



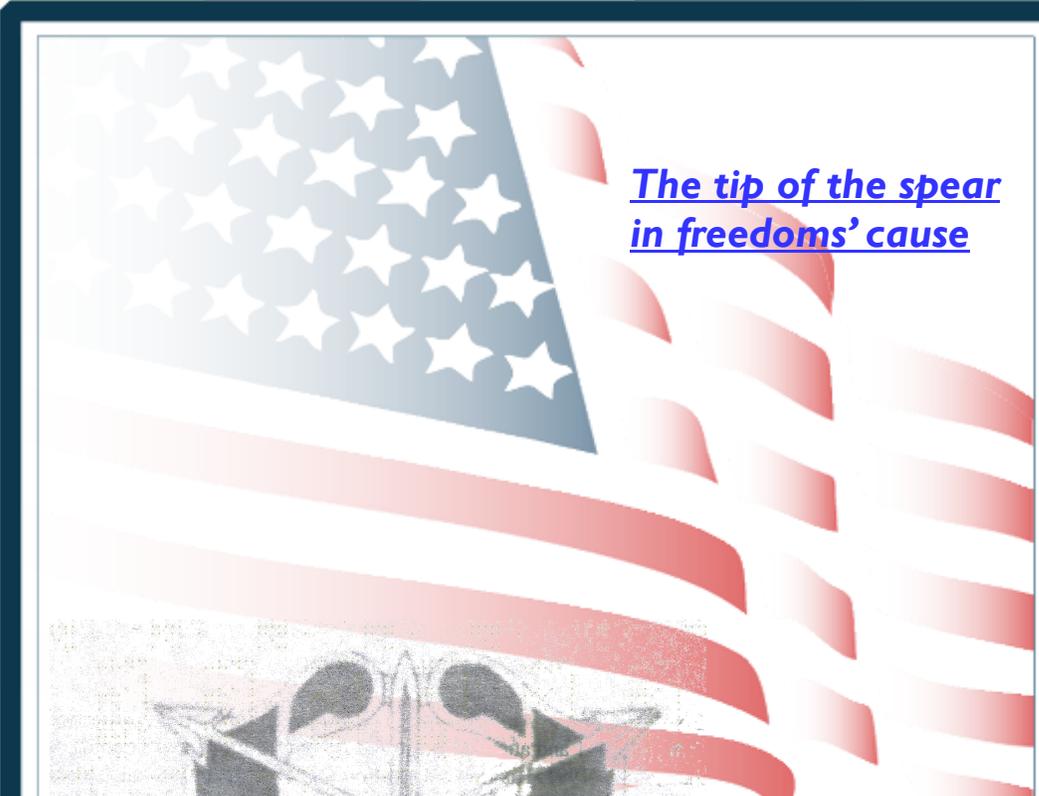
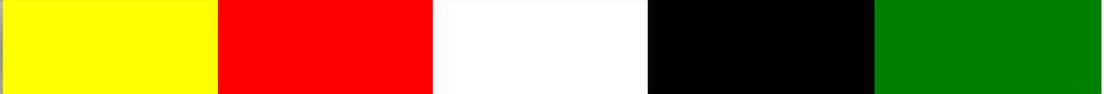
"De Oppresso Liber"

SPECIAL FORCES

"A Special Breed of Man"

Volume I Issue 5

July 2009



*The tip of the spear
in freedoms' cause*

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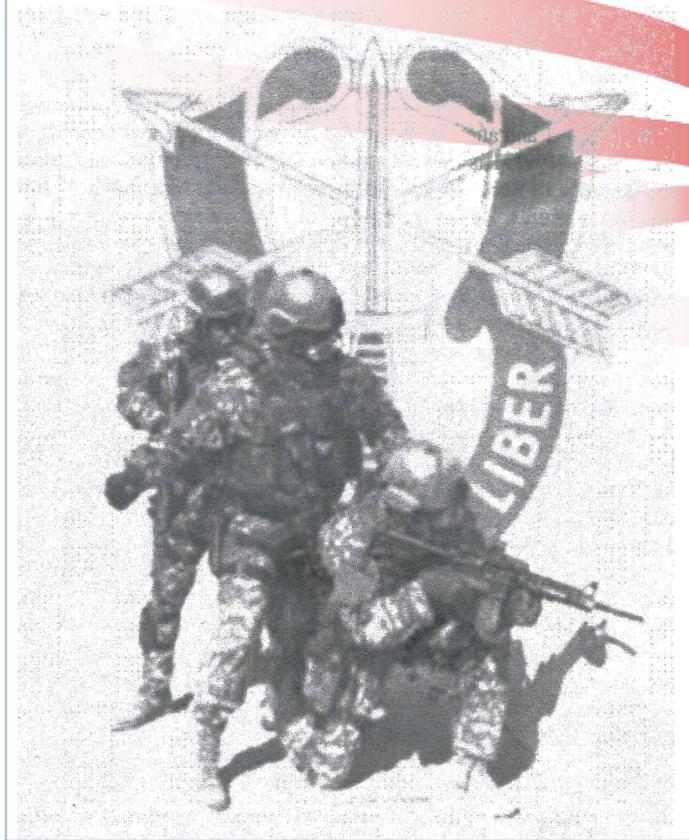
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**Billy M Smith
Memorial Chapter**

