the water was later estimated at 10 feet, but the SEALs said it was closer to zero in the muddy water off the enemy’s coast.

There was no response to their calls for Dry, although they estimated they were only 15 to 20 yards apart on their cast.

Worse, the flashing lights detected by the helicopter crew were not on the Grayback; in fact, they were the emergency flares and strobe lights used by the crew of the second SDV to alert the incoming helicopter to their own predicament.

Unknown to the pilots and the SEALs on Dry’s helicopter before their drop, the Grayback had launched its second vehicle several hours earlier for abbreviated requalification launch-and-recovery operations. According to Chamberlain, the vehicle was to remain within acoustic homing beacon range of the submarine so it could return as desired. Upon launch, however, it foundered in approximately 60 feet of water. Eventually, its crew of four abandoned it when their air ran out; subsequently, they made an emergency free ascent to the surface.

Chamberlain, with radar contacts indicating North Vietnamese patrol boats, had radioed to abort the night drop, but his message arrived too late.

Martin, Lutz and Edwards saw a strobe light, heard voices and swam to the second SDV’s team. The group drifted with the seas. About 1 a.m., they found Dry’s lifeless body, inflated his life vest and held him and Edwards in tow as they swam seaward to be rescued.

The North Vietnamese patrol boats in the area did not detect them, and an HC-7 helicopter alerted by Chamberlain rescued the men at dawn and returned them to the Long Beach. Dry’s body and the seriously injured Edwards were then flown to the carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63).

The Grayback remained on station in the shallow waters for an additional two days— relying on periscope

sightings to detect any escaping POWs— before Chamberlain was ordered to a safer patrol area. The remaining six members of the mission later were transferred from the Long Beach to the submarine on June 12. With the likelihood of a successful prisoner escape by sea lessened by the recent U.S. mining of North Vietnam’s ports and rivers, Operation Thunderhead was soon terminated.

### **A Father’s quest**

Dry was the last SEAL killed during the Vietnam War. As it turned out, the senior POWs at the Hanoi Hilton had called off the escape attempt over concern for the plan’s risk and fear of retribution. Unfortunately, there was no way of quickly informing anyone outside the prison walls about this decision. Those assigned to detect and recover the fleeing Americans continued to dedicate themselves to their rescue.

In Scotland, Dry’s parents were notified on June 12 of their son’s death in a “training operation,” the government’s cover story for the secret mission. Capt. Dry’s diary entry the following day consisted of one word: “Desolation.” His son’s remains were returned to

the United States, and he was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on June 22. Adm. Bernard Clarey, the U.S. Pacific Fleet commander, met with Capt. Dry in the Pentagon and explained the mission in a general way.

The operation’s cover story did not ring true as news of the mission slowly filtered back to Coronado. Like the men of SEAL Team One, Capt. Dry also was dissatisfied with the Navy’s explanation. Over the next 25 years he sought, in vain, to induce the Navy and the Naval Academy to recognize his son’s sacrifice.

The Navy did not share the findings of its 1972 joint investigation. “In nearly five years I’ve been given no information about exactly what happened at the scene of the accident,” he wrote. Finally, the Grayback’s commanding officer, in a personal letter to Dry in 1981, provided a fuller accounting of his son’s death. Others in the Navy who served with his son also filled in additional details through the years.

With the exception of an “end-of-tour” Navy Commendation Medal awarded to Conger, it appears that no member of Dry’s team was decorated or otherwise recognized for their actions during the daring rescue mission— not even Martin, who saved the life of the seriously injured member of his team and rallied the remaining survivors until their rescue. Capt. Dry’s attempts to have his son awarded a posthumous Purple



Heart were denied by the Department of the Navy, which maintained his loss was not the result of enemy action.

Similar requests to the Naval Academy during the 1990s to recognize the younger Dry's combat death also were unsuccessful, despite interest by former Secretary of the Navy James Webb Jr., one of Dry's Academy classmates. "The naval service is rightly stringent in awarding the Purple Heart and in assigning the status of killed in action," Webb wrote in the Naval Academy's Alumni Association's magazine in 1999. "But in the complicated world in which we have lived since the end of World War II, many who perished during operational missions directly related to national defense paid a price that was clearly measurable in the Cold War's victory."

The Naval Academy did not include Spence Dry's name on a listing of its alumni killed in action displayed in Memorial Hall owing to the Navy's initial determination of his death as an operational accident. "In order to be listed on that memorial," the Academy's Alumni Association said, "the Secretary of the Navy must have designated the individual KIA [killed in action] on the casualty report. Lieutenant Dry

was not noted in this category."

