



TIP OF THE SPEAR

MARSOC



**MARSOC marks second year
in U.S. Special Operations Command**

♠ **Operation Lion Pounce liberates Diwaniyah, Iraq**

♠ **Norfolk SEAL, McChord Combat Controller earn Silver Stars**

U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLA., FEBRUARY 2008



Page 20

Tip of the Spear

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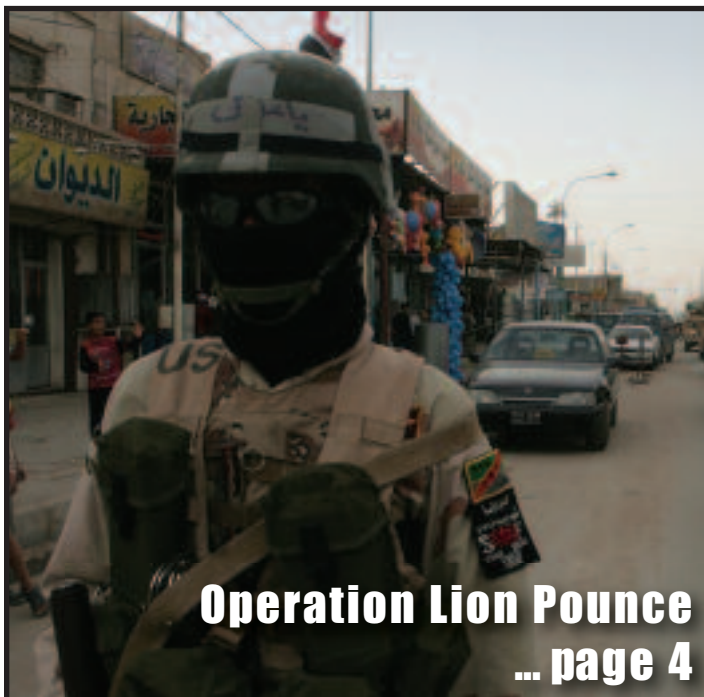
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Front cover: Marines from Marine Special Operations Advisor Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, practice combat tactics. MSOAG Marines possess knowledge in various infantry tactics and skills and pass their knowledge on to fellow warriors in militaries around the world. MARSOC photo.

Highlights



Operation Lion Pounce
... page 4



Norfolk SEAL
earns Silver Star
... page 16



McChord Combat Controllers
receive Silver, Bronze Stars
... page 28

Departments

Global War on Terrorism

SOF provides medical aid in Ramadi, Iraq ... page 6

Medical treatment provided in Sagrah, Iraq ... page 7

ANSF-led Khwost raid arrests Taliban leaders ... page 8

CJSOTF-A Air Controller given Bronze Star ... page 12

U.S. Army Special Operations Command

USASOC Command Sgt. Maj. retires ... page 14

New senior enlisted leader for USASOC ... page 15

Naval Special Warfare Command

Olympic hopefuls train with SEALs ... page 18

Special Feature

Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command

MARSOC 2007: A year in review ... page 22

1st MSOB opens direct assault course ... page 24

MARSOC Marines train in JTAC exercise ... page 25

Wounded Marine returns to MARSOC ... page 26

1st MSOB returns from combat ... page 27

Air Force Special Operations Command

21st STS Airman receives Sijan Award ... page 30

Cannon gets new PC-12 aircraft ... page 31

Headquarters

Headquarters goes combative ... page 32

USSOCOM patch's OSS lineage ... page 36

Fallen heroes ... page 38

Lion Pounce returns Diwaniyah to its people

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

The city of Diwaniyah belongs to the people once again — a city where people walk the streets at night without fear or intimidation; a city where children go to the parks to play.

It's a city without "them" — the militants, terrorists, criminals and thugs who surrounded the city and its citizens in a cloak of fear.

Over the past several weeks, 8th Iraqi Army soldiers joined forces with Iraqi Special Operations Forces, Iraqi Emergency Response Units and Iraqi Police to focus efforts to rid the city of these "bad men"

— a common term used to describe those militants and criminals. The joining of forces was part of Operation Lion Pounce — a series of ongoing operations in and around Diwaniyah to disrupt, isolate and neutralize militant, insurgent and criminal organizations.

Operation Lion Pounce sought "to get the city back to the way it was before — a city that was quiet and peaceful," said Col. Hasan Abbas Tofan Sultan Al-Fatlawi, 8th Iraqi Army chief of staff.

"People were scared," the colonel added, sweeping his hand across a map of Diwaniyah. "Many of them were under the control of the militants. They were forced to give up any money they had and were forced to give up their possessions and their homes. Sometimes they were forced to help carry out militant operations."

Although Hasan didn't say it outright, those who resisted the militants' demands were harassed, abused or likely killed. In fact, there were places in Diwaniyah so heavily entrenched by militants that even Iraqi soldiers dared not enter alone.

"There were troops who hadn't been home in more than two years, knowing if they ever tried to return, either they or their families would be killed," the colonel said.

Iraqi Special Operations Forces and ERUs, accompanied by U.S. Special Forces advisors, launched their first Lion Pounce raid in mid-November with additional missions following in rapid succession the following nights. The battle to restore law and order meant going directly to the source of the problem — rooting out militants and criminals where they hide, arresting them and bringing them to justice.

So far, operations have led to the capture of more than 150 suspects. Hasan

suspects these soldiers and police forces will catch many more as they flush these militants from their hiding places.

"We have broken the base of these terrorists," the colonel said. "We have broken their networks, and we have captured their leaders."

Those captured during the raids stand charged with a variety of crimes, including bomb making, planning and conducting ambushes against Iraqi and Coalition forces, and kidnapping and murdering Iraqi citizens. One mission conducted Nov. 16 by an Iraqi ERU led to the capture of two alleged militants responsible for illegally selling weapons and targeting and killing Iraqi National Guard soldiers. The same unit then arrested a suspected member of an extremist sniper and ambush group south of Diwaniyah during a raid Nov. 18.

"We know there are bad men out there who are still hiding, but they have lost their war against us," Hasan said.

To date, Operation Lion Pounce remains a lopsided



Iraqi and U.S. soldiers check for improvised explosive devices on the main market street of Diwaniyah during a presence patrol supporting Operation Lion Pounce. The operation has resulted in the arrest of 150 suspected terrorists and bolstered security in this central Iraqi city. Photo by Spc. Michael Shipman.

battle with suspects quickly captured and no friendly injuries or casualties. Hasan credits effective mission planning and growing experience of his soldiers as reasons why they remain safe and successful. He also praised the cohesiveness of the Iraqi Police and soldiers, whose ability to work together and share critical information made a significant difference in this operation's success.

In addition to pulling suspects off the streets, Iraqi military and police forces uncovered weapons caches stashed throughout the city. Counting on his fingers, Hasan rattled off the many types of illegal weapons recovered so far. In addition to assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and sniper rifles, soldiers discovered a significant number of mortar shells, grenades, rockets and rocket launchers, along with a large amount of bomb-making materials like blasting caps, detonation wire and TNT.

The colonel estimates his soldiers have uncovered about 75 percent of hidden caches, and they remain determined to find the remaining 25 percent.

Hasan sees a vastly different city than it was a few weeks ago. He glanced out of his office window, paused a moment then returned to his chair as he reflected on the progress to date.

"The citizens of Diwaniyah are very happy and comfortable as we bring back security to this city," the colonel said. "People are not afraid to walk the

streets at night. They are shopping at the markets, and children are going back to school. Things are almost back to normal. People know that no one is going to try to shoot them. They know we won't let that happen."

Another positive sign: New businesses look to open their doors in Diwaniyah. Among these commercial ventures are real estate companies — something the city hasn't seen in many years, since people were afraid of moving due to the persistent militant threat, Hasan said.

Operation Lion Pounce reaped other benefits. No longer fearing retribution by "bad men," citizens across the city are fighting back in their own way by providing vital information on the whereabouts of these suspects to Iraqi police and soldiers.

"[Before] they were afraid of intimidation and had no way to respond or fight back," the colonel said. "They started seeing things getting done ... and began to report on all the bad men in Diwaniyah."

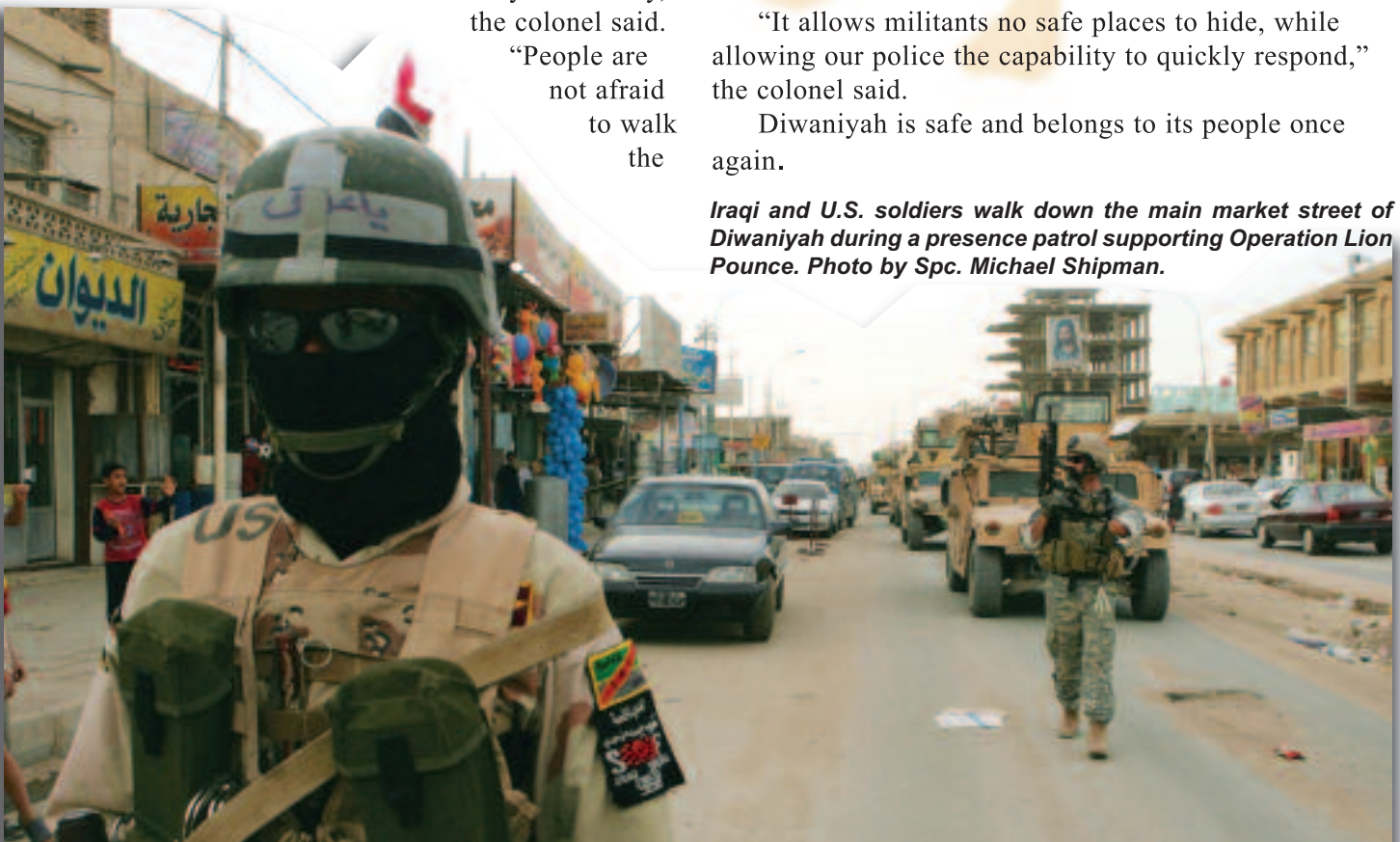
The colonel credits intelligence reports and critical information provided by Iraqi citizens as keys to making these missions so successful.

