



TIP OF THE SPEAR

NIGHT STALKERS

160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne)

Celebrate

25



Years

Winning with Unconventional Warfare in the Philippines

Air Commandos accept CV-22, return to heritage

Tactical Network Topology: Experimenting for SOF's future

Departments

Global War On Terrorism	Page 4
U.S. Army Special Operations Command	Page 16
Naval Special Warfare Command	Page 18
Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command	Page 21
Air Force Special Operations Command	Page 28
Headquarters USSOCOM	Page 32

160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne): 25 years of service

Army Rangers from 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, are flown in by a MH-6 Little Bird from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) for a demonstration at Fort Bragg, N.C., Nov. 1. Photo by Gillian Albro.



Tip of the Spear

Gen. Doug Brown
Commander, USSOCOM

Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser
NCOIC, Public Affairs

CSM Thomas Smith
Command Sergeant Major

Staff Sgt. Timothy Lawn
Staff Writer

Col. Samuel T. Taylor III
Public Affairs Officer

Mike Bottoms
Editor

This is a U.S. Special Operations Command publication. Contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or USSOCOM. The content is edited, prepared and provided by the USSOCOM Public Affairs Office, 7701 Tampa Point Blvd., MacDill AFB, Fla., 33621, phone (813) 826-2875, DSN 299-2875. E-mail the editor via unclassified network at public.affairs@socom.mil. The editor of the Tip of the Spear reserves the right to edit all copy presented for publication.

Front cover: The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), known as the Night Stalkers, commemorated the 25th Anniversary of Army Special Operations Aviation on Oct 12-13. The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Campbell, Ky., provides aviation support to Army special operations forces and other components. Its four battalions conduct special operations infiltration and exfiltration missions in all weather and at night. 160th SOAR (Airborne) photo.

Highlights



Unconventional warfare

in the Philippines, page 4

Air Commandos accept CV-22

and return to their heritage, page 28



Tactical Network Topology:

*Experimenting with SOF's future today,
page 32*

Defeating the idea: Unconventional Warfare in southern Philippines



A U.S. Navy doctor examines the foot of a young girl during a Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) Medical Civil Action Project. The JSOTF-P's mission is to conduct and oversee humanitarian civic action programs and to provide the command and control for Security Assistance Modules, a part of U.S. Pacific Command's long-term security assistance partnership with the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jon Gesch.

**By Command Sgt. Major William Eckert
Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines**

A recent newspaper headline read: “Is the U.S. winning a war?” The headline wasn’t referring to Iraq or Afghanistan but rather to another front in the Global War on Terrorism —

the Philippines. Unlike the other two conflicts, where American Soldiers are daily engaged in armed conflict, the war in the Philippines is one for peace and prosperity. The battle in the Philippines is a battle against an idea, and it is being waged by the Joint Special Operations Task Force — Philippines, or JSOTF - P.

The work by JSOTF - P has gained the attention of senior military leaders who believe its work may change the way the United States operates around the world. During the Pacific Area Special Operations Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, in May, Maj. Gen. David Fridovich, commander of U.S. Special Operations Forces-Pacific noted, “We think there is a model here that’s worth showcasing. There’s another way of doing business. We’ve been doing it for four years with some decent results — not grand results, not flashy results, but some decent results. We think it’s worthwhile.”

The most telling result is the decline in terrorist activity in and around the islands where JSOTF-P is operating. In 2001, Basilan Island, a remote island in the southern Philippines, was home to hundreds of members of the violent Abu Sayyaf Group, or ASG, and Jemaah Islamiyah, or JI, two terrorist elements with links to al - Qaeda. Prior to 9/11, terrorist training camps operated unchecked in the region, with up to 40 percent of the 9/11 operatives having links to the region. As is the case in the Middle East, kidnappings for ransom and beheadings were commonplace.

For example, in May 2001, the ASG assaulted the Dos Palmas Resort and took guests there hostage. The hostages included Americans Martin and Gracia Burnham, U.S. missionaries in the Philippines, and U.S. businessman Guillermo Sobero. The kidnapping ordeal lasted more than a year, during which Sobero was beheaded, Martin was killed during the rescue, and Gracia was injured.

The predominantly Muslim population in the area had, over time, become disenfranchised, disgruntled and dissatisfied with the government and the abject poverty of the region. Together, these conditions created an environment in which extremists could operate freely. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, or AFP, and Philippine police elements were unable to control the violence or address the conditions that gave rise to the lawlessness.

Though the challenges in Basilan called for military action, the response did not warrant the deployment and use of U.S. conventional military forces. Because of the political climate in the Philippines, U.S. troops cannot involve themselves in combat operations there.

This battlefield in the southern Philippines necessitated the use of many different unconventional capabilities — increasing the capacity of our allies through foreign internal defense, or FID; civil-military operations, or CMO; and information operations, or IO. These three mission areas, for which SOF are well-suited and well-trained, have become the cornerstone of JSOTF-P's operations.

The mission in the Philippines required two things to happen concurrently. The AFP had to increase its ability to establish a secure environment for the people, and the economic and political environment that allowed extremists to recruit, seek sanctuary and prosper on the islands had to be changed.

To be effective, JSOTF-P needed to devise a plan for meeting both requirements simultaneously. During the ongoing capacity-building and humanitarian missions, the JSOTF also engaged in an information-operations campaign — using all aspects of the information mission, including public affairs, information operations and psychological operations, to inform and positively influence the islanders.

The battle in the Philippines is a battle against an idea: the idea of intolerance and subjugation to totalitarian rule. In the southern Philippines, that idea is endorsed by the ASG and JI, whose goal it is to eliminate a way of life for freedom-loving people.

For 15 years, SOF leadership has implemented a vision and capability for this unconventional warfare battlefield through a steady buildup of capabilities. These capabilities have enabled Special Operations Forces of the JSOTF-P to reach out to the populace while providing positive influences across the military, demographic, government and economic

spectrums. SOF leadership also made the investment of resources for the development of professional military training and doctrine specific to the Philippines. As a result of the foresight of the U.S. Special Operations Command in establishing these disciplines in the special operations community, the men and women of Joint Task Force 510, and its follow-on, JSOTF-P, have accomplished what few others could.

Throughout the year, U.S. SOF personnel from JSOTF-P work jointly with the AFP to assist and support the AFP's ability to sustain its counterterrorism capability in the region, while addressing, at their root, the conditions that foment the enemy "idea."

Success in Basilan is measured by prosperity; by reduced AFP presence — from 15 battalions in 2002 to only two today; by new development, and by a nonviolent method of problem resolution. That success, known as the Basilan Model, has resonated throughout the region and is being duplicated with great success on nearby Jolo Island.

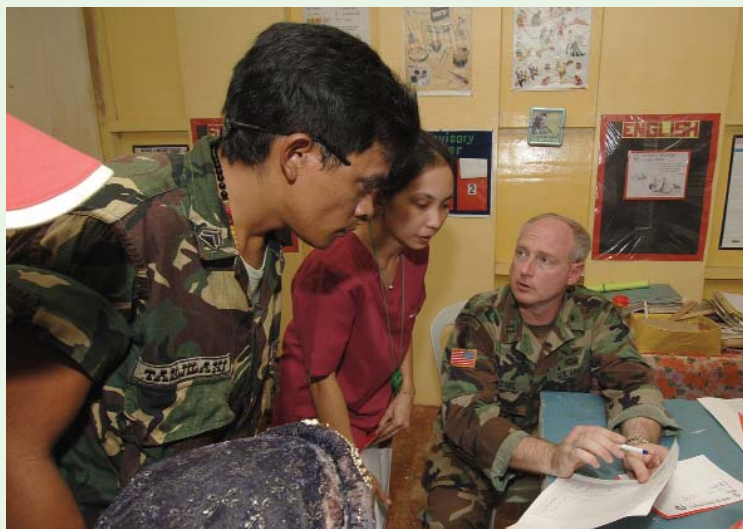
Capacity building

The cornerstone of this operation is the successful training of the AFP and the Philippine National Police. Prior to 2002, lawlessness was the rule, rather than the exception, on Basilan. Kidnapping for ransom was commonplace, and villagers lived in fear. In order for the island to prosper, the rule of law had to be enforced, and that could happen only through expanding and developing the capacity and capability of the country's security forces.

Additionally, to ensure the greatest return, getting the best possible information on the threat faced in the region is vital. Working in close coordination with the U.S. Embassy, JSOTF-P uses Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations forces to conduct deliberate intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in very focused areas, and based on collection plans, to perform tasks to prepare the environment and obtain critical information requirements. The information is used to determine the capabilities, intentions and activities of threat groups that exist within the local population and to focus U.S. forces — and the AFP — on providing security to the local populace. It is truly a joint operation, in which Navy SEALs and SOF aviators work with their AFP counterparts to enhance the AFP's capacities.

See UW, Page 6

Capt. Patrick O'Neil, a surgeon attached to Joint Special Operations Task Force - Philippines, speaks with a local family about their medical needs during a medical outreach mission conducted by the hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) on Basilan Island, Philippines. The Mercy conducted humanitarian and civic assistance missions in the area during its five-month deployment to South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Edward G. Martens.



UW continued from Page 5

Recently, intelligence collection on the island of Jolo has been used to track two JI leaders, Umar Patek and Dulmatin, and the Abu Sayyaf chief Khadaffy Janjalani. The two JI members have been tied to the bombings of nightclubs in Bali, as well as to a bombing of the JW Marriott Hotel in Indonesia.

The information gathered early on, combined with the overall plans of the AFP leadership, allowed the JSOTF-P to prepare focused subject matter expert exchanges through which the AFP units acquire the skills needed to gain and maintain security within the joint operations area. During the time the JSOTF-P has focused on Sulu, the subject matter expert exchanges have been conducted with the AFP on an almost daily basis, including topics such as the combat lifesaver course, small-unit tactics, marksmanship, maritime interdiction operations, radio communications, night-vision goggle use, close air support and leadership development.

This increased capability for providing security is critical in contributing to the ability of the host-nation government to govern more effectively, and the improved security and effective governance also provides greater legitimacy to the host-nation government — a critical reason the AFP presence on Basilan has dropped so dramatically since 2002.

Civil-military operations

With support from U.S. SOF, the AFP didn't just show up on Basilan or Sulu with guns, rather it brought the resources to rebuild schools and hospitals, and the engineers to dig wells to provide fresh water. But the CMO line of operation is more than social and infrastructure projects. In JSOTF-P, it encompasses the full range of support to the AFP and local civil authorities to increase their ability to address needs while managing the expectations of the local population. Further, the operations address the root causes that allow the idea of subjugation and intolerance to flourish.

While the JSOTF-P presence was initially regarded with suspicion by the local population, the humanitarian and development-oriented approach of Philippine and U.S. forces in the southern Philippines has proven to be even more effective than a direct military approach. As a result, U.S. and AFP forces have gained access to areas where they had previously been unwelcome. The people now see the government and the U.S. Forces as a force for change and a way to better their lives.

For example, in November 2005, the AFP was not seen on Sulu as a trustworthy advocate. Access into barangays, or villages, and communities was met with suspicion by the local populace. One year later, after the AFP engaged in extensive CMO and capacity-building work on schools, roads, wells, community centers and more, the civilian population is responding positively to the presence of the AFP — no longer a bully but rather a “big brother.” As a result, the people are refusing to harbor the terrorists and are

instead turning to the AFP for protection from those “lawless” elements.

The people in the region need development, and the AFP has given them hope for development. Without exception, when given the choice, the population chooses development, peace and prosperity. That changing viewpoint has garnered the support of the local population and is now denying the terrorists the sanctuary and physical support they need to thrive.

Because resources are limited, JSOTF-P has formed a strong link to nongovernmental organizations such as 3P-USA, Knightsbridge International and the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation. The support of these organizations, as well as of the government of the Philippines, has greatly increased the scope and nature of the humanitarian projects on the islands. Projects like school construction; infrastructure development in the form of water lines and wells; and medical care are the



An Operational Detachment Alpha team member teaches a Philippine soldier how to orient himself during a reconnaissance exercise. SOF are deployed to the Philippines and are advising, training and assisting to give the Philippine Army an edge over the Abu Sayyaf terrorists. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Andrew Meyers.



The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) sits anchored off the coast of Jolo, Philippines, June 8, 2006. Mercy conducted a medical and humanitarian mission in the area as part of its five-month deployment to South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Edward Martens.

lifeblood of the JSOTF - P's mission in the southern Philippines.