Dry's leadership and dedication remained unrecognized by the Navy, although those most familiar with his loss have no doubts regarding his leadership and heroism that night. Ten days after the fateful night cast, all 13 surviving men of the platoon signed a joint letter to Capt. Dry honoring their fallen commander. They wrote ". . . His memory will remain with us so long as man values positive leadership and courage in the face of danger."

Capt. Dry died in 1997. By then, he knew most of the details surrounding his son's death, but his quest to have the Navy honor his son's wartime sacrifice went unfulfilled. Father and son are buried in a common grave in Arlington National Cemetery.

Capt. Dry's dolphins are engraved on the top of the tombstone's face; his son's SEAL insignia is engraved at the bottom.



**Epilogue**

On June 4, 2004, the Naval Academy dedicated its renovated Memorial Hall, where the names of more than 2,500 graduates killed during operations "while forward deployed, training, or preparing to deploy" are now listed on 44 panels. The Class of 1968's plaque, with Spence Dry's name, is located just to the left of the display naming those alumni killed in action with the enemy. In December 2004, the Naval Academy Foundation confirmed that Spence Dry is recognized as an operational loss during the Vietnam War. In a solemn ceremony at the Naval Academy, Feb. 25, the Navy and nation posthumously presented the Bronze Star with valor to Operation Thunderhead's leader, Lt. Spence Dry.

*Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (left) and Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan, commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, present the Bronze Star to Mr. Robert Dry who accepted on behalf of his brother, Lt. (SEAL) Melvin Dry, at the United States Naval Academy, Feb. 25. Dry received the posthumous award for heroic achievement during Operation Thunderhead, a top secret mission to rescue prisoners of war in Vietnam in 1972. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chad McNeeley.*



# Navy SEAL honored 35 years after Secret Mission

*By Petty Officer 3rd Class Michelle Kapica  
Naval Special Warfare Command Public Affairs*

More than three decades after a daring attempt to rescue prisoners of war in Vietnam ended in tragedy, a retired Navy SEAL was honored for saving the lives of his comrades.

Rear Adm. Joseph Kernan, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, presented retired Lt. (SEAL) Philip “Moki” Martin the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat “V” for valor during a ceremony at NSWC in Coronado, Calif., March 18.

Martin, who was a chief warrant officer at the time of the mission, was recognized for his courage, bold leadership and loyal devotion to duty during Operation Thunderhead in 1972.

The details of the once highly classified mission of Operation Thunderhead only came to light in recent years, prompting the presentation of awards to those involved.

Martin was a veteran of many special warfare operations in Vietnam. He recognized instantly, as he stood in the door of the helicopter, that he faced a dangerous situation, but he also knew that his teammates needed his experience and special skills. He survived the force of impacting the water, although he was shaken and only partially conscious.

“I dug down in my basic training and UDT training, and I think I had enough of a foundation to know I was going to be picked up in the morning,” Martin said.

The other two surviving UDT members were injured during the cast. One of these two was injured more seriously and was semi-conscious. Rescue and recovery of these men and Lt. Melvin Dry’s body was directly attributable to the courage and outstanding professionalism of Martin. A highly experienced SEAL and combat veteran, he unhesitatingly risked his life to save his comrades.

Martin calmly accepted the award from Kernan, who said he was honored to share this long-awaited day with Martin.

“I accept this award on behalf of all of you from Platoon Alpha, UDT-11 SDV platoon,” said Martin. “This award is for all of you.”

More than 200 people attended the ceremony, including

several of Martin’s teammates from Platoon Alpha, his wife, Cindy, and other family members.

“I’m very happy for him,” said Cindy. “I think it has helped to bring closure.”

Cindy said she was unaware of the operation for many years but is very proud of her husband’s actions. “He never expected to be recognized, so it hasn’t been something we’ve had bad feelings about. It’s just a nice thing to happen,” she said.

Martin’s teammates agreed that he was a great leader, mentor and most of all a great friend.

“It’s very gratifying that he was recognized for his bravery and

commitment to all the members of the SEAL team and as a closure for all of us in Platoon Alpha,” said Eric Knudson,

a former teammate. “We would have followed him, and followed Spence Dry wherever they told us to go to complete the mission and operation.”

