



The History of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

The story of the 10th Special Forces Group and the history of United States Army Special Forces are intertwined, since the 10th Group is the oldest Special Forces Group in the Army. The establishment of the Group on 19 June 1952, was also the establishment of Special Forces as we know it today.

THE ORIGINS

The history of the Group begins with the formation of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) under the command of Brigadier General William O. "Wild Bill" Donovan in 1942. General Yarborough later stated that "...the most logical antecedent of Special Forces was the OSS." Volunteers for the OSS were extremely specialized and carefully selected. Their missions took them behind enemy lines in every theater of operations during World War II. American, British, French, Belgians, Dutch, South Africans, New Zealanders, and Canadians all filled the ranks of the OSS.

In France small elements called "Jedburgh teams" were employed to assist the Allied landings and subsequent breakouts at both Normandy and Provence, while in Central Europe and in the Balkans other teams known as "OG teams" assisted partisan resistance to Nazi occupation. The Jedburgh teams consisted of two officers and an enlisted radio operator. One such Jedburgh team was led by COL Aaron Bank, who later became the first commander of the 10th Special Forces Group, and is today the honorary Colonel of the regiment. Despite success far out of proportion to its small size, President Truman disbanded the OSS in December of 1945.

The official lineage and colors of the Group go back to the 1st Special Service Force (FSSF), a joint US-Canadian Army force established in 1942, at Ft. William Henry Harrison in Helena, Montana, for the conduct of winter commando-type operations in Europe. Although their mission during WWII evolved into light infantry rather than the unconventional warfare of Special Forces, the inspirational combat record of the FSSF remains today an example and inspiration for all US Special Forces soldiers.

The concept of Special Forces remained alive in the post-war years, due to the efforts of several veterans of unconventional warfare in WWII: BG McClure, COL Bank, COL Fertig, and COL Russ Volkman. These officers convinced the Army that it should have a permanent unit whose wartime mission was to conduct unconventional warfare. Their efforts came to fruition on 19 June 1952, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, when COL Bank assumed command of the newly formed 10th Special Forces Group.

THE EARLY YEARS

Present for duty on that day, 19 June 1952, were seven enlisted men, one warrant officer, and COL Bank. By the end of June the Group had assigned 122 officers and men. Sprinkled among these initial arrivals were former OSS, Ranger, and Airborne soldiers as well as Lodge Bill soldiers (Lodge Bill soldiers were East European or stateless volunteers in the US Army).

The US Army created the 10th Special Forces Group to conduct partisan warfare behind Red Army lines in the event of a Soviet invasion of Europe. From the very start, the Army planned to employ the Group in Europe. But the 1953 Berlin/East German crisis prompted a rapid move of the

entire unit to Germany. On 10 November 1953, the 10th Special Forces Group was split in half. One half deployed to Bad Tölz and Lenggries, Germany as the 10th Special Forces. The remaining troops formed the new 77th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

LODGE BILL TROOPS and CPT LARRY THORNE

Based on the unit mission and the identities of the soldiers, an aura of secrecy surrounded the 10th Special Forces Group in the early days. A certain breed of men stayed, and subsequently attracted more of his own kind. One group of men who found places in Special Forces that suited their temperaments and special abilities were the so-called "Lodge Bill" troops. Many of the "Lodge Bill" men still had families behind the Iron Curtain. A few of the more notable Lodge Bill soldiers were SGT Paul Ettman, a refugee from Poland; Stefan Mazak, a Czech and veteran of the Marquis and the French Foreign Legion; Henry "Frenchy" Szarck, a Pole and a veteran of four armies; Peter Astalos, served in the Romanian and German Armies during WWII; and Martin Urlich, who participated in the largest tank battle of the war: Kursk.

