



# TIP OF THE SPEAR

U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND  
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLA.  
*January 2005*



**Special operators  
track down terrorists**

**SOF Body Armor - Are you covered?**

**Wounded SOF Warriors - Courageous and resilient**

**Task Force K-BAR receives Presidential Unit Citation**

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Staff Sgt. Robert Doughty, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) intelligence analyst, throws a medicine ball to work on his balance while wearing his prosthetic legs. Doughty was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom when he was wounded by an improvised roadside bomb. Read about his new life battle, page 12.

## Tip of the Spear

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Cover: A member of an Operational Detachment Alpha kicks in a door while he and his team search for Taliban activists. The Special Forces Soldiers make their presence known not only to hinder safe havens for rebels, but also to provide security to the locals in the region. Taliban disorder has been greatly reduced in Afghanistan and the country recently held its historical first democratic election in which 40 percent of the registered voters were women. Photo by Steve Herbert.



*Special Forces pursue Taliban members in Afghanistan on one of many raids that keeps terrorists looking over their shoulder.*

# Special Forces Soldiers pursue Taliban

*By Kevin Maurer  
Fayetteville Observer-Times*

Special Forces Soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C., raided two villages in the Zabol province, Afghanistan, in a continuing effort to keep Taliban guerrillas off balance in southeastern Afghanistan. The Soldiers didn't encounter any enemy forces, but they said such raids keep the guerrillas jumping.

The operation was part of a two-week special operations campaign targeting militias in the Zabol province along the border with Pakistan. Lt. Col. Joe Osborne, deputy commander of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force - Afghanistan, said the SF Soldiers are trying to eliminate the

militias.

He said SF Soldiers are well-suited for the mission because they are able to eliminate the guerrillas in a "surgical fashion without making new enemies." After searching for guerrillas, the Green Berets took time to talk with villagers and hand out candy to children.

The raid came a few weeks after Rozi Khan, the leader of the Taliban in southern Afghanistan, was killed by Special Operations Forces. Khan was suspected of kidnapping aid workers and financing attacks on U.S. forces, including a roadside bomb that killed two SF Soldiers from Fort Bragg in May.

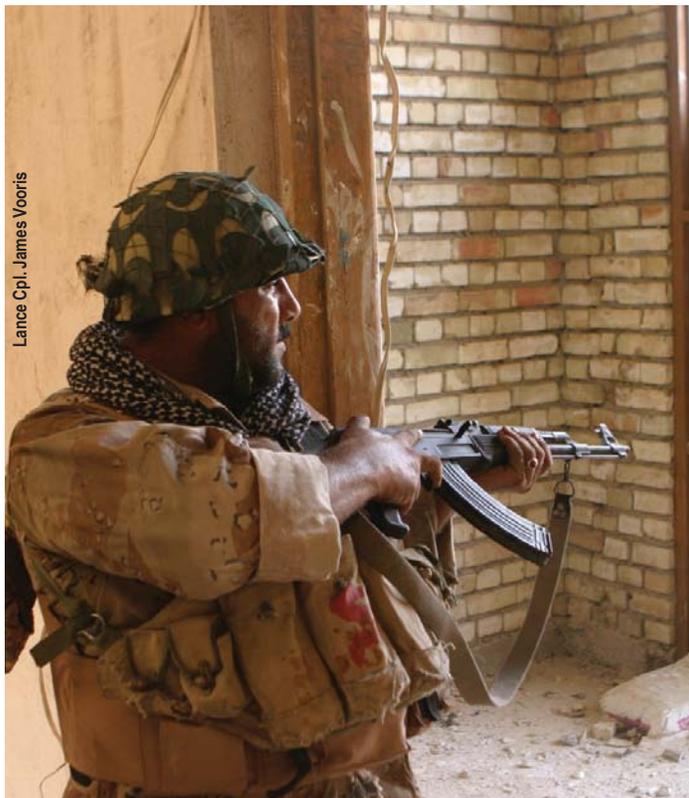
The Green Berets said since Khan's death the Taliban are leaderless in the region and the guerrillas are trying to reorganize. The raid was an attempt to keep that from happening. The Zabol province has remained a guerrilla stronghold since American and Afghan forces ousted the Taliban and al Qaeda terrorists more than three years ago.

Officials worried about a surge of violence in the region prior to the October 2004 presidential election, but with the vast presence of SOF, Afghan National Army personnel, Afghan government officials, at the polls, terrorist activity was virtually non-existent.

# SF train elite Iraqi special operators

By Sgt. Jared Zabaldo

Multinational Security Transition Command Iraq Public Affairs



Lance Cpl. James Vooris

**An Iraqi special operations forces soldier clears a house while moving south toward Fallujah during Operation Al Fajr.**

The Iraqi special operations force, which is the Iraqi Armed Forces' high-end strike force trained by U.S. Army Special Forces units, continues to operate throughout Iraq with multinational force assistance.

The strike force unit was formed after Prime Minister Ayad Allawi asked multinational force personnel to build the Iraqi Armed Forces a high-end strike force in its ongoing security mission against anti-Iraqi forces operating in the country.

Consisting of two trained battalions, including the 36th Commando Battalion — an infantry-type strike force — and the Iraqi Counterterrorism Battalion, the force continues to earn distinction in many operations throughout the country, including places like Fallujah, Najaf and Samarra, fighting anti-Iraqi forces while continuing the stand-up effort of

the unit.

The U.S. Special Forces core task of training other nations' military forces to conduct operations, also known as foreign internal defense, allows the Iraqi battalions to provide security for their own homeland.

Along with conducting the FID mission in Iraq, U.S. SF continue to successfully train other indigenous militaries such as the Afghan National Army. The ANA and coalition forces in Afghanistan stopped insurgents from disrupting the successful October 2004 election of the Afghan president

where more than 10 million Afghans voted in a free election for the first time in their lives.

Iraqi SOF recruit the best from the Iraqi National Guard and Iraqi army units currently operating in Iraq.

"A lot these guys do come from former Iraqi special ops," a Special Forces multinational adviser said. Outstanding recruits are selected for SOF in a vetting process, including exhaustive background checks; skill and unit evaluations; along with literacy, psychological and physical tests, are run through various team-building and physical events meant to lean down the recruiting pool. The selection process runs roughly 10 to 14 days.

And while the counterterrorist battalion was completely built upon individual applicants from the ground up, the 36th Commandos' genesis actually began with

the identification of a particular Iraqi National Guard battalion which fought with distinction in Fallujah in recent months and other places.

"They are very, very effective," the SOF adviser said. "They exercise extreme discipline and are totally mission focused.

"And they have taken minimal losses," the SF adviser said. The new Iraqi SOF unit suffered only a single fatality in action up to November.

"They're fully capable," he said.

And training efforts continue to improve their efficiency as the units work through Special Forces-type training, normally consisting of intense physical training, land navigation, small unit tactics, live-fire exercises, unconventional warfare operations, direct action operations, airmobile operations, counterterrorism and survival, evasion, resistance, and escape training.

Special operating soldiers are an army's unconventional warfare experts, possessing a broad range of operational skills.

Soldiers in the unit routinely negotiate "live-fire" building-clearing exercises involving helicopter rooftop insertions and quick ground assault strikes on buildings and other typical operational scenarios.

The SF adviser said that what the Iraqis are looking for are individuals with a particular mental toughness and aptitude with team-player attributes — a recruiting mission with which the Iraqi Ministry of Defense still leans heavily on multinational advisers' expertise.

"The intent, though, is for them to be fully operational without any [multinational] assistance," he said. "But right now, there is no final stand-up date."

"You see all these guys?" an Iraqi SOF soldier from the unit asked about the new recruits. "They want to do great things."

# SEALs conduct raids in Afghanistan

By Sgt. Maj. Keith Butler  
USSOCOM Public Affairs

Navy SEALs (sea, air, land) conducted cordon and search missions throughout southern Afghanistan resulting in capturing and killing key Taliban leaders during a summer-fall offensive campaign.

As the October 2004 elections for Afghans to vote for their nation's president approached, Taliban insurgents continued to blow up schools, attack coalition forces and attempted to disrupt the peaceful rebuilding of Afghanistan. The SEALs, part of Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force - Afghanistan, attacked the enemy insurgents in Taliban holdouts during surprise raids in known enemy footholds.

During more than 60 missions in five months, Taliban and anti-coalition insurgents either surrendered to the SEALs, or the enemy died in firefights as the SEALs

always came out on top. Sometimes, targets escaped before the SEALs arrived to remote villages.

“(The missions) are never really wasted efforts because when you come in here – what you do is disrupt,” said a SEAL commander. The SEALs took a Civil Affairs Soldier along on missions to make assessments for rebuilding efforts and other measures to continue to bring stability to Afghanistan. The CA Soldier helps turn a cordon and search mission into a goodwill effort with the local population.

On one particular mission, coalition SEALs and Afghan military forces raided an anti-coalition compound and killed a senior enemy leader named Rozi Khan during a surprise attack when Khan chose to open fire instead of surrender. Khan was allegedly responsible for numerous attacks on coalition forces, laying of mines, kidnapping of non-governmental organization and road workers, and recruiting enemy insurgents. He was found with large sums of money, including nearly \$10,000 in U.S.

dollars and Pakistan Rupees, an AK-47 assault rifle, six magazines of ammunition and a pistol.

“You want his supporters to know that they are ‘touchable,’” a SEAL on the mission said. “Hopefully (anti-coalition militia) will put down their weapons and say ‘you know — we better quit messing around.’”

The SEALs and coalition SOF fought for about an hour and later captured more than 20 insurgents.

As elections drew near, SEAL and simultaneous coalition SOF successes on the battlefield hampered efforts of the insurgents to prevent the presidential elections. Women, who during the ruthless Taliban were treated poorly and not allowed to attend school, voted for the first time in Afghanistan's history. A sign of the continuing progress and stability brought by SOF on the battlefield — women now attend school, are becoming lawyers, and travel freely around the country.

But the biggest winners, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad said, “are those who believe in the vision of a moderate and democratic Afghanistan, one that will be an enduring partner in the war against extremism and terrorism, one that can rejoin the international community, and one that will create peace and opportunity for the Afghan people.” Nearly 8 million people voted in the election that during the days of the Taliban would have never been possible. The success of SEAL and coalition SOF led to the Afghan people having the chance to make history.

“(SOF) as well as other friends of Afghanistan should be proud of their role in helping the Afghans take a major step toward joining the community of democratic nations,” the ambassador added.

**Naval Special Warfare employs the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) as part of its newly developed tactical ground mobility system for forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.**



Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Logsdon

# SF continues to train and conduct operations with Afghan National Army

By Kevin Maurer  
Fayetteville Observer-Times

The Special Forces Soldiers led the dawn raid, landing in three C-47 Chinook cargo helicopters on the outskirts of the village. About 30 soldiers in the Afghan National Army assisted. The SF Soldiers, who specialize in training foreign troops, said they are using the Afghan soldiers on raids to try to give them legitimacy in the country.

