



“De Oppresso Liber”

SPECIAL FORCES

“A Special Breed of Man”

Volume I Issue 4

June 2009



SFC Harold Boyd

SFC Boyd was born in Abilene Texas, and graduated from Merkel High School. He joined the Army in 1991 and attended Basic and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill Oklahoma in October 1991. His first duty station was Ft. Carson Colorado, where he was assigned to A Battery 3rd BN 29th Field Artillery; he was later assigned to 1st Infantry Division at Camp Casey Korea. He left the military in 1995. After a five year break in service, he re-enlisted in the military in October 2000, where he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, at Ft. Hood Texas. SFC Boyd's duty positions included Ammunition Team Chief. While assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, he attended, and successfully completed Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS) in November 2000.



After selection, he was later assigned to the Special Forces Recruiting Battalion in Fort Hood, Texas. His next duty station was at the 82nd Airborne Division, Ft Bragg North Carolina, where he was assigned as an Artillery Section Gunner. He was later appointed to the 82nd Airborne Division and 18th Airborne Corp Color Guard. He attended the Special Forces Qualification Course in 2003, specializing in communications, and completed the course in 2004. He was assigned to Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA) 341, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, as a Senior Communications NCO. SFC Boyd deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom VII in Afghanistan, from 2005 to 2006. He also conducted a Counter Narcotics Mission in Tajikistan. He was deployed to OEF XI in Afghanistan from 2007 to 2008. In August 2008, he was assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 1st SWTG(A), United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center, as a Small Unit Tactics Instructor at Camp MacKall North Carolina.



SFC Boyd's military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Advance Noncommissioned Officers Course, Basic Instructor Training Course, Basic Airborne Course, Jumpmaster Course, Air Assault Course, Special Forces Qualification Course, SERE Course, Combat Life Saver's Course, Special Operations Tactical Air Controller's Course, Air Movement Officer's Course and Air Load Planner's Course.

SFC Boyd's awards include the Bronze Star, four Army Achievement Medals, The Valorous Unit Award, A Meritorious Unit Citation, The Army Superior Unit Award, four Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, The Korean Service Defense Medal, The Afghan Campaign Medal with two Service Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, three Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbons, the Army Service Ribbon, The Overseas Medal, the NATO-ISAF Medal, the Special Forces Tab, the Combat Infantry Badge, The Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Driver/Mechanic Badge.



**Billy M Smith
Chapter**

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Memorial Day 2009

Chapter 31 gathered at the Special Forces Memorial Stone at Dallas / Ft. Worth National Cemetery Memorial Day afternoon to pay homage to Special Forces fallen warriors. The Color Guard was provided by Jerry's ROTC cadets from Potteet High School and representatives of the Vietnamese LLDB. The ceremony was performed with proper military protocol by President Ron Piper and Secretary Gene Pugh. Upon completion chapter members, guests and friends retired to Ben



Lyons house for his wonderful barbecued ribs and a potluck lunch/dinner. With the great food and drink came a generous portion of enjoyable conversation!

Harvey Cox, Jim Schwebach, George Petrie, Claude Church, Bill Adair
Sam Wylie, Phil Stone

