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Billy M Smith
Memorial Chapter



2002



19TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



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Honoring Tillman Cooper's Service

Tillman Bertran Cooper (07 July 1939 – 25 November 2009)

Born in Nash Texas

1957 Graduated River Rouge High School in Detroit, MI

Military Service

1957-1962 U.S. Marine Corps

1963-1976 U.S. Army Special Forces

Awards and Decorations:

- Army Commendation Medal with Second Oak Leaf Cluster
- National Defense Service Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross
- Imperial Iranian Jump Wings
- Combat Infantry Badge
- Master Parachutist Badge
- 2 Overseas Bars denoting Combat Service

Education:

1979 Bachelors Degree in Accounting from East Texas State University

1980 Masters Degree in Business Administration from East Texas State University

1980-1982 PhD Candidate from University of Arkansas

Civil Service Career:

1982-1983 8th **Army Provost Marshal's Office in Korea**

1983-1986 Management Analyst Officer U.S. Naval Base Guam

1986-1990 Budget Director Great Lakes Naval Training Center

1990-1992 Comptroller U.S. Naval Base Subic Bay, Philippines

1992-1993 U.S. Naval Base Guam

1993-1995 Business Manager U.S. Naval Station Italy

1995-1997 Great Lakes Naval Training Center

2000- Lived in Dallas Texas area

Surviving Family

Spouse of 33 years – Kyong Hee Cooper

Sons Casey and Michael

Daughter in Law Sandy



Tillman and Kyong Hee at Chapter Function

Veteran's Day



Merle Eckles, Curtis Thompson, Ron Piper, Julie Bessa, Phil Stone

Chapter Sign on Deuce and one half



Veteran's Day



Merle Eckles, Ron Piper, Unknown, Phil Stone, Bill Adair, Curtis Thompson, Unknown, Sam Wylie, Linda Weston, Tao_Phan

Opposite: Top—Bill Adair Bottom— Phil Stone : Passing out small American flags with business card/ invitations attached.

Veteran's Day



Veteran's Day



Linda Weston, Curtis Thompson, Merle Eckles, Sam Wylie
Bottom: Julie, Lindsey and Carson Bessa our honored guests for the day.

Opposite Bottom: Ron Piper, George Petrie, Cathy Foster, Merle Eckles, Sam Wylie, Phil Stone
Curtis Thompson, Sherilyn Pecoraro (Lindsey's Mom) Julie Bessa (Jeremie's Mom) Lindsey Bessa
W.D. Walker at Dick's Last Resort for lunch.



Veteran's Day



Reviewing
Stand
For **Veteran's**
Day Parade



Veteran's Day



One of our honored guests: General (Ret.) Richard Mills with Travis Mills and Curtis Thompson at our annual fundraiser at Dick's Last Resort on Veteran's Day 2009

1st SFG History

The History of
1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), First Special Service Force
The Global War on Terrorism (2001 – 2009)
 Continued

OEF–AFGHANISTAN (OEF-A)



After 9/11, the first SOF counterterrorism operations were not conducted in Afghanistan or even the Middle East, but in Europe. Islamic extremists had transited the Balkans for years and had been involved in ethnic warfare in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In late September 2001, U.S. SOF learned that Islamic extremists with connections to Usama bin Laden were in Bosnia. SOCEUR forces quickly put together Operation RESOLUTE RESOLVE to capture them. U.S. SOF surveilled the terrorists, detained one of the groups, and facilitated the capture of another group by coalition forces. These raids resulted in the capture of all the suspected terrorists and incriminating evidence for prosecution and intelligence exploitation.

The U.S. Government quickly determined that Usama bin Laden (UBL) and his al Qaeda (AQ) terrorist network were responsible for the 9/11 attacks. The Taliban regime in Afghanistan harbored Usama Bin Laden and his supporters, and President Bush demanded that the Taliban hand them over to U.S. authorities. When the Taliban refused to comply, the President ordered CENTCOM to eliminate Afghanistan as a sponsor and safe haven for international terrorists.

Initially, CENTCOM only tasked SOCCENT with CSAR, but nonetheless SOCCENT planners developed a plan for a UW campaign. Late September, after SOCCENT briefed its UW plan, CENTCOM Commander, Tommy Franks said, “Okay, Do it.” Thus SOF would be his main effort.

In September, the only insurgency opposing the Taliban was the beleaguered Northern Alliance, which controlled about 10 percent of Afghanistan. U.S. Army Special Forces doctrine describes seven phases for a U.S. sponsored insurgency: psychological preparation, initial contact, infiltration, organization, buildup, combat operations, and demobilization. Other government agencies took the lead role in the first three phases. U.S. SOF and DOD would take the lead in the next three stages and a combination of U.S. agencies and the State Department will should take the lead in the final stage, demobilization.