One of Special Forces' more illustrious soldiers was Larry Thorne. He entered the Finish Army in 1938. About a year later, he began a six-year period of continuous combat against the Soviets during World War II. After various assignments with front line infantry units, he volunteered for commando activities behind the Soviet lines. Lieutenant Thorne's most daring exploits occurred in 1942 as he conducted numerous deep penetration missions. On one, he personally led a small group of men behind Soviet lines, ambushing and destroying a Soviet convoy, killing over 300 of the enemy, and returning without sustaining a single casualty.

In June 1944, Thorne's unit was thrown into the front line as the last force available. They conducted a counter-attack against a battalion size spearhead of an enemy breakthrough operation. This action occurred only hours after his unit had returned from a mission behind Soviet lines. The Finnish commander of the threatened sector described CPT Thorne's boldness; "My plan was to provide CPT Thorne with some artillery and mortar support which probably would have delayed the start of his counterattack about an hour. However, CPT Thorne's plan was to attack immediately, before the Soviets had a chance to dig in. CPT Thorne counterattacked in daylight through dense forest surprising the Soviets and resulting not only in destruction of a Soviet battalion but also in saving the desperate situation." CPT Thorne repeatedly exposed himself to extreme hazards; his leadership and heroism made him a national hero in Finland and earned him the Mannerheim Cross, Finland's highest military award (equivalent to our Medal of Honor) in July 1944.

CPT Thorne joined the American Army after WWII, volunteered for Special Forces duty and joined the 77th SFG(A). Later he transferred to the 10th SFG(A). He was a HALO parachutist, SCUBA diver, mountaineer and skier. In 1962, as a captain, he led his Special Forces Detachment onto the highest mountain in Iran to recover the bodies of an American air crew lost in a plane crash, and secure the classified material they transported. After unsuccessful attempts by others, his detachment's success was largely attributed to CPT Thorne's superb leadership. He volunteered twice for Vietnam. On 18 October 1965, while on his second tour with the Studies and Observation Group (SOG), he failed to return from a reconnaissance mission deep behind enemy lines, and was subsequently declared Missing in Action (MIA).

THE 1950'S: 10th GROUP BUILDS ITS IDENTITY AND ORGANIZATION

During August 1956, six Special Forces Operational "A" Detachments of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) stationed at Flint Kaserne in Bad Toelz, West Germany, were relocated to West Berlin under the 7761 Army Unit (also known subsequently as 39th SFOD) and embedded within Headquarters and Headquarters company, 6th Infantry Regiment, Regimental Headquarters. Their mission was "stay behind" Unconventional Warfare.

Each team at that time was comprised of one Master Sergeant and five team members. Overall Officer in charge of the group was a major, assisted by a Captain. On 1 September 1956, the group moved officially to the top floor of building 1000B at McNair Barracks, West Berlin, under the name of Security Platoon, Regimental Headquarters, 6th Infantry Regiment, APO 09742.

In April 1958, the unit found its final home in Building 904, Section 2, at Andrews Barracks, West Berlin, and was assigned to HHQ Company, US Army Garrison Berlin with a new name - Detachment "A" (Det A). In April 1962, Detachment "A" was separated from the Garrison and became Detachment "A", Berlin Brigade, US ARMY Europe (USAREUR), which it remained until its deactivation on 30 December 1984.

In 1955, Special Forces received its first publicity, two articles in the New York Times announcing the existence of a US Army "liberation" force designed to fight behind enemy lines. The Times correspondent noted the distinct "foreign" nature of the Special Forces, as many of its volunteers were refugees from Eastern Europe. Photographs showed 10th Special Forces troops wearing berets with their faces blacked out in the photos to conceal their identity. Notwithstanding such sensationalism, the articles provided a relatively accurate description of the 10th Special Forces Group's soldiers.

As the 10th Group became established in Germany, a new item of headgear, the green beret, appeared in rapidly increasing numbers. The Group Commander, Colonel Eckman, authorized the wear of the beret and it became Group policy in 1954. By 1955, every Special Forces soldier in Germany was wearing the Green Beret as a permanent part of his uniform. Department of the Army did not, however, recognize the headgear.