Memorial Day 2009



Ron Piper and Gene Pugh



Linda Westen, Richard Hayse, Jim Webb, Merle Eckles

Memorial Day 2009



George Petrie, Gary Neller



Ken Lanzalaco, Martin Brady

Memorial Day 2009



Jim Webb, Jim Schwebach, Ron Piper talking to Tom Callahan, George Petrie



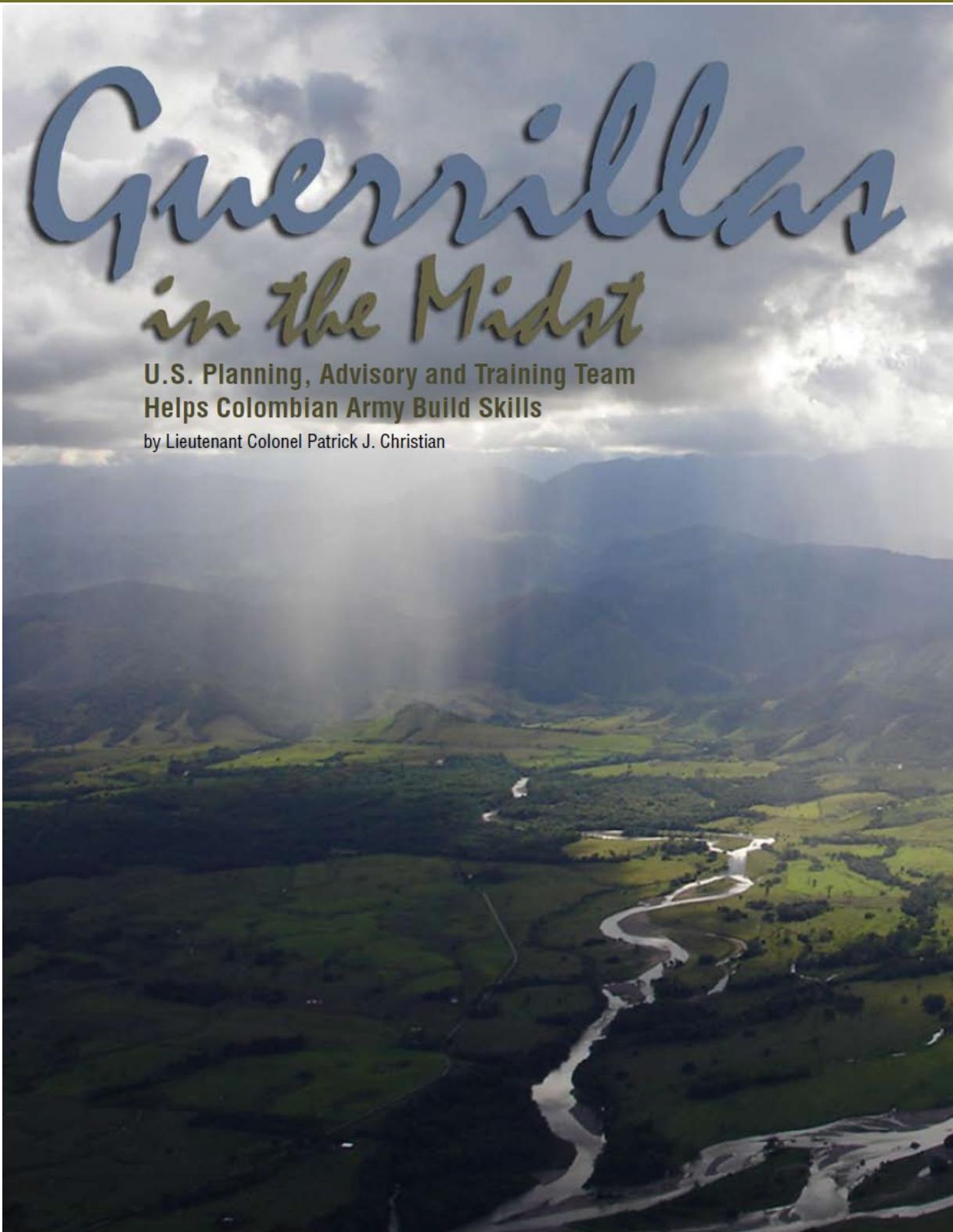
Mike Smith, Navy Corpsman Matt Shaw attached to Recon Marines

PRESENT MILITARY

Guerrillas in the Midst

**U.S. Planning, Advisory and Training Team
Helps Colombian Army Build Skills**

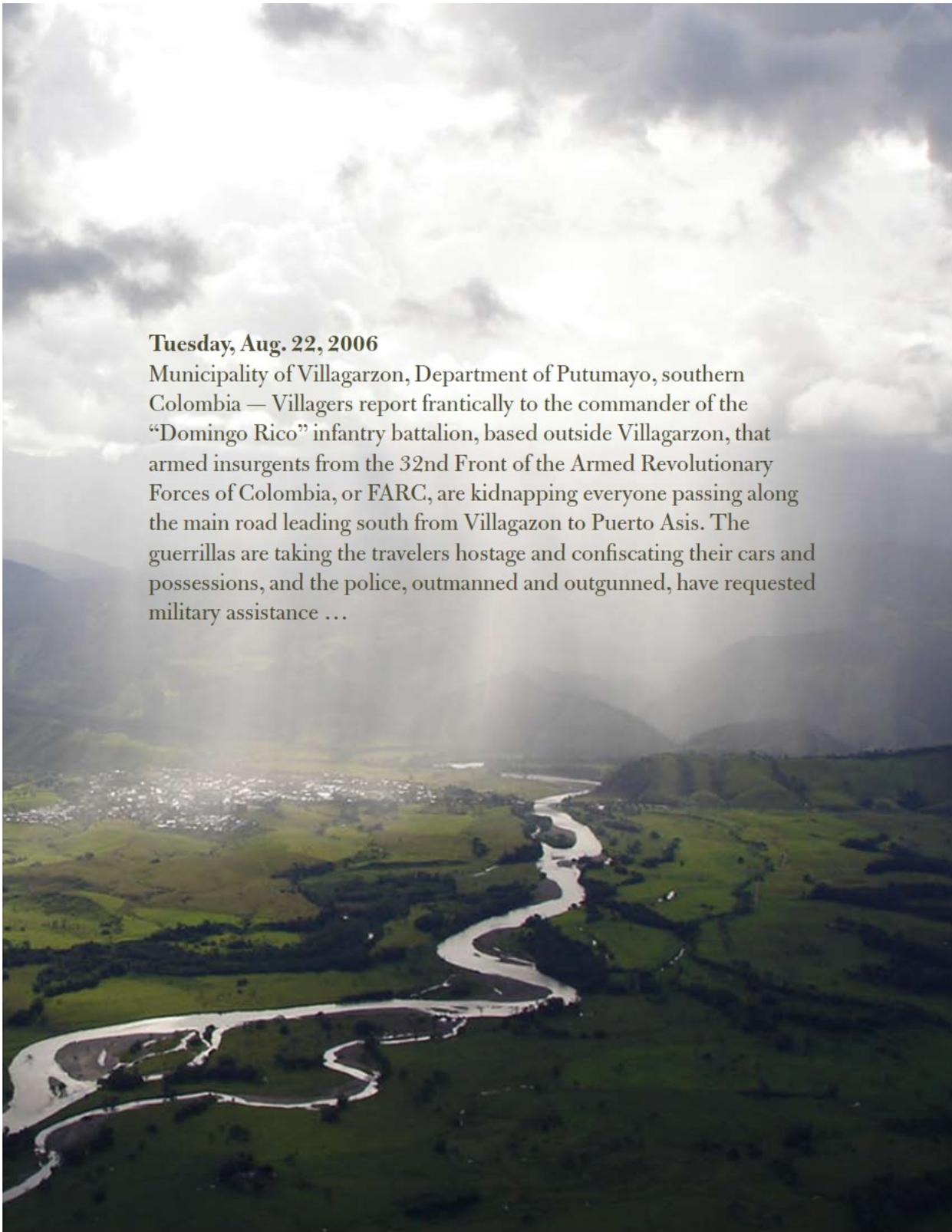
by Lieutenant Colonel Patrick J. Christian



