



TIP OF THE SPEAR



**Winning GWOT with indirect approach
President lauds SOF successes
SEALs memorialize fallen teammates**

U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND, MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLA., SEPTEMBER 2006

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Winning GWOT with indirect approach

A Civil Affairs Soldier holds an Iraqi child while fellow Soldiers conduct a meeting with a local Sheik and other members of the community in Azuwayah, Iraq. SOF spectrum of influence in the Global War on Terrorism manifests itself through civil affairs, foreign internal defense, psychological operations and unconventional warfare. Photo by Spc. Charles Gill. See page 20.



Tip of the Spear

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Front cover: Civil affairs, foreign internal defense, psychological operations and unconventional warfare are depicted and are proven strengths of U.S. Special Operations Command. Photographic by Mike Bottoms.

Highlights



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President Bush recognizes SOF

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SEALs honor fallen

during memorial service, page 22

Commander's Vision:

Indirect approach key to winning Global War on Terrorism

In close concert with Combatant Commanders, U.S. Special Operations Command is synchronizing a global campaign to defeat terrorism by carefully integrating direct and indirect approaches to the conflict. The most publicized is the direct approach: Kinetic actions to disrupt and destroy terrorist networks and capture or kill terrorists. Direct action is absolutely necessary because it eliminates the immediate threat and protects the homeland. Most importantly, it buys time for the United States and our partner nations to execute the indirect approach needed to create an environment inhospitable to terrorism. With an integrated approach, we can not only defeat today's terrorists, but also prevent tomorrow's terrorist from developing.

While many Special Operations units conduct, or provide support to, direct action missions, most are also highly skilled in the indirect approach.

Numerous activities constituting Irregular Warfare are the traditional core missions' areas of Special Operations Forces.

Unconventional Warfare (working by, with, and through indigenous or surrogate forces), foreign counterpart training, civil-military operations, information distribution, civil infrastructure support, and many other action contributing to the economic and social welfare in at-risk



areas are the hallmarks of Special Operations. Today more than 85 percent of our Army Special Forces A-Teams and Navy SEAL platoons in Iraq and Afghanistan, and nearly 100 percent of SOF operating outside these countries, are conducting indirect activities. Our Air Force Special Operations Command's 6th Special Operations Squadron is our

indirect force for training foreign aviation to build their capability and capacity.

Our Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations forces are keys to the indirect approach by positively

shaping the environment. Constructing public infrastructure (schools, roads, water projects, medical clinics, etc.) provides people the necessities for healthy living and improves their opportunities to provide for their families. By further teaching the municipality

"With an integrated approach, we can not only defeat today's terrorists, but also prevent tomorrow's terrorist from developing."

— Gen. Doug Brown

how to operate and maintain their infrastructure, our forces generate support from the populace by instilling confidence and trust in the local government. Psychological Operations integrates with most activities to spread the truth to the populace. By dispelling rumors and enemy propaganda, Psychological Operations forces educate and help inoculate the population against the subversive goals of extremist ideologies.

As the Global War on Terrorism continues, USSOCOM is rapidly growing and adjusting to expand its global presence. We will grow by more than 13,000 people over the next five years. While this growth provides SOF new capabilities to find and track terrorist leadership, it will also expand our capacity to conduct the indirect approach around the

globe. In addition, we continue to work closely with many U.S. government agencies and partner nations through our initiatives to apply the full spectrum of capabilities needed to defeat global terrorism and prevent its reemergence.

We in SOF aren't in all the places we need to be today, but we are striving to build the capability for the future to eliminate this gap. But, we do know the value of highly trained and experienced force operating every day across the full spectrum of conflict. USSOCOM has an integrated and balanced strategy striving for long-term victory in the Global War on Terrorism through the indirect approach, enabled in part by short-term direct action. We are committed to this strategy throughout the "Long War."



Nigerian soldiers sit in a class taught by Special Forces at the range of the Nigerian Army Base in Ibadin, Nigeria. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jim Hampshire

Duke Field medic treats nomads, locals in Afghanistan

By Sandra A. Henry
919th Special Operations Wing

Turks, Arabs, Persians, Britons, Soviets, and armies led by Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan have all battled for a piece of what is known today as the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Today, just like throughout its turbulent history, the sounds of war can be heard as coalition forces engage the remaining Taliban there. As fighting continues, one Duke Field Airman is determined to make a difference not by the use of military force, but by his medical skills and military training.

Maj. Kurt Workmaster, 919th Medical Squadron, is on a year-long deployment to a remote region of Afghanistan where he serves as the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team physician assistant.

As a physician assistant, Workmaster is prepared for outpatient medicine as well as emergencies, said Lt. Col. Timothy Tuel, 919th MDS commander. He previously worked in cardiovascular surgery, so he is especially qualified for chest trauma. PAs work under the supervision of a physician and can be credentialed to perform any and all activities and procedures of their supervising physician.

The multi-service PRT, where Workmaster is assigned, includes various military specialties from Army Civil Affairs Soldiers to Air Force security, services and transportation specialists, said Capt. Joe Campbell, Panjshir PRT public affairs officer. The team's mission is to help extend the authority of the Afghan government through regional reconstruction, security and stability through projects and outreach programs.

One of those outreaches began on May 18 when team medics, interpreters and support personnel set up a short-notice medical outreach for the nomadic Kuchi people during their spring migration through the



Maj. Kurt Workmaster, Panjshir Reconstruction Team physician assistant, checks a young Kuchi boy's eyes during an examine conducted as part of the Medical Civic Action Program. Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Cumper.

Panjshir Valley.

Known as a Medical Civic Action Program or MEDCAP, the event provided treatment for Kuchi families as they moved their sheep, goats, donkeys, camels and cattle to the high country for the summer. The Kuchi are Afghan Pashtun who migrate among the lowlands and highlands of Afghanistan and Pakistan each year, Capt. Campbell said.

The medical needs ranged from a teenager with a recurring back injury to a baby with diarrhea and several adults with eye irritations, he said.

"What began as a house call of sorts turned into a mini sick call," Workmaster said. "We saw 10 patients ranging from an infant to the elders of the families."

Many of the health problems of the Kuchi nomads — breathing/respiratory and eyes/ophthalmic — are related to their migrant nature and can be traced to the dust of travel and smoke of the tent fires, he said.

In addition to treating patients during the MEDCAP, Workmaster treats patients in the local communities. Most of them are administrative heads and their family members, he said.

Overall, the people are quite healthy and vigorous.

Their diet is rich in fresh vegetables and fruit with great local bread made from wheat, the main crop. Few of the people own cars, he said. The terrain makes for excellent exercise as the people walk to and from their destinations.

“All and all, they are a very hardy and proud people and don't look for or need a lot of handouts,” he said.

Although Workmaster has seen a lot of action during his 30-plus years in the military, this is the first time he has served in a hostile environment.

“At the twilight of my military career, I felt it important to finally do something militarily important before I move on,” he said. “Helping the Afghan people rebuild their country, being where the rubber meets the road, was also strongly motivating.”

His “routine” job at the 919th MDS is also an important one, and he is missed there.

“I knew the clinic would suffer from his absence,” Tuel said. “However, I also understood his desire to play a more active role in the Global War on Terrorism. Given his commitment to the unit, the wing and our country, the decision to let him volunteer was easy though bittersweet.” Although this is the first time he has deployed to a hostile environment, volunteering is not a new thing for Workmaster.

He volunteered for activation as part of home-station support for deployed members of the 919th Special Operations Wing during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Tuel said. Additionally, he volunteered for a Honduras deployment in support of

U.S. Southern Command in 2004.

During that medical readiness training exercise, Workmaster and the 36-member team of medics and veterinarians treated 4,976 people and 648 animals.

In Afghanistan, there have been no big surprises so far, said the major.

The language barrier is quite difficult and even more so because of the different alphabet and calendar, he said. Interpreters make the job easier.

There are also cultural and sociological barriers that make mission objectives difficult. Getting all the information needed to determine the status of facilities and resources often takes repeated meetings. The absolute separation of genders makes it hard to assess and treat the women.

Current living accommodations for the PRT are very good, said the major. There is no air conditioning, but there is generator power.

The PRT is made up predominantly of Air Force personnel, but there are several Army and one Navy member assigned, Workmaster said.

“We get along very well and there are few areas of friction. In fact, we complement each other in skills, training, and experience,” he said.

“The mission is to leave Afghanistan stronger and more self-sufficient than when we arrived,” he said. “In my little corner of Afghanistan, we are succeeding.”



Young Kuchi boys show up to witness the Panjshir Reconstruction Team's Medical Civic Action Program north of Bazarak in the Panjshir Province of Afghanistan. Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Cumper.



An Iraqi special forces soldier gives “thumbs up” before a mission. USSOCOM photo.

Hostages rescued, terrorists captured

FID pays off as coalition advised Iraqi forces get job done

CJSOTF-AP Public Affairs

Across Iraq, U.S. Special Operations units are hard at work honing the skills of Iraqi troops into a capable force through foreign internal defense programs.

Units and their coalition force advisors take the fight directly to the insurgents with positive results.

A specially trained Iraqi Army unit conducted a successful hostage rescue mission and captured four individuals responsible for the kidnapping in Tamim, a village in southern Ramadi.

This Iraqi army platoon from the 1st Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division, trained by Special Forces advisers, freed a 16-year-old Iraqi man after he was kidnapped by a terrorist group from the Jazirah district of Ramadi.

The young man, an Iraqi customs worker, was abducted while driving a truck for his father near the Syrian border in May. During his subsequent 20-day ordeal, his captors, who demanded \$50,000 for his safe return, beat him with a cable and forced him to make a video confession before moving him to another location.

“Home run,” exclaimed U.S. advisers as the Iraqi forces blew the door, cleared the two-story house and found the hostage on the roof, tired and disoriented.

After the hostage was identified, he was taken to

safety while Iraqi forces continued their search of the house and found all four individuals suspected of the abduction.

“It’s a great feeling to be a part of a rescue mission,” said one Special Forces adviser who is part of a team that supervises and trains this platoon. “I’d hate to think of what might have happened.”

The platoon, part of the 1st Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division, is trained and equipped as a force whose repertoire of skills includes close quarter combat, sharp shooting, marine and river operations, and scouting.

“They aren’t looking for special recognition,” said an adviser. “They are proud to be a part of an elite force.”

Soldiers in this platoon are chosen directly from the brigade to which they are assigned, and they receive specialized training to conduct more difficult missions. The unit is designed to act quickly on tips and information, as was the case when the platoon learned of the kidnapping victim and his possible whereabouts.

Within five minutes of reaching the target house and triggering a door-shattering explosive, the platoon cleared the building and found the hostage.

“It’s speed, training and discipline,” said an adviser. “They depend on each other for survival, execution has to be flawless. Today was outstanding.”

An Iraqi army captain said this was indeed the case with his men.

“My family is [this platoon],” said the captain. “These men are Iraqi heroes, my brothers. We fight for all Iraqis.”

In another operation, Iraqi forces raided a house in southeast Baghdad and captured a cell leader responsible for the deaths of several Shi’ia pilgrims during a religious festival in August 2005.

As coalition force advisers observed, Iraqi soldiers captured the cell leader for the Taifah al-Mansoura, group.