Another Way to Say Thanks

The Military View

By

Jerry Hogan

It's hard to find ways to thank our servicemen and women no matter how hard we try. Sure, we can walk up to a person in uniform at the airport, stick out our hand, and tell them

“Thanks for your service.” It means a lot to them but it doesn't let each one of us really express how much we appreciate what they are doing for us Americans.



Travis Mills, Bill Adair, Linda Weston

Let me tell you about another opportunity you might want to consider.

In 1996, the local chapter of the Special Forces Association started a “Veteran-to-Veteran” program to assist Spinal Cord injured veterans who are in the Veterans Hospital in Dallas. On the last Wednesday of each month, former “Green Beret” Special Forces Soldiers bring food, bingo games, and smiling faces to the Spinal Cord Ward to start the evening activities.

Vet to Vet

First it's a fried chicken dinner in the patient's room for every patient and every volunteer. This is followed with cash bingo with the cash coming from the Green Berets. Its \$2 and \$5 win and the games continue until the money runs out. Usually a volunteer is in each room with the injured veteran to help with both the meal and the games.

Making sure the injured veterans see young and happy smiling faces rather than only the creased faces from the "white hair club" from which most of we Special Forces Soldiers come from, local Junior ROTC cadets, Boy Scouts, and just friendly people also join in the evening activities. Here is where you might consider another way of saying "Thank You."



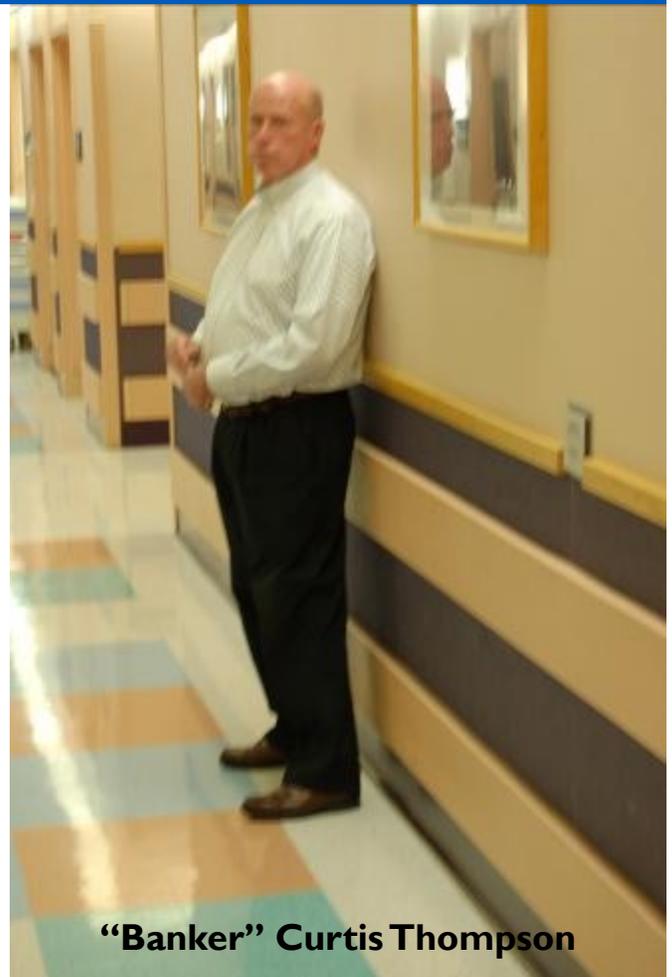
Dennis Sheridan, Curtis Thompson, Merle Eckles, Claude Church, Bill Adair, Lowell Jones, Mike Edwards

The VA Hospital is located at 4500 S. Lancaster in Dallas. Go I-30 to I-45 South; take exit 279 for Loop 12, stay on Loop 12 to S Lancaster and turn right and its half a mile up the road on the right. It all starts at 6:00pm in the Spinal Cord Injury Ward. If you could be there a little early, it would be helpful.