There was an elderly woman in Jolo City who had been blind for 14 years as a result of cataracts. Her mistrust of the AFP was topped only by her suspicion of U.S. forces in her town and on the island. In June, her desire to see overcame her mistrust, and she allowed herself to try out the promises of the U.S. forces and to visit the USNS Mercy, a naval hospital ship, during its week-long stop off the shores of Jolo City. While there, she allowed AFP doctors and clinicians to operate on her cataracts.

The operation restored clear sight to her for the first time in 14 years. After her eyes adjusted and she recovered from the surgery, she wanted to personally meet and thank those U.S. and AFP personnel who gave her back the gift of sight. She graciously offered them her gratitude, and as a result of actions making her life better, this one-time opponent of the AFP and U.S. forces now supports them.

In many instances, CMO projects are undertaken with strong buy-in by the local population. The JSOTF's goal is to ensure that the projects are not only needed but are also sustainable by the local population. Once complete, every project is turned over to the local barangay for maintenance. This buy-in and responsibility for the project by the local populace ensures that the project will continue beyond the stay of JSOTF-P.

During 2006, the AFP and JSOTF-P have built 19 school-construction/renovation projects, dug 10 wells, begun five road projects, started work on five community centers and built five water distribution centers on Jolo Island.

Additionally, more than 13,000 people have benefited from the medical, dental and veterinarian civic action projects. These projects have positively affected more than 25 communities on Jolo Island and provided the critical access into areas that were previously sanctuaries for terrorist groups.

At one medical civic action program, or MEDCAP, in particular, in the Indanan area of Jolo Island — a stronghold of the ASG at the time — an ASG operative was ordered to set off an improvised explosive device during the MEDCAP. The operative refused the assignment because his wife and children would be attending the program and receiving needed medical care.

Influencing others

Everything that we do in the security, capacity building and CMO arenas can go awry if we fail to communicate our plans and objectives to the local populace. Many Filipinos still view the U.S. with a wary eye from their days as a protectorate. They see the presence of the U.S. military in their country as a threat to their independence. JSOTF-P has to ensure that U.S. presence is seen as beneficial to the community by working with the media and other key communicators within the local communities. Throughout its tenure on the island, JSOTF-P has engaged in a powerful information campaign to ensure that the populace is informed. That campaign has created a positive atmosphere.

Rather than using the doctrinal definition of IO as “information operations,” the personnel of JSOTF-P define IO as

See UW, Page 8

Tip of the Spear

UW continued from Page 7

“influencing others” in a positive and effective manner. Through public affairs efforts, the task force is constantly telling people what it is going to be doing, how it is going to do it and how it will benefit them. The goal is to ensure that people are not surprised or caught off guard by anything the teams are accomplishing.

An example of this acceptance occurred in the small town of Tiptipon on Jolo Island. An AFP commander and his U.S. counterpart entered a town to assess the work needed for a school and for a hospital improvement project. The Muslim town leader, a self-acknowledged former ASG member, speaking to the team in his native Tausug, assured the team of its safety in his town, stating, “We want your development, and we want you to help repair our school and hospital and help us improve the lives of our people. We know what you did in Basilan, and we want that, too.”

The mission of positively influencing others in the joint operations area is more than scheduling media and community relations events. Those are important, but the planned, focused use of PSYOP teams is just as critical.

The Soldiers assigned to the JSOTF-P PSYOP teams conduct assessments at each location and propose projects for each location by analyzing the various cultures and subcultures. With more than 7,100 islands making up the Philippines, the cultures of regions, provinces and neighboring communities can vary substantially. By reviewing the culture and history of the specific islands, clans and provinces, the team is better able to positively communicate its intentions and activities.

The teams assigned to the JSOTF-P have produced a multi-dimensional influencing operation on Jolo Island and throughout the joint operations area. Some of their activities have publicized the Department of Defense’s and Department of State’s Rewards for Justice Program that supports the war on terrorism. Other activities have focused the thoughts of the local populace on the choices they can make to take control of their lives by no longer tolerating terrorists who operate in the midst of their communities. Each PSYOP campaign utilizes the media that will best get its message across.

One example of a product line that the JSOTF-P’s PSYOP team has worked hard to produce, aimed at giving hope and bringing awareness of the evil that terrorism brings to families and communities, is a unique, first-of-its-kind graphic novel series. The 10-part series, which is still in production, contains local culture and real-world correlations. The title, names, attire, scenery, dialect and historical subtleties are all designed to appeal to the targeted community.

Each book in the series is reviewed at multiple levels, including a focus group of local professionals to ensure that



An Operational Detachment Alpha team member teaches a Philippine soldier how to use a weapon during an exercise. SOF are deployed to the Philippines and are advising, training and assisting to give the Philippine Army an edge over the Abu Sayyaf terrorists. CJSOTF-P photo.

any culturally offensive dialogue, gestures or activities are avoided. The reviews help to ensure that the product and others resonate with the island people.

Conclusion

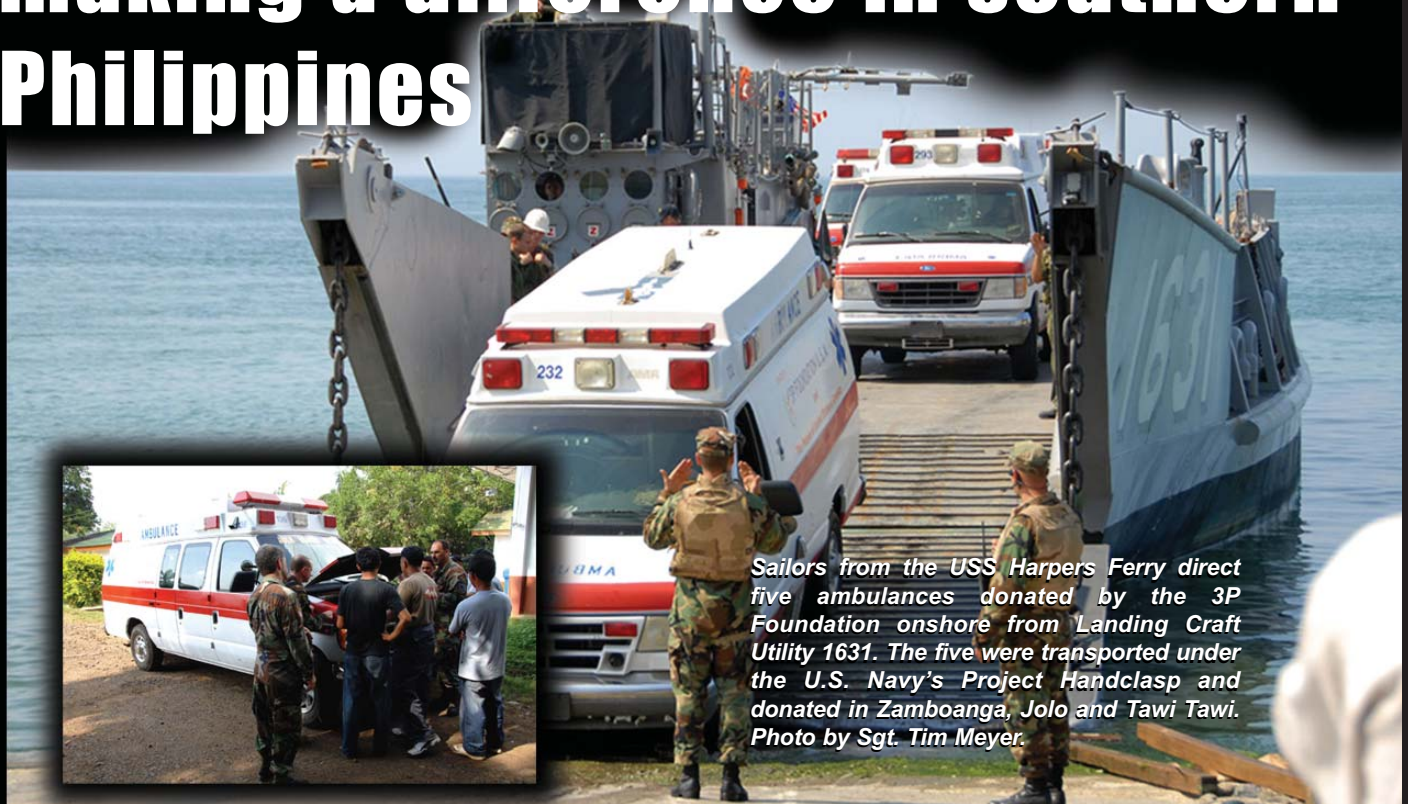
There is no question that while the environment in the southern Philippines is improving, the Sulu Archipelago is still a volatile area. Bomb threats, kidnappings for ransom and detonations of improvised explosive devices are a daily occurrence. Only through the skill and professionalism of the Special Operations Forces and the support of the local population have JSOTF-P casualties been avoided so far.

For this unconventional mission, the U.S. Pacific Command and the U.S. Special Operations Command have the right force with the right skill sets in place for success. SOF will continue to develop and refine the mission as they achieve positive effects in the southern Philippines now and in other troubled spots in the future.

As the SOF role diminishes in the southern Philippines, the key for Philippine success over the long term will lie in sustaining the improvements thus far achieved. Perpetuating the peace will require continued involvement of the U.S. government; interagency efforts with other agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development; and most importantly, the collaboration and commitment of the Philippine government, nongovernmental organizations and private investors to work and prosper.

The SOF indirect role is proving itself in the southern Philippines, and with patience and persistence, the unconventional warfare tools used here, along with proven SOF methodologies, will continue to succeed and to provide a powerful new tool for our nation in fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

U.S.-donated ambulances making a difference in southern Philippines



Sailors from the USS Harpers Ferry direct five ambulances donated by the 3P Foundation onshore from Landing Craft Utility 1631. The five were transported under the U.S. Navy's Project Handclasp and donated in Zamboanga, Jolo and Tawi Tawi. Photo by Sgt. Tim Meyer.

By Sgt. Tim Meyer
JSOTF – Philippines Public Affairs

Just days after a charitable organization teamed up with the U.S. military to deliver ambulances, the emergency vehicles are making a difference in the lives of residents in the southern Philippines.

Medical officials here said that within the first week of the operation already a handful of seriously injured patients have been transported aboard the ambulances. One organization that received an ambulance, the Jolo Rescue Network, or JRN, is on duty 24 hours a day with trained personnel, thanks to some assistance from U.S. and Philippine military medics, said Dr. Jodl Isahac, JRN executive director.

Training by Special Operations Forces assigned to the Joint Special Operations Task Force – Philippines and the Armed Forces of the Philippines included instruction on how to maneuver the emergency vehicle. “Aside from regular vehicle maintenance, using sirens and handling, we also got the chance to learn teamwork

when acting as emergency medical personnel,” said Isahac.

Four to five personnel man the ambulance at a time, said Isahac, “but because we are highly motivated among ourselves, usually more than five have been working with a team during a shift because they wanted to volunteer.”

Even before receiving the ambulance, JSOTF-P and Philippine military medical personnel had been working regularly with the JRN, since the all-volunteer crisis response group was formed about six months ago.

Future plans include sending JRN members to Manila to be trained and certified as emergency medical technicians.

The JRN’s new ambulance is one of five purchased, refurbished and repainted by 3P (Promotion of Peace and Prosperity in the Philippines) Foundation USA and then donated to medical organizations in the southern Philippines. All five ambulances were transported on part of their journey here by the U.S. Navy’s Project Handclasp.



SOF - Korea stay prepared

By Heike Hasenauer
Soldiers magazine

“It’s a country that time has forgotten,” said Special Operations Command, Korea, Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Kimmich of North Korea.

“We have to be prepared for war 365 days a year, because we never know when Kim Jong-il [son of the late, but delegated “eternal” North Korean president Kim II-Sung] will say, ‘We need to unify Korea today,’” Kimmich said.

The possibility of war is never far from people’s minds, Kimmich said. A peace treaty between North and South Korea was never signed following the 1950 to 1953 Korean War.

And if the North chooses to invade there will be little warning, said Kimmich, whose 82-person headquarters would swell to some 500 to form the Combined Unconventional Warfare Task Force.

North Korea has the fourth largest army in the

world - composed of some 1.2 million active-duty soldiers, more than 13,000 artillery systems and one of the largest submarine fleets in the world, according to U.S. State Department records.