The cell leader is responsible for planning and executing attacks on Shi’ia pilgrims during a religious festival. He ordered his associates to fire mortars into a large crowd of Shi’ia pilgrims bound for the Khadamiyah Mosque. He also placed associates among the crowd who shouted suicide bombers were present. The ensuing stampede caused panic on a bridge over the Tigris River resulting in the deaths of nearly 1,000 pilgrims.

Also captured in this raid was one of his associates. Iraqi forces also seized one AK-47 assault rifle and two magazines, or approximately 60 rounds of AK-47 ammunition.

Iraqi Army forces also conducted a raid near Balad, Iraq, in early June to capture an insurgent leader and seize weapons caches.

As coalition force advisers observed, soldiers from the Iraqi Army’s 1st Brigade, 4th Division captured an al-Qaeda cell leader and seven other suspected insurgents.

The leader and financier of several al-Qaeda cells, facilitated attacks killing several Iraqi citizens and Iraqi and coalition forces. He also has ties to foreign fighters and training camps.

According to a Special Forces adviser who was present during the raid, the Iraqi forces performed extremely well.

Iraqi forces also seized weapons caches including four AK-47 assault rifles, two Russian SKS carbine rifles, improvised explosive device making material, and a variety of military-style equipment.

The adviser also said Iraqi forces relied on their previous training and leadership to assault and secure four objectives simultaneously, detain suspected individuals, perform cache searches, and conduct effective intelligence gathering.

No Iraqi or coalition forces were killed or wounded during any of these operations.



Special Operations trained Iraqi special forces prepare for an urban operation. USSOCOM photo.

'BRING ON THE POWER'

LOCAL IRAQI GOVERNMENT, CONTRACTOR PARTNER TO POWER REMOTE VILLAGE

*By Maj. Mark McCann
CJSOTF-AP Public Affairs*

Residents of Al Ashoudalaa now “have the power” thanks to a partnership among their tribal leaders, a reliable local contractor and a U.S. Army Civil Affairs team. For the first time, more than 500 families will have electricity in their homes and the hope for a “brighter” future.

This rural electricity project, which began in late April and completed on June 15 at a cost of \$49,950, will provide uninterrupted electrical service to the people of this tiny Iraqi village in the Zuwayyah District of Al Anbar Province.

The idea for the project came during a meeting between the local tribal sheik, the city council, and the Civil Affairs team operating in the area. During these periodic meetings, tribal leaders and local government officials engage Civil Affairs teams and forge partnerships to provide much needed assistance to their people.

According to the Civil Affairs team’s engineer sergeant, the attitude of the Sheik is his town looks after its own.

“This is one of the safer areas, and the Sheik is very proud of that,” said the engineer sergeant whose team is from C Company, 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C. “The people like the area the way it is, and they want to keep it that way.”

So, a need was identified, a solution proposed, and the process began. The project was awarded to a reliable local contractor and the solution involved finding a way to run power from an existing source in Al Farat into the village.

The contractor, who has also completed a water project and refurbished four local schools in the area, rolled up his sleeves and went to work finding a way to get the power turned on. His challenge, was to get power from the existing source — power lines running along a main road just outside the village — and channeling it in. He accomplished this by having several electrical poles erected and power lines from them run to the new, centrally-located transformer in the village. From the transformer, several more poles and power lines went up throughout the village to into families’ homes. The power was on.

According to the Civil Affairs team engineer sergeant, this is obviously a great improvement since the people had no power at all before this project.

“We see this as a positive step forward for the future of



A local contractor and an engineer with a Civil Affairs team from the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C. inspect the recently installed transformer and power lines in the village of Al Ashoudalaa, Iraq. This rural project brought electricity for the first time ever to more than 500 families in a remote village in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. U.S. Army photo.

the country,” he said. “It is important that we build strong relationships and work together to build a safer Iraq.”

From the contractor’s perspective, the job is still not complete. He has an agreement with the local government to provide service to the transformer and the power lines for the first six months. When the six month period ends, the local government is responsible for fixing any shortcomings to the system.

“People now go to the local mayor and make a request for power,” the sergeant said. “The people then pay a small fee for their power and this helps the local government generate revenue to provide for the upkeep of the electricity.”

“The effort we put in is making a difference,” said the sergeant. “It’s not just me; working together as a team, we are all making a difference.”

U.S. Special Forces: Junior Leaders key to successful Iraqi army

By Staff Sgt. Christopher Stanis
CJSOTF-AP Public Affairs

Upon arrival in Kirkuk at the beginning of this year, one U.S. Army Special Forces operational detachment assessed the situation of the local Iraqi Army troops and determined there was a major leadership gap.

“Across (Iraq) the requirements for training capable Iraqi security forces vary,” noted the Special Forces detachment commander. “Here it was an issue with the junior leadership. They had very little previous formal training.”

So, the Special Forces team responsible for the Kirkuk area designed a course to bridge that gap. The course is officially known as the Scout Leaders Urban Combat Course, but it is more commonly referred to as the Iraqi Army Junior Leaders’ Course.

When they first arrived, this course was not even a priority among the team’s other tasks. Yet as the deployment progressed, they began to see priorities shift, and resources for conducting a successful Leaders’ course fell into place.

An essential element required to conduct a successful course were personnel. To complement their efforts, the Special Forces team received the services of an infantry platoon from the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Once the platoon arrived, the course began.

“If we didn’t have them, then our entire team would be involved in the training. We wouldn’t have the time or

resources to conduct any of our other missions,” one Special Forces advisor said of the infantry platoon.

The infantry soldiers and selected Iraqi Army Scouts went through an initial train-the-trainer program conducted by the Special Forces team and, the first Junior Leaders’ Course was underway by May.

The first class was taught primarily by U.S. instructors. By the time the second class graduated, the number of Iraqi instructors had grown to approximately one half of the total number of instructors teaching the course. Encouraged by this progress, the Special Forces team anticipates that by the end of 2006, the course will be taught entirely by Iraqi instructors.

To date, 110 students have graduated from the course, and the Special Forces advisers can already see its effects throughout the Iraqi Army’s ranks in the local area.

“There is one lieutenant who is now doing organized PT (physical training) with his soldiers. That wasn’t seen before and he’s the only one doing it,” said the Special Forces detachment commander. The graduates are also showing other signs of pride like conducting “tab checks” – making sure other course graduates are wearing their Nisser (Arabic for eagle) tabs received upon graduation.

One Special Forces advisor commented that most of the Iraqi soldiers who attended the course came in at a skill level zero and graduated at a skill level one. Though it doesn’t sound like that great of an increase, “they now have the basic skills needed of a warrior.”



Students of the Iraqi Army Scout Leaders’ Urban Combat Course — commonly known as the Junior Leaders’ Course — disembark from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during a training mission. The course, taught in Kirkuk, Iraq, by U.S. Special Forces Soldiers provides Iraqi Army students with the “basic skills” needed for warriors. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Stanis.

Civil Affairs Malian aid mission

By Jaime L. Wood
U.S. European Command Public Affairs

While combating terrorism is a major part of the mission in Africa, an even bigger undertaking includes assisting host nations in improving current living conditions. This is where the military turns to Civil Affairs specialists, like Army Capt. Kevin Donohue and his team from the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, Warwick, R.I., who trained local military officials here in May on how to assess the needs of their cities and villages.

“Civil Affairs is the liaison between the military and civilian population,” said a 443rd civil affairs specialist. “We are the folks who go in and find out what the sewer, water, electricity, academics, trash, medical and security capabilities of an area are and we train the local inhabitants on how to evaluate and improve these capabilities.”

The four-man Civil Affairs team accompanied Soldiers from 1st Bn., 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Böblingen, Germany, to Mali as part of a humanitarian aid exercise.

“We had the mission of assisting the Special Forces team in training the Malian Army,” Donohue said. “While they provided military tactics training, our piece was to train Malian officers on civil affairs. We provided them with a presentation on why and how the U.S. uses civil affairs and then followed that with a practical assessment exercise in a local village.”

The ultimate goal in working with the host nations is to establish civil affairs education and training so that eventually the local officials will be able to sustain their own civil affairs needs.

“This training builds longterm trust between the civilians and military which is very important in keeping a country stable,” added civil affairs NCO.

“Education is key in the success of incorporating civil affairs into a country,” said Army Maj. Peter Fechtman, civil affairs liaison to 1st Bn., 10th SFG (Airborne).

“A big piece of civil affairs is identifying a viable project that needs to be done,” he said. “At this point, the host nation officials recognize how important the civil affairs process is to getting their job done, but it takes time to develop the assessment skills.” Digging water wells, building an elementary school or new medical facility are just a few end results that civil affairs assessment proposals might lead to. Once an assessment is completed, a project proposal and request for funding are initiated.

The civil affairs specialists meet with the local leadership and the regional directors of all the local facilities. “[Through



Capt. Kevin Donohue (right), 443rd Civil Affairs Bn., Warwick, R.I., trains Malian military and municipal officials on how to effectively assess the needs of their city. Donohue was part of a four-man civil affairs team accompanying Soldiers from 1st Bn., 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Böblingen, Germany, to the area as part of a humanitarian aid exercise. During the training, the civil affairs team taught the Africans how to assess the sewer, water, electricity, academics, trash, medical and security capabilities of the city. Photo by 443rd Civil Affairs Bn.

these assessments], the water and sanitation directors, for example, get a better understanding of what their issues and needs are and then we propose projects through various means to get the problems fixed,” Donohue said.

“It’s nice to be able to show the host nationals the flip side of the coin — where not everybody in the U.S. Army drives a tank, jumps out of a helicopter, or carries a gun around like Rambo,” a civil affairs specialist said. “We go in to these countries, and teach the people how to economically develop and build a strong civil affairs foundation.”

Ideally, the military civil affairs teams get the chance to follow up on the initial work they do in each country including bringing back the same Soldiers who did the original assessments.

“The longterm commitment is to continue our presence in countries like Mali and go back to see what has been done and if what we did is still up and running,” Fechtman said. “With the current world issues, civil affairs has really grown and come to the forefront of military missions. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the war on terror, in general, have really increased the operational tempo for us.”

“We welcome the United States and hope to work together for many years as partners to help the people of Gao,” said Mohamed Gundo, President, Regional Assembly of Gau, an 11 member elected council representing the Malian region.

SOF completes Trans-Saharan training

*By Air Force Master Sgt. Dennis Brewer
352nd Special Operations Group Public Affairs*

A cloud of dust kicked up by propeller wash from an MC-130 Cargo aircraft taxiing out for a mission, engulfed the Senegalese Fokker-27 parked in front of a hangar at Dakar International airport. The sortie was preparing to exfiltrate, or retrieve, U.S. Army Special Forces operators from locations in Mali.

The mission, although not the last of this particular Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) exercise events to the Pan-Sahel region of Africa, brought the the 'Air Commandos' of the 352nd Special Operations Group, based out of Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, a bit closer to heading home.

The unit trained and flew with members of the U.S. Army's 3rd and 1st Battalions, 10th Special Forces Groups (Airborne), in addition to Senegalese and Malian Army paratroopers over the approximate two-week long deployment.