Vet to Vet



Mary Nuygen, Claude Church



“Banker” Curtis Thompson

No reservations for volunteering are needed, but if you want additional information, call Bill Adair at bill.adair@verizon.net or 972-415-1888. If you want to bring your neighbors or Girl Scout troop, that's OK too

Jerry Hogan is a retired US Army Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel who volunteers to write these articles. If you have a friend or relative whose story you would like to see written, please contact Jerry at jerryhogan@sbcglobal.net or 214-394-4033. His web site is www.themilitaryview.com

Vet to Vet



Ben Lyons, Martin Brady



Jerry Jochum, Mike Edwards, Curtis Thompson, Claude Church, Linda Weston, Dennis Sheridan, Bill Adair, Merle Eckles, Martin Brady, Ben Lyons, Lowell Jones, Travis Mills, Mary Nuygen, Sam Wylie

PRESENT MILITARY

Brokering Peace in

Special Forces officer tackles unique advisory role in Darfur.

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Patrick J. Christian

As the world and regional security environments call increasingly for action under coalition and intergovernmental auspices, an emerging advisory role is forming for the Army special-operations community. In these roles, perhaps more than in any others, ARSOF Soldiers will be called on to put all of their skills to the test. In these advisory roles, Soldiers will operate in isolation, with few or no support personnel. They will have to work side by side with coalition soldiers who do not speak their language and have no experience with their technology. Often times, they will be called on not only to keep the peace, but to broker it.

ADVISORY DUTY The author and an Egyptian military observer with members of Sudan's Justice and Equality Movement Army.

All photos courtesy Patrick J. Christian



Sudan



BROKERING PEACE IN SUDAN

In August 2004, the author found himself in just such a role when he deployed to the Darfur region of Sudan as part of a small joint-special-operations advisory team dispatched there by the commander of the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Horn of Africa. The team, deployed from Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, consisted of a Navy SEAL lieutenant commander, a Marine recon major, and the author, then an Army Special Forces major. The team was tasked to work as advisers to the African Union's 12 military-observer

the Government of Sudan, or GoS (which is primarily in the control of the Northern Arab Sudanese), and the armed rebel groups in the Darfur region. The government-supported militias were created when the GoS armed a large number of Arab nomadic civilians, known as the Janjaweed. The Janjaweed have since begun attempting to clear the African Muslim tribes out of Darfur in a form of political/cultural cleansing.

It is this cleansing that former Secretary of State Colin Powell called

The other members of the MILOBS teams consisted of EU officers from Italy, Hungary, Ireland, France, England, Denmark and Norway. The AU officers hailed from South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Congo, Chad, Algeria, Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana, and collectively they spoke a dozen or so languages. Each team was also staffed with an interpreter and a military-officer representative from each of the three parties involved in the conflict: the GoS; the Justice and Equality Movement Army, or JEM;

“A line of Arab militia came over a steep rise on their camels and horses. ... A fierce battle ... erupted. ... Apparently, we would not be staving off any attack today, so we returned to our camp.”

teams, or MILOBS, which were attempting to document cease-fire violations among the multiple parties in Sudan's civil war.

The mission was simple: to keep the MILOBS collecting information on the conflict, as well as to stay positioned between the warring parties as advisers without getting killed in the process.

The mission originated when the United States partnered with the European Union, or EU, in an effort to avoid a full-scale civil war in Sudan. The coalition focus is on funding and supporting the newly formed African Union, or AU, in a role designed to mediate between

the genocide in Darfur. The AU's first steps in dealing with the issue were to mediate a temporary cease-fire on April 8, 2004, to form and deploy MILOBS to patrol Darfur, and to encourage the warring parties to abide by the cease-fire and stay at the negotiating table.

Initially, there were 12 AU MILOBS teams, of five or six officers each, spread out among the six largest population centers in western and southern Darfur. Because of the warring parties' enduring distrust of both the Arab League and the African Union, the teams were mandated to have either an EU or a U.S. adviser to ensure impartiality and improve the reliability of the observing and reporting.

and the Sudan Liberation Movement Army, or SLA. The officers of the JEM and SLA were majors or lieutenant colonels.

The Muslim Brotherhood helped organize Sudan's government as an Islamic fundamentalist state. The calls to prayer from the minarets in Khartoum are different from those in Saudi Arabia, in that they mix the traditional “Allah Aqbar” call with angry denunciations of U.S. foreign policy.