Guerrillas Continued

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2006

Municipality of Villagarzon, Department of Putumayo, southern Colombia — Villagers report frantically to the commander of the “Domingo Rico” infantry battalion, based outside Villagarzon, that armed insurgents from the 32nd Front of the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia, or FARC, are kidnapping everyone passing along the main road leading south from Villagazon to Puerto Asis. The guerrillas are taking the travelers hostage and confiscating their cars and possessions, and the police, outmanned and outgunned, have requested military assistance ...



Guerrillas Continued

U.S. Planning, Advisory and Training Team Helps Colombian Army Build Skills

GUERRILLAS IN THE MIST

The battalion commander dispatches a reinforced platoon under the command of Second Lieutenant Gomez German-Alonso to break up the attack by the guerrillas on the populace. As the platoon approaches the site of the reported attacks, a sniper shot strikes German-Alonso in the chest, killing him. The attack was a baited ambush to take out the leader of the patrol and dampen the enthusiasm of other officers' aggressive attacks against the FARC.

Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2006

Municipality of Mocoa, Department of Putumayo, southern Colombia — acting upon information from villagers, soldiers from the reaction platoon of the Colombian army's 27th Brigade, 6th Division, engage an element of the 32nd Front. In a fierce firefight, the Colombian soldiers' marksmanship and movement techniques win out, resulting in six enemy dead, with no friendly casualties. As the unit polices up the bodies of the FARC soldiers, they find significant amounts of ammunition and explosives, leading them to believe that the intercepted FARC unit was on a mission to sabotage critical infrastructure near the department capital of Mocoa.

Thursday, Aug. 24, 2006

Municipality of La Hormiga, Department of Putumayo, southern Colombia — a patrol of Colombian soldiers from the 13th Mobile Brigade approaches the site of an insurgent guerrilla position of the 48th Front reported to them by a resident of one of the nearby villages. As the soldiers move closer, one of the insurgents detonates an improvised explosive device buried underground. The explosion kills the corporal in charge of the lead fire team as well as the soldier to his right. Two other members of the team are badly wounded. During this week of continuing confrontation with FARC guerrillas, the division commander and key members of his staff (including members of a U.S. military advisory team) move from base to base via a combination of Blackhawk, MI-17 and Bell Ranger helicopters to coordinate the responses of the brigades as they continue the fight. Welcome to the mission of the U.S. planning, advisory and training team, or PATT, to the Republic of Colombia, and the personnel who man this decentralized operation on behalf of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command and the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School's Security Assistance Training Management Organization, based at Fort Bragg, N.C. As the Colombian army faces off against the 43-year-old FARC, it receives targeted assistance from a growing type of consultancy — the military advisory team. The six embedded advisory teams serve as the tip of the spear in the U.S. country team's effort to support Colombian President Alvaros Uribe's drive to eliminate the threat to his struggling democracy from one of the longest-running insurgencies in modern history. In Colombia, as in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Philippines and other locations across the globe, small teams of imbedded U.S. military officers and NCOs provide key advisory, training and planning assistance to divisions and brigades. This type of mission is most often led by personnel from the U.S. Army special-operations forces, or ARSOF, but it is a growing practice to include joint and interagency personnel who have a wide variety of training and experiences. ARSOF leaders of the future must be able to expand their concept of advisory teams to include a more diverse set of skills and abilities, meshing them into a comprehensive advisory element. The ARSOF leader must also be able to teach his team to work in cross-cultural operating environments and lead them to success without pushing U.S. military doctrine or organization onto a foreign host.

“ The ARSOF leader must also be able to teach his team to work in cross-cultural operating environments and lead them to success without pushing U.S. military doctrine or organization onto a foreign host.”

onto a foreign host. The Colombian military is waging its counterinsurgency primarily against the FARC, which is now considered to be the largest criminal organization in the world and is responsible for the production and transportation of the majority of the world's cocaine. Most of the senior leaders of the FARC are under indictment by both the Colombian and the U.S. justice departments. Under Plan Colombia, the United States has committed its resources to helping Uribe stabilize the country economically and socially while eliminating the FARC as a threat to national sovereignty. U.S. military advisory teams, which make up the PATTs, usually consist of several officers and NCOs from various branches of the U.S. military. Successful teams operate in a semi-autonomous environment, performing an essentially consultant operation in support of a division and its brigades in combat. Each team operates a small PATT station, which is often a house set up with an operations center, signal center, arms room and sleeping quarters. Several of the teams have forward locations to which they frequently deploy in support of their host-nation partner — the command and staff of the division or brigade to which they are assigned. Perhaps one of the most important lessons for these teams is that success occurs only when they resist trying to change the structure or standard operating procedures of their hosts and instead begin acting as a type of military consultant or adviser. As military consultants,

Guerrillas Continued



A Colombian soldier sets up a mortar in defense of the firebase. *All photos provided by Patrick J. Christian.*
May-June 2007

their job is to help identify critical business elements and focus their time and energy to meet their own goals and objectives.

