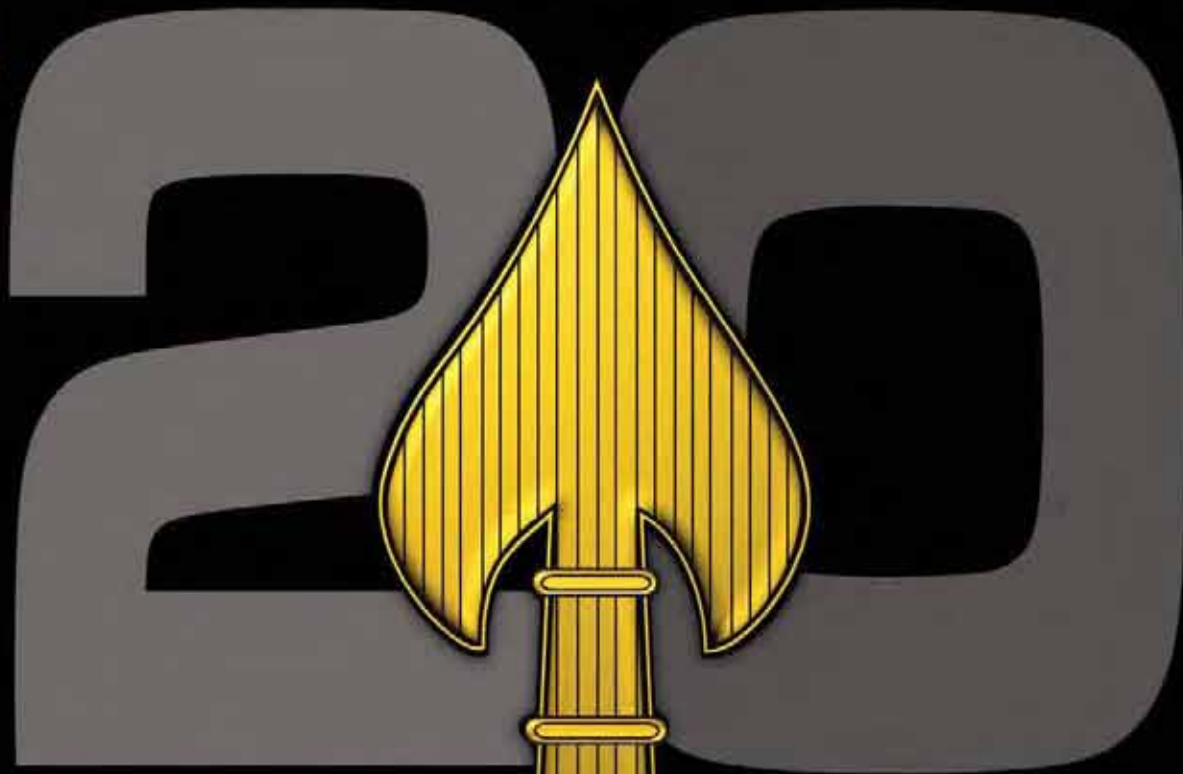




# TIP OF THE SPEAR



**1987** **2007**

**Proven**

in the past

**Vigilant**

today

**Prepared**

for the future

**USSOCOM marks 20th anniversary**

**Col. John Carney 2007 Bull Simons recipient**

**SEALs celebrate 45 years of service**

# Departments

<b>20th Anniversary Special</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>U.S. Army Special Operations Command</b>	<b>Page 14</b>
<b>Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command</b>	<b>Page 22</b>
<b>Naval Special Warfare Command</b>	<b>Page 32</b>
<b>Air Force Special Operations Command</b>	<b>Page 40</b>
<b>Headquarters USSOCOM</b>	<b>Page 43</b>

## United States Special Operations Command observes 20 years of service

*U.S. Special Operations Command, the only congressionally created combatant command, marks its 20th anniversary on April 16, 2007. Story on page 4.*



## Tip of the Spear

**Gen. Doug Brown**  
Commander, USSOCOM

**Col. Hans Bush**  
Public Affairs Director

**CSM Thomas Smith**  
Command Sergeant Major

**Staff Sgt. Timothy Lawn**  
Staff Writer

**Mike Bottoms**  
Editor

This is a U.S. Special Operations Command publication. Contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or USSOCOM. The content is edited, prepared and provided by the USSOCOM Public Affairs Office, 7701 Tampa Point Blvd., MacDill AFB, Fla., 33621, phone (813) 826-4600, DSN 299-4600. E-mail the editor via unclassified network at [public.affairs@socom.mil](mailto:public.affairs@socom.mil). The editor of the Tip of the Spear reserves the right to edit all copy presented for publication.

*Front cover: United States Special Operations Command 20th anniversary graphic highlighting the theme "Proven in the past, Vigilant today, Prepared for the future." Graphic by Susie Blanchard and Randy Nabors.*

# Highlights

---



## **Col. John Carney**

*recipient of 2007 Bull Simons Award, page 26*

## **SEALs commemorate**

*45 years of service, page 32*



## **USSOCOM officer receives**

*Florida National Defense Space Award, page 44*



# USSOCOM

## USSOCOM celebrates its 20th anniversary

By Mike Bottoms  
*USSOCOM Public Affairs*



April 25, 1980, was a defining moment for the American people and Special Operations.

At 7 a.m., a somber President announced to our nation and the world the tragic news of Desert One. President Jimmy Carter

announced a secret hostage rescue mission had failed; eight American servicemen were dead and several others were seriously injured.

### *Out of the ashes of Desert One rose U.S. Special Operations Command.*

“That crushing failure at Desert One and its consequences told everyone, despite the enormous talent we had, we hadn’t put it together right and something had to be done,” said retired Lt. Gen. Sam Wilson, a former CIA field case officer, former Special Forces group commander, and former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

“That conclusion was reinforced by the superficially successful operation in Grenada. Once again, our service components could not talk with each other, the forces had not lived together, trained together, nor did we share the same doctrine. The operation was like a pick-up basketball game. Desert One and Grenada were the two main events telling us something must be done,” Wilson said.

Problems with the Grenada invasion and failure to fix the special operations joint mobility issues led Congress to pass the Nunn-Cohen Amendment mandating the President create a unified combatant command for special operations with control over its own resources.

“During the early eighties Special Operations Forces encountered problems with the unified commands during the Brig. Gen. Dozier kidnapping and Operation Urgent Fury. We couldn’t get the unified commands to understand what the Special Operations Community was about,” said retired Maj. Gen. Richard Scholtes, former Joint Special Operations Command commander. “SOF never talked to anyone in the House or Senate in those days so Gen. Vessey (Army Chief of Staff) asked some staffers to talk to us about the problems in Grenada. Discussions began in Congress to reorganize special operations to better define how SOF should be used.”

By September 1986, there were three proposal bills — one from the Department of Defense, the Senate and the House of Representatives — to reorganize special operations. To accurately testify about SOF issues, Scholtes retired prior to appearing before the Senate Sea Power and Force Protection Subcommittee on Aug. 5, 1986.

“Gen. Scholtes has a reputation for integrity and principle. He would tell it like it was. That was important to the (Armed Services Committee) members,” said former Sen. William

Cohen, who served as Secretary of Defense from 1997 to 2001. “The Pentagon was waging a frontal and rear assault in opposition to the creation of a special operations command. Without his testimony, USSOCOM might not have happened, or we might have created a command with only two or three stars.”

Scholtes provided the unvarnished military advice to Congress and now it was up to the legislative branch to create United States Special Operations Command.

“Senators William Cohen and Sam Nunn were the



# -20 Years



driving forces in the legislature in the creation of U.S. Special Operations Command,” said James Locher, the first Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict. “On the House side, it was Rep. Dan Daniel who played the lead role in pushing the legislation through.”

The Department of Defense wanted to make SOCOM a two or three star command, but the legislative branch had other ideas.

“There were fundamental flaws in how we were operating and we needed a four-star in charge of the command to deal with his counterparts,” said

Cohen. “SOCOM’s profile needed to be raised to get the money, the appropriations and the authority to start the command in a way that it would be significant.”

The U.S. Special Operations Command was formed April 16, 1987, with responsibility to organize, train and equip U.S. Special Operations Forces from the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Gen. James Lindsay became U.S. Special Operations Command’s first commander.

“I have been asked why the headquarters was kept in Tampa, and that is a great question because it caused me some sleepless nights,” said Lindsay, who commanded until June 1990. “There was great pressure at that time to move the command to the Washington D.C. area, but I resisted because I didn’t want SOCOM to become another staff agency.”

Since Lindsay’s command at SOCOM there have been six subsequent commanders, and USSOCOM has been involved in all of the country’s major military operations.

“The invasion into Panama in Dec, 1989, was the first time we fully integrated the capability of Special

Operations Forces with conventional forces, which gave us the best of all options for the success we achieved in Panama,” said Gen. Carl Stiner, USSOCOM commander, from June 1990 to May 1993.

The command’s growth is clearly linked between previous and future commanders.

***“At the onset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Army special operations helicopters launched from Navy ships with Army Special Forces and Navy SEALs on-board and linked up in-flight with their Air Force special operations counterparts. They made a Special Operations Forces joint team and successfully conducted missions more complex and tougher than Desert One – not once, but 23 times – in addition to dozens of joint ground missions across Afghanistan. That capability was available in 2001, because of 1987.” Gen. Doug Brown***

“I think one of the most significant things SOCOM did was during General Lindsay’s tenure when he decided to expand Special Operations Command overseas and we would build them with our own resources and put flag officers in those theater SOCs,” said Gen. Wayne Downing,

USSOCOM commander, from May 1993 to February 1996. “General Lindsay made the critical decision that the SOCs would work for the theater commanders, and that was powerful. They became part of the theater structure, and that gave us credibility all around the world.

“SOCOM was willing to fund the deployments, fund the training and we really spread Special Operations around the world,” Downing continued. “We worked for country teams all over the world, worked for the ambassadors, refined our language and cultural skills, and all of this paid off when we did operations like Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Haiti, and Bosnia. I think it pays off for us in this current conflict.”

Special Operations has always been ideally suited for asymmetrical warfare and is key to defeating terrorists today.

“I would argue that SOCOM has had the lead in the War on Terrorism since its inception,” said Gen. Henry Shelton, USSOCOM commander, from February 1996 to September 1997. “Certainly today the public is more



Gen. Lindsay

aware of the dangers America faces, and SOCOM's role in the War on Terrorism is more visible, but I think we'll see the national command authorities turning more and more to Special Operations Command today because they recognize what a great force it is."

Although direct action often gets the headlines, it is the indirect approach that remains one of SOF's greatest capabilities in the Global War on Terrorism.

"Some of the major successes of the SOF community have been with the foreign internal defense, unconventional warfare, psychological operations and civil affairs," said Gen. Peter Schoomaker, USSOCOM commander, from November 1997 to October 2000. "The integration of this type of SOF into conventional forces and the notion that SOF is an integral part of everything we do now is proof positive of the value of effective Special Operations."

USSOCOM continued to concentrate organizing, training and equipping SOF, but Special Operations would forever change after 9/11.

"My primary emphasis was on readiness, the people and modernization," said Gen. Charles Holland, USSOCOM commander, from October 2000 to September 2003. "I concentrated on acquiring the CV-22, Advanced SEAL Delivery System, and Soldier systems but our focus completely changed after 9/11.

"We knew the challenges ahead were going to far exceed the challenges of the past," Holland said. "I remember on 19 October 2001, Maj. Gen. Dell Dailey, who was the commander of the Joint Special Operations Task Force, conducted two difficult, simultaneous operations at Objectives Rhino and Gecko in Afghanistan and they were very successful."

Today, USSOCOM has four components consisting of U.S. Naval Special Warfare Command activated April 16, 1987; U.S. Army Special Operations Command activated December 1, 1989; U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command, activated May 22, 1990; and the most recent component, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, activated February 24, 2006.

Along with the addition of USSOCOM components, USSOCOM responsibilities have also become more evolved and complex. Originally focusing on training and equipping SOF warriors,



USSOCOM now is the lead combatant commander for planning, synchronizing, and, as directed, executing global operations against terrorist networks.

SOF warriors are deployed to 95 countries, speak over a 100 languages, and spend 365 days each year contributing to the Global War on Terrorism.



Gen. Brown

The USSOCOM Commander, Gen. Doug Brown, said, "At the onset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Army special operations helicopters launched from Navy ships with Army Special Forces and Navy SEALs onboard and linked up in flight with their Air Force special operations counterparts. They made a Special Operations Forces joint team and successfully conducted missions more complex and tougher than Desert One – not once, but 23 times – in addition to dozens of joint ground missions across Afghanistan. That capability was available in 2001 because of 1987."

*The following examples are significant special operations that have taken place since USSOCOM's activation in 1987. The special operations highlighted represent the entire spectrum of SOF unique capabilities in military operations.*

## Operation Earnest Will – Persian Gulf

SOF's first tactical operation involved SEALs, Special Boat Units, and 160th Special Operations Regiment (Airborne) aviators working together during Operation Earnest Will in September 1987. The Nightstalkers used "Little Bird" helicopters to disable the Iranian ship Iran Ajr while the ship was laying mines in the Persian Gulf. SEALs and Special Boat Units later captured the ship. SOF provided critical



skills necessary to help Central Command gain control of the northern Arabian Gulf and counter Iran's small boats and minelayers. The most important lessons learned from Operation Earnest Will were the need to have highly trained SOF capable of responding rapidly to crises anywhere around the globe and the vital need for interoperability between conventional forces and SOF.

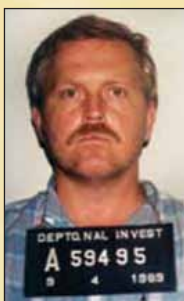
## Operation Just Cause - Panama

The Panama invasion known as Operation Just Cause occurred in December 1989. Its key objectives were to capture Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega and to set conditions to establish a democratic government. The Joint Special Operations Task Force was commanded by Maj. Gen. Wayne Downing. The task force's mission included the attack on the Panamanian Defense Headquarters and the rescue of American hostage Kurt



Noriega

Muse. The Muse rescue was the first successful hostage rescue since World War II. The 75th Ranger Regiment seized the Omar Torrijos International Airport, enabling the 82nd Airborne Division to enter Panama. The operation ended with Noriega surrendering to SOF and the country establishing a democratic government. Operation Just Cause demonstrated just how far SOF had come since Desert One; not only with regard to internal enhancements to SOF capabilities and command and control structures, but also with regard to the close integration of SOF and conventional forces. Operation Just Cause clearly validated how SOF were trained, equipped, and organized.



Kurt Muse



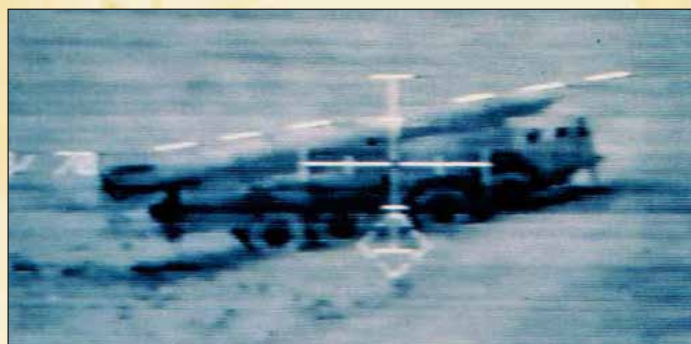
## Operation Desert Storm - SCUD Hunters

Saddam Hussein was unable to battle in the air during Desert Storm because of coalition forces' air superiority. He decided to use SCUD missiles to attack Israel in January 1991.