Martin retired from the Navy in 1983 after a bicycle accident that left him in a wheelchair. He is still, an active member of the Naval Special Warfare community. Martin gives lectures on “Lessons learned in Vietnam” to Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL students at the NSW Center and is the race director for the annual NSW SuperFrog triathlon competition, now in its 30th year.



*Retired SEAL Lt. Philip “Moki” Martin passes through the side boys during a ceremony where he was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat “V” for Valor for his actions during Operation Thunderhead. Martin received the medal for saving the lives of two injured SEALs after jumping from a helicopter during the Vietnam War in 1972. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Arcenio Gonzalez Jr.*

# AFSOC commander: Different sound of freedom flies over Cannon AFB

*By Airman 1st Class Elliott Sprehe  
27th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs*

Lt. Gen. Donald Wurster's visit to Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., marked his first as the commander of Air Force Special Operations Command.

Wurster, who took command of AFSOC in November 2007, toured the base and the Clovis, N.M., area to meet with Airmen and community leaders in town.

"I am impressed with what I've found out here," said Wurster. "It's a beautiful base; it's got great facilities. It's going to be terrific for our mission."

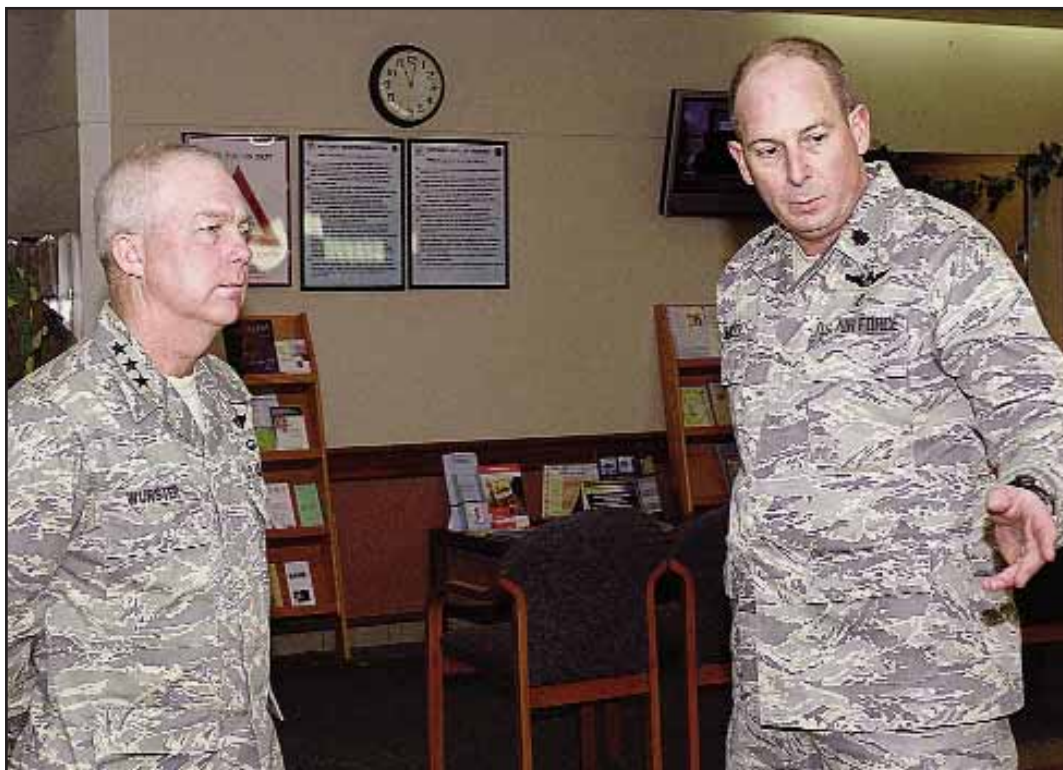
Wurster discussed the reasons AFSOC chose Cannon for its new mission, which included being near the West Coast and Melrose Range, as well as the mild weather.

"We are slated to grow in AFSOC, and the environment we have at Hurlburt Field, Fla., just doesn't permit us to expand that base anymore," Wurster said.

For Airmen who are curious about what changes to expect since Cannon's transition to the AFSOC mission, Wurster reminded them they are still a part of the U.S. Air Force.

"Our core values are the same: Integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. All of us as Airmen have that bred into our DNA," Wurster said. "The difference between AFSOC and Air Combat Command is scope and size."