Concentrating on the basic standard special operations mission sets including long-range desert movement and patrolling, airborne resupply, small unit tactics, and troop-leading procedures, JCET events are designed to enhance military effectiveness and the ongoing military-to-military relationship that the U.S. enjoys with countries in the region and are part of partnership initiatives.

"The training and flying operations have gone very well," said Air Force Lt. Col. "Buck" Elton, 352nd SOG mission commander. "Not only have we delivered 100 percent of the planned requested support from our ground components, we've taken advantage of every training opportunity, inserting additional events in the overall operation when it was safe and reasonable to do so."

Early in the deployment, the unit's search, evasion, rescue and escape instructor realized that some of the more austere locations provided a good environment for realistic training. He set up a training scenario.

Surprised aircrew members responded to an inject card which read in part, "your aircraft is hit with an RPG and is on fire, you have 20 seconds to evacuate the aircraft." After 5 hours of sand, scrub brush, and 'Africa-hot' 120 to 130 degree heat, the unilateral training event was over.

Deployments like this provide an opportunity for U.S. military members to train with African airborne forces.

"We've been out here for approximately six weeks, mainly working with the Malians, we've had an opportunity to conduct small arms training and unit tactics, and humanitarian operations alongside their troops," said Maj. Doug Orman, deployed mission commander, 1st Bn., 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Böblingen, Germany, prior to the 'Friendship Drop' on the final day of the deployment.

"We always welcome the chance to work and fly with the 352nd SOG and sharing ground and air capabilities with local national forces," he said. "It enhances their training and better prepares them to police their own borders."

A 'Friendship Drop' is normally conducted near the end of a JCET and serves a two-fold purpose. It builds camaraderie among forces, and it is a good last-chance for one more training opportunity, maximizing effort and training dollars.

While conducting airborne operations in Senegal, the U.S. Ambassador to Senegal, Janice Jacobs, watched the parachute drops aboard the MC-130H Combat Talon II. "I think it's important people learn about how our troops go into other countries to train them and to get trained themselves," Jacobs said. "We are all fighting the same enemy."

"Not only did we accomplish great training for the 352nd SOG, but we also helped build better relationships with many other partners in the Global War on Terrorism," said Air Force Col. Brian Cutts, 352nd SOG deputy commander.

"Teamwork with Army Special Forces and the embassy teams was outstanding. I was especially pleased with the desire of the host nations to work with the United States to deny terrorists a safe haven in the region."



Capt. Al Housseyny, Senegalese Air Force, talks tactics and capabilities of the Senegalese Air Force with U.S. Air Force Col. Brian Cutts (second from right), 352nd Special Operations Group deputy at Dakar International Airport. Photo by Master Sgt. Dennis Brewer.



Albanian, Croatian and Macedonian special forces at the Shengjini training facility raid a compound of a simulated terrorist hideout during exercise Adriatic Eagle. Special operations soldiers from the Adriatic Charter (A-3) countries Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia trained with U.S. Special Forces to develop the counterterrorism capabilities of the partner nations. DOD Photo.

SOF train with A-3 countries

*By Lt. Col. Mike Hurst and Lt. Col. Jordan Thomas
U.S. European Command Strategy, Policy and
Assessments Directorate*

Ceremonies and a live-fire demonstration were held for distinguished visitors at the Shengjini training facility 60 km outside of Tirana to mark the ending of Adriatic Eagle. Special operations soldiers from the Adriatic Charter (A-3) countries Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia trained with U.S. Special Forces Soldiers. The U.S. Special Forces unit was Operational Detachment Team “A” 72 from Ft. Carson, Colo. The purpose of the training was to develop the counterterrorism and counternarcotics terrorism capabilities of the three Adriatic Charter partner nations. This training enabled the participating countries to make concrete progress on their NATO Membership Action Plan goals. The concept for this event started in September 2005 following a meeting of the A-3 Chiefs of Defense in Lake Ohrid, Macedonia, and was briefed in greater detail at the subsequent conference hosted at Headquarters U.S. European Command in April. In total, 95 Soldiers were trained by the U.S. troops at the Farka and Shengjini facilities in Albania.

The commander of ODA-072 briefed the local media, ambassadors, the A-3 country generals, and Eucom on the purpose of the training and the logistics of the exercise. He explained the significant progress made by the Soldiers during the month-long exercise. The training included physical conditioning, classroom work, room clearing

techniques, and small-team tactics. He also described what to expect during the live-fire demonstration for the visitors. He said the scenario was realistic and similar to the graduation exercise the Soldiers completed during their training. The scenario included Albanian, Croatian, and Macedonian troops raiding the compound of a known terrorist and capturing him while rescuing hostages. The demonstration began with the Croatian snipers and then followed by the simultaneous breach of the hideouts by teams from all three countries. The nine-member U.S. team participated only as safety observers during the event. In addition to providing training, the ODA administered more than 230 hepatitis shots to children and adults in the surrounding area.

U.S. Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Mel Spiese, HQUSEUCOM Deputy Director, Strategy, Policy, and Assessments said he was impressed by the tactical expertise during the live-fire demonstration. Spiese said the exercise was beneficial from a U.S. policy point of view.

“First, this training shows how far these countries have come since they were at war as recently as 1995. Now, they are participating together with the help of U.S. troops. Second, this training is an example of how coordinating our security cooperation resources can work. The concept for Adriatic Eagle was developed last September and briefed at EUCEM to the Chiefs of Defense from all three countries. Finally, it is an outstanding leadership opportunity for a young captain to lead the exercise and be able to brief the most senior leaders from the participating countries.”

SOCEUR welcomes first Navy leader

By Jaime L. Wood

U.S. European Command Public Affairs

Marine Gen. James Jones, Jr., Commander, U.S. European Command, placed the Special Operations Command Europe flag and responsibility for the organization in the hands of Rear Adm. William McRaven Stuttgart, Germany Jun 26, 2006. During the change of command ceremony, McRaven replaced Army Maj. Gen. Thomas Csrnko, who lead SOCEUR since August 2003.

“Rear Admiral McRaven brings a wealth of national and special warfare experience to the table and is eminently qualified to take SOCEUR to new heights in mission success,” Jones said. “It’s a historic time for (him) to join us in this changing world and theater.”

McRaven’s appointment as the new SOCEUR leader also marks the first time the organization will be commanded by a Navy officer. The joint forces command is responsible for special operations conducted within the EUCOM area of operation, including 92 countries in Africa, Europe, and Eurasia.

Jones noted that Csrnko was a “key architect in forging Operation Enduring Freedom Trans-Sahara”, which is the military contribution to the Trans-Sahara counterterrorism initiative.

“Under Operation Enduring Freedom Trans-Sahara, SOCEUR has initiated training and advisory assisted



Marine Gen. James Jones, Jr., (left) commander, U.S. European Command, gives responsibility of Special Operations Command Europe to Rear Adm. William McRaven, incoming commander, during the SOCEUR change of command in Stuttgart Germany, June 26, 2006. McRaven, the first Naval officer to serve as the leader of SOCEUR, replaces Army Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csrnko (right). Photo by Jaime L. Wood.

missions in Trans-Sahara Africa, enabled partner nations to meet terrorist threats with effective capabilities, and you’ve been visionary in conducting landmark exercises,” he said to the outgoing commander.

“I’m excited about the challenges that lay ahead — from expanding the special operations command role in Africa to building upon our great relationships with NATO’s special operations forces and our many other allies,” McRaven said. The new commander also guaranteed the SOCEUR members and component commands “there are exciting days ahead.”

SOCPAC CG receives second star

By Maj. Stacy Bathrick

SOCPAC Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. David P. Fridovich, Special Operations Command-Pacific Commanding General, was promoted to major general.

“Maj. Gen. Fridovich is the tip of the spear in this theater, day-in- and-day-out,” said Adm. William J. Fallon, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, who officiated the ceremony. “His people are engaged throughout the region establishing relationships and contacts.”

The Department of Army selected Fridovich for promotion to major general because SOCPAC command position was upgraded to a two-star general position.

Fridovich spoke at the ceremony about the importance of being a lifelong learner, and he gave credit for his success to the servicemembers who work for him.

“The current and future success of SOCPAC belongs



Adm. William J. Fallon, commander, U.S. Pacific Command promotes Maj. Gen. David P. Fridovich, commander, Special Operations Command Pacific. The promotion reflects SOCPAC’s upgrade to a two-star position. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Alisha Frederick.

to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines standing before you,” Fridovich said. “In pursuit of the success of the Global War on Terrorism, they delicately and successfully balance resource requirements with risk and results. The success is theirs.”

President lauds **SOF** on July 4th



Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, commander, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, left, welcomes President George W. Bush during his visit to Fort Bragg July 4. Photo by Lucille Anne Newman.

By Ryan D. Smith
Fort Bragg Public Affairs

President George W. Bush visited Fort Bragg July 4, touring parts of the post and addressing a crowd of Soldiers and civilians in front of the Iron Mike statue.

Bush's remarks focused on his gratefulness to the troops, the meaning of independence and the continued war in Iraq.

"Today we honor the 230th anniversary of American independence, and on this day when we give thanks for our freedom, we also give thanks to the men and women who make our freedom possible," he said. "You are serving your country at a time when your country needs you. Because of your courage, every day is Independence Day in America.

"Army Special Forces define their mission in a motto: 'To liberate the oppressed.' In the War on Terrorism you've done just that, overthrowing cruel regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq and bringing freedom to more than 50 million people."

— President Bush

"Two hundred thirty years ago, 56 brave men signed their names to a document that set the course of our nation and changed the history of the world," Bush continued. "Our Declaration of Independence was a bold statement of revolutionary principles. Yet without the Soldiers of our Continental Army, the words of our declaration would have been forgotten by history, dismissed as the radical musings of a failed revolution.

"We celebrate Independence Day each year because that ragtag group of citizen Soldiers challenged the world's most powerful military, secured our liberty and planted a standard of freedom to which the entire world has aspired.

Bush went on to praise the efforts of Fort Bragg Soldiers in the Global War on Terrorism.

"Fort Bragg is home to some of our country's best and bravest — the men and women of the United States Army Special Operations Command. Army Special Forces define their mission in a motto: 'To liberate the oppressed.' In the War on Terrorism you've done just that, overthrowing cruel regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq and bringing freedom to more than 50 million people.

"A couple weeks ago I had a chance to visit Baghdad and visit some of the Army's finest Soldiers — Special Operations Forces who helped bring justice to the terrorist (Abu Mussab) Zarqawi. They were the first coalition forces to arrive on the scene after the bombing of Zarqawi's safe house. They administered compassionate medical care to a man who showed no compassion to his victims. And when this brutal terrorist took his final breath, one of the last things he saw was the face of an American Soldier from Ft. Bragg, N.C."

Bush also stressed his intention to stay the course in Iraq.

"I'll make you this promise — I'm not going to allow the sacrifice of 2,527 troops who died in Iraq to be in vain by pulling out before the job is done."

Bush ended his remarks by once again praising the Soldiers of Fort Bragg.

"The men and women who serve here at Fort Bragg are making a difference," he said. "You're part of a great history. Two hundred and thirty years after America declared her independence, the spirit of '76 lives on in the courage that you show each day.