Conventional military advisory teams begin their service with the idea that they must reshape the force into a model similar to that of the U.S. Army — primarily because that model is the only one they know. Imagine however, a business consultant who tries to push an IBM model of business onto Google or Microsoft. These companies have different business models based upon their particular cultural base of employees and customers, and they know that one type is not the solution for all. The military advisory team that the author leads in southern Colombia consists of Army and Marine NCOs and Army and Air Force officers.

Hailing from three different branches of service, the team members have unique backgrounds and skill sets. The success of the team lies in identifying the unique skills and meshing them into a continuously evolving plan of military advisory assistance.

Variances in rotations of the various team members cause continuous personnel changes, but our hosts are surprisingly accepting of the adjustments to our advisory plan that those changes necessitate. Key to the success of our plan is our ability to help the Colombians to identify weaknesses in the FARC's critical infrastructure and to develop capabilities for disrupting, disabling or

destroying it. We learned that our hosts are more concerned that the plans we bring to the table are effective than they are about whether we have the skills to cover every operational area. When the team receives personnel who specialize in various aspects

of maneuver operations, intelligence or SOF operations, we work to ensure that their skills and abilities are best aligned with identified weaknesses in our host's military structure. We try to make sure that cooperation, communication and coordination occur at the lowest possible level, with all credit for successes going to the host unit. Only by performing a realistic assessment of

our host-unit's capabilities, compared to the FARC threat they face rather than to a U.S. standard, could we understand their actual weaknesses and place available assets against them. For this type of military consulting to work, the advisory team must

build a great deal of trust with its hosts. The bulk of this trust-building has to do with realistic advisement of the individual and group capabilities of host-nation forces in the areas for which the team has training or experience. The advisory team's claim to a

certain type of knowledge or skill must be backed up by an ability to explain where and how it was obtained, as our hosts have been fighting the same enemy for more than three decades. Success for the advisory mission is predicated upon two (at times conflicting) principles: bringing knowledge, skills and experience to the table, and demonstrating a willingness to modify

the way that that information is presented in order to bridge gaps between cultural operating environments. Balancing these two objectives often means the difference between success and failure. More often than not, advisory teams find themselves helping

the hosts sort through what they had already tried and the objectives they were trying to obtain. The advisory team is finding that

Guerrillas Continued



Locked and Loaded A Colombian soldier stands guard over a petroleum well head at the military base of Teteye.
All photos provided by Patrick J. Christian.

the key to the success is its ability to leverage the previous training and experience of its members for the benefit of its hosts. One example of this type of approach to military advising was the Colombians' ongoing struggle with the financial and logistical hub of the FARC's Southern Bloc. As our host unit had responsibility for the departments that harbored this logistical network, they received continuous pressure to reduce or stop the flow of goods, services and finance moving through this network. Pressure is often exerted at the highest levels by military and political leaders trying to implement other aspects of Plan Colombia and to extend government influence into the outlying reaches of the country. As we listened to the host unit's problems and challenges, we were able to teach them about critical infrastructure and the way its elements support each other. While the concept of critical infrastructure and effects-based actions are old news to advanced industrial countries at risk from terrorism, these concepts are not always used in understanding and targeting an insurgency. By showing the Colombians that the way to combat their assigned targets was to see them as a set of infrastructure competencies and target them with lethal and nonlethal effects-based fires, we were able to give them valuable support and gain their confidence. Gaining the confidence and trust of our counterparts opened many doors previously closed to our advisory mission. After helping identify the target, we worked on developing strategies for tracking it, exploiting its weaknesses and identifying capabilities that might be required to interdict or disrupt its critical infrastructure. This analysis led to interagency cooperation and the development of a new unit. Members of two advisory teams

Guerrillas Continued



Roadblock An explosion on a bus caused by insurgents damages the road and inhibits travel.
All photos provided by Patrick J. Christian.