Tactically, the SCUD would not have a major impact, but its strategic effect was felt Jan. 18 when seven SCUDs hit several Israeli cities. The Joint Special Operations Task Force was given the mission to stop the SCUD attacks on Israel. 160th SOAR (A) armed MH-60s and SOF teams went hundreds of miles inside western Iraq to destroy the SCUD infrastructure. SOF SCUD hunting operations greatly reduced the attacks, persuading Israel to not enter the war.



## Operation Provide Comfort - Iraq



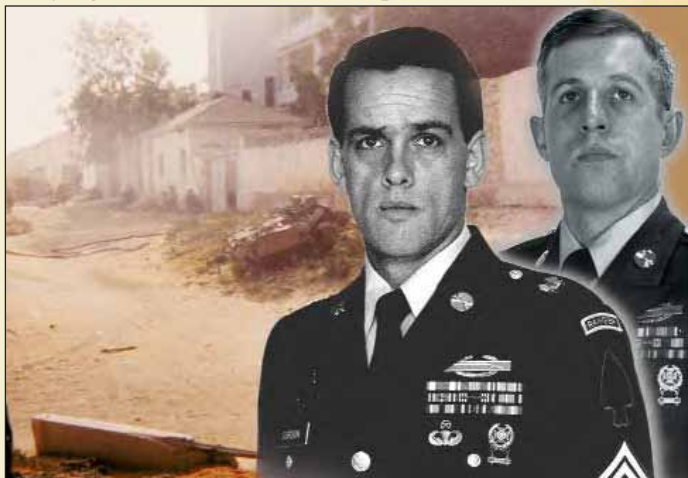
In February 1991, Operation Provide Comfort may be the best example of SOF's capability to deal with a large-scale disaster. SOF's diverse talents made it a natural choice to support humanitarian assistance efforts. Iraqi Kurds had revolted against Saddam Hussein following Desert Storm, but Hussein's forces crushed the rebellion. Hundreds of thousands of Kurds fled to the mountains in northern Iraq and southeastern Turkey. MC-130E Combat Talons led other aircraft to drop emergency supplies for the Kurdish refugees. 10th Special Forces Group, supported by MH-53J helicopters, helped build suitable refugee camps and worked with refugee leaders to organize and distribute the supplies. Civil Affairs units helped with medical assistance, food distribution and daily camp operations. SEALs and Special Boat Unit personnel provided



security for the camps, and Psychological Operations units produced thousands of leaflets providing instructions on how to get help within the camps. SOF were credited with saving thousands of lives by providing skilled personnel to rebuild the civil infrastructure, to establish supply networks and to provide medical assistance.

## Operation Gothic Serpent - Somalia

160th SOAR (A) helicopters carrying special operators from Task Force Ranger at Mogadishu airport were given the mission to capture Somalia's Gen. Muhammad Farah Aideed and his lieutenants in October 1993. During the mission, two MH-60 Blackhawks were shot down forcing a rescue operation. The task force faced an overwhelming Somali mob that overran the crashed helicopter sites, creating a dire situation. Task Force Ranger experienced a total of 17 killed in action and 106 wounded. Task force members had to operate in an extremely difficult environment that required constant innovation, flexibility and sound judgment. The task force had more than held its own against a vastly superior enemy that was battle-hardened from years of civil war and urban fighting. Master Sgt. Gary Gordon and Sgt. 1st Class Randall Shughart were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions in trying to save a downed helicopter crew.



## Operation Uphold Democracy - Haiti

Haiti had endured unrelenting political oppression for hundreds of years. In Operation Support Democracy and its predecessor Operation Uphold Democracy, SOF played a strategic role in securing peace within Haiti. On Oct. 15, 1993, Operation Support Democracy began with a naval blockade. Patrol craft with SEALs aboard were used to board ships smuggling contraband into Haiti. By June 1994, the SEALs had boarded hundreds of ships. President Bill Clinton was still dissatisfied with the political oppression in Haiti in July 1994 and authorized an invasion plan. SOF were assigned to take down key government sites followed by a link-up with conventional forces similar to the invasion of Panama in 1989. After the main takedown, SOF were to secure the countryside. The invasion was called off because former President Jimmy Carter, Sen. Sam Nunn and retired Gen. Colin Powell brokered a peace deal. Operation Uphold Democracy began and 3rd Special Forces Group set up three forward operating bases with Operational Detachment-Alpha teams keeping law and order in the countryside. A psychological operations campaign using leaflets, radio broadcasts and airborne loudspeaker platforms encouraged cooperation with U.S. forces and avoided bloody conflicts with the former regime. With the assistance of non-governmental organizations, Civil Affairs units rebuilt infrastructure and restored electricity. The peace and order found in the Haitian countryside during Operation Uphold Democracy were a remarkable tribute to SOF.



## Operation Allied Force - Balkans

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization initiated Operation Allied Force March 24, 1999, to put an end to Serbia's violent repression of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. A 78-day bombing campaign eventually forced Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to withdraw his forces from Kosovo. The bombing strategy did not prevent Serbia from forcing an





estimated 800,000 refugees out of the country, creating an enormous humanitarian crisis in neighboring Albania and Macedonia. SOF played a strategic role throughout the Balkans region with Civil Affairs units coordinating large-scale humanitarian relief efforts with U.S. governmental agencies and international relief organizations, arranging food, shelter and medical care for the refugee camps. SOF helicopters airlifted supplies into refugee areas prior to conventional forces arriving. Within Kosovo itself, SOF aircraft dropped food and supplies to displaced people. SOF engaged in direct action and special reconnaissance missions to include AC-130 gunships attacking Serbian positions. SOF also rescued the only two U.S. pilots downed during the war. SOF employment during Allied Force enabled commanders to conduct ground operations in a politically sensitive environment, fostering a strategic impact throughout the Balkans region.

## Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan

Special Operations Forces achieved spectacular results during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Task Forces Dagger and K-Bar deployed into Afghanistan to prepare for operations in September 2001. Their mission was to conduct unconventional warfare with coalition forces to free Afghanistan from Taliban oppression and to no longer allow the area be a safe haven for terrorist organizations. Shortly after arriving, 5th Special Forces Group ODA



augmented by Air Force Special Tactics personnel and assisted by Afghani opposition forces infiltrated contested areas. Subsequently, SOF elements coordinated Air Force and Navy attacks against enemy positions while working with coalition forces to arm, train and lead elements under extremely hazardous conditions. The effort led to the complete rout of Taliban and al Qaeda terrorist elements in Afghanistan within 49 days. The teams did all this with an amazing variety of equipment: everything from donkeys and horses to computers and satellite communications. The



success of unconventional warfare operations in Afghanistan generated many lessons for future operations, but their swift and complete success, with minimal U.S. casualties, also demonstrated the effectiveness of SOF unconventional warfare.

## Operation Enduring Freedom - Philippines

Operation Enduring Freedom extends into the



Philippines and is almost exclusively a special operations effort. In today's flat world with satellite communications and the Internet, it is important to understand the battlefield is global. Successful special operations began in February 2002, and are being implemented on the island of Basilan where terrorists from the Abu Sayyaf group had taken stronghold. Abu Sayyaf is linked to larger terrorist organizations that have a global reach. SOF is helping the Philippine government gain control over the region.



The visible method was to train the Filipinos to kill or capture terrorists, but less visible and more enduring were SOF efforts to sever the link between the terrorists and the population. SOF, teamed with their Filipino counterparts, identified Abu

Sayyaf strongholds and established bases within their territory, forcing the terrorist group to scatter, thereby separating them from the population. This tactic allowed SOF and the Filipino forces to provide security and to determine what the local needs. Digging new wells for clean water, building schools to educate children and establishing hospitals so basic medical care needs could be met are all missions SOF fostered in Basilan. Creating conditions where people want to live peacefully is a powerful weapon against terrorism. Direct action will become increasingly restricted as the Global War on Terrorism matures. Indirect actions of Foreign Internal Defense and Civil Affairs programs are the key to winning the war on terror.



## Operation Iraqi Freedom

SOF were given key roles in Operation Iraqi Freedom such as stopping Saddam Hussein from creating an ecological disaster by dumping massive quantities of oil into

the Arabian Gulf and lighting oil fields on fire as he had done during Desert Storm. SOF were also assigned key missions including preventing the Iraqi V Corps in the north from reinforcing Baghdad; conducting special reconnaissance and direct action missions in western Iraq to locate and destroy Iraqi mobile missiles; supporting Combined Forces Land Component Command movement from the south toward Baghdad; conducting support and stability operations throughout



the country; and interdicting borders and lines of communication. Additional SOF operations included conducting airborne parachute assaults to seize key airfields; participating in efforts to kill or capture key personnel within the Iraqi

regime; and seizing and protecting suspected sites where weapons of mass destruction were manufactured. SOF were rapidly and effectively deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom working closely with conventional forces and governmental agencies. The strategic and operational achievements of SOF had USSOCOM fighting on all fronts, suppressing missile launches against friendly forces and preventing an epic environmental disaster. Today, SOF continue to play a major role in stability operations with the long term goal of building a free and democratic Iraq.



# Operation Iraqi Freedom/ Operation Enduring Freedom





# USSOCOM Commanders



**Gen. James Lindsay**  
1987 - 1990



**Gen. Carl Stiner**  
1990 - 1993



**Gen. Wayne Downing**  
1993 - 1996



**Gen. Henry Shelton**  
1996 - 1997



**Gen. Peter Schoomaker**  
1997 - 2000



**Gen. Charles Holland**  
2000 - 2003

**Gen. Doug Brown**  
2003 - 2007



# USSOCOM

## Senior Enlisted Advisors



Master Chief Rudolph Boesch  
1988 – 1990



Chief Master Sgt. Michael Lampe  
1991 – 1997



Command Sgt. Maj. Melvin Wick  
1997 – 2000



Master Chief Richard Rogers  
2000 – 2003



Chief Master Sgt. Robert Martens, Jr.  
2003 – 2005

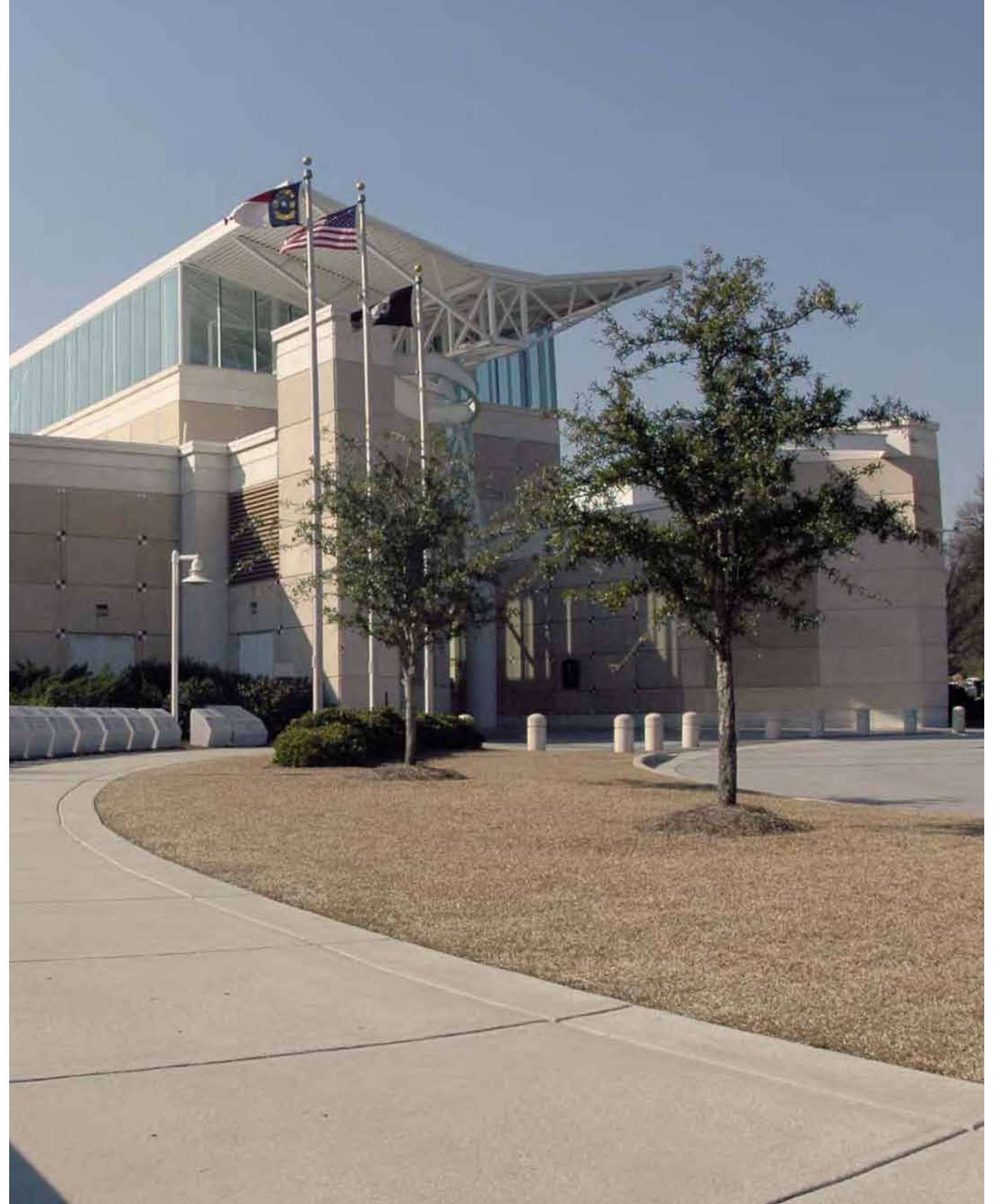
Command Sgt. Maj.  
Thomas Smith  
2005 - present



# Army Special Operations display area grows at Army Airborne & Special Operations Museum

*Photos and story by Mike Bottoms  
USSOCOM Public Affairs*

**W**ise warriors have  
always understood  
the importance of  
studying history.





**A MH-6 "Little Bird" hangs over the display depicting the rescue of Kurt Muse during Operation Just Cause in Panama. This is one of many displays at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, N.C.**

Preserving the history of the Special Operations Forces brotherhood is the mission of the Airborne and Special Operations Museum.

Tens of thousands of active duty Soldiers have visited the museum for military professional development, and to learn from history. It also serves as memorable back drop for re-enlistment ceremonies.

"Our museum has had over a million visitors since we opened in Aug. 2000," said Sandy Klotz, executive director of the Airborne and Special Operations Museum.

"We have over 6,000 artifacts housed in our 59,000-square-foot facility," Klotz said. "We are very proud of the way this museum is displayed and represents the Airborne and Special Operations community historic past."

"Special Forces Soldiers revere the museum because over 500 Soldiers have re-enlisted at the museum," Klotz continued.

The museum also places great

emphasis on educating school-age children.

"Educating students is very important to us and we have had over 50,000 students visit our museum through schools, summer programs and clubs."

In October 2006, the museum opened a 3,000 square-foot exhibit focusing on the worldwide missions of Army Special Operations Forces from 1980 to the present.