The current president, Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, is a moderate (by Sudanese standards) who cooperates with the U.S. and the international community

FORMING-UP Members of the Janjaweed militia mass for an attack on a village in Darfur.



in countering terrorism. On the other hand, the current vice-president, Ali Asman Mohamded Taha, leads factions that advocate the spread of fundamentalist Islam through all parts of the country and region. It is in this complex and hostile environment that the MILOBS operate, brokering the peace that the AU is seeking.

The AU holds a charter to collect information under the cease-fire accords, but without training and guidance, its teams were unable to do much more than wander around in the desert. Contributing to the chaotic movements of the AU teams is the lack of communication and technology available to its members. There are some important lessons to be learned here, most importantly, the difficulties that the multinational unions (United Nations, EU, AU, Organization of American States and NATO) face in operating, given the vast differences in culture, language, doctrine and training among their member states.

For example, on one MILOBS team there were seven majors hailing from various countries. The major from Mozambique spoke Portuguese and Spanish. The major from the Congo spoke French, while the Namibian major spoke English. The major from Chad spoke Arabic and French, while the Egyptian major spoke Arabic and English, as did the lieutenant colonels from the JEM and the SLA. The Sudanese major spoke only Arabic,

and the author spoke English and Spanish.

The lack of a common language was a major source of problems, as most interviews were conducted in Arabic and English. Officers who do not speak either language must rely on other officers for interpretation. At any given time during planning and operations there were four- or five-way conversations going on as the MILOBS team members translated for each other.

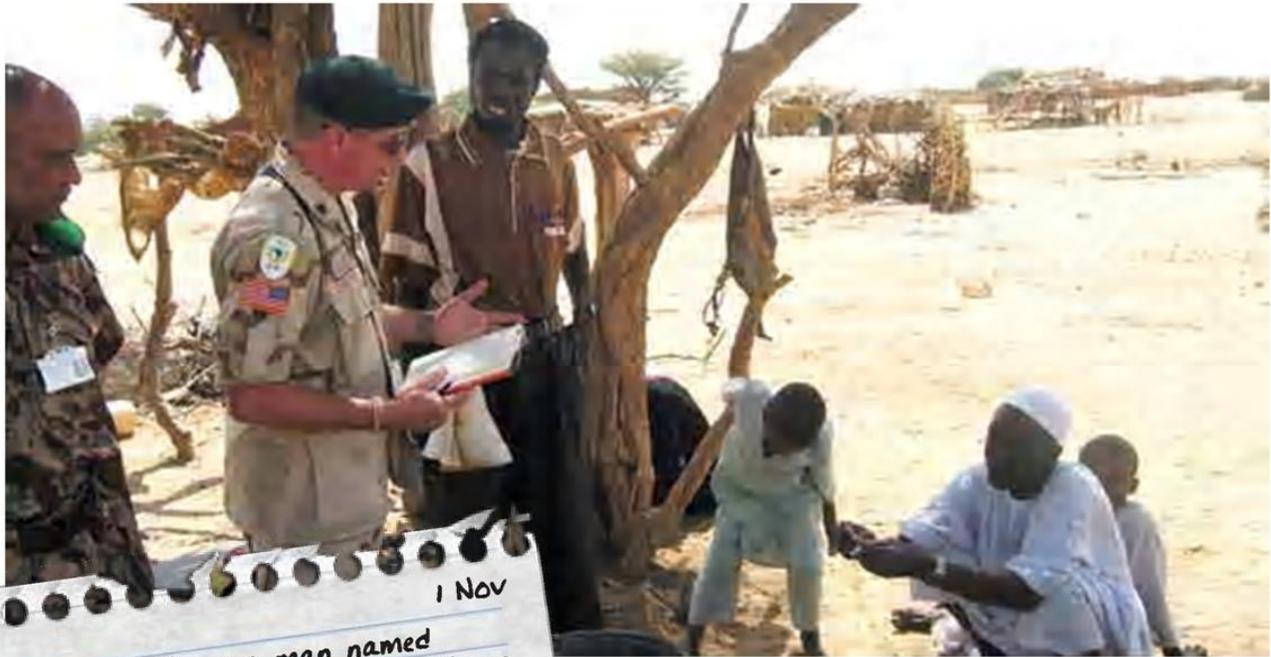
In addition to the language difficulties, there are also problems caused by the lack of common military training. On one team, the Egyptian officer attended Infantry Officer Basic at Fort Benning, Ga. Within the AU team, he spoke the best English, understood U.N. and NATO doctrine and was often called on to translate between English and Arabic. Most of the other officers required constant encouragement to read their U.N. military handbooks to learn how to format reports, plan missions and communicate

Editor's note: To further illustrate Major Christian's article, we have included excerpts from his diary accounts. Shown as comments on note paper, they are not intended to provide complete accounts of incidents but rather to convey the atmosphere of the situation.