SOCCENT stood up the first JSOTF in Uzbekistan to focus on CSAR and then UW. On 5 October, COL Frank Kisser stood up CSAR operations at Kashi-Kanabad (K2), Uzbekistan and on 7 October the bombing of Afghanistan began. COL John Mulholland and 5th SFG (A) deployed to K2, Uzbekistan and formed the core of the JSOTF that became known as Task Force Dagger. UW became Dagger’s principle mission and was supported by the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) and Special Tactics personnel from the Air Force Special Operations Command.

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Bad weather in Uzbekistan and northern Afghanistan delayed the infiltration of the first ODAs until the night of 19 October 2001. After a two-and-a-half hour flight through extremely dicey weather the first ODA, ODA-595, reached its landing zone south of Mazar-e Sharif and linked up with General Abdul Rashid Dostum, a warlord with a strong power base in the area. The team split into two elements to better assist Dostum's scattered forces and later began calling in close air support from U.S. aircraft.

Starting on 22 October, Team A rode on horse with Dostum's cavalry and from Ops called in CAS. The massive and effective fires brought down by ODA-595 had a huge adverse psychological effect on the Taliban and a correspondingly positive effect on General Dostum's men. In one 18-hour period, they destroyed over 20 armored and 20 support vehicles. At first the Taliban sent in reinforcements, but all that did was provide more targets for the air attack.

Meanwhile Team B, also mounted on horseback, moved south and interdicted Taliban forces in the Alma Tak Mountain Range, destroying over 65 enemy vehicles, 12 command positions, and large enemy ammunition storage bunker. ODA-534, who inserted in early November to assist Mohammed Atta's forces allied with Dostum, also directed CAS to similar effect. Mazar-e Sharif became the first major victory when it fell to Dostum on 10 November 2001 and validated SF's UW role as a combat multiplier, a template that was repeated throughout Afghanistan.

On 19-20 October 2001, Objective Rhino, a landing strip southwest of Kandahar and Objective Gecko, a compound belonging to Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, were captured. Operations in and around Kabul and northeastern Afghanistan were successful in securing Bagram, the Shomali Plains, and Kabul.

Taliban leaders agreed to surrender on 23 November 2001. However, the Northern Alliance stopped an enemy convoy near Mazar-e Sharif at a checkpoint a day earlier and 100 miles west of the agreed upon capitulation site. The NA failed to search the prisoners that were taken to Qala-i-Jangi (house of war) who later exploded grenades in suicide attacks, overpowered the guards, and seized control of the southern portion of the compound along with the stockpile of ammunition and weapons. One American CIA agent, Mike Spann was killed and another was pinned down. An ad hoc reaction force – consisting of American and British troops, DIA linguists, and local interpreters – established overwatch positions and eventually freed the CIA agent on the 25th. The next day a SOF reaction force called in an air strike that injured five Americans and four Brits, and killed several Afghan troops. The pilots had inadvertently entered friendly coordinates rather than target coordinates into the JDAM. The timing of the enemy uprising suggested that the Taliban planned to use the "Trojan Horse" attack to slip armed enemy soldiers into a lightly defended position near Mazar-e Sharif.

During the Mazar-e Sharif and Taloqan-Konduz campaigns, the Northern alliance forces accompanied by SOF ODAs and JTACs directed air strikes liberating six provinces. Other SOF multipliers also made significant contributions. PSYOP leaflets offered rewards for fugitive Taliban and AQ leaders, informed people of their pending liberation, and warned them of the dangers of unexploded ordnance and mines. Civil Affairs teams began assessing humanitarian needs even as fighting was winding down in northern Afghanistan.

Kandahar was the next objective after securing northern Afghanistan. Kandahar, far to the south is of a different ethnic makeup – Pashtun, not Tajik as in northern Afghanistan – and is the spiritual and political center of the Taliban movement. [Note: being a member of the Sunni Taliban movement does not necessarily mean that you are a terrorist. Many Muslim sects have peaceful members as well as extremists who are prone to support terrorism. Afghanistan President, Hamid Karzai is Taliban.] On 14 November 2001, ODA-574 inserted into Tarin Khowt to support and protect the emerging choice as Afghanistan's future leader, Hamid Karzai. Fearing Karzai's potential power the Taliban sent 500 soldiers north to crush him. Karzai employed his handful of men and relied upon his SF

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ODA to protect him with CAS, repulsing the attack. On 5 December, Special Forces were calling in CAS when a 2,000 –pound JDAM landed in their position killing three Americans and wounded dozens of others. While the SF Teams were recovering from the incident, Karzai’s negotiators finalized an agreement for the surrender of Taliban forces and the city of Kandahar.

In November, factions from Afghanistan gathered in Bonn, Germany to develop a plan for Afghanistan’s future. The Afghan leaders signed an agreement on 5 December 2001, establishing an interim government and setting milestones for establishment of an army, a constitution, and presidential and parliamentary elections. Six days later, on 11 December 2001, Hamid Karzai was sworn in as Prime Minister of the interim government.