The ribbon cutting followed a dedication ceremony during which Gen. Doug Brown, USSOCOM commander; Lt. Gen. Robert Wagner, commanding general, U.S. Army Special Operations Command; and retired Gen. James Lindsay, former USSOCOM commander and Chairman of the Airborne Special

Operations Museum Foundation Board of Directors, addressed dignitaries, reporters and the public.

"Our museum is an attempt to preserve a salient





part of our history,” said Brown. “The Army Special Operations exhibit couldn’t be more appropriate. Today, around the world, Special Operations Forces are involved at a level of expertise and a level of commitment that is unlike anything we have ever had in our history.”

Exhibits include the 1989 rescue of Kurt Muse from Panama’s Modelo Prison. The MH-6 “Little Bird” flies over the prison display roof.

Muse was present during the dedication ceremony and was impressed by the diorama.

“The Special Forces are the brothers that I never knew I had,” said Muse. “People that visit the museum will realize that these are great Americans, heroes, and proverbial giants; out there in front so we can all rest a little easier at night.”

Other exhibits depict close air support in Operation Enduring Freedom, Special Forces and



***A scene depicting Special Forces Soldier standing next to a Ground Mobility Vehicle during Operation Enduring Freedom is on display at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum is located at Fayetteville, N.C.***

Northern Alliance troops meeting in an Afghan hut, a Civil Affairs medical capabilities demonstration scene in the Philippines, Special Forces students training in a Robin Sage exercise, a Ground Mobility

Vehicle in Northern Iraq, and a map depicting Special Operations worldwide missions. The exhibits come to life through a combination of scenery, equipment, mannequins, audio-visual presentations and photography.

“The museum is the first Army museum residing off-post and is a partnership between the museum foundation and the Army, city, county and state,” said Klotz. “The partnership between these organizations allows us to serve the whole community.”

In addition to the 33,000-square-foot exhibit galleries, the museum offers the Pitch, Roll & Yaw motion simulator that enables visitors to go through the paces of special operations airborne training and a large screen theater that shows the museum’s film “Descending from the Clouds.”

***A diorama of Special Forces Soldiers conducting reconnaissance in Iraq is depicted at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum located in Fayetteville, N.C.***



# Night Stalker Physician Assistant honored for contribution to aviation

By *Kimberly T. Laudano*  
*160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment*  
*(Airborne) Public Affairs*

Capt. Scott Gilpatrick, a certified aeromedical physician assistant, was awarded the 2006 Army Aviation Association of America Medicine Award for his contributions to Army Aviation while serving in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne).

“I am honored to be nominated for this award, especially as the award is usually given to doctors,” he said. “I was very surprised someone took the time to nominate me during this busy time in our unit’s history.”

Maj. Shawn Kane, the 160th Senior Regiment Flight Surgeon, submitted the award nomination because he felt Gilpatrick was truly deserving of it. “His contributions to our mission and (the ground forces we support) are immeasurable.”

The AAAA annual awards program recognizes outstanding achievements in Army aviation. The AAAA Medicine Award is presented to the flight surgeon or aeromedical physician assistant who best exemplifies the contribution to Army aviation.

For Gilpatrick, the award is a reflection of all of the medical professionals in the 160th.

“It says, as a section, we go above and beyond what’s expected of any other team of aviation health care providers,” Gilpatrick explained. “We not only provide great care to our aviators and crew, we provide the (ground forces) we support with world-class casualty evacuation coverage.”

According to his nomination packet, Gilpatrick made significant contributions in aviation medicine, special operations aviation medicine tactics, techniques and procedures and training special operations aviation medical personnel over the past year. The nomination submission also states that these contributions were instrumental in saving the lives of countless special operations forces personnel and the successful completion of numerous missions in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Recognition of Gilpatrick’s and the unit’s medical accomplishments through this award has potential to



**Capt. Scott Gilpatrick, a certified aeromedical physician assistant, was awarded the 2006 Army Aviation Association of America Medicine Award. 160th SOAR (A) photo.**

expand support for the importance and feasibility of similar programs and capabilities in conventional units.

“Hopefully this award will show the Aviation Medicine community that aeromedical physician assistants are valuable members of a unit’s Aviation Medicine Program,” said Gilpatrick. “I also hope it shows that an aviation unit’s medical section can provide casualty evacuation coverage to the ground force units they support, beyond the conventional medical evacuation unit’s mission.”

Gilpatrick’s contributions to aviation medicine are based on core principles he believes in and passes along to his fellow medics.

“Every Soldier you take care of should be looked at as a family member. Take care of them like you would your brother or sister,” he said. “Also, make whatever unit you happen to be in better by doing something new and improved to usual operations.”

### ***Making a difference***

For more than six months during the 2006 award period, Gilpatrick served as a joint task force flight surgeon. He flew more than 100 missions, including some 300 night vision hours, in direct support of the

task force.

Gilpatrick was also responsible for planning all of the medical support for aviation missions and ensuring the overall casualty evacuation plan for the joint task force was feasible.

“I had to plan for missions that included all aspects of casualty care, from the time someone was hurt on the battlefield to their subsequent arrival at a surgical facility, usually via 160th aircraft,” he explained.

Kane stated Gilpatrick performed superbly in a position designated for a lieutenant colonel and a senior flight surgeon because of his expertise, professional knowledge and experiences. “He is a respected professional amongst his medical colleagues as well as the aviator and ground force leadership in the special operations community,” Kane said.

While deployed, Gilpatrick simultaneously maintained an aviation medical program at three geographically separated locations. This program included flying duty medical exams, daily provision of primary care medicine and a comprehensive post deployment screening program.

“Captain Gilpatrick provided outstanding aviation medical guidance and clinical advice to his special operations combat medics at those outstations,” said Kane. “Even in the immediate absence of an aeromedical physician assistant, his aviators were always assured the best care possible and his commanders were always assured the best guidance.”

When he’s not deployed, Gilpatrick dedicates time and energy into providing medical care to the Soldiers in his unit and training his medical personnel.

Kane said the aviators and commanders know that Gilpatrick is truly their ally and advocate and that they actively seek care instead of hiding and compounding their medical issues. This is significant because the aviators and crew members in Gilpatrick’s unit have remained continuously deployed for more than five years and that operation tempo takes a heavy toll on readiness related to chronic and challenging medical conditions.

“Crewmembers and commanders trust and respect (Captain Gilpatrick’s) recommendations,” he said. “They know that if they have to be grounded it is in the

best interest of their health and the units’ mission and most importantly it will be for the minimum amount of time.”

Tough, realistic training is another contribution Gilpatrick continues to provide to Army aviation. He regularly plans, resources and conducts aviation combat focused medical training, including three joint trauma management training events in the past year. Kane said the events were all based on lessons learned in combat and have reinforced or validated unit TTPs.

“Captain Gilpatrick has used his prior experiences and skills as a ground force medic to ensure that unit medical personnel are combat multipliers,” Kane said. “The unit’s medical personnel have been crossed trained in numerous non-medical tasks to ensure survivability of not only themselves but their patients.”

This training includes live fire movements, rotary wing close-air support and fast-roping. All of this

training has proved invaluable in combat and made the SOAR medical personnel unique and highly sought after medical providers, said Kane.

Gilpatrick also examines ways to optimize existing medical training. For example, SOAR medics must be able to lift a critically injured Soldier into a helicopter regardless of environment. Proficiency in this skill can be a matter of life or death, with the requirement usually presenting itself in extremely challenging situations. In response, Gilpatrick increased the number and complexity of injured

personnel hoist training events in the past year.

“The unit has conducted and is now even more proficient in high angle, confined space, urban and over water hoist missions,” said Kane. “Personnel from the 160th have conducted all of those hoist operations in actual combat situations in both Iraq and Afghanistan theaters of operations.”

Because of Gilpatrick’s dedication and determination, Kane said that he is a true “quiet professional,” completing every mission at a standard well above that of his peers or superiors and goes out of his way to take care of his Soldiers. “These qualities along with his proven combat record, aviation medicine skills and ability to train medical personnel make him truly deserving of the recognition associated with the AAAA Medicine Award.”



# SOF Fire Supporters Enhance Special Forces Battlefield Effects

*By Maj. David Mann*

*USSOCOM Special Forces Joint Planner*



**Fire Mission! Indirect fire from 105 mm artillery engages Taliban fighters during Operation Nam Dong. Battalion fire support NCOs coordinated the forward deployment of these guns as well as their employment throughout the 10-day operation. Courtesy photo.**

The employment of tactical and operational fires has always been critically important to Special Operations Forces throughout our military history. The Global War on Terrorism is no exception as it demands our SOF warriors employ fires with a degree of unprecedented precision and lethality. For several years, a small group of U.S. Army Fire Support Officers and NCO's known as a Fire Support Element (FSE) have played a crucial role in enhancing and maximizing this fires capability within the USASOC community.

The Special Operations FSE concept began to gain traction during the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom within the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-West.

“From the beginning, the success of the CJSOTF-W TST’s mission depended directly upon its ability to plan, request and control Joint Fires Support,” said Col. Robert Green, Assistant Chief of Staff for JFK Special Warfare Center and School. “During early operational planning, based on lessons-learned from Operating Enduring Freedom, it was determined that a separate entity would have to be created within the CJSOTF-W operations staff to manage this very complex Joint Fires environment.”

Greene went on to say, “The success of the Joint Fires Element in coordinating joint fires support for CJSOTF-W can be measured in the operational results. Over the 27 days of initial combat operations in the western desert of Iraq, 393 Joint Fires deconflictions were conducted by the CJSOTF-W JFE, with zero instances of fratricide or injury by friendly fire. Concurrently, CJSOTF-W prosecuted the highest percentage of dynamic target strikes within the Iraqi Area of Responsibility, as reported in the initial CENTAF OIF After Action Report.”

As a result of these initial FSE successes, in the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2005, Human Resources Command in coordination with United States Army Special Operations Command and the United States Field Artillery Center and School, approved a Directed Military Over-strength document authorizing the organization of a Fire Support Element within the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). The purpose of the new organization was two-fold: first, to resource a requirement, identified by both CJSOTF-Afghanistan and CJSOTF-Arabian Peninsula, for fire support personnel to support Special Forces elements in the GWOT campaigns; second, to validate the concept for potential inclusion in the fiscal year 2008 Special Forces Group Band III.

At the writing of this article, 7th SFG(A) is the only Group to have been fully resourced with FSE personnel, but initial movement is underway to fill all groups with FSE's.

Shortly after their arrival to 7th SFG(A) two years ago, U.S. Army Field Artillery Officers and Non-commissioned Officers made valuable contributions to the combat preparation and performance of 7th SFG(A) in USCENTCOM and USSOUTHCOM. 7th Group's employment of the FSE significantly enhanced the operational effects achieved by Group.

"7th Special Forces Group has set the standard for successful integration of a JFE into the Group HQ, followed by successful implementation within the deployed JSOTF HQ. Their impressive results integrating joint fires support with SF tactical operations speaks for itself," said Greene.

At the battalion level, battalion FSEs have increased the tactical and technical fires proficiency of all Special Forces Operational Detachments - Alpha within 7th SFG(A).

In preparation for combat operations the battalion FSE's elements have developed and managed Fire Support Training Programs within their battalions and conducted indirect fire and CAS training with all 7th Group SFODA. Additionally, FSE personnel have enhanced their SOF relevance by participating in integrated ground tactical training with most Special Forces Operating Detachment Alpha's in the event they are attached to an ODA for a combat operation.

Finally, the FSE centralized and formalized close air support training within 7th SFG(A). With the emergence of Special Operations Tactical Air Controller Course, 7th Group sent its FSE members through this training in December 2005. This provided the Group FSE with an organic capability to not only employ CAS, but also to work closely with Air Force subject matter experts in developing a centralized Group CAS certification program.

When combat preparation was complete, the FSEs proved equally relevant and lethal during two recent combat rotations in OEF VI and OEF VIII.

1st Battalion, 7th Group was the first Special Forces unit to employ an assigned FSE in combat. In addition to conducting numerous fire support combat operations with SFODA's in Southern Afghanistan in 2005, the SOTF 71 FSE greatly enhanced the integration of kinetic fires into Special Forces combat operations, attaining an unprecedented 98% approval rate for pre-planned CAS requests.

Maj. Mike Ripley, a 1st Battalion, 7th SFG(A) Company Commander during this rotation summed up FSE contributions.

"Fire Support NCO's had a 98% + success percentage on close air support during the time they were in charge of joint fires and effects. They approached fires and effects as a no fail mission. They were extremely adroit at capturing the ground commander's intent and translating it into the proper

effect to get the required support for the force conducting the mission," said Ripley.

While instrumental at the tactical level of war, the Group FSE was equally impressive at the operational level of war within CJSOTF-A.

FSE targeting knowledge and experience greatly enhanced the CJSOTF's ability to conduct full- spectrum operations on a counter-insurgency battlefield. The FSEs integrated into the current and future operations cells at the CJSOTF enabling their organizations to better leverage kinetic and non-kinetic fires and effects.

From a kinetic perspective, the FSEs integrated and managed all CAS sorties and operational fires in more than 3,000 combat operations throughout Afghanistan. The FSE also organized and ran the first ever CJSOTF-A Joint Effects Cell within the J-35. The cell integrated kinetic, and non-kinetic effects utilizing a comprehensive full-spectrum approach that achieved significant successes on the battlefield. During Operation Mountain Thrust, CJTF-76 designated CJSOTF-A as their main effort. During the more than 60-day operation, SOF elements killed over 1,000 Taliban insurgents with operational fires and ground force maneuver while simultaneously conducting a host of non-kinetic operations to influence the local population in the Uruzgan Province of Afghanistan.

"7th Group Fire Supporters were technically proficient in tactical and operational fires employment during our rotation in Operation Enduring Freedom. They were invaluable in their support of ground combat operations throughout Southern Afghanistan," said Lt. Col. Paul Burton, Special Operations Task Force 71, commander in Southern Afghanistan. "These fire support personnel were a vital link in the strategic effect of legitimizing Afghan Security Forces during Operation Nam Dong and other large scale Afghan maneuver missions. The FSE, through fires employment, directly enhanced the effects against the enemy, and their credibility with the local populous as a viable security option for Afghanistan's future".

Irregular Warfare on an asymmetric battlefield continues to define the Global War on Terrorism. The ability of SOF to employ precision fires will continue to present ever-growing demands on our operators. The assignment of Field Artillery Officers and NCO's to the Special Forces Groups directly addresses this technical requirement and will continue to enhance the ability of Special Forces to achieve operational and strategic effects by employing operational and tactical surgical fires, integrated with non-lethal effects on the battlefield. U.S. Army fire supporters have proven their combat worthiness within 7th SFG(A) in Afghanistan and the rest of the Special Forces Regiment should look forward to the integral role they will play in the growing relevance of U.S. Special Operations in the Global War on Terrorism.

# 5th SFG Soldiers earn Soldier's Medal

by Gregory Frye  
Fort Campbell Courier Staff

Two Soldiers from the 5th Special Forces Group were awarded the Soldier's Medal March 21, 2007 for saving two men from a burning Humvee in August 2005 near Rabiah, Iraq.

It was a bittersweet day for Master Sgt. Manley and Staff Sgt. Heshimu Woods as they were recognized for their efforts, but remembered the two Soldiers who could not be saved.