In addition to deploying in smaller numbers than their ACC counterparts, people within AFSOC generally also deploy in a slightly less structured manner than Airmen are used to with Air Expeditionary Force cycles, Wurster said.



**Lt. Gen. Donald Wurster, Air Force Special Operations Command commander, is briefed by Lt. Col. Jimmie Bailey, 27th Special Operations Aeromedical Dental Squadron commander. Photo by Airman 1st Class James Bell.**

Special operations missions are often accomplished under the cover of night, said Wurster, and stay in the air longer during their sorties. The people in communities surrounding Cannon may hear more aircraft noise in the evenings as training missions are flown. However, because many of the aircraft expected to be assigned to Cannon are propeller-driven aircraft instead of jet aircraft, Wurster said the noise should not be very obtrusive to the local populace.

"It's a different sound of freedom than jet noise, but it's the same concept," Wurster said.

Wurster spoke highly of the support Cannon receives from the surrounding communities.

"The community and this base are connected, and the relationships are excellent. They're doing everything right and there's nothing I would ask them to change," said Wurster.

Finally, Wurster left Cannon Airmen with a bit of advice that he also applies to his own life.

"Treat people the way your mom taught you to and stay focused on your job," he said.

# AFSOC leads the way with small unmanned aircraft systems

*By Master Sgt. Buffy Galbraith  
AFSOC Public Affairs*

Air Force Special Operations Command, as the lead command for small unmanned aircraft systems, highlighted the capabilities of the Scan Eagle during a demonstration at the Eglin Air Force Base test range Feb. 7.

AFSOC has been training with the 820th Security Forces Group from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., since September 2007 to employ the system.

The Scan Eagle UAS has the wingspan of only 10 feet and weighs less than 30 pounds. It provides real-time direct situational awareness and force protection information for Air Force Security Forces Expeditionary teams. It is a portable system featuring three air vehicles, a ground control station, remote video terminal and a launch and recovery system.

“The purpose of the demonstration was to prepare and certify security forces for Scan Eagle deployment,” said Steve Bishop, who works in AFSOC’s unmanned systems test and technology division. “Our folks have been with the team developing tactics, techniques and procedures in preparation for their first deployment.”

The team is made up of seven pilots and sensor operators, all enlisted security forces Airmen, five maintainers and two lead officers.

“As a security forces combat troop, we had no visual from up above,” said Master Sgt. Bryan Williams, Scan Eagle team noncommissioned officer in charge. “Scan Eagle changes all that. It will save lives because it will give us the opportunity to see.”