pooled their resources to create a new SOF strike unit capable of operating deep inside FARC territory, using intelligence obtained from regional interagency partners — another valuable contribution by various members of the military consultancy teams. Our advisory teams organized the new SOF strike unit out of existing units familiar with the planned operational area — southern Colombia — and vetted for human rights by the U.S. State Department. The training program developed was seven weeks long, preceded by a week-long leader-development session in which the PATT officers and NCOs taught Colombians to develop a comprehensive training plan, lay out resources and organize instruction modules, emphasizing decentralized execution and individual skill-building as the basis for collective training. This leader-development process resulted in a training plan in which the Colombians possessed a vested interest (because they developed it). This process was no easy task. Before these future SOF leaders could begin developing their training program, they had to demonstrate an understanding of their mission and the essential tasks for accomplishing each designated capability. Showing them how to develop a mission-essential task list, or METL, became an interagency tug-of-war, as the owning division wanted tasks different from those of the supporting regional intelligence center, which was to supply the bulk of the actionable intelligence. Finally, using the newly established interagency plans and operations group process, the units ironed out METL, approved training schedules, laid on resources and commenced the new unit-training process. At each step of the way, however, the members of the PATT had to sidestep efforts to take responsibility for the training away from the Colombian chain of command. We used the Socratic method of teaching — asking questions to ensure that we did not step out of our adviser/consultant role. The quality of the training was very important, but more so was the ownership of the process and product. While much of the instruction was based upon standard U.S. training doctrine, the authority for determining how and why we trained a certain way stayed with the Colombians, using their years of experience in fighting the FARC insurgency. Those experiences that had worked were adopted, and those that failed were not. The reason for using this method was again, simply to keep responsibility for training, planning and operations squarely upon the shoulders of Colombian officers and NCOs and to keep them focused on meeting goals and objectives. Most importantly, such a method develops the planning and analysis skills of the host nation's junior military leaders. Teaching them to base their military operations on actionable intelligence and to plan each combat operation as an intelligence-gathering operation was more difficult than we anticipated. Often this was due to their reverse engineering of U.S. military processes, which gave them an understanding of what to do without the requisite knowledge of why they were doing it. Also, many of the processes they had been exposed to in their careers were based upon high-intensity-conflict environments rather than on culturally adaptive low-intensity conflict involving protracted

Guerrillas Continued

political violence. By encouraging them to develop their own operational and support templates, based upon their own identified requirements and operational environments, we helped them acquire skills for effective planning. In summary, working as an adviser to a foreign military force involves a change in the way we view success criteria and our expectations of how quickly success can be achieved. Operating in a cross-cultural environment means that we actively avoid making clones of the U.S. military and instead work to help our clients develop and achieve measurable goals and objectives while retaining their cultural methodology of field operations. Advisory teams must be sufficiently trained and experienced in order to move beyond offering culturally dependent templates and begin training their host counterparts to develop their own templates consistent with their operational cultural environment.

Lieutenant Colonel Patrick J. Christian is a Special Forces officer who serves as a field advisory team leader in southern Colombia. He has served in similar capacities in Ecuador, Sudan and Ethiopia. May-June 2007

SW

PAST MILITARY

Phillip T. Washburn Fort Hood Sentinel 23 January 1997
Fort Hood Sentinel III Corps Public Affairs Office Fort Hood, Texas 76544
<http://www.hood.army.mil/sentinel>

AMERICAN WWII HERO MAKES FAMOUS ONE-MAN STAND

By Phillip T. Washburn, TEXCOM Public Affairs

Printed by the Fort Hood Sentinel

(Fort Hood Sentinel) Editor's Note: *This is part two of a four part series on Audie Murphy.*

This Sunday marks the 52nd anniversary of the most famous one-man stand of World War II and, possibly, in American history. But, even after more than a half-century, the feat itself has continued to over shadow "why" the young Texan refused to yield even one foot of frozen French ground to an overwhelming force. On Jan 26, 1945, Audie Murphy climbed aboard a burning tank destroyer and fought off six Tiger tanks and two reinforced rifle companies, earning what is still considered today as the most famous Medal of Honor act in World War II. "The one thing that has never really come out about that action is why he did that," Larryann Willis, told a *Fort Hood Sentinel* reporter last week. Willis, secretary/treasurer of the Audie Murphy Research Foundation in Santa Clarita, Calif., said Murphy took the gamble because he was the last defense against the attacking enemy and possible encirclement or breakthrough of the 15th Infantry. Her statements are backed up by military researchers, including the noted Col. Harold B. Simpson in his book "*Audie Murphy-American Soldier*," published by the Hill Junior College Press 30 years after the battle. Simpson's research concluded that a German "breakthrough, properly exploited, could endanger the entire 3rd (Infantry) Division position. And Murphy knew that with control of the road, the Germans could "punch a hole in the 15th Infantry's defense line" and overrun its regimental headquarters and possibly put several thousand soldiers of the 3rd Inf. Div. in peril.

The short Medal of Honor narrative only mentions Murphy saved his company from possible encirclement and destruction." And Murphy himself barely mentions it in "*To Hell and Back*," his autobiographical novel and movie. Either way, Murphy never really seemed to care about the medals or glory, just the men of his unit and friends he left buried across Europe. Willis, and others who have studied Murphy, agree his desire to protect his people is the major reason Murphy performed and earned many of his medals. While Murphy's legend is centered around his Medal of Honor action, his lore actually began on the Anzio beachhead during some of the toughest fighting Co B, 15th Inf, 3rd Inf Div would ever see.

Information provided by Stan Smith, president of the Audie Murphy Fan Club, shows Murphy's first Bronze Star came on March 2, 1944, in an incident highlighted in "*To Hell and Back*."

Audie Murphy Continued

Murphy leaves his squad behind and crawls to within 15 yards of a disabled Tiger tank. After throwing two Molotov Cocktails at the beast, he destroys it with a grenade launcher. The Oak Leaf Cluster was added May 8, 1944, as a result of many hazardous patrols Murphy led at Anzio. According to Smith's records, it was for "exemplary conduct in ground combat." On Aug. 15, 1944, Murphy landed in France and almost immediately earned the Distinguished Service Cross.