You've kept America what our founders meant it to be — a light to the nations, spreading the good news of freedom to the darkest corners of the world."

New leader takes helm of SF Command

By Paul Prince

U.S. Army Special Operations Command

In a ceremony July 17, the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) said farewell to Brig. Gen. John F. Mulholland, and welcomed Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csrnko as the new commander.

The transfer of command took place on the Meadows Memorial Parade Field located adjacent to the U.S. Army special operations Command Headquarters.

Csrnko, a native of Bethlehem, Pa., is very familiar with the special operations community. He is the former commander of Special Operations Command - Europe (Airborne), and has held numerous other positions within the special operations. Assuming command of USASFC is Csrnko's fifth assignment with Special Forces at Fort Bragg.

"The power of the bench can not be clearer than the selection of Maj. Gen. Tom Csrnko to command Special Forces Command. You know him well," said Lt. Gen. Robert Wagner, USASOC commanding general.

"On behalf of everyone here at the command and everyone here, thank you (Gen. Mulholland) and Miriam for taking care of our soldiers at home and in combat, as

if they were your own sons and daughters," Wagner said "We wish you in every measure continued success as you serve our Nation and our Soldiers. We are very proud of you."

Mulholland assumed command of USASFC Sept. 30, 2005. He began his mission to build trust and confidence of political and military leadership. In addition, he desired to support war fighters, transform the future force and fight while maintaining and strengthening SF families.

Mulholland is slated to become the deputy commanding general of U.S. Joint Special Operations Command.

"I've been humbly honored and privileged beyond words to have served as commanding general of the finest fighting men on the planet, the men of the Green Beret," Mulholland said. "To leave that is not easy and is only offset by knowing that the regiment is now in the hands of a man far more capable than I am, Maj. Gen. Tom Csrnko."

Mulholland said he is leaving the command with the assurance that General Csrnko and his family will quickly make their mark at USASFC and take Special Forces to a new level which he deems appropriate.



Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csrnko (left) accepts the U.S. Army Special Forces Command colors from Lt. Gen. Robert W. Wagner, USASOC Commanding General, during the July 17 ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C. Photo by Paul Prince.

Special Forces Soldiers memorialize Battle of Little Bighorn

*By 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
Public Affairs Office*

Arriving at the invitation of Crow Tribe leaders and local National Park rangers, a group of Army Green Berets impressed audiences by parachuting into help honor the 130th anniversary of the Battle of Little Bighorn June 23-25.

About a dozen Soldiers from the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), based at Fort Carson, Colo., provided three military freefall parachute demonstrations during memorial events to pay tribute to the famous battle, which on June 25, 1876, pitted U.S. cavalymen against victorious American Indian forces here, including Sioux and Cheyenne Indians.

More than 260 members of the U.S. 7th Cavalry died on the Little Bighorn battlefield here, including the unit's commander, Lt. Col. George A. Custer in his famous "Last Stand."

With support from two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters of the Montana Army National Guard's Company A, 1-189th Combat Support Aviation Battalion based in Helena, the 10th SFG Soldiers parachuted from an altitude of 9,000 feet into three events, including: a veterans' remembrance ceremony June 23 at Apsaalooke Veterans Park, part of the Crow Native Days celebration; an official ceremony on June 25 marking the 130th anniversary of the battle at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument; and into the Custer's Last Stand reenactment at Medicine Tail Coulee on the battlefield, also on June 25.

During the ceremony at the national monument, the Soldiers also placed a memorial wreath at the cemetery there to honor the fallen fighters of Little Bighorn, both U.S. Army and American Indian. The Soldiers were recognized individually for their service and received a special blessing from the Crow during the veterans' ceremony on June 23.

The Green Berets are uniquely suited to help

memorialize the Battle of Little Bighorn, in part because the U.S. Army's Special Forces is the only organization in the U.S. Army that traces its lineage back to the legendary U.S. Army Indian Scouts of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, said Lt. Col. Rick Steiner, the deputy commander of the 10th SFG, and one of the Special Forces Soldiers present to mark the occasion.

"Since they have their roots with the Indian Scouts who served with the U.S. cavalry ... it's very special to have (Special Forces Soldiers) here to participate in the 130th anniversary," said Darrell Cook, superintendent of the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument.

Steiner added that modern-day special forces heraldry features many American Indian tributes, including the crossed arrows that represent the special forces branch and the arrowhead-shaped shoulder patch of the Army's special forces groups.



A team of Green Berets from the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), led by deputy commanding officer Lt. Col. Richard Steiner (right), place a memorial wreath during a remembrance ceremony for the 130th anniversary of the Battle of Little Bighorn June 25 at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in Crow Agency, Mont. U.S. Army photo.



75th Rangers first Army unit to earn three campaign streamers

U.S. Army Special Operations Command

Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Peter Schoomaker presented three campaign streamers to the first Army unit to receive the streamers for the Global War on Terrorism conflict, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As Col. Paul LaCamera, commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment, passed each battle streamer, Schoomaker attached it to the unit colors during a ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga.

According to information released by the Army's Human Resources Command, the 75th Ranger Regt. is the first Army unit to be awarded the Global War on Terrorism, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. One other unit, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, III Corps, Fort Hood, Texas, was approved for the Operation Enduring Freedom campaign streamer.

"This is a great day not only for Fort Benning, the Rangers, but also for the Army," Schoomaker said. "I cannot think of a better place and a better way to recognize this great unit. Truly, the 75th Ranger Regiment leads the way and we are very, very proud of it." The battle streamer ceremony was a prelude to the 14th annual Ranger Hall of Fame induction program hosted by the Ranger Training Brigade.

Highlighting the unit's combat successes in Afghanistan, Iraq and other geographic regions, each campaign streamer marks combat deployments of the 75th Ranger Regt. since October 2001 to the present.

"Since the onset of the Global War on Terrorism, the men of the 75th Ranger Regt. have been constantly engaged in this conflict," LaCamera said. "They executed the first combat jump into Afghanistan and engaged the enemy in some of the harshest terrain. In Iraq, they led the initial push deep behind enemy lines to seize airfields and other key terrain in the western desert.

These battle streamers represent the hundreds of air assault raids and thousands of direct action raids that our Rangers have successfully conducted to kill or capture our Nation's worst enemies. They have proven that Rangers are a premier raid force."

Before this latest historic event in Ranger history, the last battle streamer was presented to the Rangers for their participation in Operation Just Cause, Panama.



Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Peter Schoomaker attaches a battle streamer to the regimental colors of the 75th Ranger Regiment for war efforts. Three streamers were presented to the regiment during the ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga., on June 29th. Photo by Gillian M. Albro.

Honorary colonel of the regiment, Ralph Puckett, described today's Rangers as "... the best individual soldiers I have ever seen and the regiment is the best light infantry unit I've ever seen."

Sgt. 1st Class Randy Duncan, who is assigned to the 75th Ranger Regt. Headquarters and has been a ranger for 12 years, said the streamers are a welcome recognition of the unit's support to the GWOT conflict.

"We concentrate on the basic tasks and the caliber of Soldiers we get due to our screening and selection process. The combination of those two things dictate why we are the premier raid unit in the military now," he said.

Currently, Rangers are conducting sustained combat operations and are deploying from multiple locations in the United States, a task that is unprecedented for the Regiment and the Army.

Winning GWOT with

"Special Operations Forces are in Afghanistan and Iraq defending our Nation against terrorism on a daily basis. However, it is Special Operations's unique, but less visible, ability to help establish the conditions to counter and defeat terrorism through Unconventional Warfare, Psychological Operations, Foreign Internal Defense, Special Reconnaissance, and Civil Affairs that will become increasingly vital to our long-term success in the Global War on Terrorism."

— Gen. Doug Brown

In conjunction with the Geographic Combatant Commanders, allies, and our interagency partners Special Operations Forces will continue to protect U.S. citizens and interests as well as those of our allies by attacking terrorist networks,



indirect approach

eliminating their capability, and capturing or killing their leaders. At the same time USSOCOM understands that this is a long, global campaign and is posturing the command for the long-term fight to help ensure the continued security of the United States. *Unconventional Warfare, Foreign Internal Defense, Civil Affairs, and Psychological Operations* are all capabilities that SOF brings to the battlefield that directly impact the underlying conditions that support terrorism.

Realizing GWOT requires international engagement, USSOCOM is leveraging SOF's capabilities to help partner nations defeat terrorism within their own borders through targeted *PSYOP* and *CA* projects as well as using *FID* to build critical counterterrorism capabilities. *UW* and *FID*, now and in the future, remains the keys to building environments inhospitable to terrorists.



SEAL community honors fallen warriors

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

Naval Special Warfare Sailors and families gathered at the command headquarters to honor 11 Navy SEALs who were killed in action June 28, 2005 in Afghanistan.

Rear Adm. Joseph Maguire, commander, Naval Special Warfare Command and the principal speaker, unveiled a three-foot tall granite boulder bearing a commemorative plaque. Inscribed on the plaque were the names of the fallen SEALs, a reference to Army Special Operations Forces who also died on that mission, and the declaration: "They were courageous. They were warriors. They were heroes."

He also read a letter from a SEAL's widow who wrote, "To live in the hearts of those who you leave behind is to never die."

"Those men shall live in our hearts and their memories shall never die," Maguire said.

A Cassia leptophylla, or "Golden Medallion," tree was planted near the stone. The Naval Special Warfare community chose this tree, known for its rounded clusters of yellow flowers resembling a medallion, in honor of the "American Gold Star Mothers," an association of mothers who have lost a loved one in service to our country. The tree blossoms in late June, coinciding with the anniversary of the tragic day.

On June 28, 2005, a four-man SEAL patrol on a reconnaissance mission in support of Operation Red Wing was ambushed by Taliban fighters in the mountains of Asadabad, Afghanistan. Three of the SEALs were severely injured in the battle when the team called for extraction.

American forces, consisting of eight Navy SEALs and eight Army Special Operations "Night Stalkers" were killed when their MH-47 helicopter was shot down by a rocket-propelled grenade enroute to recover the SEAL team. Three of the four injured SEALs on the



Rear Adm. Joseph Maguire and Force Master Chief (SEAL) Clell W. Breining of Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, Calif., unveils a granite boulder and plaque that honors the eleven SEALs and eight Army Night Stalkers killed on June 28, 2005. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Otsen.

ground died from the firefight. The fourth SEAL was recovered with injuries a few days later. It was the largest single loss of SEALs in their 44-year history and the largest single loss of U.S. Special Operations Forces since the Global War on Terrorism began in 2001.

Maguire closed his speech by paraphrasing comments by former General George Patton: "Rather than think about how they died, we should thank God that such brave men lived."



Navy SEALs, SWCC get own rating

*By Senior Chief Petty Officer Austin Mansfield
Naval Special Warfare Public Affairs*

Naval Special Warfare has devised two new ratings to meet the growing needs of our 21st century Navy. SEAL commandos and Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen will no longer use other Navy ratings; instead Oct. 1 they will become either the “SO” (SEAL) or “SB” (SWCC) rating.

