# TIP OF THE SPEAR

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



## Honoring fallen Operation Red Wing warriors

## SOCEUR trains sub-Saharan African troops

## Care Coalition takes care of SOF for life

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# Honoring fallen Operation Red Wing warriors

*who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, page 20.*



***A special operator plays the bag pipes during a memorial ceremony in Afghanistan after 19 special operators died in combat during Operation Red Wing. (NSWG-2 photo) See story on page 20.***

# Tip of the Spear


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***Front Cover: Pararescuemen, participating in Desert Rescue, exit a helicopter during non-combatant evacuation training operation. PJs evacuate U.S. citizens from an embassy before it can be overrun by aggressors. Desert Rescue is a multi-service, multi-national training exercise held annually to prepare pararescue teams to extract personnel in a variety of environments and difficult situations. The exercise was conducted at Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Bart A. Bauer)***

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*takes care of injured special operators and their families for life, page 36.*





*Iraqi Counter Terrorism Task Force soldiers practice moving out to the objective during a training exercise. (Photo by Spec. Robert Kinville)*

# Iraqi SOF taking charge of security

***CJSOTF-AP***

The training Special Operations Forces provide to Iraqi SOF, military and police units is paying off. Iraqi military members are securing their nation's future with numerous strike operations to capture enemies of the Iraqi people.

"They have been out going after the terrorists and the insurgents where they are and capturing and killing large numbers of them every single month," said Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld in a recent radio interview. "The numbers of (insurgents) that are being detained and killed have been growing month by month."

For months, coalition SOF from the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula have been training Iraqi special operators and police units. CJSOTF-AP personnel then conduct real-world missions alongside the Iraqi military they have trained. Iraqi units such as the 1st Battalion, 1st Iraqi Special Operations Forces Brigade, continue to earn acclaim for their performance on the battlefield capturing terrorists while suffering relatively limited losses.

Side by side, coalition SOF and the Iraqi commandos received applause from the people on Iraq's monumental election day eight months ago. On that day, the commandos were able to take short breaks while continuing their security mission and exercised their newfound voting rights and cast ballots with the rest of their countrymen.



As the Iraqi government works to finalize their constitution, the Iraqi security forces continue to protect the Iraqi people, train with the



*Iraqi Counter Terrorism Task Force soldiers practice vehicle movement during a training exercise in preparation for upcoming missions under the supervision of the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). (Photo by Spec. Robert Kinville)*

coalition and root out enemy terrorists.

The U.S. SOF members continue to work themselves out of a job, as their Iraqi counterparts take the lead on more and more missions. Now, taking the lead on everything from developing targets, to conducting recon and executing tactical control over missions, Iraqi security forces continue to progress in capabilities, skills and experience and will ultimately take over the reins of protecting the Iraqi people from terrorists and insurgent groups themselves.

"This will take time for the Iraqi security forces, as they finish developing their capabilities, to repress the insurgency," Rumsfeld said.

In recent months, coalition SOF, conventional units and Iraqi security forces have captured or killed numerous key enemy leaders, seized weapons and explosives.

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division along with coalition SOF advisors, conducted a series of raids to apprehend insurgents operating in Kirkuk. Among the three men captured were Sa'id Mahmood Khidr, leader of an extremist group responsible for numerous direct fire and improvised explosive device attacks. No Iraqi soldiers were injured in the operation.

In Mosul, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Army Division members also conducted a raid to apprehend Talal Mahmood al Agueti. Talal is suspected of leading an insurgent cell responsible for mortar attacks and other illegal activities. Talal along with four others were detained without incident.

The U.S. SOF commander who was on site as an advisor said the Iraqi solders' actions "looked great," and the company "executed with speed and precision."

Iraqi soldiers in the 3rd Brigade 3rd Army Division, also with coalition and SOF advisors, planned and conducted an operation to apprehend foreign fighters, insurgents, and criminals at Al Shigar. This operation led to the apprehension of 17 individuals, and the seizing of more than 5,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, numerous weapons, and several automobiles.

In Western Baghdad, Iraqi soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 1st Army Division along with SOF advisors conducted an operation to apprehend members of a suspected kidnapping cell. Soldiers killed three of the insurgents when they chose to fight instead of face detention, and confiscated several weapons, grenades, a rocket propelled grenade launcher and some blasting caps after the brief fight. No Iraqi or coalition forces were injured. Although one coalition advisor was shot during the operation, his protective body armor prevented penetration of the round.

"U.S. Special Forces contributions in training not only change Iraqi soldiers physically, but actually their mindset," said Brig. Gen. Najah Hasan Al-Shamary, commander of the Iraqi special operators. "It will take time. There is so much to learn not only for the soldiers but for the Iraqi people."



*Iraqi Counter Terrorism Task Force soldiers clear their weapons as they move into formation for their after action report. (Photo by Spec Robert Kinville)*

# SOF medics keep girl with faulty heart alive



*Karishma, an 8-year-old girl, recovers from heart surgery in Afghanistan. SOF medics researched her condition and arranged for the surgery to repair the heart defect. (CFC Coalition Press Information Center photo)*

***CFC Coalition Press Information Center***

Karishma tried to be like any other 8 year old, running and playing with boundless energy, but for her, there was an end to the energy.

She could never have had a normal, long life because of heart problems — until a year ago.

Two U.S. Special Forces medical personnel, a medical sergeant and doctor, crossed paths with Karishma in September 2004 ultimately leading up to a successful lifesaving closed-heart surgery performed Aug. 14 by Dr. (Maj.) Michael Myers, a cardiothoracic surgeon stationed at the Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan hospital.

"The surgery went extremely well," the surgeon said. "She is a strong little girl. She will live a long, happy and healthy life."

Karishma was three months old when her family found out she had heart problems from a doctor in Peshawar, Pakistan. They diagnosed her with Ventricular Septal Defect — a hole in the heart's wall — a type of heart malfunction present at birth.

Seven years later, village elders introduced her father, Abdula, to the Special Operations Forces medical sergeant and doctor. They had been conducting sick-call near Jalalabad in September 2004.

"I told Abdula that I could not treat Karishma, but I would do some research on the Internet about the problem and asked him to return a few days later," said the SF medical sergeant. "I researched the condition and found three non-profit organizations could help. The same day I received a response from the Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills, N.J., offering to perform the surgery free for the family through a program called 'Children of the World Program.'"

The Deborah Heart and Lung Center reviewed Karishma's charts and made a final diagnosis that she had Patent Ductus Arteriosus, where a part of her aorta did not close.

Everything was set for Karishma and her mother to travel to New Jersey for the operation. The entire trip and operation would be free of charge for the family, but things took another turn.

Almost a year after initially seeing Karishma in Jalalabad, the SOF doctor overheard Dr. Myers saying he had done a similar surgery. He asked Dr. Myers if he would like to do another. The SOF doctor relayed this information to his medical sergeant. The sergeant later learned that Myers had actually performed the same surgery on another patient about a week earlier.

"I told Dr. Myers about Karishma and asked him if he was interested in doing another one, and he said, 'Sure, why not,'" the SOF doctor said. The family learned of Myers' ability and willingness to perform the surgery at Bagram. They joyfully accepted the offer.

Abdula, who is a tailor with five sons and five daughters, could have never afforded the operation.

"I am very happy and very thankful to the Americans for helping Karishma," Abdula said.

"She is very playful and energetic, she just gets tired real easy," said the SOF doctor.

Karishma is currently in recovery at Bagram and expected to return home within a week.

# ANA, U.S. SOF forces drive out Taliban and return Afghan Village

*CJSOTF-A*
*Public Affairs*



***A SOF Soldier talks with an elder from a small village in the Uruzgan province, Afghanistan, where the Taliban drove the villagers from their homes. (CJSOTF-A courtesy photos)***

Months ago enemy Taliban forces killed the village elders and drove out the rest of the inhabitants from their homes in a small village in the Uruzgan province, Afghanistan.

After learning of the Taliban atrocity, the Afghan National Army and U.S. Special Operations Forces drove out the enemy, clearing the village of Taliban last month. A washed out bridge and formidable terrain made the enemy clearing difficult, but the ANA and SOF ultimately succeeded in getting the village back to the rightful Afghan residents.

"They had crops and several donkeys and good irrigation, they weren't starving," said a senior SOF officer. "It must be remembered that most of the people who originally inhabited the village were either killed by enemy forces or forced to flee. In our original operation into this village (after the Taliban were driven out) there were no women or children there at all."

More than just strike operations, ANA and U.S. forces conducted a recent medical assistance visit to help the returning villagers with getting their lives back to normal.

Nearly 200 villagers received medical care. Tarps were set up to create a make-shift medical clinic and female U.S. medical personnel provided much of the care so as to respect local customs regarding male and female interaction.

A popular religious leader from nearby Kandahar also traveled with the team and spoke to the village through a portable public address system.

Coalition forces solicited the visit by the local Mullah, the religious teacher, to address the villagers, the officer continued. "He asked that the people cooperate and make peace with the surrounding villages, basically asking for an end to tribal conflict and the village parents help ensure their children get an education. He also asked that the people of the village cooperate with the government of Afghanistan and participate in the upcoming elections."

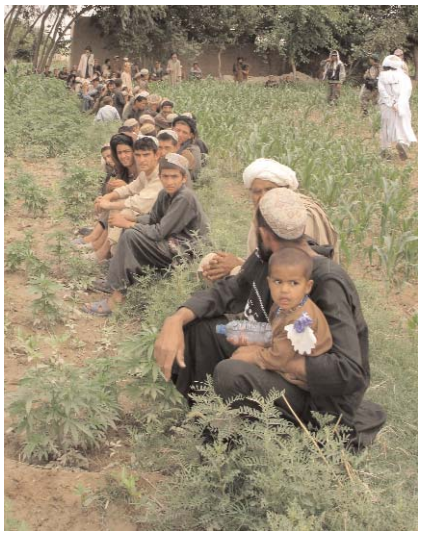


***A SOF Soldier treats an Afghan boy's leg injury.***

The ANA forces also had some powerful messages for the villagers.

"An ANA officer spoke next and the first thing he said was ANA forces did not work for the coalition, they were Afghans and they worked for Afghanistan," he said. "He said further that the villagers were the fathers and brothers of ANA forces and they did not wish them any harm, they only wanted to find Taliban remnants that might be hiding nearby so they could bring peace to the region. Finally he made it clear the government of Afghanistan wanted to build roads, schools and a clinic for the village."

"Our actions there are a first step in building trust and confidence in the local population," the officer said. "Through this trust and confidence the people there can begin to regain control of lands and eventually they will trust us enough to report any suspected Taliban presence in their area to the Afghan authorities."



***Villagers await return to their homes after being forced out by the Taliban.***

# Flintlock trains Africans to handle defense

*By Jim Garamone*
*American Forces Press Service*

There is more than one way to fight terrorism, as U.S. service members participating in Exercise Flintlock '05 are finding.

The biennial exercise in Africa is designed to enhance African nations' ability to patrol and control their own territory.

The exercise also seeks to improve coordination among the nations of the Sahara region as they work against violent extremists, said U.S. Ambassador to Senegal Richard A. Roth. Roth spoke with Pentagon reporters from Senegal's capital of Dakar.

Under the auspices of U.S. European Command, the exercise began June 6 and ran through June 26. More than 1,000 U.S. personnel participated, along with more than 3,000 African service members from Algeria, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Chad.

These countries have a security problem, DoD officials said. The Sahara has long been a route for smugglers. Today, these smugglers traffic in goods, drugs, guns and humans. Violent extremists also use these routes – including al Qaeda affiliate the "Salafist Group for Call and Combat," known as the GSPC. The group launched an attack June 12 in Mauritania that killed 12 Mauritanian soldiers to the loss of nine terrorists. Press reports indicate the group, which is based in Algeria, used the smugglers' routes to launch the attack.

Reports that Africans are returning to these terror groups from Iraq and Afghanistan also concern U.S. officials, Army Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csrnko, the commander of Special Operations Command Europe, said.