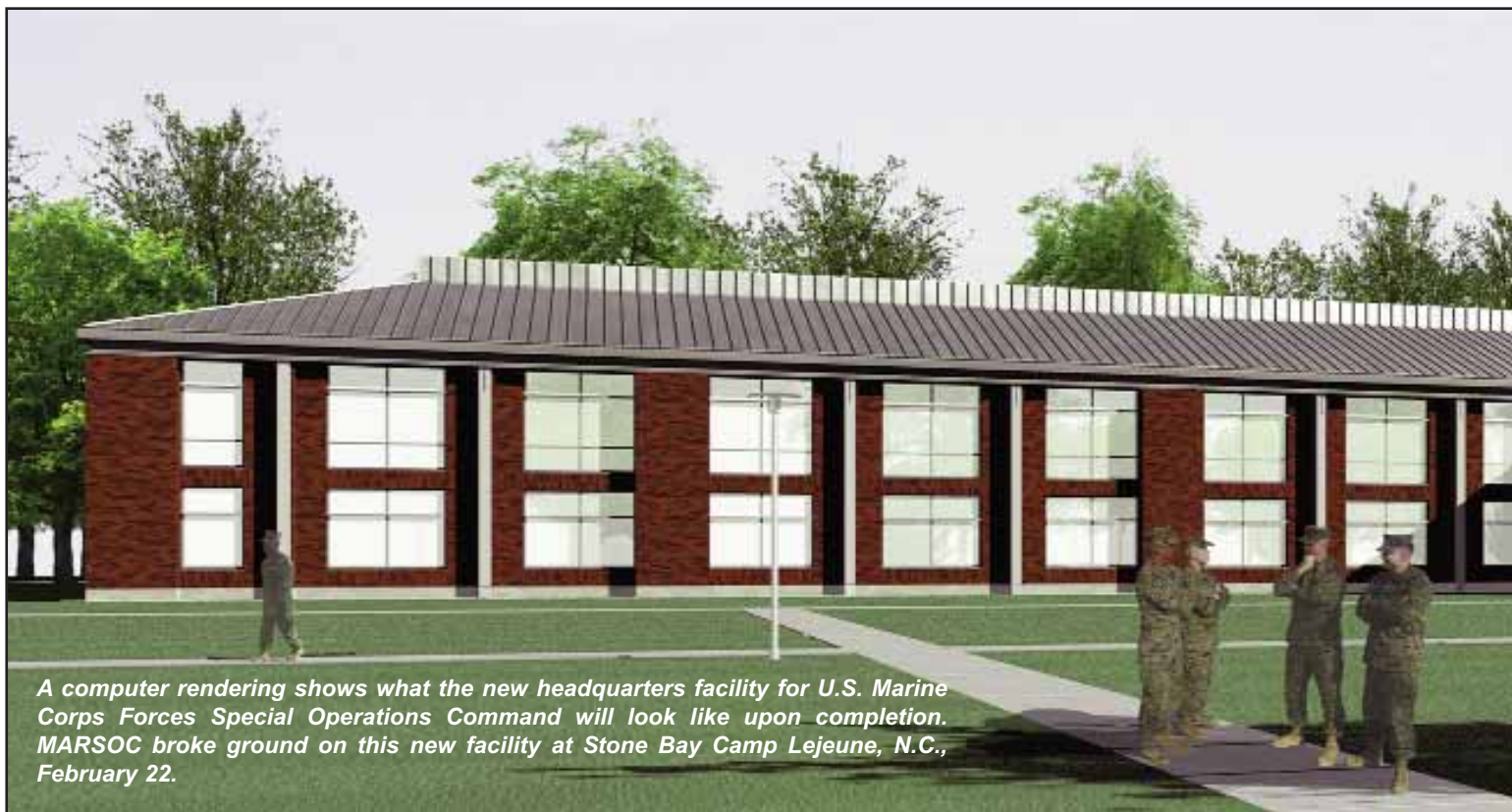
The Scan Eagle has already proven itself beneficial to the warfighter. In 2004, the Marine Corps enlisted the services of the UAS to protect Marines deployed in Iraq. Since then, the system has flown more than 40,000 combat hours supporting ground and air forces and has saved countless lives.

“All forces have benefited from the Scan Eagle UAS,” said Bishop, who has been involved in the unmanned systems division since its inception in 2003.

“AFSOC has developed the standards and trained the operators,” said Rich Heagwood, chief of small unmanned systems. “AFSOC understands the security forces mission, and we’ve developed a program where they are the first personnel in the Department of Department to fly this size aircraft. We are ready to deploy the Scan Eagle to help fight the war on terror.”



*Airmen from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., lower the Scan Eagle unmanned aircraft system after it was recovered by the Skyhook system during a demonstration to highlight its capabilities at Eglin AFB, Fla. AFSOC is the lead command for SUAS and has been working with the team to prepare and certify Scan Eagles to employ the system in the near future. Photo by Senior Airman Emily Moore.*



*A computer rendering shows what the new headquarters facility for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command will look like upon completion. MARSOC broke ground on this new facility at Stone Bay Camp Lejeune, N.C., February 22.*

# MARSOC celebrates second anniversary, groundbreaking

*By MARSOC Public Affairs*

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command commemorated its second anniversary by breaking ground on the construction site of its future headquarters building during a ceremony at Stone Bay, Camp Lejeune, N.C., in February.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone in MARSOC's continued growth as the Marine Corps component of U.S. Special Operations Command. In attendance were Rep. Walter Jones of North Carolina; Admiral Eric Olson, commander, USSOCOM; the Honorable Michael Vickers, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities; Lt. Gen. Keith Stalder, commanding general, II Marine Expeditionary Force; Maj. Gen. Dennis Hejlik, MARSOC commander; Capt. Richard Roth, commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid Atlantic; Sgt. Maj. Matthew Ingram, MARSOC sergeant major, chairman Lionell Midgett, Chairman of the Onslow County Board of Commissioners and Dan White, executive vice-president, Whiting Turner, who all participated by turning over the first shovels of soil on the

construction site.

"It is the beginning of MARSOC getting its initial, permanent facilities," said Maj. Casey Barnes, engineer officer, MARSOC G-4. "It consolidates all of MARSOC and will help us be more effective."