In mid-November the CIA had received several reports that a large contingent of AQ, to include UBL, had fled from Kabul to Nangahar Province along the northern peaks of Tora Gora – later redubbed Tora Bora. The terrorist had improved their positions in the area over many years, digging hundreds of caves and refuges to establish training camps. UBL knew the terrain from the time of the Soviet invasion and Tora Bora appeared to be an extremely tough target. The forces of the Eastern Alliance under the command of Generals Hazarat Ali and Haji Zaman, were even more disorganized than those of the Northern Alliance, but both groups were deeply distrustful of American aims, neither wanted to be blamed for introducing foreign occupying troops into Afghanistan.

American troop levels in Afghanistan were far from robust in November 2001, when the CIA deployed Jawbreaker teams to Jalalabad to encourage General Ali’s Eastern Alliance to pursue UBL. COL Mulholland, commander of TF Dagger, agreed to commit an ODA and perhaps a few others once the Jawbreaker teams established themselves and developed feasible plans. CENTCOM emerged with the general consensus that the only feasible template was to employ small SOF teams to provide logistical assistance and coordinate airpower in support of the Afghan militia.

On 7 December, ODA 572 began directing air support while General Ali’s forces tried to maneuver against the AQ positions in the Agam Valley. CENTCOM committed an additional SOF Task Force, TF 11 while on 7 December, ODA 572 established an OP 25A on the northeastern ridgeline near AQ positions in the Tora Bora mountains and then on 8 December they established a second OP, OP 25B on the northwestern side. TF 11 sent their ground force commander to conduct his initial reconnaissance of the Tora Bora area on 8 December and caught a glimpse of just how well defended the AQ fortifications were. The reconnaissance party received accurate small arms and mortar fire from the enemy. He also discovered that General Ali’s forces maintained no real front line trace, but rather clusters of troops in the Agam Valley that were scattered willy-nilly.

On 10 December, at 16:00 hours local, the Afghan troops reported that they had not only spotted UBL but they had him surrounded and asked for additional help. While TF 11’s reinforcements were trying to convince Ali’s rear echelon to provide guides to the battle area darkness fell. Ali’s forces that were in contact were not accustomed to fighting after dark and retreated and passed the TF 11 QRF as they were leaving. As the Afghan forces passed by, Ali promised the TF commander that he would turn his convoy around at the bottom of the hill and return to continue the pursuit of UBL. Neither Ali nor his forces would return that night.

Additionally, the Afghan soldiers fled the battlefield, leaving the two special operators and their translator both stranded and potentially surrounded. These SOF personnel radioed their evasion codeword and began moving out of the area under enemy fire toward friendly positions. TF 11 tried to locate any Afghan OP that had “eyes on” the AQ front line and UBL specifically, but no such position existed. The TF 11 guides grew extremely nervous as the party approached known AQ positions and refused to go farther. The QRF then turned its attention to recovering the evaders. The evaders attempted to determine friend or foe and negotiated their way through “friendly” checkpoints

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without the requisite dollars for the required levy to pass. The evaders eventually linked up with their parent element.

Though not successful in capturing UBL, the actions on 10-11 December 2001 caused AQ elements to retreat to alternate positions and enabled the Afghan militia to capture key terrain. By 14 December the Task Force commander convinced Ali and his men to occupy overnight the terrain that they had captured during the day's fighting. And gradually the noose around AQ tightened consistently through 17 December when General Ali declared victory. The general consensus remained that the surviving AQ forces had either fled to Pakistan or melted into the local population. TF 11 forces departed the battlefield on 19 December, but without knowing whether they had killed UBL and destroyed AQ in Afghanistan. Later, all source reporting corroborated UBL's presence on several days from 9-14 December. U.S. and Afgha forces proved unable to block egress routes from Tora Bora south into Pakistan, the route that UBL most likely took.

With the capture of Kabul and Kandahar and the destruction of organized resistance in Tora Bora, Afghanistan was now in effect liberated. It had taken fewer than 60-days of concentrated military operations and only a few hundred soldiers to seize the country from the Taliban and its terrorist allies.

While the battles in Afghanistan were taking place and planning for OEF-P was ongoing in late 2001 and early 2002, 1st SFG (A) was preparing for combat operations around the globe. Initial taskings for personnel and equipment arrived from the United States Army Special Forces Command (USASFC); 1st SFG (A) provided both 18D and 18E personnel to support both the 5th Special Forces Group (A) and Other Governmental Agencies (OGA) supporting US combat operations in Afghanistan as part of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

SFC Nathan Chapman and a CIA officer were ambushed as they left a meeting with tribal leaders in Afghanistan's Paktia province, near where U.S. warplanes had just previously struck several al-Qaida and Taliban targets. Chapman, an 18E Communications Sergeant, was killed in the ambush. Being the first US casualty to hostile fire, the entire Nation focused on the man that would symbolize the courage and determination of our great country to defeat the evil men who had targeted the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Nate was laid to rest in the Tahoma National Cemetery on 11 January 2002; at the funeral MG Geoffrey Lambert said that "*he could see Chapman's legacy in his children and in the places where Chapman fought for freedom, in Panama, the Persian Gulf, Haiti, and Afghanistan.*" Nate's funeral procession up Interstate 5 was lined with thousands of Americans and US flags hung from every overpass, held in place by firefighters from throughout the region. The traffic circle located in front of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) Headquarters building was designated as CHAPMAN CIRCLE in honor of Sergeant First Class Nathan R. Chapman.