“In 1991, when the United States and other nations were reducing the size of their military forces, North Korea focused on building up its force,” Kimmich said.

In 1991, too, North Korea had 40 percent of its army positioned along the demilitarized zone some 25 miles north of South Korea’s capital, Seoul, also home to U.S. Forces, Korea’s Yongsan Garrison.

Today, 70 percent of the North Korean army is positioned at the DMZ, Kimmich said. And U.S. State Department reports indicate the North “has perhaps the world’s second largest special operations force, designed for insertion behind the lines in wartime.”

Additionally, the reports reveal “North Korean forces have a substantial numerical advantage over the South (between 2 and 3 to 1) in several key categories



Maj. Jose Devarona, battalion executive officer for the U.N. Command Security Bn., looks toward the North Korean Visitor Center at the Joint Security Area, Panmunjom. Photo by Heike Hasenauer.

l for war 365 days a year

of offensive weapons - tanks, long-range artillery and armored personnel carriers.”

Ironically, nighttime satellite pictures of the divided peninsula show a bleak, black image of the North, accommodating some 23 million people, versus a bright, vibrant image of democratic South Korea, or the Republic of Korea, population about 48 million.

To stay prepared for crises and war, SOCKOR participates in six training exercises annually with ROK Special Warfare Command forces, including a counterterrorist exercise focusing on marksmanship training, said Eighth U.S. Army spokesman Maj. Jerome Pionk.

Two of the exercises are Joint Chiefs of Staff-level exercises involving all U.S. and ROK special operations forces, said Sgt. Maj. Jack Hagan of the 39th Special Forces Detachment, Det. K.

Attached to the 1st Special Forces Group, the detachment’s 16 Soldiers work at 11 locations on the Korean peninsula, Hagan said.

“SOF have been training the ROK soldiers for 48 years, so we no longer concentrate on basic Soldier skills. Most of the training we conduct is concentrated on advanced skills and interoperability,” he said.

It includes courses such as fast-rope master, jumpmaster, combat dive supervisor, water infiltration, over-the-water navigation, tactical air control, military free fall and airfield seizure, among others.

“As liaisons to ROK special forces units, we teach their teams to call in U.S. strike aircraft and coordinate for other U.S. assets, such as Army night aviation and intelligence,” Hagan added.

Recently, ROK SF soldiers parachuted onto an airfield at low altitude at night and took control of the



runway, allowing mock follow-on forces to come in within 30 minutes, Hagan said. “That was significant, because it was something they hadn’t previously done.”

Det. K Soldiers, master sergeants who serve as advisers to ROK army generals, trained approximately 1,000 ROK SF soldiers last year, Hagan said, using the “train-the-trainer” technique.

“We’ve maintained a legacy with Korean special forces, who supported us immediately after the Korean War and in Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Col. Simeon Trombitas, commander, SOCKOR.

“As we learn lessons from our combat experiences, we share those with the Korean army. And we train them on changing systems,” Trombitas said.

“The July 2006 missile launches by North Korea further demonstrated the need for the U.S. military presence in South Korea as a deterrent on the peninsula,” he added.

“The U.S. and ROK special operations soldiers are at the highest level of proficiency I’ve ever seen. I have no doubts they’re ready to do their nations’ bidding,” Trombitas concluded.



North Korean soldiers stand watch at a guard tower along the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. Department of Defense photo.

SOF, Malian soldiers train together

By Jaime Wood

U.S. European Command Public Affairs

U.S. European Command Special Forces Soldiers participated in a military training exercise with Malian military members in Kati, Mali.

The bi-lateral and joint combined exchange training is part of an ongoing partnership between American and Malian militaries.

“This exercise benefits both nations,” said a 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) company commander, who is in charge of planning the logistics for the exercise participants — about 100 Malian soldiers and 30 American troops. “The primary goal of this training is continued engagement with the Malian military in the areas of capacity building and mutual development of both our countries’ military. Working with indigenous partners is our mission.”

The training is an integral part of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership and focuses on airborne, basic rifle marksmanship and over-land movement exercises.

“The contact provides cultural immersion for U.S. European Command personnel,” said the commander. “At the same time, it promotes a more positive local understanding of the role of the United States in the Global War on Terrorism.”

The three-week training was conducted in phases then culminated together in a one day-long field exercise beginning with a parachute jump supported by the 352nd Special Operations Group, based out of Mildenhall, England. Following the jump, the soldiers participated in a simulated raid and live-fire maneuvers.

“We are very pleased to participate in this training with the American forces,” said Col. L. Ould Issa, commander, Mali’s 33rd Parachute Regiment. “This is a wonderful opportunity for both armies to share military techniques and build friendships.”

The Mali training event is nothing new to the Special



Special Forces and Malian soldiers from the 33rd Parachute Regiment participate in a combined jump in Kati, Mali. The jump was part of a bilateral and joint combined exchange training exercise where the troops also conducted an over-land large unit movement, a simulated raid and live-fire training. The Americans are assigned to U.S. European Command’s 1st Battalion 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Stuttgart, Germany. Department of Defense photo.

Forces units, who have previously conducted military-to-military exercises with their host nation partners. “We always look forward to training with the Malian forces,” said the team’s operations sergeant, who is on his third training mission to Africa and second to Mali. “It gives us an opportunity to exchange training techniques. We definitely gain just as much from them as they do from us — for example, they teach us about desert survival including how to pack a camel for long travel across the Sahara.”

“The 33rd Parachute Regiment is a premier unit here — a high priority with the Malian government,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Eric Dalton, the defense attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Mali. “Training of this nature is most welcome.”

In addition to the Kati military training, other exercises, including humanitarian and civil affairs assistance operations, such as medical, dental and veterinarian screenings are taking place simultaneously in Gao and Timbuktu, Mali. The exercises are planned in advance by both nations.

Medical team aids SOF role in Mali

By Air Force Capt. Darrick Lee

U.S. European Command Public Affairs

It’s another hot day in Gao, a small village north of Bamako, in the West African country of Mali. A team has assembled at a local village, preparing to perform tasks that would make the average person cringe. A team member is struggling to get a grip on a cow’s tongue.

Another is fighting to repel insects. A woman tries to stop an infestation of worms from spreading, while another has only a few minutes to stick her hand in a mouth full of teeth ... and take one out.

This is not an episode of the popular television show *Fear Factor*. It’s the scene at a recent Medical Civil Action Program Exercise, MEDCAP, as it’s known, and is a humanitarian operation designed to provide medical,

dental, and veterinarian outreach to local civilian populations. During November, the team, consisting of a physician, a nurse, a dentist, and a veterinarian, deployed with SOCEUR Special Operations Forces to Mali as part of Joint Combined Exchange Training in the area.

The exchange training pairs U.S. forces with Malian military officials to provide infantry training as part of the ongoing military-to-military relationship the United States enjoys with Mali. While Special Forces focus on interacting with the Malian military, the medical teams serve the local community by providing free basic medical and dental care for villagers and vet care for their livestock. By interacting with foreign military forces and exposing local civilian populations to positive contacts with U.S. military personnel, the United States hopes to strengthen counterterrorism capabilities. Winning the ‘hearts and minds’ of the locals with these MEDCAPs is part of that strategy.

Capt. Sharon Moss is a nurse and element leader of flight medicine, serving with the 435th Medical Group at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and jumped at the opportunity to deploy to Africa to help the Special Operations Command, Europe with their work.

“Our focus is preventative medicine,” said Moss. She administered anti-parasitic medicine to Gao villagers during the exercise. “I was just hoping I could do some good [for the villagers.]”

Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Darin Brown, M.D., also worked vigorously. He provided physical exams and health assessments focusing on children.

“If we can assist them while they’re young, they’ll be more able to deal with health issues in the future,” said Brown.

“We have the ability to treat malaria and other real-world medical issues that some of these Malians face,” said Brown. “They can gain months of benefit from our assistance.”

Communicating with the villagers was a small obstacle, but the team used local interpreters to help them diagnose some of the less obvious illnesses. The team dentist, Air Force Capt. Sarah Clark, did not have that problem. The need for dental care in the area was evident; all she needed was the patient to open wide and say ‘aaaahhh’.

Clark saw 63 dental patients, most of whom were children, within a matter of hours.

“We performed brief clinical exams; removed teeth that caused pain, and

educated them about dental hygiene,” said Clark.

With the occasional moans from the dentist’s chair, one would think that the other children would be scared away. Yet the lines remained full ... even if some of the smaller children needed a bit of coaxing from their elders. Brown has a rational explanation for why the children overcome their fear to see the medical team

“The phrase: ‘First, do no harm’ is part of the Hippocratic Oath, and it’s important to us,” says Brown. “The villagers know that we’re trying to build relationships; we’re trying to help.”

They help the animals of the villages, as the team pulled together to assist U.S. Army Capt. (Dr.) Jeremy Bearss, the team’s veterinarian, assesses the health of local livestock and provide treatment as necessary. Bearss, who serves with the Northern Europe Veterinary Detachment at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, provided anti-parasitics and vitamins to the village’s animal populations. The team tagged some of the animals so their health can be monitored in the future.

“One of the most valuable things the villagers have is their animals,” said Bearss. “If their animals are healthy, then their children (and their nutritional status) will be as well.”

Special Operations Command, Europe forces will continue to rely on the assistance of medical teams to perform Medical Capabilities Exercises as Special Forces focus their efforts on developing nations like Mali.



Maj. (Dr.) Darin Brown, a physician with the 435th Medical Group, checks the condition of a Malian child during a Medical Civil Action Program conducted near Gao, Mali. Brown and other military medical and dental professionals deployed with Special Operations Forces as part of the latest in a series of Joint Combined Exchange Training events. The training, aimed at fostering communication and cultural exchanges between the two militaries, is part of the United States effort to maintain positive relationships while bringing stability to the region. Dental and medical readiness are considered a key element of the training. Photo by Capt. Darrick Lee.

Understanding Jihad



By Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser
USSOCOM Public Affairs

The sun has just set, the “call to prayer” is blaring through loudspeakers echoing off of buildings, urging the faithful to prayer. Mosques are beginning to fill. The Mullahs preach a strict brand of Islam and stress unbending adherence to the Shari’a or Islamic law. For most, basic freedoms and education are out of reach.

The cleric strokes his long grey beard as he gazes out of his window and smiles. His ultimate objective — a worldwide Caliphate “in the manner of the Prophet” has come to term — Allah Ahkbar (God is great). The year is 2030 and the place — New York City.

This is radical Islam’s plan for the future according to Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo, an acclaimed British expert on Islam, and a professor from the British Defense College. He recently spoke at a professional development seminar, at U.S. Special Operations Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla.

He lectured at the invitation of Col. Raymond Palumbo, chief of J-5 Plans at USSOCOM.

“I had the opportunity to hear Dr. Sookhdeo speak while attending the British Defense College,” he said. “His presentation on jihad was intriguing. As the new J-5, I see a need to connect with a scholarly knowledge base to better conceive our strategy and operations. I felt Dr. Sookhdeo



Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo,
British Defense College
Professor

would be the perfect person to start routine visits from academia to SOCOM.”

Dr. Sookhdeo, an Anglican priest and a former Muslim, holds doctorates in Oriental, African and Islamic studies and has been outspoken on the topic of Islamic relations and jihad for many years.

During his presentation, he framed some of the reasons why he feels Islam is going in a violent direction and is driven to reestablish the caliphate.

History reveals a Muslim empire or caliphate at its height of power in the 16th century, stretching from West Africa to Indonesia and parts of Europe. This empire was effectively ended by European Colonialism in 1923, and, its lands taken by the infidel.

Thus radical Islam’s drive to restore the caliphate to power.

“All land conquered by force become the God-given property of the Muslim community as a whole for all eternity,” Dr. Sookhdeo said presenting the Islamic extremist point of view. “If such lands are lost, it’s imperative that they are restored to the Muslim community.”

Dr. Sookhdeo surmised al - Qaeda plans to establish the caliphate beginning sometime in 2016.

And the jihad — or the struggle begins — explains Dr. Sookhdeo, “The struggle to put right the perceived causes of Islamic failures and weaknesses, to restore Islam’s glory, power and dominion and to create a universal Islamic state. This “state” would be ruled under the Shari’a or God’s religious law.”

