



# TIP OF THE SPEAR

## Exercise Jackal Stone 2009

- ♠ JSOTF-P assists in superferry search and rescue
- ♠ Chile hosts Exercise Southern Star
- ♠ Special Tactics Airmen complete 800-mile march



# Multinational special operations forces train in Croatia

8

## Tip of the Spear



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*Front cover: Members of a special operations assault team from Poland run to the rear of an MH-47 Chinook helicopter assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Kovachevo, Croatia, as part of Jackal Stone 2009. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Nystrom.*

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**SOF AROUND THE WORLD - IRAQ**  
**COMBINED JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS TASK FORCE – ARABIAN PENINSULA**



*Naval Special Warfare Squadron 7, known as SEAL Team 7, dedicated its newest camp and headquarters building in Iraq to the memory of two Sailors killed while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael Monsoor was killed in action Sept. 29, 2006, when he threw himself on a grenade to save his fellow Sailors. Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyler Trahan was killed while conducting combat operations near Fallujah April 30.*

## **SEAL Team 7 honors two fallen Sailors**

*Story and photos by Sgt. Brandon Pomrenke  
Special Operations Task Force – West*

Naval Special Warfare Squadron 7, known as SEAL Team 7, dedicated its newest camp and headquarters building in Iraq to the memory of two Sailors killed while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Today we take a building, just a mere building ... and today we give it heritage, today we give it culture, and today we give it meaning,” said Cmdr. Gary Richard,

SEAL Team 7 and Special Operations Task Force – West commander. “This is not a memorial to their passing, but a celebration of their lives.”

Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael Monsoor, from Garden Grove, Calif., gave his life to save his fellow Sailors when he threw himself onto a grenade after it was thrown into his team’s position in Ramadi Sept. 29, 2006. In recognition of his selfless act, Monsoor posthumously received the Medal of Honor from then President George W. Bush.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyler Trahan, from East Freetown, Mass., was killed in action April 30 while conducting combat operations in Fallujah with U.S. Marines and Navy SEALs. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with the “V” device for valor in combat.

In memory of these fallen Sailors, the camp has been named Camp Monsoor, and the Special Operations Task Force - West headquarters is now called Trahan Hall.

“Naming the camp is a huge issue,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Angel Molina, who knew Trahan. “Basically, it’s a warrior hall in our eyes. Naming a camp after fallen comrades is a huge symbol of what they put into the community. They have contributed the max that anyone could. This is the least NSW can do for them.”

When asked about the significance of the dedication ceremony, Petty Officer 1st Class Joel McQuire, who also knew Trahan, summed up the ceremony in three words: “honoring the fallen.”

Although the buildings may be old and worn, the names gave them new meaning to SOTF-W and the servicemembers serving there. Those same structures will serve as a reminder of the costs of war and the men and women who serve while knowing the dangers they face.

“As we finish our dedication this evening, we will walk away with a responsibility to ensure that the names and faces in our hall of heroes do not fade into the background,” said Lt. Cmdr. Alan Wing, executive officer of SEAL Team 7 and SOTF-W. “Continue their work. Keep them close in your memories and their family and friends in your prayers.”

“If I was to say one thing to Tyler’s family, he was probably one of the greatest men I’ve ever had the pleasure of working with,” said Molina after the ceremony. “He made life at its worst bearable, and at its best, he made it better. He’s one to encourage and inspire others.”

Two Sailors gave their lives so that others may live. For that, all who pass through SOTF-W will never forget their sacrifices. Some called them family, some called them friends, but all called them brothers-in-arms.



***Lt. Cmdr. Alan Wing, executive officer of SEAL Team 7 and Special Operations Task Force - West, speaks to SOTF-W personnel during a dedication and renaming ceremony Sept. 5 in Ramadi, Iraq. SEAL Team 7 will now call the compound Camp Monsoor and the headquarters building Trahan Hall. Photo by Sgt. Brandon Pomrenke.***



**SOF AROUND THE WORLD - GERMANY**  
**SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND – EUROPE**

# **SOF personnel earn coveted jumpmaster title**

**Story and photos by Master Sgt. Donald Sparks**  
**SOCEUR Public Affairs**

*Jumpmaster candidates from 1-10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and U.S. Special Operations Command Europe prepare to board an MC-130 Combat Shadow aircraft at Stuttgart Army Airfield, Germany, to conduct practical work in the aircraft. The two-week U.S. Army Jumpmaster course was taught by instructors of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Mobile Training Team from Fort Carson, Colo.*

Ten minutes before arriving at the drop zone, every parachutist on the “bird” knows what’s coming next when the jumpmaster stands and hooks up to the anchor line cable, signaling the beginning of actions on the aircraft.

“Get ready! Outboard personnel, stand up! Inboard personnel, stand up! Hook up! Check static lines! Check equipment! Sound off for equipment check! One minute! Thirty seconds! Stand by! GO!”

Another safe and successful airborne operation completed by one of the most respected titles in the Army – jumpmaster.

To earn the coveted title of jumpmaster, airborne qualified Soldiers from 1-10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and U.S. Special Operations Command Europe took part in the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Static Line Jumpmaster Course held at Panzer Kaserne, Stuttgart, Germany, Sept. 28 through Oct. 16.

Fifty-one jumpmaster candidates began the course, but by graduation day, only 37 completed the course, conducted by the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Jumpmaster Mobile Training Team from Fort Carson, Colo.

The candidates were trained in skills necessary to jumpmaster a combat-equipped airborne operation as well as in the proper attaching, jumping and releasing of combat and individual equipment, according to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Clark, senior instructor, 10th SFG (A) MTT.

“This a job that we take seriously because every jumpmaster is responsible for every parachutist, and the number one rule is never sacrifice safety for any reason,” Clark said. “We emphasize attention to detail because a lack of attention to detail can result in lost lives. From the time the jumpmaster receives the order until the time everyone is on the ground, the jumpmaster is responsible.”

Clark mentioned as part of the training, the instructors consistently engage the candidates to look at what’s right and not be focused on what’s wrong.

“They (candidates) all come here concentrating on looking for the gigs instead of just doing their sequence properly,” Clark added. “However, if they know what right looks like, then something wrong will pop up right smack in front of them. We’re taking guys who have been jumpers for most of their careers and changing their mindset on what happens on airborne operations.”

As a seasoned parachutist with 31 jumps to his credit



***An instructor from the U.S. Army Jumpmaster Mobile Training Team observes as a jumpmaster candidate performs practical work in an aircraft. The 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) MTT came from Fort Carson, Colo., to conduct the two-week course at Stuttgart, Germany, for Special Forces and Airborne qualified Soldiers.***

prior to attending the course, Staff Sgt. Randy Van Zandt, assigned to SOCEUR, said the course gave him an entirely different perspective of airborne operations.

“Being a regular jumper, you think you know everything that’s going on in the aircraft, but you really don’t,” Van Zandt said. “Once you go to Jumpmaster school and start pulling the duties of the jumpmaster, you gain a sense of confidence that you didn’t have before. I now have confidence to jump, confidence in my equipment, confidence as a jumpmaster and confidence in the aircraft.”

For Lt. Col. George Thiebes, commander, 1-10 SFG (A), the course was not only beneficial for increasing unit and mission readiness, it also provided a boost in confidence to the Soldiers participating in the training.

“It is a great privilege to have the 10th Group trainers come here and teach this course,” said Thiebes, who himself graduated the course 12 years ago when the team came to Stuttgart. “We conduct airborne operations on a monthly basis, so there are plenty of opportunities for our jumpmasters to keep current and practice the skills they learn.

“But most importantly, we want our leaders to have confidence in their abilities, and this course instills the confidence that they can conduct an airborne operation successfully,” Thiebes said.



**SOF AROUND THE WORLD - CROATIA**  
**SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND – EUROPE**

# Jackal Stone 2009

**Special Operations Forces multinational training in Croatia**



*By Master Sgt. Donald Sparks*  
*SOCEUR Public Affairs*

More than 100 servicemembers assigned to the U.S. Special Operations Command Europe took part in Jackal Stone '09, a multinational Special Operations exercise held Sept. 10 through 27 in various locations throughout Croatia.

SOCEUR personnel provided key logistical, operational, medical, aviation, public affairs and staff support to the host nation and eight other countries participating in the exercise.