To maintain the peace, Iraqi police officers soon will open small bases across the city to provide around-the-clock response should criminals or militants attempt to sneak back into the city. They're more than a simple checkpoint, according to the colonel. They feature the same capabilities of a regular police station, but just scaled down.

"It allows militants no safe places to hide, while allowing our police the capability to quickly respond," the colonel said.

Diwaniyah is safe and belongs to its people once again.

Iraqi and U.S. soldiers walk down the main market street of Diwaniyah during a presence patrol supporting Operation Lion Pounce. Photo by Spc. Michael Shipman.



Local leaders, U.S. forces bring medical assistance to the people of Ramadi

*Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. M. Erick Reynolds
CJSOTF-AP Public Affairs*

The citizens of Ramadi reaped the benefits of an



Several Ramadi citizens wait for care at a free medical clinic Dec. 15, provided by Special Forces and Sheikh Muhammad Heiss.

improved security environment when local leaders teamed with Iraqi Police and the U.S. military to sponsor a combined medical engagement Dec. 15.

Sheikh Muhammed al Heiss, one of the



original Iraq Awakening leaders, together with Iraqi Security Forces, U.S. Marines and Special Operations Forces, held the free medical clinic, which brought more than 100 people from miles away seeking treatment for a wide range of illness and injuries.

"This event was a great opportunity for the people of Ramadi to get the help many of them cannot afford otherwise," said Dhaygham al Heiss, son of Sheikh Heiss.

According to Dhaygham, the people of Ramadi are very poor from years of fighting, but now that the Iraq Awakening and Coalition forces are working together, they have pushed al-Qaida out of al Anbar province and made the town much safer.

With increased security throughout the province, citizens are now able to travel without fear and take part in activities throughout their communities.

"This is a great event where we are able to help our people," said Sheikh Heiss. "Over the last couple years we have been overwhelmed with fighting and violence and were not able to provide for our communities."

Even with the development of fragile peace within the last five

months, there are still reminders that Iraq is a nation at war.

Several of the patients, including two members of the Iraqi Police, were victims of a car bombing at the local courthouse.

"Here we have two brave policemen," stated Gen. Tariq al Yusif Muhammad, the interim Provincial Chief of Police for al Anbar province. "Between the two of them they have only one eye. They lost their eyesight protecting the people of Iraq. These men are real heroes."

Another victim of the bombing was a young child initially treated at Ramadi General Hospital.

"My son was injured in the car bomb with a piece of shrapnel that was lodged in his head," said the boy's father. "We are unable to afford to go back and get the treatment for follow-up visits, but this has given us hope that we can get the medicines and the help we need to get him well."

"Because the people are relatively poor throughout this region, the clinic was a great opportunity for the U.S. to show that it cares about the people of Ramadi and give them the help they need," said Dhaygham Heiss. "This has been a great opportunity to help strengthen the relationship between U.S. Forces and the people."

The Sheikh and the commander of the SOF team both agreed this was a tremendous success and were looking forward to doing such events again in the future.



A Special Forces team member and Iraqi policeman provide hygiene products to the citizens of Ramadi at a free Combined Medical Engagement Dec. 15.

U.S. Special Operations Forces provide medical assistance and treatment to Sagrah



*Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. M. Erick Reynolds
CJSOTF-AP Public Affairs*

On a cool Nov. 26 morning in western Iraq, a U.S. Special Operations Forces team and an Iraqi doctor rolled across rough desert roads through Anbar province to provide medical care for more than 100 Iraqis.

With security improving throughout Iraq, the doctor agreed to join the SOF team and visit the village of Sagrah in order to provide free medical care.

“A year ago this would not have been possible,” the doctor explained. “Due to the level of violence, it was too dangerous for civilians; especially local and civic leaders such as doctors, to work with the Coalition forces.”

According to local leaders, the danger was evident throughout Iraq, including the village of Sagrah, until Iraqi and Coalition forces moved in.

“It was dangerous, very dangerous here not that long ago,” explained a local Sagrah leader. “Before the Iraqi Police and Coalition forces came here, we never had a

doctor to help us. We are very grateful that the good doctor was able to come and help our village.”

The leader went on to say that without the security provided by both Iraqi and Coalition forces, he felt the village would never have been able to receive the help.

One Iraqi woman explained how excited she was in the effort Coalition forces took to help everyone, including the women of the town. “We are so happy that the military brought women [servicemembers] to help because now everyone can get the help they need, including the women,” she said.



A member of a Special Forces team pumps up a soccer ball for two Iraqi children during a Medical Advisement mission that provided medical relief to more than 100 Iraqi men, women and children.

Female servicemembers who accompanied the SOF team helped with everything from talking to and calming women patients to searching and providing security for them.

“The women seemed very grateful that I was at the security checkpoint,” said a female Sailor. “I believe several of the women would have not come if they were to be searched by one of the men.”

According to the SOF team commander, both those who received help and those who gave help expressed satisfaction with the medical assistance visit.

“The Sagrah combined medical engagement was a great success,” said the SOF team commander. “The immediate medical needs of the Iraqi people were met and they were addressed by both Iraqi and U.S. personnel.”



An Iraqi policeman and several children from the local community help a disabled Iraqi citizen to the free medical clinic hosted by Special Forces. SOF were able to help more than 100 men, women and children due to increased security in the region provided by the Iraqi and Coalition Forces.

RAID

ANSF - led combined force arrests suspected Taliban



Afghan Commandos assigned to the 203rd Corps Commando Battalion and advised by U.S. Special Forces practice insertion methods Dec. 24 while preparing for an upcoming security operation. Photo by CJSOTF - Afghanistan.

By CJSOTF-A Public Affairs

A combined Afghan National Security Force element, led by the 203rd Commando Battalion, conducted a series of raids throughout the Sabari District, Khowst province Dec. 27-28. The Commando-led force consisted of Afghan National Army units, Afghan National Police and Afghan National Border Police. It was unprecedented in terms of the excellent cooperation among the Afghan Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior and the successful capture of multiple suspected insurgent commanders without the use of lethal force.

On the first night, the combined force, led by the 203rd Corps Commando Battalion, acted upon credible intelligence to search an area of known insurgent activity near Zambar Village, Sabari district, Khowst province.

Northern Sabari district has been a main insurgent safe haven within Khowst province for some time. Insurgents have used the Zambar area to provide command and control for insurgent activities and as a

staging area for IED production.

The most significant event was the arrest of a suspected major insurgent facilitator in northern Khowst province primarily associated with the Hizb-e-Islami-Gulbuddin terrorist organization with suspected ties to the Haqqani Network, the Taliban and al-Qaida. He is suspected of directing attacks, antagonizing feuding tribes in the area and facilitating other insurgent activities detrimental to the positive development of Afghanistan.

“Capturing this terrorist should significantly improve the security situation in Sabari

district,” explained a Coalition forces commander. “His arrest should stabilize the area by eliminating an antagonist to tribal conflicts in the region. Additionally, the IED cell under him will no longer have his level of guidance, logistical support or discrete cover to conduct IED attacks.”

The ANP, assisted by the 203rd Commandos, also arrested a suspected deputy Taliban commander during the operation. Evidence points to him being involved in several direct attacks in the Sabari district, and he was also implicated in the destruction of the Zambar Village school. In addition, according to reports, he was responsible for a number of IED attacks, killing several ANP soldiers.

Several other insurgents were captured by the Afghan Commando-led force, including a suspected insurgent responsible for providing financial support to IED cells in the Sabari district. Another suspected insurgent was implicated in stealing from Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan employees, transporting

n leaders in Khowst province



weapons, IED placement facilitators, and delivering terrorizing “night letters” designed to intimidate local villagers.

Yet another man detained on the evening of Dec. 27 was suspected of facilitating an unsuccessful suicide bomb attack on the governor of Khowst province Aug. 22. He is also suspected of coordinating several insurgent activities and successful attacks against ANP units.

Lastly, another suspected insurgent detained on Dec. 27 is believed to be directly involved in attacks on various schools, police check points and IRoA officials.

Follow-on operations conducted Dec. 28 included clearing the Makhtab Bazaar area in the Sabari district, suspected of functioning as a base of operations and center for insurgent activities. The Commandos searched the bazaar for weapons caches and suspected insurgent activities, and the ANP detained several individuals

suspected of criminal activity.

One detainee captured by the Commandos during that mission is suspected of identifying locations for IED emplacement along civilian roadways throughout the province and conducting vehicle-operated IED attacks against ANSF and Coalition forces.

Another person detained is suspected of being a former Hizb-e-Islami-Gulbuddin commander and financier for insurgent activities throughout the Sabari district. Finally, a suspected insurgent was detained for his alleged involvement in an October attack on the Khulbesat Police Station, where one police officer was killed and four were injured.

“Detaining these individuals will likely cause a significant disruption of insurgent activities in Sabari district,” explained a Coalition forces soldier.

The combined Afghan force conducted the two-day operation without a shot being fired. The 203rd



Two Coalition forces Blackhawk helicopters deliver Afghan National Army Commandos near Zambar Village, Sabari district, Khowst province, Afghanistan, in order to deter suspected insurgent activity in the area Dec. 27. The combined force arrested and detained several suspected insurgents in the area. Photo by CJSOTF - Afghanistan.



An Afghan Commando, assigned to the 203rd Corps Commando Battalion and advised by U.S. Special Forces, guards a weapons cache found during an early morning raid of a suspected insurgent safe house Dec. 27 near Zambar Village, Sabari district, Khowst province. The Commandos led a combined force consisting of other Afghan National Army units, Afghan National Police and Afghan National Border Police. The combined force was acting upon credible intelligence to search an area of known insurgent activity. Photo by CJSOTF - Afghanistan.

Commando commander was impressed with the skill, professionalism and discipline of his forces throughout all phases of the operation.

"I thought their performance was outstanding," said

the commander. "Their movement and flow through the buildings and their tactical considerations while clearing the compounds were very impressive. I was also impressed with the professional manner in which they handled the detainees."

Several suspected insurgents were detained in the operation, which will have a significant effect in reducing attacks against ANSF and the Afghan populace. While the Commandos were ready to face a significant fighting force, the insurgents were detained without incident.

"The Commandos have improved their flexibility in transitioning from an aggressive operation, such as a raid, to taking a civil actions role of protecting the rights of detainees under the Afghan Constitution, which they were taught using the Afghan Ministry of Defense-approved training on the law of warfare," explained a Coalition force commander.

A Commando platoon leader felt his forces performed well during the operation.

"I think we did a good job, and the mission was successful," a Commando platoon sergeant commented. "We were on time, we successfully captured the insurgents, and we had a successful mission. I'm happy about that."

The actions of the Commando units involved in the two-day operation impressed all involved.

"I think the boys did very well," explained a Commando platoon leader. "They were very brave."

"Taliban extremists' tactics are to plan and launch attacks from civilian areas, then retreat to civilian areas to hide," explained a Combined Joint Task Force 82 spokesman. "Conducting operations such as these in civilian areas requires extensive training and planning. The fact that Commando-led forces were able to detain several suspected insurgents hiding in civilian areas

without firing a shot shows tremendous development in their ability to conduct complex operations and will go a long way in enhancing security in the Sabari district and throughout Khowst province."

Opposite page clockwise from top: 1) Two Afghan Commandos, assigned to the 203rd Corps Commando Battalion, check documents found during a search of a suspected insurgent safe house Dec. 27. 2) An Afghan Commando, assigned to the 203rd Corps Commando Battalion, keeps watch from the roof of a compound suspected of being an insurgent safe house near Zambar Village, Sabari district, Khowst province, while his fellow Commandos clear rooms, gather information and question detainees Dec. 27. The Commandos led a combined force consisting of other Afghan National Army units, Afghan National Police and Afghan National Border Police. 3) An Afghan National Army soldier, assigned to 203rd Commando Battalion, stands guard over a suspected insurgent safe house near Zambar Village, Sabari district, Khowst province, Afghanistan, Dec. 28. 4) An Afghan National Army soldier, assigned to 203rd Commando Battalion, waits outside a suspected insurgent safe house near Zambar Village, Sabari district, Khowst province, Afghanistan, during a night operation Dec. 27. The combined force arrested and detained several suspected insurgents in the area. Photos by CJSOTF-Afghanistan.