These laws include God’s indivisible unity (tawhid), God’s physical laws are imposed on the universe, and God’s

had



Jihad Timetable

2000 to 2003 - Provoke the West into conflict

2003 to 2006 - Period of recruitment

2007 to 2010 - Spread of attack throughout the Middle East, and against Israel.

2010 to 2013 - Collapse of governments in the Middle East and end of Western influence in the region.

2013 to 2016 - Declaration of Caliphate Finally a period of "total confrontation" between Muslims and non-Muslims.

religious law (shari'a) imposed on society, he explained.

Also covered in these laws are God's sovereignty (hakimiyya, rabaniyy) in which no other authority can be recognized. Under this concept all legal and political systems must be based on shari, God's revealed law. In the end, the ultimate and inflexible goal is complete victory over infidel powers and an Islamic government based on the Prophet Mohammad's teachings.

But how did the West miss the warning signs of the impending storm?

"The West suffers from an inability to comprehend the true nature of the enemy. A naïve, liberal, secular, post-modern relativistic approach hinders clear understanding of Islam as it really is," Dr. Sookhdeo said pointing out some of the issues he feels are driving the radicals. "The failure to understand the cultural context of the insurgent, the failure to understand the hostility that many have for the Western world and the failure to understand the long term objectives of an un-reformed classical Islam."

It's Dr. Sookhdeo opinion that these failures, and the current conditions in the Islamic world, are fuelling the radical movement which has blossomed into the jihad the West calls the Global War on Terrorism.

"There are many challenges facing the Muslim world today," he said. "Take poverty for example. Most majority Muslim countries are in the developing world. Few of them show signs of rising prosperity — compared to India and China."

This leads to what Dr. Sookhdeo describes as a "Significant social and economic stratification creating a poor underclass which can become radicalized."

Dr. Sookhdeo says today, half of the failed states in the world have a Muslim majority. Complicating matters further, these failed states have a distorted view of the western culture and are creating a fertile ground for Islamic extremism.

While there are no all encompassing fixes for the current situation, Dr. Sookhdeo offers some input.

"There are many possible solutions to these issues," Dr. Sookhdeo said.

Some of solutions include:

- Supporting the liberal and secular minority who are trying to reform Islam
- Encourage Muslim states to tackle theological, ideological and social problems which breed terrorism
- Push mainstream Islam to suppress the potential for violence and oppression.

Thus the Long War, as Dr. Sookhdeo states, must be fought in the mind with an understanding of cause and culture, just as much as with bullets.

"Those involved in strategic and tactical planning must focus not only on the radical Islamic terror groups, but use the whole plethora of information on Islamic theology, history and contemporary development."

The sun has just set, the "call to prayer" is blaring through loudspeakers echoing off of buildings, calling the faithful to prayer. The sound startles some children playing soccer — more intent on the game than the time. "We're late!" Shira calls to her brother. "Dad's going to be bent."

"See you tomorrow — same time?" calls James.

"You bet," she answers.

The year is 2030 and the place — Baghdad, Iraq.

Rangers Receive Combat Awards

By Carol Darby
USASOC Public Affairs

They say they are simply doing their jobs, but many call them heroes.

On Nov. 3, about 350 Rangers from 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment were recognized for commitment and

their combat service during a recent deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

“In its purest form, absolute commitment is what we are recognizing here today,” said Brig. Gen. John F. Mulholland, Jr., deputy commanding general, Joint Special Operations Command who presented 68 combat awards including two Bronze Stars for valor, ten Joint Service Commendations for valor, seven Purple Hearts, 44 Bronze Stars for service and five Air Medals.

To the hundreds of Soldiers standing at attention in the Truscott Air Terminal, Mulholland explained there is a commonality among the Rangers because they share a golden fiber woven of excellence, commitment to fellow Rangers and an absolute oath to the nation.

Sgt. 1st Class Quint Pospisil and Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Yandell were among those Rangers recognized with the Bronze Star for valor.

Pospisil was quick to give credit to his Ranger squad and their actions during an enemy attack, he saved the life of his squad leader who was engaged in hand-to-hand combat with an enemy soldier. Pospisil was recognized for his “quick reaction and precision marksmanship” that eliminated the enemy threat, according to the citation. Pospisil has been a Ranger for more than eight years and deployed seven times to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Yandell, a six-year Ranger veteran, was providing overwatch for a team during a direct action raid when enemy soldiers began firing on the Rangers. He fired on an enemy soldier who was about to attack the entry team. Yandell “aggressively flanked the remaining compounds as several more enemy were engaged,” according to the citation. Yandell is also a combat veteran and has deployed seven times to OIF and OEF.

Family members accompanied each Ranger company leadership team and presented Joint Service Commendation and Achievement medals, Army

Commendation medals, Army Achievement medals, Combat Infantryman badges, Combat Field Medic badges and Combat Action badges.

Closing the ceremony were 50 Ranger wives receiving recognition for being on the front lines in providing information and support to Ranger families during the many deployments of 1st Battalion.



Sgt. 1st Class Quint F. Pospisil (left) is congratulated by Command Sgt. Maj. James Hardy, both of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, during a combat awards ceremony, Nov. 3, at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. Pospisil was awarded the Bronze Star for valor for his actions during combat in Iraq. The battalion deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in July and returned in October. Photo by Steve Hart.



(From left to right) Col. Larry Pezza, Jr, commander, Special Operations Detachment-Global Warfare, Sgt. Ted Chambers and Sgt. Major Michael Lewis kneel in front of members of the detachment after the unit's activation ceremony. Photo by Sgt David Osgood.

Rhode Island National Guard stands up Special Operations Detachment

*By Maj. Rick Stewart
Operations Officer SOD-G*

Maj. Gen. Robert Bray, Adjutant General of Rhode Island, and Commanding General R.I. National Guard, announced the official inception of the Special Operations Detachment-Global Warfare, R.I. Army National Guard.

“The addition of SOD-G to the Rhode Island Army National Guard is truly an honor and a testament to the quality of our Rhode Island soldiers. Their specialized mission requires dedicated and experienced soldiers which Rhode Island is uniquely qualified to provide,” noted Bray.

Also, attending the ceremony were Senator Jack Reed, R.I., and Col. Steven Oster, Director, SOCOM Joint Reserve Office.

“I am excited about the addition of SOD-G to the Rhode Island SOF structure and confident SOD-G bolsters senior SOF skills and will be a force of excellence,” said Reed.

“SOD-G will echo the SOF truths; humans are more important than hardware, SOF cannot be mass produced, quality is better than quantity, and competent SOF cannot be created after emergencies,” said Oster.

The 36-person detachment is directly aligned with the United States Special Operations Command headquartered at MacDill AFB, Fla. SOD-G provides support to USSOCOM in planning, synchronizing and executing special operations in the

Global War on Terrorism. Unit personnel maintain unique special operations skills and capabilities as well as combat support and combat service support resources.

SOD-G is the seventh National Guard Special Operations Detachment and the only detachment with a global orientation. The detachment is unique in that it is composed of 36 personnel versus the traditional 30 personnel of the other six National Guard Detachments.

“Over the past three to four years, the DoD has expanded the role of USSOCOM to include the responsibility for planning, and leading the DoD efforts on the Global War on Terrorism,” said Col. Larry Pezza, Jr., SOD-G Commander “In addition to training, organizing, equipping and deploying combat ready SOF to the geographic combatant commanders, the command has the mission to lead, plan, synchronize and as directed, execute global operations against terrorist networks.”

“It is because of this added responsibility given to USSOCOM, that SOD-G was created and attached to USSOCOM,” said Pezza. This is a tremendous honor not only for myself and the men of SOD-G but for the Governor of Rhode Island, The Adjutant General and the Rhode Island Army National Guard. I am extremely humble to the Adjutant General of Rhode Island for choosing me as the first commander of this premier unit.”

NSW Grp 4 holds historic conference

By Naval Special Warfare Group 4 Public Affairs

Naval Special Warfare Group 4 hosted more than 50 leaders of U.S. Special Operations Command's premier, special boat community for its 2006 Commander's Conference in September.

The conference attendees included NSWG 4 Commodore, Capt. Evin Thompson; all Special Boat Team commanding officers, more than half of the Special Warfare Combatant-craft crewman (SWCC) master chief petty officers, and leaders from all departments in the community.

It was the first time since SWCC became a closed-loop community that so many of its senior enlisted leaders and officers met in one room. It was an unique opportunity to shape the future for Naval Special Warfare's surface component and the warriors that serve it.

"I think it is important to get everybody's perspective," said NSWG 4 Command Master Chief Scott Harris. "We all sit in different seats. The training master chiefs, operations master chiefs, guys taking detachments out, other CMCs, we all have ideas from where we sit."

NSWG 4's three boat teams, Special Boat Team 12 (Coronado, Calif.), Special Boat Team 20 (Norfolk, Va.), and Special Boat Team 22 (Stennis, Miss.), are spread out on three coasts, making this kind of meeting a logistical challenge. While video teleconferencing is regularly used to

bring the teams together, face-to-face discussion is preferred.

"To look an individual in the eye, to have uninterrupted conversations unconstrained by technology, and most important to have sidebar conversations in and around the general discussions can never be replicated in a VTC environment," Thompson said.

What happens outside the conference room can be just as important as what happens in it.

"Being in one location at the same time is great, and not just for what happens during the conference. During runs, [physical training] and after-hours, you have time for discussions and informal meetings," said Harris. "You don't have time for that during a VTC."

Topics ranging from SWCC manning and training, to boat team operational capabilities during the Global War on Terrorism, were discussed frankly and without hesitation.

"Leadership and knowledge are not intuitive skills one is born with. They come as one experiences the success and failures of others by capturing and learning each time you hear or see something. Only by having open dialogue do we grow as professionals and become even better warriors so that we can uphold our commitment of defending the constitution," said Thompson.

The September conference was the first, but will not be the last for the SWCC leadership. The next conference is scheduled for Spring 2007.



Special Warfare Combatant Crewman assigned to Special Boat Team 22 demonstrate the Special Operations Craft-Riverine (SOC-R) while training at the Stennis Space Center, Miss.. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy Richardson.

NSW establishes new SO, SB ratings

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Menzie
Naval Special Warfare Public Affairs

Naval Special Warfare Command commemorated the creation of the new Special Warfare Operator (SO) and Special Warfare Boat Operator (SB) ratings in a ceremony Oct. 2 in Coronado, Calif.

The new ratings replace previous source ratings, which had been used to distinguish SEALs and Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen by job classifications.

“When candidates made it through Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL school and Basic Crewmember school, they were required to switch over to one of the chosen source ratings such as gunner’s mate and boatswain’s mate,” said Ronald Cooper, executive director for Naval Special Warfare Center for SEAL and SWCC.

For many years, the idea of having SEAL and SWCC ratings was discussed.

“It’s been talked about for at least 20 years that I know of,” Cooper said. “The problem was, the NSW community always advanced well under the previous rating system. It was always a concern about limiting our advancement if we went to a new rating. Once we resolved that, the new ratings were looked at a little more favorably.”

The need for new ratings also became apparent after the Navy implemented the “Sea Warrior” program.

“The Sea Warrior program did two things,” said Rear Adm. Joseph Maguire, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command. “If you spent 20 years in the Navy, we were going to credentialize you and make it easier for you to transition to the civilian community. More important was the vision of the Five-Vector Model. Sailors under this model would be paid and advanced for their performance.”

“With the Sea Warrior program, and the whole Five-Vector Model, if source ratings were laying out prerequisites for advancement like sea duty, SEALs in those source ratings would not be able to meet those requirements,” Cooper said.

“With what this community is doing in combat, we no longer had the luxury to take people out of their primary job and send them somewhere else,” Maguire said. “We can be no longer be anything but SEALs and SWCC.”

To implement the goals for Sea Warrior, Naval Personnel Development Command and Naval Special Warfare Command commissioned the Naval Special Warfare Center for SEAL and SWCC. Its focus is on the professional development and career management within SEAL and SWCC ratings.

The center’s first task was to create the SO and SB ratings by submitting a Navy Enlisted Occupational Standards package. By establishing new ratings, the NSW



(SEAL) Master Chief Petty Officer Michael Seidler displays the new rating patches for Special Warfare Operators (SO) at Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, Calif. The new SWCC rating is Special Warfare Boat Operator (SB). Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Menzie.

community could now lay out prerequisites for SEAL and SWCC advancement. SO’s and SB’s would also be able to take advancement exams relating specifically to their rate rather than other source ratings.