***A Malinese air force helicopter departs the base located near Bamako International Airport, Mali, June 8 while U.S. Air Force Airmen from 352nd Special Operations Group assemble their MH-53 helicopters, during Flintlock '05. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy L. Wood)***

Further, with the clampdown in the Middle East and Central Asia, reports indicate that terror groups are looking to the Sahara region for training areas and logistics bases.

Borders in the region are porous, and the land area is vast. The nations of the region must work together to seal them, officials said. The militaries of the region also must communicate with each other to pass on intelligence and track movements of terror groups. The exercise is designed to give the nations a chance to work together and gain confidence in each other.

The American troops helped train military units in the countries. Csrnko said Flintlock has already tested African units on airborne operations, and the nations have begun a command post exercise in Dakar. Special Forces trainers also worked with African soldiers on such basics as small-unit tactics, marksmanship, land navigation and combat medic skills. American forces participating also stress human-rights training, DoD officials said.

U.S. Special Forces Soldiers, Civil Affairs personnel and Air Force Special Operations

*Senegal army soldiers join U.S. Army Special Operations Command Europe Soldiers in a static-line parachute jump June 18, above Dakar, Senegal, from an MC-130 Talon, during Flintlock '05. The multi-national exercise is a series of military exercises conducted throughout the Trans-Saharan region of Africa, with concentration on ground and air operations, land navigation, human rights training and collaboration between militaries. Other countries participating in the exercise are Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Chad. (Photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy L. Wood)*





*(Left) An Air Force technical sergeant from the 352nd Special Operations Group times the status lights in the flightdeck of an MC-130P Shadow, as part of a through-flight inspection at Senegal Air Force Field in Dakar, June 14, during Flintlock '05. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy L. Wood)*

*Senegal army Capt. Mohamdou A. Sylla, 1st Company, Commando Battalion commanding officer, of Thies, Senegal, prepares his pack for a static-line parachute jump June 18, above Dakar, from a MC-130 Talon, during Flintlock '05. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Dusan M. Ilic)*



personnel were the main players in the exercise. Medical personnel from Landstuhl, Germany, also participated in a medical/dental outreach to the people of the region.

The exercise is part of the greater Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Initiative. This State Department-sponsored initiative aims to help African nations take control over what are effectively "ungoverned areas." The initiative has a large DoD presence in that the department is working constantly to train African militaries and improve their capabilities.

The initiative costs $16 million this year. Next year, the government is asking for $30 million for the initiative. In 2007 to 2011, the U.S. government would like to fund the initiative at $100 million per year. Officials said this is a small investment if it means a more stable and secure Africa.

# 360th CAB finishes Afghan tour of duty

***By Sgt. Tara Teal***
***Army News Service***

More than 200 Civil Affairs troops witnessed the changes occurring in Afghanistan that moved the Afghan people toward a democratic state.

"During our time, we have been witnesses to the rebirth of a great and proud ancient land whose people have bravely taken back their destiny into their hands," said Col. Guy Sands, commander of the Army Reserve's 360th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) before heading back to Fort Jackson, S.C.

During their 10-month deployment, the CA brigade provided the core element of Task Force Victory. The task force covered all the CA operations for the coalition forces and at the height of their deployment consisted of more than 1,200 Soldiers. The entire 450th CA Battalion from College Park, Md., joined the brigade, providing their civil-military expertise. Other service members came from 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery; and the Cooperative Medical Assistance Team.

Many of the 360th's endeavors had benefits that went beyond the outward appearance.

Projects started by the CA brigade employed many Afghans, giving them skills to do future projects on their own. The construction also helped the local economy because materials were purchased from local vendors. One of the major undertakings was improving and fully repaving roads, like the one from Kandahar north to Tarin Kowt in the Uruzgan province.

"An estimated 80,000 Afghans, during the past year, have found employment working on projects or programs initiated by Coalition forces," Sands said. "We opened 82 new schools and most of the work was done by the Afghan people."

However, not all of the projects were construction related.

Some provided assistance to those in need, like flood victims. More than $70 million has gone toward humanitarian aid and medical assistance, provided by the CA specialists working at the 14 provincial reconstruction team locations.



***Staff Sgt. Rodney Brewer and Spec. Flint of the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade from Fort Jackson, S.C., unload a trailer of supplies for the local school and hospital in Alingar, Afghanistan on October 12, 2004. (Photo by Sgt. J. Antonio Francis)***



***Staff Sgt. Rodney Brewer of the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade from Fort Jackson, S.C. shows a teacher of the school, the elder of the village school supplies for the children, in Alishan, Afghanistan. (Photo by Sgt. J. Antonio Francis)***

"We supported humanitarian missions, giving 50,000 blankets and 10,000 single-family tents to flood and wintertime victims, treated 28,000 people, visited more than 200 villages, and inoculated 40,000 animals," Sands said.

The 360th's work also improved health services and health care.

For every clinic established, the training of local specialists took place. Afghan children are healthier and more capable of growing up without ailments that struck their parent's generation.

In a land where 80 percent of personal wealth is connected to the amount of livestock a person owns, animal health care is almost as important as human health care.

The PRTs have made strides in re-establishing local and district level veterinary and agricultural clinics.

Thousands of farm animals were vaccinated and given medical treatment to prevent the outbreak of contagious diseases that in previous years destroyed entire herds.

Another significant project involved refurbishing and reopening the farmers markets. Markets were reopened in the towns and cities of more than 16 provinces and 180 districts. The markets allow farmers to get a fair price for their goods.

Getting fair prices at a farmers market provides a sense of security for Afghans. However, economic security is only one problem in Afghanistan.

Personal security against those who terrorize Afghans is another problem. Coalition forces placed the PRTs in areas that needed not only economic assistance, but physical security as well. The CA teams have assisted in enabling and facilitating the training and operational employment of legitimate police forces throughout Afghanistan.

"These training programs were established at district and provincial levels for the Afghan National Police," Sands said. "They taught police to do their job protecting the public and eliminating criminal activities. After all, only the Afghan people can ultimately be responsible for their own security."

The 360th left the Afghan people with a sense of security about their police forces, taught them new trade skills, helped establish better health care specialists and clinics for treatment, and created more schools to educate the Afghan children.

"We leave knowing that we have left something that cannot be bought or given easily," Sands said. "Everyday we see and feel the irreversible momentum of progress and change that is the hallmark of the efforts the Afghan people are making for themselves, their children, and their country's future."

*A team of determined Civil Affairs Soldiers overcome cultural and language barriers to help Iraqi firefighters gain...*

# First aid skills to save lives

***443rd Civil Affairs Battalion***

Baghdad's city firefighters quickly arrive at the scene of a detonated improvised explosive device. The injured are hastily loaded into their trucks or ambulances and rushed to the hospital with little or no treatment on scene.

A U.S. Army physician assistant on the public health team, 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion with the assistance of his medics, recognized the need for immediate treatment. They armed the city's first-responders with the knowledge and skills to start applying emergency life-saving procedures helping improve the victim's chances of survival.



***Training provided by the government support team and the public health team, 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion to Iraqi firefighters will give victims of improvised explosive devices and other injuries a better chance of survival. (Photo by Spec. Timothy Belt)***

He and his team faced some daunting challenges with cultural and language barriers.

The physician assistant and his Soldiers needed to find Iraqi publishers who could translate the American instruction manuals. In addition, the training equipment and the basic life-saving bags needed to be purchased on the local economy.

Everything came together when an Iraqi doctor volunteered to help. She simply wanted to help her people, especially if it meant saving their lives.

Finally, at the end of May, the Soldiers were able to start the first class.

The firefighters were trained on life-saving procedures like CPR, proper trauma assessment, bleeding and shock control, airway management, splinting fractures and immobilizing the patient. After the classroom hours, they were evaluated on what they'd learned.

"After a while, they started to understand the concept of the ABCs — airway, breathing, circulation. They are starting to follow our rules and guidelines and perform a proper assessment on their patients. And that is our goal," said a medic with the 443rd.

Once they completed the training, the firefighters received a certificate from the public health team and a fully supplied basic life-saving bag.

An average of 30 firefighters representing all of Baghdad's districts show up for each class.

"We are grateful to the American people, the U.S. Army and all the coalition forces for helping out my people," said the fire official, who wished to remain anonymous.

To date, the public health team has already graduated three classes, totaling 70 firemen. On each graduation day, The physician assistant reminds the firemen of what an important job they have. "Back in the rear, we always have heard about the brave Iraqi firefighters who risk their lives to save their own people. I am glad we can help out and do this training."

# CJTF-Horn of Africa Conducts MEDCAP

*By 1st Lt. Tim Wade*
*CJTF-HOA*

A two-day medical project conducted by the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion assigned to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa treated 1,159 locals in Damerdjog, Djibouti June 4-5.

The event started with the patients first stopping by a registration table at the entrance to the compound. Military members with the assistance of translators received basic information from each individual such as gender, age and their primary complaint. Next, the villagers were then moved to a shaded area while they waited to see a medical provider.

"The providers will look them over and if they have any particular complaint then they will look into that complaint," said the 96th Civil Affairs Action Team leader.

After receiving treatment from the medical providers patients get their prescriptions.

The children and women of childbearing age receive multivitamin supplements. The patients also pick up toothbrushes, toothpaste, anti-bacterial and anti-parasitic medicine. Children also received polio vaccinations.



*A member of the Emergency Medical Flight, examines an infant boy during the MEDCAP Damerdjog, Djibouti. (Photo by 1st Lt. Tim M. Wade)*

He praised the effort and dedication of all involved in the two days of medical care.

This was a prime example of joint operations in CJTF-HOA," he said.

Additionally, the team chief said "We have medical providers from the Navy, medical providers from the Air Force and Army. The Marines provided our communications. The force protection was done by the Soldiers from Guam who always do an outstanding job."

# CJTF-HOA assists Djiboutian vaccination program

*By Sgt. Brian McElaney*
*CJTF-HOA*

Children across Djibouti are being vaccinated against polio as part of a nationwide government program assisted by the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa.



*A young boy gets polio vaccine in Damerdjog, Djibouti. (Photo by 1st Lt. Tim Wade)*

The Djiboutian government enacted the preventative program as a reaction to outbreaks of the disease in neighboring countries.

According to a Navy commander with, the CJTF-HOA Surgeon Cell, there have been over 60 cases of polio in Yemen and Ethiopia, prompting the Djibouti Ministry of Health to ensure its children were vaccinated. CJTF-HOA is assisting with the program in the southernmost province of Ali Sabieh.

"It is important to protect our children," said Djiboutian Army Chief Surgeon Ali Dalieh Kidar. "The Djiboutian Army and United States Army have a good relationship and are able to fight this disease."

"This is a humanitarian mission, and so everyone is ready and willing to help," said the Detachment Commander, of the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion. "But the best thing that comes out of this is that it shows Djiboutians that their government cares and is able to coordinate care for them."

But the project also gave a lot of personal satisfaction to those who were able to help.

"This was my first time treating locals," said a flight nurse with the 379th EAES. "You don't think about things like polio coming from the states. It gave us a greater sense of community getting to help those who are poor and less fortunate."