RAID



CJSOTF-A Air Controller awarded Bronze Star with Valor

*By Staff Sgt. Marie Schult
CJSOTF-A Public Affairs*

Tech. Sgt. Juan Valentin, a Joint Terminal Attack Controller assigned to Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force - Afghanistan, received the Bronze Star with Valor for his actions during an insurgent attack last year. Maj. Gen. John Mulholland, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command – Central, presented the medal Dec. 22 during an award ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Mulholland said Valentin, an experienced JTAC of 11

years, risked his life that day in order to save others.

“I was no hero in that battle,” said Valentin, a Puerto Rico native. “I simply did my job under really bad circumstances.”

The Aug. 19, 2006, mission started like many others. Valentin, a 14-year Air Force veteran, was asked to join a combat reconnaissance patrol. The Special Operations team already had a JTAC, Senior Airman Adam Servais, assigned to support the mission. But the team needed a driver, so Valentin volunteered.

Near the village of Yakhdan, Shahidi Hasas district, Oruzgan province, in southern Afghanistan, the patrol made



Tech. Sgt. Juan Valentin, a Joint Terminal Attack Controller supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, pauses after battling insurgents in Oruzgan province, Oct. 7, 2006. Valentin was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for his actions on the battlefield during a firefight in the same province Aug. 17, 2006, in which he saved the lives of his comrades. Photo by CJSOTF - Afghanistan.



contact with enemy forces whose numbers greatly outnumbered the patrol. An airburst, rocket-propelled grenade exploded over the team leader's vehicle, wounding two team members and killing Servais instantly.

Valentin reacted immediately. Running through a barrage of enemy fire to determine the origin of enemy fire, he assumed duties as the air controller. With the enemy position pinpointed, Valentin directed the planes providing combat air support overhead to fire on the enemy positions.

"I prioritized these positions as my first target and employed 500-pound bombs and artillery," said Valentin.

With the enemy fire quieted for the moment, other team members called in helicopters to medically evacuate his wounded and mortally injured comrades. But, as the injured were being loaded on the helicopter, Taliban insurgents launched another attack, firing a barrage of rocket-propelled grenades. Valentin and team members returned fire, allowing the helicopter to lift off safely.

Team members were left to make their way back to a nearby military outpost, but even that journey was fraught with danger. As they traveled through a valley to the outpost, the team was ambushed, with insurgents firing from the high ground along the walls of the valley.

"We fought as we moved," said Valentin, who recalled being in the back of a truck directing an A-10 aircraft and AH-64 helicopter to support his teammates under attack on



Maj. Gen. John Mulholland awards Tech. Sgt. Juan Valentin the Bronze Star with Valor Dec. 22, 2007, at a ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Valentin was recognized for his lifesaving actions when the convoy he was traveling in came under insurgent attack. Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Dennis.

the ground. The convoy returned enemy fire until they arrived at an Afghan National Army checkpoint where the fighting finally ceased. From there they moved back to the firebase without incident.

Because of his cool, collected and decisive actions on the field of battle, Valentin was awarded the Bronze star with Valor.

During the award ceremony, Valentin asked that everyone observe a moment of silence to remember his friend, Servais, who gave his life that day.

As most heroes claim, Valentin does not think of his actions that day as being very heroic.

"The real heroes of that battle were Senior Airmen Servais, Sergeant 1st Class Bo Wynne and Captain Kenneth Dwyer, who made sacrifices above and beyond the call of duty," Valentin stated.

"All these events reinforce my belief that it's an honor and a privilege to continue to serve among Special Operations Forces," said Valentin. "You are truly the best our nation has to offer. Without any reservations, I will follow any of you to battle, anywhere, anytime."



A Joint Tactical Air Controller (left) prepares to coordinate with aircraft to support troops on the ground. JTACs are the liaison between the ground troops and the aircraft above that provide close air support. Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Dennis.

USASOC Command Sgt. Maj. retires

By Tracy Bailey

75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hall, U.S. Army Special Operations Command command sergeant major, retired Jan. 17 at Fort Benning, Ga., with the same unit where it all began 32 years ago—with the men of the 75th Ranger Regiment. He served as the Army Special Operations Forces senior enlisted Soldier at Fort Bragg since November 2001.

“I got to A Company, 1st Ranger Battalion, 75th Infantry, and on my first day, had the 10 best friends I had ever had in my life,” said Hall.

“Those friends, along with my NCOs, leading the way taught me what was expected. You did it or you did not, and if you did not, well, we did without you before you got here,” he said.

Hall did not expect to make the Army a career.

“I came in during a time in our nation’s history where it was expected that you would serve your country. You served, you grew up and then you got on with life. You asked for nothing in return, because, well, it was the service,” said Hall.

For Hall, one thing led to another, and he stayed 29 years longer than he expected.

“It went by very, very quickly. I think it was because I served with good people, not just good Soldiers, but good people. Mostly because I was lucky enough to start with the 1st Ranger Battalion,” said Hall.

Hall attributes his successes to the Ranger leaders who mentored him.

“I had great leaders who all contributed to who I am today. Each had an impact on me as a person, and, oh yeah, as a Soldier and leader,” he said.

“However, it was mostly the Rangers; I put on green leadership tabs in 1978 as a corporal. Rangers were the ultimate job satisfaction of serving others, taking care of them.”

“I was always lucky to have great commanders who let me do what I thought had to be done,” Hall said.

One of those “great commanders,” lifelong friend, mentor and leader was on hand to send Hall off with a Ranger farewell.

“Serving from a time when the Ranger battalions had just been re-established as unequaled light infantry, to a time when they reflect the most cutting edge tactics of complex joint special operations, Mike has been the continuity of leadership, values and mission focus that is uniquely reflected in the Ranger Regiment,” said Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, Joint Special Operations Command commander.



Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal presents Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hall with the Department of Defense Distinguished Service Medal Jan. 17 as Hall’s wife, Brenda, looks on. Photo by Brandon McGahee.

McChrystal served as the 10th Colonel of the Regiment from June 1997 to July 1999 with Hall as his Regimental Sergeant Major.

Hall, who spent more than 17 years with the Ranger Regiment, perfected the doctrine, taught the tactics and mentored many successive leaders during his time in the Army.

“It was an amazing feat, accomplished with little fanfare but unceasing sacrifice and effort,” the general said.

You could say that Hall is leaving the ranks today, but that is not the case, according to McChrystal.

“Some of Mike is in every Ranger here today and every Ranger everywhere.”

“When Ranger machine guns fire in Afghanistan because they are properly oiled, or a squad leader drills his Rangers in preparation for a raid in Iraq, a bit of Mike is there,” he said.

“It is the legacy of the finest Soldier I’ve ever known,” said McChrystal.

“It’s been real, and it’s been fun, and it has been real fun. After 32 years, and almost 30 years of wearing green tabs, I’m done,” said Hall.

Hall is the example that Rangers lead the way.

He and his wife, Brenda, plan to spend their retirement in Nashville, Tenn.

USASOC welcomes its new senior enlisted Soldier

By USASOC Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Special Operations Command welcomed a new senior enlisted Soldier when Command Sgt. Maj. Parry Baer assumed responsibility of USASOC from Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hall in a change of responsibility ceremony held December at Meadows Field, Fort Bragg, N.C.

“Thanks to all of you for allowing me to be the sergeant major I think the command needed,” Hall said. “I was thrilled when Command Sergeant Major Baer was selected for the Special Forces Command. (He was) the right man then, and now I can think of no other man I would want to hand my responsibilities over to than Parry.”

Baer, a native of Croswell, Mich., comes to USASOC after serving as the command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne)

since April 2006.

He has served in Special Forces for the last 27 years, 20 of which were with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Campbell, Ky. Baer has participated in several combat operations throughout his career, ranging from Operation Desert Storm to the current Global War on Terrorism.

“I can say without reservation that you’ve (Hall) done more for Special Operations over the past six years than any single predecessor,” Baer said. “You always pushed to get the capabilities that we needed out there on the field and took up those issues to the forefront. I want to thank you on behalf of all the Soldiers in USASOC for your tireless effort as the USASOC sergeant major.”

Hall, the command sergeant major of USASOC since November 2001, retired after 32 years of military service.



Command Sgt. Maj. Parry Baer, (left) incoming USASOC command sergeant major, shakes hands with Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hall, outgoing USASOC command sergeant major, as Lt. Gen. Robert Wagner, USASOC commander, looks on. Baer, former USASFC(A) command sergeant major, assumed responsibility of USASOC during a ceremony Dec. 10 at Meadows Field, Fort Bragg, N.C. Photo by Pfc. Anthony Hawkins.

Norfolk SEAL receives Silver Star

By Naval Special Warfare Group Two Public Affairs

Approximately 250 SEALs, combat support Sailors and civilians were on hand at Naval Special Warfare Group Two recently to see one of their own receive one of the military's highest awards for heroic actions on the battlefield, the Silver Star Medal.

Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Douglas, an East Coast-based SEAL, received the award for heroic actions in the Fallujah area while his SEAL Team was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom

in April 2007.

The fact the SEAL Senior Chief was able to receive the award is miraculous enough considering he was shot 17 times, struck by a fragmentary grenade, and had 11 additional shots deflected by his body armor while assaulting a target with known enemy operatives inside.

In uniform and ready to get back to work, Douglas was humbled by the support of his teammates and family, not only in the ceremony, but throughout his long recovery process.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank a few people very important to me. To the guys who got me off that target alive and to the hospital for treatment, I wouldn't be



Commander Ricco, an East Coast-based SEAL commander, congratulates Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Douglas during an award ceremony Jan. 11 at Naval Special Warfare Group Two. Douglas received the Silver Star Medal at the ceremony for gallantry in action in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007. Photo by Seaman Joseph Clark.

alive today without you. And my wife and daughters for taking on a whole slew of responsibilities wives and daughters should never have to do, including regularly changing the dressings on gunshot wounds. Thank you,” said Douglas.

The commander of his Task Force in the al Anbar region while he was deployed, an East Coast-based SEAL Commander, was on hand to present the award. He pointed out while they honor Douglas, it’s important to acknowledge the entire Task Unit involved since they are significant contributors to the much more secure environment Iraqis are enjoying throughout the al Anbar region today.

“When this deliberate operation took place, there had recently been multiple Coalition force helicopters shot down, which claimed the lives of numerous servicemen, many often carrying humanitarian aid and other logistic supplies. This operation successfully targeted the terrorist cell responsible for these attacks and led to future operations against other cell members,” Cmdr. Ricco explained.

He went on to add, “It would not be an exaggeration to state that many of the positive trends we’re seeing in this province today, including the building of their Iraqi security forces’ capacity, capability, and confidence, can be directly attributed to the actions initiated during this Task Unit’s deployment.”

The successful operations did not come without a high cost, however, as Special Warfare Operator Second Class Joseph C. (Clark) Schwedler and an Iraqi Scout lost their lives during the assault. Schwedler’s parents traveled from Michigan to be on hand for the ceremony.

“Some may consider being shot 20-something times as unlucky. I disagree. Getting up and walking away from that is about as lucky as you can get,” said Douglas. “Although I was willing to, I did not have to pay the ultimate sacrifice – Clark did...(Mr. and Mrs. Schwedler), you were before



Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Douglas was given a shadow box during his Silver Star award ceremony. The shadow box contained the body armor he was wearing when he was shot 28 times while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007. Photo by Seaman Anthony Harding.

and will always be part of our SEAL family.”