Jackal Stone, which is SOCEUR's capstone training event, brought approximately 1,500 members of special

operations forces from 10 countries and members of the Croatian Ministry of Interior Special Police together to enhance capabilities and interoperability among the participating forces.

"This exercise rotates year to year with different host nations, and we're excited that Croatia hosted this very important training event this year," said Command Master Chief Troy Ivie, SOCEUR senior enlisted leader. "It is vital that members of the special operations community know one another and work together to continue enduring friendships, increase interoperability and identify joint training opportunities with each other."

Jackal Stone '09 participants included Albania, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland,



A soldier in camouflage gear and a helmet is running towards the rear of an MH-47 Chinook helicopter. The helicopter is dark green and has "UNITED STATES" visible on its side. The background shows a grassy field and hills under a clear sky.

*Members of a special operations assault team from Poland run to the rear of an MH-47 Chinook helicopter assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) during fast rope insertion/extraction system training at Kovachevo, Croatia, as part of Jackal Stone 2009. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Nystrom.*

Romania, Sweden, Ukraine and the United States.

“Dedicated planning seamlessly brought together representatives from 10 nations and allowed them to effectively execute a myriad of tasks from the air, on land and at sea,” said Maj. Gen. Frank Kisner, SOCEUR commander.

Brig. Gen. Drazen Scuri, deputy commander of the exercise and senior host-nation official, said the exercise was a great opportunity to showcase Croatia.

“The exercise was the most important international exercise for Croatia during this year, the year when Croatia became a full member of NATO,” Scuri said.

Special operations units conducted fast rope insertion/exertion system training; a naval visit; board,

search and seizure training; helicopter aerial refueling; water drop and free-fall parachute training as part of improving tactics, techniques and procedures.

The highlight of the exercise took place Sept. 15, when the Croatian Armed Forces hosted a Distinguished Visitors’ Day in which multinational SOF teams displayed their unique skills before dignitaries from the participating countries.

According to Kisner, Jackal Stone ‘09 successfully improved the ability of the participants to conduct counterinsurgency operations through a demanding and realistic exercise scenario.

“The payoff is a strengthening of the collective security of every nation represented here,” Kisner said.



**SOF AROUND THE WORLD - CROATIA**  
**SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND – EUROPE**



(1) Special operations soldiers from Macedonia wear their ghillie suits as part of Jackal Stone 2009. Photo by Master Sgt. Donald Sparks. (2) An MH-47 Chinook helicopter crew chief assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) gives a pre-flight briefing to special operations soldiers from Croatia, Poland and Hungary before executing fast rope insertion/extraction system training at Kovachevo, Croatia. Photo by Tech. Sgt.

Andrew Nystrom. (3) A Ukrainian assault team uses charges to gain entrance into a structure containing a terrorist as part of a demonstration for the Distinguished Visitors' Day in Udbina, Croatia, Sept. 15. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Gillian Albro. The exercise, co-organized by the Special Operations Battalion of the Croatian Armed Forces and U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, is designed to enhance capability and interoperability of special forces soldiers participating in the exercise.



*(4) A crewmember assigned to the 67th Special Operations Squadron, based at RAF Mildenhall, England, watches as an MH-47 Chinook assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Campbell, Ky., is refueled by an MC-130P Shadow as part of a helicopter aerial refueling mission over the Adriatic Sea during Jackal Stone 2009. Photo By Master Sgt. Donald Sparks. (5) An MH-47 Chinook from the 160th SOAR (A) approaches USS Higgins (DDG 76) during Jackal Stone 2009 to conduct a fast roping evolution. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Louis Fellerman.*

*(6) Special Operations Forces conduct fast roping onto the deck of the USS Higgins. Exercise Jackal Stone 2009 takes place in various locations throughout Croatia and promotes cooperation and interoperability between special operations forces of 10 participating nations. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Louis Fellerman.*



**SOF AROUND THE WORLD - PHILIPPINES**  
**JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS TASK FORCE – PHILIPPINES**

*The Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines dispatched five boats and a civilian helicopter to assist the Philippine Navy in search and rescue efforts after a superferry carrying nearly 1,000 people capsized and sank off the coast of Zamboanga del Norte, Sept. 6, 2009. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class William Ramsey.*



# **JSOTF-P assists with Philippine superferry search and rescue**

**By Lt. Lara Bollinger**  
**JSOTF – Philippines Public Affairs**



The Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines dispatched five boats and a civilian helicopter to assist the Philippine Navy in search and rescue efforts after a superferry carrying nearly 1,000 people capsized and sank off the coast of Zamboanga del Norte, Sept. 6.

At the request of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, JSOTF-P sent two Mark V Special Operations Craft, two 11-meter Rigid-Hull Inflatable Boats and a Maritime Support Vessel to assist Philippine Navy and Coast Guard rescue personnel. A civilian helicopter contracted by JSOTF-P also flew to the scene to provide search and rescue support from the air.

“The close relationship established between the U.S. forces and Philippine naval forces led to a quick and timely coordination of assets to support rescue efforts,” said Lt. j.g. Mike Ameche, one of the U.S. officers on scene conducting rescue operations.

Members of U.S. Naval Special Boat Team 12, along with SAR swimmers from U.S. Navy Seal Team 7, conducted organized searches over 30 square miles for 11 hours, checking nearly 30 life rafts for survivors and scavenging relief supplies from the rafts to deliver to more than 100 survivors onboard a Philippine Navy vessel. The MSV crew provided 200 bottles of water for the U.S. teams to distribute with the relief supplies. Three JSOTF-P corpsmen were on hand to

provide medical evaluation and treatment to injured survivors onboard.

“Many of the survivors suffered from dehydration and exposure, but of the one hundred ten survivors onboard the Philippine Navy ship, we only found three people who were injured,” said Chief Petty Officer Jason Henry, one of the U.S. Navy corpsmen on scene.

One of the injured survivors, a 20-year-old female, was transported by U.S. Navy personnel from the Philippine Navy vessel to the MSV for medical treatment by JSOTF-P corpsmen.

JSOTF-P teams remained on site into the night to assist Philippine rescue forces in continuing search efforts.

According to authorities, nine people died in the incident and several others were injured, while one person remained unaccounted for. The close coordination between Philippine Navy and Coast Guard, U.S. military assets and civilian craft led to the safe recovery of more than 950 survivors.

“Our contribution to the rescue effort was small, but we were glad to be able to assist,” said Col. Bill Coultrup, JSOTF-P commander. “The success of this search and rescue effort is due to the incredibly quick and effective response by the AFP, the Philippine Coast Guard and the civilian vessels that came to the aid of the sinking ferry. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who lost their loved ones in this terrible incident.”

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*“The success of this search and rescue effort is due to the incredibly quick and effective response by the AFP, the Philippine Coast Guard and the civilian vessels who came to the aid of the sinking ferry.”*

— Col. Bill Coultrup

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## SOF AROUND THE WORLD - PHILIPPINES JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS TASK FORCE – PHILIPPINES



*U.S. Navy SEAL Teams 1 and 7, Naval Special Boat Teams 12 and 20, and medical personnel assigned to Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines rescue Manila residents after flooding destroyed homes and displaced thousands of people. Two boats assisted more than 52 people, including a woman in labor, elderly residents and children. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class William Ramsey.*

# JSOTF-P assists in rescue efforts during Manila flooding

*By Lt. j.g. Theresa Donnelly  
Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines*

Members of Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines assisted the Armed Forces of the Philippines with the rescue of 52 residents affected by massive flooding during Tropical Storm Ondoy, known internationally as Ketsana, in Cainta, Metro Manila, Sept. 27 and 28.

Members of Navy SEAL teams and Naval Special Boat Teams 12 and 20 and U.S. medical personnel attached to JSOTF-P took part. Working directly with AFP and the Philippines National Disaster Coordinating Council, they

rescued people from rooftops, delivered food and gave out medical supplies.

Rescue teams from JSOTF-P launched two F470 Zodiac boats in the floodwaters of Cainta and worked through the night transporting people to schools, churches and evacuation shelters. Teams also assisted with the rescue of a pregnant Filipino woman in labor stranded in a flooded-out house.

“These people lost their houses, cars and might still be looking for family members. I wanted to do anything and everything I could do to help the Filipino people. I was glad I could be a part of the rescue efforts,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Porter. Porter was a JSOTF-P medic on scene

to provide direct medical care.