For some the Navy SEAL Museum
at Fort Pierce sits on just another
pretty stretch of Florida beach,
but for those who trained there in the
‘40s or know Naval history say it sits...
...On Hallowed Ground
NAVY SEA

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

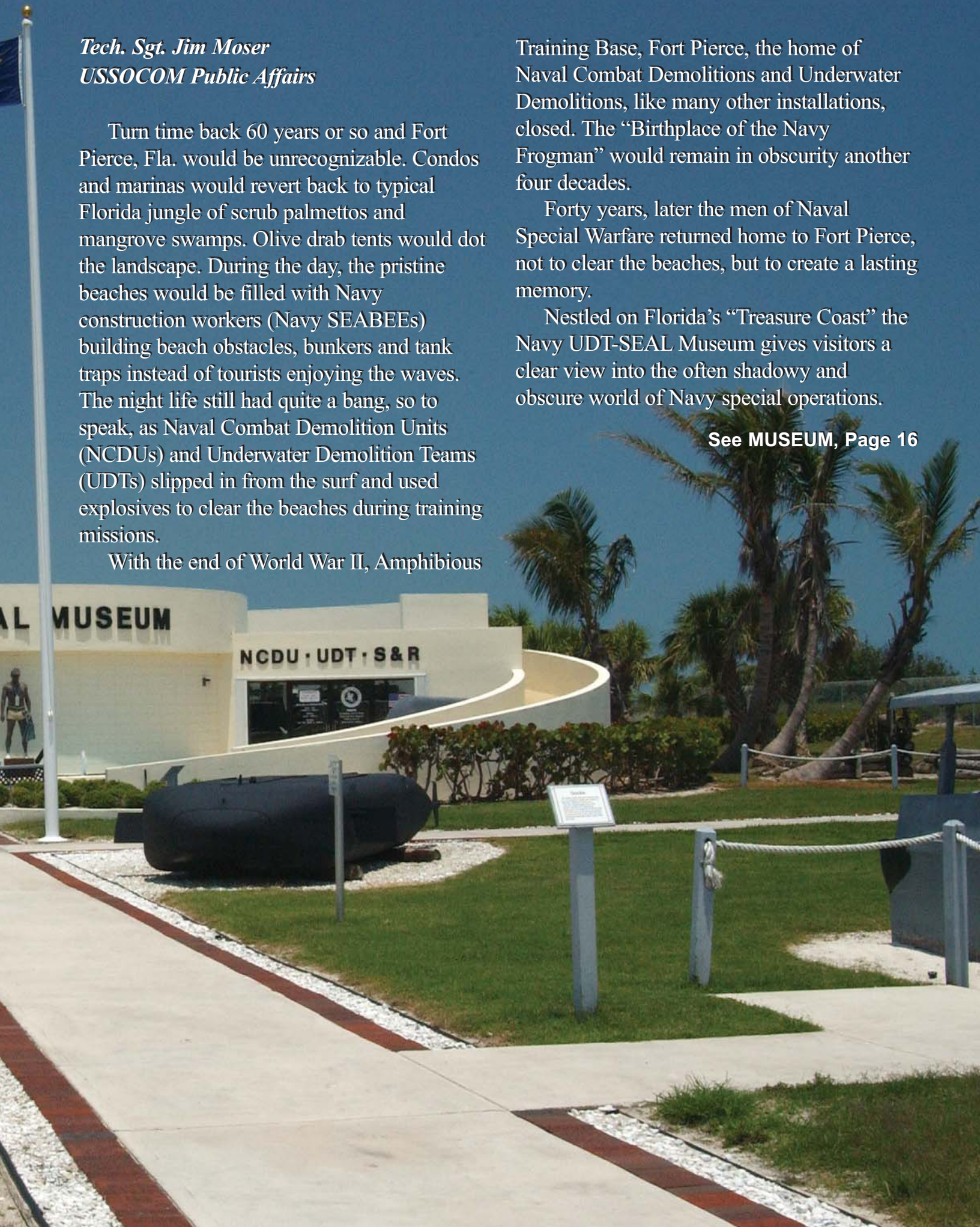
Turn time back 60 years or so and Fort Pierce, Fla. would be unrecognizable. Condos and marinas would revert back to typical Florida jungle of scrub palmettos and mangrove swamps. Olive drab tents would dot the landscape. During the day, the pristine beaches would be filled with Navy construction workers (Navy SEABEEs) building beach obstacles, bunkers and tank traps instead of tourists enjoying the waves. The night life still had quite a bang, so to speak, as Naval Combat Demolition Units (NCDUs) and Underwater Demolition Teams (UDTs) slipped in from the surf and used explosives to clear the beaches during training missions.

With the end of World War II, Amphibious Training Base, Fort Pierce, the home of Naval Combat Demolitions and Underwater Demolitions, like many other installations, closed. The "Birthplace of the Navy Frogman" would remain in obscurity another four decades.

Forty years, later the men of Naval Special Warfare returned home to Fort Pierce, not to clear the beaches, but to create a lasting memory.

Nestled on Florida's "Treasure Coast" the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum gives visitors a clear view into the often shadowy and obscure world of Navy special operations.

**See MUSEUM, Page 16**



MUSEUM continued from Page 15

"How fitting this site is for the location of the museum," said retired SEAL Capt. Michael Howard, the museum's executive director.

Dedicated in November 1985, the museum boasts a large collection of artifacts relating to Navy Special Operations Forces. On the grounds, visitors get an up close look at Navy special operations "tools of the trade." A variety of ocean and river craft, including a captured Iranian vessel, share the landscape with a pair of Apollo training capsules. Some of the other outside exhibits include a Vietnam era UH-1B Huey helicopter, swimmer delivery vehicles (SDVs) and original beach obstacles from the 1940s retrieved from the Atlantic just off the Fort Pierce coast.

Inside the museum, exhibits cover all aspects of Navy special operations from the establishment of the NCDU and UDTs in World War II to current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In the main gallery, a well thought out and detailed display presents visitors with an in-depth experience of Naval Special Warfare in World War II. The exhibits cover the beginnings and trace it to the beaches of Normandy in the Atlantic to Iwo Jima and Okinawa in the Pacific.

The north gallery is dedicated to the transformation of Navy special operations in the years following World War II. The many displays include weapons and equipment from the Vietnam era as the SEAL Teams replaced the NCDUs and the UDTs.

Visitors can also watch videos on Naval Special Warfare operations and training.



*A World War II UDT Swimmer plants a demolition charge during training on a beach obstacle. (USSOCOM photo)*

"The museum offers something for everyone," Howard said. "We have everything from books to weapons to boats. It's all exciting and interesting and unique. There's no other museum of its kind in the country. You can't walk out the door without marveling at what you've just seen and what you've just learned about our Nation's most capable maritime warriors. The museum is as unique as the SEAL operator it represents."

While the museum's displays and exhibits are captivating, they pale when compared to the staff of volunteers many of whom were directly involved with the teams, NCDUs and UDTs during WWII.

"These guys are amazing," Howard commented. "They're walking history. You could sit for hours and listen to their experiences during WWII and what they saw, encountered right here on the beaches of Fort Pierce and in the surf zone right outside our gate. We are very, very fortunate to have so many of these type veterans working with us to preserve and present our Frogman and SEAL history and heritage."

Since 1985, the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum has given the public a window into the secretive world of one of the best fighting forces in history.

"This is a great opportunity to 'spread the word' about our unique museum through the 'Tip of the Spear' and we're quite honored," Howard said. "It is a great way to get information to the active Special Operations Force of all services concerning what we're all about ... and we're just a stone's throw from Tampa. Its great history and a fun way to absorb it with one's family, and hey, what better way to spend a day than learning more about the history of Navy SEALs in the museum and then 'hit the surf' on the original beach where the first Frogmen and SEALs swam ashore more than 60 years ago."

For more information about the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum log on to www.navysealmuseum.com.



*Retired SEAL and author Chief Petty Officer Jim Watson, a volunteer at the museum, demonstrates the controls of a swimmer delivery vehicle. Watson is a Vietnam veteran who made the transfer from UDT to SEAL. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser)*

# Navy Bullfrog rings the bell

***By Mike Bottoms***
***USSOCOM Public Affairs***




***Capt. William Reed, Naval War College chief of staff, passes on the 'Bullfrog' tradition during a retirement ceremony. Reed earned the title of Bullfrog by serving the longest on active duty as a SEAL. (Photo by Chief Petty Officer Robert Inverso)***

Traditions run steep in the US Navy. Being designated "Bullfrog" of the U.S. Navy SEALs is an honorary custom unique to the Naval Special Warfare community.

By definition, the Bullfrog is the Navy SEAL who has served longest on active duty. Eligibility for this ceremonial title begins graduation day of Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training and concludes on retirement or when one "rings the bell."

Capt. William Reed is the current Bullfrog within the SEALS. "I began my naval career in 1964 graduating from West Coast Underwater Demolition Training Class 40," Reed said. He served in "the teams" from 1967 through 2005.

Reed's 40 years in the Navy started with him enlisting as an E-1, progressing to chief, then being commissioned and eventually achieving the rank of captain. During that time he had three combat tours in Vietnam, served as a BUD/S instructor and three stints in command.

"The combat tours taught me 'all lessons are written in blood' and I passed on this philosophy during my time as a BUD/S instructor," Reed said. Reflecting back over his career, Reed found instructor duty the most rewarding because he was able to give back lessons he learned in combat.

Serving as a commander gave Reed an appreciation for the complexities and nuances of human performance, morale, discipline and leadership. His tour as deputy chief of staff for Special Operations Command Central provided him a clearer understanding of the contributions of his sister services in special operations and convinced him of the necessity of joint operations.

Reed's final active duty tour was at the Naval War College. "The academic environment reinforces my belief that professional education in warfare and historical lessons are a valuable asset to the war fighter," he said.

The warrior ethos has not changed in his 40 years according to Reed. The World War II Underwater Demolition Frogmen to the modern day SEAL possess the same traits. The characteristics include great mental and physical strength, combined with tenacity, tempered with compassion and discipline. The owner of the Bullfrog title is a capstone event in a SEAL's career and these warrior attributes are key to becoming the Bullfrog.

Carrying the title has certain institutional bragging rights, but there is no extra pay or authority.

"The SEAL owning the Bullfrog title really represents a life long commitment to the special operator community. Most importantly, he serves as a role model for younger operators."

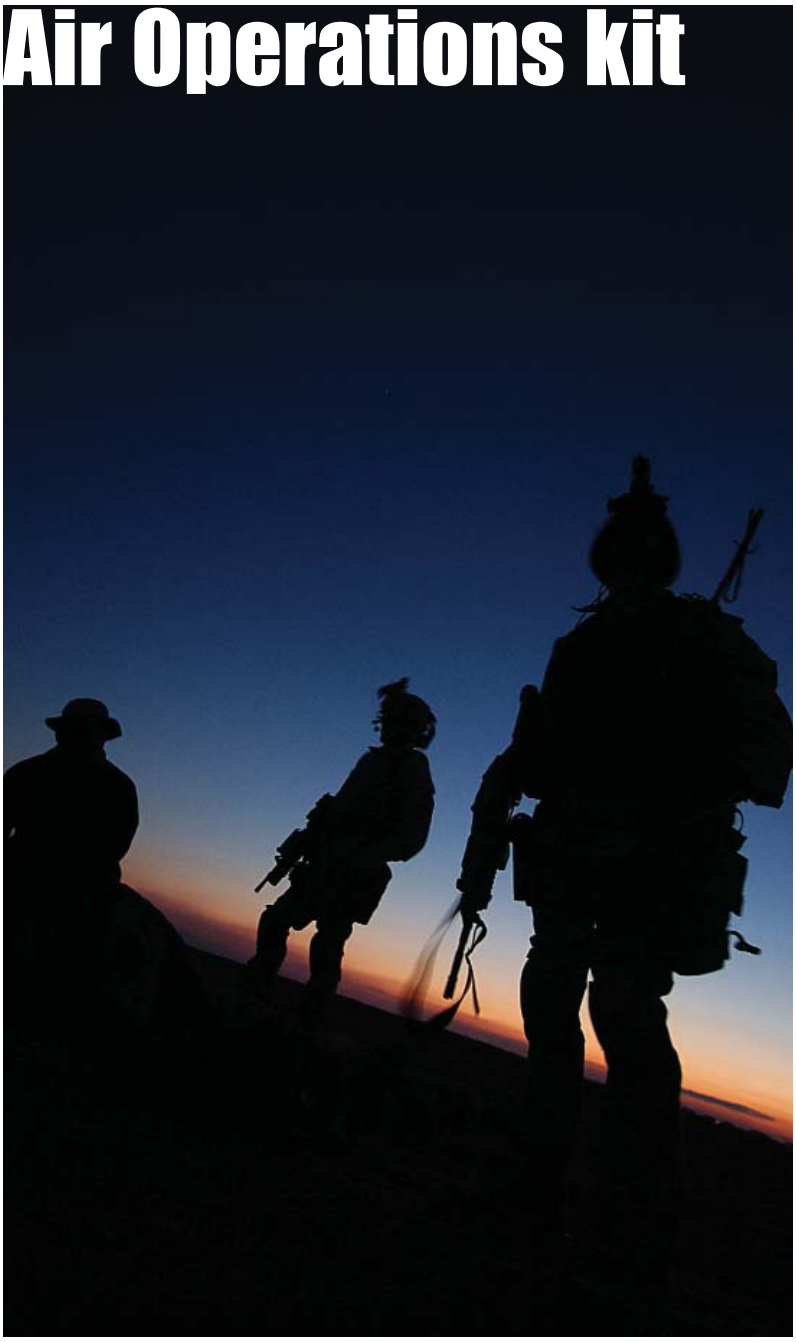
Reed believes the senior most leaders must exemplify the core values of honor, courage, integrity and commitment. Moreover, personifying the core values is paramount to being the Bullfrog.