The two-vehicle convoy was traveling 55 miles per hour down a highway they had cruised many times before. It was early in the morning and traffic was at a minimum.

The Humvee in front of Master Sgt. Michael Manley collided with another vehicle. The impact sent the Humvee sliding sideways at 50 mph.

"I knew that as soon as the wheels gripped, we were going to start flipping," said the team leader, who was one of two men rescued from the vehicle. "We flipped so violently, that I don't even know how many times it was."

Pinned beneath 20,000 pounds of wreckage, the team leader expected to wait for a while until an Army wrecker could push them back over.

"It was one of the most violent, quick, devastating things I've ever seen in my life," Manley said of the collision.

Manley came upon the gunner, Sgt. 1st Class Brett Walden who had been ejected from the vehicle. He felt for a pulse and found nothing.

Then the fire started; the team leader trapped inside with three other men thought he was going to die.

He yelled for help and screamed "fire."

Manley thought everyone in the vehicle was dead until he heard those screams.

Together, Manley and Woods tried to extinguish the fire, but the flames were spreading too quickly.

They had to get the Humvee back on its wheels to free the men. Woods hooked a tow cable to the vehicle's frame, burning his hands in the process. The cable didn't work and the fire continued to spread. Ammunition was cooking off and a C-4 charge, kept in case the vehicle had to be abandoned, was lost in the wreckage.

"So I said, 'I don't care what we do ... I don't care if we



Shown from left to right Lt. Col. Mark Mitchell, 1st Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (A) commander, Staff Sgt. Heshimu Woods, Master Sgt. Michael Manley and Command Sgt. Major Gary Koenitzer after Woods and Manley received the Soldiers Medal. Courtesy photo.

have to ram it to kick it over. Even if we have to injure these guys, we're going to get them out of there before they burn alive," Manley said.

They rammed the vehicle, which rocked and fell back over, and the men were pulled from the vehicle.

Regardless of his injuries, the team leader immediately tried to help the other men. Manley told them they had to get away from the vehicle. It would explode at any moment.

The men took cover behind Manley's Humvee, and two minutes later the burning wreckage exploded.

"It was the biggest explosion I've ever felt," the team leader said. "I felt my heart shaking in my chest -- it was so powerful."

In the collision, he hit his face on the windshield and had his left hand pinned. He burned his right hand trying to put out the flames as they dripped onto his clothes.

"When I felt that vehicle turn over, it was like getting a whole other chance at life -- it was amazing," the team leader said.

It felt like he was trapped for an hour when, in reality, it only took a few minutes to flip the vehicle onto its wheels.

"When you're on fire, time really slows down," he said.

Manley finally reached the medical evacuation team on the radio, but it was too late. They tried to revive Walton and Master Sgt. Robert Derenda for more than an hour.

Although the two men died, another two were saved. Manley and Woods kept the death toll from increasing.

"They gave me the rest of my life," said the team leader.

There is no drill or protocol for what Manley and Woods did.

"If your friends are inside of a vehicle like that, you're going to do whatever it takes," Manley said. "And that's all we did -- nothing special, nothing heroic."

# Role players add realism to FMTU

Story by *Lance Cpl. Joseph Stahlman*  
*MARSOC Public Affairs*

Teams with the Foreign Military Training Unit, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, completed a three-day Culminating Field Exercise at Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field, Bogue, Camp Lejeune, N.C. This exercise marked the conclusion of a five-month Marine Special Operations Advisor's Course designed to prepare the Teams to succeed at the core MARSOC task of Foreign Internal Defense missions.

One way FMTU helps fight the war on terrorism is by training different countries' militaries in basic military combat skills. Marines from Camp Johnson, N.C., and the Naval Aviation Technical Training Center, MCAS New River, N.C., acted as members of a foreign military to help create a more realistic training environment for the FMTU teams and prepare them for the cultural differences between the foreign nations where they will train.

During the exercise, the FMTU Marines taught basic military classes to the role-players. When training foreign militaries, there are often hurdles to overcome. To counter this, each team member learns training and teaching techniques necessary to pass their skills on to fellow warriors in the militaries of friendly foreign nations.

The role players acted as servicemembers from a fictional non-English speaking country with a unique culture, unfamiliar customs and a largely untrained army.

Those who played the roles of senior foreign military leaders were active duty and reserve Marines experienced at working with foreign militaries.

"One of the hardest and most important goals of training a foreign military is to go in and be effective immediately," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Tim Cortes, who acted as the role players' battalion commander. "With such a huge culture difference between America and some other countries, this goal can be incredibly difficult. This training gives the Marines a better understanding of situations they might come across while deployed."

During the exercise, the role-players acted in a variety of situations and created a challenges for the FMTU Marines.

Cortes, who served as an advisor to the Afghan National Army, said communication is key when training other militaries but the language barrier can cause problems at times.

To meet this challenge, FMTU teams complete extensive cultural and language training. They also call upon interpreters to help bridge communication gaps.

The role players helped create language and cultural barriers for the FMTU team members to overcome.

"It's always a three-way conversation," said Pvt. D. Andrew Killian, a maintenance management specialist with the Logistics Operations School, Camp Johnson, N.C., acting as a logistics officer in the fictitious Army. "The FMTU Marine will speak to us and he must wait while it is translated by an interpreter. This can sometimes bring complications to otherwise easy situations."

"With all the differences between cultures, it can be hard to get used to their new environments," said Cortes. "The FMTU Marines must get over their initial culture shock as soon as possible to accomplish their missions."

Through this CFEX, and other extensive training like it, the Marines of FMTU are better prepared to accomplish their mission while deployed to different host nations.

If you have experience working with foreign militaries and would like to participate in future FMTU training exercises as a role player, contact Capt. Dov Kawamoto, FMTU Standards and Training, at (910)-450-6328. For information on how to become part of MARSOC, contact the Marine Special Operations School at (910)-450-2720/2721 (DSN 750-2720/2721).



***A Marine with the Foreign Military Training Unit, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, explains how to reload a M249 Squad Automatic Weapon to Marine role-players at Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field, Bogue, during FMTU's Culminating Field Exercise. The role-players acted as a foreign military to provide realism and help FMTU Marines learn what to expect during Foreign Internal Defense missions. Marines and Sailors must develop a thorough understanding of foreign language and culture in order to be successful in FID, which is one of MARSOC's core tasks.***



**MARSOC Commander Maj. Gen. Dennis Hejlik (center) and Sgt. Maj. Matthew Ingram, (right) MARSOC Sergeant Major, lead a four-mile unit run in celebration of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command's first year. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Daley, MARSOC.**

## MARSOC hits first-year milestone, looks toward future

By *MARSOC Public Affairs Office*

The United States Marine Corps added another page to its history as the Marines, Sailors, civilian employees and families of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command celebrated their first anniversary as the Marine Corps component of U.S. Special Operations Command.

The celebration included a prayer breakfast, a unit-wide formation run and a Dining Out.

A formal anniversary ceremony was also held at William Pendleton Thompson Hill Field.

The National Defense and Global War on Terrorism Service Streamers were presented and affixed to the MARSOC Color during the ceremony.

Activated February 24, 2006, MARSOC now includes nearly 1,400 personnel and is on track to reach

full operational capability by the end of September 2008.

According to the MARSOC Commander, Maj. Gen. Dennis Hejlik, one of the amazing things about the men and women of the new Marine organization is that they are conducting operations while simultaneously growing toward full operational capability.

"It's like we're painting a car while driving 60 miles an hour," Hejlik said.

"To be part of MARSOC during this important historic time in our nation's history is sobering," said Sgt. Maj. Matthew Ingram, MARSOC Sergeant Major. "Every day, we are writing new history for our nation, U.S. Special Operations Command and our Corps. As a Marine in my 29th year of service, I can not think of any place or any unit I would rather be serving in."

Four MARSOC Foreign Military Training Unit



teams have already deployed and returned from successful deployments in support of USSOCOM and the Global War on Terrorism.

More FMTU teams are deployed now and the first of nine planned Marine Special Operations Companies deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit in January.

Colonel Pete Petronzio, MARSOC operations officer, used an analogy similar to Hejlik's. "We're living in the house while we build it," he said, "and we're doing an exceptional job."

MARSOC is currently staffed at approximately 57 percent and equipped at approximately 50 percent of its final goal.

Petronzio said despite the relentless pace of both growth and operations, "We are being careful not to confuse enthusiasm with capability."

MARSOC includes five major subordinate units: The 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, headquartered at Camp Pendleton, Calif.; and the 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion, Foreign Military Training Unit, Marine Special Operations Support Group and Marine Special Operations School, all located at Camp Lejeune, N.C..

The core tasks assigned to MARSOC by the USSOCOM Commander are foreign internal defense, direct action and special reconnaissance.

MARSOC is also directed to develop Unconventional Warfare, Counter Terrorism and Information Operations capabilities in the near future.

MARSOC's second year promises to be as busy as the first. FMTU teams are scheduled to deploy on approximately 30 missions across the globe and three more Marine Special Operations Companies will be trained and deployed worldwide before MARSOC's second anniversary.

Construction of a MARSOC headquarters facility will begin this fall, equipment will continue to flow in and units will continue to deploy.

Even with the best facilities and equipment, however, no military unit can succeed without quality people.

According to Hejlik, one of the highest priorities for MARSOC's second year is to recruit quality Marines and Sailors to fill the ranks of the new FMTU teams and MSOCs.

"The most significant thing MARSOC provides to SOCOM is our Marines," said Hejlik.

MARSOC recently conducted its first official screening of potential applicants and will kick off a formal assessment and selection program in May.

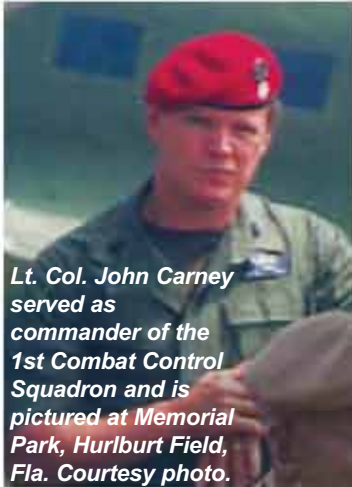
"We're not looking for the guy who can swim back and forth across the Mississippi the long way wearing an 80-pound ruck," said Petronzio. "We need mature Marines who are smart, have combat experience and are capable of operating independently."

For more information about MARSOC and the requirements to receive orders to one of its special operations units, visit MARSOC online at [www.marsoc.usmc.mil](http://www.marsoc.usmc.mil) or contact the Marine Special Operations School by phone at (910) 450-2722/2762 or e-mail at [msos.a&s@usmc.mil](mailto:msos.a&s@usmc.mil).



**MARSOC Commander Maj. Gen. Dennis Hejlik and Sgt. Maj. Matthew Ingram, MARSOC Sergeant Major, affix the Global War on Terrorism service streamer to the MARSOC Color during MARSOC anniversary ceremony at William Pendleton Thompson Hill Field. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Daley, MARSOC.**

# Carney receives Simons Award



Lt. Col. John Carney served as commander of the 1st Combat Control Squadron and is pictured at Memorial Park, Hurlburt Field, Fla. Courtesy photo.

By Mike Bottoms  
USSOCOM Public Affairs

Heroes often come from humble beginnings like this year's Bull Simons Award recipient.

Col. John Carney was born in New London, Conn. on May 21, 1940 to a blue-collar family. Wiry and athletic, he earned a football scholarship to the University of Arizona. As an Arizona Wildcat, Carney decided to join the school's Air Force Reserve Officer's Training Corps to become a pilot. Admittedly a less than stellar student, Carney managed to

graduate and earn his commission in 1964. Appointed as a 2nd lieutenant, Carney immediately applied for flight school but was denied due to an eye astigmatism. Disappointed, he applied for a medical waiver hoping that the escalating situation in Vietnam would improve his chances for flight school. His hope didn't materialize. He was assigned to Oxnard Air Force Base, Calif. as a "special services" officer -- a job that would stick with him for several years. Carney's extraordinary career had begun, but not with a bang.

"I was sitting in my little office at the gym when I found out there was call for support officers in Vietnam," said Carney. "My boss came in and told me I was going to Vietnam as a

services officer, but I told him that I had orders for navigator's school. I was firmly told 'no' that was not going to happen, that I would go as a services officer."

Carney was sent to Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam and then to Ubon, Thailand.

"One of my responsibilities in Thailand was to manage the base club," Carney said. "It was there where I first ran into combat controllers and I became intrigued by what they did."

Though not pilots, Carney found the combat controller stories about jumping out of airplanes, airdrop control, calling in air strikes, and their camaraderie quite compelling.

He took note of the conversation, but a different opportunity presented itself. Carney received a letter from his college coach, "Gentleman Jim" LaRue, informing him about a football coaching position open at the Air Force Academy. Carney applied, got the job, and would work at the Air Force Academy from 1966 to 1974 as a football coach and physical education instructor.

It was during this time, Carney earned his nickname "Coach."

Carney loved his work at the Academy, but coaching football wasn't doing much



In the early 1960s, retired Col. John Carney played football for the University of Arizona Wildcats. Courtesy photo.

for his career progression. He was passed over twice for promotion to major and found himself at a professional crossroad.

If he wanted to get promoted he needed to get back into the operational Air Force. Recalling his interest in the combat controller field, Carney decided to pursue that vocation.

In early 1975, Captain Carney reported to Air Traffic Control School at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., where he graduated at the top of his class. From there, he continued to excel at the Combat Control School, Little Rock AFB, Ark., completing his training in 1975.

As a new graduate, Carney was assigned to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, to lead a combat control team. Air Force-wide, the combat control career field was facing many obstacles such as neglect, downsizing, budget cuts, no realistic training opportunities, and little-to-no career progression. Capt. Carney greeted his new job as a challenge.

“Coach Carney arrived at Dyess and took a bunch of rag-tag controllers left over from Vietnam and molded them into a great team,” said retired Col. Jeffery Buckmelter, a former combat controller.

“At that time, the United States wanted to form counterterrorism teams and the Air Force looked to John Carney to form its special tactics team known as Brand X,” Buckmelter said. “Carney would pick combat controllers from around the Air Force and bring them in, train them, then test them in exercises with the Army special mission units.”

## BRAND

# X

In 1977, Brand X’s first true test came in the form of a short notice Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise or EDRE. Retired General Wayne Downing, a former SOCOM commander, recalls the event.

“I first met John Carney during an EDRE in Alaska which we (2nd Ranger Battalion) completely screwed up,” said Downing, who was the 2nd Ranger Battalion commander. “Thank God John Carney was there because our radios were out and he had his radios and could contact everybody. He essentially ran 2nd Ranger Battalion for about



*In 1977, retired Col. John Carney, (back row second from the left) poses with the “Brand X” team after an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise in Alaska. Courtesy photo.*

four hours. I recognized right then what John Carney could do, and what a valuable asset the combat controllers were.”

All the team’s hard work paid off and to Capt. Carney’s amazement, he was finally promoted to major. Over the next couple years, Carney and his men continued to apply and hone their expertise while supporting the nation’s counterterrorism forces.

In late 1979, Carney was assigned as the unit commander of Joint Task Force 1-79, headquartered in Washington, D.C. This assignment would lead to his legendary involvement in the 1980 Iran hostage rescue attempt.

In March 1980, Carney was “volunteered” to check out the proposed landing site.