Other members of the 1st SFG (A) would continue to serve and fight with distinction in Afghanistan, several earning distinction and combat awards; SFC Scott Satterlee and SFC XXXX Burk xxxx were recognized for their efforts with the Bronze Star Medal with V-Device. 1st SFG(A) would eventually send additional elements and battalions to Afghanistan.

OEF-A, 2nd Battalion (1 DEC 2004 – 31 JUN 2005). In Regional Command (RC) East, FOB 12 expanded upon FOB 32's changes to the battlespace, especially in Khowst and Paktika Provinces. In December, it constructed a firebase at Chamkani, and one ODA occupied it. Consequently, northern Khowst Province witnessed an immediate improvement in the security situation. In the central part of the province, the ODB commissioned the construction of an additional border control point (BCP) at Jaji Maydan, east of the city of Khowst. While both the firebase and the BCP improved the local and arguably the regional security of Khowst, each position was protected largely by local hires, vice the Afghan Nation Army (ANA). Significant restrictions remained on the ODAs' use of these forces for missions other than local firebase security. More important, these positions were intended to reinforce

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the legitimacy of the Afghan government along the border with Pakistan. The requirement for government trained forces in these areas was growing larger, even while the CJSOTF could not fully employ those very forces.

FOB 12 continued the expansion of firebases and BCPs along the border. In the late spring of 2005, 7th SFG (A) ODAs that were OPCON to FOB 12, constructed new firebases at Gayan and Bermel Bazar in Paktika Province to enhance security at district capitals. An ODA at Lwara established a long-awaited BCP at Wrice and placed its ANA Company in the position.

The goal of the firebase and BCP expansion remained two-fold: bolster the security environment in select locations and enable the CJSOTF eventually to turn over border security to Afghan forces. The CJSOTF proved largely successful in meeting the first objective. With both firebases and BCPs came security forces, which frequently dampened the flow of insurgents, cut down on local crime, and led to an improved local economy. Afghans built the facilities, manned them, and subsequently spent their wages locally. But, in mid-2005, the ANA simply could not field enough forces to man the camps that the CJSOTF had constructed. Even if the ANA could have assumed border security, many within the CFC-A and CJTF opposed basing the ANA there for fear of inciting tensions with Pakistan. The century-long dispute over the Pakistan border could have sparked a conflict between coalition and Pakistan forces at any time. While Afghan security forces (ASF) manned many of the firebases near the border, their status as “militia” vice government-sanctioned forces meant that they would not fill long-term security needs. ODAs could not leave them unattended.

A significant initiative that went hand in glove with border security operations was coordinating with Pakistani elements at key locations. To elicit cooperation from the Pakistan military, ODAs from FOB 12 fielded communications equipment to Pakistan forces across from Torkham, BCP-4, Lwara, and Shkin. FOB 12 even fielded SATCOM radios to the Pakistani military in Miram Shah. In return for the radios, the Pakistan military was supposed to report anti-coalition militia (ACM) activities and to coordinate operations in the vicinity of the border. While the communications initiative received a great deal of attention from CJTF, Pakistani military officials did not reciprocate to the degree desired. The initiative did reduce tensions during border clashes.

FOB 12 did obtain OPCON of a second Kandak in the spring of 2005. 2-5 Infantry, which had covered Oruzgan Province, shifted its forces to another area within Afghanistan. FOB 71 needed a force to fill this void. FOB 71, operating out of Kandahar, requested and received a second Kandak in March 2005. It was thus able to employ one Kandak in Paktika and a second in the vicinity of Jalalabad. It was in RC South that Kandak employment established a precedent for CJSOTF’s eventual return to a sponsorship of the ANA.

Task Force Ranger (Afghanistan) (SOT-A’s) (XXX 04)

BDOC rotations (Jan – Jul 04)

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF)

3rd Battalion (FEB 06 – AUG 06).

A Company, 2nd Battalion, CIF (APR 07 – NOV 07).

C Company, 1st Battalion, CRE (APR 07 – JUL 07).

3rd Battalion (JUN 08 – JAN 09).

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C Company, 1st Battalion, CRE (DEC 09 – MAR 10).

U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) began planning for the invasion of Iraq in January 2002. The subsequent plan, OPLAN 1003V called for a simultaneous attack from five directions; 1- a conventional land attack from Kuwait led by the 3rd ID and I MEF, 2- coalition air forces attacking from Saudi Arabia and off-shore carriers in the Persian Gulf, 3- Naval forces attacking from Kuwait to seize oil and gas platforms and secure oil facilities on the Al Faw Peninsula, 4- SOF attacking from Kurdish held areas in the north, and 5- a SOF insertion into the Iraqi desert.