During the search of the villages, the Afghan soldiers surrounded each mud-walled compound. The villages were criss-crossed with dirt roads, and goats and chickens wandered freely.

Led by the Green Berets, the Afghan soldiers searched each compound for weapons and Taliban fighters. Guerrillas are known to come into the villages in the evenings to rest, then leave at first light.

The Afghan and American soldiers met no resistance. The Green Berets said they found it strange that only women, children and old men were left in the villages. But they found

evidence that many other people had been in the villages recently, including a house with mats and blankets for at least two dozen people.

The villagers told the soldiers that the young men from the villages had traveled to another province to work. The Green Berets said that was unlikely.

“They don’t work on Fridays,” one of the team’s weapons sergeants said. Muslims traditionally rest on their holy day.

The SF Soldiers said that Naval special operations troops had conducted a raid in the same area, and that may have spooked Taliban fighters.

Despite finding no weapons or fighters, the SF Soldiers said the raid was not a failure.

One of the Green Berets said just searching the village makes it harder for the Taliban to use it as a refuge. He said that the goal is to keep the guerrillas on the run.

Lt. Col. Joe Osborne, deputy commander of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force - Afghanistan agreed. “You force them into survival mode.”



Steve Herbert

Afghan National Army soldiers, trained by Special Forces, follow a special operator during a training exercise.

# SF medics continue to help improve overall health of Afghans one patient at a time

By Kevin Maurer  
Fayetteville Observer-Times

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — The baby was no bigger than a man's fist. Wrapped in scarves, she had been carried for almost a mile in the arms of her sister to the only place she could get help — a medical clinic at the American base in the Kunar province. A Special Forces physician assistant met the little girl at the door and slowly took the baby to an examining table. The baby's father did not come because he was busy tending to his fields. The mother stayed at home because, in Afghan culture, it is shameful to be examined by non-Muslims. A SF medic said babies are often brought to the clinic by their siblings.

After a brief examination, the physician determined that the baby was dehydrated and had a fever. The doctor wanted to give her intravenous fluids, but the sister refused. Most of the Afghans in the nearby village are afraid of shots because the local doctor often is not careful, and the shots fester into open wounds.

The physician gave the baby's sister several cans of formula, but that was all he could do. Afghanistan has one of the highest rates of infant mortality in the world.

"She has about a 60 percent chance of making it," said the 39-year-old native of Fayetteville.

For most of the Afghans in Kunar Province, the Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Speer Medical Clinic, which is at a SF fire base, offers the best medical care available. The clinic is named after a SF Soldier killed in action. Speer died Aug. 6, 2002, 10 days after a 4 and a 1/2-hour



A Special Forces medic checks the heartbeat of a baby who was carried nearly a mile by her sister to the American clinic in the Kunar Province, Afghanistan.

gunbattle near Khost in eastern Afghanistan. The battle happened during a search for Taliban and al Qaeda fighters believed to be in the region.

The clinic looks primitive to Americans accustomed to hospitals filled with the latest medical equipment. The four examination tables are litters propped on stands. The roof is made of wood, and the walls are made of mud.

Stacked three rows deep in tall wooden shelves are medical supplies.

The SF doctors and medics handle a wide range of medical procedures, from providing medicine for stomachaches to trauma care. The clinic is one of the ways the SF team is fighting the war on terrorism.

The Soldiers are building relationships with the Afghans one patient at a time. Sgt. Henry Cole, a medic assigned to the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion based at Fort Bragg, said he hopes to train the Afghans to help themselves.

"If we weren't here, they would have no medical care," Cole said.

See MEDICS, page 8

A Special Forces medic encourages a young Afghan patient to smile after her visit to the clinic.



# CA learns hard lessons in hard currency

By Sgt. Chuck Wagner  
Fort Myer Pentagonam

Money makes the world go ‘round. A fool and his money are soon parted. Times are hard when money is scarce.

Col. Curtis Prince doesn’t need such sayings to grasp the role of hard currency in human affairs. Shortly after coalition armies routed Iraqi regular military forces, Prince deployed with the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade to analyze the economic situation in Baghdad. The 354th is an Army Reserve special operations unit from Riverdale, Md.

As their boots hit the dusty ground of Baghdad, the unit was knee deep in helping a dilapidated, browbeaten and cash-strapped society get the rusted wheels of democracy and economy rolling.

The brigade set up teams for public health, facilities, government and cultural affairs. As deputy commander for the 354th, Prince led a team responsible for studying the fiscal situation in the nation’s capital and establishing the ground-work for commerce and economic growth. Their first priority was to assure Iraqis who could keep a minimal level of services running didn’t evaporate in search of new livelihood.

“Initially when we arrived, we had to establish a payment system for Iraqi government employees. First there were stipend payments, then we established a payroll,” Prince said, the gently-spoken man who returned in early April to his position as deputy director of information management for the Fort Myer Military Community.

Another priority was helping Iraqi bankers. Some banks were destroyed or pilfered. Others faced a run on the coffers as customers sought to protect their savings against an uncertain future.

“There was a delicate balance — you wanted to help the

people, and assure them their money was there for them to take. You were also working toward keeping the banks solvent and wanted them to leave it with the banks,” Prince said.

Because most accounts recorded in hand-written ledgers, Prince’s team also acted as liaisons between bankers and customers.

It is a daunting task to determine how much money an individual is entitled, when the livelihood of an entire family may rely on the cash, he said. Again, a delicate balance.

Prince’s team also oversaw the conversion from the Saddam dinar to the new Iraqi dinar, and assisted in putting several counterfeiters out of business.

After decades of corruption under a Sunni minority’s tyranny, the Iraqi economy was hurting. Damage and looting during the war bottomed it out.

The most formidable obstacle facing the country is the deterioration of security as terrorists kill citizens and destroy infrastructure.

“We made great progress in the first 12 months,” he said. “Since that time, some of this has subsided. The terrorists target sewage systems, power lines and the petroleum industry. We are refixing things fixed twice before. Bolstering public security and increased investment could get the fledgling country off the ground.”

Prince assesses the sentiment in Iraq at the time he served as one mostly favoring the coalition’s involvement in ending Hussein’s regime. Iraqis are looking to a better future, and many Iraqis are willing to do what’s necessary to achieve that future, he pointed out.

“There are many people risking their lives daily to help the country, to help the people,” Prince said.

## MEDICS continued from page 7

Despite providing the best care in the region, some Afghans don’t ask for help at the fire base. “They don’t understand we are here to help,” the SF medic said. He has been a medic for two years, and this is his third deployment in Afghanistan.

Most of the patients were either men or small children. A few small girls were seen, but no adult women. The patients wait outside on wooden benches. Afghan doctors, recruited and further trained by the S F team, see them.

“It makes the locals feel more welcome,” a SF medic said.

Agmal, a 10-year-old Afghan boy, came to the clinic to have his arm examined. It was broken in a car wreck in Pakistan and was never set correctly. The arm was covered in scars where doctors had tried to repair the bone. His father, 40-year-old Jamagul, said he had no choice but to bring his son to the Americans.

***A Civil Affairs Soldier works in a Special Forces clinic in Afghanistan that not only treats military personnel, but hundreds of people from the local villages.***



Steve Herbert

# 160th special ops crewmen gets Army award for heroic in-flight actions

By Kelly Tyler

160th SOAR (A) Public Affairs

Two 2nd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) crewmembers received the Army Aviation Broken Wing Award at Fort Campbell, Ky.

The award was given for heroic actions taken by Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Hemp and Spc. Lucas Dunaway in Afghanistan in October 2002. A third award was given to Chief Warrant Officer David Gross earlier this year for the same incident.

“It is a tremendous accomplishment to give this award to Soldiers in an Army aviation MOS (military occupational specialty),” said Col. Andrew Milani, 160th SOAR (A) regimental commander. “The award is most often presented to one member of the crew, generally the pilot in command.”

Hemp and Dunaway are credited with saving the lives of the entire crew of an MH-47E Chinook Oct. 25, 2002, when the aircraft caught fire on a routine approach in Afghanistan. Hemp smelled a burning odor on the aircraft, and suggested that the crew land as soon as possible. As the aircraft moved to land in a dusty area, the source of the fire became visible.

When the fire broke out, Hemp told the pilots they needed to try to make it to a nearby airfield, so emergency vehicles would be able to get to them quickly and extinguish the fire. Hemp was serving as the flight engineer. Dunaway, the crew chief, is credited with leading the fire fighting actions in the aircraft cabin.

“Their quick thinking and actions saved not only the crew, but also an airframe,” Milani said. “Clearly, the people are the important part of that equation. Airframes can be replaced, but this one didn’t have to be.”

According to Army Regulation 627-74, The Army Broken Wing Award is given to air crewmembers who “through outstanding airmanship, minimize or prevent aircraft damage or injury to personnel during an emergency situation. Air crewmembers must have shown extraordinary skill while recovering an aircraft from an in-flight emergency situation.”

## AFSOC Airman receives Distinguished Flying Cross



Lt. Gen. Mike Wooley, commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, congratulates Staff Sgt. Chad Ackman on his Distinguished Flying Cross.

### AFSOC Public Affairs

Ask a child to describe what a hero is, and they often bring up celebrity figures in the TV spotlight, but most people

hardly realize that a hero could be a co-worker or supervisor.

In November 2001, Staff Sgt. Chad Ackman, 18th Flight Test Squadron, Detachment 1 flight engineer, and crewmembers aboard a MH-53M helicopter became heroes when they rescued fellow MH-53M crewmembers who were stranded in hostile territory while providing support to Army forces in Afghanistan.

Because of the actions performed on that day, Ackman earned his place as a hero and as a Distinguished Flying Cross recipient with Lt. Gen. Mike Wooley, Air Force Special Operations Command commander, as the guest presenter.

Wooley also presented Capt. Martin Schweim, 18th FLTS, Det. 1, an Air Medal.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is usually awarded to any officer or enlisted servicemember who distinguishes themselves in an actual combat situation in support of operations by heroism while participating in an aerial flight.

“Initially, we were all nervous,” Ackman said. “But, ultimately, we were all really concerned about our friends that were stranded.”

On that November day, Ackman said they had to be extremely careful due to the weather conditions, since it was one of the prime factors that caused their sister MH-53M helicopter to go down.

After retrieving their crew members, keeping the additional weight of the helicopter balanced became an important factor that he had to calculate, in order to reach their safe point, according to Ackman.

Soon after his return from his deployment, he was notified that he would be recognized for his courageous efforts.

“I’m very proud of both these guys; they’re great patriots and heroes,” Wooley said. “I’m glad to have such great combat-experienced warriors working on AFSOC’s next generation aircraft.”

# Civil Affairs Soldiers help Afghans help themselves

*By Spc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment*

The goal of the reconstruction process in Afghanistan is for the people to be able to stand on their own. In Khowst province, the Civil Military Operations Center is pioneering a way to speed up that process.