According to Master Sgt. John Walworth, engineer chief, MARSOC G-4, all of MARSOC's Camp Lejeune units - Marine Special Operations Advisor Group, 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Special Operations Support Group and Marine Special Operations School - will eventually be located at Stone Bay with all-new headquarters facilities and training areas.

A computer rendering shows what the new headquarters facility for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command will look like upon completion. MARSOC broke ground on this new facility at Stone Bay at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 22.

"The biggest misconception about the groundbreaking is that since we're breaking ground on the headquarters facility, people think that is all we're building," said Walworth. "In fact, that is just the start of the build plan out at Stone Bay."

Construction of the MARSOC headquarters will cost



\$51.6 million. The entire MARSOC compound planned for Camp Lejeune will cost an estimated \$518 million and will include the facilities and ranges needed to support the full process of preparing MARSOC warriors for special operations missions. A smaller facility at Camp Pendleton, Calif., will be constructed to support 1st MSOB there. In all, the military construction plan for MARSOC's facilities extends into fiscal year 2015.

Construction of new facilities represents more than just a place for MARSOC's men and women to train, plan operations and maintain their equipment, it also represents the permanence of home and the strength of heritage. The new headquarters will provide a place from which MARSOC's warriors will deploy to carry out challenging missions abroad and a place to which they can return once their missions are complete and victory in the Global War on Terrorism has been secured.

"This shows the special operations community and the rest of the Marine Corps that we're here to stay," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Donald Snyder, religious program specialist, MSOAG. "MARSOC has been spread out all over the base, but this will make communication easier and help us come closer together as a command."

"This is historic for MARSOC. This will be a great headquarters for us, and we'll continue to move forward from there," said Hejlik. "The really impressive thing is that we're building and growing this organization at the same time that we are conducting SOF missions worldwide."

MARSOC contributed increased capability and capacity

to USSOCOM operations throughout the past year while simultaneously growing by more than 500 personnel to more than 70 percent of the approximately 2,500 Marines, Sailors and civilian employees who will complete the command.

Companies and teams from two MSOBs and MSOAG, supplemented by specialized enabler teams provided by the MSOSG, carried out special operations throughout the world. Missions ranged from direct action and special reconnaissance in Afghanistan to foreign internal defense in countries throughout the Southern, European, Pacific and Central Commands.

As MARSOC celebrates a successful second year of growth and operations, the road ahead promises to bring even greater challenges and rewards. The command will deploy for more than 40 missions by the end of fiscal year 2008, which is nearly double the number of MARSOC missions performed during its first year.

Hejlik says he is humbled when he thinks about the future site of MARSOC and how the personnel within the command will have a home as a full-fledged component of USSOCOM.

"Right now, we're spread throughout Camp Lejeune," said Hejlik. "We've had great support from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Installations, but we are spread and it makes it a little bit more difficult to plan and coordinate. But when our facility is finished in the next 18 months to two years, we'll have all the commanders and primary staff in one facility."

# First MARSOC Marines persevered to earn title of Colombian “Lancero”

By Lance Cpl. Stephen Benson  
MARSOC Public Affairs

During 73 days of some of the most physically arduous and mentally grueling training in all of the militaries around the world, two Marines from Marine Special Operations Advisor Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, persevered to become the first MARSOC Marines to earn the title of “Lancero.”

Capt. German Duarte and Sgt. Roberto Sanchez graduated from the Escuela de Lanceros Dec. 5, where the Colombian National Army and servicemembers from friendly foreign militaries gather to endure Lancero training and develop themselves into highly-skilled warfighters.

“I would say this has been the toughest and the craziest out of all courses I have been through or heard

of,” said Duarte. “Without Marine Corps training, I don’t think we would have even made it.”

According to U.S. Army Maj. Edgar Alvarez, Lancero instructor and exchange officer, 7th Special Forces Group, the Lancero course began Dec. 6, 1955, after members of the Colombian National Army went through U.S. Army Ranger School and used what they learned to form their own Special Forces school in Colombia. Today, the Escuela de Lanceros is designed to develop its students into experts in small-unit tactics and irregular warfare. More specifically, it prepares the Colombian military to combat terrorist groups that utilize guerilla tactics in their country.

Duarte and Sanchez said much of the course is culture based. They learned techniques, tactics and procedures of the Colombian armed forces and gained a better understanding of the Colombian culture.