Captain Roger Pezzelle designed the silver Trojan Horse badge for wear on the beret. It remained the unofficial badge until 1962, when the Department of the Army authorized the official Distinguished Unit Insignia and green cloth "flash" which are worn today.

Differences in mission, organization, manning, and modus operandi set the 10th Special Forces apart from conventional Army units. Notable differences in other external symbols began to appear. The 10th Group soldiers carried the mountain rucksack rather than the standard field pack. Likewise, the men soon did away with spit-shined jump boots, opting instead for mountain boots, which was a more practical field boot for the European climate. Mountain boots became a trademark of the 10th Special Forces Group.

The original "A" Detachment was called an FA Team and consisted of 15 men. Each FA Team was designed to advise and support a regiment of up to 1,500 partisans. An FB Team (equivalent to the current ODB or Company Headquarters) commanded two or more FA Teams. An FC Team or ODC (Battalion Headquarters) was designed to command and control FA and FB teams including Guerrilla Warfare (GW) area commands operating in a single country. The Group Headquarters, called the FD Team, was designed to command and control the entire Group when employed in two or more countries. The fact that this original organization has changed very little over the many years is indeed a tribute to those who devised the first Tables of Organization and Equipment (TO&E), which were largely taken from the OSS-OG structure.

THE 1960's: COLD WAR YEARS

As time passed, the Group Commander and staff made visits to England, Turkey, France, Norway, Italy, Greece, Iran and Spain. As a result, the idea of conducting exchange training with foreign soldiers evolved and was received with great enthusiasm. Soon, "A" Detachments trained routinely with Western European and Middle Eastern armies. Men of the 10th Special Forces Group trained with airborne, commando, ranger, raider, militia and clandestine organizations in England, France, Norway, Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Jordan, and

Saudi Arabia. "A" Detachments worked across cultural and linguistic borders, learning how to subsist on native food and establishing and maintaining rapport with the host nation forces. Today this program is an extensive and key part of the Group's training and spans countries from Turkey to Estonia.

In Africa, the 10th Special Forces served without fanfare, often wearing no identification patches, berets or other insignia, sometimes even operating in civilian clothes. This deliberate low profile should not obscure the story of those missions. In the summer of 1960, the Commanding Officer of the 10th Special Forces Group, Colonel "Iron" Mike Paulick, received orders to support evacuation efforts in the Congo. A wave of violence against the remaining whites in the former Belgian colony developed following its independence on July 1, 1960. There was no hint in the news media that the 10th would be involved. COL Paulick called on LT Fontaine. LT Fontaine had a remarkable record. A Belgian by birth he worked for the British Special Operations Executive (SOE was the British counterpart to the US OSS) during WWII and parachuted behind Nazi lines into France because he spoke French better than English. He later held a commission in the Belgian Army and had served with that Army in the Congo. COL Paulick ordered LT Fontaine to put together a team and get ready to go. LT Fontaine's choices were: Vladimir Sobiachevsky, a Russian; Georg Yosich, who had worked with partisans in Korea; Pop Grant; Charles "Snake" Hoskins, who later won the Medal of Honor posthumously; and Stefan Mazak, the tough Czech and ex-French Foreign Legionnaire.

US Ambassador Timberlake ordered a small unit to Leopoldville in the Congo to help save American and European lives. This team consisted of three helicopters, three light single engine airplanes, an Air Force radio expert, and the SF element from Bad Tolz. A meeting with Ambassador Timberlake and Belgian paratroopers took place and the mission was defined. At the larger airfields, Belgian paratroopers would be in charge. The SF team would control operations on the smaller airfields. The mission was to evacuate as many Europeans and Americans as possible and move them to Leopoldville for large scale evacuation. Despite enemy contact resulting in a few holes in their aircraft, the mission was accomplished. In fact, nine days following their arrival, the SF team evacuated 239 refugees without a single casualty. Stefan Mazak exposed himself to hostile forces again and again during this operation, only to be killed in action later during a classified operation with SOG in Vietnam.