Captain Reed is scheduled to relinquish the Bullfrog on October 1. He is confident the SEALS and the rest of the special operations community will persevere in the Global War on Terrorism. He believes the quiet, principled professionals who are selfless are the most effective warriors.

Finally, Reed said, "The 21st Century SEALs are the newest link in a chain of tough warriors that goes back unbroken to WWII. As leaders take care of and mentor your troops well, always putting 'team' before self and career aspirations."

# Evolution of the Battlefield Air Operations kit

*By Capt. Tom Montgomery*
*AFSOC Public Affairs*



*Air Force Combat Controllers gear-up for a night fire exercise in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock)*

Early in Operation Enduring Freedom, Combat Controllers found numerous problems with their equipment. At more than 100 pounds, it was far too heavy to move around easily. In addition, the communications gear was not interoperable enough with the hundreds of types of radios and gear used by various weapon systems in the Department of Defense.

These problems were quickly addressed by former Secretary of the Air Force James Roche in early 2002 when he made the Battlefield Air Operations or BAO kit an Air Force special interest item. The Air Force Special Operations Command quickly started implementing improvements and testing them in the crucible of the Global War on Terror.

The improved gear that Combat Controllers go into battle with now is designated as a human weapon system, meaning that all components are designed for and fitted to the human body.

The four cornerstones of the BAO kit human weapon system are interoperability, integration, increased capability and weight reduction.

One of the major obstacles to the warfighters was the difficulty of handling data in the midst of battle.

The current system of mensurating targets involved a human intensive process where the intelligence officer would write down target coordinates from a computer, hand carry them to an air operations center radio operator who would relay the coordinates over secure voice to E-3 Sentry, an airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft. An officer aboard AWACS would write down the coordinates and relay them over voice to the F-15E backseater who would write them down on a knee board and then key the coordinates into the jet.

That process takes too long and there are too many opportunities for error. It's just like the "telephone game" played in school where the teacher gives a message to the first student and the message is whispered from student to student until a completely garbled message is delivered to the final receiver.

Humans are not the best data handlers. The goal is to have machines handle the data and let the humans make the military decisions. That is called machine-to-machine, M2M communications. That is difficult since the DoD has so many machines that speak different languages.

Imagine a battlespace where the machines spoke Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, English, Chinese, Korean, German and Italian. Unfortunately, that is too often the scenario in the joint and combined environment. The Combat Controller has had to spend too much time translating data and extracting and transmitting useful messages to F-16, F-18 and B-1 pilots operating different equipment.

The solution to creating an interoperable environment

was to teach all the equipment an easy, simple language. The BAO kit, in conjunction with other systems took a class to speak the same language. This was done by installing upgraded software into the different pieces of equipment.

Now there is a capability for the Combat Controller, combined joint special operations air component, joint special operations task force, space-based relays, AWACS, fighters and bombers use to integrate into a net-centric, interoperable environment to use the right information at the right time for the right effect.

Since the data is sent machine to machine instead of human to human, the Combat Controller is able to use a concept called cursor-on-target.

The Combat Controller is clandestinely inserted into enemy territory and sets up an observation post. Using a combination laser designator, scope, thermal imager, rangefinder, he spots a time-sensitive target. The target's exact location is determined by computer software that uses input from the GPS, range finder and then calculates the target coordinates. The BAO system integration displays the target coordinates on the Combat Controller's Toughbook laptop superimposed over a Falcon View map. Using the software, the controller's BAO kit can transmit the target data to the decision-makers in the command and control nodes who decide to destroy the target and pass the order to the appropriate aircraft. Shooters in the air, also using the software, have instant access to the target data and are cleared to engage.

The BAO kit is constantly evolving to increase capabilities. Currently, small unmanned aerial vehicles such as the battlefield air targeting camera or BATCAM, are making their way to the warfighters. Batteries and radios are taking advantage of commercial innovations to become lighter and smaller. And, like current combination cellphone, camera and email systems, the BAO kit aims to combine equipment into consolidated units for ease of training, portability and use.

# AF awards Gallant Unit Citation to 16th SOG

***By Jamie Haig***
***16th SOW Public Affairs***

A new Air Force award recognizing units for extraordinary heroism in combat was awarded to the 16th Special Operations Group.

The Air Force Gallant Unit Citation, established in 2002, is awarded to Air Force active duty, Reserve and Guard units for extraordinary heroism against an armed enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force.

The 16th SOG was cited for operations between October 6, 2001 and May 30, 2003.

"The men and women of the 16th SOG are very deserving of this significant recognition," said Col. Mark Alsid, 16th SOG commander. "Equally important is the fact that this is the Air Force's first Gallant Unit Citation.

"The group's performance throughout operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom was unequaled and will serve as an exciting chapter in Special Operations history."

During this period, 16th SOG Airmen, despite repeated attacks from surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles, anti-aircraft artillery, rocket-propelled grenades, and mortars, delivered lethal firepower and allowed for infiltration and exfiltration of special operations and conventional forces.

The aircraft also provided escort and reconnaissance over enemy controlled territory.

According to the citation, the 16th SOG persistently pursued the enemy, attacking with swift and deliberate force, destroying numerous enemy buildings, aircraft, vehicles and boats.

The group flew more than 25,000 combat hours, fulfilling the United States' commitment to combat terrorism.

Tech. Sgt. Stuart Blackwood, a gunner in the 16th Special Operations Squadron, participated in the missions that qualified the group for this prestigious award. "What's most important is knowing that you've helped a guy get home or to stay alive. Sitting in a cold plane flying around – knowing you're doing your job and helping others out – is what it's all about."

The aircraft performed 7,064 combat sorties, penetrating enemy air defenses and crushing enemy resistance.



***Col. Mark Brian Greenshields (right), the former 16th Special Operations Group commander, places the Gallant Unit Citation on the 16th SOW flag as Col. O.G. Mannan, the former 16th Special Operations Wing commander looks on. (AFSOC courtesy photo)***

# Paying homage to those lost a





*(Top) The memorial displays for eight fallen Night Stalkers stand during a memorial ceremony held July 7 at Hunter Army Air Field, Ga. (Photo by Kelly Ann Tyler)*
*(Above) Gear belonging to the fallen SEALs of SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDVT) Team One sits on display during a ceremony July 11 in Honolulu, Hawaii. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer Bailey)*

## *Tribute by*

### *HON. JIM SAXTON*

*OF NEW JERSEY*
*IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*
*TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2005*

*Mr. Speaker, on June 28, 2005, a U.S. Military MH-47D Chinook helicopter was hit by enemy fire and crashed near Asadabad, Afghanistan, killing 16 Special Operations Forces operators on board. These Special Operations Forces were attempting to rescue a four-man SEAL special reconnaissance element which had come under heavy enemy fire. Three members of this SEAL team were killed by enemy fire as they tried to evade a vastly superior enemy force.*

*The Special Operations Forces were engaged in Operation Red Wing, an effort to defeat terrorists operating in Kunar province. The operation was part of a larger campaign by U.S. and Afghan forces to kill and capture fighters from hideouts in eastern Afghanistan.*

*On behalf the United States Congress and its people — I extend my sincerest condolences to the families of these brave Navy SEALs and Army Special Operations Aviators. They need to know that the prayers of a nation are with them at this most difficult time.*

*These men bravely and unselfishly answered the nation's call to defend freedom and protect America and its allies from terrorism. We want the families to know the deaths of their loved ones, their sons, brothers, husbands and fathers, will only strengthen our resolve for ultimate victory in the Global War on Terror.*

*I would now like to pay tribute to those that paid the ultimate price for our freedom.*

***Assigned to the Army's 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Hunter Army Air Field, Ga.:***

*Staff Sgt. Shamus O. Goare, of Danville, Ohio*
*Chief Warrant Officer Corey J. Goodnature, of Clarks Grove, Minn.*
*Sgt. Kip A. Jacoby, of Pompano Beach, Fla.*

**See HONOR, Page 22**

# during Operation Red Wing



*Rear Adm. Joe Maguire, commander, Naval Special Warfare Command speaks during a memorial ceremony in Honolulu, Hawaii July 11. During his speech Maguire said 'Even if no one came back alive, the mission would have been worth it because SEALs leave no one behind. The men in the cockpit and the men in the back fully understood the great danger they were going into and they lost their lives trying to rescue their teammates.'*



*Special operators pay last respects to their fallen brothers before their final journey back to the United States. (Naval Special Warfare Group Two courtesy photo.)*

HONOR continued from Page 21

*Sgt. 1st Class Marcus V. Muralles, of Shelbyville, Ind.*
*Maj. Stephen C. Reich, of Washington Depot, Conn.*
*Sgt. 1st Class Michael L. Russell, of Stafford, Va.*
*Chief Warrant Officer Chris J. Scherkenbach, of Jacksonville, Fla.*

***Assigned to the Army's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Campbell, Ky.:***
*Master Sgt. James W. Ponder III, of Franklin, Tenn.*

***Assigned to SEAL Team Ten, Virginia Beach, Va.:***
*Chief Petty Officer Jacques J. Fontan, of New Orleans, La.*
*Lt. Cmdr. Erik S. Kristensen, of San Diego, Calif.*
*Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffery A. Lucas, of Corbett, Ore.*
*Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey S. Taylor, of Midway, W.Va.*
*Lt. Michael M. McGreevy, Jr., of Portville, N.Y.*

***Assigned to SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii:***
*Senior Chief Petty Officer Daniel R. Healy, of Exeter, N.H.*
*Petty Officer 2nd Class James Suh, of Deerfield Beach, Fla.*
*Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric S. Patton, of Boulder City, Nev.*
*Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew G. Axelson, Cupertino, Calif.*
*Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy, Patchogue, N.Y.*

***Assigned to SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team Two, Virginia Beach, Va.:***
*Petty Officer 2nd Class Danny P. Dietz, Littleton, Colo.*

*A grateful Nation salutes you.*





***(Top Right) A line of fins, rifles and helmets marks the passing of members from SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One at a ceremony July 11 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. (Navy courtesy photo)***
***(Bottom Right) Seth Lucas, son of Petty Officer 1st Class Jeff Lucas, receives his father's Bronze Stars from Capt. Pete Van Hooser, Naval Special Warfare Group Two commander during a memorial service July 8 in Norfolk, Va. (Photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron Peterson)***

# Final farewell to fallen comrades

***By Jamie Haig***
***16th SOW***

In the oppressive heat of the Freedom Hanger, Hurlburt Field, Fla., friends, families and co-workers gathered to celebrate the lives of four exceptional Airmen.

More than 1,500 people filled the hangar June 3 for the opportunity to pay their respect, say prayers, to give thanks and to say goodbye to three Combat Controllers and one pilot, all from Hurlburt Field. They were killed in a single-engine Iraqi air force plane crash north of Baghdad May 30. An Iraqi air force pilot was also killed in the crash.