“I remember Charlie Beckwith [the commander of the Army Special Forces team that was to perform the rescue at the American Embassy in Tehran] volunteered me at a meeting in North Carolina,” recalled Carney. “He said, ‘We need a set of American eyeballs on that site, and Carney ought to go.’”

Not long after that meeting, Carney flew from Charleston, S.C., to Athens, Greece, where he met with his CIA-provided transportation. In a small aircraft, Carney and two CIA pilots flew to Rome and then to Oman. On April Fools’ Day, Carney — clad in black Levi’s, a black shirt and black cap — was secretly slipped into Iran to survey the Desert One landing site. The site would be a pivotal forward staging area for the rescue mission.

Carney said, despite the stakes and the circumstances, “I



*American hostage held in Iran.*



*The Coach, retired Col. John Carney (sitting on dirt bike), with members of his combat control team at Masirah, Oman, prior to taking part in Desert One in April 1980. Courtesy photo.*

was damn glad to get out of that airplane when we landed.”

Their plane was a decent size for three people, but not when they were sharing it with a fuel bladder and a fold-up motorcycle. The motorcycle was his ground transportation.

Carney’s mission was to install runway lights, take soil samples and perform several other tasks on the ground. His escorts were two CIA operatives.

He’d have one hour on the ground before the airplane left.

“It was the shortest hour of my life,” said Carney. “I had so much to do and so little time to do it, I didn’t really think about anything but getting the job done.”

The landing site was next to a road. Carney would use the road to set up the landing strip. He would march off a

“box-and-one” landing strip. The corners of the box, where he would bury the lights, were 90-feet wide by 300-feet long. Then a strobe light would be centered on the box and placed 3,000 feet in front. The concept: land in the box and stop before the strobe light.

“As a football coach, marching off yards was easy,” he said. What was hard was the ground. “I had to use a K-bar [knife] to chip away the ground to bury the lights.”

After setting up the airfield, Carney went back to check his work. He discovered his escorts landed in a different spot than they had discussed. Hence, the road, his only orientation point, wasn’t where it was supposed to be, but the landing strip would have to suffice.

“There wasn’t time to go back, and I wasn’t missing that plane out,” Carney said. If he missed the plane, he had two options to get home. One was to walk. The other was to use the Fulton recovery system. The system was an ingenious, albeit dangerous, recovery device. The person needing rescuing puts on a harness attached to a wire which is attached to a balloon. The balloon goes up and then a specially equipped MC-130 swoops in, snags the wire, and whisks the person away.

Carney didn’t fear being in Iran in the middle of the night, but he was apprehensive of the Fulton “thing.”

“I was getting on that plane,” he emphasized.

Carney’s coolness and courage was recognized by the Special Operations community.

“Alone and unafraid, John Carney surveyed drop zones



*A map depicting the route to Desert One.*



*The crash aftermath at Desert One. Courtesy photo.*

deep into Iran and set up lights for the wave of C-130s to land to set up the rescue attempt at the American Embassy,” said Gen. Charles Holland, former SOCOM Commander. “When you think about what kind of individual is brave enough to do this mission, that in itself, makes you really respect the individual.”

Carney made it out of Desert One, only to return 23 days later with the rescue force where he witnessed the accident.

According to witnesses, the accident occurred when a helicopter lifted off, kicked up a blinding dust cloud, and then banked toward the C-130. Its rotor blades sliced through the main stabilizer of the plane. The chopper rolled over the top of the aircraft, gushing fuel and fire as it tumbled. The resulting explosion killed eight American servicemen and

several others seriously injured.

“I was standing on the road between the two runways about a hundred yards from the C-130s when I was startled by an explosion,” Carney said. “I had no idea what happened, but I saw the blades of the helicopter turning into the C-130 and people were bailing out of the back of the plane. It was then I knew something was obviously wrong.”

Following the hostage rescue attempt, Carney, now a lieutenant colonel, took command of Detachment 1, Military Airlift Combat Operations Staff at Fort Bragg, N.C. In the fall of 1983, he would again lead his team during Operation Urgent Fury conducted in Grenada.

According to Carney’s book, “No Room for Error,” the operation in Grenada was plagued by “problems caused by constantly changing scenarios, superficial planning, security overkill, lack of interservice operability, service parochialism, and routine fog of war turned it into a bloody six-day fight. It succeeded because of good old American ingenuity, can-do spirit, realistic prior training, and remarkable courage by young American troops, most of whom were undergoing their first test on a battlefield.”

Despite the situation in Grenada, Carney let his mischievous personality show through. One memorable encounter involved Lt. Gen. William Boykin.

“On the island of Grenada, I had been wounded, had an operation on the USS Guam and moved back to the Salinas Airfield waiting to be evacuated back to Fort Bragg,” said Lt. Gen. William Boykin, a specialoperations unit commander and now Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence.



*Maj. Jeff Buckmelter (left) stands with then Lt. Col. John Carney at Salinas Airfield Grenada after the invasion. Courtesy photo.*

“I was under heavy sedation, but I heard someone calling my name so I looked to my left. It was John Carney mooning me. I said ‘John, you have gotten uglier during this operation.’”

Frustrated by military bureaucracy, Carney decided to retire from the Air Force, but not for long. At the urging of retired Gen. Duane Cassidy, former Military Airlift Command commander, Carney returned to active duty in 1985.

“John was frustrated when he retired the first time at all the bureaucratic battles of getting Air Force special tactics into the right situations and places,” said Cassidy. “I happened to be deputy chief of personnel for the Air Force at the time and I had my people pull out the regulations to see how long someone could be ‘retired’ before I called him back. The Air Force needed him and this was not about airplanes or hardware. This was about his leadership ability and I wanted him by my side.”

Carney assumed command of the first-ever combat control squadron, the 1723rd Combat Control Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla. In this position, he would lead the transition of Air Force Special Operations Combat Control Teams into what would “officially” be known as Special Tactics Squadrons.

On Dec. 1, 1985, Carney, who was unofficially known as the “Father of Air Force special tactics,” was promoted to colonel below the zone.

“John Carney was one of the pioneers who commanded the officers and the sergeants who put all the Air Force special tactics together,” said retired Brig. Gen. David Grange, veteran of the Grenada operation and former 75th Ranger Regiment commander. “He developed the tactics, techniques and procedures still used today by Air Force special tactics teams.”

Carney’s foresight and ability to put his vision into practice is still remembered today.

“John Carney was an expert in special tactics. He was involved with every Special Operations contingency during his career,” said Gen. Carl Stiner, former SOCOM commander. “He’s a man with vision, an outstanding leader and was really respected by all of his troops.”

Carney’s remarkable tenacity to make Air Force special tactics an important part of the Air Force and Special Operations Community is an influence still felt today.

“Carney was one of those rare people responsible for the successes we had in Special Operations,” said Gen. Peter Schoemaker, Desert One veteran, former SOCOM commander and chief of staff of the Army. “He was bucking a system that was formidable in the Air Force at that time and he had vision for combat controllers and pararescuemen that quite frankly makes him the founder of what we have today.”



*Retired Col. John Carney at the Combat Controller of the Year ceremony in 1986 at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. Courtesy photo.*



In 1987, Carney was hand-picked to lead the 1720th Special Tactics Group where he served until he retired in May 1991. This group was the first and only of its kind in the Air Force and reported directly to the 23rd Air Force commander.

Carney's active duty military career is complete, but he continues to serve the SOF community. In 1997, Carney was

offered a position with the non-profit Special Operations Forces Warrior Foundation.

"John Carney was chosen by the Special Operations Forces Warrior Foundation board and told to go away for a year and figure out a structure for the foundation," said Mr. Earl Williams, SOF Foundation board member and President, BDM International, Inc. explained. "He came back with a structure and became the

*"Carney's leadership, his combat skills, prowess and his work in Desert One going after our hostages in Tehran and that event, of course, led to the founding of Special Operations Command. John Carney was an easy selection."*

*— Gen. Doug Brown*

permanent president in 1998."

Carney enthusiastically approached the challenges of the foundation with the same zeal he approached the development of Air Force special tactics.

"When John started, the foundation had about \$900,000 in the bank and our obligations were starting to become more than we had, so we asked John to begin fundraising," Williams continued. "Today, because of John Carney, we have over \$17 million dollars in the bank and that money is used to educate the children of the fallen SOF warriors."

Presently, "Coach" Carney continues to preside as the President and CEO of the SOF Warrior Foundation in Tampa,

Fla. The organization provides college scholarships and educational counseling to the children of SOF Warriors killed in training or operational missions, and currently the foundation has nearly 700 children enrolled in their college education program.

In addition to his military decorations, the highest being the Defense Superior Service Medal, Carney was inducted into the Air Commando Hall of Fame in 1995, awarded the USSOCOM Medal in 1997, and the R. Lynn Rylander Award in 2003; all for his outstanding contributions to special operations.

Carney's accomplishments have earned him one more prestigious honor – the Bull Simons Award — which recognizes special operators who embody "the true spirit, values, and skills of a special operations warrior," and named after Col. Arthur "Bull" Simons who was the epitome of these attributes.

"Bull Simons was a great special operator and a great warrior with his leadership, his combat skills, his prowess – his bravery going into the Son Tay Prison. When you compare that to all the other great special operators nominated, John Carney's nomination stood out," said Gen. Doug Brown, USSOCOM commander. "Carney's leadership, his combat skills, prowess, and his work in Desert One, going after our hostages in Tehran and that event, of course, led to the founding of Special Operations Command. John Carney was an easy selection."

Carney's pioneering accomplishments, unofficial title as the "Father of Air Force Special Tactics," and amazing work within the SOF Warrior Foundation epitomize the true spirit of the Bull Simons Award.



**Retired Col. John Carney pictured today. He presides as the President and CEO of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation in Tampa, Fla. The foundation's purpose is to provide free college scholarships and educational counseling to the surviving children of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps special operations personnel killed in combat or training. Currently the foundation has nearly 700 children in its program. Photo by Mike Bottoms.**



# TRAINING KEY TO 45 YEARS



*Early Frogman (WWII)  
insignia sketch*



*Underwater Demolition Teams prep demolition explosives during WWII*

*By Petty Officer 2nd Clas  
Brian P. Biller, Naval Special  
Warfare Public Affairs*

January marked the 45th anniversary of the inception of the SEAL Teams. From those early days of the SEALs to today, it was the intense training and brother-like bond for their teammates that forged the core of the Naval Special Warfare community.

Prior to 1962 there were forces in place which did some of the jobs of the SEALs, many whose roots and manpower were integral in the forming of the first teams.

“The SEALs officially came from the Underwater Demolition Teams, but you can really trace the SEAL heritage back to the Scouts and Raiders and Naval Combat Demolition Units active only during World War II,” said Roger Clapp, Naval Special Warfare

# 45 Years

Tip of the Spear

*“When I went through I was the norm. I was a young kid, didn’t really fit into the college mold, and didn’t really want to start a 9-to-5 job - I wanted more. And now the young recruit comes in and usually has a college degree or some college. He’s a lot smarter, they ask a lot more questions, so the training has changed to meet what we need, but the rudimentary core elements of our training haven’t.”*

*- Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Daniel Gearhart*



# LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK HEROES OF NAVY SEALS



*SEALs in an early training shot*



*Naval Combat Demolition Unit practicing carrying rubber raft*

had to go through and they were fantastic,” he said. “Like Ft. Bragg special weapons, you know all kind of foreign weapons, HALO (High Altitude Low Opening) parachuting.”

Back in the early days, the technology was not as advanced as today.

“We had swim trunks, blue and gold shirts, coral shoes and a K-Bar,” said retired Master Chief Boiler Technician (SEAL) Peter Slempla Jr., SEAL Team One plank owner. “The only weapon reliable in the surf was the .45 cal. ‘Grease Gun’.”

Slempla too echoed the rigorous training schedule.

“The training pipeline was hectic,” he said. “We

**Saipan Invasion,  
June 1944,  
UDT in LCPR**

Command Force Historian.

“They needed 100 volunteers for this demolition outfit,” said retired Lt. Joseph DiMartino, who found himself a seventeen year-old seaman on the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944. DiMartino stayed in the community and eventually became one of the original members or ‘plank owners’ for SEAL Team Two.

“It was a lot of training, I mean we had a line of schools we



*Crew members of UDT 10 on Submarine Burrfish at Peliliu (only UDT to use a submarine in WWII).*



*UDTs prepare for combat swim on APB Fantail (WWII)*



# TRAINING & THE KEY TO 45 YEARS OF NA



**Photograph of men from SEAL Team 2 in Vietnam. Back (left to right) Bobby J. Osborne, Michael McDonald and Harry Constance. Front (left to right) Jack Squires and unknown)**



**Fast attack boat on a river operation Viet Nam.**



**A Navy SEAL in Vietnam**

attended Army Basic Airborne at Ft. Benning, arctic survival with the Royal Canadian Air Force, jungle survival in Panama.”

In addition, Slempla said they received Vietnamese language training and other training as it became available.

Slempla added the caliber of personnel has not changed though.

“We were and are the best there is,” he said.

“Today’s SPECWAR SEALs are the best fighting force the armed forces have,” DiMartino added.

“A lot of people think we make SEALs here, we don’t, we find them,” said Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Daniel Gearhart, Basic Underwater Demolition / SEAL 1st Phase Leading Chief Petty Officer. “It’s like diamond mining, you gotta throw out a lot of dirt and you gotta dig through and get your hands dirty and find SEALs, because you don’t make them,” Gearhart explained.

Gearhart is not the first member of his family to be a SEAL.

“My father was in Class 32, UDT 11 and Team One,” he said. “I grew up around...all these guys back in the day were running around my house and are legends in the Frogman community now, guys that we all stand on their shoulders because of what they did. I grew up around those guys and thought it was kind of neat and the lifestyle was attractive to me.”

Twenty years later, he’s now imparting his wisdom to new recruits, drawing from the chiefs and

senior chiefs who were in Vietnam who trained him.

“The student has changed,” Gearhart said, “When I went through I was the norm. I was a young kid, didn’t really fit into the college mold, and didn’t really want to start a 9-to-5 I wanted more. And now the young recruit comes in and usually has a college degree or some college. He’s a lot smarter, they ask a lot more questions, so the training has changed to meet what we need, but the rudimentary core elements of our training haven’t.”

Gearhart added while a lot of the training has evolved, it hasn’t necessarily changed, and while some of the specific missions for deployed SEALs may have changed, the overall mission has not.

“We are the first choice when it comes to hitting the target. I think battlefield commanders want SEALs to do the job and they wanted them back.



**UDT “mascot” Freddy the Frog (WWII-Present)**

# TEAMWORK NAVY SEALS



**SEALs patrol river environment**



**SEALs prepare for night underwater operations**

then because they were the best at it. They want them in Afghanistan and Iraq now because they're going to get the job done," he said.

When asked for the fondest memory that he was able to share, Gearhart unhesitatingly stated: "The day I got my Trident, absolutely."

Instructors like Gearhart ensure the strength of the SEAL community for many years to come. The men who laid that foundation still find themselves missing the action, even in their 80s.

"It's just the way we were, the teams and the men, the camaraderie, it lives with you forever. You never forget your buddy, you never forget your shipmate, you never forget the team, you never forget the operations," DiMartino said. "I'm very proud to have been part of the military, part of the SEALs, part of Special Warfare and if I was a younger man I would still love to be back in there with them."