The Navy has created a human capital strategy, “Sea Warrior,” to develop Sailors’ skills and to streamline the classification and assignment process. Previously, SEALs and SWCC were considered relatively temporary duties consisting of reconnaissance, demolition, small craft operations, and similar tasks. To implement Sea Warrior during FY2006, the Naval Special Warfare Learning Center, called CENSEALSWCC was established.

Located in Coronado, Calif., CENSEALSWCC focuses on professional development, and certification and qualification management support, in addition to being responsible for the creation of the new SEAL and SWCC ratings. All active duty SEALs and SWCC will convert to Special Warfare Operators (SO) or Special Warfare Boat Operators (SB) Oct. 1. Navy Reserve

members who are E-5 or below will convert to the new ratings Apr. 1, 2007.

Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) and Basic Crewman Training, conducted at the Naval Special Warfare Center, will become the NSW community “A” schools, completion of which will yield graduates their SO or SB rating. Successful completion of the subsequent SEAL Qualification Training (SQT) or Crewmember Qualification Training (CQT) will provide SOs and SBs with the SEAL or SWCC warfare designators.

Exams for the new ratings will begin with the E-7 exam January 2007, followed by the E-4, E-5, and E-6 exams in March. Strategic needs for the Global War on Terrorism, as well as advancements in technology — combined with ever-changing geopolitical environments — present an increasing challenge for the next generation of special operators. CENSEALSWCC is at the forefront of this effort, expanding SOF capabilities in language qualifications, cultural awareness, expanding joint qualifications, and leader development while simultaneously reducing development cost and increasing information access. Getting the best-trained, motivated, and competent force in the least amount of time is CENSEALSWCC’s prime objective.



Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen operate and maintain the state-of-the-art, high-performance boats and ships used to support SEALs and special operations missions. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Logsdon.

First SWCC to receive Purple Heart

*By Chief Petty Officer Scott Boyle
Naval Special Warfare Group
Four Public Affairs*

Petty Officer 3rd Class John Cowgar became the first Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman to receive the Purple Heart since the Navy formalized the community in 1994.

“To have one of our newest communities in the Navy receive the oldest award in the military is a historic event,” said Capt. Evin Thompson, Commodore, Naval Special Warfare Group Four. “It is not a recognition we necessarily note with pleasure, but one that no doubt will continue to occur as we relentlessly pursue liberty in support of freedom.”

Cowgar received the medal for an injury sustained while conducting combat boat operations on the Euphrates River in the Al Anbar region June 30.

“I was just doing my job,” Cowgar said.

The combat boats on patrol that night were conducting river reconnaissance in an area known for insurgent activity when an improvised explosive device exploded. They also received small arms fire from a nearby

embankment. Special Operations Forces returned fire as support aircraft conducted an air strike on the location where the attack was initiated.

Cowgar took shrapnel in his right thigh and another coalition member received shrapnel wounds to his shoulder. They both received immediate medical attention and Cowgar was returned to duty shortly afterwards.

“To earn the Purple Heart, while treating another warrior that also earned the Purple Heart, demonstrated selfless sacrifice on his part,” Thompson said.

Gen. George Washington created the Purple Heart, Aug. 17, 1782, but it was not awarded to Sailors and Marines until President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized it Dec. 3, 1942.

“It is harder to wear than to earn it. You take a step back and realize how important it is,” Cowgar said.

This operation was part of the ongoing Iraqi and coalition efforts to eliminate terrorists and disrupt their operations in Ramadi and the Al Anbar region. These operations are particularly helpful in getting a clearer picture of the enemy network in the region, and how best to capture or eliminate them.



FMTU's Company A on night hike

By Cpl. Ken Melton
MARSOC Public Affairs

The Marines and Sailors of Alpha Company, Foreign Military Training Unit, Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, received calls starting at midnight Thursday to report to the company office immediately for a 12-mile hike.

Groggy and tired, they formed up, shouldered their packs and stepped off on an exercise testing both mental and physical preparedness.

Company "A" was accompanied by two military journalists who took photographs and asked interview questions throughout the hike.

In addition during each rest break, one team was selected to perform timed practical application exercise using communication equipment. Slow completion of the exercise meant extra work for the team in order to catch up with the unit.

"This was a great learning opportunity for all those who were involved in the training," said Maj. Michael Askelrud, Officer-in-Charge of Team-6. "This will keep our skills sharp, until we get a chance to use them in the field."

FMTU Marines train for months in a variety of languages, weapons and explosives, both foreign and domestic. For some, this was their first hike with

Company "A" and for most, the first hike with the added training.

The media trainers used camera flashes and asked questions during the darkest parts of the hike to prepare the FMTU troops future media encounters.

"The media shadowing was a big surprise and it was well done," said Sgt. Chayse C. Roth, an instructor with Team-6.

"We were given 15-minutes to set up for radio checks and call for an evacuation on different pieces of equipment we will use when we deploy," Roth, the 23-year-old Nekoosa, Wis., native commented. "It was a really good training piece, especially when you are tired and it's pitch black out."

The Marines began the last leg of their 12-mile trek, as dawn neared and traffic poured onto base.

"There was some people with sore feet and a lot of exhaustion, but the hump was like any other in the Marine Corps," Askelrud, a 36 year-old Milwaukee native said. "But in our jobs as instructors, the scholar type warriors, this was a test of mental as well as physical strength and we did both well."

Exhausted and soaked in sweat from head to toe, the Marines and Sailors arrived home a little after 6 a.m. and were immediately dismissed for a well deserved chow break. For the leathernecks of FMTU, the training was a part of the evolution to becoming the better instructors.



Lt. Col. Kenneth Wolf, commanding officer of A Company, Foreign Military Training Unit, Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, and company First Sergeant Jack J. Pettis lead their troops on a 12-mile hike. The hike featured additional media interview skills and practical application training. Photo by Cpl. Ken Melton.

Marine gets kick out of service

By Cpl. Ken Melton
MARSOC Public Affairs

Move, Block Strike!" bellowed Sgt. Marvin B. Thomas at his students.

Thomas, a Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor, instructed Marines with Logistics and Headquarters Company, Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, as part of green belt training in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

The 21-year-old Thomas, who recently received his instructor certification, beamed with pride as he looked forward to graduating his first class.

Thomas, the supply administrative chief for MARSOC, was born and raised in Montego Bay, Jamaica, before moving to Florida in 2000 to be with his father.

"Growing up in a third world country really taught me a lot about survival, life, and living at the bottom of society," the Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. native remembered. "It had its good times and bad times, but I still loved it."

"When I came to America, I expected different treatment (from living there), but it turned out better than I expected and I am happy about that," he said.

Thomas planned to attend college and researched grants and scholarships upon his arrival and enrollment in Plantation High School, Ft. Lauderdale.

"I knew I was financially unable to attend college on my own means, and during my research, my friend Federico Watkins told me he was joining the Marine Corps," Thomas said. "I then researched all the services before I realized the Marine Corps was for me."

Thomas graduated in 2002 and left for recruit training and military occupational school. In 2004, he deployed to Afghanistan with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, where he received a Navy Achievement Medal for his service as the sole supply representative.

He deployed to Iraq in January 2005 with the 25th Combat Service Support Detachment, 2nd Combat Logistics Battalion, leading to a rediscovery of his love for MCMAP.

"I love the physical aspect of it," Thomas said with a smile. "It puts you in that combat mindset."

While pursuing higher belt levels, Thomas was also the honor graduate of a corporal's course and was meritoriously promoted to sergeant. He participated in numerous operations, including Operation Steel Curtain and Liberty Express, before leaving Iraq in January 2006 with a wealth of knowledge.

"I learned a lot over there, not only from Marines senior to me but also from my junior Marines, and other servicemembers and civilians I worked with," Thomas said.



Sgt. Marvin B. Thomas, a Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor for Logistics Company, Marine Corps Forces Special Operation Command, demonstrates a move on Sgt. David A. Adames. Photo by Cpl. Ken Melton.

"Sgt. 'Red Bull' Costa really helped me out a lot and his energy and motivation level kept me going."

Thomas attended MCMAP instructor course in April, completed the course as honor graduate, and began teaching his first MCMAP course this past month.

"Being an instructor helps me be a better Marine because of the physical, mental and character disciplines you receive," Thomas stated. "And I just love teaching. I learned whatever you know you should pass it on because you never know who could use it."

"With MCMAP it's more than just teaching people to beat people up, but to teach them the discipline to know when to use it."

Thomas will leave MARSOC for Blount Island Command in Jacksonville, Fla. at the end of the month, but looking back he admits through all of his achievements, his most recent has been the best.

"I have the chance to make Marines better and the first class showed me that," Thomas said. "I can look back and say that I gave them all the tools they needed, just like others have gotten me to where I am today."

Thomas knows he has come a long way and looks forward to the journey ahead that he hopes will take him to the top.

"I plan on going to Quantico (VA.) to become an instructor-trainer," Thomas said. "One day I hope to be the Chief Trainer of Martial Arts Instructor-Trainers, but that's something to look forward to."

Athlete, Singer, Marine reflects

By Cpl. Ken Melton
MARSOC Public Affairs

As she walks around the supply warehouse of Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Support Group, this supply administrative clerk looks like any another Marine proudly serving her country.

But what many do not know, is not long ago this leatherneck was the number one ranked boxer in her weight class in the Nation and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Cpl. Grace Kelly was raised in a single parent home along with her three younger brothers and joined the Marine Corps in 2002.

"I wanted to be able to help out my family financially and set a good example for my brothers," Kelly said. "I chose the Marine Corps because it is the most difficult service, and it would give me better training."

After completing her initial training, Kelly reported to Camp Kinzer, Okinawa, Japan, where a chance meeting, after a pick-up game of basketball opened a door to participation on her first Marine Corps athletic team.

"The basketball coach for the women's team approached me and offered me a chance to try out for the All-Marine Women's Basketball team," the 5-foot-8, 145 pound athlete said. "After two days of being at my first duty station, I was on my way to try outs in Camp Pendleton, Calif."

She saw this as an opportunity to build her athletic abilities.

"It was fun, and everyone was very professional," Kelly remembered. "I was the youngest member to make the team and eventually made it to the starting line up where I played the two (shooting guard), three (small forward), and four (power forward) positions."

After the season, Kelly returned to Camp Foster, Japan and during one grueling session of Marine Corp Martial Arts training she decided to pursue another sport that would provide her with different offensive and defensive techniques.

"I was sparring with the best male boxers, and the coach told me that I had a lot of natural talent and with a month's worth of hard practice I could make the All-Marine team," said the 22-year-old. "I flew out a month later and made the team."

Kelly soon fought her first bout at an All-Marine Boxing event against her own roommate, Amanda Myers.

"It was so intense. There is no other adrenaline rush like when you enter the boxing ring," Kelly said with a smile. "Hundreds of people were screaming, and I couldn't even hear the referee a few feet away."

Kelly won the fight, but her victory was short-lived as she suffered her first loss by decision to the then number one ranked fighter in her class at an All-Armed Forces Boxing tournament.

"She was one of the best females I

have ever fought," Kelly said. "After that, I trained harder and tried to correct the mistakes I saw myself make in the films."

Later, Kelly was in the National Boxing Tournament where she battled her way to the finals only to find herself facing another top seeded boxer.