CENTCOM was designated the Combined Forces Land Component (CFLC) and was the supported force for the invasion. Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT) was one of the supporting commands, assigned its apportioned forces and began constructing its campaign plan. 10th Special Forces Group was assigned to constitute the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force that would operate from the northern Kurdish Autonomous Zone (CJSOTF-North), and conduct unconventional warfare through, by, and with the Kurdish forces, the Peshmerga. 10th Group deployed its two stateside battalions and received a 3rd from 3rd SFG (A), and also received a robust planning component from the 352nd Special Operations Group (SOG) to perform the mission of Joint Special Operations Air Detachment. 5th SFG (A) was assigned the task of CJSOTF-West, and its three battalions would constitute the bulk of the TF which grew to include Australian and British SOF, Psychological Operations (PSYOP) elements, and Civil Affairs (CA). CJSOTF-W's mission in southern Iraq was to organize and employ regime opposition groups, but the rapid seizure of Baghdad obviated the requirement and the mission was quickly changed to supporting CFLC's assault north, to include the provision of intelligence and SOF seizing terrain.

The 75th Ranger Regiment was assigned numerous missions to secure key terrain along the outskirts of Baghdad to facilitate the mounted advance of 3rd ID. Other coalition SOF (CSOF) forces were assigned special reconnaissance (SR) missions deep within Iraq to target Iraq maneuver forces. Naval Special Warfare Task Group (NSWTG-Cent) was tasked to secure oil and gas facilities on the Al Faw Peninsula and two oil platforms off the Iraq coast. As events unfolded, all SOF elements would have to execute numerous inherent tasks that included attacking Iraqi forces, seizing key infrastructure, and preventing the destruction of critical nodes. Although conducting shaping operations in support of CFLC, SOF often found itself in the supported role during the initial stages of combat.

OIF commenced the night of 19 March 2003. Operating out of Kuwait, ODAs from CJSOTF-W infiltrated into Iraq to prevent Iraqi SCUD launches, direct U.S. and allied aircraft, and dominate key terrain in the vast western desert. They were very successful as not a single SCUD was launched and Iraqi forces were quickly subdued by the CFLC with the aid of their surveillance of Iraq troop movements, directing airstrikes, and identifying and rooting out of Fedayeen soldiers, death squads, and terror cells.

CJSOTF-N, dubbed TF VIKING had advance elements in Iraq prior to hostilities and on 19 March 2003 the initial ODAs in Kurdistan directed air strikes on to Iraqi positions. On 22 March MC-130s flew through heavy Iraqi anti-aircraft fire and managed to insert 51 ODAs into northern Iraq. One MC-130 took so much fire that it was forced to subsequently land in Turkey. The incident resulted in Turkey's lifting of its airspace restrictions. On 28 March, ODAs from FOB-103 and 6,500 Peshmerga freedom fighters attacked Ansar al Islam – an al Qaeda affiliate – in a fortified enclave that housed 700 heavily armed terrorists near Iran.

As operations progressed, it became apparent that TF-VIKING would need additional combat power to seize objectives in the north. General Tommy Franks assigned TF-VIKING tactical control (TACON) of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, marking the first time since Vietnam that a SOF operational headquarters was supported by conventional forces. Together, the 173rd and combined SOF forces attacked Kirkuk on 10 April and the city fell by

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nightfall. They went on to reinforce coalition forces and secured nearby oil fields, secure much of the area, and negotiated the orderly capitulation and occupation of Mosul.

In mid April when Iraqi Army units tried to escape Baghdad, the tanks and Bradleys supporting SOF operations proved to be beneficial during fighting along both the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. By 20 April maneuver units linked up with SOF along the rivers and attention began to turn to the capturing of high-priority individuals.

The fall of Baghdad and the collapse of the Iraqi Army led to a deceptive period of calm in Iraq and most of the SOF in Iraq redeployed in May and June 2003. CJSOTF-N was deactivated, and CJSOTF-W was re-designated CJSOTF-AP (Arabian Peninsula) having moved to Baghdad in April.

By July 2003, CJSOTF-AP had drawn down to the 5th SFG (A) headquarters, consisting of one NSW TU and one FOB. The FOB commanded 14 ODAs, few of them at full strength. The bulk of these forces remained in Baghdad with outstations covering Al Qaim, Ramadi/Fallujah, Najaf/Nasiriyah, Hillah, Kut/amarah, Tikrit, Balad, Samarra, and Kirkuk. CJSOTF-AP planned force reductions in early 2004.

SOF and conventional forces integrated their capabilities as never before during OIF. The two elements contributed according to their strengths: conventional forces conducted the “heavy lifting”, and SOF provided the “surgical” capability. Reliable intelligence remained key to the building counterinsurgency and counter-terrorist operations. While SOF provided vital intelligence for themselves and conventional forces, conventional forces frequently provided combat power to secure and pacify joint objectives.

At approximately 20:30 hours, 13 DEC 2003 Saddam Hussein was captured, culminating six months of painstaking targeting efforts. SOF and conventional forces steadily eliminated Black List #1's support mechanisms by capturing and interrogating his enablers. Equally important to the capture of Saddam was the integration of tactical intelligence and operations between SOF and conventional forces. Intelligence personnel and interrogators performed key roles in tracking down Saddam. Both conventional and SOF leaders emphasized the need for more interrogators, interpreters, and human intelligence capabilities.