“We’re looking at the continued long term health of the community, so SEALs and SWCC being able to take advancement exams in their own jobs is significant for us.” Cooper said.

The new ratings will also allow SEALs and SWCC to have advancement boards composed of special warfare peers.

“Now we will have our own specific panel of SEAL, SWCC, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, and Divers to look solely at members of those communities,” Cooper said. “When we’re looking at the records of these individuals, we can scrutinize more thoroughly.”

All active duty graduates of BUD/s and Basic Crewmember School officially became SO’s and SB’s on Oct. 1. Navy Reserve members who are E-5 and below must wait till Apr. 1, 2007 for the changes to affect them.

The Naval Special Warfare Center, which trains SEAL and SWCC candidates, will become an “A” school for SO and SB ratings. Students who graduate from their NSW “A” school will be advanced to E-4 and will receive their SO or SB ratings. Upon completion of further advanced training, SEALs and SWCC will receive their warfare designations.

“There’s a lot of apprehension right now because we’re going to something new,” Cooper said. “We’ll probably have to re-evaluate the ratings after a couple years, and readjust if need be, but I think overall it’s going to be a benefit to the whole community.”

How to help deployed Navy SEALs

North Carolina Post Offices rally to support deployed troops

*By Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Menzie
Naval Special Warfare Public Affairs*

In June 2005, Charlotte, N.C., area post offices began a program titled "Operation: Phone Home" to show their appreciation for members of the armed services.

From June 2005 to Oct. 31, 2006, the program generated over \$80,000 in phone card sales for distribution to Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen. Men and women serving in imminent danger zones in Iraq and Afghanistan were given distribution priority.

For the Navy, this meant the phone cards were given to those on the front lines of combat: the men of Naval Special Warfare and their support staff.

"Everyone involved in this program wanted these cards to go to the ones who kick in the door," said Jerry Smitherman, Special Events Coordinator for a Charlotte United States Postal Service branch.

"Operation: Phone Home" began in Charlotte and surrounding communities after Maryanne Wright, the Mid-Carolinas Communications Coordinator for USPS, transferred from a position in New York to her current position in North Carolina.

"We had this program in Long Island and they did tremendously well with it," Wright said. "When I came to Charlotte, I thought it would be a really good thing to do here."

Wright contacted the local postmaster in Charlotte and got approval to start up a local program. Originally, "Operation: Phone Home" was intended solely for the city of Charlotte. Then it gained momentum, and two smaller cities, Denver and Clover, added their support by helping Charlotte sell phone cards.

Through "Operation: Phone Home", post offices in these cities asked customers to contribute \$10, \$20, or \$30 toward phone cards that would go to U.S. armed forces members in Afghanistan or Iraq.

"The customers who donated the cards were very generous and more than willing to do this," Wright said. "It was an opportunity for them to support the troops."

"I asked one customer if he wanted to purchase a phone card and donate it to the military?" Smitherman said. "He said no, I'll take ten of them."

Contributors were also allowed to write a personal note of encouragement to those receiving the cards.



Lt. Cmdr. Matt Jackson, commanding officer of the Naval Operational Support Center in Charlotte, N.C., presents Maryanne Wright, Mid-Carolinas Communications Coordinator for the United States Postal Service with a Certificate of Appreciation for her efforts in starting a program to donate phone cards to U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The U.S. Postal Service generated \$25,000 in phone card sales to Naval Special Warfare members and their technical support crew. Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Dennis.

Smitherman said many people left their email addresses on the cards in hope that SEALs would keep in touch with them.

"There was a lot of support that you might not hear about in the news," Wright said. "The program was well received by the public."

In all, the Navy received around \$25,000 in phone cards for distribution to Naval Special Warfare members and their technical support staff.

"It's really heartwarming to see the encouragement whether it's phone cards or gifts from kids in schools," Richard said, a SEAL who deployed to Afghanistan.

Even after "Operation: Phone Home" concluded, people wanted to contribute to the program.

"At least one customer would come in and purchase a phone card once a week," Smitherman said. "She came up after the program ended and wanted to purchase a card and was heartbroken that the program was over."

As of Oct. 31, 2006, USPS stopped all phone card programs nationwide. Its purpose, however, will be felt by SEALs long into the future.

"Hearing your wife and kid's voices is probably the most important things to me that I could receive," Richard said.

1st MSOB activation marks evolution of 1st Force Recon Company

By *MARSOC Public Affairs*

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command reached a new readiness milestone during the activation ceremony of the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, Oct. 26.

The 1st MSOB located at Camp Pendleton, Calif. is like its Camp Lejeune, N.C. counterpart, 2d MSOB. It will include several Marine special operations companies that will deploy with Marine Expeditionary Units to provide regional combatant commanders with a sea-based special operations capability for use in the Global War on Terrorism.

Activation of the 1st MSOB was a significant step forward for MARSOC and Marine integration into the Special Operations Forces, but it also marked the end of another chapter in Marine Corps history. 1st Force Reconnaissance Company cased its colors and deactivated during the same ceremony.

“Today is not about commanders,” said Lt. Col. George Smith, Jr., the outgoing commanding officer of 1st Force Recon. “It’s about the many Marines and Sailors who have served in this great company and those who will continue to serve with MARSOC.”

Two platoons from 1st Force Reconnaissance were reassigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and the Marines from the remaining three platoons formed MARSOC’s newest Special Operations Battalion and the core of its first two Marine Special Operations Companies on the West Coast.

Integration of Recon Marines into MARSOC is a natural evolution for a military unit with a pioneering history in unique warfighting skills such as long-range reconnaissance, surveillance, long-range communications, close quarter battle and advanced insertion skills.

First established at Camp Pendleton, Calif., in 1957, 1st Force Reconnaissance Company’s heritage begins with the famed amphibious reconnaissance units of World War II and the Korean War.

Elements of 1st Force Reconnaissance Company first deployed to the Republic of Vietnam in 1964. During nearly five years in country, the Marines of 1st Force Recon



1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps, Special Operations Command, activated during a ceremony at Camp Pendleton, October 26. 1st Force Reconnaissance Company deactivated during the same ceremony and three 1st Force Recon platoons transferred to 1st MSOB to form the core of two Marine Special Operations Companies. MARSOC photo.

conducted more than 2,200 reconnaissance patrols and participated in numerous operations, including the battle for Hue City.

The 1st Force Reconnaissance Company deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, to Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope and to East Timor.

More recently, 1st Force Recon deployed numerous times in support of the Global War on Terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many 1st Force Recon Marines and Sailors returned from combat in Iraq mere days before the unit made the transition to MARSOC.

“I could speak for days about these great men,” said Smith. “They are absolutely fearless.”

Although 1st Force Reconnaissance has been deactivated, the skill, professionalism and esprit de corps shared by Recon Marines will carry on with MARSOC and the 1st MSOB.

The battle-tested Marines of MARSOC’s newest battalion have already formed the first West Coast Marine Special Operations Company and are training to deploy with a MEU in the near future.

“Standing up a new unit isn’t an easy task,” said Maj. Gen. Dennis Hejlik, commander of MARSOC. “We are doing everything possible to get these Marines and Sailors back into the fight.”

25 NIGHT STALKERS Special Operations Celebrate Anniversary Years



*By Kimberly Laudano
160th SOAR (Airborne) Public Affairs*

Night Stalkers past and present traveled from near and far for three days commemorating the 25th anniversary of Army special operations aviation.

Night Stalker leadership from the past 25 years along with key leaders from the special operations community held a conference at Fort Campbell, Ky., Oct. 12-13. Attendees discussed the successes and challenges that defined the organization to ensure lessons learned and opportunities for enhancement are not lost. Leaders also discussed where Special Operations Forces are in the fight today, how SOF will be engaged in the future and how the 160th fits into the long-term war-





60th STALKERS

Special Operations Aviation Regiment

Anniversary

fighting picture.

Current and former Night Stalkers and their families also had an opportunity to visit the compound at Fort Campbell to see the latest in special operations aviation aircraft and technology during an open house.

On Oct. 13, more than 70 founding Night Stalkers were present for a recognition ceremony in their honor on the unit compound. These men represent the beginning of the unit's history and became the foundation of the Army Special Operations Aviation legacy. The significance of this gathering was not lost on the Night Stalker community. Founders were met with a crowd of more than 250 current and former Night Stalkers, employees, family members and friends.

See 160th, Page 24

25 Years



NIGHT STALKERS

160th continued from Page 23

Col. Kevin Mangum, commander, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), welcomed the founding Night Stalkers. He said the ceremony was a time to pause and reflect on where the regiment came from and to recognize, 25 years later, those who blazed the trail to make this day and the world's most capable helicopter unit possible.

"The regiment today hardly resembles the 160th of old," said Mangum.

He explained the 160th has grown in personnel strength, aircraft fleet size, and now has a presence outside of Fort Campbell on the East and West coasts. What remains the same is the regiment's commitment to service, excellence and sacrifice.

"Innovation is still a hallmark of Night Stalking," he said. "Our Systems Integration and Maintenance Office is working nearly 200 active projects."

These projects range from small enhancements to the 160th fleet, like improved seats for all of the unit's aircraft, to multi-

million or billion dollar programs like the new MH-/AH-6M "Little Bird", the MH-47G Chinook and the future MH60-M Black Hawk.

"Green Platoon has come a long way as well," said Mangum. "Our Special Operations Aviation Training Company provided world class training to over 500 Soldiers last year in 23 separate programs of instruction."

He said that while the work of System Management Integration Office and Special Operations Aviation Training Company are impressive, they field the most capable systems and Soldiers for the regiment to accomplish its most important task — war fighting. Today, several hundred Night Stalkers are currently deployed in support of multiple joint task forces in many locations in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility.

"They accomplish more real world operations in a night than many a Night Stalker performed in their entire career," said Mangum. "The precision and bravery of these crews is inspiring. Watching them would make your eyes water."

A force ready, willing and able to accomplish missions others can't do, don't do or won't do is the founder's legacy.

"Today's Night Stalkers are the world's most capable helicopter force," Mangum told the founders. "That, gentlemen, is your legacy. Those of us serving today owe you a huge debt

Founding Night Stalkers stand to be recognized during a ceremony in their honor. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the Regiment's 25th anniversary. 160th SOAR (Airborne) photo.



STALKERS

of gratitude for your service and for forging a standard of excellence for us to emulate.”

Representing the founders with remarks was the first Task Force 160 Commander; Col. Jacob B. Couch, (retired). He recognized the men who helped build this organization from nothing and who set the standard for others to carry on. He acknowledged the importance of the mission for today’s



Gen. Doug Brown, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, addresses the banquet celebrating 25th anniversary of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). 160th SOAR (Airborne) photo.

generation of Night Stalkers. His simple concluding remarks spoke to the heart of every man and woman formerly and currently in the 160th. “Night Stalkers Don’t Quit.”

A banquet marked the anniversary celebration’s conclusion on Oct.

14 as an opportunity for current and former Night Stalkers to spend time with family and friends. The regiment’s continuous support of the Global War on Terrorism makes such an opportunity a welcome rarity.

The guest speaker for the banquet was Gen. Doug Brown, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command and former 160th SOAR (A) commander. He offered reflections from personal experiences in the early days of the unit and his observations of the unit from his current position.

See 160th, Page 26

Equipment



MH-47 / D-AWC / E / G Chinook



MH-60 K / L / DAP BLACK HAWK



MH-6 / AH-6 LITTLE BIRDS

25 Years



NIGHT STALKERS

160th continued from Page 25

Brown said the failure to rescue hostages in Iran during Operation Desert One grew the incredible special operations force this Nation owns today. “That failure was the genesis of the creation of the 160th. For the first time in history, America had a real special operations helicopter force.

I am constantly reminded that what we thought was tough, dangerous duty in 1980 is now considered routine for today’s Night Stalkers,” he continued. “The distances, the altitudes, the illumination and the challenges we faced, you conquer nightly.”

Even with extreme heat and unbelievable dust, Brown said the Night Stalkers make it look easy, every time, night after night. “Words truly cannot describe your feats of valor, bravery and dedication.”

Brown also recognized the sacrifice and support from Night Stalker families.

“No decision to deploy is made without considering the impact on the families,” he reassured. “I know the support you give and the sacrifices you make, and I thank each and every one of you. You are magnificent.”