According to Duarte and Sanchez, the course is



Capt. German Duarte, MSOAG, MARSOC, sights in using a bow and arrow during survival training in the jungle phase of the 10-week Escuela de Lanceros. Duarte graduated from the Colombian special forces school with fellow MSOAG Marine Sgt. Roberto Sanchez Dec. 5, 2007.

broken up into several phases: adaptation/acclimatization, irregular/urban, mountain and jungle warfare, and finally, graduation week.

In the adaptation/acclimatization phase, Duarte and Sanchez acclimated to the heat and humidity and instructors led intensive physical training to prepare students for the duration of the course.

“You get used to not sleeping and eating well and beating your body down with physical training,” said Sanchez. “They teach you weapons familiarization, land navigation and the Colombian [military] planning process.”

After two weeks, the students moved on to irregular/urban warfare and learned close-quarters battle tactics similar to those used by U.S. armed forces.

“You do patrols and hikes at a training center, and you come back in the morning and immediately start planning for the next patrol. Then, you get two hours of sleep before going out on that patrol,” explained Sanchez.

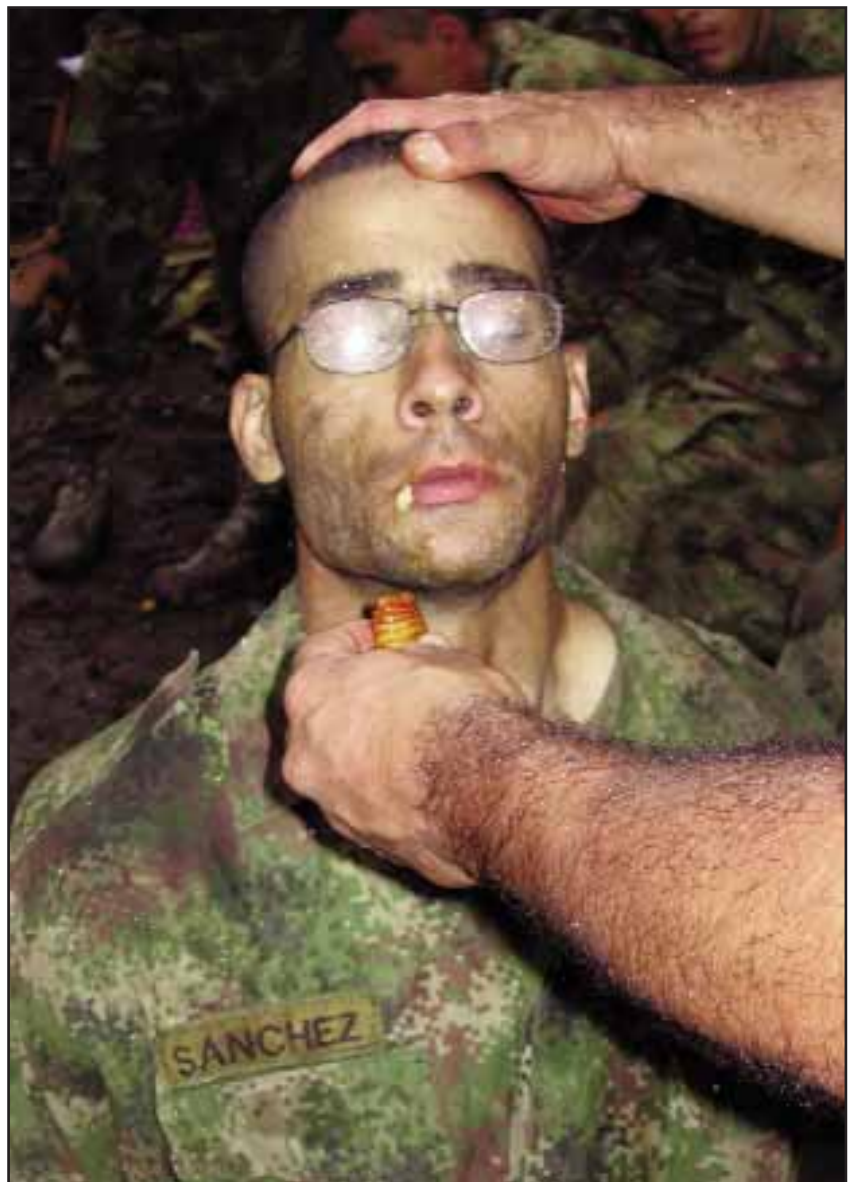
According to Duarte, the main part of the course was the last four weeks, which encompassed both mountain- and jungle-warfare phases. The most difficult training evolutions fell within these weeks and included multiple hikes that ranged from 8 kilometers to a 36-kilometer hike known as the *Marcha de la Muerte*, or *March of Death*.