Murphy liked to work alone, putting only himself at risk, Willis said. But this help out - at Tipton's insistence. Operating alone on an enemy fortified hill, Murphy first killed two German soldiers in close combat and then started a series of duels with foxhole occupants. After his ammunition expired, he journeys back down the hill and retrieves a light machine gun from a squad that is pinned down and refuses to move. Murphy takes the gun and crawls back up the hill and cleans out the foxholes. Then Tipton joins him and immediately kills two Germans with two shots, after they shoot off part of his ear. After killing a couple of more defenders and knocking out another gun emplacement, Tipton stands up to accept what appears to be a German surrender and is immediately gunned down. He was Murphy's best friend and the Texan, known for his humor and his temper, goes wild. "I remember the experience as I do a nightmare. A demon seems to have entered my body," Murphy recalled in *"To Hell and Back."* Murphy then kills two more Germans with a grenade and finds the gun crew that faked surrender and killed Tipton. He kills them all and does not stop firing until his weapon is empty. Then he grabbed an enemy machine gun and, firing from the hip, he charges the stronghold and wipes out all remaining resistance. "His extraordinary heroism resulted in the capture of a fiercely contested enemy-held hill and the capture of the entire enemy garrison," the DSC citation reads. Information from the Research Foundation indicates Murphy actually killed all the German soldiers on the hill as none surrendered. In about a three week pe-



Audie Murphy Continued

riod in October 1944, Murphy earned two Silver Stars, was wounded for the second time and received a battle-field commission. The first Silver Star came on Oct. 2, when Murphy single-handedly rescues an ambushed patrol by killing all eight ambushers near Cleurie Quarry in France. Smith's information shows the second came just three days later when Murphy, alone, "crawled 50 yards under a severe enemy machine gun and rifle fire to a point 200 yards from a strongly entrenched enemy. For an hour, Audie directed artillery fire upon the enemy, killing 15 Germans and inflicting 35 casualties." During October, as throughout 1944 and 1945, Murphy continued to stalk and kill snipers. He did not allow snipers to kill his men without revenge. Simpson pointed out that Murphy "out dueled snipers with little or no fanfare." And, the snipers had high powered scopes while Murphy used his trusted carbine with a wired stock broken right in his hands by a mortar shell. That was how he got his first purple heart Sept. 15, 1944. The second came Oct. 26, where he escaped sure death by welding his carbine like a pistol to kill the sniper that had just shot him in the hip. He was trying to recover from that serious wound when he fought the battle of the Colmar Pocket near Holtzwihr, France. With temperatures about zero, Murphy's company was ordered to hold the only road the enemy could use to threaten the American position. The fight was so furious on Jan. 25, all officers except Murphy were killed and 102 of the 120 men were killed or wounded before they reached their assigned position on the edge of the woods. Murphy, the lone surviving officer, was wounded but kept going. He took over command of the company. That night, two M-10 tank destroyers from the attached 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion joined Murphy and his now depleted 18-man company, and it got colder. The next afternoon, the Germans attacked right at Murphy's position with six Tiger tanks and approximately 250 infantry. The tank destroyers, which had open turrets and were built on a Sherman chassis, could not damage the German armor. But the Tiger's 88-mm guns quickly put one M-10 out of action and the other got stuck in a ditch trying to improve its firing position, a move that rendered its guns useless. Murphy did what he always seemed to do. He ordered his men back to cover while he stayed. Alone again, except for his field phone, map and carbine. Willis said Murphy realized "somebody had to hold that road." She added that later in life Murphy recalled there was nothing else to do but try to hold the road by directing artillery fire, and that was a one-man job. Using his map and phone, Murphy directed and corrected the barrage as he emptied his carbine at the ever-closing infantry. As the tanks and riflemen closed in, along with the artillery Murphy himself self directed, he refused to budge. Then he made the decision that forever changed his life. He climbed onto the 31-tons of burning tank destroyer and employed its 50-cal. machine gun on the infantry, all the while continuing to direct artillery almost on top of his own position. At one point, when the officer on the other end of the phone asked how close was the enemy, Murphy replied, "Hold the phone and I'll let you talk to one of the bastards." Another time, when the officer thought Murphy might be dead and asked if he was still there, Murphy asked him, "And, what are your plans after the war?" The battle raged and Murphy continued to fight an enemy that sometimes was only 10 yards away. One thing that confused the Germans was that none of them could locate Murphy because they never believed anyone would be on that burning time bomb. Luckily, smoke from burning diesel fuel covered his position. Even the enemy tank commanders kept away from the tank destroyer thinking it would blow up at any minute. Three more 88-mm rounds hit the tank destroyer while Murphy fired away for an hour without receiving a single wound. Finally, the Germans gave up. They could not dislodge this determined American and retreated. Just seconds after Murphy got down and headed for the woods, the tank destroyer exploded and remained there for years after the war. After vacating the tank destroyer, Murphy joined his unit and led a successful counterattack. Reports vary, but most agree that Murphy personally killed at least 50 of the enemy that day. Some accounts go up to 100. Overall, Murphy is credited with killing 241 enemy soldiers during World War II. He stayed with his unit to the end of the war.