According to Philippines Disaster Management Services, the floods displaced hundreds of thousands of people, and the most recent reports indicate that nearly 100,000 people have been relocated.

“The work the U.S. military did was terrific,” said Roman Romulo, Pasig City congressman. “I was very thankful for U.S. support. Your teams were able to successfully go to Santa Lucia High School to help deliver food. It was a big boost that your people were helping us.”

On Sept. 26, JSOTF-P teams delivered 500 pounds of food to Santa Lucia High School. The following day, a civilian helicopter contracted by JSOTF-P unloaded and

distributed an additional 4,200 pounds of food and water in Cainta, northeast of Pasig City.

The response to Ondoy was a collaborative effort among Philippine civilian governmental agencies, the AFP, the people affected and assistance from Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines.

“I don't think we could have done anything without the help of the Filipinos. They were just great in helping us. They had translators and guides,” said Porter.

“They were able to tell us where to go. When we were looking for a house, the police and local citizens would help us. The rescue was a collaborative effort among governmental agencies and the people affected,” he said.

## AFP, JSOTF-P dedicate school in Taglibi

*By JSOTF-P Public Affairs*

Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Marine Battalion Landing Team Five along with Joint Special Operations Task Force – Philippines recently joined local officials in a ceremony to turn over an elementary school in Taglibi Barangay, Patikul, Sulu.

The new Datu Uddin Bahjin Central Elementary School (DUBCES) was funded and renovated by JSOTF-P to replace the original building that was burned down by Abu Sayyaf militants while they held three members of the International Committee of the Red Cross hostage earlier this year. The loss of their only elementary school profoundly impacted the Taglibi community.

Teachers like Ustadz Tusop E. Asanual, local Imam and Arabic teacher at DUBCES, were deeply grateful for the new school, expressing the hope that this project brought to teachers and students.

“For teachers, it is also a part of our accomplishments, because without our request our dreams will not come true,” Asanual said.

DUBCES was reconstructed by MBLT-5 using materials provided by JSOTF-P. The total cost of the project was approximately Philippine 470,000 pesos.

This is the second school AFP and JSOTF-P have

reconstructed this year following attacks by ASG. A third reconstruction is underway for Obal School in Sumisip, Basilan. Projects like these bring hope and security to communities that have been terrorized by local militants.

Following the ceremony, MBLT-5 soldiers also handed out books to the school children.



*Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Marine Battalion Landing Team Five along with Joint Special Operations Task Force – Philippines joined local officials to turn over an elementary school in Taglibi Barangay, Patikul, Sulu, in a ceremony Aug. 26. Courtesy photo.*



# Southern Star shines brightly in Chile



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







*U.S. Green Berets train Chilean special operations forces how to fast rope Oct. 22 in Chañaral, Chile, during Southern Star. Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil and the United States participated in the joint, multinational exercise Oct. 18 through 31. The purpose of the annual exercise is to promote interoperability and build participating nations' capabilities. The goal was to develop a solid working relationship based on mutual respect and open communication. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer.*



## SOF AROUND THE WORLD - CHILE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND – SOUTH



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Felix Figueroa



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Felix Figueroa



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer

*(Clockwise from top) U.S. Special Forces train Chilean soldiers on the basics of marksmanship in Chañaral, Chile, during the joint, multinational training exercise Southern Star. Chilean special forces assault an objective in La Posada, Chile. Chilean commandos take control of a vessel in a maritime interdiction operation in Calderilla, Chile.*

The scenario paints a picture of insurgent control, oppression of the population, kidnappings, turmoil and death for the people of the “Republic of Morado.” Multinational stabilization forces are unable to control the insurgent attacks and request assistance from the United Nations. The U.N. Security Council resolution permits the deployment of a Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force to conduct peace enforcement operations. This is where Exercise Southern Star 2009 begins.

Special Operations forces from four South American nations and the United States recently gathered in Chile to exercise their capability to command and control a multinational force conducting stability operations, while implementing a Security Council resolution. The purpose of the 10-day exercise was to increase interoperability and build participating nations’ capabilities to function as part of a multinational force, which in turn would increase their ability to deal with transnational threats.

Southern Star is an annual joint, multinational training exercise sponsored by U.S. Southern Command, hosted in Chile and conducted almost exclusively in Spanish. The

**Tip of the Spear**

exercise forges together partner nations from the Southern Cone region of South America. Special Operations Command South from Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., was the lead U.S. military agency and coordinated the exercise.

This was the third and largest year for Southern Star with nearly 850 participants from Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and the United States. Each country’s military sent a selection of various SOF and support specialties from their army, navy, air force and marine components to represent their respective countries during the exercise.

Although the scenario was based in the fictitious location of the Republic of Morado, servicemembers were postured in three main locations near Copiapó, the capital of the Atacama Region, Chile. The first and largest was a base in Chañaral where all the operators were based and from where they conducted most of the missions against targets within striking distance. An operational detachment of U.S. Special Forces Soldiers embedded with the Chilean special operations forces also conducted training for the South American SOF on or near the base in Chañaral.

The second location was home to the command center and was about 80 miles south in Calderilla. The Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force conducted command and control activities amid meeting the challenges of reacting to mortar attacks, protests and other civil disturbances to test their capabilities.

The Joint Exercise Control Group operated just down the road at the third location in nearby Bahia Inglesa. Primarily composed of U.S. members of SOCSOUTH and the Chilean members from the Brigada de Operaciones Especiales (the special operations brigade), each member had a vested interest in ensuring the training was realistic as possible. They would frequently visit the nearby Combined Joint Special Operations Command to get realistic feedback on how the exercise was shaping up.

The main differences from years past were the number of participating countries and the number of people involved from each country. In 2007, only two nations — Chile and the United States — were involved. Observers and staff members from Paraguay and Uruguay, as well as observers from Brazil joined the exercise in 2008. This was the first year that the tactical forces of Paraguay and Uruguay joined as participants and Brazilian staff members contributed at the CJSOTF.

Brig. Gen. Hector Pagan, SOCSOUTH commander, said everyone worked together extremely well.

“The connections that really matter are the connections between the countries in the region. It is important that the partner nations have a good relationship,” Pagan said. “That is really what is important, that long after we’re gone, these countries continue to interact and join in operations together.”

At every level – tactical, operational and strategic – the soldiers shared knowledge and skills to accomplish the

mission. The multinational force was challenged daily to perform a variety of missions including reconnaissance, direct action, combat search and rescue, maritime interdiction, hostage rescue and medical evacuation.

The training was beneficial for the forces on the ground, in the air and at sea.

“This was a great opportunity for everyone to see how important it is to work together. On the MIO (Maritime Interdiction Operation), we had Air Force snipers in Army helicopters while Marines were seizing the enemy’s boat,” said Chilean Air Force Maj. Claudio Alcázar Sichel. “It was great to be a part of that. The exercise was a good chance to test and share our procedures, techniques and tactics, equipment in use and combat experiences.”

As the scenario developed, three American hostages and one Moradian hostage were rescued, key locations and highway intersections were seized and controlled, and more than 100 insurgents were killed.

A team from Special Operations Command –Joint Forces Command was also on hand as observer trainers to provide feedback and document any lessons learned or best practices. Lt. Col. James Rodney, the team leader, commended the CJSOTF on a job well done. He said there were many factors, such as a past working relationship and language commonality, that led to a seamless integration between countries.

“It is a great exercise because, aside from the tactical play and running the operation, it gives countries a common cause for doing something together,” Pagan said.

As for the future of Southern Star, Pagan said he would like to see it grow. “It has been a good vehicle for getting these countries together. We would like to continue doing it.”



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer*



*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Felix Figueroa*

*(Left) The command center in Calderilla, Chile, reacted to scenarios of mortar attacks, protests and other civil disturbances while conducting the command and control for the exercise. (Right) A Chilean special forces soldier prepares to assault an objective in La Posada, Chile.*



**SOF AROUND THE WORLD - CHILE**  
**SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND - SOUTH**



# Southern Star

*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer*



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer*



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer*

*(Clockwise from top) U.S. and Chilean special forces soldiers from the exercise control group discuss a scenario during Southern Star in Chañaral, Chile. Chilean, Brazilian and U.S. soldiers respond to a protest scenario at the base in Calderilla, Chile. Uruguay Chilean and U.S. special operations forces soldiers conduct a raid during the Southern Star exercise Oct. 23 in El Salado, Chile. Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil and the United States participated in the joint, multinational exercise Oct. 18 through 31.*

**Tip of the Spear**



1

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Felix Figueroa



3

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer



2

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Felix Figueroa

(1 and 2) Chilean special forces practice vehicle assault tactics in La Posada, Chile, during the joint, multinational exercise Southern Star. (3) A Chilean commando secures a vessel during a maritime interdiction operation in Calderilla, Chile. (4) Chilean special operations forces secure an area in a desert in Chile during an operation. (5) Paratroopers from the U.S., Chile, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay finalized Southern Star with an airborne operation over Calderilla, Chile. (6) A Uruguayan commando secures his position during a personnel recovery operation.