“The hikes were definitely the most difficult part of the course because the terrain is rough, there are no breaks, and you carry 60-70 pounds on your back as you go up and down mountains and through the jungle,” said Duarte. “It’s not like (Marine Corps hikes) where you go for so long, and you take a break and drink water. Over there, you get water, but on the move.”

During the jungle phase, Duarte and Sanchez spent a difficult eight days in a mock concentration camp. Students were deprived of food and subjected to various physical and mental stresses in an effort to break their spirits. Duarte and Sanchez persevered and were impressed by their fellow Colombian students.

“There is a culture of *machismo*,” said Duarte. “Some of the things they do you wouldn’t do in the Marine Corps or anywhere else, but they do it because they have to show they are men.”

Despite the difficulty of the final four weeks of the course, both Duarte and Sanchez said it was their favorite part of the *Lancero* course. The two Marines serve



***A Lancero instructor helps Sgt. Roberto Sanchez, MSOAG, MARSOC, eat a banana grub. Lancero candidates must use the surrounding environment to eat and survive during the jungle phase of Escuela de Lanceros. Sanchez and fellow MSOAG Marine Capt. German Duarte graduated from the Colombian special forces school Dec. 5, 2007.***

together in MSOAG to train, advise and build relationships with foreign militaries. The *Lancero* course honed their skills both as infantrymen and as Special Operations Advisers.

“I have done two foreign internal defense missions in Colombia,” said Duarte. “For the Colombian army, being a *Lancero* is kind of like being a Ranger in the [U.S.] Army. Most of their infantry officers go there to gain knowledge and prestige.

“Marines help Marines wherever you go,” said Duarte. “It’s the same for *Lanceros*. When they see another *Lancero*, they say, ‘Hey, how can I help you?’ or, ‘What can I do for you?’ They are always looking out for each other.”



USSOCOM headquarters. Photo by Master Sgt. Timmy Carlin.

# International SOF Week tackles global challenges with sovereignty

*By Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer*  
*USSOCOM Public Affairs*

United States Special Operations Command hosts International Special Operations Forces Week May 19 through 23 at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., with the goal of enhancing international collaboration among Special Operations Forces to make the global environment less supportive of terrorist activities.

The focus of ISOF this year is combating terrorism around the world.

“ISOF Week will bring more than 100 countries together for strategic level discussions centered on how terrorism directly and indirectly affects social, political, military and economic aspects in countries around the world and what we can do to combat terrorism,” said Lt. Cmdr. Michael Sutton, SOF Week Task Force executive officer. “Ultimately we want a viable, coordinated, global counterterrorism network respecting the sovereignty of nations and avoid sacrificing or compromising a nation’s values, cultural norms or legal system.”

“The speakers for the week are some of the most well-respected subject-matter experts from around the world,” Sutton said.



In the first setting of its kind, USSOCOM will partner with the United Arab Emirates to provide a panel of Muslim clerics, scholars and government officials to present the Arab perspective of terrorism to the international SOF community. This will be the first interaction between many of the international SOF leaders and representatives from the Middle East, significantly enhancing the common understanding of the ideological threat of terrorism.

As part of ISOF Week, there will be flight demonstrations, static displays and tours of special operations equipment to include the CV-22 Osprey.

Also scheduled during the same week, the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the Special Operations Forces Industry Conference at the Tampa Convention Center. SOFIC includes exhibits and displays by commercial vendors and a business conference with speakers from USSOCOM.

The exhibit hall at the Tampa Convention Center is not open to the public, however, military and civilians with Common Access Cards are invited to tour the exhibit at no charge May 20 through 22. No one under the age of 18 will be admitted into the exhibit hall.

**SPECIAL OPERATORS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES  
SERVING IN OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM,  
IRAQI FREEDOM AND  
IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM  
WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN**



**Air Force Tech. Sgt.  
William Jefferson  
21st Special Tactics Squadron**



**Army Staff Sgt.  
William Neil  
3rd Special Forces Group**



**Army Sgt.  
Nicholas Robertson  
3rd Special Forces Group**

**Editor's note: Honored are SOF who have lost their lives since February's Tip of the Spear.**



***An Army Reserve CH-47D helicopter lifts an 11-meter rigid-hull inflatable boat and Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen during an evolution of Maritime External Air Transportation System along the Pearl River near Stennis, Miss. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Robyn Gerstenslager.***