Audie Murphy Continued

Bullets missed him by inches. Countless duels were won. Audie Murphy's storied life ended in an airplane crash near Roanoke, Va., on May 28, 1971. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

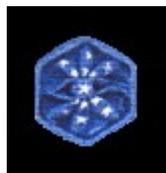
Audie Murphy's Medal of Honor Military Service Number 01 692 509



Medal of Honor
U.S. Army

Chest Medal
1904 "Gillespie"

Medal of Honor



Lapel Pin
All Services

Medal of Honor



Chest Ribbon
All Services

Audie Murphy Continued

Audie Murphy was the recipient of America's highest decoration known as the Medal of Honor. Originally authorized by congress during the Civil War this medal has had several versions since 1862. This particular version was authorized for the Army in 1904 and is known as the "Gillespie" version. It was issued to Medal of Honor recipients in the Army through the end of World War II but was later replaced with another, more recent version.

Medal of Honor Orders

General Orders No. 65

WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington 25, D.C., 9 August 1945

MEDAL OF HONOR - Award Section 1

* * * * *

I. MEDAL OF HONOR. - By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul. 43, 1918), a Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty was awarded by the War Department in the name of Congress to the following-named officer:

Second Lieutenant Audie L. Murphy, 01692509, 15th Infantry, Army of the United States, on 26 January 1945, near Holtzwihr, France, commanded Company B, which was attacked by six tanks and waves of infantry. Lieutenant Murphy ordered his men to withdraw to a prepared position in a woods while he remained forward at his command post and continued to give fire directions to the artillery by telephone. Behind him to his right one of our tank destroyers received a direct hit and began to burn. Its crew withdrew to the woods. Lieutenant Murphy continued to direct artillery fire which killed large numbers of the advancing enemy infantry. With the enemy tanks abreast of his position, Lieutenant Murphy climbed on the burning tank destroyer which was in danger of blowing up any instant and employed its .50 caliber machine gun against the enemy. He was alone and exposed to the German fire from three sides, but his deadly fire killed dozens of Germans and caused their infantry attack to waver. The enemy tanks, losing infantry support, began to fall back. For an hour the Germans tried every available weapon to eliminate Lieutenant Murphy, but he continued to hold his position and wiped out a squad which was trying to creep up unnoticed on his right flank. Germans reached as close as 10 yards only to be mowed down by his fire. He received a leg wound but ignored it and continued the single-handed fight until his ammunition was exhausted. He then made his way to his company, refused medical attention, and organized the company in a counterattack which forced the Germans to withdraw. His directing of artillery fire wiped out many of the enemy; he personally killed

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

Audie Murphy Continued

or wounded about 50. Lieutenant Murphy's indomitable courage and his refusal to give an inch of ground saved his company from possible encirclement and destruction and enabled it to hold the woods which had been the enemy's objective.

* * * * *

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

OFFICIAL:	G.C. MARSHALL
EDWARD F. WITSELL	Chief of Staff
Major General	
Acting The Adjutant General	

Audie Murphy's Distinguished Service Cross

Military Service Number 01 692 509

Distinguished Service Cross



Distinguished Service Cross



Chest Ribbon

Dress Medal

Distinguished Service Cross Orders

Audie Murphy Continued

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY

APO 758

US Army

GENERAL ORDERS)

28 January 1945

NUMBER 21)

* * * * *

Award of the Distinguished-Service Cross II

* * * * *

II - AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS.

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulation 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Distinguished-Service Cross is awarded by the Army Commander to the following named individuals:

AUDIE L. MURPHY, 01 692 509, Second Lieutenant, (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company "B", 15th Infantry Regiment, for extraordinary heroism in action. Landing near Ramatuelle, France, with the first wave of the assault infantry, at 0800 hours, 15 August until halted by intense machine gun and small arms fire from a boulder-covered hill to his front. Leaving his men in a covered position, he dashed forty yards through withering fire to a draw. Using this defiladed route, he went back toward the beaches, found a light machine gun squad and, returning up the rocky hill, placed the machine gun in position seventy-five yards in advance of his platoon. In the duel which ensued, Lieutenant Murphy silenced the enemy weapon, killed two of the crew and wounded a third. As he proceeded further up the draw, two Germans advanced toward him. Quickly destroying both of them, he dashed up the draw alone toward the enemy strongpoint, disregarding bullets which glanced off the rocks around him and hand grenades which exploded fifteen yards away. Closing in, he wounded two Germans with carbine fire, killed two more in a fierce, brief fire-fight, and forced the remaining five to surrender. His extraordinary heroism resulted in the capture of a fiercely contested enemy-held hill and the annihilation or capture of the entire enemy garrison. Entered military service from Farmersville, Texas.

* * * * *

By command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

ARTHUR A. WHITE,
Major General, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ W. G. CALDWELL
W. G. CALDWELL
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General.

Audie Murphy Continued

SUMMARY OF MEDALS

- Medal of Honor
- Distinguished Service Cross
- Silver Star with First Oak Leaf Cluster
- Legion of Merit
- Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device and First Oak Leaf Cluster
- Purple Heart with Second Oak Leaf Cluster
- U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- Presidential Unit Citation with First Oak Leaf Cluster
- American Campaign Medal
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with One Silver Star, Four Bronze Service Stars (representing nine campaigns) and one Bronze Arrowhead (representing assault landing at Sicily and Southern France)
- World War II Victory Medal
- Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal
- Combat Infantry Badge
- Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar
- Expert Badge with Bayonet Bar
- French Fourragere in Colors of the Croix de Guerre
- French Legion of Honor, Grade of Chevalier
- French Croix de Guerre With Silver Star
- French Croix de Guerre with Palm
- Medal of Liberated France
- Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 Palm

A NOTE ON PTSD

Allen Clark

Founder

Combat Faith Lay Ministry

Especially for Veterans/Military

www.combatfaith.com

My website www.combatfaith.com is used by many military and veterans and chaplains for faith-based info on Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, with which I am sure none of our tough SF warriors have any challenges, but they could refer the site to others.