**SEAL provides cover for Combat Search and Rescue team**



## **Navy UDT-SEAL Museum**

3300 North Hwy. A1A  
Fort Pierce, FL 34949  
(772) 595-5845

[www.navysealmuseum.com](http://www.navysealmuseum.com)

## **HOURS**

Tues. - Sat. 10AM - 4PM

Monday (Jan. - Apr. Only)  
10AM - 4PM

Sunday Noon - 4PM

# 45 Years



# SBT-20 Conducts

*By Naval Special Warfare  
East Public Affairs*

Special Warfare Boat Operators from Special Boat Team 20 reached a milestone in April when they successfully completed the 100th and 101st insertion of the Maritime Craft Aerial Deployment System off the coast of North Carolina.

Serving as a true force multiplier, the MCADS capability enables Naval Special Warfare Sailors to rapidly deploy anywhere in the world in a maritime environment.

The system deploys an 11-meter RIB rigged with four large parachutes from the back of a C-130 or C-17 flying at approximately 3500 feet. Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC) immediately follow the boat out of the plane and parachute to the immediate proximity of where the boat lands. Within 20 minutes the SWCCs will have the boat unpacked and rigged to get underway to deliver an element of SOF operators to any potential target of interest, or to conduct their own mission.

SBT-20 Command Master Chief Richard Evans pointed out that this capability didn't just miraculously evolve.

"This capability is a direct result of countless hours of hard work and commitment from several Sailors in the command's air operations department over the past decade. In particular, the

air department head, Chief Steve Perry, the MCADS program manager for SBT-20, Shane Hollar, and all the members of the Air Department, have been the backbone for the success of the program for the past several years," Evans said.

Although the MCADS capability hasn't been operationally required yet, ensuring the proficiency of the SBs and reliability of the equipment is essential for regional combatant commanders to know its ready when needed.

All of the equipment and SWCCs were flawless in both MCADS drops for this exercise. Following the MCADS drops, Marines from nearby units practiced their water insertion techniques from a Marine CH-46. The SBT-20 boats immediately recovered the Marines and continued on with scheduled joint exercises in the area.

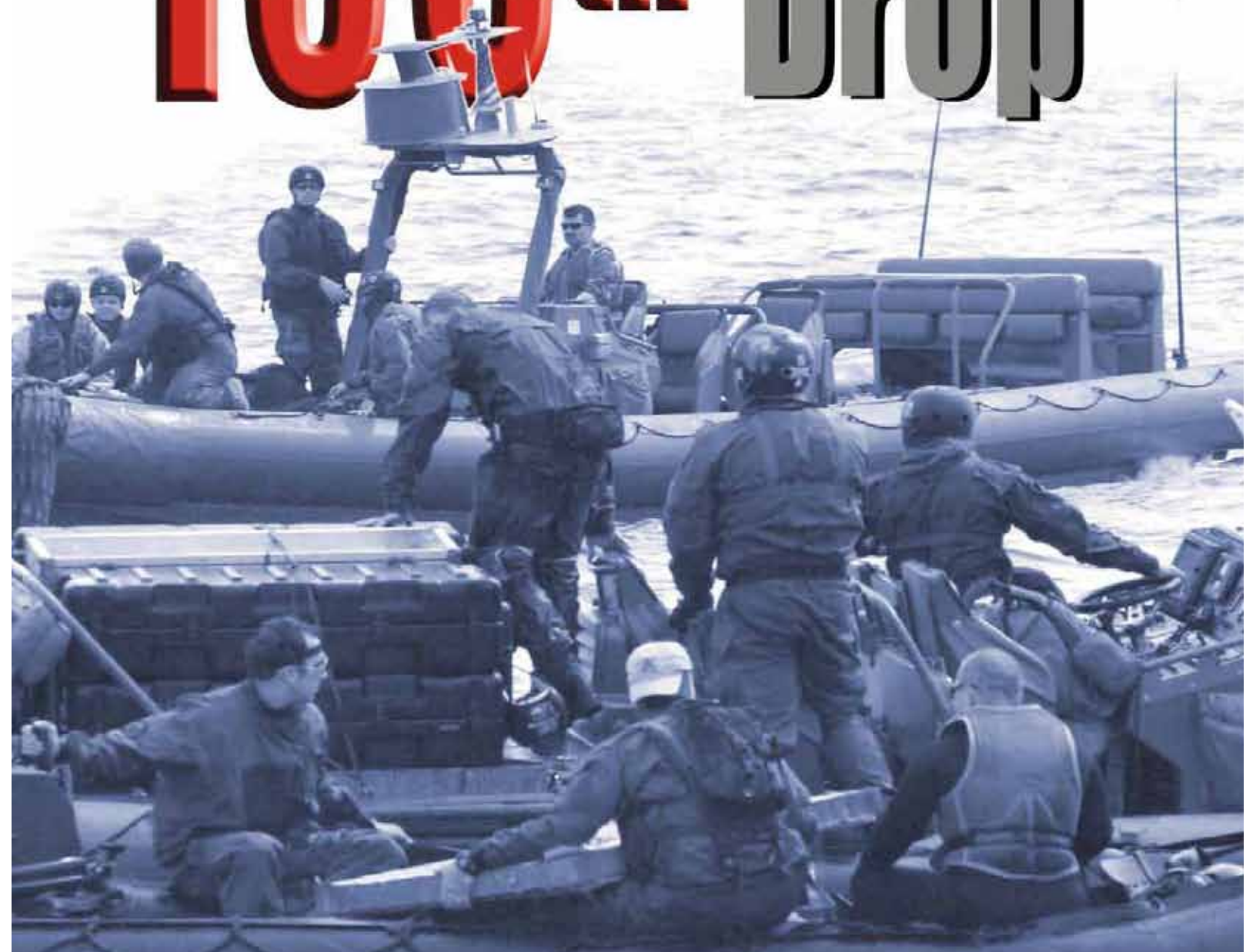
As U.S. Special Operations Command celebrates their 20th anniversary this year, this capability is a great example of how the various service component special operations force elements continue to evolve in their interoperability.

SBT-20's commanding officer, Cmdr. Kent Paro, cites this as a great example of the qualities essential to Naval Special Warfare Sailors being successful. "The experience of conducting an evolution as dynamic as an MCADS drop and having the mental agility to put that behind you, refocus, link-up with sister-service operators and conduct a SOF mission is invaluable. Time and again it's the professionalism, focused dedication, and intellect enabling our NSW Sailors to succeed every day on the battlefield and while conducting operations around the world," said Paro.



# 100<sup>th</sup>

# MCADS Drop



*(Opposite page, top left) Special Warfare Boat Operators from Special Boat Team 20 successfully conduct the 100th Maritime Craft Aerial Delivery System off the coast of North Carolina. The MCADS deploys an 11-meter Rigid-hulled Inflatable Boat out of a C-130 flying at approximately 3500 feet. MCADS provides the capability to rapidly deploy Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen and SEALs anywhere in the world in a maritime environment. (Opposite page, bottom left) Special Warfare Boat Operators from Special Boat Team 20 land next to one of their 11-meter Rigid-hulled Inflatable Boats. (Above) Special Warfare Boat Operators from Special Boat Team 20 prepare one of their 11-meter Rigid-hulled Inflatable Boats to get underway. Photos by Naval Special Warfare East Public Affairs.*

# Cold Warfare: Future SEALs get a first-hand lesson in northern exposure

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Menzie

Naval Special Warfare Public Affairs

Frigid wind and strong snowstorms are no strangers to Kodiak Island, Alaska during the winter months. Even the strongest inhabitants on the island seek shelter when the elements get rough. Yet for Navy SEAL Qualification Training students, rough weather is the best learning environment for a month-long course in cold weather survival training.

After Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training, young Special Warfare Operators travel to Kodiak for a 28-day block of instruction where they will eventually apply as SEALs to sustain themselves anywhere in the world.

“At some point in these students’ careers, even if it isn’t in a cold weather environment, they are going to learn something here they will use later on,” said Lt. Steve Schultz, Officer-in-Charge of Naval Special Warfare Advanced Training Command - Detachment Kodiak.

Naval Special Warfare created a training detachment in Kodiak to train winter warfare students in 1987, the same year U.S. Special Operations Command was established. Since that time, the detachment’s purpose and instruction methods have matured.

“I went through winter warfare platoon training in 1989,” Schultz said. “At that time, we did not have a written curriculum to back up the instruction. There was a training department that came up with the best possible training at the time for winter warfare platoons. Now, everything is written down to support instruction.”

The school is structured today to accommodate all students training to be SEALs regardless of what team or platoon they may be assigned. Prior to the Global War on Terrorism, cold weather training was designated for a few select SEAL platoons that were assigned by geographical location. SEALs working in locations known for snowy conditions would come to Kodiak for training after receiving their coveted trident pin.

“After 9/11 and the fighting that took place in the Afghanistan mountains, the SEALs decided we needed to come up with a more structured cold weather course,”



**SEAL trainees participate in a long range navigation exercise high in the mountains of Kodiak Island, Alaska. Special Warfare Operators spend three days surviving in the mountains using combined skills learned throughout the 28-day cold weather course. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Menzie.**

Schultz said. “We weren’t prepared to fight in that environment.”

By 2002, USSOCOM approved a SEAL qualifications training course that would teach all post-BUD/S students the skills they would need to survive in a wilderness environment prior to earning their trident pin.

“Today, any team can be deployed anywhere, anytime, so guys who are going through training today

have to be trained in every possible environmental condition,” Schultz said.

“Most seasoned operators fall back on the fact that the basics make you strong,” said Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Todd Peters, Senior Enlisted Advisor for Naval Special Warfare Advanced Training Command - Detachment Kodiak. “You face that no matter where you are deployed to.”

When it comes to cold weather survival, often times the most basic skills are the most important things a person should know before traveling into the wilderness; therefore, when students first come to Kodiak, they learn the basics: how to wear clothing properly and use specialized equipment they were issued.

“If you wear the right gear and take the right gear into the field and you’re comfortable, it’s going to make you capable of performing at a higher level when you reach your target,” said Special Warfare Operator 3rd Class Ben Betz.

Learning how to survive is the next priority for SQT students.

“We try to educate students on being smart about aligning their survival priorities,” Peters said. “For Alaska, the most important priority is shelter; having the ability to get out the elements and build a fire. We take them out on an evolution and they get to experience that.”

“If you didn’t have fire, you got cold real fast,” said Special Warfare Operator 3rd Class Josh Jespersen.

With shelter and fire, it’s possible for students to maintain their core body temperature and move on to the next phase of training without problems.

From there, students spend a week furthering their navigational training learned in BUD/s.

“Instructors teach you how to terrain navigate through rivers and ravines,” Jespersen said. “They teach you how to navigate with a compass, how to use a global positioning system and pretty much everything a person needs to know about navigation.”

Near the end of the long cold-weather training course, students put their skills together for a final field training exercise held high in remote mountain ranges near the town of Kodiak. Left alone in pairs, young special warfare operators must use their navigational abilities to link up with other classmates and travel together to marked points. All the while, they are mentored and monitored by their instructors to make sure everyone returns safely.

Students come down from the mountains after three days of survival training and then spend additional time learning river navigation and rappelling before graduating from the course.

In the future, plans are in place to incorporate a live-

fire range that will help students understand how cold affects their weapons.

“Instructors will give them a familiarization of the differences between shooting in cold versus shooting when it’s warm and toasty outside,” Schultz said. “Of course their dexterity will be gone because their hands are freezing. Their feet will be cold because they will be laying in the snow firing rounds down range. It’s better to give them a familiarization shoot under training conditions here rather than experiencing it for the first time in Afghanistan.”

“When you are in a cold environment, preparation is key,” said Peters. “That’s why this course is in the training pipeline for SQT. We think it’s important enough that everybody in the teams gets exposed to it. At one time or another, if you talk to any SEAL who has been around for a while, you will learn that every SEAL is going to be cold and placed in situations even in training where they will have to take care of their buddy or themselves just to stay alive.”



*Young SEAL qualification training students guard the riverbank as their peers cross the icy river in Kodiak, Alaska. Special Warfare Operators spend 28 days in Alaska learning how to survive in a cold weather environment as part of their training to earn the coveted SEAL pin. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Menzie.*



*Bushmaster 30 mm cannons protrude from the gunports of an AC-130U Spooky gunship during tests at Hurlburt Field, Fla. The 30 mm gun will eventually replace both the 40 mm cannon and 25 mm gun on U-model gunships. Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Gary Emery.*

## Spooky armed with new cannons

*By Chief Master Sgt. Gary Emery  
AFSOC Public Affairs*

Spooky is about to get a little scarier.

Crews at Hurlburt Field have put the finishing touches on the first AC-130U Spooky gunship armed with the 30 mm Bushmaster cannon. The rearmed Spooky retains its 105 mm cannon but replaces the 25 mm and 40 mm guns with Bushmasters.

The project is a “win-win,” according to Air Force Special Operations Command officials -- unless you're one of the bad guys.

“We're buying increased lethality and accuracy at the same time we're improving reliability,” said Lt. Col. Mike Gottstine, AFSOC's chief of strike/intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance requirements. “The bottom line is we'll have more gunships available for the warfighter on a day-to-day basis.”

The aging 40 mm Bofors cannon, which has been around in various guises since World War II, is increasingly hard to maintain, Gottstine said, and there is no production line set up to replace shrinking ammunition stocks. While the 25 mm gun is newer, he said, “it is a maintenance hog as far as the amount of money and time we spend maintaining the ammo handling system.” In addition, because no other Air Force aircraft use the 25 mm cannon, no one is working on developing new types of ammunition that could be effective for gunship operations, he said.

The Bushmaster cannon, on the other hand, will arm the Marine Corps' new amphibious assault vehicle, is installed on some Navy ships and is being looked at for uses in other capacities. Because of that, “the services are developing a lot of variations of 30 mm ammo,” Gottstine said. “Different types of ammo will allow us to perform different missions or maybe give us some



options to prosecute our targets differently.”

The 25 mm cannon was originally installed in gunships as a suppression weapon to keep enemy troops pinned down so they could not move or shoot, said Paul Brousseau, AFSOC AC-130U requirements contractor support. However, the 25 mm has no air burst capability, which is often preferable for suppression fire, he said. “The Marine Corps is looking at a 30 mm airburst round that could possibly be a good capability for us sometime in the future,” he said.

The new cannon fires 200 rounds a minute, faster than the 40 mm and a bit slower than the 25 mm guns it replaces, Gottstine said. “The 25 mm throws a lot of lead down but it scatters it more than the 30 mm will. We’re expecting increased lethality and increased accuracy with this weapon,” he said. “Hits are what counts.”

Gunners from the 1st Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field are ready to put their new weapon to the test.

“It’s going to be fun; it’s going to be interesting,” said Master Sgt. Chris Jette, an aerial gunner with 1st Special Operations Group standardization/evaluation. “Overall, we don’t know what the round actually does from our platform until they do the testing, but it looks like it’s going to be good.”

“I’m impressed with how easy it is to work on,” said Tech. Sgt. Ben Lerman, an aerial gunner with the 4th Special Operations Squadron. “Hopefully, it will make our job as gunners easier. Commonality between the (forward and rear guns) means we will have interchangeability of parts so we can fix them in the air.”