Despite receiving the Silver Star for his heroic actions, including eliminating three enemy personnel without wounding the women and children in the immediate vicinity, Douglas described his actions as par for his brother SEALs.

“We all do this job because we love it. I have worked with many great guys who I consider ordinary SEALs who are considered extraordinary by those outside the community. I am an ordinary SEAL put in an exceptional situation and performed as any other SEAL here would have,” Douglas said.

“To all of you ordinary SEALs, continue to perform, train and operate to the level that makes other people consider you extraordinary. Always prepare for what’s on the other side of the door,” he concluded.

His Task Force and Task Unit commanders surprised Douglas by presenting him with a shadow box with his Silver Star and Purple Heart medals, pieces of bullet fragments pulled from his body armor plates, captured comments from his Task Unit teammates, and the body armor

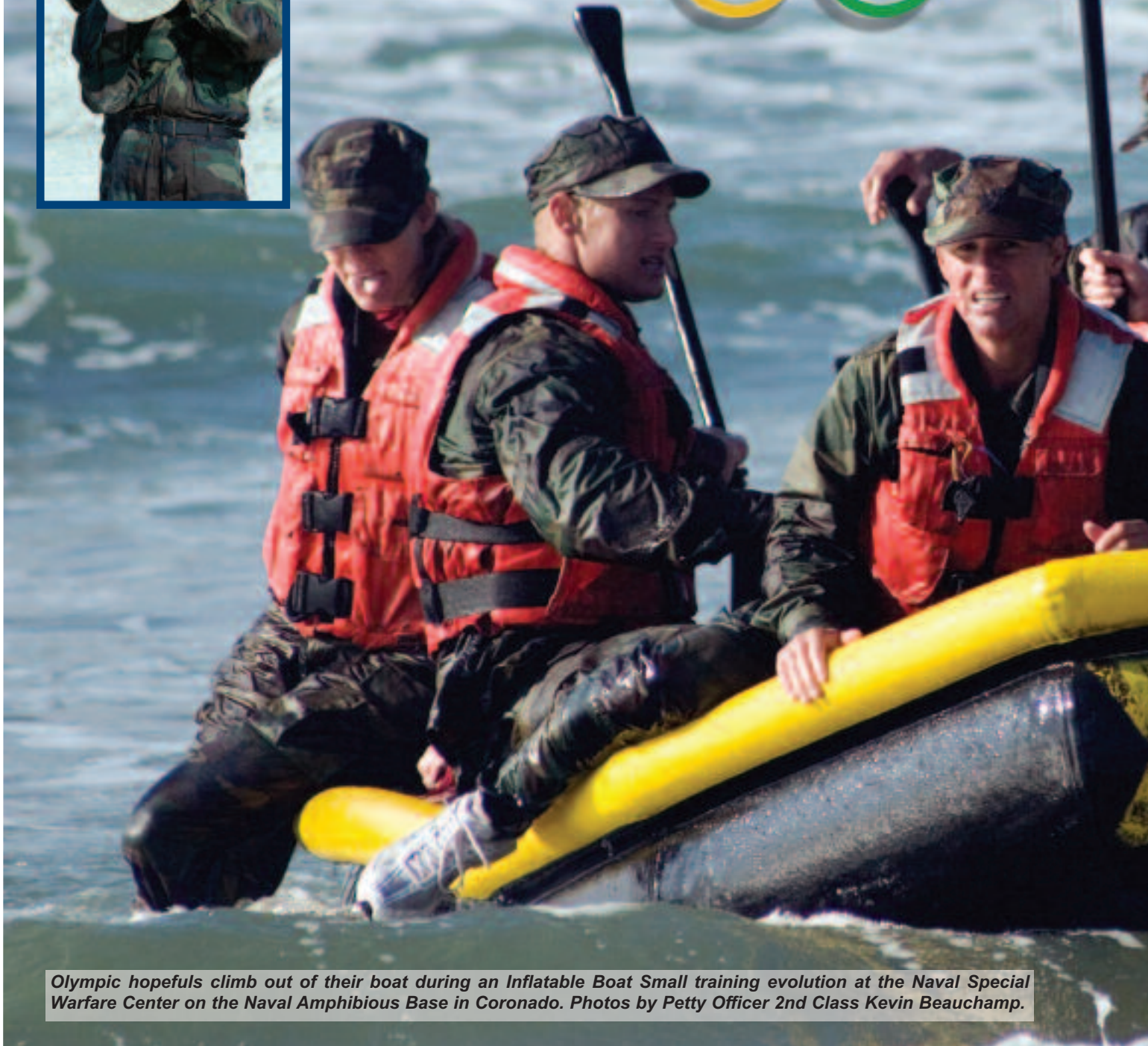
plates which “saved his life and allowed him to fight another day.”



Olympic hopefuls train with SEALs



Olympic hopeful Stacy Dragila strains to lift a log above her head during a Log physical training evolution at the Naval Special Warfare Center on the Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado.



Olympic hopefuls climb out of their boat during an Inflatable Boat Small training evolution at the Naval Special Warfare Center on the Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado. Photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin Beauchamp.

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin Beauchamp
Naval Warfare Center Public Affairs

A group of 17 Olympic hopefuls glimpsed into the world of the U.S. Navy SEALs recently as they set foot on the Naval Special Warfare Center's training grounds.

Jim Bauman, staff psychologist for the San Diego Olympic Training Center, has been bringing groups of Olympic hopefuls to Coronado, Calif., to train with Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL instructors since 2002.

"There are three primary domains that we can learn about from this relationship with the SEALs," said

Bauman. "All three involve genetic talent, physical (hardware) and mental (software), as well as an environment that will encourage the predisposition to be great."

The athletes, who specialize in kayaking and various track and field sports, started out on the BUD/S obstacle course and then completed several other drills designed to be done as a team.

After they conquered the obstacle course, the team members were introduced to Inflatable Boat Small training. The members were split into two boat crews and directed to work together moving the 250-pound boats up and down the beach. Later they paddled out past the surf zone and back, battling five-foot swells and water temperatures of 59 degrees.

Brandon Woods, an experienced kayaker, said, "I was looking forward to a new experience and having someone yell at me and challenge me mentally." Woods said the yelling was not as intimidating as expected, but he knows the training he received will help him push himself harder in his own training.

The Olympic hopefuls were also introduced to Log physical training and a round of Surf Conditioning. Both of these exercises are physically and mentally grueling.

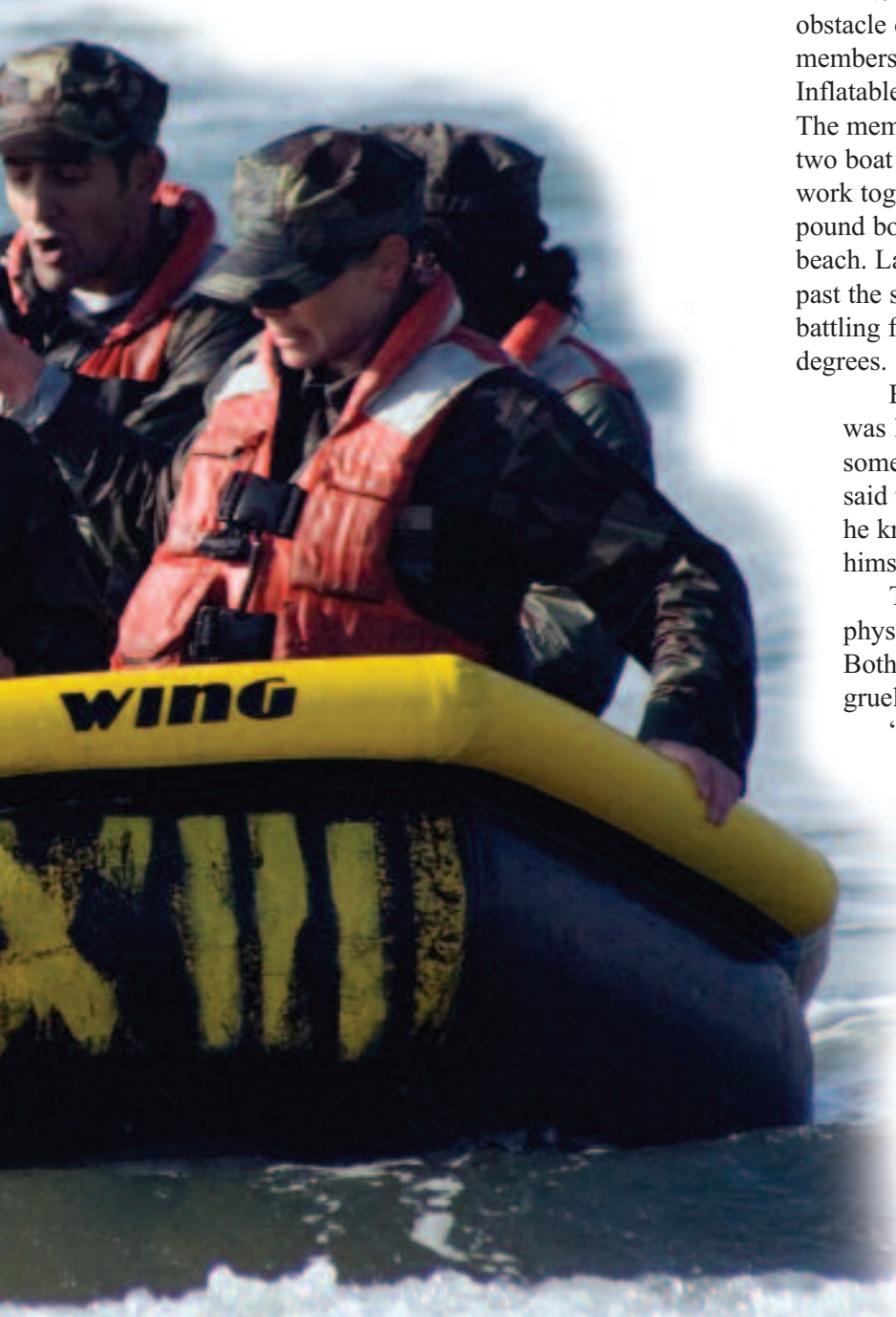
"This training is no joke," said Akiba Mckinnui when asked what she thought about the training. "It's brutal and a lot harder than anything I've seen on television."

"We were honored to host these men and women today," said Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Jason Tuschen, Naval Special Warfare Center 1st Phase Instructor. "We know how tough it can be to break away from required training, but we all think the time spent here will help them as they prepare to compete."

"We also get a huge sense of satisfaction from working out with these world-class athletes who will hopefully go on to represent the United States," said Tuschen. "We're just glad we can be a small part it."



Olympic hopeful Stacy Dragila struggles to lift an Inflatable Boat Small (IBS) above her head during an IBS training evolution at the Naval Special Warfare Center on the Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado.