1 Nov
Just as we landed near the village of Kasara (in the Jebel Mara Mountains), however, a line of Arab militia (known as the Janjaweed) came over a steep rise on their camels and horses. Some 300 African Arabs in mixed dress of civilian and military, sporting weapons of various countries and dubious age, trotted past us en route to the battle. A few of them glanced at us in curiosity but continued in their assault on the town of Moony, 2 kilometers away. The lead rebel pickets opened up, and a fierce battle of assault rifles and RPGs erupted. At this point, the pilots of the MI-8 were practically in panicked convulsions as they waved us back to the helicopter to get of the line of fire. Apparently, we would not be staying off any attack today, we returned to our camp.



BROKERING PEACE IN SUDAN



▲ ON THE HUNT The MILOB investigates a missing herd of goats and a murdered family in the Bamina Region, Darfur Sudan.

1 Nov
 The first was from a man named Hagar Abdullah Juma and his wife Hawa Isha Naser, who were refugees from Karnoi, 60 kilometers from Tine, Sudan. The couple and their two children arrived in Bamina with their last four goats, and the surrounding residents took pity on them, and gave them twenty more. The four goats they brought from Karnoi, led themselves and the other twenty back to the family home in Karnoi. So the story continues that Hawa woke up and discovered that the goats had gone, leaving 'no notice' as to where they went, so Hawa and a woman friend followed their tracks which led 48 kilometers to the military camp outside Karnoi. The soldiers, despite the fact that there were tracks leading right into the camp, said that they 'never saw no 24 goats', and the women should go away... The fate of a country stands equally on the back of a herd of unlucky goats, and a refugee family in the way of marauding Janjaweed, who lost their lives as a result. One complaint is about justice for the dead, in a land without remorse, without pity, and the other is for justice for their potential to

effectively. One ongoing split was the insistence by officers from Islamic countries upon using a religious header line, that proclaimed the glory of Allah, for all reports and plans. All attempts by other AU officers to convince them to use the U.N./AU templates were unsuccessful.

The lack of technology and coalition partners' inability to use it is also a drawback in these types

of missions. The author deployed with the most advanced support in terms of electronics, staff training and operational capabilities. Most U.S. first lieutenants and captains have more command and staff training and experience than many other countries' majors and lieutenant colonels. For instance, the Mozambique major had never had to operate a computer, and only the Egyptian officer could actually use the computer to type a report.

Without extensive training, none of the foreign officers would have been able to use the satellite phones provided to them. The phones provided latitude and longitude coordinates needed for navigating in the southern Libyan Desert. Most of the foreign officers were dangerous behind the wheel of the team vehicles, and they required driving instruction. Days not spent on investigations or patrols were spent on driving, computers, satellite phones and staff training. All of the



▲ **TAKING NOTES** Members of the AU's military-observer teams meet with the secretary general and military leaders of the JEM in Darfur, Sudan.

AU officers readily and fully accepted the training offered, but they did place U.S. officers under a microscope, watching everything we did and said, looking for inconsistencies. The EU officers did not face the same sort of fascinated scrutiny that U.S. officers faced, and they would normally defer to their U.S. officer peer.

required analysis and real-time feedback to the field teams.

To overcome these difficulties and achieve this success, personnel from the U.S. Department of State's mission in Khartoum and U.S. Defense Department personnel at the U.S. base in Djibouti had to craft a support plan. The U.S. Embassy

Illustrating the requirement for solid mission planning was the incident in which the AU received information that a "non-Sudanese" third party was operating in Darfur with the intent of abducting U.S. or EU officers. Abductions, threats and hostile action toward AU, U.S. and EU personnel were not unusual. The

“The fate of a country stands equally on the back of a herd of unlucky goats, and a refugee family in the way of marauding Janjaweed.”

Once a MILOBS team is trained up and well advised, they tend to yield significant information. A lack of regional technical means caused operators in the field to expend significant efforts to operate ad-hoc transmission/transport systems. Other constraints faced in the transport of information and materials included the lack of bandwidth for sending out reports, information and evidence that

is actually a mission that has only recently opened, and it operates on minimal staffing without an accredited ambassador.