Commemorating the first 25 years

To commemorate the first 25 years of Army Special Operations Aviation, the Night Stalker Association commissioned renowned military and aviation artist James Dietz to visually tell the Night Stalker story.

“With the 25th anniversary coming up we thought it was appropriate to commission an

artist to capture the spirit of the organization across the spectrum from beginning to present,” explained NSA President Command Sgt. Maj. (retired) Donnie Calvery, Jr. “Jim Dietz’s reputation for military art was well known and had been used throughout the special operations community with outstanding results. We felt he was the right one to capture the essence of Night Stalking.”

Dietz said documenting the Night Stalkers’ 25th anniversary is pretty important to him, personally and professionally.

“I’ve looked forward to doing a job with the 160th for a long time,” said Dietz. “One of the gentlemen I worked with at the (Command and General Staff College) some years ago had worked at the 160th.” Over the years, he asked when Dietz was going to do a painting for the 160th. “Now I can tell him, in a very nice way, that I have.”

Dietz’s goal was primarily to capture the professionalism of the unit which he did through stance, gesture and composition in the painting. The NSA wanted to ensure he captured the history of the unit including the equipment, look and unit’s organization which he did through pieces of equipment and flight gear. Dietz believes he captured all of the above in his painting. “What I think will come out of the painting will be the pride in the unit and the pride in what they do.”

Having only read and heard about the 160th before this project, Dietz believes meeting current and former Night Stalkers while he was researching this project gave him a better perspective on the organization itself and the Soldiers who define it.

“I think being there with your feet on the ground teaches you more about the men and women in the unit than I would have known otherwise,” he explained. “The one thing I did learn was about the training and years of dedication it takes to make a crewman or a pilot and the kind of devotion it takes to continue on that path for this very specialized, elite part of helicopter ops in today’s military.”

ALKERS

160th HISTORY

Today's Special Operations Aviation Regiment

The 160th SOAR (A) is comprised of four battalions on military installations in three states. The regimental headquarters is collocated with the 1st and 2nd battalions at Fort Campbell, Ky.; 3rd Bn. is located at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.; and 4th Bn. is located at Fort Lewis, Wash. The regiment also has a Special Operations Aviation Training Company at Fort Campbell.

Regiment wide, there are currently 21 companies with approximately 2,200 personnel. Two additional companies have been provisionally approved. Soldiers represent 60 enlisted, 13 warrant and 23 officer military occupational specialties. They work side by side with about 300 Army civilians and contractors to accomplish the mission.

The 160th still employs the latest, specially crafted models of three types of aircraft: MH-60 Black Hawks, MH-47 Chinooks and AH/MH-6 "Little Birds." Each aircraft is continually tested in training and combat, with thoughts progressing to the next generation of these aircraft required to accomplish the special operations forces mission.

While engaging in continuous combat operations, the regiment is also focusing on the future. Army special operations aviation will remain relevant in the long war, continue transforming to best support special operations missions and training requirements and continue conducting research and development to further SOF aviation capabilities.

The 160th SOAR actively seeks and assigns the best-qualified aviators and support soldiers available in the Army.

Operation Urgent Fury
Grenada, 1983

Operation Prime Chance
Persian Gulf, 1987–1988

Operation Mount Hope III
Recovery of
Mi-24 Hind helicopter in Africa

Operation Just Cause
Panama, 1989

Operation Desert Shield
Iraq, 1990

Operation Desert Storm
Iraq, 1991



Operation Restore Hope
Somalia, 1993

Operation Gothic Serpent
Somalia, 1993

Operation Assured Response
Monrovia, Liberia, 1996

Operation Enduring Freedom
Afghanistan, 2001

Operation Enduring Freedom
Philippines, 2002

Operation Iraqi Freedom
Iraq, 2003

Operation Uphold Democracy
Haiti, 2004



Air Commandos accept CV-22 and return to their heritage

By AFSOC Public Affairs

The first operational CV-22 Osprey stole the show during an air power demonstration Nov. 16, commemorating the Air Force's 60th anniversary.

As Special Operations Forces simulated a behind-the-lines mission with AC-130 gunships firing overhead and MH-53 Pave Low helicopters bringing in ground forces, the Osprey swooped in, banked and transformed from airplane to helicopter before a crowd of hundreds who had gathered to witness its arrival.

Once on the ground, Lt. Gen. Michael Wooley, commander, Air Force Special Operations Command and pilot of the aircraft, turned over the "keys" to Lt. Col. Ed Corallo, 8th Special Operations Squadron commander, the base's first operational CV-22 squadron.

"That is the way to start a day, let me tell you. The CV-22 is an absolute dream to fly,"

Wooley said, grinning. "You get a sense of the transformational capability that this airplane will bring to our SOF warriors in every branch of the service. It is a magnificent airplane."

The concept for the CV-22 was born from the Eagle Claw disaster where eight servicemembers were killed trying to rescue the Iranian hostages in 1980. The need for an aircraft to cover long distances quickly with few refuelings, have the ability to convert to helicopter mode and remain as quiet as possible was in need then, as it is now.

Guests on hand to celebrate the arrival included Gen. Doug Brown, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command

"We're excited about the CV-22 at SOCOM," Brown said. "During the infill on Oct. 19, 2001, as we put SOF on the ground in Afghanistan, we would have done it quicker, we would have done it safer, we would have done it with less



refuelings, and we would have been able to put more teams on the ground in the same period of darkness if we had the CV-22.”

The aircraft’s speed will allow it to reach destinations worldwide much quicker and will prove to be an asset when performing infiltration, exfiltration or resupply operations. When in airplane mode, the aircraft is 75 percent quieter than other rotary wing aircraft, which will be beneficial when heading into unknown territories.

“The self-deploying capability of the CV-22 enables us to respond to any mission immediately,” said Lt. Col. Eric Hill, 8th SOS director of operations. “We don’t need a runway because we can land vertically. It’s a very agile, versatile aircraft that will allow us to do a rapid landing or take off anywhere.”

While the Osprey arrival showed what is on the horizon for special operations Airmen, a ceremony later that day highlighted the command’s heritage. There, Air Commandos past and present watched as Hurlburt’s 16th Special Operations Wing regained its historic

1st SOW designation.

“It’s a great day for the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Special Operations Command and AFSOC as we bring back the great heritage of the 1st Special Operations Wing,” Brown said at the reflagging ceremony.

With several dozen distinguished visitors in attendance, the 1st SOW moniker returned to the home of America’s Air Commandos after a 13-year absence.

“This is a ceremony that, in my mind, is long overdue,” Wooley said. “Today, we’re getting back our ‘family’ name — with the pride and strength of the bloodline.”

Known as the 16th SOW since Oct. 1, 1993, the unit traces its lineage back to the 1st Air Commando Group of the World War II Burmese theater.

“General Hap Arnold is still our father. The military still refers to us as he did, ‘Air Commandos,’” said Col. Norman Brozenick Jr., 1st SOW commander. “Arnold resourced our first organization, the 1st Air Commando Group, and some 62 years later we’re grateful to reclaim the number 1 as part of our wing designation.”

Following a 1944 training mishap Lt. Col. Philip Cochran, 1st SOW former commander, received a note from the British commander of Soldiers killed in the incident. He wrote “please be assured we will go with your boys anyplace, anytime, anywhere.” We’ve kept that motto, and recorded “Anytime, Anyplace” on our patch and in our hearts.

The 1st SOW identifies with Air Commandos of the 1960s. The unit’s heritage include names like Medal of Honor Winners Maj. Bernard Fisher, Lt. Col. Joe Jackson, Col. William Jones III, Capt. James Fleming, and Airman 1st Class John Levitow.

“Though the numbers changed, the intrepid ways and selfless sacrifices of our Air Commandos and their families did not,” he said.

EMERALD WARRIOR 07

*By Maj. Scott Covode and Denise Boyd
AFSOC Public Affairs*

Air Force Special Operations Command hosted the first ever Emerald Warrior exercise.

The command's inaugural exercise provided joint and coalition forces the opportunity to train together at Hurlburt and on the Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Special Operations Forces regularly complete ground training at their home bases, but bringing them here and to Eglin allowed them to hone that training and practice with airborne platforms by calling for information and assistance.

According to Col. William Hoffman, exercise director, the exercise was a great success based on the objectives and tasks identified by the exercise participants.

"Our coalition partners are already interested in participating again," he said. "They were happy with the training they received, and hope to expand on that joint training next time. There are a few hiccups that we need to address, like communications access for the coalition units, but we're confident we can correct those problems in future exercises."

Col. Hoffman said one reason behind the success of EW '07 was the teamwork between Hurlburt Field and Eglin units, especially with the availability of the Eglin range.

"The fact we have one of the biggest land ranges in our backyard allows us to get more bang for our buck. The test community was able to perform their requirements during the day, and then we could roll in for SOF training at night. It's great to be able to minimize training costs, and [Eglin] provides us with oftentimes hard-to-find live-fire ranges right in our local area.

Green Berets practice "fast-roping" from the tail of a MH-53 at Hurlburt Field, Fla., during Exercise Emerald Warrior. Emerald Warrior '07 is Air Force Special Operations Command's first joint coalition exercise focused on training Air Force, Army and allied units in missions directly related to the Global War on Terrorism. Photo by Staff Sgt. Cain Claxton, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne).



Kicks off at Hurlburt Field

“The capabilities we can put together are tremendous. We didn’t fully realize the things we could do by integrating units from Eglin and Hurlburt,” said Col. Hoffman. “Once the 7th Special Forces Group moves into this area, our capabilities will expand even more.”

“There is great value in getting SOF integrated training with joint air assets that will support them during real world operations,” said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Patrick Corcoran, EW ‘07 project lead for the Joint Fires Integration and Interoperability Team stationed at Eglin.

It also kept AFSOC assets and crews at home — a morale booster for active aircrews.

“The AFSOC aircrews are busy; they are regularly deployed and when they come home they still have to perform training missions to support the ground SOF’s training. Having the Joint and Coalition SOF come to the Emerald Coast reduces some of the travel burden on the crews, maintenance personnel and aircraft. And it increases the training capability. At home we have more resources to fix aircraft or provide a substitute that we wouldn’t have while on the road,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Sherwood, the EW ‘07 chief of combat air operations.

Aircraft from around the Air Force provided close air support, intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance, command and control, and infiltration and exfiltration missions. Airlift and precision strike missions were included notionally from Charleston and Eglin Air Force Bases. Combat forces on the ground could call for fire on an enemy position and support aircraft either in the sky above them, or from a simulator hundreds of miles away, could respond to that request. The real and virtual effects could be seen in the Air Operations Center at Eglin.

Equipment used by joint forces, such as Iridium phones and blue force tracker, added to the realism and



Green Berets observe "fast-roping" at Hurlburt Field, Fla., in preparation for Exercise Emerald Warrior '07. Emerald Warrior 07 is Air Force Special Operations Command's first joint coalition exercise focused on training Air Force, Army and allied units in missions directly related to the Global War on Terrorism. Photo by Staff Sgt. Cain Claxton, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

allowed joint and coalition units to train like they fight.

“Practical training with the equipment increases your situational awareness and reduces the chances of fratricide or engaging a friendly unit,” said Maj. Dave Kroeger, EW ‘07 air operations day planning chief.

Exercises like Emerald Warrior ‘07 are expected to be an annual event for AFSOC in the future. According to Col. Hoffman, it takes about a year and a half to plan and execute an exercise of this size, so units may see another Emerald Warrior event in 2008. Joint forces from the Marine Corps, Navy and other members of the coalition have expressed interest in bringing their SOF assets out for training as well.

Experiment Tactical

Experimenting with

*Story and photos by Mike Bottoms
USSOCOM Public Affairs*

“Q”, the wizard of gadgetry from the fictional James Bond movies was always teaching the master spy how to use the latest technology before Bond went on his next mission.

In real life however, engineers who design technological tools for the battlefield rarely get to work face to face with the operators who use them.

The U.S. Special Operations Command/Naval Post Graduate School Field Experimentation Cooperative Tactical Network Topology experiment held quarterly at remote Camp Roberts, Calif., solves this dilemma by bringing together academic research of military graduate students, technological wizardry of industry leading civilian engineers and hands on wisdom of operators who test equipment in an austere field environment.

Specifically, the TNT exercise combines USSOCOM's Knowledge and Futures Branch with Naval Post Graduate School faculty and students, scientists from industry, and the Special Operations Research and Support Element or SORSE from Fort Bragg, N.C., to test emerging science and technologies for the battlefield.