Reconstruction is still occurring, but in Khowst, the Afghan people are learning how to

facilitate the projects through their own government's resources, said Sgt. 1st Class Edith Horn, a member of the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion and head of the Khowst CMOC.

The 412th Civil Affairs Battalion is an Army Reserve special operations unit based in Whitehall, Ohio.

"When we first arrived in Afghanistan, the people in the village would constantly come to us asking for schools and other projects to be done. Then we would take the request and make it happen," Horn said.

Now, the CMOC is helping the people understand how to use tools in place throughout the country for those kinds of requests. The Afghan government is made up of ministries and departments that handle everything from road construction and repair to medical facilities and schools.

"While most CMOCs and (Provincial Reconstruction Teams) are still handling the requests themselves, the people of Khowst are learning to rely on their own government," she said.

The process was slow to start, but now it has taken hold and the people seem very happy with the help and support they are receiving from the CMOC team.

Being able to work with and help the local population has been a rewarding opportunity



for Staff Sgt. Randel Harris, of the 551st Military Police Company, who works with the CMOC team as a trainer for the local police force.

"They are very willing and eager to learn how to help and protect themselves," he said. "It is a wonderful experience to be able to see them be able to rely on themselves. You can see on their faces how happy they are to be a more independent people."

While the people in Khowst are happy to be more independent, they still need help with procedures and are glad the CMOC team is available to provide this assistance.

"The people come to us, and they are happy to be able to receive the help they need to file the paperwork properly with the



Steve Herbert

*A Civil Affairs Soldier holds a crying Afghan girl to comfort her at a clinic in Asadabad where Special Forces and Civil Affairs treated hundreds of local patients for ailments ranging from cuts and broken bones to pregnancy complications.*



**Civil Affairs Soldiers visit an Asadabad school built by CA and Special Forces. The CA Soldiers discussed the roles of women in American society including voting, education and career opportunities.**

ministries and departments,” said Horn. “We help gather information and assist them in preparing the information for the ministries.”

The CMOC team is also teaching the local citizens how to get land rights and permission to build, as well as finding qualified teachers for new schools.

“The people are excited to be

able to do the work themselves,” said Harris. “Even though it’s something new to them, they are learning the process quickly and not requiring as much help as they did in the beginning.”

Once the ministries or departments have the requests, the head of the organization checks with the CMOC about actually completing the projects. For instance, if

someone comes in with a request for a school, a road and a well, the CMOC personnel advise the villagers to select the projects that will help the village more.

“In this instance, if there are already several wells, we will focus on the schools and the roads,” said Horn. “The schools are important because the children need to learn so the future of Afghanistan can continue to improve, and the roads are important because without roads the people can’t get to the stores and the economy in the village will not grow.”

The biggest part of the CMOC mission now is to get the ministry heads to work with the city-planning director, who is appointed by the governor, said Horn. “Right now, we are holding bi-monthly meetings with the city planner and the ministry heads,” she said. “The ministries state their interest and priorities for what they want done in the village.”

The most important part of the civil affairs mission in Khowst is that it focuses on the people, said Horn.

“The best part of what we are doing now is that the mission is about what they want for their villages, districts and country, not about what we want,” she said. “It’s great to see the people of Afghanistan stand up for what they want.

“Watching them grow ... is a beautiful experience.”

**An Afghan boy sits with his new backpack provided by coalition forces. The school pack is designed to promote national pride.**



# Freedom is not free

By 1st Lt Joseph Coslett  
USSOCOM Public Affairs

The war on terrorism goes on with brave service members heroically bringing the fight to the enemy. On the frontlines in Afghanistan and Iraq, Special Operations Forces are battling the enemy on their turf so we may enjoy freedom.

But freedoms many of us take for granted such as climbing into a car and going the grocery store or McDonalds for lunch comes at a price. Heroism doesn't just occur on the battlefield. Soldiers continue to fight bravely for their lives.

## Staff Sgt. David Glenn

Staff Sgt. David Glenn, a 29-year-old 3rd Special Forces Group medic deployed three times in support of the global war on terrorism, was conducting a mounted patrol in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Terrorist ambushed his team with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. He received a facial blast, which fractured his jaw. The blast also caused Glenn's partial amputation of the right foot, fractured left foot and lost a finger on his left hand.

Following the explosion his team responded and stabilized him with his help. Glenn assisted his team by keeping his own airway open even though he had shrapnel in his throat. He also helped when asked simple questions of where splints were. Their training and teamwork saved his life.

"I was the only medic on the team and my boys did a great job patching me up enabling me to be here today," Glenn said.

He was medically evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Hospital, Germany, where his wife joined him. Then he flew to Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington, D.C., to recover.

Before Glenn was a member of an elite force fighting against terrorists, now he is battling to recover from his injuries.

*Staff Sgt. David Glenn, 3rd Special Forces Group medic, peddles the upper body cycle to strengthen his arms and chest as part of his recovery program at while Robin Glenn, wife and Bunnie Wyckoff, physical therapist, provide encouragement.*



"It took me two weeks just to sit up," Glenn said. "It took three weeks for me to relearn how to sleep on my side."

Constantly battling just to move around and accept the fact of his lost extremities took a toll on Glenn. However, the support of his wife, friend, doctors, nurses, therapists and medical technicians have motivated him to fight, he said.

Nurse John was the first driving force to recovery, Glenn said. John reminded me that I'm my biggest obstacle. In one day he pushed me to get out of my bed.

From that point on Glenn has been on the fast track to recovery. The original physical therapy plan for Glenn was to focus on his lower legs first followed by upper body strengthening. However, for this Special Forces Soldier that was not good enough.

"I'm ready to do more and work on both at the same time," Glenn said.

Everyday Glenn is working out with weights on his legs and getting adjusted to his socket type prosthetic. Later, he will get a high-tech computerized light weight prosthetic. He is also working out his upper body and arms.

"Bunnie (Wyckoff, physical therapist) has really pushed Dave, but at the same time is very patient," Robin said.

The occupational therapy ward is helping Glenn get used to normal life like getting in and out of a car and moving around the house. They have special tools to assist the Soldiers in their recovery, such as a car simulator that can adjust to the height of the patient's car, and model apartments with functioning appliances to assist with doing simple chores like washing dishes, doing laundry and moving around furniture. Additionally they made special splints that enabled Glenn to grab his medicine with his left hand for the first time in a long time. Patients also do arts and crafts to help improve dexterity.

"Everyone is so nice and to top it off the knowledge of the occupational therapists is absolutely amazing," Robin said.

In mid-November Glenn's SF operation detachment alpha team paid him a morale visit.

"The visit was good for both of us (the team and Glenn) because the last time they saw me I was looking real bad," Glenn said.

Glenn is well on his way to getting his life back, but says he owes much of his success to Robin.

"I can't say enough about of my wife's support," Glenn said. "She has been by my side during the whole ordeal."

Robin also helped other service members who are less fortunate and do not have family and friends nearby. She has completed simple tasks like obtaining a pill box to a fellow patient.

Even though Glenn still has some recovery left he plans to meet his commander.

"I'm going to my battalion formal this Christmas and I'm working hard to walk," Glenn said. "I will meet my commander face to face."

# Heroes fight for their lives



*Staff Sgt. David Glenn completes several crunches with a weight ball. Glenn works hard so he can stand again in front of his commander during his units Christmas formal.*

## **Staff Sgt. Robert Doughty**

While supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, Staff Sgt. Robert Doughty, a 29-year-old 5th Special Forces Group intelligence analyst served two tours one in Afghanistan and one in Iraq, was driving south with his team to re-supply another team with a new vehicle and a couple of laptop computers when they were ambushed. His team was attacked by an improvised roadside bomb. He suffered shrapnel wounds to both legs resulting in amputation of each leg.

SF medics are trained to be the doctor when Soldiers find themselves in a hostile or remote place nowhere near a hospital. They train to deal with life or death situations, and how to stabilize someone with a traumatic injury. Doughty found a deep respect for the medics that saved his life.

Three Special Forces medics responded immediately applying a tourniquet to each leg, Doughty said. "Having three medics on the team is an anomaly in itself, ordinarily there are only two medics, if your unit is at full strength and was definitely a gift from God. Those guys are my heroes."

"Some of the SF medics go on to be doctors, nurses, or physician's assistants. They are literally a doctor most of the time anyway," Doughty said. "They could've just as easily been making a lot more money in a safe and comfy hospital.

I'm just glad that they do it, but I'm sure that their reasons are similar to mine. They are patriotic and believe in this country, and are willing to stand up for it, and do whatever it takes to make sure it stays safe.

**Continued next page**



*Staff Sgt. David Glenn's HUMVEE following an improvised explosive device ambush in Afghanistan. As a result, Glenn incurred partial amputation of the right foot, fractured left foot and lost a finger on his left hand.*

**Continued from previous page**

“They are the kind of people that are willing to fight to make sure we feel safe when we go to sleep at night. They fight so we can feel comfortable when we go to the grocery store, or to the shopping mall, without the fear of terrorism.”

Like Glenn, Doughty had to realize his injuries, and he was fighting for his life.

“I was literally in a state of disbelief, I just couldn’t imagine that I had lost my legs,” Doughty said. Support from his family and friends have kept him together during these trying times.

Tom Porter in particular helped Doughty realize the potential for a full recovery and a normal life.

“Porter is part of the amputee program at Walter Reed,” Doughty said. During the Vietnam War, Porter fell on two land mines and lost both of his legs. However, he went on to retire from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and had children – all of them are living successful lives.

With the help of physical therapists, physicians, nurses and high-tech prosthetics, Doughty has fought back and began walking with a walker three months after the ambush. One week later he was on crutches, and soon after was able to walk using two canes.

“I thank God that I have stayed infection free and kept the ‘never quit’ attitude I picked up in the elite units,” Doughty said. “Soon I will go to one cane and hopefully no cane at all. It’s like being a baby all over again, walking a little bit at a time.”

Doughty has no regrets about his military service.

“I will still support our troops and our country as a private citizen, and try to enjoy my medical retirement a little bit while I prepare for a new career,” Doughty said. “I gave the better part of my young life to the Army, and I wouldn’t do anything different.”



**Staff Sgt. Robert Doughty, 5th Special Forces Group intelligence analyst, walks with crutches three months after improved roadside bomb explosion that left him with two amputated legs while Bunnie Wyckoff, physical therapist, assists.**

**Sgt. Brian Neuman**

Both Glenn and Doughty are outpatients. Sgt. Brian Neuman, a 32-year-old 9th Psychological Operations Battalion specialist, recently arrived at Walter Reed. He is in the starting phases of his recovery.

Neuman received his wounds during third day of fighting in Fallujah. His patrol was ambushed by a rocket

propelled grenade and sniper attacks. An armor piercing bullet went through his Bradley personnel carrier, through his left arm and through the interpreter sitting next to him. Neuman’s left arm was amputated but his issued body armor saved his life.

“I’m a firm believer now in the issued body armor – it saved my life,”

Neuman said.