Maj. William Downs of the 6th Special Operations Squadron, Capt. Jeremy Fresques, Capt. Derek Argel and Staff Sgt. Casey Crate of the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, were a team.

"Brian flew, fought, lived and died with us," said Col. Kenneth Rodriguez, 720th Special Tactics Group commander. "I was fortunate enough to spend time with all four of these men about two months ago and was able to watch them in action, watch them take care of business."

All four Airmen were posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for Valor for their actions in Iraq. Their families were presented with the medals at the ceremony.

Uniforms representing the Navy, Army and Air Force were scattered among the crowd that extended outside the walls of the hanger. A 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps ended the tearful ceremony.

"We in uniform know the risk and shoulder the load with pride," said Col. O.G. Mannan, 16th Special Operations Wing commander. "Although they were taken too soon and no tribute can help with the long nights of mourning, remember, their memories will never die."

After the service, fellowship meetings were held to allow the feelings, memories and tears a chance to flow.

"These men were all good leaders and superb teammates," said Rodriguez. "It's a tremendous loss, but when it's three from the same unit, it hits hard. We'll take care of their families. They'll always be a part of our family."



*Col. Kenneth Rodriguez, 720th Special Tactics Group commander, presents the Bronze Star for Valor to the wife of Capt. Jeremy Fresques, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, at a memorial service June 3 at Freedom Hangar Hurlburt Field, Fla. The service paid honors to four Hurlburt Field Airmen killed in an aircraft crash in Iraq May 30. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Batts)*



*Brig. Gen. Gary M. Jones (left), commander of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) watches the 10th Special Forces Group colors pass from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander during a change of command ceremony at Fort Carson, Colo., July 18. Col. Kenneth E. Tovo, incoming commander of the 10th SFG (A) stands to Jones' left, as Command Sgt. Maj. James Herrell, 10th SFG (A) command sergeant major, hands the colors to the group's outgoing commander, Col. Michael S. Repass. (Photo by Sgt. Ryan Creel)*

# 10th SFG welcomes, farewells commanders

***By Staff Sgt. Kyle Cosner***
***10th SFG (A) Public Affairs***

Hundreds of Green Berets and support Soldiers from the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) assembled in formation at Manhart Field, Fort Carson, Colo., to honor two veteran Special Forces officers during the group's change of command ceremony July 22.

Col. Kenneth E. Tovo, a multiple-tour veteran of the 10th SFG — most recently as a former 3rd Battalion commander — accepted command of the group from Col. Michael S. Repass during the ceremony.

Repass had commanded the group since 2003 and through two combat tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Repass and elements of the 10th SFG recently returned to the post after completing an OIF deployment rotation, where he led a combined joint special operations task force during his time in the region.

In keeping with Army tradition, Repass handed the group colors and their symbolic responsibility for the unit's Soldiers to Brig. Gen. Gary M. Jones, commander of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne). With a few private words of encouragement, Jones then passed the flag to Tovo, who ceremonially passed it back to group Command Sgt. Maj. James Herrell.

During his remarks at the ceremony, Tovo noted the Group's many accomplishments in support of the Global War on Terrorism and since his time as a battalion commander.

"Four years ago, I stood on this same spot after receiving the 3rd Battalion colors," Tovo said. "I told (the battalion) I had no idea what challenges laid ahead of us, but that by working together as a team, we would accomplish any mission. Two months later, our Nation was attacked by

extremists that continue to threaten the very nature of our society and our lives.

"Tenth Group's role began almost immediately," he said.

Tovo described how the 10th SFG had supported the 5th SFG in Afghanistan during the early days of Operation Enduring Freedom, assisted in countless smaller engagements in lesser-publicized locations around the world, and most recently, led coalition special operations efforts in Iraq.

Repass described during his remarks how the group had conducted special operations throughout Iraq, fighting bravely in locations including Fallujah, Tikrit, Najaf, Samarra, Karbala and Al-Kut.

"Before you stand Soldiers who have earned seven Silver Stars, with two more recently nominated for gallantry in combat before the enemy," Repass said. "There are nearly 1,000 Bronze Stars, with over 50 valorous devices. 10th Group Soldiers have earned 56 Purple Hearts in the past 29 months. This is an organization where uncommon valor, sacrifice and duty are common virtues. They inspired me daily with their actions."

Repass reminded the audience that the heroic efforts of his Soldiers had included two who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq.

"Sadly, we lost two Soldiers in 2004, and their passing cannot go without mention on this day. Master Sergeants Kelly Hornbeck and Rich Ferguson were among the very best of our NCO Corps. (They are) two Soldiers whose presence is both missed and felt today."

Throughout the ceremony, the many personal sacrifices of the leaders and Soldiers of 10th Group were made clear.

"I would like nothing better than to be able to stand here today and tell you that the need of further sacrifice is not needed, but we all know that is not the case," Tovo said. "The Soldiers of 10th Group represent literally tens of thousands of years of irreplaceable military experience. The nature of this global conflict is such that a large portion of the war effort falls upon the Army, and in particular on the Special Forces."

At the conclusion of his remarks, Tovo reminded his Soldiers, many of whom were departing soon on leave, to use their personal time wisely, as the group will most likely be called upon again in the near future to support combat operations in the Global War on Terrorism.

"I encourage you to use that time to rest, reforge ties with your family and loved ones and recommit yourself to serving this unit and defending our country."

Repass's next assignment will be with U.S. Army Europe, based in Germany.

The 10th SFG, formed in 1952, is the Army's original and most historic Special Forces unit. The group has called Fort Carson home since 1994 and has its headquarters and two battalions and one battalion forward-stationed at Panzer Kaserne, Germany.

# USASOC Soldier of the Year

***By Staff Sgt. Christopher Stanis***
***1st SFG Public Affairs***

If Soldiers want to see the best the U.S. Army Special Operations Command has to offer, they can turn to Sgt. Kyle Vreeman.

Vreeman – a Green Beret assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group – recently won the title of "USASOC Noncommissioned Officer of the Year" in a grueling three-day competition that tested its candidates mentally, physically and emotionally. In a changing environment that started in USASOC headquarters and led to the training areas at Fort Bragg, N.C., competitors faced a physical fitness test, day and night land navigation, a written exam and written essays. The competition was topped off with an oral board, in which the contestants were quizzed on basic military knowledge.

This is the reason why his company sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. David Randall, selected him to represent the company.

"Sgt. Vreeman displayed a level of maturity usually only seen in more senior Special Forces Soldiers," said Sgt. Maj. David Randall, company sergeant major. "His demeanor and ability to adapt to challenging situations impressed me … He learns quickly and has an intuitive way of thinking."



***Sgt. Kyle Vreeman, U.S. Army Special Operations Command NCO of the Year, receives an Army Commendation Medal from Col. Richard G. Thomas Jr., 1st Special Forces Group commander, in recognition of his accomplishment. Vreeman is a weapons sergeant with 1st SFG. (Photo by Spec. David Russell)***

Randall now holds a position within the 1st Special Warfare Training Center at Fort Bragg, where he has the opportunity to see more Kyle Vreemans enter the ranks of the "Quiet Professional."

# Ranger Regiment changes commanders during Ranger Rendezvous 2005

*Sgt. Joseph Healy*
*USASOC Public Affairs*

Col. Paul J. LaCamera assumed command of the 75th Ranger Regiment from Col. James C. Nixon in a formal ceremony on York Field, Fort Benning during Ranger Rendezvous 2005.

The 75th Ranger Regiment consists of the 1st Battalion, headquartered at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia; the 2nd Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington; and the 3rd Battalion headquartered here. Presently, elements of the regiment's 2nd Battalion are deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

LaCamera is the former commander of the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. "I am humbled and honored by this position," LaCamera said.



*Col. Paul J. LaCamera (left) receives the colors of the 75th Ranger Regiment from Lt. Gen. Philip R. Kensinger, Jr., commander of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command as Col. James C. Nixon (right) looks on. (Photo by Sgt. Joseph Healy)*

Approximately 400 spectators and guests watched as Lt. Gen. Philip R. Kensinger, Jr., commander of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, pass the Regiment's colors to LaCamera.

"Since October 2001, the Rangers have been continuously engaged in the Global War on Terrorism," Kensinger said. "The Rangers of today are as tough and talented as the World War II Rangers at Pointe du Hoc."

Nearly 1,200 Soldiers assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment jumped onto Fryar Drop Zone, Fort Benning, Ga., on July 6 kicking off Ranger Rendezvous 2005.

Scheduled every two years, Ranger Rendezvous is a weeklong celebration highlighting the famed unit's history. Memorial ceremonies, sporting events, a regimental change of command and a movie premiere are among this year's highlights. Most events are open to the public.

Since the first celebration in 1987, Ranger Rendezvous begins with a mass tactical airborne operation. Under heavy clouds and high humidity, Soldiers exited C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III aircrafts at an altitude of 1,200 feet. Many jumped with at least 70 pounds of combat gear, including weapons and radio equipment.

Due to missions in support of operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, some Ranger units are not participating in this year's Ranger Rendezvous, Laudano said.

In his final address as a Ranger, Nixon thanked local leaders, commanders and Soldiers for their continued support during his two years as commander.

"The terrorist attacks that occurred July 7 in London recently reaffirms our mission here," said Nixon. "The Global War on Terrorism's outcome will be shaped over the next few years, and I know that the Rangers will continue to lead the way."

Nixon said that Rangers have conducted combat operations everyday the last two years. Soldiers have fought in two feet of snow in Afghanistan and in 130-degree heat in Iraq.



*Nearly 1,200 Soldiers assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment jumped onto Fryar Drop Zone July 6, kicking off Ranger Randezvous 2005. (Photo by Sgt. Joseph Healy)*

# Steadfast SF Soldiers awarded Silver Star

*By April Rowden*
*Paraglide*

A hesitant host-nation army, an unexpected leadership role and a gunshot wound to the abdomen didn't stop three Special Forces Soldiers from protecting their comrades during enemy attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan last year.

Sgts. 1st Class Bradly M. Felix and Roger G. Watts, and Staff Sgt. David G. Colucci, all assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), stood before more than 60 guests at a Valor Awards Ceremony June 28, at U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C., as Lt. Gen. Philip Kensinger, USASOC commander, awarded each the Silver Star.

Listening to the retelling of their fearless actions was emotional for the Soldiers.

"It was humbling because I have two buddies not with me anymore," Felix said of the Sept. 20, 2004 ambush in Afghanistan's Paktika province, where he rallied Afghan National Army soldiers to fire back on the ambushing anti-coalition militia. "But at the same time I'm honored."

The award keeps the memory of his fallen comrades alive, Felix said.

For Watts, the ceremony was an opportunity to recall the May 12, 2004, firefight near Karbala, Iraq, where, while serving as the senior medical sergeant and assault cell leader, he left his own vehicle to administer life-saving aid while under intense mortar and small-arms fire to two crew members of a disabled tank. He then assumed command of the tank.

Modest about their awards, Felix and Watts, both instructors at Camp Mackall, said they have incorporated their combat experiences into the training scenarios used to indoctrinate potential SF Soldiers.

Recognizing the importance of first-hand knowledge in this unconventional war, Watts said he "wants to make sure I can pass my experience to the junior guys."

Telling the audience they were in the company of heroes, Col. Patrick M. Higgins, commander of the 3rd SFG, praised the men for braving hostile fire, repelling assaults, deflecting ambushes and being upstanding men.

The men, however, say they feel they did nothing extraordinary or worthy of receiving the fourth highest medal in the Army.

"It was instinctive," asserts Felix, who has been in three near ambushes. "The training kicks in and you do what you need to do."

"The medal means a lot to the team as a whole because it's a reflection of the team," Watts said, insisting his individual actions didn't deserve an award. "If it wasn't for their support, it could have been a different outcome that night."