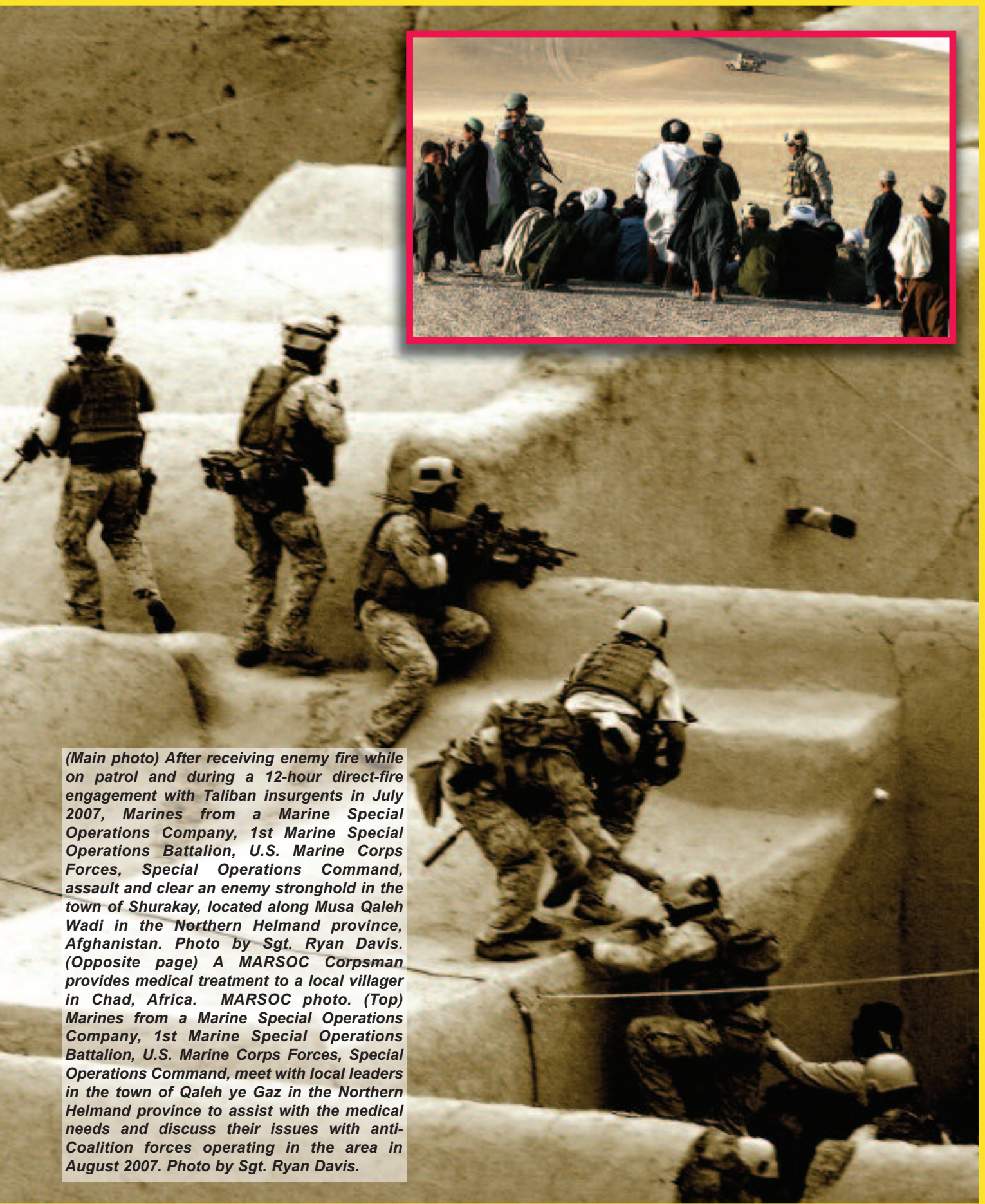




MARSOCC

**celebrates
second anniversary
Feb. 24.**





(Main photo) After receiving enemy fire while on patrol and during a 12-hour direct-fire engagement with Taliban insurgents in July 2007, Marines from a Marine Special Operations Company, 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, assault and clear an enemy stronghold in the town of Shurakay, located along Musa Qaleh Wadi in the Northern Helmand province, Afghanistan. Photo by Sgt. Ryan Davis. (Opposite page) A MARSOC Corpsman provides medical treatment to a local villager in Chad, Africa. MARSOC photo. (Top) Marines from a Marine Special Operations Company, 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, meet with local leaders in the town of Qaleh ye Gaz in the Northern Helmand province to assist with the medical needs and discuss their issues with anti-Coalition forces operating in the area in August 2007. Photo by Sgt. Ryan Davis.

MARSOC 2007: A year of challenge, growth, success

*By Lance Cpl. Josephh Stahlman
MARSOC Public Affairs*

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command approaches its second anniversary as part of U.S. Special Operations Command. Throughout 2007, MARSOC's five subordinate units — Marine Special Operations Advisor Group, Marine Special Operations Support Group, 1st and 2d Marine Special Operations Battalions, and Marine Special Operations School — have grown in manpower and equipment, excelled on the battlefield, and integrated fully into the Special Operations community.

MARSOC began this year with 1,379 personnel and grew to more than 1,730, bringing it to approximately 70 percent of its anticipated end strength of 2,516 Marines and Sailors.

Marine Special Operations Support Group formally activated Jan. 19 to deploy task-organized enabler detachments capable of providing combined-arms planning and coordination, military working dogs, special operations communications support, combat service support, all-source intelligence fusion capability and logistics support. In addition to supporting MARSOC units directly, tailored MSOSG detachments can deploy as directed to support

special operations missions throughout the world.

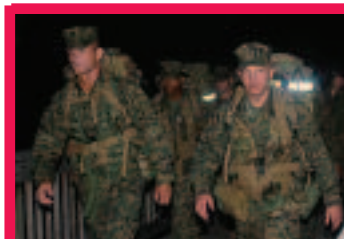
The Jan. 27 activation of Marine Special Operations School, the last of five planned MARSOC units, marked another step toward full operational capability for the Marine SOF component. Marines and Sailors of the schoolhouse began conducting predeployment certification

exercises for MARSOC units even before MSOS formally activated and continue to play a vital role in assessing and selecting personnel best qualified for assignment to MARSOC billets and success in SOF missions.

MSOB Marine Special Operations Companies deployed for the first time in 2007 to conduct special operations missions in the Philippines and Afghanistan with great success. On June 23, Special Operations Marines, Soldiers and Afghan Security Forces routed a tough group of Taliban insurgents using air strikes, rockets and an imposing show of force in the area of Washir, Helmand province, Afghanistan.



Maj. Gen. Dennis Hejlik, MARSOC commander, welcomes home the 1st MSOB, at Camp Pendleton, Calif. MARSOC conducted special operations in the Philippines and Afghanistan in its first Special Operations deployment. Photo by Lance Cpl. Stephen Benson.



Success on the battlefield did not come without loss. Cpl. Travis Woods of 1st MSOB and Petty Officer 1st Class Luke Milam of 2d MSOB were the first MARSOC Marine and Sailor to die in combat. Both were killed while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan, and more than 20 Purple Heart Medals were awarded to MARSOC Marines and Sailors for injuries sustained during combat throughout 2007.

MARSOC's commitment to success during operations abroad was mirrored by numerous individual accomplishments among MARSOC's Marines and Sailors here at home.

Sgt. Michael Lyborg, Marine Special Operations Advisor Group's chief instructor for the Individual Skills section of Standards and Training, graduated from the U.S. Army Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga., as the honor graduate of his class in July.

MSOAG's Marine Special Operations Teams must maintain a high level of tactical proficiency and cultural expertise in order to ensure success when operating in austere environments far from the nearest friendly support. To that end, Lyborg and his fellow instructors provide a six-month course to prepare their fellow MSOAG Marines and Sailors to execute foreign internal defense missions as part of USSOCOM's persistent engagement strategy designed to strengthen relationships with foreign nations and improve the capabilities of their military forces.

Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Gerace, Command, Control, Communications, Computers (C-4) Requirements manager, was selected as 2007 Reservist of the Year by the Marine Corps League for his integral role in the initial formation of USSOCOM's Marine Corps component. Gerace, a native of Chelsea, Mass., attended a ceremony in Washington D.C., Oct. 3, where he formally accepted the award.

Another MARSOC Marine raised more than \$80,000 for the families of comrades killed and injured during the

Global War on Terrorism by competing in several endurance events, including the Iron Man Arizona triathlon in April. Capt. Andrew Christian of 1st MSOB swam 2.4 miles, completed a 112-mile bicycle ride, and then carried a 3-by-5 foot American flag throughout the marathon

portion of the race to cross the finish line after a grueling 10 hours, 54 minutes, finishing 185th out of 2,066 participants.

Throughout the year, MARSOC continued to grow and improve while simultaneously deploying Special Operations units in support of the Global War on Terrorism. This year, MARSOC companies and teams deployed worldwide to execute nearly 20 special operations missions.

MARSOC continues to advance toward full operational capability and plans to carry out more than 40 additional special operations missions in 2008.

Whether deployed as part of an MSOAG Special Operations Team, an MSOSG Detachment, or an MSOB Special Operations Company, or certifying units for deployment at the MSOS here at home, MARSOC Marine and Sailors did their part to provide USSOCOM with added special operations capacity and capability throughout a challenging and successful 2007. The year ahead promises to be even better as USSOCOM's newest component

continues to take the fight to the enemy on all fronts in the Global War on Terrorism.

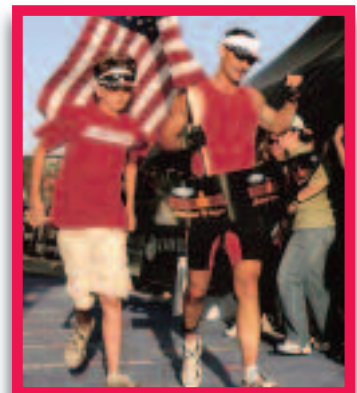
Capt. Andrew Christian, Branch Head for 1st Special Missions Training Branch, MARSOC, is joined by his son as he completed the 2007 Ironman Arizona triathlon in Tempe, Ariz. MARSOC photo.



A Marine from Marine Special Operations Advisor Group, MARSOC, teaches room clearing tactics while deployed to Tajikistan in early 2007. MSOAG Marines and Sailors develop their required foreign internal defense skills during a six month Marine Special Operations Advisor Course. MARSOC photo.



A Marine from the Marine Special Operations Advisor Group provides feedback after marksmanship training in Chad. MARSOC photo.



1st MSOB's direct assault course

*Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Stephen Benson
MARSOC Public Affairs*

Marines from 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, recently kicked off a five-week specialized direct assault course at Range 130, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The purpose of the course is to teach and reinforce direct action tactics needed to execute special operations missions throughout the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Marines started the first phase of their training firing M4A1 assault rifles and .45 caliber pistols on known-distance ranges to hone their accuracy. Mastery of the fundamentals is essential to success throughout the rest of the course, which includes increasingly difficult tasks of precision firing and reloading while in motion against targets at unknown distances.

"We start with the basics and move



Marines from 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, check their targets after shooting at Camp Pendleton, Calif. 1st MSOB Marines kicked off a direct assault course to learn and reinforce direct action tactics and precision shooting skills needed to execute special operations missions.

on to putting the Marines in complex and challenging situations," said Gunnery Sgt. Jose De La Cruz, lead assault instructor for 1st Special Missions Training Branch, Marine Special Operations School. "They are going to be dealing with a lot of unknowns."

Once Marines finish on the range, they move on to the shoothouse where they conduct close-quarters battle, breaching and room clearing. During the live-fire exercise, shooters are accountable for every round fired from their weapons.

"The Marines have to discriminate between targets," explained De La Cruz. "There will be hostage situations ... and they have to be able to shoot with surgical precision under stress."

According to De La Cruz, the instructors have high expectations, and it is common for one or two Marines to drop from the course for not meeting the standards.

"It doesn't matter if you are a junior or senior Marine," said De La Cruz.

"You have to be able to grasp the tactics and show leadership. This course is not for everybody."

In later stages of the course, Marines will conduct "hard hits" using helicopters and ground vehicles to approach and engage an enemy's location. Instructors with 1st SMTB follow the assault teams and evaluate them every step of the way.

Two to three Marine Special Operations Companies will go through the direct assault course each year as they continue to prepare for Special Operations deployments.

Once the Marines and Sailors complete the direct assault course and move on to other valuable training evolutions, the tip of the SOCOM spear will be even sharper, and they will be prepared to build on 1st MSOB's recent combat success in Afghanistan.



A Marine from 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, fires his weapon at Range 130, Camp Pendleton, Calif. During the specialized direct assault course, 1st MSOB Marines and Sailors learned and reinforced direct action tactics and precision shooting skills needed to execute special operations missions.