Even though Neuman was severely injured, his first concern was his men.

“Without hesitating, I squared away my men – at that time their safety was more important than mine,” he said. “Only after that did I realize I was injured.”

Neuman is determined to get back where he was and beyond.

“I absolutely want to go back and support the Army,” he said. “I love teaching and leading.”

His mom, dad and brother have come to support him.

Special Operations Forces family Some patients have a family and friend support network to overcome severe injuries. Others have to rely on each other and the professional staff at Walter Reed for recovery.

“As soon as I was able to get up and around I tried to visit some of the other patients,” Doughty said. “I did this not only out of care and mutual respect for them, but because they didn’t have the support that I had.”

Master Sgt. Dan Thompson and Sgt. 1st Class Martin Thompson are the U.S.

Army Special Operations Command casualty assistance liaisons for Walter Reed Medical Facility. They are a part of the special operations family that takes care of patients and their families during times of need. They coordinate and assist in the reception, transportation and management of all USASOC casualties; facilitate visitation of family members as needed; and represent USASOC on casualty issues with a focus on efficient and reliable tracking.

“I never felt helpless or in need thanks to their dedication,” Doughty said. “The liaisons were able to take care of just about any issues that I faced. I knew that my family and friends could take care of anything they couldn’t. I am forever indebted to them for their help.”

Both liaisons are SOF veterans serving as Special Forces. Martin is a 28-year SOF veteran from three wars and understands firsthand the complexities of recovery. He was hurt in Afghanistan, during Operation Enduring Freedom while trying to capture an Al Qaeda terrorist. He

almost lost his hand and had a traumatic head injury.

“Looking at me today you wouldn’t think I had serious injuries,” Martin said. “I didn’t know Army had plastic surgeons.”

Martin was in such a remote area there was no area for a medical evacuation helicopter to land, so he was driven to a suitable site. “It was a gut check for me without pain killers because I was just bouncing around.”

Additionally he was the only one pathfinder qualified to marshall in the medical evacuation helicopter. “I hobbled over to the LZ (landing zone) popped the smoke brought the bird in and went around to the ramp, got on the ramp. The PJ (Pararescueman) asked me if ‘I was Thompson.’ I said yeah. Then he asked if I wanted morphine.” Martin had no pain killers for more than 12 hours.

He spent six months in the hospital, and went through seven surgeries to recover. USASOC decided to keep him at Walter Reed as a liaison.

“It’s not as good as playing the game but just as good because I’m helping other people,” he said. “It gives me satisfaction to see the guys get well and get back out there.”

General Doug Brown, U.S. Special Operations Command commander, visits Walter Reed frequently. During one of his visits, a wounded soldier’s mother expressed her appreciation for what she considered to be outstanding assistance from the hospital staff and the USASOC liaisons.

Brown commented on the exceptional bravery of her son and said he deserves the best medical care our country can provide. After speaking for a few more minutes Brown gave her his personal contact card and said, “Call me anytime for anything.”



**Sgt. Brian Neuman, 9th Psychological Operations Battalion, meets with his parents and his brother. His family flew from Rhode Island to provide support and any assistance Neuman needs while recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington, D.C. Neuman is recovering after a rocket propelled grenade and sniper ambush during Operation Iraqi Freedom.**



**SOF Weathermen gather climatological data to support deployment, mission planning, special reconnaissance and redeployment.**

# Special Operations Forces Weathermen

## *AFSOC Public Affairs*

A major aspect of any operation is weather – something people can't control but must know how to work with, exploit or avoid to safely and successfully execute the mission as proven over time.

One way of getting accurate weather assessments on the battlefield is to employ Air Force weathermen with Special Operations Forces.

"Weather can be decisive in battle," said Staff Sgt. Scott Youtz, 10th Combat Weather Squadron special operations weatherman. "You don't think about how important weather is until it inhibits you."

Special operations weathermen, in short, deploy into the field with their SOF counterparts to provide commanders with essential elements of weather.

"We go forward on the battlefield, attached to Army and Air Force special operations units, and provide weather observations and forecasts on the scene right then or where you want to go," he said.

To train weathermen with the skills they need to employ with SOF, they must go through an Air Force Special Operation Command school – the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron Advanced Skill Training course.

Youtz, who has deployed with Special Forces overseas twice as a special operations weatherman, is an instructor at the AFSOC school, teaching Combat Controllers and weathermen

advanced training skills.

Not all weathermen are eligible to go to the school though. Air Force weathermen first go through their basic weather technical training at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Afterward, if they are assigned to a special operations unit, they may be accepted to go through the advanced training skills school. Once selected for the course, they attend Phase III — one of the four phases offered at the school.

Phase III consists of static line, military free fall and water parachuting, alternate insertion and extraction techniques, and helicopter work which includes rappelling and fast roping. Other training included in the phase are combat diving, land navigation techniques, and tactical vehicle and small boat operations. This is accomplished in about eight weeks.

Since Youtz is the only instructor at the school to hold a weather Air Force Specialty Code, he said it gives him a unique perspective on how weathermen must integrate with SF.

A special operations weatherman in the field can provide battlefield weather information for commanders that satellites and forecasters can't, he said.

Youtz explained many operational decisions are weighed based on weather conditions such as low ceilings that would prevent certain airframes from flying, rain that could cancel operations, or cold weather that could restrict what a person packs when going to the field.

In the Middle East, there are many weather factors to contend with ranging from blistering hot to frigidly cold temperatures, depending on location, season and wind. There are also dust storms that can last for days. Even without the storms, dust gets into everything on a regular basis, Youtz said.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Stockdale, a Combat Controller with the 23rd STS and instructor, said he's deployed with special operations weathermen numerous times.

"I personally experienced their worth as force multipliers during reconnaissance and surveillance operations," said Stockdale. "The addition of special operations weathermen to our tactical teams greatly enhanced our mission capabilities. Not only did I witness superb weather forecasting skills, I saw resourceful, aggressive special tactics airmen."

# AFSOC weapons expert breaks record

## AFSOC Public Affairs

The superintendent of weapons and tactics at Air Force Special Operations Command set a new record at a high power long range rifle shooting match at the National Rifle Association's National Championships Aug. 16 at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Chief Master Sgt. William Walter, a member of the Air Force's High Power Rifle Team since 1992, set a new record among military shooters in the Palma Match, a historic shooting event challenging shooters to use iron sights to hit a 20 inch bull's-eye at 800, 900, and 1000 yards.

In addition, Chief Walter placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Long Range Championship which ranks shooters on their aggregate scores from a variety of rifle events. The 4<sup>th</sup> place finish was also the highest among service members.

"I'm excited about the result; I've been shooting for a long time and I usually score in the top 1 or 2 percent but never really clinch it," said Chief Walter, who regularly competes against professional shooters in long range events. "I was so concerned with checking my fundamentals because the Palma Match was new to me," he said.

The Air Force High Power Long Range rifle team competes against other uniformed service teams and professionals. Teams from the Army and Marine Corps

commonly field some of the best marksmen. "The Army guys are even happier than I am when I as an Airman do well at an event. They (Army) give us a lot of encouragement, said Chief Walter.

"Not only did Chief Walter set a record at the Palma Match, he did so with a borrowed rifle and it was his first Palma match," said Maj. Eric Bellows, team captain. The victory came in the last shot of the match, the last event of the championships and the last competition in Chief Walter's active duty career, said Major Bellows.

Top marksmen are concerned with every detail of every shot that goes down range. Even in hot weather the shooter wears layered clothing and a heavy jacket to dampen the transmission of the heartbeat to the rifle. The chief explains that even the beating of your heart can throw a shot completely off

target at 1000 yards.

"The new Air Force physical fitness program has given me more time during the day to keep my cardio vascular system in shape which can be a great benefit to anyone in stressful conditions," said Chief Walter.

The environmental conditions at a match present the shooter with a myriad of problems. Careful study and application of technique can allow a marksman to put a round on target despite the environmental conditions effecting both shooter and bullet, said Chief Walter.

"In some matches we shoot with iron sights (no scopes) and the target appears like a pin head at 1,000 yards," said Chief Walter. One thousand yards is nearly a kilometer. "We look at the waves of the mirage and how it is bending the light to interpret the slightest breeze down range," he said.

As superintendent of AFSOC weapons and tactics, Chief Walter brings a copious amount of gunship operations experience to his office where new tactics and

weapons systems requirements are defined. "Shooting is shooting, whether from altitude in a gunship or from 1,000 yards away with iron sights; the fundamentals are the same," said Chief Walter, an aerial gunner on AC-130s for most of his career

Chief Walter is also an adjunct professor at the Joint Special Operations University where he instructs on weapons employment at Dynamics of International Terrorism shooting range here. This was Chief Walter's last match as an active duty Airman. He will retire this year.



Chief Master Sgt. William Walter takes aim through the iron sights of a Russian made .308 caliber Palma rifle at the Hurlburt Field Rifle and Pistol Club.

# 160th SOAR welcomes new regimental CSM

By Kelly Ann Tyler

160th SOAR (A) Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Vernon Elliott assumed responsibility of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) from Command Sgt. Maj. Buford Thomas during a ceremony at the 160th SOAR headquarters here Nov. 10.

Elliott remarked to those gathered that it had been almost exactly 14 years since he first graduated from “Green Platoon,” a comprehensive training program undergone by all new members of the unit.

“Back then, I couldn’t understand why anyone would want to be a first sergeant, let alone a command sergeant major. Obviously, a lot has changed in the 14 years,” Elliott said. “One thing that hasn’t changed is how proud I am to be a member of this organization and how humbling it is to be among Night Stalkers – regardless of your position.”

Elliott previously served as the 160th’s 1st Battalion command sergeant major, and prior to that as the 2nd Battalion command sergeant major. He has served 14 of his 27 years of service in the 160th SOAR.



Thomas, who leaves the regiment to become the command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Aviation Branch at the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., had served as the regiment’s senior noncommissioned officer since May 2003.

During the ceremony, Thomas pressed accolades on the Soldiers of the regiment.

“(We have) accomplished our primary mission of delivering the most highly skilled and lethal special operations forces in the world — time on target, plus or minus 30 seconds — anywhere in the world, under the harshest conditions that no one else can or will even try,” Thomas said.

Despite the relatively small size of the regiment, Thomas said the Soldiers deserve praise for performing echelons above their level.

“These Soldiers provide hospital level medical services, personnel strength management to the degree of a division, world class intelligence that is only found at the highest levels, command and control and battle tracking at the joint level, a logistical train that crosses the conventional, special operations and joint lines with ease and communication support with redundant connectivity that allows peace time and battlefield communications across the full spectrum of battlefield tracking,” Thomas said.

“Additionally, they provide both ground and air maintenance on a routine basis that is normally done at depot or higher echelon of maintenance, provide this regiment with it’s own research, development and procurement program that is second to none and provide training and doctrine support that is way out in front of any program in the Army,” he added.

“It has certainly been my privilege to have served with such great Americans, warriors and their forever-supporting families. I will always remember and treasure the time I have served in this truly one of kind outstanding regiment,” Thomas concluded.