The ability to perform repairs while airborne is



**Tech. Sgt. Ben Filek and Master Sgt. Chris Jette look over a newly-installed 30 mm Bushmaster cannon aboard an AC-130U Spooky gunship Jan. 26 at Hurlburt Field, Fla. Sergeant Filek is an aerial gunner with the 19th Special Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field. Sergeant Jette, also an aerial gunner, is with the 1st Special Operations Group standardization/evaluation section at Hurlburt Field. The 30 mm gun will eventually replace both the 40 mm cannon and 25 mm gun on U-model gunships. Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Gary Emery.**

important, Master Sgt. Jette said.

“We can actually troubleshoot and repair the front gun where, with the 25 mm, once it breaks we can’t do anything to it,” he said.

The 30 mm-armed AC-130U will undergo flight testing through May. It should be declared operational and in the hands of “U-boat” crews from the 4th Special Operations Squadron in July, Brousseau said. Three more modified U-model gunships will join the fleet by December 2007, he said.

The rest of the fleet will be modified as funding is available, with installation probably in the mid-2009 time frame, he said. The fleetwide modification should be complete by fiscal 2010, he said.

The desired goal is to eventually install the 30 mm cannons on AFSOC’s AC-130H Spectre fleet as well, Gottstine said.

**Tech. Sgt. Ben Filek practices loading a 30 mm Bushmaster cannon aboard an AC-130U Spooky gunship at Hurlburt Field, Fla. The 30 mm gun will eventually replace both the 40 mm cannon and 25 mm gun on U-model gunships. Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Gary Emery.**

# 1st SOW Airmen continue heritage

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine  
Air Force Print News

Keeping a promise is important to many people. But, keeping the Air Commando's promise -- to provide precise and reliable Air Force special operations air power, any time, any place -- is the motto Airmen of the 1st Special Operations Wing live by.

The wing is the only active duty special operations wing in the Air Force and traces its lineage back to the 1st Air Commando Group.

"The 1st Air Commando Group legacy is something we still honor today," said Col. Norman Brozenick, 1st SOW commander.

Since 1944, the wing has kept the Air Commando's promise. It supported allied forces and operations in the China-Burma-India theater until the end of World War II. In the 1960s, the wing trained Air Force and South Vietnamese aircrews throughout the conflict in Southeast Asia.

In the 1980s, parts of the wing participated in the rescue attempt of U.S. hostages held in Tehran, Iran. During this time, the wing also helped develop a myriad of improved combat tactics, combat crew training and multi-service special operations capabilities. The 1st SOW also supported disaster relief operations, search and rescue, counter-drug interdiction operations, medical evacuations, and other humanitarian support missions.

The wing's special operations experiences continued through the 1990s. They were a direct part of operations such as Provide Comfort, Deliberate Force/Joint Endeavor, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Desert Thunder and Desert Fox.

And today, the wing is fully supporting America's war on terrorism, and has been at the forefront of the war since Sept. 11. MH-53 Pave Low helicopters from the wing flew missions in New York and Washington, D.C., following the terrorist attack. In October 2001, they flew the first missions downrange and in March 2003 they were there when Operation Iraqi Freedom began. And, their presence continues.

"We have been involved in combat operations since the beginning," said Col. Brozenick, a 1983 U.S. Air Force Academy graduate. "Unlike others supporting the war, we have never left the battlefield."

To accomplish its multi-faceted mission, the 1st SOW uses a variety of aircraft, including the AC-130 Gunships, UH-1N Huey, MC-130 Combat Talons, MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicles, U-28A utility aircraft and MH-53 Pave Lows.



**Airmen from the 1st Special Operations Wing participate in an exercise at Hurlburt Field. The 1st SOW mission focus is unconventional warfare: counter-terrorism, combat search and rescue, personnel recovery, psychological operations, aviation assistance to developing nations, "deep battlefield" resupply, interdiction and close air support. Courtesy photo.**

One of the wing's newest assets is the CV-22 Osprey.

"The CV-22 is truly a transformational aircraft," said Brozenick. "Frankly, it has an unmatched capability to help save lives."

But it is not the wing's versatile hardware that makes each mission a success.

"Humans are more important than hardware," the colonel said. "First and foremost, everything comes back to our Airmen. Right now we have (Airmen) taking the fight to America's enemies around the world -- some places known only to them."

While 1st SOW Airmen don't serve to earn medals, combined, these Airmen have been awarded five Purple Hearts, 229 Bronze Stars, seven Silver Stars and 127 Distinguished Flying Crosses since the beginning of the war on terrorism.

The colonel said none of the wing's successes could have been accomplished without teamwork.

"It is important to note that we don't do this alone," Brozenick said. "We are one part of a joint team."

This team includes units such as combat controllers, Army Special Forces, Army Rangers and Navy SEALs.

# SOF Memorial reconstruction begins

*Photos and story by Mike Bottoms  
USSOCOM Public Affairs*

Dust, noise and heavy equipment have been seen and heard around USSOCOM headquarters recently because the SOF memorial area is undergoing a major facelift.

The facelift includes a new drop zone for the command's parachute team demonstrations at the park. New curved sidewalks and dozens of palm trees have also been put along the outer edges of the memorial.

The Special Operations Memorial Foundation will very soon enlarge, re-orient and re-build the memorial to resemble the Tip of the Spear.

"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.

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

"Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and now Marines, all of

whom are not only fulfilling the legacy of SOF, are quickly becoming America's next 'greatest generation'," McCombs said. "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."

Although the park is going through changes, the Medal of Honor Recognition Ceremony will be held at the Memorial, April 24, with the entire Command in attendance.

The Special Operations Memorial Foundation and USSOCOM are sponsoring SOF Mess night, an event with more than a 1000 participants.



*Mike Dickerson, (left) president of the Special Operations Memorial Foundation and retired Maj. Gen. Jim McCombs, chairman of the board for the Special Operations Memorial Foundation and former SOCOM deputy commander, stand in the SOF memorial area where the initial renovation has begun.*

# Space at the Tip of the Spear



By Mike Bottoms  
USSOCOM Public Affairs

Space, the final frontier - SOCOM has power on land, air, sea and yes....in space.

The SOCOM Space Branch is a group of four officers and one civilian who specialize in applying satellite and other space-based capabilities to support Special Operations Forces. Recently, Maj. Bart Hughes, Space Operations Officer, returned from a tour of duty supporting SOF in Afghanistan and explained how the Space Branch helps SOF.

“The primary reason for the deployment was to employ a suite of SOCOM-developed equipment known as the Space Combat Receive Suite or ‘SCoReS,’” said Hughes. “SCoReS resembles an ordinary laptop computer and was assembled and tested by the National Reconnaissance Office.”

SCoReS enables worldwide receipt of theater and nationally collected operational intelligence data. The types of data could be Blue Force Tracking (allowing command and control elements to know the location of SOF forces) or Personnel Recovery information (displaying the location of a downed aircrew member or other isolated personnel). In addition, the SCoReS system can alert personnel when a ballistic missile such as a SCUD is launched. All of this information is derived from, and delivered through, various types of satellites.

Hughes deployed for five months and was pleased with the performance of the equipment in Afghanistan.

“The SCoReS system proved to be very successful and it provided unparalleled situational awareness and allowed the receipt of data that no other system was able to provide,” Hughes said.

SCoReS also allows the operator another



**Maj. Bart Hughes kneels behind the Space Combat Receive Suite during a deployment to Afghanistan. The Scores system enable SOF to utilize space assets on tactical missions. Courtesy photo.**

communication option.

“The real beauty of the system is that you are not reliant on standard secure communications and we were receiving real-time satellite data in some extremely remote areas,” Hughes continued.

While the employment of the SCoReS system was the primary reason for the deployment, equally important was some of the work that Hughes did as the resident space systems expert for the task force.

“Our military is critically reliant on space systems, from satellite communications and intelligence collection, to GPS (Global Positioning System). It just makes sense to have a single person for the leadership to go to for questions relating to space systems,” he said.

Hughes went on to say that for some systems, such as satellite communication problems, a task force will generally have a communications section to work those issues but for other systems like GPS, the Space Operations Officer is the only one who will have a clear understanding of the issue.

“The same is true here at SOCOM Headquarters.

We have many people familiar with satellite technology, like National Reconnaissance Office representatives, our Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities Office, National Geospatial Intelligence personnel and others, but the “space branch” within the J3 directorate, are the personnel who operationalize space support to SOF,” he said.

The branch, which falls under the Information Operations Division, was officially established in 2003 as a focal point for space issues throughout USSOCOM and the service components.

“The Space Branch brings current capability from the space toolchest to the SOF warfighter,” said Lt. Col. William Gieser, Space Branch Chief. “We are charged to discover new and innovative ways to use legacy systems to solve SOF warfighter issues and to make them more lethal, agile and capable without unnecessarily burdening them with additional equipment.”

“Using space assets helps in a tactical sense, by ensuring accuracy, timing and location. Our mission is to make the picture as accurate as possible, no matter where or in what environment our forces operate,” said Gieser.

Hughes expounded on the branch’s ultimate mission.

“The primary goal of the SOCOM Space Branch is to help SOF apply the multitude of space and satellite systems to combat operations and ultimately make our operators more lethal,” said Hughes.

Another member of the Space Branch who deployed to Afghanistan, Maj. Wes Whitaker, puts it a different way.

“SOF operators have been skilled in applying power from air, land and sea for a long time. Now it’s time to add Space to those skill sets,” said Whitaker.

Space operations are also critical to the Global War on Terrorism. As recently announced by President Bush in the National Space Policy, the United States will “deny, if necessary, adversaries the use of space capabilities hostile to U.S. national interests.” Hughes points out that “with commercially available capabilities such as GPS receivers and satellite phones, space capabilities are available to everyone, including terrorists.”

The future of space within SOCOM is still evolving. The Space Branch is working on a number of initiatives, including additional space personnel manning at the Theater Special Operations Commands and SOCOM components, incorporating space assets into SOCOM exercises, and even a payload on an experimental satellite designed specifically to support SOF.

## Space Club presents annual defense award to SOCOM officer

Maj. Bart Hughes of United States Special Operations Command was honored by the National Space Club Florida Committee with the 2006 Florida National Defense Space Award.

Hughes supported Operation Enduring Freedom as a Space Operations Planning Officer, deploying new space technologies in high priority combat missions in Afghanistan. He deployed a communications suite to isolated areas for force tracking, personnel recovery, and electronics intelligence. He also planned special weapons targeting with GPS.

While at SOCOM headquarters he coordinated evaluation of a new satellite capability to improve recovery of Special Operations Forces personnel. Hughes also successfully advocated placing an experimental payload in orbit to evaluate future communications technologies to support Special Operations Forces personnel in theatre.

“Maj. Hughes has shown innovation and creativity in applying the capabilities of space systems to the needs of our military forces around the world,” said Adrian Laffitte, chairman of the National Space Club Florida Committee.



*Maj. Bart Hughes receives the 2006 Florida National Defense Space Award from Adrian Laffitte, chairman of the National Space Club Florida Chapter, at the space club's awards banquet in Cocoa Beach, Fla.*



*The Joint Special Operations University is located at Hurlburt Field, Fla.*

# JSOU now offers Joint Special Operations Warfighter Certificate

*The Joint Special Operations University, Hurlburt Field, Fla., is the designated agency within USSOCOM to conduct joint SOF education. It is responsible for courses that cover necessary material that is either not provided elsewhere or is not provided when required by the SOF community. Beginning in February 2007, JSOU offers a Joint Special Operations Warfighter Certificate. The following interview with Dr. Joseph A. Stuart, JSOU Dean of Academics, highlights some of the key features of the new program.*

**By Lt. Col. John Prairie**  
**Joint Special Operations University**

**Q. Dr. Stuart, does the new Certificate signal a change in azimuth for JSOU?**

A. Yes but let me offer some background. From its start in 2001, JSOU was a provider of specialized, short-duration courses designed for meeting USSOCOM's immediate operational requirements. Our original portfolio included selected joint courses (i.e. JSOTF, Joint SOF Planners Workshop, SOF Information Operations Planning, SOF Interagency Course). Certainly, our original slate of courses filled gaps left by traditional training and educational processes but they tended to be narrowly focused. In some cases, there was confusion whether particular courses were better suited to component or SOCJFCOM responsibilities. Also looking forward, our chain of command was concerned that we were not yet moving to achieve the long-term

education goals of the joint SOF community as envisioned in the JSOU charter.

During FY05, we completed an Educational Requirements Analysis (ERA). A key finding in that study noted that neither SOCOM nor Service nor joint PME institutions are sufficiently preparing mid-level SOF leaders at the appropriate times in an individual's career for the operational or strategic challenges of the GWOT. Moreover, interviews with SOF leaders and senior stakeholders indicated that much of our curriculum was viewed as higher level training as opposed to education and, although courses were interesting and valuable, they lacked academic rigor.

Gen. Brown outlined the challenge when he wrote, "The special operations leader for the next decade will have to develop the intellectual agility to conceptualize creative, useful solutions to ambiguous problems and provide coherent options to joint force commanders. These leaders will train for discrete skill development and employment but will necessarily have to receive educational and experience opportunities for multiple knowledge application, analysis, evaluation, and creation at the operational and strategic levels of this global war. The key is not to produce specific answers to explicit threats but to build broad, flexible capabilities to meet the uncertain, shifting nature of the challenge." So, the Certificate Program is just the first initiative to elevate JSOU curriculum and make progress towards General Brown's goal while remaining aligned with component training institutions.

**Q. Can you describe the Joint SOF Warfighter Certificate Program?**

A hallmark of SOF competence is individual SOF qualification and collective training at the small team/unit level. However, there is little in professional development for SOF personnel that emphasizes joint experience or includes content aimed at the operational level and above. As pointed out in the ERA, SOF is no longer only one tool to be integrated into someone else's plans and operations. SOF personnel are now expected to be the campaign planners and perform the integrating, not at the tactical level as before, but now at the operational, strategic-theater, and strategic-national levels. The skill sets and the knowledge needed for mastering the nuances of this operating environment are fundamentally different from before. Moreover, developing a joint SOF staff knowledge base is frequently cited by SOF leaders as a pressing need.

So, we de-activated several of our original courses and challenged our faculty to form a blended program of instruction that emphasizes application objectives. Our aim is not to get people to know more things. Rather, we are trying to build capacity to apply what they do in joint and irregular environments and outside of the usual comfort zone of tactical situations. If we are successful we will deliver personnel to the SOCOM CSO, Theater SOC staffs, and other joint force headquarters who will be better positioned to contribute to the GWOT mission.

The courses in the Certificate build on the lessons learned from recent operations, emphasize operational art, and include rigorous academic materials. Module 1, Joint SOF Application and Strategy Course, is a demanding course of instruction and will be beta-tested 12-23 February 2007. Module 2, the Theory of Irregular Warfare Course, will be piloted 4-15 June 2007. Module 3, the Joint Special Operations Collaborative Planning Course, will be delivered 13-24 August 2007 and will feature planning and tools essential for joint SOF staff planning and conclude with a comprehensive exercise. Each module course is independent and mutually supporting. They may be taken in any sequence and we expect to offer a full schedule by FY08 including opportunities for distance learning.