***Lt. Gen. Philip R. Kensinger, Jr., commanding general, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, presents the Silver Star to Sgt. 1st Class Bradly M. Felix, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) for actions under fire while in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Three Silver Stars were presented to three Soldiers during a ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C. June 23. (Photo by Gillian M. Albro)***

No lives were lost in the Karbala attack.

Colucci was awarded the Silver Star for his unwavering bravery during an ambush in Afghanistan June 25, 2004. He was serving as the senior engineer sergeant.

While conducting a recovery operation of an improvised explosive device, Colucci's convoy came under attack. Although he suffered a gunshot wound to his abdomen, Colucci maneuvered his vehicle into a protective position and pulled security for his fellow Soldiers until reinforcements arrived. He then manned the door gunner machinegun while his element moved into a secure area to wait for medical evacuation.

The Silver Star is awarded to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army, is cited for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The required gallantry, while of a lesser degree than that required for the Distinguished Service Cross, must nevertheless have been performed with marked distinction.

# 3rd SFG Soldier earns Silver Star

*Sgt. Joseph Healy*
*USASOC Public Affairs*

A Special Forces Soldier was awarded the Silver Star in a ceremony at the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Fort Bragg, N.C., July 14.

With his wife and children watching nearby, Sgt. Maj. Roderick C. Anderson, a command sergeant major assigned to 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), received the Silver Star from Brig. Gen. Gary M. Jones, commanding general, U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne).

Anderson received the award for exceptionally valorous achievement July 3, 2004, while serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan's Kunar province.

While deployed, Anderson directed a daring combat mission in treacherous mountain conditions against anti-coalition militia, resulting in the capture of nine high-value targets.

Leading a 25-vehicle convoy, which included special operations assets, Afghan Security Forces and Marines, Anderson's unit was attacked by anti-coalition forces. He immediately provided command and control for the convoy, and called in close air support. Anderson exposed himself to the enemy while firing a light anti-tank weapon, which greatly suppressed enemy fire.

Moments later, the vehicle directly behind Anderson's was disabled. Anderson immediately stopped his vehicle and engaged the enemy, while dispatching four Soldiers to recover the downed vehicle's sensitive signal equipment. All the signal equipment was recovered.



***Sgt. Maj. Roderick C. Anderson, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), receives the Silver Star for courageous leadership and gallantry under fire while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Gillian M. Albro)***

"I am truly honored, but more importantly I am humbled by this award," Anderson said. "I am humbled because the guys I work with – I've seen what they have done on a daily basis."

Anderson said three other Soldiers that fought in the ambush received awards for their actions.

"It was a whole lot of guys doing what was necessary," he said.

# Special Operations Diver Badge created

*By Cassie Chance*
*USASOC Public Affairs*




***Special Operations Diver Badge***

The Special Operations Diver Badge recently replaced the Army Diver badge for U.S. Army Special Forces and special operations Soldiers.

Changes to the insignia went into effect July 20 and will effect active-duty Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve Soldiers.

In addition to the new badge, an additional skill level known as the Special Operations Diving Supervisor's Badge was created.

"The process to get the badge changed began with a proposal from the Special Warfare Center and School to develop a new badge," said Capt. Rebecca Eggers, U.S. Army Special Operations Command. "The request was then submitted to the Human Resource Command, where the award was approved."

After the award had received approval, the design went to the Institute of Heraldry for design, the creation of dies, and hubs to establish the insignia. After the designs were approved, they were sent to manufactures, to be made and shipped to stores, she explained.

The Special Operations Diver Badge is awarded to graduates of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School Combat Diver Qualification Course, SF Underwater Operations, located in Key West, Fla., Eggers said.

The award is also given to Soldiers who have completed any other USASOC approved combat diver qualification course, she added.

The Special Operations Diving Supervisor's Badge is awarded to individuals that have graduated from the SWCS Combat Diving Supervisor Course, SF Underwater Operations, or any other USASOC approved combat diving supervisor's course, Eggers explained. The prerequisite for obtaining the Special Operations Diving Supervisor's Badge is the Special Operations Diving Badge.

The Special Operations Diving Badge and Special Operations Diving Supervisor's Badge may be awarded retroactively to affiliates of any service who successfully complete the SWCS Combat Diver's Qualification course on or following October 1, 1964.

# SFQC Phase II: Building a Warrior



*Students go through Phase II of the Special Forces Qualification Course. (Photo by Ken Kassens)*

***By Maj. Jonathan A. Blake***
***JFKSWCS***

The transformation of the Special Forces training pipeline is affecting virtually all areas of the training, from selection to graduation. The newly designed Special Forces Selection and Assessment, or SFAS (Phase I), is designed to select a candidate who is as strong physically as he is mentally – the "whole man" standard. Phase II is designed to train the man as a "whole warrior."

It is during Phase II that the NCOs of Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group, build the foundation of combat skills essential for every SF Soldier. The NCOs focus on how to increase the lethality of each Soldier, viewing the individual not as a repository of basic skills, but as a weapons platform. When finished with the course the Soldier will function well with any weapon, whether it's his hands and feet, a knife, a stick, a pistol or a rifle. The goal is not only to develop essential physical skills and teach tactical drills, but also to instill in Soldiers the mindset and the core values required of every SF warrior. In truth, the shaping of the mindset is as important as the development of a Soldier's combat skills. It's this warrior-oriented perspective that prepares a Soldier to function as an entry-level operator on an SF detachment.

Phase II did not always have this warrior focus; however, the growing demand for SF Soldiers on today's battlefields have brought about changes not only to what is taught in Phase II, but when and how often it is taught.

In August 2004, Phase II Class 04-04, the largest in the history of the Special Forces Qualification Course, or SFQC, arrived at Camp Mackall, N.C. The class contained 458 students in all equating to 33-percent larger than the previous class and more than double the size of other classes taught during 2003 and 2004. The sheer amount of logistics and personnel support needed to accommodate larger classes was one of three factors that prompted the

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cadre to change the way the course is conducted.

The cadre had only 16 team sergeants available for training the 458 students. Generally, Phase II maintains a 1to15 instructor-to-student ratio requiring 30 15-man student detachments. In order to accommodate the high number of students and maintain training quality, the 1st Special Warfare Training Group tasked 14 SF NCOs from other battalions within the U.S. Army SF Command and the JFK Special Warfare Center and School. The temporary cadre members serve for two months, bringing the instructor-to-student ratio to an acceptable level. In addition to the need for instructors, resource requirements for transportation, mess, training areas, ranges, classrooms, time to train Soldiers and ammunition increased greatly. If the larger classes were to continue, the increased costs across the board would make it unfeasible to run Phase II training on a quarterly basis.

The larger classes are here to stay because of the turbulent global situation so the NCOs of Company C looked at developing a better way of training SF Soldiers. Sgt. 1st Class Frank Enriquez from the 7th SFG was the first to express the idea of dividing the program of instruction, or POI, into five six-day blocks and assigning each block to a specific cadre group.

First Sgt. Steve Davidson picked up on Enriquez's idea comparing it to the way the business world deals with the same issue of increasing throughput while maintaining quality. Davidson said, "In every case where production needed to be increased while maintaining the same quality, yet without increasing support, the companies always turned to specialization as the answer."

Davidson, and later 1st Sgt. Bob Johnson, led the cadre of Company C in a mission analysis to identify a modular course of action. The modular training concept was later briefed to the 1st SWTG commander, Colonel Manuel Diemer, and, after his approval, to Maj. Gen. James W. Parker, the SWCS commander, who approved the concept for execution.

The innovative change to the training schedule was driven by necessity. The SF NCOs within Company C creatively solved the problem of quantity vs. quality while minimizing the requirements for personnel and logistics.

Besides cost, relevancy of the POI led to changes in Phase II instruction. From 2002 until 2003, instruction was oriented primarily on conventional small-unit tactics. The POI focused almost exclusively on an ambush based on techniques with limited attention devoted to marksmanship and to platoon operations. This focus is essential, but Phase II needed to be expanded.

The final factor for making the changes to Phase II training is the reality that all of the graduates of the SFQC will see combat. Most graduates are being deployed within 180 days of being assigned to an SF group with some deploying in as few as seven days. Moreover, many of the SFQC students are not former combat-arms personnel meaning Phase II may be the first time they fire a weapon, fight as an individual, conduct battle drills, walk a patrol or experience close-quarters battle. These conditions made the question of training priority crucial and led to the addition of new skill sets in Phase II.



***Students go through Phase II of the Special Forces Qualification Course. (Photo by Ken Kassens)***

Historically, Phase II was taught from four to six weeks, once a quarter, and it covered small-unit tactics. In the past, the curriculum also included survival skills, land navigation and fieldcraft. Phase II is now broken down into five six-day blocks of training, called "modules." One set of five modules, called a "track," covers all of the material in the Phase II POI. Company C teaches 20 tracks per year.

Each Phase II module focuses on specific critical tasks, with one group of five to seven cadre members assigned the responsibility for conducting the module of training. In other words, it is training by a committee that specializes in certain skills.

Soldiers train in Module 1 to perform SF detachment-level battle drills, tactical standard operating procedures, movement formations and techniques and hand and arm signals. This module also introduces the sequence and



mechanics of reconnaissance and ambush operations.

Module 2 builds on the tactical base of knowledge students acquire during Module 1, including troop-leading-procedures. Through cadre-led exercises students learn to plan and execute reconnaissance and ambushes. They are repeatedly drilled in the execution of those operations during cadre-assisted exercises.

In Module 3, the entry-level SF Soldiers are trained through multiple field-training exercises to ensure they have demonstrated warrior skills applying the principles of patrolling commensurate with their rank and experience, and plan and execute a portion of a combat or reconnaissance patrol while in a leadership position.

Soldiers learn the "conventional tactical box" during the first three modules, repetitively drilling the ambush, reconnaissance and team-level standard operating procedures. During Module 4, they learn to modify the principles of patrolling in order to compensate for a lack of resources, time or personnel. In this module, students perform their first tactical airborne combat-equipment infiltration as member of an SF detachment, jumping into a tactical field training exercise. During the exercise, they are introduced to selected SF core tasks and supporting missions in a time-constrained, asymmetrical environment designed to force them to analyze and solve problems.

Students are given the freedom to fail and a chance to learn from their mistakes. Adversity has always been the best teacher and most learn the hard lessons from their mistakes. The opportunity they're afforded in Module 4 is the challenge to accomplish a mission without all the assets they need. It's their plan and they execute it. Later, cadre members coach them through what they did well and how they can become more efficient and more lethal.

Module 5 is designed to capitalize on those lessons. Training in this module focuses on building marksmanship and getting the Soldier to the point at which he's safe and confident with his organic weapons systems. Students shoot an average of 340 rounds of 9 mm ammunition and 760 rounds of 5.56 mm over a six-day period. They build from basic combat marksmanship to transition drills to basic close-quarters battle. Every student will become proficient in M-9 and M-4 marksmanship and be able to qualify with both weapons systems.

Students also learn to safely execute combat marksmanship tasks and to move as a member of a team in an urban environment. Training introduces students to basic tactics of military operations on urban terrain at the SF-detachment level. Tactics taught are single-team; single-room clearing; movement through streets and intersections; hallway and stair movement; rudimentary building-climbing and strong-pointing buildings.

Presently, our future SF Soldiers shoots more rounds and spends more time in the field during Phase II than in the history of the SFQC. Changes in Phase II training is not one merely of numbers. The beauty of the modular system is that it establishes the conditions for student success in a variety of ways. First, the system dramatically reduces the class size reducing the weekly requirements for all resources. Second, the system enables the cadre to become true subject-matter experts. Previously, the cadre had been responsible for all 35 days of training. Now, the cadre team sergeant for each module is responsible for six days and can produce a more thorough training module for his students.

The system also lends itself to more accurate reviews of a Soldier's performance because more than one cadre member trains and observes each Soldier. This gives a more fair and balanced appraisal of a student's performance.