“These two NCOs symbolize to me what distinguishes the United States Army from any other fighting force,” said Col. Andrew Milani, 160th SOAR commander. “The primary reason the United States military is so much better than the militaries of our adversaries is our noncommissioned officer corps.”

Milani and Thomas served as the command team for 16 months.

“(He) leaves us today because he was selected as the Army aviation branch command sergeant major – a position that he is eminently well qualified for, and a position where he will have a profound impact on the future of army aviation and its Soldiers,” Milani said. “As even-handed as I know he will be, I cannot help but think he will keep Night Stalkers on the forefront of his mind, and close to his heart.”

The 160th is the Army’s only special operations aviation unit. The unit provides rotary wing support to multiservice special operations forces, including Rangers, Special Forces, Navy SEALs, Air Force battlefield airmen and Marine elements.

# Army provides gear to special ops Soldiers

By Spc. Jennifer J. Eidson  
U.S. Army Special Operations Command

Special operations Soldiers are known for their advanced equipment and technology, but with the Army's Rapid Fielding Initiative, brigade combat teams are being issued some of the same equipment.

Now, the U.S. Army Special Operations Command is relying on the RFI program to outfit its Soldiers with the up-to-date equipment provided by the Program Executive Office. Some of the command's Soldiers received RFI equipment at Fort Bragg, N.C., in September. USASOC Soldiers first received the RFI-issued items in late August.

"The Army started issuing the equipment out to other units within the Army," said Valerie Wyatt, a USASOC logistic management specialist. "Since we are a (special ops) unit and we were already getting this equipment, they figured we didn't need it."

Some of the RFI equipment the Soldiers received included a duffel bag, Advanced Combat Helmet, two pairs of desert combat boots, hydration system, cold weather cap, combat rigger belt, multi-use sunglass goggles, low profile goggles and cold weather gloves.

However, the equipment the special operations Soldiers already had was not provided to the units by the Army. The equipment was being purchased for them with their unit funds, Wyatt said.

"These are some of the items that the command was actually buying prior to units deploying," she said. "But the Department of the Army said the units were spending too much money, so they came up with RFI to outfit the Soldiers. Now we are saving them some money."

Maj. Jeffrey L. Peters, a combat developer with USASOC, said some of the Soldiers from the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, the U.S. Army Special Forces Command, as well as special operations support personnel, all preparing to deploy, are receiving the RFI equipment.

"The remaining USASOC units will be scheduled as they prepare to deploy," Peters said. Soldiers receiving Army-common individual Soldier equipment at a time when they need it most," said Peters.

# New PSYOP battalion activates at Fort Bragg

By Sgt. Kyle Cosner  
USASOC Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (USASOC News Service, Oct. 20, 2004) — The Army's newest psychological operations battalion was formally activated during a ceremony here Oct. 19.

The 5th Psychological Operations Battalion is the latest addition to the 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) here, and is a much-needed supplement to PSYOP forces engaged in the fight against terrorism, said Col. Jack Summe, 4th POG commander.

The 4th POG is the Army's only active-duty PSYOP unit.

"Today represents the culmination of a vision that began seven years ago," Summe said. "At that time, no one foresaw the huge demands of the Global War on Terror on the entire PSYOP community ... and at that time the 4th PSYOP Group was organized with only five total battalions, and only three regional battalions."

After its activation, the 5th PSYOP Bn. became the sixth subordinate battalion of the 4th POG. The battalion will assume responsibility for all PSYOP activities in the U.S. Pacific Command, or PACOM, theater of operations, which includes the Far East and the Pacific Rim, said Summe.

The unit's lineage dates back to 1951, when it was created at Fort Riley, Kan., as the 5th Loudspeaker and Leaflet Company. Over the next 24 years, the unit was reorganized three times until it was deactivated from the Regular Army in 1975 and transferred to the Army Reserve as the 5th Psychological Operations Group.

After being deactivated from the Army Reserve in 1994, the unit was redesignated into the Regular Army as Headquarters and Service Company, 5th PSYOP Bn., on Nov. 18, 2003. The Army officially activated the battalion Oct. 16.



Lt. Col. Kyle D. Hickman (left), commander of the 5th Psychological Operations Battalion, receives his unit's colors from Col. Jack Summe, 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) commander, during the battalion's activation ceremony Oct. 19 at Fort Bragg, N.C. The 5th PSYOP Bn. Command Sgt. Maj. Michael W. Stein (center) had just uncased the colors before passing them to Summe.

# Naval Special Warfare Command celebrates Maguire's second star

By Chief Petty Officer Austin Mansfield  
NAVSPECWARCOM Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Joseph Maguire became the first commander of Naval Special Warfare Command to receive a second star during a ceremony at Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, Calif., in September.

Established in 1987, NSWC had been led by rear admirals lower half (one star). The diverse expansion of NSW capabilities and requirements in the war on terror has brought increased responsibilities to a community that thrives on challenges.

Living the Navy SEAL credo, “the only easy day was yesterday,” Maguire forged his way up through the community, starting as Honor Man of Class 93 at Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training, then serving in Underwater Demolition Team 21, SEAL Team 2, SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team 2, NSW Development Group, NSW Group 2, and later as Deputy Commander, Special Operations Command Pacific, and Deputy Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command.

NSW participation in the global war on terror has resulted in more demand for NSW capabilities, which has caused the community to realign itself in some aspects.

“It’s not just important because it’s the first,” said Vice Adm. Eric Olson, Deputy Commander of U.S. Special Operation Command. “It’s important because of what’s going to happen as a result of having a two-star commander at this headquarters. Times have changed, and this command has continued to develop and mature. The requirements and, maybe more importantly, the expectations of this command are higher than ever before. We are meeting those expectations in a grand way. We are recognized in both of our roles as the Navy arm of Special Operations and as the Special Operations arm of the Navy, and as the best at what we do.”

Olson explained the significance of Maguire’s achievement at the 17-year-old NSW command.

“Admiral Joe Maguire is the 9<sup>th</sup> SEAL in the modern era to be selected

for flag rank,” Olson said. “He’s the seventh to command this headquarters; he’s the fifth to be selected for his second star; the third to be selected for his second star prior to or during this command; and the first to wear it here at Naval Special Warfare Command headquarters.

“It’s a tribute to all of you and all the rest of the Naval Special Warfare community who we represent here today,” Olson said. “It’s a recognition of the times we are in, and the importance of what we do.”

Maguire commented on what this promotion means for the SEAL (SEa, Air, and Land) and SWCC (Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen) operators and technicians in the NSW community.

“It’s more than just a promotion of one officer to rear admiral,” Maguire said. “There are a lot of people who are involved with this and it really impacts the community every bit as much as it does me personally. Thank you all so much. I’m honored and humbled. All I can tell you is I will take this promotion with a renewed sense of dedication and do everything I can to make sure that we not only fight this war on terrorism, but that we win it.”



Rear Adm. Joseph Maguire, commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, is pinned with his second star by Vice Adm. Eric Olson, deputy commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, and wife Kathy Maguire.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Logsdon

# NSW-created triathlon challenges 'men of iron'

By Chief Petty Officer Robert Benson  
Naval Special Warfare Group 3

Carlos Moleda came to America at age 18, an immigrant from Brazil who had no money and spoke little English. He joined the Navy and became a SEAL. Later, on a cloudless night during an operation in Panama Dec. 20, 1989, he felt a bullet rip through his back and most of his unit fell dead or wounded around him.

So racing in the Ironman Triathlon, an annual endurance event in Hawaii that takes athletes on a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and full 26.2-mile marathon, wasn't something that intimidated the paraplegic athlete from Virginia Beach, Va.

Last week Moleda won the Physically Challenged division in the Ironman triathlon for the third time, in a time of 11 hours, 18 minutes, and 7 seconds.

Another Special Warfare athlete, Lt. Andrew Baldwin, Naval Special Warfare Group (NSWG) 3 finished the Oct. 16 race in 10:45:28. Other Navy competitors selected for this year's triathlon team included Ensign Bill Uffman (10:42:10), Cmdr. Scott Jones (10:44:36), Lt. Cmdr. Dan Frost (11:07:18) and Lt. Tracie Andrusiak (12:48:48).

Nearly every year, since the race's inception, special warfare members have competed in the grueling event. Even the race's origin can be traced back to Navy SEALs.

In 1977, John Dunbar and Lt. John Collins, both SEALs, discussed with a couple of friends which of the Hawaiian extreme sporting competitions was the toughest. They debated between the Oahu Rough Water Swim, the 112-mile

around the island bike race, and the Honolulu Marathon.

"We suggested putting the three events together for a 140-mile race. Someone among us then said 'whoever does that will surely be an ironman.'"

Fifteen competed in the new sport in 1978, its first year.

Today, nearly 2,000 compete annually in the race and millions throughout the world watch the Ironman World Triathlon Championship unfold via media or the Internet.

All competitors, including Navy athletes, qualified earlier in the year for the race or received an entry slot by special lottery.

The Navy athletes have shaped their fitness curve not over days or weeks or months to prepare for the Ironman, but over the span of many years.

"With the exception of spending time with my mom, dad, sisters, and brother-in-law, nothing in this world makes me happier than working out, training and racing for triathlons," declared Uffman, who recorded the fastest Navy time this year.

Uffman, stationed at Naval Security Group Activity, Fort Meade, Md., realized his dedication to the sport of triathlon in graphic detail during another Ironman race in New Zealand two years ago.

"It was by far the hardest race I have ever done," he said. "They wanted to pull me but I begged to let me continue," he added. "About an hour later, I had some of the worst pain of my entire life. I was blistered by the sun and very worse for wear, but I finished."

Uffman said his friends are proud of

him for competing in the Ironman this year, but they also think that he is "pretty crazy and extremely motivated."

Even Frost, a lieutenant commander who works in Washington, D.C., at the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Infrastructure, Strategy and Analysis, finds time to be competitive in multi-sport events.

He's done what would seem crazy for the mere mortal: bicycle tours covering up to 1,000 miles in two weeks; 60 triathlons, and what he calls the toughest, the 2003 Skaha Lake Ultra Swim: a 7.38 mile swim in British Columbia, which he swam without a wetsuit in four hours.

All Navy competitors said the winds during the bike event made this year's race especially difficult, and contributed to the highest DNF (did not finish) rate in the race's history.

That windy bicycle ride took the competitors through barren lava fields and rolling ranchlands to the turnaround at the village of Hawi, at the northeast tip of the island. The cyclists had to battle headwinds of up to 25 mph and temperatures in the high 80s for most of their ride on the sunny, cloudless day.

About 1,700 athletes from 50 states and 48 countries, ranging in age from 20 to 80, were registered for the 140.6-mile endurance test.

Germany's Normann Stadler, who spent six weeks training in San Diego, was the overall winner, with a time of 8:33:29. "It was my biggest dream come true," said Stadler after winning the race.