By late 2003, there were growing signs that an insurgency was building among the Iraqi Sunnis who had been Saddam's most loyal supporters. To meet this new challenge, SOF built up forces and developed a sustainable rotation plan to continue OIF into the indefinite future. When 10th SFG (A) took over CJSOTF-AP in January 2004, it left one FOB in Baghdad and moved the other FOB to Mosul to increase SOF in areas north and west of Baghdad where the insurgency was rapidly growing in strength.

While the CJSOTF would have certainly preferred to conduct combined operations with Iraqi forces, few such elements existed in early 2004. In late 2003, the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) wanted to create a small but highly effective, multi-ethnic unit as both an example of inter-ethnic cooperation and a deterrent to the insurgency. The CPA turned to SOF to organize, train, equip, and advise the new 36th Commando Battalion. The initial recruits were drawn in equal numbers from each of the five most prominent Iraqi political parties at the time. In early 2004, when many units of the new Iraqi police and military forces broke under pressure, 36th Commando consistently retained its cohesion and fought effectively.

In late 2003, CJSOTF-AP began building another Iraqi element, the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Force (ICTF). Whereas the 36th Commando was a light infantry strike force, the ICTF would be an even smaller, more clandestine counter-terrorist and hostage rescue force with robust intelligence capability. The 36th Commando Battalion staged its first combat operations in April 2004, and the ICTF entered combat in May. As the best units in the

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Iraqi military, they quickly took a prominent role in operations to eliminate terrorists and insurgents, they also took on extremely sensitive missions, where political considerations dictated that the assaults assume an Iraqi face.

As the two Iraqi units grew in size and scope, it became necessary to build a stronger command and support structure. With SOF assistance, the Iraqi Army created the Iraqi Special Operations Forces (ISOF) Brigade in July 2005. The 36th Commando became the 1st Battalion of the ISOF Brigade, and the ICTF became the 2nd Battalion of the ISOF Brigade. By 2007, the ISOF Brigade had continued to grow and operate effectively under its new organizational structure.

SOF's most pronounced effort in training conventional Iraqi forces occurred during 5th SFG (A)'s rotation between June to December 2005. CJSOTF-AP force structure increased from two to three FOBs to augment the conventional force training program. At that time, conventional forces provided embedded Military Transition Teams (MiTTs) for the Iraqi Army units in their area. Due to force constraints in the United States, the U.S. Army could not provide the MiTTs needed to train forces in northern Iraq. USASOC filled the gap by deploying a third FOB to Iraq. The SOF training elements were called Battalion Augmentation Training Teams (BATTs) to distinguish them from the conventional MiTTs. Consisting primarily of single ODAs, the BATTs enhanced security across a large part of northern Iraq. During the battles for Tal Far, the BATTs, Iraqi Army units, and the U.S. 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment worked together in liberating and securing that city.

SOF also trained the renowned Hillah SWAT element, one of the most effective units in Iraq. An ODA first linked up with the Hillah SWAT team in March 2004, and U.S. SOF has had an outstanding working relationship with Hillah SWAT ever since. In August 2004, when Muqtada Sadr's militia attacked coalition forces across Iraq and nearly took control of Hillah, its SWAT held out against his militia until coalition forces arrived and drove the insurgents out. Hillah SWAT continues to be effective, however they have paid a price for their impartiality. In October 2006 their commander and deputy commander were assassinated, but new leaders stepped up to take their places.

SOF's relationship with the police continued to evolve. In 2006 CJSOTF-AP assumed the task for providing training and advisory assistance to the Emergency Response Unit (ERU), the premier Iraqi police counter-terrorism unit. Prior to SOF involvement with the ERU, a contract company trained unit members only at the ERU compound, but performed no advisory role during operations. This limitation slowed the progress of the ERU. Subsequently the CJSOTF-AP tasked its NSWTF and one ODA to train and advise the ERU instructing its elements to enhance its counterinsurgency and counterterrorist capabilities, and to promote interoperability with Iraqi SOF. Unlike Iraqi Army units, the ERU and other Iraqi police units executed arrest warrants. Enhancing police capabilities was vital to increasing security in Iraq.

In the spring of 2006, a break in the hunt for Abu Musab al-Zarqawi (AMZ) occurred when SOF learned the identity and location of AMZ's closest advisor. Instead of launching an immediate raid to capture or kill this terrorist, SOF monitored the advisor and waited for any indication of a meeting with AMZ. On 7 June, SOF learned when and where he would next meet with the head of al Qaeda in Iraq (AQIZ). AMZ however, had chosen his hideout so well that it would be nearly impossible to prevent him from escaping if SOF conducted a raid on the house. SOF leadership decided to call in an airstrike and then land a ground force to do sensitive site exploitation. An F-16 dropped two bombs, killing both AMZ and his advisor.