Also, the cadre has designated Sunday as the day for the student detachments to train and rehearse SOPs. Sunday is also the day to recover and address training deficiencies on their own under the guidance of the student tactical adviser counselors. This allows the seasoned counselors to truly get to know each detachment strengths and weaknesses. This intimate knowledge enables the counselors to provide on the spot corrective training. All of these efforts translate into a foundational course producing entry-level SOF warriors at the standard and quantity the SF regiment requires.

Future SF Soldiers are not being trained simply to "survive" on today's battlefield. They are being trained to dominate the battlefield both militarily and politically. Phase II training teaches the savvy to leverage the conditions made available to achieve our nation's goals in ambiguous environments. They must have a collection of foundational combat skills. Conventional small-unit tactics, SF tactics, hand-to-hand-combat skills and combat marksmanship are the tools of a warrior. Equally as important is the warrior ethos enabling them to function as a member of a team in an elite brotherhood.

# Command's newest major general takes the lead Reserve position.



*By Capt. Joseph Coslett*
*USSOCOM Public Affairs*

Maj. Gen. Paulette Risher was promoted on Aug. 5 during a ceremony hosted by the commander of U.S. Special Operations Command. Risher replaced Maj. Gen. Timothy Haake as the Deputy Commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, which entails being the principle advisor to the commander on all Reserve-related matters.

"I am honored to serve as the Deputy Commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs," Risher said. "I have a great deal of respect for USSOCOM, our leadership and our people. What we do is important and the stakes are high."

USSOCOM is unique because one-third of the SOF is in the reserve components. Among the SOF reserve force, there are two broad groups. The first group is members of units aligned with our components. While the greatest density of the forces in the USASOC, AFSOC and NAVSPECWARCOM also have their share. The second group consists of those who support the command headquarters, the theater special operations commands, Joint Special Operations Command and Joint Special Operations University.

"I have come to distinguish between these two groups by thinking of them as 'the 15,000' and 'the 400,'" she said.



"While these numbers are approximations, I think they are useful because each group faces its own set of challenges and it helps us work through the policy, process, and practices to employ this vital talent pool." The general faces a variety of issues but already has a solid game plan to better integrate the Reserves into USSOCOM.

"My priorities are General Brown's priorities," she said. "The GWOT, readiness and the future – but there are two immediate tasks. The first is to paint a picture of the 'as is' state of our joint reserve force or in my lexicon, 'the 15,000.' What is our real readiness, what do the numbers mean? Where are our units — and what are their purpose and contribution to the joint SOF mission? Throughout the headquarters and the command, a lot of time and effort is being expended on these complicated issues, but no one has attempted to pull this information together into a coherent whole to serve as the basis for informed decision making and action.

"The second is understanding the shaping processes and practices associated with 'the 400.' The goal is to put the right person, in the right position, at the right time, in the right status in a predicable and humane manner. This is a complicated business made more so by service unique rules and funding sources. Our goal is to bring clarity and insight so both decision makers and individual reservist can make informed decisions. Once we understand where we really are today, then our attention can be shifted to the near-term and distant future. It is important that we start factoring in our SOF RC force into our SOCOM vision, not an applique or overlay, but an integral part of the joint SOF team."

In addition to the promotion and transfer of authority; Risher also recently relinquished command of the Joint Special Operations University.

"JSOU is a great organization with superb talent, a clear vision and firm commitment to providing quality education in the 'art and science' of SOF. JSOU has a clear vector for continued success, especially with advancements in educational technology, the broadening of the strategic studies initiatives, improvements in design and the implementation of the recently completed educational requirements analysis which will help guide the joint SOF education for the next five to10 years. JSOU has moved from an experiment to a respected institution that is making a difference."

***Tech. Sgt. Reginald Petersen, Center of Knowledge and Futures, unrolls the 2-star flag during Maj. Gen. Paulette Risher's promotion ceremony Aug 5. Risher recently assumed command as the Deputy Commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, which entails being the principle advisor to the commander on all Reserve-related matters. (Photo by Senior Airman Carlye LaPointe)***



*Maj. Gen. Paulette Risher, Deputy Commander of Reserve and Mobilization, visits Spec. Joseph Briseno, 352nd Civil Affairs Command, at James A. Haley Veteran Affairs Hospital, Tampa. Briseno was injured from a gun shot wound to the neck in Iraq. Risher presented Briseno a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge for his actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser)*

The general also passed the Directorship of the Center for Knowledge and Future (J7/J9). "During the last year's course correction, General Brown recognized the potential synergy to be had by aligning intellectually focused activities of the headquarters under a single flag officer," she said. "The result was SOKF and the wisdom of that decision has been proven time and again. The J7 and J9 functions are highly complementary and our collaboration with Joint Forces Command, the other combatant commands, the Joint Staff and Office of the Secretary of Defense has never been better. I am pleased with the progress that has been made and have high expectations for continued success. I am proud of being a Reservist and of the contribution that our SOF reserve force is making to USSOCOM and to the nation," she said. "Yes, there are issues and frustrations but there are also opportunities. We can whine or we can work. My vote is to get to work."

# JSOU adds a new dimension

Since its inception in late 2000, the Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) has filled a critical niche in the education of special operations Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen. By tailoring Special Operations Forces instructional modules to fit the array of professional military education institutions, JSOU subject matter experts have added significant value to the resident education of SOF and non-SOF personnel alike. Now the university has established a new set of capabilities with the formation of the Strategic Studies Division (SSD) activated in September 2004.

Charged with "looking over the next hill," the SSD's mission includes the engagement of six Senior Fellows, virtual employees with highly diverse backgrounds, who work from distant locations. They are currently researching several cutting edge topics of value to the SOF community, and are under the supervision of two full-time JSOU research directors. When the research products are completed, they are to be published and distributed throughout the command plus be available electronically on the Joint SOF Education Gateway.

The Education Gateway (https://jsou.socom.mil/gateway) recently made its debut as an electronic repository designed to aid special operations personnel in their research efforts. The main section of the site contains books, articles, research papers, and other references categorized in topic areas including special operations core tasks, historical operations, and other facets of special operations, i.e. command and control, intelligence, strategy/policy, and asymmetric warfare. Other components of the Gateway include a selection on professional journals, core reference documents, a list of potential research topics, and several additional resources.

The Gateway is continually reviewed and updated by staff at the JSOU, but is also dependent on user feedback, both for style and content. If you can't find what you're looking for or would like to make suggestions to improve the site, please contact jsou.soed.f@hurlburt.af.mil.

As the Secretary of Defense's academic proponent for the Regional Defense Counterterrorism Fellowship Program, JSOU's SSD coordinates a growing consortium of educational institutions that provide counterterrorism education to both US and international students. Comprised of over 75 educators and strategists from the five DoD Regional Centers, the Naval Postgraduate School, the National Defense University, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflicts, and various functional education programs throughout DoD, the academic consortium leverages the efforts of recognized experts to incorporate combating terrorism subjects into existing programs while collaborating to create new strategic curricula in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

# Representing those who serve

***By Capt. Joseph Coslett***
***USSOCOM Public Affairs***

More than 20,000 people, from famous country singers to professional wrestlers, gathered in absolute silence. The only sound heard was the faint music of the National Anthem. At the nationally televised American Freedom Festival there was only one focus – the Colors.

The spotlight came on showing the U.S. Special Operations Command Joint Services Color Guard (JSCG) presenting the Nation's flags in front of a large audience at the Sun Dome Stadium in Tampa, Fla., on Veterans Day.

"This was my first event, I was in front of 20,000 people. I couldn't see because of the spotlight. The event was nationally televised, however none of that matters when you reflect why you are there," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Bruce Pollock, Joint Service Color Guard NCOIC. "To know that we are bringing honor, glory, dedication and a testimony to all that served before us and that preceded us – we set the standard. This is what we do – not for the money but for the love of our country."

The JSCG is made up of 18 personnel divided equally amongst the Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force which form two eight-man teams. These professionals are military people who display, present, and post the Colors of the Nation and each Service flag in full service dress uniform. They perform at local, state and national sponsored events.

Just like the Global War on Terrorism, its a joint effort to win the day. Every Service joins the color guard to represent something larger than themselves.

"I joined to represent the Marine Corps." said Marine Sgt. Tracy Salzgeber, JSCG member. "I like to get out there and let people know there are women in the Marine Corps. A lot of people don't know that women are in the Marines. I'm representing a very proud service, tradition and command. I demonstrate my pride in the command and make other people proud of the United States of America."

Not unlike combat operations, working in a joint environment doesn't come without challenges.

We are trained to different levels. Some members breathe marching while others marching has not been their





*The Joint Service Color Guard present the Colors at the Special Operations Forces Memorial during the Tennessee Committee on Foreign Relations visit Aug 12. The members of the detail from left to right are Sgt. Chad Vieau, JSCG front guard, Tech. Sgt Bruce Pollock, U.S. flag bearer, Sgt. Matthew Leddon, Army flag bearer, Staff Sgt. Jerry Bayless, Marine flag bearer, Petty Officer 2nd Class Lauront Pepin, Navy flag bearer, Staff Sgt. Lisa Brenneise, Air Force flag bearer, Tech. Sgt. Kevin Holmes, rear guard. Members from the Tennessee Committee on Foreign Relations presented a wreath during the ceremony. The official party is from right to left: Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Biles, U.S. Special Operations Command air operations NCOIC, Mr. Cliff Harrison and Mr. Jack May, Nashville Committee on Foreign Relations members, Lt. Col. (Chaplin) Dave West, U.S. Central Command chaplin and Sgt. Maj. Keith Butler, master of ceremonies. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser)*

focus. We sometimes communicate differently. However, with the proper training we succeed, Pollock said.

"We are a team. You can criticize a fellow (color guard) member but it needs to follow up with some training," he said. "Those who criticize need to teach what they know. In the end, we talk the same language of success, professionalism, dedication, and excellence we breathe and do everyday."

Demonstrations require detailed planning to ensure proper execution. A 9-person team will meticulously prepare their uniforms and arrive at an event hours prior to starting.

"We will figure out the best way to execute without interfering with the set up of the event but still remain looking good," Salzgeber said. "We run through the event a couple of times for practice and the event supervisor will say we look good or it needs work. Next we put on our gloves, display the Colors and return for a feedback session on how we can improve."

The JSCG prove their skills continuously throughout the year in front of the Nation and world leaders.

The team posted the flags for the first International Special Operations Forces Week in June. They represented the military members of the Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force in front of 58 countries.

"It was the first time we had a four man team performing in front of all the dignitaries – we represented our Services very well," Salzgeber said.

From preseason New York Yankee games to presenting the Colors at the Shriners Hospital, the JSCG represents military and special operations to diverse audiences.

"At the Tampa Shriners Hospital, children with disabilities receive excellent medical care absolutely free of charge," Pollock said. "The hospital is dedicated to treating the children. Like the hospital staff the joint color guard doesn't do what they do for money – we do it for the love of representing the professionalism, honor, and sacrifices of the United States military."



*The U.S. Special Operations Command Joint Service Color Guard present the Colors during the New York Yankees' preseason opening game at Legends Fields, Tampa, Fla. The JSCG performs around Florida at multiple events representing the men and women that serve. (Photo by Senior Airmen Jason Robertson)*

# USSOCOM Care Coalition takes

***"Our SOF warriors have seen first hand, the enormous price of freedom … it is essential to protect our heroes and their families."***

***Gen. Doug Brown, USSOCOM Commander***

***By Maj. Julie Scott***
***USSOCOM Family Care Coalition***

On August 1, the U.S. Special Operations Command started a new program to help Special Operations Forces and their families during some of the most critical times of their lives.

The USSOCOM Care Coalition's mission is to provide needed support to SOF warriors and their families who have led the fight on the Global War on Terror by establishing the model care program in DoD. Its focus is to coordinate with the Department of Defense and other government agencies to ensure services our SOF families are entitled are provided. Additionally, when timely support from government programs is unavailable, the USSOCOM Care Coalition will seek support from civilian agencies to create a standardized level of care for all SOF.