The same thought most likely rang in each Navy athlete's head as they crossed the finish line of the world's toughest race, the Ironman.



# Presidential Unit Citation to Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-South/TF KBAR

*By Secretary of the Navy  
November 9, 2004*

For extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in Afghanistan from 17 October 2001 to 30 March 2002. Throughout this period, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-SOUTH/Task Force K-BAR, operating first from Oman and then from forward locations throughout the southern and eastern regions of Afghanistan, successfully executed its primary mission to conduct special operations in support of the United States' efforts as delegated to Commander, U.S. Central Command through the Joint Forces Special Operations Component Command, to destroy, degrade, and neutralize the Taliban and Al Qaeda leadership and military. During its six-month existence, Task Force K-BAR was the driving force behind myriad combat missions conducted in Combined Joint Operations Area Afghanistan. These precedent setting and extremely high-risk missions included search and rescue, recovery dive operations, non-compliant boardings of high interest vessels, special reconnaissance, hydrographic reconnaissance, sensitive site exploitation, direct action missions, apprehension of military and political detainees, destruction of multiple cave

and tunnel complexes, identification and destruction of several know Al Qaeda training camps, explosion of thousands of pounds of enemy ordnance and successful coordination of unconventional warfare operations for Afghanistan. The Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and coalition partners of Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-SOUTH/Task Force K-BAR set an unprecedented 100 percent mission success rate across a broad spectrum of special operations missions while operating under extremely difficult and constantly dangerous conditions. They established benchmark standards of professionalism, tenacity, courage, tactical brilliance, and professional excellence while demonstrating superb esprit de corps and maintaining the highest measure of combat readiness. By their outstanding courage, resourcefulness and aggressive fighting spirit in combat against a well equipped, well trained, and treacherous terrorist enemy, the officers and enlisted personnel of Combined Joint Special Operations Task-Force SOUTH/Task Force K-BAR reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Armed Forces.

**Citation for Award above  
Photos/story to come Dec. 7**

# Soldier's Medal honors USSOCOM Army captain for selflessness

By Jennifer Whittle

USSOCOM Public Affairs

The explosions were terrifying and his initial instinct was to flee from the scene — until he heard there were wounded Soldiers. What kicked in after that was his courage under fire.

Army Capt. John Paul, U.S. Special Operations Command, earned the Soldier's Medal for his actions that day last year in Iraq and was pinned with the award at the USSOCOM Headquarters by Brig. Gen. George Flynn, chief of staff, in November.

Paul, a physician's assistant who treats patients daily at the USSOCOM clinic, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., had recently arrived in Iraq for a year tour. May 7, 2003, took him a little by surprise.

"It began with a rocket being fired at our base in Tikrit," Paul said. "As a result, several hundred rounds of unexploded ordnance including rockets, surface to air missiles, and artillery rounds, were ignited by the fire that the initial impact caused. While the area was being evacuated, I saw another rocket hit several homes in the neighboring village."

Paul and his medic chose to drive through the impact area to look for casualties while large bombs exploded and shrapnel landed around them.

Paul said he would never forget the intensity of that day, the heat from the fires, and the sheer volume of explosions. "A Bradley Fighting Vehicle had been struck by a rocket and the track commander was wounded," Paul said. "Since there were still exploding rockets and bombs, we knew that a helicopter could not land or fly over the area."

The two Soldiers decided that they were the only ones that could help the crew so they drove back through the impact area in order to rescue the casualty. More than once they needed to maneuver the HUMVEE to avoid the incoming rounds. Once they safely secured and treated the wounded Soldier, the two evacuated him out of the area.

The recommendation for then-1st Lt. Paul's medal states that "as the rocket fire became more intense, Paul continued to move into the danger area without regard for his own safety. He had to position his ambulance several times in the path of oncoming rockets in order to accomplish this mission. Still under threat of fire, Paul treated the wounded Soldier in the field and during evacuation."

That is precisely what the Soldier's Medal was designed to acknowledge. Established by an Act of Congress in 1926, the



First Lt. John Paul (right) treats an injured U.S. Soldier in Iraq.

medal honors a Soldier who distinguishes himself or herself by heroism that involves personal hazard or danger and the voluntary risk of life.

Before deployment to Iraq, Paul served in Afghanistan with the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne). There he helped set up Medical Civil Action Programs, or MEDCAPs, in villages to help treat Afghans and build relations with them. Paul took it upon himself to do the same thing in Iraq and worked closely with Civil Affairs personnel. "The need was obvious and the MEDCAPs did nothing but create goodwill in both Afghanistan and Iraq," he said.

Paul feels like he made a difference in both countries and said he would go back, taking lessons he learned on the ground in both Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"I learned how essential a global positioning system is," he said. "Without it on May 7, I could not have located the casualty. I also learned how vital it is to ensure your radio is set to the right frequency."

Paul also saw the value in teaching combat lifesaver skills to Soldiers.

"Being flexible and prepared for anything in combat is critical," Paul said. "In the blink of an eye things can go from calm to chaos. Lead by example, trust your training, and you will do well."

# SOF-specific body armor

## Are you covered?

By Julius Denson

*USSOCOM Special Programs*

Close combat and fighting in an urban environment has placed greater emphasis on body armor. Body armor is essential, life saving equipment for Special Operations Forces. Many body armor systems that are commercially available were developed for law enforcement use and designed only with a small arms threat in mind. Military use demands protection from not only small arms fire but also from fragmentation as well. Technology advancements have resulted in the development of Military body armor that is effective against threats that range from small arms rounds to fragmentation and that is relatively light weight.

Commercial body armor systems are typically rated in accordance with the National Institute of Justice

(NIJ) Standard (0101.04). This standard establishes test parameters, test methodology, and acceptance criteria for various levels of ballistic protection. While NIJ standards are similar to military requirements, the standards were developed to characterize specific threats encountered in law enforcement environments. As noted above, the threats faced in military environments are generally more violent and more pervasive. Consequently, NIJ standards are not used to characterize the ballistic performance of military body armor systems. In order to properly compare the ballistic performance of commercial body armor systems to the performance of military body armor systems, additional testing and evaluation of the commercial body armor systems' ballistic performance is usually required.

The primary reason for wearing body armor is to stop a bullet or fragment from entering the body. However, simply stopping a bullet or fragment is not the only measure of ballistic performance. The high energy of ballistic impacts typically causes a deformation of the ballistic stopping component of the body armor. This "back face" deformation can cause blunt force trauma effects on the portion of the body immediately behind the armor system, which in turn must be considered when evaluating the performance of any ballistic protection system.

Body armor systems are typically made up of ballistic stopping components (hard or soft "plates" or "layers") and the vests that carry these components. USSOCOM has fully tested and approved one system of ballistic stopping components and a family of vest carriers to employ these approved ballistic stopping components for use by Special Operations Forces. The ballistic stopping components currently approved for use by USSOCOM elements are the Body Armor Load Carriage System (BALCS) ballistic components (hereafter referred to as ballistic components, plates, or armor) fielded under the Special Operations Forces Personal Equipment Advanced Requirements (SPEAR) program.

**Continued**



*A Ranger conducts battle drills wearing the proper SOF Body Armor.*

## SOF BALCS



## Soft Armor Panel



## BALCS-Releasable



### Ballistic Components

BALCS consists of two (2) ballistic plates, one (1) soft armor ballistic component insert, one (1) plate carrier, one (1) soft armor carrier, and one each groin and neck protector containing soft armor ballistic components. Each ballistic component is fully compatible with its respective BALCS vest cover.

Soft armor is constructed of multiple layers of ballistic stopping cloth, such as Kevlar or Spectra. These ballistic stopping materials are lightweight, flexible, and have extremely high tensile strength. These materials are well suited for applications where flexibility is required (i.e. body armor) or can be used in hard armor applications, when combined with epoxy resins (i.e. helmets). Soft armor systems typically provide protection against handgun or fragmentation threats only. The addition of a ballistic plate is usually required to defeat a high speed round such as those fired by a rifle.

The BALCS ballistic plate is a boron carbide composite plate that provides multi-hit protection against specific armor piercing threats. All USSOCOM operators should now have the ballistic plate with a black label on the back side. The SPEAR BALCS ballistic plate (either version) has similar external dimensions of the Army's Small Arms Protective Insert (SAPI) and is fully compatible with the Army's Interceptor Outer Tactical Vest (OTV) system.

Ballistic plates defeat ballistic threats by breaking up or destroying the threat at impact with the plate. In order to do this, ballistic plates are constructed of composite ceramic materials with a ceramic such as boron carbide or silicon carbide. Sometimes metal alloys are used. Additional layers of ballistic cloth combined with resins to make a rigid composite are also used to reinforce the ceramic material to minimize cracking associated with bullet impact and to catch the bullet fragments before complete penetration. The reduction of plate cracking improves multi-hit performance. Ballistic plates are usually placed against a soft armor system but can be also used in a stand-alone configuration when properly designed for this application.

### Periodic Inspection

X-ray and/or ultrasound of the ballistic plates should be performed every 24 to 30 months. Special Operations Forces Support Activity's (SOFSA) quality assurance provision ensures that ballistic plates are free from defects, cracks, and fissures occurring from normal use. The plates are dated with the quarter and year of manufacture, which is used to determine inspection requirements.

SOFSA coordinates the inspection of plates based on the date of manufacture/fielding. Ballistic plates with green labels have priority for inspection (green is used to identify older plates). Ballistic plates with black labels will be inspected at the unit's request when SOFSA arrives to conduct the evaluation or at the regular inspection interval, whichever occurs first. Plates found to be defective will be removed from service.

### Vest Covers

The SPEAR BALCS utilizes a family of vest covers to provide multiple capabilities to the SOF operator. Each vest cover uses one or more BALCS ballistic components to provide a modular ballistic protection capability. This capability is mission tailorable to allow optimization of operator performance and protection.

The BALCS soft armor vest insert, neck collar and groin protectors are comprised of layers of Spectra material. They are rated to provide protection against 9 x 19mm ball round and fragmentation threats. The BALCS soft armor insert provides backing to the ballistic upgrade plate and extends over the shoulders and wraps around the torso.

The original BALCS vest cover was fielded with a complete set of BALCS ballistic components. The BALCS vest provides coverage to the majority of the thorax and allows the user to remove unwanted neck and groin protection. The BALCS permits rapid jettison of the upgrade plate and maintains positive buoyancy for three minutes, when no load carriage is attached.

**Continued**

**Body Armor continued**



**Modular Ballistic  
Armor Vest**



**Low Visibility Body  
Armor Vest**

**Vest Variants**

The Releasable Body Armor Vest (RBAV) was developed as a replacement for the original BALCS vest cover and provides the same area of coverage and level of protection. The RBAV provides a rapid jettison capability of the complete vest system, including attached load carriage. This allows the user to be rapidly extricated from a fully loaded vest system, which streamlines the wearer and removes excess weight, improving the likelihood for survival in an accidental submergence or emergency medical situation. The RBAV has two versions: Dual Pull – Provides two locations for the quick release lanyard, center low and either left or right. Single Pull – Provides a single location (center high) for the quick release lanyard.