THE VIETNAM ERA

As the 1960s continued, counter-insurgency, rather than unconventional warfare, became the primary mission for SF. Although the 10th SFG(A) was not directly involved in Southeast Asia, most of the Group's soldiers, by normal rotation, served with SF units in SE Asia. One such soldier was SGT Brian L. Buker who posthumously received the Medal of Honor. During these years the US European Command gave 10th SFG(A) responsibility for a large amount of new geography. In addition to Europe, it's area of responsibility grew to include North Africa, the Middle East and Southwest Asia, as far east as Pakistan. Two battalions, or C Detachments as they were called at the time, remained responsible for the East European GW role. The third C Detachment trained for foreign internal defense and counterinsurgency missions. Besides the normal SF training, this C Detachment gathered intelligence and started language training in Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Greek, Turkish and Pushto. In Jordan, MAJ Joe Callahan and his B Detachment established and ran Jordan's first airborne school. The mission was a complete success. An enthusiastic King Hussein attended the graduation parachute drop.

In 1963, a group supported by Egyptian President Nasser overthrew the Royalist government of the Kingdom of Yemen. A new socialist government was installed under President Al Salol as a puppet state of Egypt and USSR. The son of the old King Mohammed Al-Badr fled to the hills to fight a guerrilla war, supported by King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. Company C, 10th SFG(A)

commanded by MAJ William Hinton deployed to Saudi Arabia and trained 350 selected officers and NCOs of this guerrilla force in the basics of insurgency and counterinsurgency.

One B Detachment and three A Detachments later traveled to Iran and trained with the Iranian Special Forces (ISF). The ISF was at that time actually only an airborne battalion. An A Detachment also trained Kurdish tribesman in the mountains of Iran.

CPT Mike Boos and his detachment went to the hills and deserts of Pakistan to train with the Baluch Regiment of Special Warfare Warriors. CPT Steve Snowden and his A Team trained the nucleus of the Turkish Special Forces, including airborne qualification, SF tradecraft and SCUBA operations for selected officers. They constructed a training apparatus for the airborne course, conducted classroom instruction for 350 officers and NCOs and presented training on operations for land, operations in water and operations in the air.

POST-VIETNAM: INTO THE 1970'S -- THE "LEAN YEARS"

Special Forces, as with all armed forces, was severely affected by the end of the Vietnam conflict, including force cuts and reduction in overseas deployments and basing. In September 1968, the 10th Special Forces Group, minus the 1st Battalion, was re-stationed to Fort Devens, Massachusetts. The Group survived the lean years and was not dropped from the rolls, as were the 1st, 3rd, 6th, and 8th SFGs, but Fort Devens was a far cry from Flint Kaserne in the Alps of Bavaria. Nevertheless, Colonel Vernon Greene, the Commander of the 10th and Sergeant Major Arthur Senkewich maintained standards by deploying detachments back to Europe for joint and combined training with our allies.

The 1st Battalion remained in Bad Tolz, Germany, until July 1991, when the battalion relocated to Panzer Kaserne in Boeblingen, near Stuttgart, Germany, where it remains today. The Bad Tolz area of southern Germany is still one of the best SF training environments in the world with ideal terrain as well as a staunchly supportive local population. The 10th SFG(A) continues to maintain the relationship which was developed over the years with its Bavarian friends.

The "lean years" of the 1970's saw an absolute decrease in the number/frequency of operational deployments for 10th SFG(A) – in fact they all but ceased completely. During this time, however, the 10th SFG(A) maintained its training edge through continuous deployments into the European theater to train with NATO allies, and to do unilateral training on environmental skills. These deployments and the annual FLINTLOCK Exercise became the central points of every ODA's training program. Of course, those events were complimented by language training, as well as environmental training that was possible in and around our home at Fort Devens. In addition to our Bavarian friends maintained by 1st Battalion, 10th Group was able to build an "underground" of sorts in the New England area which would reap benefits for the duration of our time in Massachusetts.