To achieve this mission, the care coalition is focused on three areas:

**1. Families:** To unite USSOCOM's family support/family readiness programs from U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, Naval Special Warfare Command, and Joint Special Operations Command. Fortunately, USSOCOM components already have outstanding family programs in place to address local needs at the unit level. In terms of family readiness, the care coalition is here to lend our support to component's family readiness/support organizations in addressing issues that are common or unique to SOF, ensuring continuity of care regardless of location.

**2. Casualties:** To contact every USSOCOM Global War On Terrorism, Operation Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom casualty (regardless of severity) and family – active, Guard, Reserve, separated or retired – and let them know that we are here to provide advocacy and support to them *for life*. When a road block is met and personal efforts have been exhausted, the USSOCOM Care Coalition will be there to engage and take action on the immediate issue, then examine the issue from a policy perspective and administratively work to correct the gap in support.

**3. Non-Government (NGO) Support:** To establish a relationship with civilian organizations that can provide the means for meeting our SOF family needs when government assistance is not available. In this role, the USSOCOM Care Coalition will serve as a conduit between the SOF Warrior and the reputable, responsive,




***Gen. Doug Brown, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, presents a Purple Heart to Spec. Matt Drake, 9th Psychological Operations Battalion, during an award ceremony April 18 at the James Haley Veterans Affairs Hospital in Tampa. Drake received injuries in Iraq from an improvised explosive device Oct. 2004. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser)***

# care of the SOF warrior for life



*Staff Sgt. David Glenn, 3rd Special Forces Group medic, completes upper body stretches with the help of Bunnie Wyckoff, Walter Reed Medical Center physical therapist. The U.S. Special Operations Command Care Coalition was formed to establish a model care system for Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen and their families. (Photo by Capt. Joseph Coslett)*

trustworthy civilian organization committed to supporting SOF. We'll always maintain the security of personal information by obtaining permission from the SOF warrior before contacting an NGO.

**SOF Truth #3: "Humans are more important than hardware"**

"Our greatest challenge today is contacting the casualties and their families. For the SOF warrior and their family we'll provide advocacy and support not only today, but through transition, and separation or retirement," said Mr. Jim Lorraine, the Director of the USSOCOM Care Coalition.

An integral aspect of the program are the USASOC liaison non-commissioned officers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Not only do they provide an excellent example of getting the word out, they are the model to emulate in taking care of our SOF casualties. Master Sgt. Dan Thompson and Sgt. 1st Class Marty Thompson, both 20th Special Forces Group Soldiers, have expertly seen to the needs of hundreds of SOF wounded warriors as they transition through Walter Reed. They not only advocate for care, assist with medical appointments, and help navigate the board processes, but they also seek lodging and child care resources for family members assisting in their loved one's rehabilitation.

"These guys have their finger on the pulse of SOF service member and family issues," Lorraine said. "They are the most valuable asset we have out there providing support to these troops who have given so much."

The program is new and opportunities for future expansion have been identified. On hand to launch the care coalition efforts are: Major Julie Scott, USSOCOM's Family Readiness Officer who supports USSOCOM and the component family readiness/support organizations by escalating component issues to the command, Joint Chiefs of Staff, DoD, and other government agencies; and 1st Lt. Dawn Paul, as our wounded warrior advocate carrying out the most essential task of contacting our casualties and their families. Paul will also coordinate with government and non-government agencies to make certain all potential benefits are provided to the families. Additional functions for the program will be to enable civilian industry that have been so supportive of USSOCOM with a venue to help transition the most skilled, tenacious and hard working members of the armed forces into their employment.

***"Our greatest challenge today is contacting the casualties and their families. For the SOF warrior and their family we'll provide advocacy and support not only today, but through transition, and separation or retirement."***

***Mr. Jim Lorraine, USSOCOM Care Coalition director***

"SOF is not a passive career – you have to actively engage and pursue to become a member. Support to our SOF warriors should never be passive, the SOF warrior and their family have provided too much" Lorraine said.

For more information please visit our webpage at www.socom.mil or contact Mr. Jim Lorraine: lorraij@socom.mil, Maj. Julie Scott: julie.scott@socom.mil, or 1st Lt. Dawn Paul: pauld@socom.mil.

# September 1987, Persian Gulf: SOF and the "Smoking Gun"

***By Gaea Levi***
***USSOCOM History Office***

During Operation Earnest Will (1987-89), the United States sought to ensure oil tankers and other merchant ships could safely transit the Persian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq War. U.S. Central Command used U.S. Navy vessels to protect the convoys, but Iran countered by laying mines and harassing the convoys with small, fast boats. Special Operations Forces (SOF) had the best-trained personnel and best available weapons platforms for monitoring and interdicting hostile activity, particularly at night when the Iranians conducted these missions.

On September 21, 1987, USCENTCOM's Middle East Force (MEF) received reports of a possible minelaying operation by Iran AJR, an Iranian cargo ship modified for minelaying. Rear Adm. Harold J. Bernsen, MEF commander, ordered a team of an MH-6 and two AH-6 helicopters (given the sobriquet SEABATs) to launch from USS Jarrett to locate and observe Iran AJR's actions. Shortly after locating the ship at 10:40 p.m., the helicopter crews observed Iran AJR extinguish its lights and reverse course into the sea lanes. The MH-6 crew observed a "mine-like" object being pushed into the water. Bernsen immediately responded, "Take them under fire." At 11:02 p.m., the AH-6s engaged the ship with minigun and rocket fire. The ship stopped, but its crew continued pushing the remaining mines into the water. The helicopters resumed firing until Iran AJR was dead in the water, and its crew had abandoned ship.

Bernsen ordered the SEAL platoon from USS Guadalcanal to board the ship, directing that the operation to be conducted in daylight to lessen the chances of injury. Just before dawn the SEALs, in a Mechanized Landing Craft-8 (LCM-8), departed the USS LaSalle for Iran AJR. Delays in loading the Marines aboard a personnel landing craft forced the SEALs to proceed without their reserve force, and the two patrol boats (PBs) that were to provide security during the boarding had still not arrived.

The SEALs boarded the ship without resistance, and found nine mines and various arming mechanisms. Unable to establish secure communications with USS LaSalle or the SEAL platoon, the PBs went directly to Iran AJR. After several tense minutes, the PB sailors saw the LCM-8 and identified the personnel aboard the ship as fellow SEALs and not armed Iranians. The PBs provided security and rescued 10 Iranian crewman in a lifeboat and 13 in life vests.

This first SOF tactical operation after USSOCOM's establishment had a significant strategic impact on Operation Earnest Will. The SEALs, Special Boat Units (SBU), and Army Special Operations Aviators worked well together. Iran could no longer legitimately claim to be innocent of mining international sea lanes. On September 25, Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger toured Iran AJR, boasting that SOF had produced "not just a smoking gun, but a gun going off."



***During a September 25, 1987, visit to U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger examines the "smoking gun" — mines from the Iran AJR, an Iranian cargo ship modified for minelaying. The mines, which Iran denied they had, were transferred to the USS LaSalle from captured Iranian vessel. (USSOCOM history photo)***

# Special operators who lost their lives

## serving in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom

# in the Global War on Terrorism will never be forgotten

SSG Leroy Alexander
SGT Thomas Allison
CPL William Amundson
SPC Marc Anderson
1Lt Tamara Archuleta
Capt Derek Argel
PO2 Matthew Axelson
CSM Edward Barnhill
SFC William Bennett
SPC Mark Bibby
SGT Jay Blessing
CPO Matthew Bourgeois
Capt Todd Bracy
SPC Charles Bush, Jr.
CPT Paul Cassidy
SFC Victor Cervantes
CPT Jeremy Chandler
TSgt John Chapman
SFC Nathan Chapman
CPL Andrew Chris
1SG Christopher Coffin
CPL Matthew Commons
SGT Timothy Conneway
TSgt Sean Corlew
SSgt Casey Crate
Capt James Cronin
SGT Bradley Crose
SrA Jason Cunningham
MSG Jefferson Davis
SFC Trevor Diesing
PO2 Danny Dietz
SSG James Dorrity
Maj William Downs
SPC Jonn Edmunds
CPT Daniel Eggers
CW2 Jody Egnor
SSG Christopher Falkel
MAJ Curtis Feistner
MSG Richard Ferguson
MSG George Fernandez
MAJ Gregory Fester
SCPO Theodore Fitzhenry
CPO Jacques Fontan
SGT Jeremy Foshee
SSG Gregory Frampton
SSgt Jacob Frazier
SPC Bryan Freeman
Capt Jeremy Fresques
SSG Kerry Frith
PFC Nichole Frye
PFC Damien Garza
CW3 Thomas Gibbons
SSG Shamus Goare
CW3 Curt Goodnature
SSG Robert Goodwin
CMSgt Lawrence Gray
CW2 Stanley Harriman
SCPO Daniel Healy
PFC John Henderson
TSgt James Henry
SPC Julie Hickey
SSgt Jason Hicks
SSG Aaron Holleyman
MSG Robert Horrigan
MSG Kelly Hornbeck
SFC Mark Jackson
SPC Kip Jacoby
SPC Joseph Jeffries
MSG Ivica Jerak
SSG Allen Johnson
TSgt William Kerwood
SPC Adam Kinser
SSG Daniel Kisling
SFC Obediah Kolath
Capt Surender Kothakota
Lt Cmdr Erik Kristensen
SFC Mitchell Lane
SFC Steven Langmack
TSgt Glenn Lastes
SSG Nino Livaudais
SPC Ryan Long
PO1 Jeffery Lucas
MSgt Michael Maltz
SFC Curtis Mancini
SSG Paul Mardis
MSgt William McDaniel
Lt Michael McGreevy, Jr.
SFC Robert McGee
SFC Michael McNulty
SSG Orlando Morales
MSG Kevin Morehead
SFC Robert Mogensen
SFC Pedro Munoz
SFC Marcus Muralles
Lt. Michael Murphy
SSG Tony Olaes
SGT Michael O'Neill
CPT Bartt Owens
SGT Micheal Owens
1st Lt Ray Owens Jr.
CW3 Mark O'Steen
PO1 Brian Ouellette
SGT Jason Palmerton
PO2 Eric Patton
SSgt Patrick Pentico
SFC Daniel Petithory
LTC Mark Phelan
SSG Christopher Piper
SrA Jason Plite
Maj Steven Plumhoof
SFC James Ponder
CW2 Bruce Price
SSG Brian Prosser
MAJ Stephen Reich
PO1 Thomas Retzer
SSgt Juan Ridout
CPT Russell Rippetoe
PO1 Neal Roberts
CPT Charles Robinson
SFC Daniel Romero
SFC Michael Russell
SSG Bruce Rushforth
A1C Jesse Samek
SPC Jonathan Santos
SSgt Scott Sather
CW4 Chris Scherkenbach
SGT Danton Seitsinger
CPL Timothy Shea
LTC Anthony Sherman
SSgt Anissa Shero
LTC Albert Smart
MAJ Charles Soltes
SFC Christopher Speer
SGM Michael Stack
PFC Nathan Stahl
Lt Col John Stein
SPC Kristofor Stonesifer
PO2 James Suh
PO2 Eric Sutton
SGT Philip Svitak
SSG Paul Sweeney
MAJ Paul Syverson
PO1 David Tapper
CPT Michael Tarlavsky
PO1 Jeffrey Taylor
SFC John Taylor
CPL Patrick Tillman
SSgt John Teal
SFC Peter Tycz
SSG Gene Vance
SFC Brett Walden
SSgt Thomas Jr. Walkup
TSgt Howard Walters
Capt Gil Williamson
SGT Roy Wood
SGT Jeremy Wright
SFC Mickey Zaun



# *Good Morning Australia*

A U.S. Army MH-47 Chinook assigned to 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Echo Company, taxis to the runway for take off in support of combined Exercise Talisman Sabre 2005. Talisman Sabre is a four-week biennial exercise to conduct joint training between United States and Australian forces while further developing the capability to undertake joint, combined operations, helping to build regional security.