In another high-priority, low visibility mission, SOF provided Special Forces Liaison Elements (SFLEs) to other coalition forces. Beginning in 2004, 1st SFG (A) maintained SFLEs with the South Lorean elements in northern Iraq, and the 7th SFG (A) sent SFLEs to advise the El Salvadoran elements in the Polish Division sector southeast of

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Baghdad. The ODAs from 1st SFG (A) chiefly assisted the South Korean Army in its conduct of Civil-Military Operations. The South Korean battalion operated in a relative secure part of northern Iraq, freeing the ODAs to train and advise local Iraqi units as time permitted.

The rescue of PFC Jessica Lynch in 2003 was the first and most famous hostage rescue in Iraq, followed by the rescue of several western hostages in 2004, including U.S. citizen Roy Hallums in 2005 and a significant number of local Iraqi citizens.

In February 2006 a terrorist attack on the Shiite Golden Mosque in Samarra provoked a dramatic rise in sectarian violence between Sunnis and Shiites. The worst manifestation of this strife was the startling rise in so-called “extra-judicial killings” conducted by bands of murderers who kidnapped, tortured, and killed people based on their religious sect. SOF had always targeted known kidnapers and murderers, but after the rise in sectarian violence in 2006, death-squad members became a primary target set. In six months after the Samarra mosque bombing, SOF conducted hundreds of operations against suspected murderers, capturing over 150 known killers, detaining over 500 suspects, and killing another 150 of them in combat operations.

MENTON DAY CELEBRATIONS

The MENTON DAY celebration in 2002 was a truly more somber event than year past as we joined our Canadian counterparts from the Princess Patricia’s Lighthorse Infantry in commemorating a difficult year in terms of unit members lost in a memorial service where we read the names of six 1st SFG (A) members killed in 2002 and the Canadian read the names of XXX of their mates killed in Afghanistan. We still managed to bring together some 500 attendees at the xxxxxx Hotel in xxxx along with four members of the FSSF long enough to listen to xxxxxxxx speak.

The MENTON DAY celebration in 2003 was a truly festive celebration, nearly 800 attendees filled the Sheraton Hotel in Tacoma as some three members of the FSSF joined special guest speaker, MOH winner Drew Dix to commemorate the occasion. Our Canadian counterparts from the Princess Patricia’s Lighthorse Infantry were treated to an action-filled week with sporting and social events to keep them sober.

Dedication of the Memorial Wall (Jun 2004). Throughout 2003, the First in Asia organization worked tirelessly to raise funding for the 1st SFG(A) memorial wall. At the suggestion of Group CSM, Jody Nacy, noted military artist James Dietz was contacted. Mr. Dietz agreed to paint an original piece of art depicting key moments in the unit history using present day members of the unit. Unit members CSM Perry Davis, SGM Mike Sherlock, SFC Kevin Patton posed for Mr. Dietz and were the subject of the painting which was then produced into prints and distributed in Jan 2004. Sales of the print enabled First in Asia to raise sufficient monies to offset a large portion of the construction of the memorial wall. The original painting was also paid for and became unit property; the painting now hangs in unit conference room at Fort Lewis, WA.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

In JUL 2000, **COL Thomas Csrnko** relinquished command of the unit to COL David Fridovich in a ceremony held on Watkins Field at Fort Lewis, WA. The reviewing officer for the ceremony was XXX.

1st SFG History

On 24 June 2002, **COL David Fridovich** relinquished command of the unit to COL Joseph Smith in a ceremony held at the Armed Forces of the Philippines SOUTHCOM parade field at Camp Don Basilio Navarro, Zamboanga City, Republic of the Philippines. This was the first known 1st SFG (A) change of command to occur on foreign soil in time of war. The reviewing officer for the ceremony was BG David Burford, Deputy Commanding General, USASFC. Special Guests included, GEN Roy Cimatu, Chief of Staff of the AFP, and SOUTHCOM Commander, LTGEN Ernesto Carolina, and BGEN Donald Wurster, Commanding General, JTF-510 as well as countless other civilian and military guests.

On XX Jul 2004, **COL Joseph Smith** relinquished command of the unit to COL Richard Thomas in a ceremony held at the Watkins Field, Fort Lewis, WA. The reviewing officer for the ceremony was BG Gary Jones, Commanding General, USASFC.

In July 2006, **COL Richard Thomas** relinquished command of the unit to COL Eric P. Wendt

In July 2008, **COL Eric P. Wendt** relinquished command of the unit to **COL Randolph R. Binford**

CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

CSM Hoopy Qualls	AUG 00 – MAY 02
CSM Jody Nancy	MAY 02 – MAY 03
CSM Vic Allen	MAY 03 – JUN 04
CSM Perry Davis	JUN 04 – 2006
CSM Sherlock	2006 – 2008
CSM Jeffery Stigall	2008 -

COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

The position of Command Chief Warrant Officer was instituted as part of the Special Forces Group command team in 2002. The CCWO is responsible for advising the commander on the proper use and professional development of all Combat Arms, Combat Support, and Combat Service Support warrant officers assigned to the Group. He is a primary executor for warrant officer mentorship, leadership, information dissemination, WOPD briefs, career path management, professional development and education, recruitment, accession management, assignments, progressive education and training, administration, and future force initiatives. The CCWO provides qualitative advice to the Group Commander and his staff on all aspects of Special Forces core tasks, operations, plans, intelligence, collateral activities, specialized training, and operational environment considerations required to analyze, plan, train, coordinate, and execute intelligence and operations within the mission sets and special activities involved with Irregular Warfare, Unconventional Warfare, Advanced Special Operations, Counter Insurgency, Counter Terrorism, Foreign Internal Defense, and Direct Action. He is responsible for complying with all tasks pertaining to Warrant Officer requirements, or matters within the Special Forces Group as directed by the United States Army Special Forces Command. CW5 Roy Tolbert developed and established the position of CCWO in 1st Special Forces Group. The position was officially recognized and established in all Special Forces Groups during CW5 Bill Moore's tour.

CW5 Roy Tolbert	JAN 2001 – JUL 2003
CW5 William Moore	JUL 2003 – JUL 2008
CW5 Jeffery J. Hardin	JUL 2008 -

1st SFG History

Unit Awards

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation. Awarded the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation on XXXXX. First Special Forces Group's heavy involvement in humanitarian-assistance and civic-action programs throughout Asia contributed significantly to the success of the Philippine civic-action program. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the 1st SF Group reorganized into the Special Action Force Asia, or SAF Asia. This organization ensured theater-wide security assistance and provided a U.S. presence in Asia while simultaneously supporting the 1st SF Group's mission in the Republic of Vietnam. The 97th Civil Affairs Group, the 156th Medical Detachment, the 400th Army Security Agency Detachment, the 441st Military Intelligence Detachment and the 539th Engineer Detachment augmented the 1st SF Group's efforts in accomplishing the SAF Asia mission.

Having gained a vast amount of experience in Thailand and in Vietnam, the personnel of SAF Asia earned the respect and the admiration of the Philippine people. In 1972, the rapid response, dedication and professionalism of SAF Asia's disaster-assistance-and-relief team saved thousands of lives in severely flooded provinces of the Philippines and earned the 1st SF Group the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

Meritorious Unit Commendation. On 24 Jan 2004 the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for its outstanding meritorious performance in a difficult and challenging mission while supporting the Global War on Terrorism in Asia: During the period of 10 January 2002 to 15 October 2002, the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) distinguished itself by outstanding achievement in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) deployed to lead the fight in the Global War on Terrorism in Asia performing brilliantly, establishing a pattern of tremendous success in enhancing the abilities of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to fight terrorist and insurgent groups in the Southern Philippines, including the Mindanao and the Province of Basilan. The members of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) continued to support United States Pacific Command engagement policies throughout Asia. The group deployed on notable firsts including Joint Combined Exchange Training deployments to India and Humanitarian Mine Awareness deployments to Vietnam. Continuing to train in war-torn countries such as Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, the group also reinforced long-standing partnerships with long-time allies such as the Kingdom of Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, and Singapore. The tenacity and dedicated devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Individual Achievements

Sergeant Major George W. Dunaway was selected and served as the second Sergeant Major of the Army from September 1968 – September 1970. SMA Dunaway previously served as 1st Special Forces Group, Group Sergeant Major from 1962 to 1964.

Former 1st SFG (A) Group Commander, MG David J. Baratto retired from active duty on 30 Nov 1995 as a Major General after serving as the Southern European Task Force Commander and as the Associate Deputy Director of Operations for Military Affairs, Central Intelligence Agency prior to his retirement.

Former 3rd Battalion, 1st SFG (A), Battalion S3 and Executive Officer, MG James Parker was promoted to Brigadier General on 1 July 1999 and served as the Commander, USAJFKSWCS, at Fort Bragg, NC. MG Parker previously served as Commanding General, Special Operations Command, South (SOC SOUTH) and as the Director of SOAL,



Chapter Calendar

Chapter 31 Annual Business Meeting Agenda

Saturday, January 23, 2010, 17:00

3420 Avenue K

Suite 122

Plano, TX.

Type of meeting: Business

Meeting called by: Ron Piper

Chairperson: Ron Piper/Jerry Jochum

Minute keeper: Gene Pugh

Topics

1. Scholarships Ron or Ron Fory: 20 minutes
2. 2009 Fund Raiser Report Phil or Linda: 20 minutes
3. Swearing in of New Officers: Ron: 10 minutes
4. New Business/Awards Jerry :30 minutes
5. Dallas Military Ball-2010 Jon Schreyach :20

Additional information:

Notes

New Business...Feb is kick off meeting month for 2010 fundraiser

Chapter Website - ability to add/change photos, make announcements, (updated calendar that shows actual dates of events)

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- VP Dallas: Phil Stone

- VP Ft. Worth: Mike Plante

- Secretary: Gene Pugh

- Treasurer: Dave Kidd

- VP Associate Membership Linda Weston



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