The Modular Body Armor Vest (MBAV) complements the original BALCS vest or RBAV and uses the BALCS upgrade plate. The current MBAV eliminates the BALCS soft armor insert, reducing weight and bulk and improving the operator’s freedom of motion. The original maritime variant of the MBAV requires the user to wear the Low Visibility Body Armor Vest (LVBAV) under the MBAV in order to maintain the area of coverage and level of protection of the BALCS system. The newer Ranger MBAV variant uses a plate sized soft armor insert sewn into the plate carrier. This version maintains the level of protection but allows the use of the MBAV in a stand-alone configuration, maximizing operator freedom of motion. The tradeoff is a reduction in area of coverage for protection against 9mm and fragmentation threats. The MBAV is not compatible with the neck collar or groin protectors.

The LVBAV is used to provide a level of concealable or low visibility ballistic protection against 9mm and fragmentation threats. The LVBAV is intended to be worn under outer garments in situations where the user requires ballistic protection but does not wish to make this protection obvious, such as an external vest would do. The LVBAV is not compatible with the neck collar or groin protectors.

**Body Armor Procurement**

SPEAR body armor components are centrally managed and as such can only be procured through the Program Executive Officer Special Programs (PEO-SP). Non-centrally managed purchases include parts and pieces required for repair and maintenance. The Special Operations Acquisition and Logistics (SOAL) Center, PEO-SP is the command office of primary responsibility for procurement of body armor. For all questions/assistance on SOF Body Armor Equipment, please contact SOAL-SP, Julius Denson at (813) 828 – 9352.

**OPSEC and COMSEC monitoring:  
Fraternal twins or distant cousins?**

*By Rick Estberg, IOSS  
Column by Mike Sweat,  
USSOCOM OPSEC Officer*



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

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

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

Does this mean that those involved in COMSEC monitoring are not “doing” OPSEC? Let’s put it this way: they are not employing the complete five-step approach to the OPSEC analytic process. Beyond this, no one actually “does” OPSEC. Instead, OPSEC is a way of viewing your overall operations, assessing whether you have identified your critical information, then taken steps to ensure that no adversary can learn it and take advantage of it. That being said, identified COMSEC weaknesses which are subsequently “fixed” have now improved a unit’s overall OPSEC posture, so we can definitely say that COMSEC activities support healthy OPSEC.

Finally, regarding assessments/surveys, there is an important distinction between OPSEC and COMSEC monitoring. When an organization asks for IOSS assistance in an OPSEC assessment, we assist them as they actually perform their own assessment. It would be difficult if not impossible, for example, for the IOSS to determine accurately a particular unit’s critical information—only the unit in question can do that. The IOSS can be of great assistance in this and subsequent steps, to include determining vulnerabilities and countermeasures.

# 300-mile run honors special operators

By Maj. James Zierman  
USSOCOM Public Affairs

In the early dawn hours of Veteran's Day, the day that America sets aside to honor its military — past and present — 22 runners set out to do their part to honor some of America's elite military forces.

While many still slept in the small community of Duluth, Ga., 25 miles from the hustle of Atlanta, these runners prepared to embark on a 42-hour, nonstop marathon relay race that would wind through more than 300 miles of country roads and small towns in north and central Georgia. Their trek would end at Emmett Park in Savannah.

The event was sponsored by the City of Duluth and private contributors. Both civilians and military runners took part in the endurance challenge, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, a high school teacher, five Army Rangers from Fort Benning, one Marine and an Air Force Recruiter. Their common goal was to honor special operations and other unique military forces from each of the services who are serving or served in Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

The runners broke down into two, eleven-person relay teams for the lengthy marathon. They started together and through the first five miles. Then they separated with their respective teams. Each team was trailed by a recreational vehicle. The teams then rotated single runners about every eight miles with a team member from the RV.

The runners carried with them a belt containing a set of nine commemorative coins, each about the size of a silver dollar, uniquely engraved as a tribute to Special Operations Forces units and other specialized military units that served or continue to serve overseas in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The coins were engraved with U.S. States Special Operations Command, U.S. Army Special Forces, U.S. Army Rangers, U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command, U.S. Naval Special Warfare, U.S. Marine Force Recon, 347th Operations Group (Pararescue), U.S. Army 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, and U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division. Runners passed the belt of coins like a



**Army Special Forces Col. Carlos Burgos (center) speaks with runners at the ceremony in Savannah, Ga., after accepting the coin the runners carried to honor the United States Special Operations Command.**

baton in a relay race.

Each county that the runners entered provided a police escort through their cities. Crowds gathered despite the rainy weather, to cheer on the runners at all hours of the day and night. One woman chased down the runners in her car after they passed and offered a donation to pay for more coins.

Bill Stevens, one of the runners, developed the idea for the marathon. He is a Gwinnett County firefighter and lieutenant with the Duluth Police Department. Stevens was responsible for designing the commemorative coins carried by the runners.

"The coins were paid for through private donations from individuals and businesses," he said. More than 3,800 of these coins were previously distributed and upon completion of the run, 2,500 will be given to appropriate service members and family members of those that were killed in action.

After about 40 hours of running, the two teams regrouped outside Savannah for the final leg in to Emmett Park. Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue signed a proclamation establishing Nov. 13 as "Georgia Special Forces Run Day." Members of the military units designated on the carried coins received them from the runners during an afternoon ceremony at the park.

Col. Carlos Burgos, Army Special Forces, accepted the coin for U.S. Special Operations Command and said he was literally taken aback by the incredible amount of respect and sense of gratitude displayed, by the runners and spectators.



**Shown above are the Special Operations Forces coins carried on the 300-mile trek.**

# JSOU introduces 'Enlightened Warrior'

## Deployed SOF, family members to earn degrees online

### USSOCOM Public Affairs

The U.S. Special Operations Command partnered today with four universities in what's known as the Enlightened Warrior Program, a new curriculum to offer members an optimal chance to earn accelerated college degrees, during a signing ceremony here. The program is designed to minimize challenges for often-deployed USSOCOM members and their families and provide benefits such as earning degrees entirely online, classes that are self-paced even while deployed, and offering extensive college credit for training and experience.

"It's an especially difficult time for military members to attend a brick and mortar university," said Vice Adm. Eric Olson, the USSOCOM Deputy Commander, who hosted the leaders from the four universities in formalizing the new partnership, noting that USSOCOM members are fully engaged in the Global War on Terrorism. "We want our people to grow in every way while serving in special operations forces. Enlightened Warrior gives them all a much greater opportunity to earn a college degree."

USSOCOM Commander Gen. Doug Brown and Senior Enlisted Adviser Command Chief Master Sgt. Bob Martens ordered research and development of the EWP as a retention initiative for Special Operations Forces personnel. The initiative allows education to work for the deployed SOF operator and the

ones at home taking care of loved ones.

"Even deployed, our people get a chance to work on degrees and not put education on hold," said Chief Master Sgt. Arnold E. Lamb, the Senior Enlisted Adviser for the Joint Special Operations University. "Being deployed a lot means that it's harder for our people to go to school. Meanwhile a spouse can also be home with the family working on his or her degree at a reduced cost."

Through EWP, the special operators and their family members are tagged as "SOF students," receive additional student services and lower tuition costs compared to mainstream students. Some of the universities offer up to 15 percent discount for tuition for military and member students.

"The idea is that SOF personnel can go from beginning to end in earning a degree with the same team," said Dr. Joe Stuart, dean for the JSOU. While he and his JSOU team looked at more than 300 university programs, Stuart and his team settled on four universities which offer advanced degrees, online courses, and self-paced courses tailored to the needs of SOF. The program is open to all members of USSOCOM around the world.

Administered online through the JSOU at Hurlburt Field, Fla., the program will offer

educational opportunities to all USSOCOM enlisted members, officers, warrant officers and family members. American InterContinental University, Capella University, Jones International University, and Western Governors University partnered with USSOCOM to

provide college credit to SOF personnel

incommensurate with training and experience, thus reducing the length of time required for a traditional degree program.

"We narrowed it down to four schools because each of these has unique offerings for our command," Stuart said. Each of the schools is military and family friendly. While the service member is earning a degree, a family member can be working on a

degree as well and eventually save thousands of dollars over the life of the program."

All four universities are regionally accredited and accept tuition assistance, VA and other financial aid programs. The program offers 100-percent online coursework, thus allowing for "anytime, anyplace" accessibility, as well as discounts for service members and their immediate family members.

Prospective students should start the EWP by visiting the JSOU website. On line registration is available at <http://www.hurlburt.af.mil/jsou/>.



## Universities supporting Enlightened Warrior

Universities	Unique Attributes	Degree Programs
 <p><b>American InterContinental University</b></p>	<p><b>Highest quality of online experience; extensive online library</b></p>	<p><b>Business Administration, Visual Comm, IT Education, Criminal Justice</b></p>
 <p><b>Capella University</b></p>	<p><b>Bachelor, Master and PhD degrees</b></p>	<p><b>Business, Education, Human Services, Psychology, Technology</b></p>
 <p><b>Jones International University</b></p>	<p><b>Self-paced study accommodates deployments</b></p>	<p><b>Business, Education, Communication</b></p>
 <p><b>Western Governors University</b></p>	<p><b>Awards extensive credits for prior training and experience</b></p>	<p><b>Business, Education, Info Tech, Teacher Education</b></p>

# This month in SOF history

## The first Special Service Force

By Gaea Levy  
USSOCOM History Office

In June 1942, a Canadian-American force was formed to conduct a series of winter raids against vulnerable German garrisons in Norway and Romania, hopefully diverting up to half a million enemy troops from the main fronts. The 1<sup>st</sup> Special Service Force, led by COL Robert T. Frederick, trained in physical conditioning, weapons training, hand-to-hand fighting, demolitions, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, and airborne operations. To prepare for winter warfare, the force lived in boxcars on the Continental Divide in Montana. In September 1942 their intended mission had been cancelled. While COL Frederick looked for other areas where his forces' special skills could be used, the soldiers broadened their training to include infantry skills and amphibious operations.

In October, the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Service Force was transferred to the Fifth Army in the Mediterranean. Their first mission was to attack the twin peaks of Monte La Difensa and Monte La Rementanea from the Germans. A German panzer grenadier division, entrenched along the slopes of these mountains, had rebuffed repeated attacks. The German defense was so well dug in among the sheer cliffs that sustained air and artillery bombardment had little effect on them. COL Frederick reconnoitered the 3,000 foot mountain and determined to launch a surprise attack up the north side, an audacious plan since that side consisted of a 2,000

foot cliff, and then a series of six ledges.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment would be the main assault force on Monte La Difensa. On the night of 2 December, 600 riflemen began to climb up the cliffs in freezing rain. All available allied air and artillery fired at the mountaintops to weaken the enemy and divert their attention from the force scaling the mountain. The troops said that the mountain looked as if it was on fire. By dawn on 3 December, the forward units dug into concealment, waiting out the day, while other allied troops got to their positions in adjoining sectors. That evening the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment began the final leg of its journey up to the mountain peak. They came within yards of the enemy forces, who had surrounded their positions with loose stones. The noise from the stones moving alerted the Germans, and the 1<sup>st</sup> SSF attacked prematurely. After two hours of fierce fighting, the 1<sup>st</sup> SSF had gained control of Mount La Difensa.