4

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer



6

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer



5

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Felix Figueroa



# Homes for Our Troops starts project for injured Ranger

By Vince Little  
*The Bayonet Newspaper*

A Fort Benning Ranger's long journey back from a helicopter crash in Afghanistan will end in a new home next spring.

In October, the nonprofit organization Homes for Our Troops will break ground on the project for Staff Sgt. Scot Noss of 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, and his wife, RyAnne. The 2,400-square-foot, four-bedroom house will be built in Trussville, Ala., a Birmingham suburb.

The Massachusetts-based group is organizing construction, recruiting volunteers and arranging for donated materials. The single-story home will be completely handicapped-accessible and include an overhead lift system.

"It's basically taking everything Scot has at the hospital and putting it in a home environment," RyAnne said. "Not only does it remove the physical barriers that exist between us now ... but it removes emotional barriers as well. I'm going to be able to have what I call 'snuggle time' again. I'll be able to lay in bed with him and watch movies, have dinner together. Here, it's such an institutional setting. Moving into a new home will bring back some normality to our marriage."

Noss, then 29, was injured Feb. 18, 2007, when the MH-47 Chinook helicopter he was in crashed in the mountains of southern Afghanistan. Eight of the 22 servicemembers on board were killed, and Noss was the most severely injured, suffering a traumatic brain injury and several broken bones.

After being stabilized in Germany, he was transferred



*Staff Sgt. Scot Noss and wife, RyAnne, in February 2007, one week prior to his helicopter crash in Afghanistan. Courtesy photo.*

to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland and later to the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, Fla., where he's remained for more than two years in a semiconscious state.

RyAnne, 29, has stayed by his side throughout the recovery. Since July 2007, she's been living at the Fisher House at the James Haley VA Hospital.

"It has been the most difficult thing I've ever done. I lost my husband, soulmate and best friend," she said. "But in the past two years, I've grown in my faith and grown stronger emotionally and mentally. I've learned that not just from my husband, but also the guys on the

floor, about what it means to persevere. They never give up.”

RyAnne has not only been a caregiver and spouse; she’s also become an advocate for long-term rehabilitation of Soldiers with “signature wounds” such as quadriplegia and traumatic brain injury stemming from injuries sustained in war.

In late April, she testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee about struggles and difficulties in the aftermath of a severe battlefield injury, saying there needs to be adequate living facilities, resources and compensation available to troops and family members.

“I believe this country wants the best for these Soldiers coming home. They work so hard to get these guys functioning again back in society,” she said. “The (Defense Department) spends billions of dollars on research for battlefield medical technology. It’s superb. (But) rehabilitation science has not caught up to what they’re able to save on the battlefield.”

RyAnne said she wants to see Tricare legislation rewritten in a way that differentiates treatment of minimally conscious, combat-injured servicemembers and those still on active duty.

“I believe they want to do what’s right. It just takes time for change, like everything else that happens in the government. They just have to figure out how to best take care of them,” she said. “I am so grateful to (Veterans Affairs) for what they’ve done for my husband.”

The 75th Ranger Regiment has remained in contact with Scot and RyAnne and continues to fight for him, she said.

Sgt. 1st. Class George Smith, now NCOIC of the regiment’s public affairs office, served in the same company with Noss in Afghanistan.

“We see him trying to fight and know he’s still inside. It’s just a matter of time before he gets out,” Smith said. “It shows a true Ranger right there, continuing to fight, even with all the adversity he’s facing. It just shows the true meaning of being a Ranger: Never quit, never give up.”

RyAnne said the house in Alabama will allow them

to be closer to her family in Birmingham.

According to the organization’s Web site, Homes for Our Troops was founded in 2004 by John Gonsalves, a construction supervisor from Raynham, Mass. Through the end of last year, it had built more than three dozen homes across the country for servicemembers with serious disabilities and injuries. About 30 more are in the build phase this year.

“(Gonsalves) is the most generous man I’ve ever known,” RyAnne said. “They called me up and said we need to apply for a home. They found us somehow. He is a huge patriot and wants to give back, and he has. The effort has been huge.

“When people want to give you homes or vans or money, I’ve been told it’s their way of saying ‘thank you.’ It makes me happy to know people do care and are aware of what Scot sacrificed for this country.”

Throughout Scot’s recovery, RyAnne said she maintains her spirits through faith in God and inspiration from Scot.

“I gain strength from Scot each and every day I walk in that room,” she said. “He is still fighting to regain function, and I gain strength from that. If he’s not giving up, I’m not giving up.”

RyAnne said she provides updates on his condition and progress via a Web site called [caringbridge.org](http://caringbridge.org). To access it, type “ScottNoss” into the visitor’s block.

“Looking at these men and women fighting every day to regain function, it’s amazing what it does to your own strength,” she said. “It hasn’t been rosy the whole trip. It’s been an emotional roller coaster. But if God had told me before we got married that this is what would happen to Scot, I still would’ve married my man. I’ve seen wives pack up and leave. I’ve seen so many families who are not supportive, leaving these Soldiers to fight for themselves. I’m sticking it out.

“You can be bitter and not want to do anything for anyone, or you can be better and work to better the situation — use the situation to grow as a person to help others. I chose to better myself, better Scot and help others who are in the same situation, because there are going to be others like Scot who come back from this war.”





# International military again eligible to earn SF Tab

By *USASOC Public Affairs*

Officers and noncommissioned officers from foreign militaries will again be eligible to earn the coveted Special Forces Tab in a move by the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School to continue a long tradition of integrating allied partners into Green Beret training.

In the early 1960s, Brig. Gen. William Yarborough, who then commanded the U.S. Army Special Warfare Center, began a robust program of interaction with partner nation militaries. The historical report of 1963 shows the Center and School hosted more than 1,100 international students from 54 countries in a variety of Special Operations training courses.

“These interactions with our partner nations, as established by General Yarborough, are as necessary today as they were almost fifty years ago and are the impetus of the re-establishment of this program,” said Maj. Gen. Thomas Csrnko, USAJFKSWCS commander. “Having our partners in the course will enhance interoperability, foster relationships and reinforce the importance of cross-cultural communications.”

“This January will see the return of our multinational partners to training alongside our U.S. students, and it’s not a moment too soon,” Csrnko said. “The interaction and interoperability that we get with our foreign partners is powerful, both for our Soldiers and the allied students that we will host from across the globe.”

“Rejoining our allies in a single Special Forces Qualification Course is a logical extension of operational lessons and the basic principle to train like one fights,” said Col. Curtis Boyd, USAJFKSWCS chief of staff.

Studies of operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere have indicated allied partnerships and coalitions are indispensable to disrupting transnational terrorism and fostering democracy, said Boyd. U.S. and allied special operations forces have demonstrated their value and integral role in Irregular Warfare.



*International military students train alongside U.S. Army Soldiers during the Special Forces Qualification Course taught by the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C. Courtesy photo.*

The Special Forces Qualification Course will provide opportunities for six international officers and six international NCOs to attend training four times per year, totaling 48 training slots per year. Partner nation students will forego the first two phases of SFQC – Special Forces Assessment and Selection and language training – but will be required to meet all of the same standards in the remaining four phases set for U.S. Soldiers to earn the Special Forces Tab.

In late 2005, the Center and School modified the SFQC and since January 2006, allied officers and NCOs have received specialized training at USAJFKSWCS in a separate International Special Forces Training Course, which trained and tested many of the core Army Special Forces tasks, but did not offer the same training as U.S. Soldiers received, and did not award the Special Forces Tab.