Special Operators team up for JTAC exercise

*Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Stephen Benson
MARSOC Public Affairs*

Marines with U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command teamed up with Air Force Special Operations Command and U.S. Army fire support officers to hone basic and advanced skills in Joint Terminal Air Control close air support at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in December.

During an exercise at Observation Post 5, Marines with 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion and Marine Special Operations Support Group acquired CAS targets with representatives from AFSOC and the Army on hand to develop skills to U.S. Special Operations Command standards.

“As MARSOC gets more proficient in its SOCOM mission sets, we can be here to help,” said one Army fire support officer. “It’s good to see how SOCOM is standardizing training requirements throughout its component commands.”

The main purpose of the exercise was to prepare MARSOC Marines for JTAC school.

“We’re not all JTACs here,” said Sgt. William Stowe, radio operator, fire control platoon, MSOSG. “We all want to be JTACs though, and this training will get us closer to our goal.”

Marines also became familiar with targeting equipment used by Special Operations

Forces during CAS operations. When a target was chosen, Marines used laser designators to direct fire from two AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters circling the range. Minutes after targets were marked by the laser, the helicopters closed in to destroy the targets with rockets and gunfire.

Supervisors assessed the performance of each Marine, and experienced JTACs took every opportunity to teach advanced skills.

“This is a good experience having the other services here,” said Stowe. “It will just make us even more prepared for when we head to JTAC school.”

The training included both day and night firing, and by the end of the second day, the representatives from the Army and AFSOC were pleased with what they saw.

“The Marines have really impressed me with how they have taken to SOCOM,” said the Army fire support officer. “We are out here to share our knowledge with them and build a lasting partnership between services in the Special [Operations] Forces.”



A Marine with Marine Special Operations Support Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, makes adjustments to a laser-emitting target designator at Observation Post 5 at Camp Lejeune, N.C. MARSOC Marines teamed up with Air Force Special Operations Command and U.S. Army fire support officers to hone their skills in Joint Terminal Air Control close air support.

Don't call it a comeback

*Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Stephen Benson
MARSOC Public Affairs*

The greatest leaders, it seems, don't think of themselves as great.

"I don't think I did anything special," they may say, "I was just doing my job."

These are phrases commonly uttered by Marines when they are recognized for a job well done or praised for going above and beyond what is asked of them.

Sgt. Karl Klepper, selected as the United Service Organization's 2007 Marine of the Year, is one of those Marines.

Klepper, now the operations NCO for Marine Special Operations Advisor Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, received the award for his leadership and inspiration of fellow Marines at Camp Lejeune's Wounded Warrior Battalion while recovering from injuries he sustained in combat.

The Marine's path to the Wounded Warrior Battalion and on to MARSOC began on the streets of Karmah, Iraq.

On Sept. 27, 2005, then Cpl. Klepper was serving as a mortar man with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, in the northern part of Karmah.

"The enemy forces were protected by the local populace, so there was a lot of activity that was being seen, but no one was talking about it," said Klepper. "We were having considerable problems with (improvised explosive devices) and limited supported engagements."

According to Klepper, he was in a convoy to check in with and resupply observation posts along a key, strategic road. After checking in with the operations and conducting a short security sweep, Klepper and three other Marines got in their humvee and began the drive back to their forward operating base in a two-vehicle convoy.

Klepper was in the second vehicle of the convoy when an IED exploded nearby.

"The driver was knocked unconscious and the blast veered the vehicle off the road and flipped it over into a canal," he explained.

Two other Marines, though injured, were able to pull the driver free and scramble to safety, but Klepper lay in the canal under four feet of water, his left leg pinned beneath the overturned vehicle.

He did what he had to do to survive – and to lead his



Sgt. Karl Klepper, operations NCO, Marine Special Operations Advisor Group, MARSOC, was selected as the United Service Organization's 2007 Marine of the Year for his exceptional leadership of fellow Wounded Warriors while recovering from combat injuries.

fellow Marines.

"I couldn't stay above water. So I grabbed down to the battery panel in the back of the truck and picked myself up, breaking my leg," said Klepper. "That's what got my head above water."

Klepper, still trapped, but now able to observe the situation, directed his Marines to set up security until, after an hour of waiting, a recovery vehicle arrived and the Marines were able to lift the humvee and pull Klepper free.

"I remember like 10 sets of hands just grabbing me and pulling me up the bank," explained Klepper. "It was amazing to look around and see all my buddies get a hold of me, whether it was my cammies or just holding my helmet."

From October to December 2005, Klepper went through a series of hospitals on his way back to Camp Lejeune. After nine surgeries, doctors were able to save his leg from amputation and he began extensive physical therapy to regain his strength and mobility.

While Klepper was being treated at the Naval Hospital at Camp Lejeune in December 2005, Lt. Col. Timothy Maxwell, advisor for the Wounded Warrior Regiment, stopped in to see him.

At that time, Maxwell was establishing the first ever Wounded Warrior Battalion at Camp Lejeune in order to give combat-injured Marines the opportunity to help each other, work through their injuries and get back to full duty.

Maxwell needed capable NCOs to serve as squad leaders, and he found Klepper.

"I learned real quick Klepper was an aggressive, get-stuff-done kind of Marine," said Maxwell. "He was constantly motivated, always finding things to do."

"The biggest thing he gave the Marines was hope," said Maxwell. "He let them know there are tough guys out there who are pushing through their injuries, and that's important for them to see."

Maxwell said Klepper made sure his Marines made their doctors' appointments, took their medications and stayed both mentally and physically healthy.

"Being with the Wounded Warrior Battalion is not like you're on vacation," said Maxwell. "We're a tough battalion."

The Wounded Warrior Barracks shared a building with the Transient Officers Quarters at that time, and Maj. Gen. Dennis Hejlik, MARSOC commander, was living there. In early 2006, a few months after Klepper's injury

and shortly before MARSOC's official standup in Feb. 2006, Hejlik addressed the Wounded Warriors and asked if anyone would be interested in joining MARSOC. When Klepper heard what it was, he was immediately interested and wanted to be a part of it.

"It's not necessarily kicking in doors, but being able to communicate with allies, being able to understand their culture and being able to teach them what they need to know to defend themselves so we don't have to send a lot more Marines into harm's way," said Klepper, explaining why he wanted to join MARSOC.

Once Klepper recovered enough from his injuries to work outside the Wounded Warrior Battalion, he volunteered for duty at MARSOC's Marine Special Operations Support Group. He reenlisted in February 2007, received official orders to MSOAG, and now, having recently completed a first class physical fitness test, is determined to enter MSOAG's training pipeline and become an advisor.

MARSOC returns from the fight

*Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Stephen Benson
MARSOC Public Affairs*

It was all smiles, hugs and tears of joy as a company of Marines and Sailors with 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, returned to the open arms of family and friends as they concluded a historic combat tour.

During 1st MSOB's first deployment, MARSOC's silent warriors conducted special operations in the Philippines and Afghanistan with great success.

"What these Marines did was absolutely amazing," said Sgt. Maj. Barry Morgan, 1st MSOB sergeant major. "With MARSOC being so young, it was really important for these Marines to do well, and they did great things over there."

After leaving in late September 2006, Marines went to the Philippines where they spent more than a month conducting special operations in support of Joint Special Operations Task Force – Philippines, but the majority of the company's deployment was spent in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

According to Master Sgt. Sidney Voss, staff NCO in charge and operations chief for the newly returned company, the Helmand province is a haven for the Taliban insurgency.

"The Helmand province is where insurgents have all their poppy fields and they are in and out of that area all

the time," said Voss. "Our Marines went out every day knowing they were going to get in a firefight, and that is no exaggeration."

Voss said he couldn't be happier with how his Marines performed.

"It was an honor to work with such professionals," said Voss. "The other special forces have been fighting at such a high level for so long and it was great to witness it."

One Marine was killed in action and 18 Purple Heart medals were awarded.



A Marine from 1st MSOB plays "peek-a-boo" with his son at 1st MSOB headquarters at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Combat controllers receive Silver Star, Bronze Stars, Purple Hearts, Combat Action Medals

*By 1st Lt. Amy Cooper
AFSOC Public Affairs*

Twenty-five medals were presented to 15 combat controllers and special tactics officers during a ceremony Dec. 18 at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., presided over by the commander of Air Force Special Operations Command.

One Silver Star, seven Bronze Stars with Valor, three Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts and 15 Air Force Combat Action medals were presented to the 22nd Special Tactics Squadron Airmen for their actions during the unit's recent deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"These Airmen represent what each of us hopes still resides in America," said Lt. Gen. Donny Wurster, AFSOC commander. "We are fortunate to find young American heroes in waiting who are willing to answer the call when we need them."

The ceremony recognized these "mighty men," as Wurster called them, who "fight beyond their size" alongside Army and Navy Special Operations Forces.

"Much of what combat controllers do goes unrecognized," said Lt. Col Jeffrey Staha, 22nd STS commander. "But not today."



Lt. Gen. Donny Wurster, Air Force Special Operations Command commander, pins the Silver Star on Tech. Sgt. Scott Innis, 22nd Special Tactics Squadron, during a medal ceremony at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., Dec. 18. The Silver Star, the nation's third highest decoration for valor, was presented to Innis for his actions during a firefight with enemy forces in Afghanistan during spring 2006. Innis also received a Bronze Star with Valor and an Air Force Combat Action Medal for his actions during his unit's 2007 deployment to Southwest Asia. Photo by Abner Guzman.

During the unit's last six-month deployment in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, 22nd STS Airmen performed more than 1,000 combat missions, coordinated the drop of more than 260,000 pounds of ordnance and removed more than 1,500 enemy forces from action, said Staha.

The Silver Star, the nation's third highest decoration for valor, was presented to Tech. Sgt. Scott Innis for his actions during a firefight with enemy forces in Afghanistan during spring 2006.

Innis was deployed with an Army Special Forces unit to a forward operating base in a heavily contested region of Afghanistan. When a team on patrol outside the wire came under enemy fire, Innis called in close air support for the team and helped them return to the base.

Shortly thereafter, their base came under heavy enemy fire from rocket-propelled grenades, mortar fire, and small-arms and machine-gun fire. Risking his own

Tech. Sgt. Scott Innis, a combat controller, is pictured during his 2006 deployment to Afghanistan. During this deployment, Innis served as a Joint Terminal Air Controller attached to an Army Special Forces team. One day, his team's forward operating base came under heavy enemy fire. Innis risked his life by climbing up a small, wooden observation tower in the middle of the base in order to direct close air support against the enemy. Despite making himself a magnet for bullets and rocket-propelled grenades, the combat controller stayed in the tower for 24 hours directing fire, resulting in the elimination of more than 100 enemy fighters. Innis was presented a Silver Star Dec. 18 for his actions that day in Afghanistan. Courtesy photo.



life, Innis climbed up a small, wooden observation tower in the middle of the compound, openly exposing himself to the enemy.

Once on the tower, Innis lay on his back while the enemy fired small arms and RPGs trying to take him out. For 24 hours, he repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire as he periodically sat up to observe the enemy's location and pass the coordinates to Coalition attack aircraft.

After the aircraft dropped their munitions, Innis sat up to observe their impact and relayed the information back to the aircraft, again marking himself as a target. At one point, Innis was able to direct fire onto and destroy an area being used by the enemy to store a large weapons cache.

In the middle of the firefight, Innis also coordinated medical evacuation for several seriously injured American and Coalition troops. His actions led to the killing of more than 100 enemy forces.

However, Innis would not consider himself a hero. He credits his actions to the training he and other combat controllers receive.

"You could have replaced me with any of the other Airmen on the stage with me today," he said. "They would have done the same thing."

Innis also received a Bronze Star with Valor and an Air Force Combat Action medal during the ceremony.