The Heavy casualties delayed the attack on Monte La Rementanea. While the force took up defensive positions, patrols brought back prisoners and knocked out snipers. To resupply the forward troops, 3rd Regiment soldiers carried the supplies up mountain paths too steep for mules. They carried loads of about 50 pounds on the way up and litters with injured soldiers down, they each made two to three trips per day.

On the afternoon of 6 December, the 1<sup>st</sup> SSF finally took Monte La Rementanea. Victory came at a high price—1<sup>st</sup> SSF suffered 532 killed, wounded, or injured, which was almost a third of its total fighting force. After this dramatic victory, the unit was put into the fight as a line unit. This misapplication of a specialized unit resulted in the loss of 1,400 of its 1,800 members. They received a large number of qualified replacements from the disbanded Ranger regiments before deploying to the Anzio beachhead in early February 1944. In December or 1944 the unit was dissolved.

*The 1st Special Service Force carries an injured Soldier off the battlefield during World War II. The 1st SSF conducted a series of winter raids against vulnerable German garrisons in Norway and Romania.*



# Secretary of Defense comments on three-year anniversary of Operation Enduring Freedom

*“More than 1,000 U.S. soldiers, men and women, have died. Every loss is deeply felt. It is in freedom’s defense that our country has had the benefit of these volunteers deployed, these the most courageous among us.”*

Three years into the global war on terror, some understandably ask, “Is the world better off? Is our country safer?”

They’re fair questions.

From the outset of this conflict it was clear that our coalition had to go on the offense against terrorists. The goals included the need to pursue terrorists and their regimes that provide them aid and comfort, havens; to establish relationships with new allies and bolster international coalitions to prosecute the war; to improve considerably America’s homeland defense; and to advance freedom and democracy, and to work with moderate leaders to undermine terrorism’s ideological foundation.

In the last three years progress has been made in each of these areas. Four years ago al Qaeda was already a growing danger – before Sept. 11, 2001. Terrorists had attacked American interests for years. The leader, Osama bin Laden, was safe and sheltered in Afghanistan. His network was dispersed around the world. Three years later, more than two thirds of al Qaeda’s key members and associates have been detained, captured or killed. Osama bin Laden is on the run. Many of his key associates are behind bars or dead. His financial lines have been reduced. And I suspect he spends a good deal of every day avoiding being caught.

Once controlled by extremists, Afghanistan today is led by Hamid Karzai, who is helping to lead the world in support of moderates against the extremists. Soccer stadiums in Kabul, once used for public executions under the Taliban, today are used for soccer.

Three years ago in Iraq, Saddam Hussein and his sons brutally ruled a nation in the heart of the Middle East. Saddam was attempting regularly to kill American air crews and British air crews

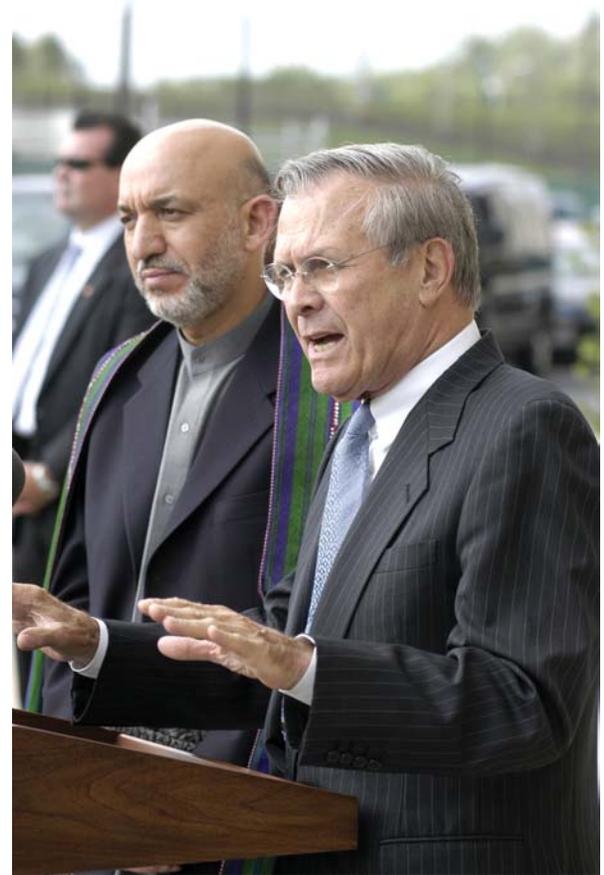
that were enforcing the northern and southern no-fly zones. He ignored more than a dozen U.N. Security Council resolutions, and was paying some \$25,000 to the families of suicide bombers to encourage and reward them.

Three years later, Saddam Hussein is a prisoner awaiting trial by the Iraqis, his sons are dead, most of his senior associates are in custody. Some 100,000 trained and equipped Iraqis now provide security for their fellow citizens. Under the new prime minister, Mr. Allawi, and his team, Iraq is a new nation, a nation determined to fight terrorists and build a peaceful society.

Have there been setbacks in Afghanistan and Iraq? You bet. It is often on some bad days not a pretty picture at all. In fact, it can be dangerous and ugly. But the road from tyranny to freedom has never been peaceful or tranquil.

Our enemies will not be controlled, or contained or wished away. They do seek to enslave, and they are willing to die to achieve their goals. The deaths of innocent people are not incidental in this war. Innocent people indeed are in fact their targets, and they will willingly kill hundreds and thousands more.

The world has gasped at the brutality of the extremists — the hundreds of children in Russia who were killed or wounded on their first day of school; the commuters blown up in the trains in Madrid; innocents murdered in a night club in Bali; the cutting off of heads on television. And should these enemies acquire the world’s more dangerous weapons, more lethal weapons — and they are seeking them, to be sure — the lives of hundreds of thousands could be at stake.



*Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld (right) joins visiting Afghan President Hamid Karzai (left) for a*

There have been costs, and there will be more. More than 1,000 U.S. soldiers, men and women, have died. Every loss is deeply felt. It is in freedom’s defense that our country has had the benefit of these volunteers deployed, these the most courageous among us. And whenever freedom advances, America is safer.

And amid the losses, amid the ugliness, the car bombings, the task is to remain steadfast. Consider the kind of world we would have if the extremists were to prevail.

Today, as before, the hard work of history falls to our country, to our coalition, to our people. We’ve been entrusted with the gift of freedom. It’s ours to safeguard. It’s ours to defend. And we can do it, knowing that the great sweep of human history is for freedom, and that is on our side.

# **Special operators who lost their lives** **serving in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom** **in the global war on terrorism will never be forgotten**

Edmunds, SPC Jonn  
Stonesifer, SPC Kristofor  
Davis, MSG Jefferson D.  
Petithory, SFC Daniel H.  
Prosser, SSG Brian  
Chapman, SFC Nathan R.  
Allison, SGT Thomas  
Dorrity, SSG James  
Egnor, CW2 Jody  
Feistner, MAJ Curtis  
Foshee, SGT Jeremy  
Frith, SSG Kerry  
Owens, CPT Bartt  
Rushforth, SSG Bruce  
Harriman, CW2 Stanley L.  
Cunningham, SrA Jason D.  
Chapman, TSgt John A.  
Croze, SGT Bradley S.  
Anderson, SPC Marc A.  
Commons, PFC Matthew A.  
Roberts, ABH1 Neal C.  
Svitak, SGT Philip J.  
Bourgeois, HMC Matthew J.  
Romero, SFC Daniel A.  
Vance, SSG Gene A.  
Tycz, SFC Peter  
Speer, SFC Christopher  
Jackson, SFC Mark W.  
Framton, SSG Gregory  
Gibbons, CW3 Thomas  
Kisling, SSG Daniel  
O'Steen, CW3 Mark  
Frazier, SSgt Jacob L.  
Morales, SSG Orlando  
Lane, SFC Mitchell A.  
Sweeney, SSG Paul A.  
Tapper, PH1 David M.  
Blessing, SGT Jay A.  
Walkup, SSGT Thomas A. Jr.  
Plumhoof, MAJ Steven  
Kerwood, TSGT William J.



Walters, TSGT Howard A.  
Wood, SGT Roy A.  
Kinser, SPC Adam G.  
Seitsinger, SGT Danton  
Mancinc, SFC Curtis  
Tillman, SPC Patrick D.  
Price, CW2 Bruce  
Eggers, CPT Daniel W.  
Mogensen, SSG Robert J.  
Jeffries, PFC Joseph A.  
Ouellette, BM1 Brian J.  
Goodwin, SSG Robert S.  
Olaes, SSG Tony B.  
Amundson, CPL William  
Fernandez, MSG George A.  
Long, SPC Ryan P.  
Livaudais, SSG Nino D.  
Rippetoe, CPT Russell B.  
Sather, SSgt Scott D.  
Conneway, SGT Timothy M.  
Coffin, 1SG Christopher D.  
Chris, SPC Andrew F.  
Retzer, IC1 Thomas  
Bibby, SPC Mark A.  
Morehead, MSG Kevin  
Bennett, SFC William  
Bush, SPC Charles E. Jr.  
Hombeck, MSG Kelly  
Frye, PFC Nicole  
Ferguson, MSG Richard  
Stack, SGM Michael B.  
MAJ Syverson, Paul R.  
Mardis, SSG Paul C.  
Tarlavsky, CPT Michael  
Holleyman, SSG Arron  
Stahl, PFC Nathan  
Soltes, MAJ Charles  
Phelan, LTC Mark  
Owen, SGT Michael G.  
Santos, SPC Jonathan  
Freeman, SPC Bryan L.

**“Today we are fighting the global war on terrorism and this generation’s heroes are on the battlefield. I have visited our SOF Warriors in Afghanistan and Iraq. I’ve seen the look, the dedication, in the eyes of our Warriors. They’re ready. They’re committed. And those who might challenge us in the future would be making the same mistake of all our other defeated adversaries. As our SOF heroes have seen first hand, the price of freedom is enormous, but essential to protect what we cherish.”**

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

*Remarks delivered at the SOF Memorial during Medal of Honor ceremony May 11.*

*Thirty-five Medals of Honor have been awarded to SOF. Eight recipients were present that day.*



## **Making progress**

**A Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha, or ODA, commander shakes hands with a community leader in Asadabad, Afghanistan. SF Soldiers who are members of Combined Joint Task Force - Afghanistan are trained to be culturally sensitive and regionally oriented to build the trust of local populations. SOF contributions led to the successful October presidential elections, in which eight million people exercised their right to vote, including women for the first time ever.**