# Green Beret saves neighbor's life

*By 1st Special Forces Group Public Affairs*

Medics in the U.S. Army prepare for a number of situations while training for combat. Preparing for the unexpected is part of the training, but saving a neighbor suffering from cardiopulmonary failure is not a situation discussed in training manuals.

This was the situation 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) Green Beret Sgt. 1st Class Chad Harreld found himself in Oct. 17, 2008, when his neighbor, retired Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Chuck Moore, called requesting medical assistance. Harreld's actions that night earned him an Army Commendation Medal.

Harreld had just finished a phone conversation with Moore and was thinking about what he would do during the coming weekend.

"Everything seemed normal," said Harreld. "About fifteen minutes later I received another call from (Moore). I figured he had another joke or thought he wanted to share with me about our previous conversation minutes earlier."

Instead of hearing the retired Chinook pilot tell a joke as he expected, Harreld struggled to hear a labored voice that was hard to distinguish.

"I could barely make out his voice over the phone," explained the Special Forces medic. "I confirmed with my caller ID that it was actually him. I could hear him make out the words 'Doc, I can't breathe.'"

Harreld promptly hung up the phone and instructed his children to stay put and told them that he would be right back. He grabbed his first aid bag and bolted to his neighbor's house.

Harreld found Moore in bed, peaked and gasping for air. As Harreld began his assessment, Moore stopped breathing. Harreld directed Moore's wife, Kum-cha, to call local emergency medical services for assistance. Harreld then began rescue breathing to keep Moore alive.

"After about ten to fifteen minutes on assisted

ventilation, (Moore) began to regain consciousness," said Harreld.

Shortly after, EMS arrived with all the tools necessary to finish what Harreld had started.

After providing information and assistance to the ambulance crew, Harreld watched helplessly as his patient was driven to the hospital.

"I was honestly quite scared for him.

It's not a normal daily occurrence to stop breathing for an extended period of time," said Harreld.

Harreld said he called the hospital where Moore had been transported to and checked on him about an hour later.

"I was very relieved to hear he was going to be admitted," said Harreld. "I knew there wasn't anything else I could have possibly done, but the thought is always in the back of your head."

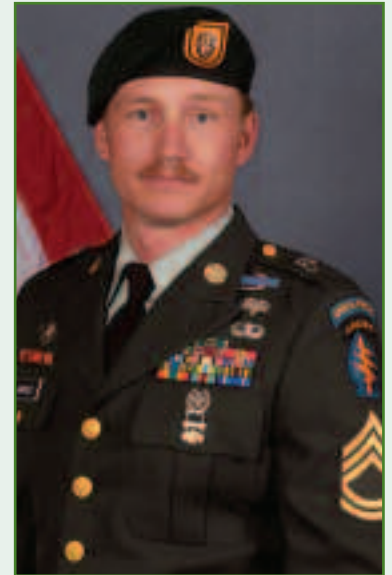
As a result of Harreld's leadership and skill, the ambulance crew saved time by not having to problem solve much on their patient.

"They reacted from his judgment," said Moore. "He saved my life that night."

Moore said he is extremely grateful to have an intelligent and competent neighbor such as Harreld as a friend and neighbor.

Harreld said he was glad his neighbor is well and at home now.

"He would have done the same thing for me," said Harreld.



**Sgt. 1st Class Chad Harreld**





## NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND



*A Naval Special Warfare 11-meter Rigid-hull Inflatable Boat is launched from an Air Force C-17 during a successful launch of the Maritime Craft Aerial Deployment System off the coast of Virginia Beach.*

# SWCC complete MCADS drop, 3rd SFG wounded warriors jump as well

*Story and photos by Chief Petty Officer Kathryn Whittenberger  
Naval Special Warfare Group 4 Public Affairs*

Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen and parachute riggers from Special Boat Team 20, stationed at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek – Fort Story, Va., completed another successful Maritime Craft Aerial Delivery System drop Oct. 14.

The MCADS drop was conducted off the Virginia Beach coast, as part of a training evolution, but this one was different. On top of the challenge of conducting joint training with 19 members of the 3rd Special Forces Group, two of the Special Forces Soldiers were wounded warrior amputees.

“We love working with our SOF brothers and always look forward to sharing knowledge and lessons

learned to improve our tactical proficiency,” said SBT-20 Command Master Chief Eric Fuerstenberg. “It was awesome to jump today with the wounded warriors. The word warrior is truly an understatement with these men. Their mental and physical fortitude is an inspiration to all of us.”

During this MCADS drop, two 11-meter Rigid-hull



*An 11-meter Rigid-hull Inflatable Boat is launched from a C-130 off the coast of Virginia Beach.*

Inflatable Boats deployed from the rear of an Air Force C-130 and a C-17 at 1,250 feet and 3,500 feet respectively, with four parachutes, 100-feet in diameter, rigged to each boat. Seventeen SWCCs free-fall or static-line parachuted after each RHIB, which they then piloted back to shore.

“Airborne operations aren’t new, but having a boat coming out of the back was,” said Maj. Kent Solheim, one of the wounded warriors. Despite suffering severe gunshot wounds while in Iraq and having his leg amputated below the knee in March, the 15-year veteran is still deployable. He met Sgt. 1st Class Mike Fairfax while they were both recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Fairfax is in the same unit, had his leg amputated due to an IED in Afghanistan and also requalified on static line during this training.

SBT 20 Air Operations trains four Special Boat Team detachments a year on MCADS; each detachment is required to complete three MCADS drops before going on deployment. In order to earn the MCADS parachutist qualification, SWCCs must complete a military free-fall jump and a static-line parachute jump behind an 11-meter RHIB from a C-130 or C-17. A third jump is required for additional training.

It takes two weeks of work by the parachute riggers of SBT 20 Air Operations for each drop to happen.

“The week prior involves rigging the platform and the boat itself. The week after the drop is spent almost entirely on repacking parachutes,” said Air Operations Leading Chief Petty Officer Justin Hodge.

The parachute riggers of SBT 20 are the only riggers in the Navy who prepare parachutes to deploy a boat, and SBT 20 is one of the few units in the world with this maritime deployment capability.

*(From top to bottom) A wounded warrior from the 3rd Special Forces Group (A) parachutes from a C-17 off the coast of Virginia Beach. Naval Special Warfare members in 11-meter Rigid-hull Inflatable Boats from Special Boat Team 20 wait to recover jumpers and parachutes before a launch of the Maritime Craft Aerial Deployment System. A 3rd SFG(A) Soldier boards an MK V Special Operations Craft from a Rigid-hull Inflatable Boat after static-line parachuting from a C-17.*





## NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND

# SECNAV presents Bronze Star, Purple Heart to wounded SEAL

*By Chief Petty Officer Jeremy Wood  
Naval Special Warfare Group 1 Public Affairs*

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and the Purple Heart to a Navy SEAL at the National Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., Oct. 1.

Shaking hands with the wounded West Coast-

based SEAL, Mabus talked with Lt. Daniel Cnossen, who recently came out of another surgery, about his treatment and expressed encouragement for a



*Lt. Daniel Cnossen*



*Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus presents the Bronze Star with Valor and the Purple Heart to Lt. Dan Cnossen (SEAL) at the National Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Cnossen was wounded by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin O'Brien.*

speedy recovery.

Cnossen, who was presented the medals for his actions in combat operations in Afghanistan, is no stranger to a challenge or perseverance.

His “never given up, never stopped fighting” attitude was evident in his hospital room. Cnossen insists that this tragedy should not deter Naval Special Warfare members and U.S. military “from aggressively pursuing the enemy.”

The West Coast-based SEAL was severely injured Sept. 7 on a hilltop by an improvised explosive device during the mission and was saved by the immediate medical assistance rendered by the team corpsman. Together, they navigated down the hill, encountering more secondary IEDs. Later, team members were quickly evacuated by helicopter. Though he lost large quantities of blood and received severe injuries leading to the amputation of both legs at the knees, Cnossen continued to direct his teammates and assess the tactical situation.

Cnossen’s team assaulted the compound to discover several thousands of pounds of narcotics, small arms weapons and IEDs, to include components such as warheads, detonation materials, bulk explosive and four tons of ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer used in explosives devices.

He was transported to Landstuhl, Germany, for more specialized medical assistance, before continuing on to Bethesda.

His sister, Leslie, has given up her job at New York University as a nurse to move to Washington, D.C., to take care of Cnossen. His mother also commutes from Kansas to be with him in Maryland.