Another hero honored during the ceremony was Tech. Sgt. Jason Dryer, who received a Bronze Star with Valor and a Purple Heart for two separate incidents during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2007.

Dryer received the Purple Heart for wounds he received when the Humvee he and his Army Special Forces team were riding in triggered an improvised explosive device. The group was on their way to educate local Afghan civilians on the Taliban threat in the area and to warn them of IEDs throughout the countryside when the vehicle was hit.

The blast from the IED threw Dryer more than 30 feet from the vehicle, knocking him unconscious, breaking several bones and severely injuring his shoulder and a knee. About two hours later Dryer regained consciousness in the arms of one of his Army teammates to the sound F-15s providing protection from above.

Tech. Sgt. Jason Dryer is pictured during the unit's recent deployment to Southwest Asia. During this deployment, the Humvee he and his Army Special Forces teammates were riding in detonated an improvised explosive device. Dryer was thrown from the vehicle and knocked unconscious. Despite his serious injuries, the combat controller was able to return to his forward operating base to finish his rotation. Dryer received a Purple Heart for this incident, and earned a Bronze Star with Valor for his actions during a firefight with Taliban forces later in the same deployment. Courtesy photo.

When he came to, Dryer's first thoughts were those typical of a combat controller.

"My first thought was, 'I've only been here six weeks, I'm not ready to go home yet,'" he said. "I even remember dreaming about it while I was unconscious."

Dryer was evacuated to Kandahar Air Base where he was treated in the hospital.

Thanks to the immediate first aid he received in the field and the follow-on care at the hospital,

Dryer's dreams came true when he rejoined his team at its forward operating base only a few days later.

He was able to serve the remainder of his deployment and even earned a Bronze Star with Valor for actions during a firefight with Taliban forces a few months after his injuries. During that engagement, Dryer was able to accurately direct 40 mm fire from an AC-130 gunship on an enemy target no more than 70 meters from his team's position.

Despite being seriously injured during his last deployment, Dryer's focus now is on fully recovering and preparing his body for his next turn in the fight.

"This is the job I've trained a quarter of my life to do," said Dryer, who also received an Air Force Combat Action Medal during the ceremony. "I love it. I'm looking forward to deploying and doing it all again."



Lt. Gen. Donnie Wurster, Air Force Special Operations Command commander, presents a Bronze Star with Valor to Tech. Sgt. Jason Dryer, 22nd Special Tactics Squadron, during a medal ceremony at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., Dec. 18. Photo by Abner Guzman.



21st STS Airman wins Sijan award

*By 2nd Lt. Chris Hoyler
43rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

A Pope Airman has been awarded the 2007 Lance P. Sijan Air Force Leadership Award for distinguished leadership.

Capt. Stewart Parker, 21st Special Tactics Squadron, was named the junior officer category winner for the coveted award.

Parker led a team of combat controllers into combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, reaping an impressive list of combat effects. As the critical link to a full array of airpower capabilities, Parker precisely integrated fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft and fused intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities with timely firepower. The results proved devastating to enemy forces.

"Captain Parker is absolutely vital to the success of the mighty 21 STS," Lt. Col. Michael Martin, 21st STS commander, said. "His combat experience and superb leadership has been key in our preparation for our next deployment. His success on the battlefield and as a leader in garrison and deployed made him a logical choice to command a mission during our next deployment."

The Lance P. Sijan Award recognizes the accomplishments of officers and enlisted members of the Air Force who have demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership in the performance of their duties and the conduct of their lives.

The closely evaluated criteria for the award includes scope of responsibility, professional leadership, leadership image and community involvement.

This is the second consecutive year a Pope Special Tactics officer has received the award in the junior officer category, as Capt. Matt Allen was the recipient in 2006.

As a flight commander, Parker was in charge of 15 enlisted combat controllers deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

His day-to-day operations ranged from holding meetings with local leaders, to training Afghan troops, to spending days on end tracking and fighting terrorist cells.

"From controlling C-130s landing on dirt airstrips, to directing A-10 strafing runs against attacking terrorists, to storming enemy strongholds alongside joint Special Operations Forces, 21st STS combat controllers brought the might of the entire Air Force to the front lines in the war on terror," Martin said.

Parker's flight safely controlled hundreds of airlift and strike aircraft, many of which were flown by Pope aviators.

"I've never been more proud to work with such



Capt. Stewart Parker, 21st Special Tactics Squadron, stands atop a mountain in southern Afghanistan during a deployment last year. Parker was honored as the Lance P. Sijan Air Force Leadership Award winner in the junior officer category for 2007. Courtesy Photo.

individuals," Parker said.

In addition, Parker deployed separately later in the year, spending the majority of his time fighting alongside a 12-man Army Special Forces team in southern Afghanistan. The unit's mission was to capture and kill enemy fighters in their area, bolster support for the Afghan government and provide for the local populace, and they often worked with NATO and Afghan troops.

"I was responsible for mission planning, air support and rear security with the M240B machine gun mounted on the back of my Humvee," Parker said.

"We were in several battles lasting up to 14 hours, in which I directed airstrikes, airborne reconnaissance and intelligence, and medevac helicopters to (remove) wounded troops."

Not all operations were about taking the fight directly to the enemy, as Parker and his flight also conducted many humanitarian missions.

"We delivered four tons of humanitarian supplies, including food, shoes and blankets to villagers in need during the harsh winter," Parker said. "We helped build police checkpoints and distributed medical supplies to hundreds of Afghans suffering from indigestion to broken bones."

He said the most memorable event was his assistance in the opening of a new school in Afghanistan. It was the culmination of an effort that reached across the globe, as people across the United States donated school supplies, which Captain Parker said he and others proudly handed to 650 children attending class for the first time in their lives. His willingness to teach extended to the Afghan soldiers he worked with.

"At night, I gave informal English classes to some of my Afghan counterparts," Parker said. "Truly, I was amazed at the tenacity and willingness to learn of the Afghan people."

First aircraft of new squadron arrives at Cannon

By 27th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

Cannon Air Force Base reached another milestone in its transition to its special operations mission Jan. 8 with the arrival of a new aircraft.

The PC-12 was delivered to the 27th Special Operations Wing and will be flown by the 318th Special Operations Squadron when it activates in March.

The aircraft, selected for its versatile performance characteristics and ability to operate from short and unimproved runway surfaces, will provide battlefield mobility for Special Operations Forces in theaters throughout the world, except the

U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

Currently, these types of missions are conducted by government contract airlines, which can be more expensive than using military aircraft, said Air Force Special Operations Command officials.

The aircraft that arrived Jan. 8 is the first of three PC-12s scheduled for delivery to the 27th SOW this year.

“We’re excited to take the first delivery of this aircraft,” said Col. Tim Leahy, 27th SOW commander. “And we’re excited to bring a new mission to Cannon Air Force Base.”

USSOCOM plans to purchase 10 PC-12s over the next four years.



A PC-12 Pilatus parked on Cannon's flightline is the first of a planned 10 aircraft to be assigned to the 318th Special Operations Squadron over the next four years. The 318th SOS, when fully active, will have approximately 90 Airmen assigned to it. Photo by Airman 1st Class Evelyn Chavez.



A U.S. Army Ranger leg kicks his Ranger opponent during a Ranger Rendezvous 2007 Combatives match at Fort Benning, Ga. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Baker.



By Master Sgt. Laura LeBeau
USSOCOM Public Affairs

Striking, grappling, choking, sweeping, takedowns, locks and throws. Terms like these may conjure images of Ultimate Fighting Championship bouts, but for Soldiers in today's Army, these techniques are a routine part of a Combatives training program designed to improve their hand-to-hand fighting ability on the battlefield.

"What we're really training for is the battlefield, and the goal of this is to be real fighters," said retired Sgt. 1st Class Matt Larsen, founder of the Modern Army Combatives program at the U.S. Army Combatives School at Fort Benning, Ga. "My approach was to work within the realm of reality and build real skill. The idea is to teach Soldiers the fundamentals of Combatives, which would grow into knowledge of how to fight on the battlefield," Larsen said.

That training paid off in 2003 when a 5th Special Forces Group Soldier, who, because of his gallantry in combat during a 2002 raid on a suspected al-Qaida stronghold in Afghanistan, received the Silver Star.

Master Sgt. Anthony Pryor, a team sergeant with Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th SFG, single-handedly eliminated four enemy soldiers, including one in unarmed combat, all while under intense automatic weapons fire and with a crippling injury.

After eliminating three enemy soldiers during the raid, Pryor found himself alone in a room with a fourth. The attacker snuck up on Pryor from behind and delivered a crushing blow to him that knocked him down, broke his clavicle and dislocated his shoulder. When Pryor was able to stand, he stood face-to-face with the enemy and eliminated him during their hand-to-hand struggle.

"I just did what I had to do," Pryor said, recalling his hand-to-hand fight against the suspected terrorists. "It

"I just did what I had to do. It wasn't a heroic act — it was second nature. I won, and I moved forward."

Master Sgt. Anthony Pryor, Silver Star recipient, recalling his hand-to-hand combat with enemy attackers.

wasn't a heroic act — it was second nature. I won, and I moved forward."

The goal of Modern Combatives is to build real combative ability by teaching realistic training methods and growing self-sustaining indigenous Combatives

programs within organizations. The program consists of basic elements and techniques from Brazilian jiu-jitsu ground fighting, throws and takedowns of judo and wrestling, and the strikes of boxing and Muay Thai.



Sgt. Treybutt Hull, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, ends his match with a flurry of punches from the full mount position during a Combatives tournament at Fort Benning, Ga., during Ranger Rendezvous 2007. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Baker.

Through the training drills, Soldiers systematically develop skills, movement patterns and an understanding of fight strategy, which is to close the distance, gain dominant position and finish the fight.

Larsen, who had led Combatives training for the 2nd Ranger Battalion, the 75th Ranger Regiment, the Ranger Training Brigade, and, finally, the entire Army,

established the U.S. Army Combatives School and authored the new Combatives Field Manual, FM 3-25.150. As Rangers redeployed to new commands, they took the modern Combatives system with them and taught others. In 2002, the training became part of service doctrine. The Combatives School at Fort Benning focuses on training the trainer, which, in turn, allows small unit leaders to train Combatives as part of their existing physical training program, absorbing it as an integral part of every Soldier's normal day. As of October 2005, every Soldier receives formal training in the hand-to-hand fighting system, and, so far, almost 24,000 Soldiers have completed Level I Combative training. There are four certification levels taught at the Combative School.

Combatives competitions throughout the Army are used to motivate Soldiers to train. "The tool that motivates people to train in most successful programs is almost always a form of competition," Larsen said. "Since martial arts aren't a part of our everyday culture in the U.S., we knew that competition would be a way to make it more successful." The first Army-wide contest was held in 2005. "This is just a method, a means to the end," Larsen said. "Soldiers are engaged in real fights on the battlefield, life-and-death fights. The soldiers we're seeing competing at these events could very well be fighting for their life over in Iraq six months from now."



Members of U.S. Special Operations Command participate in Combatives at MacDill AFB, Fla. Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Lawn.

The mission of the Army Combatives School is to teach:

Basic Combatives

Basic Combatives is the requirement for every Soldier as outlined below.

Combatives Train the Trainer – Skill Level 1

The Combatives Train the Trainer – Skill Level 1 is a 40-hour, one-week course. It is tailored for developing the instructor base necessary to get Basic Combatives to every Soldier. Students learn to teach the techniques of Basic Combatives. At the end of the week students will demonstrate fighting proficiency as well as the ability to instruct the course material. This course will be a requirement to teach Combatives in Plans of Instruction driven schools and is a prerequisite for the Skill Level 2 course.