Leading the TNT exercise is its founder, Dr. David Netzer, NPG

Professor and Director of the Cooperative Field Experimentation Program at NPG.

“I got the idea for the field experimentation exercise in 2002 from Josh Butner who was a student of mine,” Netzer said. “Butner is a SEAL and his graduate thesis was trying to prove if the use of unmanned vehicles could be used to find downed pilots.”

“I thought at the time a lot of great research goes on and is proven in the laboratory, but the research is often not tested in a field environment,” Netzer continued. “The TNT experiment provides an excellent opportunity for faculty and students to test their research in the field.”

Heading USSOCOM's effort for the past two years in the experiment is Cmdr. Gordon Cross, USSOCOM Joint Experimentation Chief.

“What we do is combine SOCOM with the NPS and leverage more than \$50 million of research into science and technology designed to help the SOF operator,” Cross said. “TNT is a way to influence technological programs early on.”

A Scan Eagle unmanned aerial vehicle sits on a launch sled during exercise Tactical Network Topography 07-1 at Camp Roberts, Calif. The Scan Eagle was used in the networking, biometrics and electronic-tag medical experiments.



Network Topology

SOF's future today

According to the incoming USSOCOM Joint Experimentation Chief, Lt. Col. Mark Brinkman, the partnership between USSOCOM and NPS allows access to science and technology research from a myriad of government and non-government organizations.

“With the help of Dr. Netzer, we have worked with Lawrence Livermore Laboratories, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Virginia Tech,” Brinkman said. “The access to these respected research organizations gives us a huge return on our small investment.”

TNT 07-1 held Oct. 28 through Nov. 3 at Camp Roberts conducted experiments ranging from the simple to massively complex, primarily focusing on 10 advanced technology areas throughout the week.

On this day, the first experiment tested how a computerized wireless network in the Tactical Operations Center could monitor a battlefield through four different types of UAVs simultaneously. The UAVs used were Scan Eagle, Tern, Buster and Raven. Scan Eagle is launched

from a sled, Tern and Buster are launched with remote control while Raven is a hand held UAV that is physically thrown, like a model airplane, for take off.

The second experiment tested the feasibility of using biometrics feeding through a wireless network. Biometrics is a system of recording human fingerprints, facial features, voice signatures and irises into a database stored in the Biometrics Fusion Center at Clarksburg, W.Va.

The final experiment of TNT 07-1 was a battlefield medical experiment with Soldiers from SORSE wearing “e-tags” designed to monitor vital signs during a simulated battle. The experiment would have a Soldier become “wounded” and test whether medical treatment could be delivered via the UAVs.

The researcher responsible for managing the computerized network within the TOC is Dr. Alex Bordetsky, Professor of Information Sciences at NPS.

“I oversee the running of the TNT test bed,” Bordetsky said. “Our goal is to create self-forming, agile networks tying unmanned systems to human activators.”

The TOC is housed in two trailers with six large plasma screens and houses a network infrastructure designed for “plug and play” technologies so they can experiment with different software.

“We use collaborative technology to provide real time

See TNT, Page 34



Representatives from USSOCOM, Naval Post Graduate School and industry work together in the Tactical Operations Center during Tactical Network Topography 07-1 at Camp Roberts, Calif. The TOC is the focal point for the experiments tested during Tactical Network Topology experiment.

TNT continued from Page 33

data to command nodes so the special operator commander can make real time decisions,” Bordetsky said. “The network centric environment we create here can become a weapon for the SOF commander.”

The experiment with the four different UAVs feeding data into the TOC was testing cursor-on-target software. Cursor-on-target software is a way of sending still images of the battlefield through a high frequency so a commander in the TOC can make tactical decisions.

“The particular exercise we are doing today is for the blue team (friendly force) to detect the red teams (hostile force) entering the area of operations,” Bordetsky explained.

The four UAVs monitor the battlefield and feed the images back to the TOC. The red teams entered the area of operations, were detected and

the images given to the TOC commander.

“This whole exercise is to make the TOC a networking node,” Bordetsky said.

The Biometrics experiment used a light reconnaissance vehicle with a 35-foot telescoping mast designed to send data back to the TOC. The LRV was driven to a checkpoint several miles from the TOC where the SORSE team stopped suspects, photographed them with a hand-held biometric recorder, then checked their images against the biometrics database. The SORSE team also entered the suspect’s fingerprints into the biometric database.

“We are mapping the human terrain,” said Alberto Hernandez, Senior Systems Analyst for the DoD Biometrics Fusion Center. “A special operator in Afghanistan can take a suspect’s image, send the image to the in-country TOC, the TOC reaches back to the Biometrics Fusion Center in

Left — A Special Operations Research and Development Element team member arrives at the checkpoint where biometric data was to be collected at Tactical Network Topography 07-1 held at Camp Roberts, Calif. SORSE teams field test new equipment during the exercise and give feedback based on their field and combat experience.



Clarksburg, W.Va., and checks the image, and the center sends back whether the person is wanted or not wanted. All this occurs in just several minutes. Biometrics can be a great asset in a combat environment.”

The final experiment was to see if UAVs could enhance battlefield medical situational awareness through the tactical networking in the TOC. Soldiers would wear “e-tags” to allow medical personnel at the TOC to monitor their vital signs. Should a Soldier become a casualty, TOC medical personnel at the TOC could make treatment decisions based on data received from the “e-tags.” The experiment also explored whether UAVs could deliver medicine to remote locations within hostile territory.

“We know UAVs can go virtually anywhere on the battlefield, so we thought why not use the UAVs

See TNT, Page 36

Right — A light reconnaissance vehicle extends its 35-foot mast during the biometrics experiment at Tactical Network Topography 07-1 at Camp Roberts, Calif. The LRV was used at the checkpoint to transmit biometric data collected to the tactical operations center. Below — A Special Operations Research and Development Element team member takes a subject's image with a hand held biometric device checking her against a database.





TNT continued from Page 35

as a way to deliver expensive blood clotting medicine, for example, to a casualty in a hostile environment,” Bordetsky said. “UAVs combined with the e-tags are tools the tactical commander can use to further protect his Soldiers.”

Working with and providing operational feedback is the SORSE team mission. SORSE teams are formed similar to 12-man Operational Detachment-Alpha teams except they are a mixture of Green Berets, Rangers, psychological operations, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and intelligence Soldiers.

“Our mission is to test new and emerging

technologies for SOF applications,” said a Special Forces SORSE team member. “We then give our opinion on what we think works well and what does not work well based on our experience in the operational environment.”

The Soldiers of the SORSE team are seasoned senior non-commissioned officers with multiple overseas deployments including Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We give practical advice like a particular piece of equipment works great, but is too heavy, or we can’t see the screen in bright sunlight, or a stylus for a handheld device is too small,” said another SORSE team member. “Our job is to bring our combat experience to these experiments



Members of the Special Operations Research and Development Element provide feedback to engineers on how the battlefield medical situational awareness experiment went at Tactical Network Topography Experiment 07-1 held at Camp Roberts, Calif. The battlefield medical situational awareness experiment tested if medical conditions of Soldiers could be tracked back to the Tactical Operation Center by an e-tag medical device and whether UAVs could deliver medical supplies to a remote location.

and give unvarnished feedback.”

Students from NPS are a crucial part of TNT. They focus their efforts on future SOF needs and develop their post graduate thesis at Camp Roberts. The advantage for TNT is the exercise tests research by the students who are up and coming officers and who will shape the military’s future.

“What is great about TNT is it has an infrastructure to test out our research,” said Capt. Chris Tsirlis, NPS student and Marine communicator. “TNT is a vehicle to bridge technologies for use in the field.”

Tsirlis explained that working with a diverse group of scientists and engineers is another

positive experience about the exercise.

“Dr. Netzer is great at putting the right people and technologies together to conduct worthwhile experiments that will eventually help the warfighter,” Tsirlis said. “I get a chance to take what I have learned in my own experience and apply it to both academics and practical exercises with some of industry’s best engineers in the hope I can influence technological advantages of the future.”

The founder of TNT is on a quest to test new technology to help the warfighter.

Dr. Netzer asked while reflecting on the overall goal of the exercise of how automation affects the warfighter. “What do you do with it? Those are questions we want to answer,” he said.

USSOCOM leaders in TNT plan to continue the joint venture because they believe the small investment pays big dividends.

“The experiment promotes a common growth of understanding and investigates future SOF technology capabilities,” Cross said. “TNT is a unique SOCOM asset.”

“If something works well at TNT and SOCOM wants the technology then SOCOM has the ability to condense the acquisition timeline and get it to the field.” Brinkman said. “A success story for us is if a product used during TNT gets picked up and is employed by SOCOM in the field.”

“Q” would have been a great match with the men and women who work in the Tactical Network Topography experiments.

Operation

Mission: To educate



By Mike Bottoms
USSOCOM Public Affairs

“One voice, two feet, 24 runners, more than 625 miles, 680 children, 576,000 heartbeats, 3.168 million feet equals one very loud voice honoring our veterans and supporting the children of fallen Special Operations Forces.”

So went the stated mission of Operation One Voice 2006.

Running teams from Georgia and Florida made up of Special Operations Forces, police, firefighters and civilians assembled to raise money for children of fallen SOF warriors. Operation One Voice is a year — long effort culminating in a more than 625 — mile relay run from Duluth, Ga., to the Georgia State Capitol, to Fort Benning, Ga., to the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee and ending at Busch Gardens in Tampa, Fla., on Veteran’s Day.

“The Florida team had 19 runners with 11 from USSOCOM, five Tampa firemen and one gentleman from the Coast Guard,” said Capt. David Kaleel, deputy director, J9 Knowledge and Futures, and

Florida team captain. “The Florida team had the night shift and we ran from midnight to noon with each runner running an hour at a time.”

The run began in a freezing rain in Duluth, but the enthusiasm was not dampened.

“On the opening day it seemed the whole town of Duluth turned out,” Kaleel said. “The mayor, school children and even the Clydesdale horses from Busch Gardens were there to give us a great send off.”


The efforts needed for the long trek made some participants appreciate how the group came together for a noteworthy cause.

“The run was truly a team building and rewarding experience, one I won’t soon forget due to the cause it supported and the friendships I made along the way,” said Master Sgt. Willie Washington, from J9 Knowledge and Futures. “I have a lot of respect for any one that is willing to go the extra mile to help someone and Operation One Voice does just that.”

“We all ran for an hour, but we had bikes with us for other runners to ride alongside the run to keep

One Voice

children of fallen SOF



Master Sgt. Willie Washington, (center) USSOCOM, leads the Operation One Voice formation to the Special Operations Forces Memorial, MacDill Air Force Base on Nov. 11. Operation One Voice culminated with a more than 625-mile run from Duluth, Ga., to Busch Gardens, Tampa, Fla. Photo by Mike Bottoms.

everyone company and motivated,” said Staff Sgt. Megan Anderson, a USSOCOM runner. “We also talked to a lot of people along the way, trying to get the word out about what Operation One Voice was all about.”

“There was something very unique about the experience, especially running alone on a dark road in the middle of the night with no one around except for your teammates and support vehicles,” said Lt. Cmdr. Chris Petrock, Center for Force Structure, Requirements, Resources, and Strategic Assessments, Quadrennial Defense Review Directorate. “The environment provided an amazing opportunity to personally reflect on the reason why I was out there in the first place.”

The four-day run is the finale of a year’s worth of fundraising efforts by the Georgia Sheriff’s based charity Operation One Voice developed in a public safety partnership of police, firefighters and deputies. The runners ultimately raised \$70,000 to help guarantee a post-secondary education for the children of fallen Special Operations Forces.

“What we do throughout the year has only one

goal, to see to it the needs of the children and families are met,” said Operation One Voice board member Rob Mikell. “The Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airman gave his or her all for this nation. What better way to say ‘thanks’, and don’t worry, your family are in caring hands.”

The money raised was given to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation which has more than 600 children enrolled in its program.

“We deeply appreciate the efforts of Operation One Voice,” said John Carney, director of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. “Recently we have added 109 children to our program and the money raised this weekend will certainly help in our tuition programs.”

The Special Operations Warrior Foundation was founded in 1980 and is dedicated to providing college scholarships and educational counseling to the surviving children of special operations personnel who are killed in a training or operational missions. These services are provided throughout the United States, or overseas, depending on where the children reside.