"I lost by decision and was quite upset because I really wanted to win and another number one had beaten me," said a shaken Kelly. "I had only been boxing for six months at that point, but she still is the best female fighter I ever had to fight."

With those two hard losses behind her Kelly won many other fights and numerous trophies including Female Military Boxing Athlete of the Year and Camp Lejeune Female Athlete of the Year for 2004.

Kelly's boxing skills and talents are not limited to athletics. She is also an accomplished vocalist and sang the National Anthem at many of the sporting events she participated in, as well as other base events by invitation.

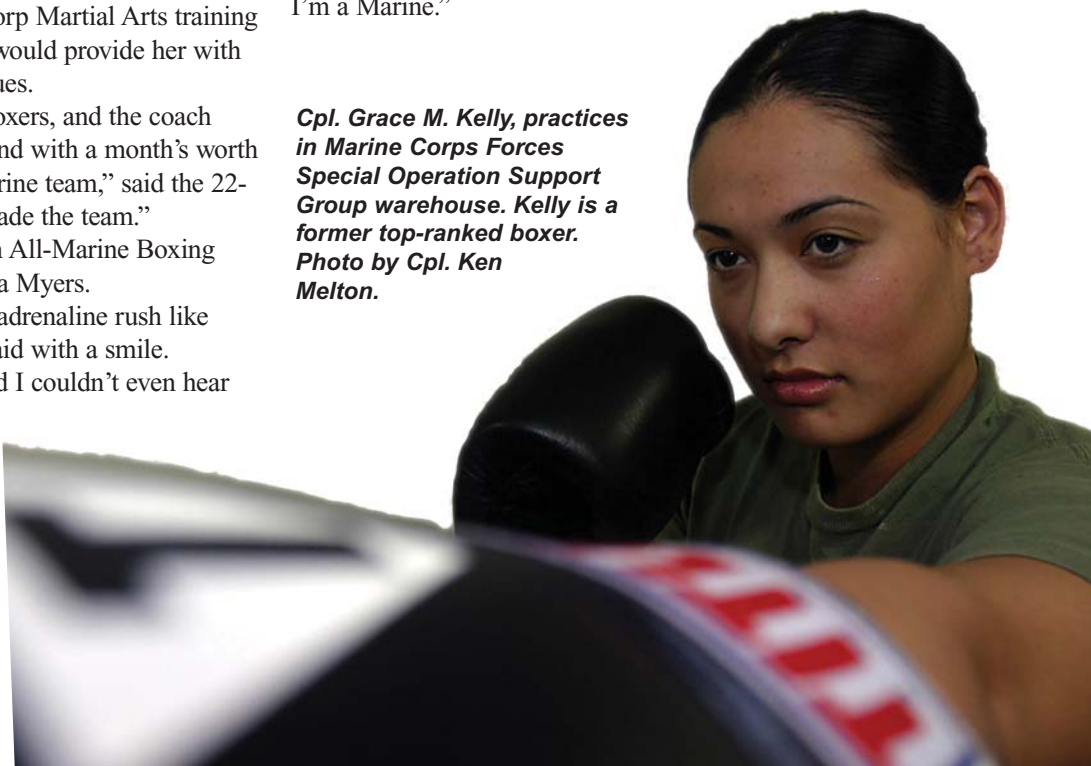
"I've been singing since I was little, and won a few solo titles when I was in high school," Kelly said. "One of my favorite memories is when I sang the National Anthem before I fought representing the U.S. in Canada against their team. I remember that because later on I won 'Fighter of the Night' after they had to stop the fight."

In April 2005, the Woman's boxing team was disbanded and a combination of older injuries and military training brought Kelly's boxing career to a close.

Kelly's time in the Marine Corps will come to a close this summer and she hopes to start college soon to become an interpreter.

"I feel most problems can be solved with better communication, and the Marine Corps gave me a great stepping stone for the future," she said. "It gave me a lot of discipline, and I'm still motivated and proud to say 'I did it — I'm a Marine.'"

Cpl. Grace M. Kelly, practices in Marine Corps Forces Special Operation Support Group warehouse. Kelly is a former top-ranked boxer. Photo by Cpl. Ken Melton.



AFSOC readies for move to Cannon

SAF/PA

Air Force officials announced in late June Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., will be the new home for an Air Force special operations wing.

Air Force Special Operations Command will accept ownership of Cannon AFB and the Melrose Range effective Oct. 1, 2007.

"Finding a reuse for Cannon Air Force Base was a top priority for the Air Force," said William "Bill" Anderson, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics. "We were not just looking for a fit between Cannon's assets and a new user, we were looking for the best fit, and AFSOC is the best fit for Cannon."

Because of historical lineage, the 16th Special Operations Wing flag will transition to Cannon, and Hurlburt Field will regain its designation as the 1st Special Operations Wing.

Simultaneously, Air Combat Command's 27th Fighter Wing will draw down as outlined in the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendation. The process is expected to take six to 12 months.

Military members directly supporting the F-16 mission at Cannon will transfer to new assignments. Mission support personnel will remain and support the incoming AFSOC unit.

Initially, the 16th SOW will partition its assets to support the mission at Cannon. During the next few years, AFSOC will experience some growth as the result of the increased special operations mission as outlined in the Quadrennial Defense Review released earlier this year.

The growth in weapons systems and people will be divided between the two bases. New airframes, to include the CV-22 Osprey, will be assigned to Hurlburt/Eglin as well as to Cannon. Other potential aircraft for Cannon are AC-130U Gunships and the MC-130H Combat Talon II. The final aircraft mix has not been finalized.

"The AFSOC expansion to Cannon offers special operators a western U.S. base to enhance support for its operations in the Pacific theatre and to meet the objectives of our global defense posture," said Lt. Gen. Michael Wooley, AFSOC commander. "Additionally, the Melrose Range and the surrounding region open up new and unrestricted training opportunities AFSOC does not currently experience, to include joint and composite training with other services and nations, as well as mission training opportunities. Cannon basing of AFSOC assets enables the special operations community easy access to a high desert training environment much like that encountered in contingency operations."

Hurlburt Field will continue as the headquarters of Air Force Special Operations Command and will stay the home of the 1st Special Operations Wing.

"AFSOC is pleased to continue our strong relationship with the northwest Florida community," Wooley said. "This is truly a win-win situation for Florida, New Mexico, and AFSOC."

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Air Force will conduct an evaluation of the mission change at Cannon AFB and of any changes in the use of Melrose Range. The studies are anticipated to take 15 to 18 months.



AC-130 gunships will soon be stationed at Canon Air Force Base, N.M. AFSOC photo.

Talon I returns home for last time

*By Jamie Haig
16th SOW Public Affairs*

The 8th Special Operations Squadron returned to Duke Field from Southwest Asia in the MC-130E Combat Talon I for the last time July 14.

As the plane approached the airfield Lt. Col. Ted Corallo, 8th SOS commander, distinguished visitors, family and squadron members watched the sky as the aircraft did a low approach, broke west and came in for its final landing.

“The Talon has brought tremendous capability to the fight, flying our toughest missions,” said Colonel Corallo. “It’s served the nation well after 41 years of active-duty service.”

The squadron and the Talon I led the assault on the Vietnamese Son Tay prisoner of war camp in 1970 and worked as an airborne jammer and command post for mission aircraft.

The aircraft and its crew of 8th SOS Airmen took part in the 1980 attempt to rescue Americans held hostage in Iran.

In December 1989, it was the Talon I that flew Gen. Manuel Noriega back to the United States to stand trial. The flight maps used by the pilots are on display in the squadron.

During operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the 8th SOS and the Talon I played essential roles assisting the coalition forces in liberating Kuwait.

They left their signature by dropping the BLU-82 bombs and more than 23 million leaflets.

Over the next several years, the 8th SOS participated in operations Provide Promise, Deny Flight, Assured Response and Southern Watch in the specialized C-130 aircraft.

After Sept. 11, 2001, the MC-130E deployed to support Special Operations Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, re-fueling helicopters and resupplying troops.

During 2005, the 8th SOS and the Talon I were simultaneously supporting real-world contingency operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, South America and Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

On one night, five Talon Is were flying at the same



Airmen from the 8th Special Operations Squadron return July 14 from deployment to Southeast Asia. The returning MC-130E Combat Talon I was the last-ever to be used on an active-duty combat mission. Photo by Senior Airman Jessica Klingler.

time in four areas of responsibility.

The Talon I was the first aircraft to land at the New Orleans airport immediately after Hurricane Katrina.

It supplied more than 12,000 pounds of fuel to rescue helicopters and flew more than 35 life-support missions.

In a four-month time frame during the Global War on Terrorism, the MC-130E and the 8th SOS handled more than 41 airdrops, provided 21 helicopter air-refuelings, carried 40,000 pounds of fuel, delivered 814,000 pounds of cargo and distributed more than 300,000 leaflets.

Capt. Christian Helms, 8th SOS, was one of the members who returned from the deployment.

He has more than 1,000 hours in the Combat Talon I and will start his new adventure as one of the CV-22 pilots.

“It’s been an absolute honor working with this squadron the past few years,” said pilot Capt. Helms. “It’s been a challenging mission.”

On its last deployment as an active-duty aircraft with the 8th SOS, the Talon I continued to amaze squadron members.

“On every single mission, it performed brilliantly,” said Helms. “It’s like it knew it would be its last deployment.”

The 8th SOS will start another chapter in its history with a new mission and a new aircraft in its new home at Hurlburt Field starting in September.

Highly modified C-130 ready for Global War on Terrorism

By **Damian Housman**

Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Public Affairs

The beginning of an era for Robins Air Force Base, Ga. and the warfighters of Air Force Special Operations Command was marked June 28 as the first-of-its-kind MC-130W was presented to Lt. Gen. Michael W. Wooley, AFSOC commander, in a ceremony here.

"A lot of work went into this aircraft," said Maj. Gen. Michael A. Collings, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander. "Sweat, hard work and brains brought about this large initiative in support of the Global War on Terrorism. My challenge is that the need for these aircraft is today, and I challenge our own people to turn out these aircraft in 150 days or less."

Wooley praised the effort.

"I want to focus on the folks who have grease under their fingernails," he said. "You are the warriors. The speed at which this was put together is indicative of the people here at Robins. Yours is truly a warrior attitude in taking airplanes, keeping flow days down, and giving us the aircraft we so desperately need," Wooley said.

General Wooley said this aircraft and the ones that follow will be put to good use.

The highly modified C-130, the first of a dozen such modified aircraft, will replace combat losses experienced over time by special operations aviators. Four MC-130H aircraft and one MC-130P have been lost in the war on terrorism. The new aircraft will be able to accomplish many of the same missions as the previous ones, plus they have the

ability to air-to-air refuel special operations helicopters, according to Scot Pirc, combat loss replacement program manager with the 572nd Aircraft Sustainment Squadron.