The advisers to the MILOBS operated as isolated personnel in a region crawling with armed factions, as is often the case in advisory assignments. The team carried all its survival equipment on every mission and was always prepared to enter into the escape-and-evade mode.

author's initial assignment in Darfur was in Tine, Sudan, in the southern Libyan Desert. Shortly after the author left that first team, it was abducted by one of the warring parties.

Besides the threat from outside forces, the teams also faced the uncertainty of the cease-fire and the daily risk of crossfire. The cease-fire was tenuous, as there was steady fighting around Al Fashir, Kebkabia and Nyala, and sporadic fighting

BROKERING PEACE IN SUDAN



A SPECIAL DELIVERY Severely overloaded trucks carry supplies and humanitarian aid for refugees in Darfur in September 2004.

around El Geniena, Ambarou and Bi'r Furniwayah.

The GoS reinforced its military and police battalions daily, but the government's intent was not always clear. The rebel groups claimed that the GoS was preparing for an offensive that would shatter the cease-fire and could cause the MILOBS team members to execute their escape-and-evasion plans.

30 Sep

The plight of the civilians here remains perilous, and each day is a struggle of denial about issues of suffering, starvation, and the deaths of families and cultures. In Ambarou, 120 kilometers east of Tine, we found 15-20 families living on the edge of existence between a government military brigade and a police battalion that we think is heavily staffed with former members of the Janjaweed Militia. The families are routinely attacked by government forces that rape and loot at will, adding to the already overwhelming sense of loss and destruction. The rebels

The JEM and SLA representatives on the MILOBS teams constantly pulled the U.S. and EU representatives aside to show them documents that they claimed were taken from government offices. The documents allegedly outlined the GoS's "final solution" to the Darfur problem: the employment of chemical weapons.

The military advisers were lightly armed, carrying only a sidearm for protection, as anything else makes the warring factions uneasy. Rwandan and Nigerian soldiers were on the ground to keep the peace and provide security for the MILOBS and other parties within the country. These soldiers, however, were excitable and impulsive and proved dangerous when the teams confronted the edgy warring parties. More times than not, the Rwandans and Nigerians were left to guard the MILOBS sector base camp. The author's team's patrol vehicle came under fire by edgy participants in the fighting, with at least one officer receiving wounds.

The epidemiology of the region is even more of a security factor than the danger from civil war. When the author arrived for his second Darfur assignment, he found the teams living in rented mud brick huts in an area overflowing with desperate refugees.



Because of the rampant disease within the refugee population, both teams in that sector were nearly non-mission capable. Of the 18 military observers on those two teams, nine tested positive for malaria and were bedridden. Three of the soldiers were medically evacuated to either Khartoum or Addis Ababa.

A significant number of MILOBS (including the author) eventually contracted malaria during the mission. The potential for large-scale epidemics is high, as the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, the International Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders and other nongovernmental agencies are not up to the task of dealing with so many people.

The sheer number of war casualties on both sides of the conflict has overburdened the medical support. The GoS did not support the efforts of the

NGOs or the MILOBS teams to provide medical care to the rebel forces.

The author's team spent several days in the Jebel Mara Mountains with the SLA rebels' western brigade, investigating Janjaweed attacks on villages. Before the team went out, rebel officers assigned to the team helped load several rucksacks with

medical supplies. The GoS officer assigned to the team had previously objected to providing medical assistance to the rebels, so caution had to be exercised in delivering them.

The hut the rebels were using as a hospital was almost medieval: Amputation was the solution for a compound fracture when the bone was exposed. Surgery was performed without anesthesia, and IV bags were being re-used. The acting doctor's credentials were that he had once been a medical technician before the war. While providing the medical assistance had the potential of causing problems within the team, it garnered important goodwill and often brought a wealth of information pertinent to the mission.

U.S. Special Forces Soldiers will increasingly be tapped for these new and emerging missions. Their expertise in operating in complex, sensitive and dangerous environments holds strategic national implications. Assignments of this nature provide valuable experience in working intimately with warring factions in areas normally denied or restricted to U.S. forces. In preparation for more of these types of advisory assignments, perhaps a class on that type of advisory role should be included in the officer portion of the Special Forces Qualification Course. **SW**

THE AUTHOR Lieutenant Colonel Patrick J. Christian is a team leader of a security-assistance advisory team working with the Colombian Army. Commissioned in Infantry in 1986 through the University of South Florida's ROTC program, he served three years as an Infantry platoon leader before completing the Special Forces Qualification Course and rebranching to SF. As an SF officer, he served as detachment commander, battalion S1 and battalion S3 in the 20th SF Group. He later served with the U.S. Southern Command, the 7th Infantry Division's 41st Enhanced Infantry Brigade, the 1st Corps and the U.S. Army Cadet Command before being assigned to the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Horn of Africa. He has also served as the ground operations officer in the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Arabian Peninsula and as a strategic planner in the National Guard Bureau. Lieutenant Colonel Christian is a graduate of the Command and General Staff Officer Course.