“Dan is in good spirits and is already formulating a plan for recovery,” said his mother, Alice Landers. “He’s climbed Machu Picchu and

hiked Patagonia’s Torres del Paine, so you can bet he’ll attack his recovery plan with the same unbelievable resolve.”

Upon arrival, Cnossen was immediately met by family and teammates who had been flown in by the NSW Foundation to provide the physical and emotional support necessary to begin recovery.

On Cnossen’s blog, Leslie continues to write about her brother staying “perky and cracking jokes all the time. That IED certainly didn’t take away his sense of humor.”

He has progressed in his recovery, including the ability to swallow and drink on his own accord, ahead of the doctors’ original milestones. Doctors have adjusted his surgery schedule to keep up his recovery.

His brothers from the SEALs echoed their excitement via blog posts, even providing a virtual salute to his health.

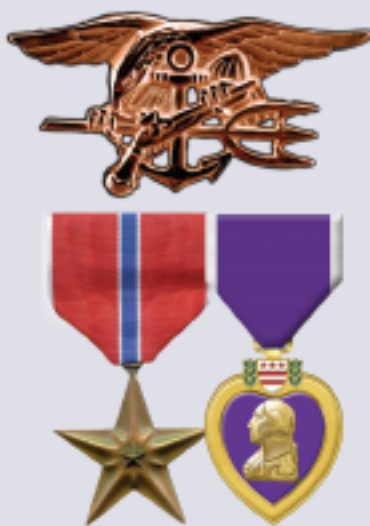
“His spirit and determination will always serve as an example for us all,” said one of Cnossen’s close friends.

Wally Graves III, the Resiliency Program Manager for NSW Group 1, met with Cnossen’s family before his arrival and assisted in coordinating the support elements.

“His mother has been an incredible pillar of strength for him, and the Naval Special Warfare family will continue to take care of all its returning Sailors, especially heroes like Dan,” said Graves.

Graves, along with his assistant Susan Letterman, have been working with numerous military groups, including the NSW Foundation and the Care Coalition, to ensure his and his family’s extra needs are being met.

Cnossen is a 2002 graduate of the United States Naval Academy and Basic Underwater Demolition School. He was previously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Joint Service Achievement Medal.



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*“He’s climbed Machu Picchu and hiked Patagonia’s Torres del Paine, so you can bet he’ll attack his recovery plan with the same unbelievable resolve.”*

*— Alice Landers, Lt. Dan Cnossen’s mother*

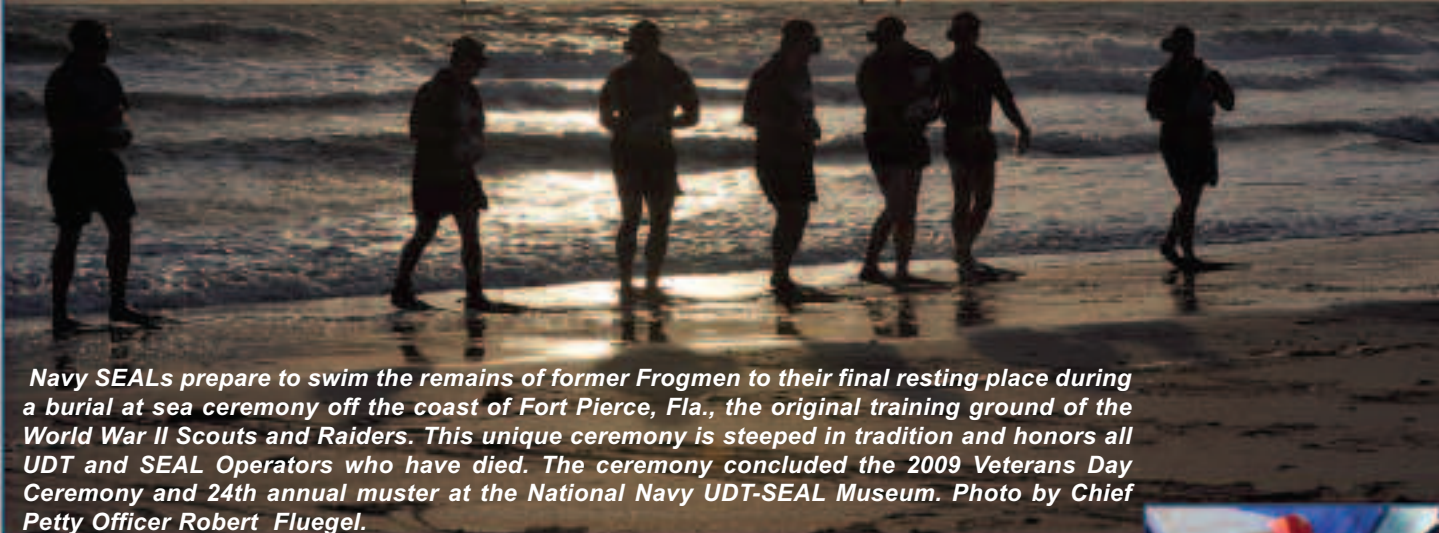
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## NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND



# National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum hosts Veterans Day Ceremony, Muster XXIV



*Navy SEALs prepare to swim the remains of former Frogmen to their final resting place during a burial at sea ceremony off the coast of Fort Pierce, Fla., the original training ground of the World War II Scouts and Raiders. This unique ceremony is steeped in tradition and honors all UDT and SEAL Operators who have died. The ceremony concluded the 2009 Veterans Day Ceremony and 24th annual muster at the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Robert Fluegel.*

*By Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph Clark  
Naval Special Warfare Group 2 Public Affairs*

The National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum hosted its annual Veterans Day Ceremony and Muster XXIV Nov. 7 through 8 at Fort Pierce, Fla.

The two-day event, which the museum began hosting in 1985, consisted of several events open to the public, including a 5K race, a live auction, an official Veterans Day ceremony and a live capabilities demonstration performed by East Coast-based Navy SEALs.

The event continues to grow each year and brings in guests from throughout the world, according to Ruth McSween, the museum curator.

“The muster is a great way to get both the Frogmen and the public together to honor the legacy of Naval Special Warfare,” McSween said. “The museum is located on the original training ground of the Navy’s Scouts and Raiders. I can’t think of a more appropriate

*The Maersk Alabama life raft on which Capt. Richard Phillips was held captive by Somali pirates and ultimately rescued by Navy SEALs stands on permanent display at the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Fla. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph Clark.*



**Capt. Richard Phillips**



location to bring the men of Naval Special Warfare together, as this is their birthplace. It is great to witness SEALs revisit such an important place in their history.”

The Veterans Day ceremony included several honored guests, including Adm. Eric T. Olson, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, and guest speaker Capt. Richard Phillips, former Captain of the Maersk Alabama who was held captive by pirates off the coast of Somalia before being rescued by SEAL snipers last spring.

Retired Capt. Michael Howard (SEAL), executive director of the museum, began the ceremony by recognizing Frogmen in attendance from every era of Naval Special Warfare, beginning with World War II Scouts and Raiders through the present-day SEALs.

“I am honored to stand here today in the midst of the true heroes of Naval Special Warfare,” Phillips said. “Without their training and dedication, I can honestly say that I would not be standing here today.”

The life raft from which Phillips was rescued was also on display at the museum for public viewing throughout the day.

In Saturday’s conclusion, East Coast-based Navy SEALs performed a live capabilities demonstration that showcased the specialized training and ability of Naval Special Warfare Operators to complete any task at any time.

The SEALs demonstrated a fast-rope insertion and a Special Insertion and Extraction maneuver in which the Operators quickly attached themselves to a rope suspended by a hovering helicopter.

“It’s a real privilege to demonstrate our capabilities for such an important event,” said a participating East Coast-based SEAL. “We are honoring the genesis of the SEAL/UDT community.”

On Sunday members of Naval Special Warfare and their families gathered at the coastline, just steps from the museum, to honor 52 Navy Frogmen, both active duty and retired, who have died since last year.



**SEALs conduct a Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction from an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter during a capabilities demonstration as part of the 2009 Veterans Day Ceremony and 24th Annual Muster at the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Fla. This event is held annually at the museum located at the original training ground of the Scouts and Raiders. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Robert Fluegel.**

Retired Chaplain Capt. Robert Bedingfield, who currently serves as the museum’s chaplain, said the muster continues to be one of the most important events of his career.