If you desire for a program at a chapter meeting, I can present on "Intelligence Estimate of the Situation", the infiltration into America of the Islamic Jihadists.

Allen Clark

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Editors Comment: It is worth reading up on symptoms of PTSD. Tough or not no one escapes without some scars from combat participation or even extended time under the threat of combat.. I recommend talking to Mary Nuygen on the subject as well.

Chapter Calendar

Vet-to-Vet is at VA Spinal Injury Ward 1800 on June 24th

June will see the National Convention in Las Vegas from 7-12.

July will see us participate in the 4th July parade in Plano..

November 11th is the annual fundraiser at Dick's Last Resort

FROM THE CHAPTER CHAPLAIN

WHOSE HANDS?

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19
 A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million
 It depends whose hands it's in

A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6
 A baseball in Mark McGuire's hands is worth \$19 million
 It depends whose hands it's in

A tennis racket is useless in my hands
 A tennis racket in Pete Sampras' hands is a Wimbledon Championship
 It depends whose hands it's in

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal
 A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea
 It depends whose hands it's in

A slingshot in my hands is a kid's toy
 A slingshot in David's hand is a might weapon
 It depends whose hands it's in

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches
 Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God's hands will feed thousands
 It depends whose hands it's in

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse
 Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will produce salvation for the entire world
 It depends whose hands it's in

As you see now . . . it depends whose hands it's in . . .
 So, put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands
 because . . .
 It depends whose hands it's in.

Author

Unknown

As pay tribute to those who have sacrificed everything for their country on this past Memorial Day, Veterans Cemeteries were filled from Arlington, Omaha Beach, and Normandy with visitors remembering those who have given their lives fighting for freedom. As those "who have walked this path before", let us remember what we learned from our own experiences that might benefit those on today's frontlines . . . what brought us courage to face the unknown or the enemy . . . what meant the most to us during these times. Ask yourself . . . did your money or possessions, or lack of them, make any difference? We must remember that it was not the power and strength of our own hands alone that brought peace, but the "hand of God" that worked through us that did. Let's offer up daily prayers and intercession on behalf of our armed forces . . . covering them with prayers from those of us who understand what they are feeling in the midst of the unknown hour . . . this is the greatest gift we can give. Let us pray that our soldiers will submit to the hand of God in their personal lives and trust in His strength and power, so that they will rise to meet the task set before them . . . all because it "depends whose hands it's in".

"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust'." Psalms 91:1, 2 NKJV

Chaplain Mike

FUNDRAISER UPDATE

As we are still doing mainly planning, I'd almost rather not share what may or may not be happening with the fundraiser with the whole chapter. Right now, I just have a long list of "to do" items, and deadlines to have them accomplished by... but here goes:

Title: Special Forces Association Chapter 31 Annual Fundraiser

This year's annual fundraiser will be held on Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11th, 2009 and promises to be an even bigger success than last year's! Mark your calendars now and start making plans on attending this exciting event. Your Chapter 31 Fundraising committee is working hard on making this event special and we hope that all members will be able to attend. Once again, this year's event will held at "Dick's Last Resort" in downtown Dallas. We will have live music, dinner and open bar, so come on out and show your support for the Chapter... and bring your friends and family along!

The committee is actively working on having a "Special" Guest of Honor for the event, and also trying to get Cowboys Defensive End and former A-10 Warthog Fighter Pilot Chad Hennings to come back again this year. We're also hoping to once again, have members from C Company 5th BN, 19th Special Forces Group from Camp Bullis, TX make an appearance and share a few brews and war stories about their latest exploits.

Last year's event raised over \$9K for the chapter and our goal this year is to raise \$15K! How can you help us achieve this goal? Easy... help us sell tickets! Tickets will go on sale in September and we'd like all chapter members to spread the word and help us get out there and sell! This fundraiser is NOT just for SFA members. Invite your friends, family, and co-workers to come on out and enjoy the fun. Another way to help is by asking your employer to make a donation. We want and need Corporate Donations!

We will be putting out information about the annual fundraiser in the monthly newsletter and also on the chapter website, www.sfa31.org, so get online and check out the latest information.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The National Convention is rapidly approaching and I want to take just a couple of lines to again thank all of you that participate in the day to day operation of the Chapter, prior to my departure for Las Vegas. You will notice an update from the fundraiser committee chair, Phil Stone, on some of the things that we still need help with. Again, if you work for or know someone in the corporate structure and are willing to help Phil and his crew solicit donations or products that we can use to make this year's fundraiser the best ever, please let him or one of the committee members (Jerry or Linda) know. All help will be greatly appreciated.

Our next function is going to be our annual participation in the Plano 4th of July parade. We will be meeting in the parking lot of the Plano VFW. Time TBD. I'll bring you all up to date on the outcome of the convention in the July issue of the drop. As always, if you have questions and/or suggestions to help the chapter function better, please feel free to contact me. Remember the chapter is only as good as the membership. Until next time, please stay safe out there ...

De Oppresso Liber Ron

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