SOCKOR "Friendship Jump"

From: Larry Greene [mailto:larrygreene@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 4:54 PM Airborne in Korea ! ! ! !

It was a chilly day in Seoul when I left my temporary quarters at the Dragon Hill Lodge at the post where I am stationed in Korea. Special Operations Command – Korea (SOCKOR) was making a "Friendship Jump" with members of the Korean Special Forces. Just after daylight we arrived at the drop zone where we planned to make the jump south of Seoul. The thermometer registered a little below freezing. Shortly thereafter we had a light snow – just a few snowflakes that did not stick even though the ground was hard. The jump was to be made from Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters. Due to poor visibility at the helo airfield the choppers pushed back their takeoff and soon cancelled due to deteriorating weather at the departure airfield. Weather conditions at our location on the drop zone were much better. The skies were not totally clear but the ceiling was high enough to provide favorable conditions for a parachute jump. Several of us walked up to the drop zone (DZ) to look it over. The DZ lies in a valley located in a hilly area but was covered with broom sage and other soft foliage – an ideal place to land.

A Korean airborne class was being conducted on the same drop zone where we were scheduled to jump. We were able to watch the students and their aircraft as we made our preparations. The training of the airborne class was reminiscent of the school at Ft. Benning, Georgia that I attended in 1968. Except their jump aircraft was the gondola underneath a helium blimp. We watched as the Koreans took the two blimps from the hangar and moved them to the DZ. The blimps make an ideal jump aircraft as they are much less expensive than high-performance aircraft to operate and they are maintained in the vicinity of the DZ so they are always available to jump. We had the opportunity to watch the Korean airborne students as they made their exits from the gondolas.

After our Chinooks were cancelled we were offered the blimps to make our Friendship Jump. So we chuted up and walked to where the blimps were tethered to their winches on trucks. Each of our lifts consisted of three U.S. paratroopers and three Korean paratroopers. I was on the first lift of our group. We climbed aboard the gondolas which were made of aluminum tubing and yellow canvas with a hard floor. The door consisted of a canvas or nylon strap across the opening at one end of the gondola. We hooked our static lines to the anchor line cable as we climbed aboard the gondola. The ride to 1500 feet took two or three minutes and provided a breathtaking panorama of the South Korean countryside. Unlike the fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft I am used to jumping, this ride to altitude was silent. The jump commands were also abbreviated from those I was used to in heavier-than-air aircraft. The SOCKOR Command Sergeant Major pointed out several points of interest to me on the way up and got me oriented to the countryside. The jumpmaster dropped the strap from across the end of the gondola and the jumper in front of me "stood in the door". At the jumpmaster's tap the jumper took one easy step and dropped away from the gondola. I stepped to the edge of the gondola and looked at the countryside almost one-third of a mile below. Three seconds later the jumpmaster tapped me and I followed the first jumper into the sky over South Korea. I did my opening, six-second count in silence so I could hear the chute and suspension lines as they were pulled from the pack tray by the static line and the canopy billowed above my head. The opening was the softest, most stable parachute opening I have ever had. There was no opening shock like I was used to when exiting a C-130 or C-141 but just a soft slowing down as the canopy inflated. I reached up for the toggle lines that provide control of the parachute and steered for a large area of broom sage to give me a soft landing. The ride down was long enough to give me a riveting view of the drop zone and countryside. There was almost no wind on the DZ so I hit the ground going forward rather than slightly backward – my preferred direction of drift while landing. But any jump you can walk away from is a good landing in my book.

SOCKOR "Friendship Jump"

After landing I rolled up my parachute, stuffed it in the aviator kit bag and joined the other jumpers for a "Kodak Moment". Then we moved to the parachute turn-in area. The Koreans had a charcoal grill fired up with baked sweet potatoes for an after-jump treat. After we enjoyed our baked sweet potatoes and swapped our jump stories with each other and our Korean counterparts we had an Airborne Badge ceremony. Our U.S. commanding general and Korean commanding general pinned our respective airborne badges on each other and then the rest of us pinned U.S. parachute badges on our Korean counterparts and they pinned Korean airborne badges on us. The ceremony and badge pinnings highlighted the camaraderie between the Special Operations soldiers of the Korean and U.S. armies.