SOF Week 2007 kicks off USSOCOM's 20th anniversary commemoration

By Mike Bottoms
USSOCOM Public Affairs

The year 2007 will mark an important milestone for U.S. Special Operations Command because the command will be celebrating its 20th anniversary.

The command will hold SOF Week 2007 Apr. 23 – 27 to start the commemoration activities for the command's 20th anniversary.

The theme for the 20th anniversary is "Proven, Vigilant, Prepared." The theme honors the rich heritage of yesterday's and today's "Quiet Professionals" for their sacrifices on behalf of freedom and security of the United States.

"SOF Week is only one part of a year-long celebration commemorating SOCOM's 20th anniversary" said Capt. Brent Gentsch, Director of the USSOCOM 20th Anniversary Task Force. "There will be events here in Tampa as well as Washington, D.C."

The week will feature conferences such as the Commander's Conference, Senior Enlisted Advisor's Conference, and Retired SOF Senior Leader's Conference. Other events include the SOF Medal of Honor Recognition Ceremony, a building dedication to be named the Special Operations Medal of Honor Hall, and ending with the USSOCOM 20th Anniversary Mess Night and SOCOM Day to wrap up the week.

An important part of the historic week and 20th anniversary commemoration will be a special tribute to SOF's Medal of Honor recipients.

The Medal of Honor Recognition Ceremony will be featured at the newly expanded SOF Memorial, Tuesday, Apr. 24, with the entire Command in attendance. It will culminate with a wreath laying

ceremony prior to retreat to conclude the ceremony. A small reception immediately following will afford USSOCOM personnel the opportunity to "Meet the Heroes" — the 15 SOF Medal of Honor recipients invited to the ceremony.

"The recognition ceremony will be a great opportunity to meet some of SOF's legends," said Lt. Col. Dawn Eckhart, executive officer of the USSOCOM 20th Anniversary Task Force. "It's quite a spectacular day to have all these Medal of Honor recipients in one place."

USSOCOM's building 501A will be dedicated to SOF Medal of Honor recipients in a scheduled ceremony the following morning, Apr. 25.

"We were privileged to have the honorable Florida Congressman Bill Young participate in our ribbon-cutting ceremony for the 1 May opening of this facility," said Harold Bosse, USSOCOM's chief engineer. "I can't think of a more fitting tribute than to dedicate the building to the SOF Medal of Honor recipients."

The pinnacle event of SOF Week 2007 will

be the USSOCOM 20th Anniversary Mess Night. Mess Night has been designed to build camaraderie among the various staffs and agencies in Washington, D.C., and the Tampa based command. Senior leaders from government, Department of the Defense and industry will all attend Mess Night.

The highlight of Mess Night is the presentation of the Bull Simons Award including a short video production exemplifying the individual's lifetime SOF achievements. The Bull Simons Award is given to an extraordinary Quiet Professional who personifies the SOF core values of integrity, courage, competence and creativity.





SEAL Team members from Guam and Philippine Naval Special Warfare Unit Six, Naval Base Zamboanga, transit to an area off Basilan Island. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Andrew Meyers.

SOF building capability OEF-Philippines

By USSOCOM History Office

This month marks the beginning of the sixth year of Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines. U.S. Special Operations Forces have been conducting a foreign internal defense mission since Jan. 2, 2002, enabling the Armed Forces of the Philippines to fight several on-going insurgencies. Following 9/11, U.S. Pacific Command deployed Joint Task Force 510 to Basilan Island to train, advise and assist AFP forces operating against the Abu Sayyaf Group, Islamist terrorists associated with al - Qaeda.

By July 2002, the ASG had fled Basilan, and SOF met most of the goals for OEF-P. PACOM replaced JTF-510 with Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines to continue advising and assisting the AFP's efforts to deny sanctuary to terrorists. SOF personnel from each branch facilitated Special Operations Command-Pacific's training support for AFP forces throughout 2003 and 2004.

In 2005, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld approved a second phase of OEF-P to combat ASG and Jemaah Islamiya terrorists seeking refuge on Sulu Island. Using the Basilan experience as a template, SOCPAC deployed one Operational Detachment Bravo, five Operational Detachments Alpha, and elements of a Naval Special Warfare Task Unit to Sulu to advise and assist AFP units. SOCPAC also requested a Civil Affairs Team-B and Military Information Support Team, public affairs support and Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialists, and a Special Operations Surgical Team.

From October 2005 to July 2006, JSOTF-P focused on capacity building, civil military operations, and information operations. The goal remained to conduct all operations by,

with and through AFP forces. JSOTF-P forces provided advisory assistance and subject matter expert exchanges down to the battalion level. ODAs advised their partner army and marine infantry battalions in route and area security to facilitate Philippine government sponsored medical, veterinary, and engineer civil action programs, along with various population engagement activities. These efforts separated the terrorists from the population. The NSWTU rehearsed Philippine units in maritime interdiction. Air Force Special Operations Command personnel worked with the Philippine aviation units. SOF detachments trained and rehearsed select units within Philippine army and marine battalions in collective patrolling tasks.

On August 1, 2006, AFP forces launched Operation Ultimatum to capture the ASG and JI leadership. While Philippine army, marine, and special operations units drove the terrorists from their sanctuaries, naval units effectively cordoned Sulu Island so that they could not escape. Most impressively, the AFP synchronized joint operations for more than 90 days, supplying logistics in the field and maintaining pressure on the terrorists, all without losing the support of the local population.

On both Basilan and Sulu, OEF-P demonstrated the effectiveness of a population-based counter-insurgency fight. Such campaigns will work when the local and national governments and security forces of a partner nation commit to eradicating conditions for terrorist sanctuaries. By building the capability of host nation forces, SOF provided options to the Philippine populace to sever its ties to terrorist ideology. OEF-P is an example where a small SOF footprint has combined with collective resolve to defeat terrorism.

Special Operators v serving in Operations Enduring in the Global War on Terrori

*SPC Dustin Adkins
SSG Leroy Alexander
SGT Thomas Allison
CPL William Amundson
SPC Marc Anderson
MSG Joseph Andres, Jr.
1Lt Tamara Archuleta
Capt Derek Argel
PO2 Matthew Axelson
CSM Edward Barnhill
SSG Ricardo Barraza
SFC William Bennett
CPL Mark Bibby
SGT Jay Blessing
CPO Matthew Bourgeois
Capt Todd Bracy
SGT Dale Brehm
SFC William Brown
LTC Charles Buehring
SPC Charles Bush, Jr.
SSG Eric Caban
CPT Paul Cassidy
SFC Victor Cervantes
CPT Jeremy Chandler
TSgt John Chapman
SFC Nathan Chapman
SSG Kyu Hyuk Chay
CPL Andrew Chris
1SG Christopher Coffin
CPL Matthew Commons
SGT Timothy Conneway
TSgt Sean Corlew
SFC Lance Cornett
SFC Daniel Crabtree
SSgt Casey Crate
Capt James Cronin*

*SGT Bradley Crose
SrA Jason Cunningham
MSG Jefferson Davis
SSG Edwin Dazachacon
SSG Michael Dickinson
SFC Trevor Diesing
PO2 Danny Dietz
SSG Carlos Dominguez
SSG James Dorrity
Maj William Downs
CW2 Scott Dyer
SPC Jonn Edmunds
CPT Daniel Eggers
CW2 Jody Egnor
MSG Emigdio Elizarraras
SGT Christopher Erberich
SSG Christopher Falkel
MAJ Curtis Feistner
MSG Richard Ferguson
MSG George Fernandez
MAJ Gregory Fester
SCPO Theodore Fitzhenry
CPO Jacques Fontan
SGT Jeremy Foshee
SSG Gregory Frampton
SSgt Jacob Frazier
SPC Bryan Freeman
Capt Jeremy Fresques
SSG Kerry Frith
PFC Nichole Frye
PFC Damien Garza
CW3 Thomas Gibbons
SSG Shamus Goare
SFC Chad Gonsalves
CW3 Corey Goodnature
SSG Robert Goodwin*

*CMSgt Lawrence Gray
SGT Michael Hall
SSG Gary Harper Jr.
CW2 Stanley Harriman
SCPO Daniel Healy
PFC John Henderson
TSgt James Henry
SFC Richard Herrema
SPC Julie Hickey
SSgt Jason Hicks
CPL Benjamin Hoeffner
LTC Daniel Holland
SSG Aaron Holleyman
MSG Kelly Hornbeck
MSG Robert Horrigan
SFC Merideth Howard
SFC Mark Jackson
SGT Kip Jacoby
SPC Joseph Jeffries
MSG Ivica Jerak
SSG Allen Johnson
PFC Dillon Jutras
MSgt William Kerwood
SSG Matthew Kimmell
SPC Adam Kinser
SSG Daniel Kisling
SPC Adam Knox
SFC Obediah Kolath
Capt Surender Kothakota
Lt Cmdr Erik Kristensen
SFC Mitchell Lane
SFC Steven Langmack
TSgt Glenn Lastes
PO2 Marc Lee
SSG Nino Livaudais
SPC Ryan Long*

who lost their lives

ing Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and

rism will never be forgotten

*SSG Christian Longsworth
PO1 Jeffery Lucas
CPL George Lutz II
CPT Shane Mahaffee
MSgt Michael Maltz
SFC Curtis Mancini
SSG Paul Mardis
MSgt William McDaniel
SFC Robert McGee
Lt Michael McGreevy, Jr.
SFC Michael McNulty
SGT Rhonald Meeks
1SG Tobias Meister
Sgt Marco Miller
SFC Robert Mogensen
PO2 Michael Monsoor
SGT Alberto Montrond
SSG Orlando Morales
MSG Kevin Morehead
SFC Lawrence Morrison
SPC Scott Mullen
SFC Pedro Munoz
SFC Marcus Muralles
Lt. Michael Murphy
SSG Clinton Newman
SFC Tung Mahn Nguyen
SFC James Ochsner
SSG Tony Olaes
SGT Michael O'Neill
CW3 Mark O'Steen
PO1 Brian Ouellette
SGT Micheal Owen
CPT Bartt Owens
1st Lt Ray Owens Jr.
SGT Jason Palmerton
PO2 Eric Patton*

*SSG Robert Paul
SSG Ronald Paulsen
SSgt Patrick Pentico
SFC Daniel Petithory
LTC Mark Phelan
SSG Christopher Piper
SrA Jason Plite
Maj Steven Plumhoff
MSG James Ponder
CW2 Bruce Price
SSG Brian Prosser
SGT Regina Reali
MAJ Stephen Reich
PO1 Thomas Retzer
SSgt Juan Ridout
CPT Russell Rippetoe
PO1 Neal Roberts
CPT Charles Robinson
SFC Christopher Robinson
SFC Daniel Romero
SFC Michael Russell
SSG Bruce Rushforth
1SG Carlos Saenz
A1C Jesse Samek
SPC Jonathan Santos
SSgt Scott Sather
CW4 Chris Scherkenbach
SGT Danton Seitsinger
SrA Adam Servais
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
SSG Ayman Taha
PO1 David Tapper
CPT Michael Tarlavsky
PO1 Jeffrey Taylor
SFC John Taylor
SSgt John Teal
CPL Patrick Tillman
MAJ Jeffrey Toczylowski
SPC Teodoro Torres
SFC Peter Tycz
SGT Nathan Vacho
SSG Gene Vance
SFC Brett Walden
SSgt Thomas Walkup, Jr.
TSgt Howard Walters
CWO Jamie Weeks
SGT Cheyenne Willey
Capt Gil Williamson
SGT Daniel Winegeart
SGT Roy Wood
Maj Matthew Worrel
SGT Jeremy Wright
CW4 Michael Wright
MSG Anthony Yost
SFC Mickey Zaun*

An MH-47 Chinook helicopter is shown hovering in a narrow, mountainous valley. The helicopter is green and blue, with its main rotor blades blurred from motion. Below it, a small settlement is visible, featuring several simple, rectangular buildings with thatched roofs. One building has a large pile of orange-colored items, possibly harvested crops, on its roof. The surrounding landscape is rugged, with steep, rocky slopes and dense green vegetation. The scene is captured from a high angle, looking down into the valley.

An MH-47 from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) hovers over a remote base in an Afghanistan valley.

160th SOAR (Airborne) courtesy photo.