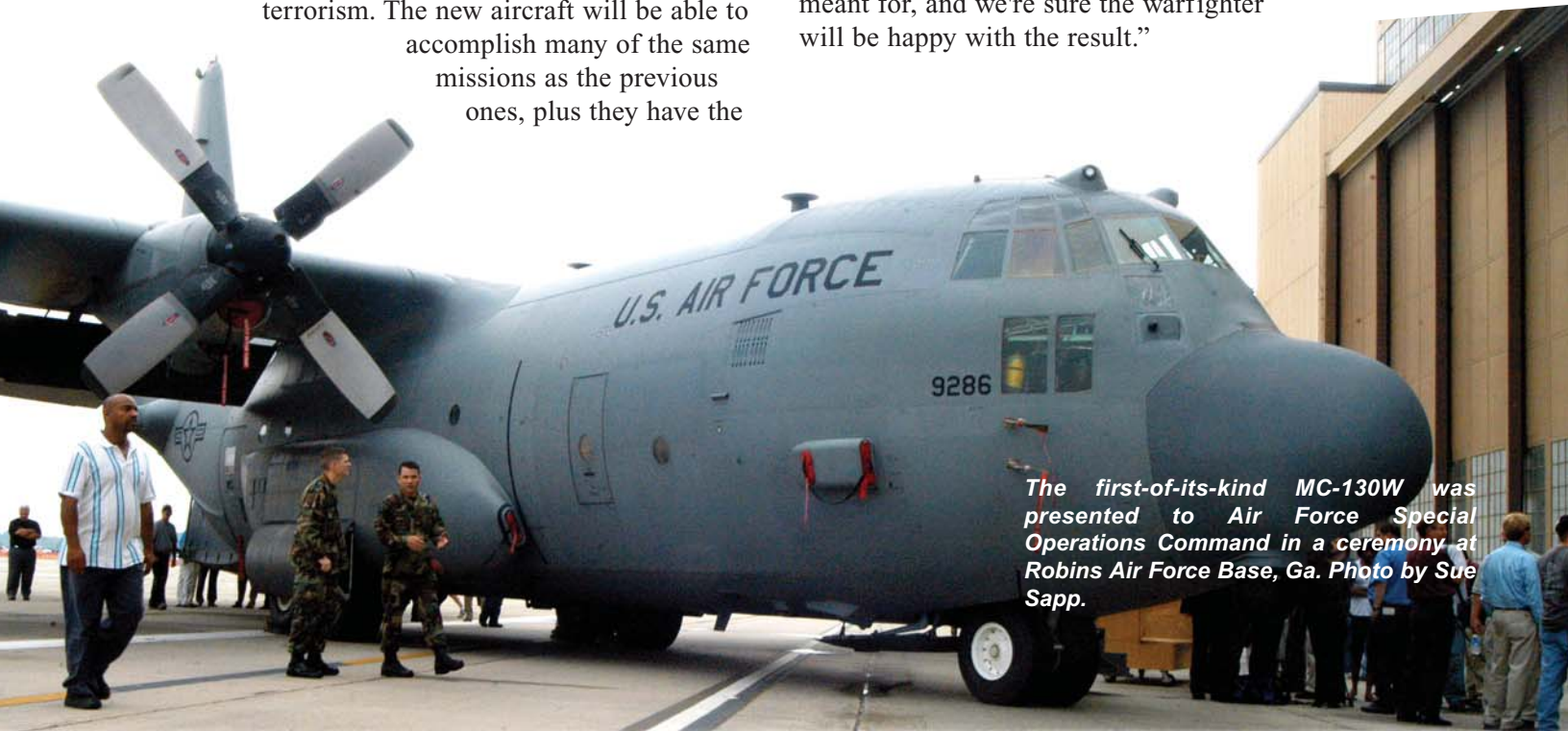
"This aircraft, and the ones that follow, will be able to perform infiltration, exfiltration and helicopter refueling missions, as well as resupply special operations forces," Pirc said. He said the new aircraft also will be able to help train AFSOC crews in the air refueling mission.

According to Pirc, the program modifies C-130H aircraft from the 1987 to 1990 year group, which is the same time period as the Combat Talon fleet currently in AFSOC service. Modifications include a basic electronic warfare capability to avoid potential threats, ability to work in special light conditions and strengthening of the tail.

Perhaps most importantly, the aircraft is equipped with air refueling pods for in-flight refueling of Special Operations Forces aircraft and combat search and rescue helicopters. The aircraft can also take fuel from other refueling aircraft.

"This is a partnership between the program office of the 572nd ACSS, the 402nd Maintenance Wing, and the contractor, TCS Design and Management," Pirc said. The 402nd MXW performed the modifications, while TCS did the engineering.

"All three partners have worked very hard on this project, and we're all very excited," Pirc said. "Every step of the way we kept in mind who this aircraft was meant for, and we're sure the warfighter will be happy with the result."



The first-of-its-kind MC-130W was presented to Air Force Special Operations Command in a ceremony at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. Photo by Sue Sapp.



Brig. Gen. Steven Hashem, President of Joint Special Operations University (center), with 2006 SOF Education Conference attendees. 16th SOW photo.

JSOU Hosts Fifth Annual SOF Education Conference

By Mr. Paul Biernacki
Joint Special Operations University

"Tailoring SOF Education to meet USSOCOM's Evolving Missions" was the theme of the 5th Annual Special Operations Forces Education Conference held at the Joint Special Operations University the last week of June.

The symposium opened with comments by Gen. Doug Brown, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command. He outlined the way ahead for JSOU for the next seven years.

"We continue to need a high level SOF strategic studies and education, with a joint emphasis," Brown said. "The JSOU Strategic Education Plan is the way ahead for the seven years and we intend to move the university to Tampa in the distant future."

The bulk of the conference had participants concentrating on helping to define specific SOF competencies to be incorporated into a Competency-based Certificate Education Program to be offered by the University. The conference attendees, representing each of the components, broke out into working groups to review and refine the 24 SOF Leadership Competencies identified during the USSOCOM wide Education Requirements Analysis study completed in FY 2005.

Participants reviewed the SOF Leadership Competency Model (see chart) developed during the ERA study; validated and further defined the competencies; determined which

competencies were being taught sufficiently by the components; and then made recommendations on which competencies should be incorporated into JSOU curricula.



According to Brig. Gen. Steven Hashem, JSOU President, the conference was a huge success.

"You have laid the groundwork for the JSOU curriculum developers to incorporate your findings and recommendations into Joint SOF certificate courses," Hashem said. "Targeting the senior NCO, company grade officer, and field grade officer levels will provide better understanding of SOF strategic studies"

The new certificate program is expected to come on line in late FY 2007.

Jumping for joy

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

Given the nature of the many special operations missions, much of what the special operations community does is unknown by the American people.

USSOCOM's Command Parachute represents the special operations Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who are fighting the long war to the American public. The team members are drawn from all of the Services — including DoD

civilians — reflecting the jointness of the command itself. In fact, it is the only joint demonstration team in the Department of Defense.

They perform in many events each year, including air shows; professional, college, and high school athletic events; and patriotic observances. Many demonstrations include multiple jumps over a weekend event.

Whether it's a high profile event like floating into Raymond James Stadium for a Tampa Bay Buccaneer game, or a local high school football rivalry, the jumpers

Sgt. Thomas Melton, of the Special Operations Command Parachute Team, signs autographs for fans at Cody, Wyo. The team performs at about 20 air shows and other events per year. Photographic by Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser.





Members of the Command Parachute Team freefall in a diamond formation. The team is the only joint demonstration team in the Department of Defense. USSOCOM photo.

mingle with the spectators after the parachuting in, signing autographs and talking about the team, the command, and its service components. “The team serves as an important community relations asset for the command,” said retired Col. Al Vernon, Officer in Charge of the parachute team.

All the team’s jumps are freefall and are modified representations of military freefall operations. The jumpers use a ram-air parachute for demonstrations — similar to what the U.S. Army Golden Knights use. “The equipment we use is the best in the business,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jay Menne, NCOIC. “And we are always evaluating new gear to ensure we have the right equipment for the job.”

One of the most memorable jumps Menne recalls was doing a demonstration for the University of Tampa. “UT and the stadium are located in downtown Tampa,” he said. “We got out at about 10,000 feet and worked our way into the stadium. I looked around on my way down and I was floating past the BankOne building. It was amazing — here I was just floating through the cityscape. I would never have had the chance to do something like that if I weren’t on the team.”

They are all volunteers, assigned to the headquarters and come from a wide variety of military backgrounds bringing many different experiences with them. “We have a wide breadth of abilities, from some demonstration candidates on the team with just over 100 jumps to people with over 6,000 jumps,” Vernon said. “The opportunity to jump with a military demonstration team can be very enticing when a headquarters tour is needed to continue a person’s career.”

But Vernon cautions, there are requirements which people must meet:

“To qualify for the team you must be assigned or be attached to USSOCOM headquarters and have at least 100 freefall jumps, military or civilian, or a combination of the

two,” Vernon said. “Also candidates must meet Service physical requirements and be a member of the U.S. Parachute Association — as you have to have the necessary licenses and ratings before you can do demonstrations requiring Federal Aviation Administration approval.”

He also points out the team is strictly an “additional duty” and most practices and demonstrations are conducted on off-duty time. The team receives no overtime pay or compensatory time.

While this may put a damper on some people’s enthusiasm to join the benefits can outweigh the time sacrifices.

“The team is a unique opportunity at this command,” Menne said. “For some, the experience gained from being a member of the team has opened the door to other special assignments in the military. One of our jumpers, Sgt. Thomas Melton, was selected to coach the West Point Parachute team. That’s a great step for a junior NCO.”

According to Menne, they are always on the lookout for people who are interested in serving as demonstration parachutists and also actively recruit ground crew members.

“The team has a number of opportunities which don’t require jumping out of airplanes,” he said. “We always need people for Drop Zone Safety Officer, narrator medic and so on. These spots are perfect for headquarters staff stuck in ‘cube world’ who want to get back into field operations.”

Both Vernon and Menne agree the team offers jumpers and non-jumpers camaraderie and a chance to be part of something that helps USSOCOM gain recognition for the hard work and sacrifices of Special Operations Forces.

“We are always looking for dedicated people, jumpers and non-jumpers, male or female of any branch of service to help us show the skills and determination of the special operations community to the American public,” Vernon said.

Mission RoadFrog makes pit stop at U.S. Special Operations Command

By Mike Bottoms

USSOCOM Public Affairs

Don Zub, a former SEAL, visited U.S. Special Operations Command as a part of his philanthropic cross-country road trip to raise more than \$100,000 for the families of fallen SEALs.

Zub has named the journey "Mission RoadFrog" starting on July 4, and is scheduled to take about three weeks. Zub will travel from Coronado, Calif. to Little Creek, Va. and will make stops in Phoenix, Houston, Panama City, Fla., Tampa Bay, Miami and Atlanta.

His motivation for the cross-country trek began when he attended the memorial service held in Hawaii for the SEALs killed in Afghanistan in 2005.

"I was struck how distraught the brothers of one of the SEALs killed were and I couldn't get them out of my mind," Zub said. "I decided to do something and came up with the idea of the road trip."

Once in Little Creek, Zub will raffle off the car he's driving, a 1990 Mazda Miata, at the East Coast Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) SEAL reunion July 21. Zub hopes to raise at least \$10,000 off the raffle of his Miata.