“This is truly a communal event and unique to Naval Special Warfare,” Bedingfield said.

As the sun began to crest the sea, traditional bagpipes broke the somber silence, and the memorial commenced. The chaplain completed a final roll call for all 52 Frogmen who had died, and a detail of SEAL swimmers fittingly delivered the ashes of 10 of the fallen to their final resting place in accordance with their wishes.

“This ceremony demonstrates the lasting fraternity of this community,” said retired Capt. David Kohler (SEAL), a member of the museum’s board of directors. “We are a unique community and it is fitting that we return our fallen to our birthplace.”

Following the muster, the museum board of directors hosted a ground-breaking ceremony for a new UDT-SEAL memorial to be built on the grounds of the museum that will feature the names of all the men of Naval Special Warfare who have died in combat and training exercises.

“Our time spent in the teams, no matter how long, will last forever,” Koehler said. “We demonstrate this appropriately by recognizing the sacrifices of our fallen.”



**AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND**

## **Special Tactics Airmen complete 800-mile march**

**"This walk shows that with  
Air Force Special Operations,  
you are never forgotten."**

**— Master Sgt. Ken Huhman**





*By Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates  
Defense Media Activity-San Antonio*

After walking more than 800 miles through five states, 12 Special Tactics Airmen arrived at Hurlburt Field, Fla., Oct. 16, officially completing a memorial march for their fallen comrades.

The marchers, made up of several Combat Controllers and Pararescuemen and one Combat Weatherman, split up into six two-man teams and walked day and night to honor 12 Special Tactics Airmen killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During the march, five teams rested while one continued the march, averaging nearly 20 miles before being relieved. Each marcher carried a 50-pound rucksack and a baton engraved with the name of a fallen Special Tactics Airman.

The 12 Airmen reunited just outside the base and walked the final five miles as a team.

“This walk shows that with Air Force Special Operations, you are never forgotten,” said Master Sgt. Ken Huhman, one of the event’s coordinators and a marcher from the 342nd Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Several family members of the 12 Special Tactics Airmen being memorialized joined the marchers on the final five-mile stretch.

“I feel very honored,” said Sally Sheldon, mother of Staff Sgt. Tim Davis, a Combat Controller killed in Afghanistan in February. “They’ve been so good to me, and I’m very proud of all these young men. They’ve made me a part of their family.”

The memorial march’s route, which began at Lackland Air Force Base and ended here, was chosen for a reason. Special Tactics training begins at Lackland Air Force Base and Combat Controllers complete their training at Hurlburt Field before joining their first teams.

“It was a long walk,” said Staff Sgt. Jesse Schrader, a marcher from the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron here. “My feet are covered in blisters and are numb, but it’s worth it. This is something we wanted to do to remember our friends and teammates that were killed.”

The memorial march was also organized to help raise awareness for Air Force specialties such as Combat Control and Pararescue and to increase awareness of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. The foundation provides assistance to families of fallen Special Operations servicemembers.

*Twelve Special Tactics Airmen enter Hurlburt Field, Fla., as they conclude an 824-mile memorial rucksack march Oct. 16. The men marched from San Antonio, Texas, to Hurlburt Field to honor Staff Sgt. Timothy Davis, a Combat Controller killed in action Feb. 20, and 12 other fallen Special Operations Forces members. Photo by Drew Buchanan.*



# Pararescuemen hone Guardian Angel combat operations training

*A Pararescueman surveys his area during a training scenario at an undisclosed U.S. location during exercise Patriot Archangel Oct. 17. The exercise hones rescue combat operations in simulated hostile urban environments and increases combat effectiveness for pararescuemen. Photo by Master Sgt. Shane Cuomo.*





1) Pararescuemen drag a simulated wounded person to a casualty collection point during exercise Patriot Archangel. Photo by Master Sgt. Shane Cuomo.

2) A simulated victim is recovered by two Pararescuemen from a badly damaged vehicle. Photo by Master Sgt. Shane Cuomo.

3) A Pararescueman drags a simulated victim to a casualty collection point. Photo by Master Sgt. Shane Cuomo.

4) A car is sawed open to rescue a trapped simulated victim. Photo by Airman 1st Class Alexandra Hoachlander.

5) A Pararescueman returns fire during a training scenario. Photo by Master Sgt. Shane Cuomo.

6) Pararescuemen take part in a rescue scenario. Photo by Airman 1st Class Alexandra Hoachlander.

7) A Pararescueman informs his team that they are extracting in two minutes during a vehicle-borne explosive device scenario. The exercise hones Guardian Angel combat operations skills in simulated hostile urban environments and increases combat effectiveness for Pararescuemen. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Robertson.





# AFSOC's Lessons Learned earns Gen. George C. Kenney Award

*By Lloyd Moon*

*Air Force Special Operations Command*

Lessons Learned, After Action Reports, and Special Operations Debrief and Retrieval System – are they a waste of time? Some say they go into a “black hole,” or “higher ups never read them,” or do anything about them. In case you have not noticed, the Special Operations Command Lessons Learned program has been completely overhauled – proving each of these sentiments wrong.

Air Force Special Operations Command's Lessons Learned Branch was presented the General George C. Kenney Award Sept. 14 for the Best Lessons Learned Program in the Air Force for 2008. The award was presented at the Air Force Association's Annual Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition in Washington D.C. by Lt. Gen. Donny Wurster, commander of AFSOC, and SES Jacqueline Henningsen, Ph.D., director of Air Force Studies and Analyses, Assessments and Lessons Learned. The success of the AFSOC program is directly attributed to the USSOCOM-funded Lessons Learned expansion in order to “save lives” and “make smarter resourcing decisions.” The July 2007 USSOCOM Lessons Learned Execution

Roadmap resulted in 47 funded positions fielded across the four components of USSOCOM to establish the strategic way ahead to meet the challenges Special Operations Forces face in overseas contingency operations and beyond. In early 2008, USSOCOM funded and fielded Lessons Learned personnel at each of the Theater Special Operations Commands.

The revitalized AFSOC program was built on the USSOCOM construct of collecting, archiving, analyzing, resolving and disseminating lessons learned. The lessons learned process encompasses the chain of events that begins with documenting an observation and culminates with seeing a substantive change being internalized for future operations. A key aspect of the lessons learned process is ensuring those who follow today's warriors into combat have benefited from those who have gone before them.

“Over this last year, the A nine L team has focused on active collection, analysis, and strengthening of an extremely successful lessons learned warfighter issue resolution process,” said Wurster. “The actions improved operational and training effectiveness, supported headquarters leadership, provided lessons to support doctrinal changes, and integrated lessons with command investments, planning, programming, and budgeting decisions.”

*(From left to right) Lt. Gen. Donny Wurster, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command; SES Jacqueline Henningsen, Ph.D., Air Force A9 director; Ralph Wade, Contractor, Scientific Research Corporation; Jerry Thigpen, Contractor, MacAulay-Brown, Inc.; Wayne Barrett, contractor, SRC; James Delap, contractor, SRC; Lloyd Moon Jr., contractor, Jacobs Technology; Arthur Trigg, YC-02; Thomas Purcell, contractor, SRC; Maj. Daniel Wasilausky; Lt. Col. Craig Werenskold; Joseph Sutter, Air Force Association Chairman of the Board. Courtesy photo.*





# MARSOC stands up Marine Special Operations Regiment

Story by Cpl. Richard Blumenstein  
MARSOC Public Affairs

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, has been implementing changes to its force structure since January in order to unify its capabilities and improve its operability.

The changes highlight the forming of the Marine Special Operations Regiment, which acts as a headquarters element for 1st, 2d, and 3d Marine Special Operations Battalions.

Prior to the changes, 1st and 2d MSOB, and the Marine Special Operations Advisor Group fell directly under the MARSOC commander, while 3d and 4th MSOB fell under the MSOAG.

Now, the MSOAG has been re-designated as the MSOR, which falls under the MARSOC commander. Additionally, 4th MSOB was disbanded and its personnel were used to help form the regiment.

“The changes have been made to create three battalions that will all have equal capabilities in direct action, special reconnaissance and foreign internal defense,” said Lt. Col. J. D. Duke, the operations officer for the MSOR.