**Q. Who is the Target Audience and who can attend?**

A. The Certificate is for SOF personnel in their mid-career. It is designed for those personnel preparing for, enroute to, or assigned to their first joint SOF headquarters at a Theater SOC, the USSOCOM CSO or a component or joint force headquarters. The intended audience is Special Operations Senior Noncommissioned Officers (E-6 through E-9), Warrant (WO-1-4) and Commissioned Officers (O-2 through O-4).

**Q. How does this fit with other offerings at Hurlburt Field and the professional education of SOF personnel?**



*Dr. Joseph Stuart, Dean of Academics, Joint Special Operations University discusses the Joint Special Operations Warfighter Certificate Program with Lt. Col. John McAtee.*

A. The Certificate combines best elements of several courses as well as the SOF planner workshops. Unlike courses like the CSO Warfighter Course, which are customized to new arrivals at a particular command, the Certificate will service a broader audience and feature a more robust curriculum. Although the Certificate is the main effort for our faculty, we will continue to provide outreach to PME institutions and JSOU will also continue to provide support to selected events that are important to SOF like the SOF Interagency Course, and our contributions to the Counterterrorism Fellowship Program, and our advocacy of research for SOF.

**Q. How can I get started on the Certificate Program? What can I do now to prepare to attend?**

A. Register now via the JSOU web page at: <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/jsou/> and monitor the JSOU web page for updates. Complete on-line prerequisites and familiarize yourself with joint references (also posted on-line). If you have questions, contact LTC John Prairie at DSN 579-4328 or Commercial 850-884-4328.

**Q. What's next for JSOU?**

A. JSOU's role is to provide instruction that will add to the joint SOF body of knowledge to make our leaders inquisitive, insightful, operationally competent, and strategically focused. Our efforts in the short run will be focused on two important dimensions: richness and reach. The Certificate is the first initiative and we aim to polish the quality (richness) of that offering through FY07. To improve our reach to SOF personnel of all Services and assigned to distant locations, we will concentrate on expanded use of Distance Learning including VTI and web-based education by FY08.

*Dr. Joseph Stuart has been the Dean of Academics at the Joint Special Operations University, Hurlburt Field, Fla. since August 2001.*

# WWII RANGER recalls Darby's Rangers

By Hank Heusinkveld

In 1942, an elite U.S. Army unit was formed in Ireland with help from British commandos that would later wreak havoc with hit and run tactics on German soldiers in North Africa and all the way into Italy. Led by a charismatic and intuitive West Pointer named Bill Darby the unit, officially known as the 1st Ranger Battalion, would become widely known as “Darby’s Rangers.” Up the road from Fayetteville in Oxford, North Carolina is a veteran from this famous World War Two unit. Harold Stanley



**Pvt. Harold Stanley Westerholm pictured in 1942. Courtesy photo.**

Westerholm first joined the Army National Guard in 1940 at age

18. Trained as an infantryman, he was later assigned to the 135th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division. That

division and hundreds of thousands of other GIs were soon Europe bound, and the 34th made its way to England and settled in Ireland. Shortly after, Westerholm caught wind of a highly-skilled, highly-mobile unit that was being formed to work behind enemy lines.

“They were asking for volunteers for ‘Rangers’ Darby was organizing the group and was interviewing folks who volunteered,” Westerholm said. “He was looking for someone that was young and very physically able to do everything. After our interview we received a notice whether we were accepted or not for training. We eventually went to Scotland and received training with British commandos.”

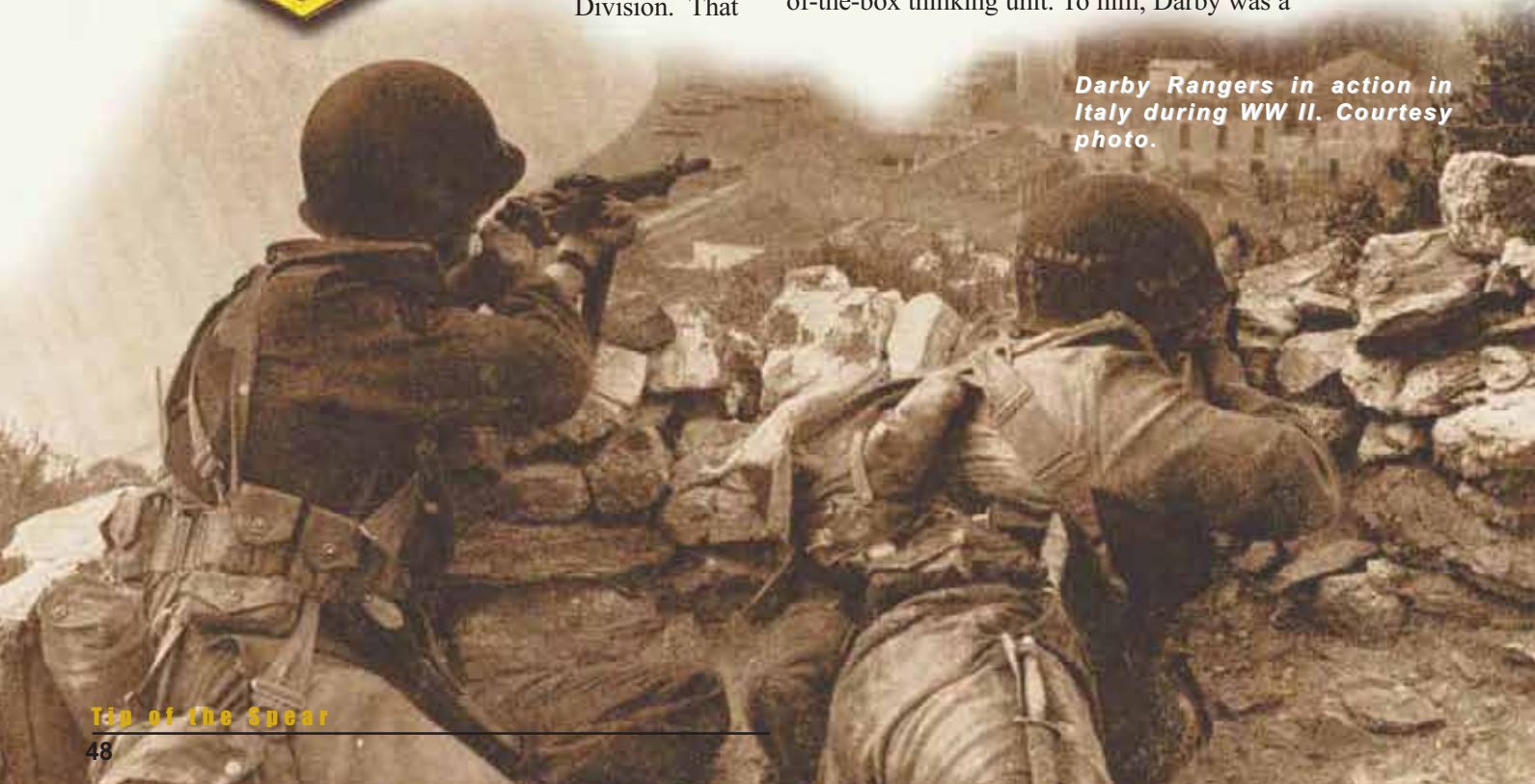
Westerholm recalled the cold, dismal climate of northern Great Britain, but there was little time to dwell on new surroundings. He and his fellow GIs were launched into a fast-paced world of realistic, exhausting and creative training.

“Oh yeah! They gave us everything that they could give us,” he explained. “They had a regular course set up and it wasn’t something that was set up spur-of-the-moment. It was a well-designed course that the commandos had set up.”

Westerholm and his comrades faced endless days of relentless training in the rugged hills of Scotland. He remembered that Darby was the perfect leader for this out-of-the-box thinking unit. To him, Darby was a



**Darby Rangers in action in Italy during WW II. Courtesy photo.**







**Col. William O. Darby, center, sitting in the front row poses for a group photo with his unit 1st Ranger Battalion later known as "Darby's Rangers." Courtesy photo from the National Archives.**

Soldier's Soldier, willing to go the extra mile to instill confidence in his troops.

"He observed all of the training and went through it to show that he was capable of doing it all. He was easy to talk to. We knew that he was an officer whom we could trust and he was well-liked by everyone. It was interesting and we had a chance to watch him do the same thing that we had to do. And all officers who went through it did everything we enlisted had to do."

When their training was completed, Westerholm said that everyone felt they had earned their new patches on their uniforms.

"They told us we were Rangers. We all thought we were the cream of the crop. At least that's what they were telling us! And I believed it. It was something."

The 1st Ranger Battalion soon headed to North Africa. According to official Army records, Darby's Rangers saw their first action on November 8th, 1942 in support of Operation Torch which was under the direction of General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"The battalion was split up into groups," Westerholm said. "I was with C Company. Our mission was to attack this fort in Algeria from one side. After that we walked through northern Africa with skirmishes here and there."

Westerholm said the intense training the Rangers received in Great Britain paid off. They were able to travel long distances with relative ease, usually under the cover of darkness.

"We didn't have a lot of equipment and it wasn't heavy. We could go in and get the job done quickly. We knew what we were supposed to do when we were supposed to do it. That was the main thing. And we were physically fit."

Westerholm said the tactics the Rangers used varied at different places. He said that sometimes they fought as a

larger group, but usually they had 14 people in a squad.

"We were assigned different jobs to do, helping other organizations that were in trouble. So we'd go in and help them...plug a hole here, plug a hole there. We did fairly well, but we did lose people all along the way. Three or four days after we were advancing we lost a couple of good men."

By the time the Germans had been mopped up in North Africa it was time to move on to Sicily. Being front line Soldiers behind enemy lines meant their life expectancy was short. Replacements began to fill KIA slots, but they were not as well trained as the original group that paid its dues in Scotland. But the Rangers pressed on, and they adapted quickly to yet another different type of terrain.

"We had rock climbing in Sicily which was easy after the training we received in Scotland. And Darby was still with us. He was out all over the place. No telling where he was! And even though the situation always changed, our operations were based on the different terrain."

The fighting in Italy eventually decimated the Rangers. Westerholm had several close calls, but remained unscathed.

"I was just real fortunate that I never got hit. My two buddies were wounded, though, but we pretty much escaped serious injuries."

It wasn't the same for Colonel William O. Darby. He lived the life of a warrior and died a warrior, killed by an 88mm artillery fragment in April of 1945 while attached to the US 10th Mountain Division near Torbole, Italy. Darby was posthumously awarded the rank of Brigadier General and was buried at Fort Smith National Cemetery. In 1958, Darby was the subject of the motion picture Darby's Rangers starring James

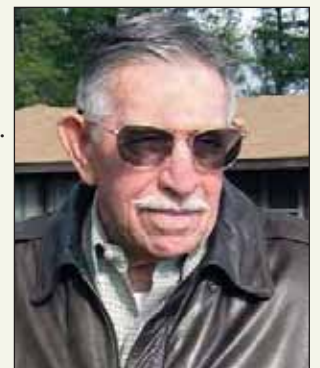
Garner.

"The movie was somewhat accurate," Westerholm stated. "Of course it brought back memories when I watched it."

It's been 61 years since the end of World War Two, but Westerholm still has vivid memories of his time as a Darby Ranger. Like many veterans of that war he's somewhat reserved when discussing his role as a U.S. Soldier. They simply "had a job to do and we did it." And even though the legacy of William O. Darby lives on, Stan Westerholm remembers him as just a very good leader who taught him invaluable skills to fight and to survive.

*"He observed all of the training and went through it to show that he was capable of doing it all. He was easy to talk to. We knew that he was an officer whom we could trust and he was well liked by everyone."*

*— Harold Stanley Westerholm*



**Harold Stanley Westerholm**

# **Special Operators v** **erving in Operations Endurin** **in the Global War on Terrori**

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

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

SGT Michael Hall  
SSG Gary Harper Jr.  
CW2 Stanley Harriman  
SCPO Daniel Healy  
PFC John Henderson  
TSgt James Henry  
SFC Richard Herrema  
SPC Julie Hickey  
SSgt Jason Hicks  
CPL Benjamin Hoeffner  
LTC Daniel Holland  
SSG Aaron Holleyman  
MSG Kelly Hornbeck  
MSG Robert Horrigan  
SFC Merideth Howard  
SFC Mark Jackson  
SGT Kip Jacoby  
SPC Joseph Jeffries  
MSG Ivica Jerak  
SSG Allen Johnson  
PFC Dillon Jutras  
MSgt William Kerwood  
SSG Matthew Kimmell  
SPC Adam Kinser  
SSG Daniel Kisling  
SPC Adam Knox  
SFC Obediah Kolath  
Capt Surrender 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  
PO1 Jeffery Lucas  
CPL George Lutz II

# who lost their lives

## g Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and

### ism will never be forgotten

CPT Shane Mahaffee  
MSGt Michael Maltz  
SFC Curtis Mancini  
SSG Paul Mardis  
CW3 Hershel McCants  
MSGt William McDaniel  
SFC Robert McGee  
Lt Michael McGreevy, Jr.  
SFC Michael McNulty  
SGT Rhonald Meeks  
1SG Tobias Meister  
SGT Marco Miller  
SFC Robert Mogensen  
PO2 Michael Monsoor  
SGT Alberto Montrond  
SSG Orlando Morales  
MSG Kevin Morehead  
SFC Lawrence Morrison  
SPC Scott Mullen  
SFC Pedro Munoz  
SFC Marcus Muralles  
Lt. Michael Murphy  
SSG Clinton Newman  
SFC Tung Mahn Nguyen  
SFC James Ochsner  
SSG Tony Olaes  
SGT Michael O'Neill  
CW3 Mark O'Steen  
PO1 Brian Ouellette  
SGT Micheal Owen  
CPT Bartt Owens  
1st Lt Ray Owens Jr.  
SGT Jason Palmerton  
PO2 Eric Patton  
SSG Robert Paul  
SSG Ronald Paulsen  
SSgt Patrick Pentico  
SFC Daniel Petithory

LTC Mark Phelan  
SSG Christopher Piper  
SrA Jason Plite  
Maj Steven Plumhoff  
MSG James Ponder  
CW2 Bruce Price  
SSG Brian Prosser  
CW3 John Quinlan  
SGT Regina Reali  
MAJ Stephen Reich  
SGT James Regan  
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  
PO2 Joseph Schwedler  
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 Kristofer Stonesifer

PO2 James Suh  
PO2 Eric Sutton  
SGT Philip Svitak  
SSG Paul Sweeney  
MAJ Paul Syverson  
SSG Ayman Taha  
PO1 David Tapper  
CPT Michael Tarlavsky  
PO1 Jeffrey Taylor  
SFC John Taylor  
SSgt John Teal  
PFC Kristofer Thomas  
CPL Patrick Tillman  
MAJ Jeffrey Toczylowski  
SPC Teodoro Torres  
SFC Peter Tycz  
SGT Nathan Vacho  
SSG Gene Vance  
SPC Travis Vaughn  
SFC Brett Walden  
SSgt Thomas Walkup, Jr.  
TSgt Howard Walters  
CWO Jamie Weeks  
SGT Cheyenne Willey  
SGT Adam Wilkinson  
Capt Gil Williamson  
SGT Daniel Winegart  
SGT Roy Wood  
Maj Matthew Worrel  
SGT Jeremy Wright  
CW4 Michael Wright  
MSG Anthony Yost  
SFC Mickey Zaun



**SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND 20TH ANNIVERSARY**