"This trip is about helping the families of those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom," Zub said. "The children of the fallen SEALs no longer have a father. I'm a father myself and I can't imagine what it would be like if I wasn't there to raise my children. The money raised by this trip isn't going to heal the pain but it will make things a little easier for those families."

All the money raised will go to the Naval Special Warfare Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides educational and motivational support to SEAL families.



Don Zub, left, a former SEAL and (SEAL) Capt. Dennis Granger stand with the Mission RoadFrog Miata in front of U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., July 11. Courtesy photo.

"What Don is doing is not only helping to raise money for the families of SEALs, but its raising the awareness of the importance of their mission. Many of these guys are on the front lines and the tip of the spear against the Global War on Terrorism," said Bob Rieve, a retired Navy SEAL and currently the Commanding Officer of the Naval Special Warfare Foundation.

"The war on terrorism begins at the homes of these SEALs. If their families are well taken care of when they're gone on deployment, then it makes their job easier. They can focus on their mission and not worry about how they will pay a bill if they happen to be in a jam," Rieve added.

For information on Mission Roadfrog visit www.missionroadfrog.org.

UDT raids behind N. Korean lines

By Gaea Levy
USSOCOM History Office

In August 1950, shortly after the Korean War had begun, Vice Adm. Turner Joy, Commander Naval Forces, Far East called upon a detachment of UDT-3 to conduct a raid behind enemy lines, harassing the enemy by disrupting their supply lines. The first site chosen was Yosu, located on the southern coast, 45 miles behind enemy lines; it was an important seaport with a railroad. This raid was the first in a series of raids the UDTs would perform. Yosu had three railroad bridges and a tunnel, all 300 yards from the shore. Just after midnight, Diachenko dropped off two rubber boats. The lead boat full of explosives, with Lt. j.g. George Atcheson and Boatswain's Mate Warren Foley went into shore, while the second boat waited for a signal from Atcheson to follow. Atcheson and Foley swam 200 meters to the beach because they were less visible in the illumination of the full-moon. When they got onto the rocky beach, they were surprised to find a 35-foot sea wall, which they had to climb. After reaching the top, the pair was spotted by North Korean soldiers who opened fire on them. Foley was shot and fell over the wall to the beach. Team members from the second boat, who had reached the shore pulled Foley into the boat, and they all returned to the landing craft. Foley was the Navy's first battle casualty in the Korean War.

This failed raid resulted in a stronger raiding party being built. This new team consisted of 25 UDTs, from Teams 1 and 3, and 16 Marines. This team would allow the Marines to establish a defensive perimeter around the

target while the UDTs would set the explosives. The next raid targeted a railroad bridge and two tunnels just south of Tanchon. On the night of Aug 12, a moonless night, seven rubber boats launched from Bass. Lights and activity onshore forced the team to return to the ship in order to avoid discovery.

The next night's target was a tunnel farther north. They encountered one North Korean guard, who dropped his weapon, a wooden rifle with a bayonet lashed to it, and ran when he came upon Lt. Edwin Smith. The UDTs were forced to take cover as a freight train passed. After loading one ton of explosives in the tunnel and on the track, Lt. j.g. P.A. Wilson and Atcheson pulled the fuse and they all ran for the beach. They watched the explosions from the boats as they were heading back to the landing craft.

On Aug 14 the raiding party returned to the site south of Tanchon. There were no enemy soldiers present, but there was a family of North Koreans taking shelter in one of the concrete pillboxes guarding the tunnel. The team took the family a safe distance from the explosion and tied them loosely enough to ensure they would be able to escape later. The team finished their work and returned to the boats shortly before 0200. The ensuing explosion completely destroyed the main tunnel and bridge.

The raiding party conducted a series of missions during August 1950, some as far as 160 miles above the North Korean border. These raids helped to relieve the pressure on U.S. troops in the South. The team then went on to conduct reconnaissance of Pusan in preparation for an amphibious landing.

In 1983 the remaining UDTs were redesignated SEAL Teams.



Underwater Demolition Team members circa 1950 prepare for a mission during the Korean War. USSOCOM photo.



SOF Memorial:

By Mike Bottoms
USSOCOM Public Affairs

The ancient Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of war saying, “not only are our soldiers commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not just on stone but in the hearts of men.”

The SOF memorial located at U.S. Special Operations Command Headquarters gives comrades and families a hallowed place to touch the etched names of the fallen and a sanctuary to reflect on the sacrifices of special operations men and women.

The statue is the focal point of the memorial, with surrounding walls designed to accommodate engravings to memorialize past, present, and future special operations personnel and organizations.

The central, prominent wall holds the engraved names of those special operations personnel awarded the Medal of Honor and three Australian posthumous recipients of the Victoria Cross. The Victoria Cross is Australia’s Medal of Honor equivalent and the awards were earned while working with U.S. Special Forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

On either side of the Medal of Honor and Victoria Cross recipients are the special operations personnel killed in action or killed in training beginning with the Hostage Rescue attempt in Iran during Operation Eagle Claw in 1980.

“The eight service members killed during Desert One (Operation Eagle Claw) are inscribed first on the memorial because the operation is considered the genesis of U.S. Special Operations Command,” said Geoff Barker, director of operations and charter member of the Special Operations Foundation.

Along the outer rings contain the names of legacy special operations warriors dating back to World War II. Also, the outer rings have the names of friends of SOF and major contributors to the memorial.

An interesting fact is the memorial was civilian inspired. Tampa businessman, Richard Leandri, is credited for the inspiration the SOF memorial.

“Dick Leandri came up with idea for the Ranger Memorial at Ft. Benning, Ga. and he thought USSOCOM should have a similar tribute to all of the Special Operations Forces,” Barker said.

In 1995, Leandri contacted fellow businessman Peter Kreuziger and special operations retirees, Maj.

Remembering the fallen

Gen. Joseph Lutz and Geoff Barker, and formulated a plan to build the memorial.

“Dick (Leandri) had such energy and vision,” said Peter Kreuziger, treasurer and charter member of the Special Operations Memorial Foundation. “He met with Gen. Wayne Downing (former USSOCOM commander) sought and got permission to build the memorial.”

Leandri worked tirelessly for three years acquiring the funding needed for the memorial. He passed away unexpectedly in 1998 and on Nov. 2 1998, Gen. Peter Schoomaker, posthumously awarded USSOCOM’s first Outstanding Civilian Service Medal to Leandri.

Lutz, the first military retiree member of the foundation, took over and managed the memorial until he passed away in 1999.

Leandri, Lutz and the Special Operations Foundation’s leadership and vision culminated in the first all-Service Special Operations Memorial. Phase I of the monument was dedicated on May 24, 1999, during a ceremony hosted by Gen. Schoomaker. The ceremony unveiled the statue representing all Services in SOF with three surrounding walls.

“The original plan for Phase I of the memorial was for it to last 12-15 years, but with the tragedy of 9/11 and the ensuing war on terrorism the memorial needs to be expanded now because we are rapidly running out of space for additional names,” said Mike Dickerson, president of the Special Operations Memorial Foundation.

The number of persons, honored on the memorial, has increased nearly ten-fold since it was dedicated.

“The original memorial contained 137 names and today the list of names of Killed in Action, Killed in Training, friends of SOF and sponsors are over 1,200,” Dickerson said. “In our next phase we plan to increase the existing 4 foot walls to six feet and complete the park in the shape of a spear similar to the SOCOM logo and we hope to have the expanded construction completed by 2007,” he added.

Retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Jim McCombs, current chairman of the board Special Operations Memorial Foundation and former deputy commander of SOCOM, thinks the expansion is critical to allow us to continue honoring past, present and future SOF warriors.

“We’re trying to honor our SOF folks of yesterday — those who established the legacy of the SOF warrior as well as today’s SOF Soldier, Sailor, Airman (and now Marine) who are not only fulfilling the legacy but are quickly becoming America’s next ‘greatest generation.’ While honoring those two groups, we’re also trying to

prepare the memorial for future SOF and at the same time make sure that we have space to thank all the friends of SOF that have helped take the memorial from an idea to a brick, marble and mortar reality, McCombs said.

“There are two memorials really. The one here physically at MacDill where people can visit and spend some quiet time honoring friends and the on-line version where you can view the names of lost relatives and friends for those that can’t come to Florida.”

Other interesting information about the memorial is the names of the founder of the Britain’s Special Air Service, CIA agent and first U.S. combat fatality in the war on terrorism, Montgnards from Vietnam and the only SOF casualty on 9/11 are all etched into the memorial.

Editor’s note: The memorial is located at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla. in front of U.S. Special Operations Command. It is open 365 days a year. To visit the SOF Memorial on-line go to SOFMemorial.com.



Proposed architectural drawing of Phase II of the Special Operations memorial. Drawing provided by Wedding, Stephenson and Ibarguen.

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

*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
SPC Mark Bibby
SGT Jay Blessing
CPO Matthew Bourgeois
Capt Todd Bracy
SGT Dale Brehm
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
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 II
SFC Trevor Diesing
PO2 Danny Dietz
SSG James Dorrity
Maj William Downs
Sgt Christopher Eberich
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
SSG Aaron Holleyman
MSG Robert Horrigan
MSG Kelly Hornbeck
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
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
SSG Christian Longworth*

who lost their lives

g Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and

ism will never be forgotten

*PO1 Jeffery Lucas
CPL George Lutz II
CPT Shane Mahaffee
MSG Thomas Maholic
MSgt Michael Maltz
SFC Curtis Mancini
SSG Paul Mardis
MSgt William McDaniel
Lt Michael McGreevy, Jr.
SFC Robert McGee
SFC Michael McNulty
SGT Rhonald Meeks
1SG Tobias Meister
SFC Robert Mogensen
SGT Alberto Montrond
SSG Orlando Morales
MSG Kevin Morehead
SFC Lawrence Morrison
SFC Pedro Munoz
SFC Marcus Muralles
Lt. Michael Murphy
SSG Clinton Newman
SFC James Ochsner
SSG Tony Olaes
SGT Michael O'Neill
CPT Bartt Owens
SGT Micheal Owens
1st Lt Ray Owens Jr.
CW3 Mark O'Steen
PO1 Brian Ouellette
SGT Jason Palmerton
PO2 Eric Patton
SSgt Patrick Pentico
SFC Daniel Petithory*

*LTC Mark Phelan
SSG Christopher Piper
SrA Jason Plite
Maj Steven 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
CPL Patrick Tillman
SSgt John Teal
MAJ Jeffrey Toczyłowski
SPC Teodoro Torres
SFC Peter Tycz
SSG Gene Vance
SGT Nathan Vacho
SFC Brett Walden
SSgt Thomas Walkup
TSgt Howard Walters
CWO Jamie Weeks
Sgt Cheyenne Willey
Capt Gil Williamson
SGT Roy Wood
Maj Matthew Worrel
SGT Jeremy Wright
CW4 Michael Wright
MSG Anthony Yost
SFC Mickey Zaun*

A full-page photograph of a soldier in a military aircraft, wearing a helmet and goggles, looking out over a green landscape. The soldier is holding a rifle. The image is oriented horizontally on the page.

On to the next mission

Senior Airman Chris Harding, 31st Special Operations Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan, conducts aerial reconnaissance during a training mission in South Korea on June 7, 2006. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Allen.