Combatives Train the Trainer – Skill Level 2

The Combatives Train the Trainer – Skill Level 2 is an 80-hour, two-week course that builds off of the

skills introduced in the Basic course. It is tailored to teach the more advanced techniques which illuminate why the basic techniques are performed as they are as well as the teaching philosophy/methodology of the program. Graduates of this course are qualified to supervise Level 1 instructors and be assistant instructors for the Level 1 course as well as run and referee unit level combatives tournaments. The goal is to have one Level Two trainer per company.

Combatives Train the Trainer – Skill Level 3

The Combatives Train the Trainer – Skill Level 3 is a 160-hour, four-week course that builds off of the skills taught in the previous two courses. It is designed to take the skills that have been until now stand alone and integrate them into Mission Essential Task List training. Graduates of this course are qualified to teach the Level 1 course, referee post level and special rules competition, and serve as battalion master trainers for scenario based training. The goal is to have one Level 3 trainer per battalion.

Combatives Train the Trainer – Skill Level 4

The Combatives Train the Trainer – Skill Level 4 is a 160-hour four-week, course designed to provide Unit of Action and higher level master trainers.





OSS Insignia ww II



USSOCOM Insignia Present-day

USSOCOM patch's *historic OSS lineage*

By Mike Bottoms
USSOCOM Public Affairs

Although U.S. Special Operations Command and its patch is a mere 20 years old, the command's crest traces its roots back to the Office of Strategic Services in World War II.

Gen. James Lindsey, the first USSOCOM commander, first chose the Sea Griffin insignia as the command's patch. The emblem came from the Joint Special Operations Support Element design. The JSOSE served as a standing joint Special Operations task force deploying to the theater unified commands.

Lindsey was leading a staff meeting one day when someone threw an OSS patch on the table. The patch caught his attention and he decided to make a modified version of the patch because of USSOCOM's historical link to the OSS.

The history of the OSS is remarkably short, but out of it sprang the CIA and eventually U.S. Special Operations Command.

Prior to the formation of the OSS, American intelligence had been conducted on an ad hoc basis by the various departments of the executive branch. They had no overall direction, coordination or control. The Army and the Navy had separate code-breaking departments often competing with each other. Also, the code-breaking operation of the State Department, MI-8, had been shut down in 1929 by Secretary of State Henry Stimson because "gentlemen don't read each other's mail."

President Franklin Roosevelt was concerned about American intelligence deficiencies. On the suggestion of Canadian spymaster William Stephenson, the senior representative of British intelligence in the Western Hemisphere at that time, Roosevelt directed Stephenson's friend William Donovan, a World War I veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, to draft a plan for an intelligence service.

Donovan accepted the challenge and the Office of Strategic Services was established in June 1942 to collect and analyze strategic information required by

the Joint Chiefs of Staff and to conduct special operations not assigned to other agencies. The OSS helped arm, train and supply resistance movements in areas occupied by the Axis powers during World War II.

A month and a half after the war was won, President Truman disbanded the OSS on Sept. 20, 1945. In the following month the functions of the OSS were split between the Departments of State and War. State received the Research and Analysis Branch of OSS and renamed it the Interim Research and Intelligence Service. The War Department took over the Secret Intelligence and Counter-espionage and became the Strategic Services Unit.

In January 1946, Truman created the Central Intelligence Group, the direct precursor to the CIA. The assets of the SSU streamlined a nucleus of clandestine intelligence activity and were transferred to the CIG in mid-1946 and became the Office of Special Operations. In 1947, the National Security Act established America's first permanent peacetime intelligence agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, taking up the functions of the OSS.

The original OSS patch had two bands, but Lindsey had an extra band added with the bands representing Army, Navy and Air Force. Today the command has a Marine component, and the bands on the current patch represent the SOF capabilities in the land, sea and air. The black background alludes to Special Operations conducted under the cover of darkness. The yellow represents the quality of excellence in defending the nation. The spearhead suggests the fighting capabilities of the command. The braided border represents strength through jointness.

The USSOCOM patch, with its OSS heritage, is the cloth emblem worn by today's Special Operations Forces as a reminder of past special operations and pays homage to the unconventional warfare perfected by the Office of Strategic Services.

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

SGT Dustin Adkins
MAJ James Ahearn
SSG Leroy Alexander
SGT Thomas Allison
CPL William Amundson
SPC Marc Anderson
MSG Joseph Andres, Jr.
1Lt Tamara Archuleta
Capt Derek Argel
PO2 Matthew Axelson
CSM Edward Barnhill
SSG Ricardo Barraza
SFC William Bennett
CPL Mark Bibby
SGT Jay Blessing
CPO Matthew Bourgeois
Capt Todd Bracy
SGT Dale Brehm
SFC William Brown
LTC Charles Buehring
SPC Charles Bush, Jr.
SSG Eric Caban
MAJ Jeffrey Calero
CPO Mark Carter
CPT Paul Cassidy
SFC Victor Cervantes
CPT Jeremy Chandler
TSgt John Chapman
SFC Nathan Chapman
SSG Kyu Hyuk Chay
CPL Andrew Chris
SSG Jesse Clowers Jr.
1SG Christopher Coffin
CPL Matthew Commons
SGM Bradly Conner
SGT Timothy Conneway
TSgt Sean Corlew
SFC Lance Cornett
SFC Daniel Crabtree
SSgt Casey Crate
Capt James Cronin
SGT Bradley Crose
SrA Jason Cunningham
SSG Joseph Curreri
MSG Jefferson Davis
SSG Edwin Dazachacon
SSG Michael Dickinson
SFC Trevor Diesing
PO2 Danny Dietz
CPL Benjamin Dillon
SSG Carlos Dominguez

SSG James Dorrity
PO1 Steven Dougherty
Maj William Downs
TSgt Scott Duffman
CW2 Scott Dyer
SPC Jonn Edmunds
CPT Daniel Eggers
CW2 Jody Egnor
SFC Adrian Elizalde
MSG Emigdio Elizarraras
SGT Christopher Erberich
SSG Christopher Falkel
MAJ Curtis Feistner
MSG Richard Ferguson
MSG George Fernandez
MAJ Gregory Fester
SCPO Theodore Fitzhenry
CPO Jacques Fontan
SGT Jeremy Foshee
SSG Gregory Frampton
SSgt Jacob Frazier
CPT Brian Freeman
SPC Bryan Freeman
Capt Jeremy Fresques
SSG Kerry Frith
PFC Nichole Frye
SGT Steven Ganczewski
SPC Ryan Garbs
PFC Damien Garza
CW3 Thomas Gibbons
SSG Shamus Goare
SFC Chad Gonsalves
CW3 Corey Goodnature
SSG Robert Goodwin
SPC Brandon Gordon
CMSgt Lawrence Gray
SGT Michael Hall
CPO Nathan Hardy
SSG Gary Harper Jr.
CW2 Stanley Harriman
SCPO Daniel Healy
PFC John Henderson
TSgt James Henry
SFC Richard Herrema
SPC Julie Hickey
SSgt Jason Hicks
CPL Benjamin Hoeffner
LTC Daniel Holland
SSG Aaron Holleyman
MSG Kelly Hornbeck
MSG Robert Horrigan





SFC Merideth Howard
SFC Mark Jackson
SGT Kip Jacoby
SPC Joseph Jeffries
MSG Ivica Jerak
MAJ Alan Johnson
SSG Allen Johnson
PFC Dillon Jutras
MSGt William Kerwood
CPL Jason Kessler
SFC Jeffrey Kettle
SSG Matthew Kimmell
SPC Adam Kinser
SSG Daniel Kisling
SGT Keith Kline
SPC Adam Knox
CPO Michael Koch
SFC Obediah Kolath
Capt Surrender Kothakota
Lt Cmdr Erik Kristensen
SSG Patrick Kutschbach
SFC Mitchell Lane
SFC Steven Langmack
TSgt Glenn Lastes
PO2 Marc Lee
PO1 Jason Lewis
SPC George Libby
MSG Arthur Lilley
SSG Nino Livaudais
SPC Ryan Long
SSG Christian Longworth
PO1 Jeffery Lucas
2nd Lt Scott Lundell
CPL George Lutz II
CPT Shane Mahaffee
MSG Thomas Maholic
MSGt Michael Maltz
SFC Curtis Mancini
SSG Paul Mardis
SSG Ryan Maseth
CW3 Hershel McCants Jr.
MSGt William McDaniel
SFC Robert McGee
Lt Michael McGreevy, Jr.
SFC Michael McNulty
PO1 Robert McRill
SGT Rhonald Meeks
1SG Tobias Meister
PO2 Charles Milam
Sgt Marco Miller
SSG Robert Miller
SFC Sean Mitchell
SFC Robert Mogensen
SFC Justin Monschke
PO2 Michael Monsoor

SGT Alberto Montrond
SSG Orlando Morales
MSG Kevin Morehead
SFC Lawrence Morrison
SPC Scott Mullen
SFC Pedro Munoz
SFC Marcus Muralles
Lt. Michael Murphy
SSG Clinton Newman
SFC Tung Mahn Nguyen
SFC James Ochsner
SSG Tony Olaes
SGT Michael O'Neill
CW3 Mark O'Steen
PO1 Brian Ouellette
SSG Michael Owen
CPT Bartt Owens
1st Lt Ray Owens Jr.
SGT Timothy Padgett
SGT Jason Palmerton
PO2 Shane Patton
SSG Robert Paul
SSG Ronald Paulsen
SSgt Patrick Pentico
SFC Daniel Petithory
LTC Mark Phelan
SSG Christopher Piper
SSG Robert Pirelli
SrA Jason Plite
Maj Steven Plumhoff
MSG James Ponder
CW2 Bruce Price
SSG Brian Prosser
CW3 John Quinlan
SGT Regina Reali
SGT James Regan
MAJ Stephen Reich
PO1 Thomas Retzer
SSgt Juan Ridout
CPT Russell Rippetoe
PO1 Neal Roberts
CPT Charles Robinson
SFC Christopher Robinson
SSG Robb Roling
SFC Daniel Romero
SSG Bruce Rushforth
SFC Michael Russell
1SG Carlos Saenz
A1C Jesse Samek
CPL Jonathan Santos
SSgt Scott Sather
CW4 Chris Scherkenbach
PO2 Joseph Schwedler
SGT Danton Seitsinger
SrA Adam Servais

CPL Timothy Shea
LTC Anthony Sherman
SSgt Anissa Shero
LTC Albert Smart
MAJ Charles Soltes
PO1 Luis Souffront
SFC Christopher Speer
SGM Michael Stack
PFC Nathan Stahl
Lt Col John Stein
SPC Kristofor Stonesifer
PO2 James Suh
PO2 Eric Sutton
SGT Philip Svitak
SSG Paul Sweeney
MAJ Paul Syverson
SSG Ayman Taha
PO1 David Tapper
CPT Michael Tarlavsky
PO1 Jeffrey Taylor
SFC John Taylor
SSgt John Teal
PFC Kristofer Thomas
SFC Michael Thomas
CPT Benjamin Tiffner
CPL Patrick Tillman
MAJ Jeffrey Toczylowski
SPC Teodoro Torres
SFC Michael Tully
SFC Peter Tycz
SSG Nathan Vacho
SSG Gene Vance
SGT Thomas Vandling, Jr.
SPC Travis Vaughn
SFC Brett Walden
SSgt Thomas Walkup, Jr.
TSgt Howard Walters
CWO 5 Jamie Weeks
SSG Joshua Whitaker
SSG Justin Whiting
SGT Adam Wilkinson
SGT Cheyenne Willey
Capt Gil Williamson
SFC Nathan Winder
SGT Daniel Winegeart
SGT Roy Wood
CPL Travis Woods
MAJ Matthew Worrell
SGT Jeremy Wright
CW4 Michael Wright
MSG Anthony Yost
SFC Mickey Zaun

**** Highlighted names are SOF
who have lost their lives since
the December Tip of the Spear**



A U.S. Army Major from the 75th Ranger Regiment fires the MK 17 (CQC) at MacDill AFB, Fla. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Lawn.