The photos at the Shutterfly website depict the experience of the day. In the first photos you will see the two helium blimps being taken from the hangar and moved to the DZ as well as Korean paratroops preparing for their jump. Then you will see the jumpers making their exits from the blimp gondolas. In the 14th photo you will see me with some of the Special Forces soldiers I serve with. I am in the middle wearing a green beret. In subsequent photos you will see me wearing a helmet and standing with other U.S. and Korean soldiers. In pix 43 – 47 you will see us enjoying the baked sweet potatoes. Pix 56 – 63 show the U.S. and Korean Special Forces commanding generals pinning our respective airborne badges on each other. The following photos were made when we were swapping airborne badges with our Korean counterparts.

Best Regards from the Land of the Morning Calm -----

Larry

Click the link below after you read the text to view photos I made on November 20, 2008

<http://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=0BctmjNw0ZMncQ>

Editors note: Copy and paste the above address into your browser for the pictures.

FROM THE CHAPTER CHAPLAIN

Almost daily we hear the disheartening news that another one, two, three, and even four of our troops have lost their lives through an ambush of some sort in Iraq and Afghanistan. After the 9/11 tragedy voices across our land have sung “*God Bless America*” with renewed interest and intensity. Rather than sing this song from memory, let’s take a close look at the words we have been singing . . .

”While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,
 Let us swear allegiance to a land that’s free.
 Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,
 As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.
 God Bless America
 Land that I love.
 Stand beside her, and guide her
 Through the night with a light from above.
 From the mountains to the prairies,
 To the oceans, white with foam
 God Bless America
 My home sweet home.
 God Bless America
 My home sweet home.”

by Irving Berlin

As we celebrate Independence Day this 4th let us remember the sacrifices that our fore-fathers made to make this great nation free, let’s also not forget the sacrifices that our men and women are making to keep us free and safe. With that in mind take a moment to ask yourself this questions, “Have I ceased to fervently pray for our men and women who are still in harms way in Iraq and Afghanistan?” As important as our prayers were during the actual war, they are needed as much today. Perhaps our men and women are meeting harm’s way more so because we Believer’s have let up on our prayers for their protection.

“The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16

Evangelist and founder of Christ For The Nations Institute of Dallas, Gordon Lindsay, once spoke, “Prevailing prayer is the one means that will change the world. And as for the intercessor himself, he who makes prayer a business, will be able to look back at the end of the years and have the certain knowledge that his life has been a successful life.”

Let’s join together in agreement to continue our place on our knees before a mighty living God and raise our voices in a solemn prayer . . .”Heavenly Father, we petition you this day on behalf of our men and women serving our country in Iraq, Afghanistan, and even other remote areas of this earth. We ask that you release the forces of Heaven to act on the behalf of those who are striving to establish and preserve the freedoms that are new in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are asking that the “light from above”. . . Jesus Christ . . . shines brightly in the darkness, stand beside and guide our men and women, and protect them from the enemy. Bring them all home in your perfect timing to the land that is free . . . our home sweet home. God, we ask that you BLESS AMERICA.” AMEN

In His Love,
 Mike Chaplain

Chapter Calendar

Vet-to-Vet is at VA Spinal Injury Ward 1800 hours on July 29th
 November 11th is the annual fundraiser at Dick’s Last Resort



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The National Convention is over and things are getting back to normal for me, but and I do hate to keep harping on the same subject, but as we move forward with our fund raising project, Phil and the crew could still use some help. Folks, remember, this chapter is only as good as the participation.

We run the chapter all year long on one fund raising event, and for those that would say, have more, they have not been involved in what it takes to raise money. It is time consuming and at times frustrating. One of our biggest expenses is our Montangard Project, so our annual fund raiser must be hugely successful.

We have had a few former members start to return to the fold, again, this is the result of a few current members talking to these folks. If you know someone that has dropped out, talk to them and try and get them to renew their membership. We need the support, not just financial, but participation..I know the vast majority of you work full time and don't have a lot of spare time, but anytime will be appreciated.

Once again, if you have contact with or work in a large Corporation, and might be able to get them to donate, please let Phil, Jerry or Linda know...Well, enough on the soapbox.

Wishing each and every one of you a safe and enjoyable Independence day.....

De Oppresso Liber

Ron

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