“Having three like battalions with the same organization and structure, the same table of equipment, the same skill sets, the same mindset for mission focus will allow MARSOC to

engage anywhere in the spectrum where SOCOM is involved,” said Maj. Christopher Wales, the executive officer of 2d MSOB. “It will enable us to succeed.”

Currently, each MSOB is still focusing on their former role, as the changes have not been fully implemented, but in the future, each MSOB will be responsible for a region of the world, Duke said.

“The change made to MARSOC was not based on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan,” Duke said. “It was based on the future of MARSOC as a whole.”

The change in force structure also lines up with the new type of Operators being produced by the MARSOC Individual Training Course, Duke said.

“By saying these three like battalions are going to have the same capabilities, it means that the schoolhouse only has to produce one basic qualified Marine Special Operator,” Duke said.

The new regiment also has improved the command’s ability to manage assets between the three battalions, Wales said.

“What we’ve seen is an increase in efficiency in operational planning and logistics planning at our level,” Wales said.

“It’s simply because there are so many ancillary tasks that the regiment is now responsible for.”



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*“The change made to MARSOC was not based on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was based on the future of MARSOC as a whole.”*

— Col. J. D. Duke

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## U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND - HISTORY

# Operation Torch:

### *Scouts and Raiders debut in Morocco, Algeria invasion*

By Tom Neven

USSOCOM History Office

A precursor to today's Navy SEALs first saw action 67 years ago during Operation Torch, the Allies' Nov. 8, 1942, invasion of northwest Africa, where a joint Army-Navy unit called Scouts and Raiders helped guide American and British forces ashore in Morocco and Algeria to open a second front against Nazi Germany.

In the 1920s and 1930s military planners had come to understand that any future war would likely involve amphibious operations, so, in January 1941 the War Department established a joint Army-Marine Corps unit called the Observer Group under the command of Army 1st Lt. Lloyd Peddicord. Their job was to develop the tactics and techniques for reconnoitering a hostile shore and guiding in an invasion force. The Group pioneered the use of submarine-launched patrols using inflatable rubber boats after testing and rejecting kayaks and folding canvas boats. Sometimes they had to improvise their equipment. For example, they determined that the Navy's shipboard damage-control light was best to use for infrared signaling. Of course, the light wasn't made for IR use, so they improvised by taping IR paper to the outside of the lens.

By mid-1942, Marine members of the Observer Group were pulled away to concentrate on the Pacific Theater, where they would form the Amphibious Reconnaissance Company. The existing unit was dubbed the Scouts and Raiders and given to the Navy under Rear Adm. H.K. Hewitt, commander of Amphibious Forces Atlantic. Their mission under Force General Order 1-43 was to perform reconnaissance of hostile beaches, including hydrographic conditions; carry out short-duration and small-scale inland raids; land special groups on hostile shores; and rendezvous with submarines for updated intelligence.



Scout and Raider crest

In August 1942 Scouts and Raiders set up training operations at the newly commissioned Amphibious Training Base Little Creek, nicknamed "the mud hole" because of its primitive conditions. (That first group of trainees included Phil Bucklew, the "father of U.S. Navy Special Warfare.")

A history of those early days read:

We trained at Little Creek at night, studying shorelines as night fell, looking for clumps of trees, church steeples, any marker ashore, judging distances, and how long it took to get from one point to another. We were given a compass bearing to sea, say four miles, then another back to shore. If we judged speed and







**Phil Bucklew**

distance correctly, we landed our Army team on the proper beach at the right time. We came up with a game to see which crew could land its rubber boat team at the right point first to recover the object that had been placed there previously, e.g., an orange, with crews being given different drop-off points each night.

During a final full-dress rehearsal for Torch conducted in the Chesapeake Bay in October 1942, a Scouts and Raiders team was able to get close enough to “kill” a startled but appreciative Gen. George Patton, who gave the men an impromptu pep talk.

The Scouts and Raiders quickly proved their value during the initial hours of Torch. Ensign John Bell and his scout-boat crew redirected the destroyer USS Bernadou as it sailed off-course toward Safi harbor south of Casablanca, saving it from crashing into a breakwater. They remained on station to guide waves of assault boats, which had followed Bernadou on its errant heading.

The team headed by Capt. Peddicord was tasked with keeping landing craft from hitting the jetties of the Sebou River and landing a special assault team to cut the boom and nets blocking the entrance to the river to facilitate an assault inland by Army Rangers. Despite coming under fire from Vichy French forces, Peddicord’s boat held its position until the entire assault force was ashore.

Not everything went smoothly. A boat team led by 1st Lt. Willard Duckworth was supposed to be dropped off by the submarine USS Barb three-and-a-half miles from Safi, but the sub’s skipper would not let Duckworth conduct a preliminary recon by periscope to determine position. Duckworth’s crew wound up paddling for more than six hours, meaning, according to Duckworth’s calculations, they’d been deposited no less than seven miles offshore and nowhere near their assigned beach.

Bucklew and his team were assigned to the Mediterranean portion of the assault. After guiding the British 1 Commando to their beaches near Algiers, they found themselves having to go rescue the follow-on assault waves, whose inexperienced crews, lost in the

dark and in heavy weather, had actually sailed seaward, away from the beaches. Bucklew’s ship, the USS Leedstown, was soon sunk by a German U-boat. Bucklew and a few others were rescued by a Norwegian destroyer the next day and taken to the neutral port of Oran.

Altogether, the Scouts and Raiders earned eight Navy Crosses during Operation Torch. The men from this first class went on to support landings in Sicily, Salerno, Anzio, Normandy, and southern France.

The Scouts and Raiders school moved to Fort Pierce, Fla., in fall 1942 and a second group of Scouts and Raiders graduated in July 1943, first seeing action in September 1943 at Finschafen, New Guinea, and later at Gasmata, Arawe and Cape Gloucester.

The third Scouts and Raiders unit operated in China with SACO, the Sino-American Cooperation Organization. This guerrilla unit of Americans and Chinese operated in coastal waters, lakes and rivers and used everything from steamboats to sampans. They conducted a survey of the upper Yangtze River and, disguised as coolies, conducted a detailed three-month survey of the Chinese coast from Shanghai to Kitchioh Wan, near Hong Kong.

The Scouts and Raiders were disbanded after World War II, but the tactics they developed and the weapons they pioneered, along with those of the Navy Combat Demolitions Units, OSS Operational Swimmers, and Underwater Demolitions Teams, would form the core of what today is the U.S. Navy SEALs.



**Training at Fort Pierce Fla., in 1944. The men are firing Thompson sub-machine guns. Navy courtesy photo.**

# Operation One Voice SOF Run 2009



Photo by Master Sgt. Edward Degrenia

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Victoria Meyer



Photo by Mike Bottoms



Photo by Staff Sgt. Salwa SaHoum



**Operation One Voice sponsored a Special Operations Forces run consisting of a team of 24 runners from law enforcement, firefighters and members of the United States Special Operations Command. The group began its annual 600-mile, five-day run in Duluth, Ga., where the nonprofit Operation One Voice was started, and took part in a Veterans Day celebration at the U.S. Special Operations Command Memorial. The run culminated at Busch Gardens in Tampa, Fla.**

**SPECIAL OPERATORS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES  
SERVING IN AND PREPARING FOR  
OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM  
AND OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS  
WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN**



Army Staff Sgt.  
Keith Bishop  
7th SFG (A)



Marine Corps Sgt.  
Charles Cartwright  
1st MSOB



Army Sgt.  
Josue Hernandez-Chavez  
160th (A) SOAR



Army CWO 3  
Niall Lyons  
160th SOAR (A)



Army Staff Sgt.  
Jack Martin III  
1st SFG (A)



Army Staff Sgt.  
Shawn McNabb  
160th SOAR (A)



Army Sgt. 1st Class  
David Metzger  
7th SFG (A)



Army CWO 4  
Michael Montgomery  
160th SOAR (A)



Army Sgt.  
Nickolas Mueller  
160th SOAR (A)



Army Sgt.  
Roberto Sanchez  
75th Ranger Regiment



Army Sgt. 1st Class  
Christopher Shaw  
1st SFG (A)



Army Sgt. 1st Class  
James Stright  
160th SOAR (A)

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



**Students of Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL class 279 participate in a surf passage exercise during the first phase of training at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado. Surf passage is one of many physically strenuous exercises that BUD/S class 279 will take part in during the seven weeks of first phase. Photo by Lt. Frederick Martin.**