THE 1980's: REAGAN YEARS

Throughout the 1980's, 10th Special Forces Group Detachments from the 1st Battalion, in Germany, and from the 2d and 3d Battalions at Fort Devens, participated in Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) with West European armies, learning and sharing training techniques. During 1987, thirty JCETs were conducted with Norway, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom, Portugal, Canada, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Greece. The overall operational tempo fro the 10th SFG(A) decidedly picked up in this decade, as compared to the previous one.

From 11 May 1983 through 25 October 1985, the 10th Special Forces Group deployed seventeen separate mobile training teams (MTT) to support the Lebanese Army (LAF). Their mission was to advise and assist the Lebanese Army Training Centers. The 10th Special Forces

MTT and the Lebanese Army developed a training program for over 5,000 officers, NCOs and soldiers. Training sites at Beirut and Adma provided for basic training; Safra was used for unit training; Wata Al Jawz was used for unit combined arms live fire; and Haef Jumayyid were used for urban live fire training. Training programs for NCO combat leaders, basic training for over 900 LAF conscripts, long range reconnaissance training for the Lebanese Rangers and advance unit training and maintenance for Mechanized Units was also conducted. Despite the chaotic situation in Lebanon, the training programs conducted by the 10th Special Forces Group for the LAF were extremely successful. The complete deterioration of the situation, as well as the entry of the Syrian Army into Lebanon, brought the training operation to a premature end.

As a precursor of things to come, on 2 June 1985, an MTT from the 1st Battalion, Bad Tolz, Germany deployed to Somalia for four months to conduct disaster relief operations.

From 8 May 1986 through 23 December 1986, Company C, 3d Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, trained the nucleus of the Nigerian Airborne. Initially parachute riggers were trained to pack the parachutes, followed by Airborne cadre selection and training, and then the 10th Group soldiers observed this cadre as they trained the remainder of the Nigerian Army. Mission accomplished, the Nigerian Airborne School was established. In conjunction with the Airborne MTT, one detachment trained the Nigerian Army in riverine operations, maintenance, tactics and patrolling.

The 10th Special Forces Group's individual and detachment training for 1988 significantly enhanced the capability to execute the full spectrum of Special Forces missions. By direction of the Group Commander, the Group focused on the total spectrum of military and paramilitary operations in enemy held, politically sensitive territory. This training included: GW, subversion, target interdiction, offensive actions, and intelligence reporting. 10th SFG held the reputation among all of Special Forces as the primary experts in Unconventional Warfare.

The Group participated in 1st SOCOM's EDRE/ARTEP evaluation exercise CASINO GAMBIT 1-88 and JCRX FLINTLOCK '88. These exercises constituted extreme challenges for the entire Group and provided true tests of overall combat readiness. Summer of 1988 found the Group in an intensive individual and collective training posture highlighted by JCET participation in Belgium, Denmark, West Germany and Italy.

Fall of 1988 found the soldiers of the 10th Group in a diverse training posture. The 3d Battalion conducted a 6-week Guerrilla Warfare exercise in the White Mountain National Forest, while 2d Battalion executed an eleven-week formal cross-training program in MOS 18C and 18E skills. First Battalion conducted FTX Alpine Friendship in the Bavarian foothills continuing to hone its combat skills. During the period 1989-1990, Operational Detachments conducted realistic joint training exercises in Norway, Denmark, France, Canada, Luxembourg, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

In October 1989, the Group Command Sergeant Major, CSM George Moskaluk, and one composite operational A detachment, briefed the Soviet Defense Minister, General Dimitriy Yazov, Soviet Ambassador Ury Dubinin and a delegation of 30 other Soviet military officers. The 10th Special Forces soldiers briefed the Soviet delegation on the organization, equipment, and capabilities of an A detachment. The team conducted the entire briefing in Russian, Polish, Czechoslovakian, and German. Local, national, and Soviet television and newspapers reported extensively on this event. This visit signified the shifting operational focus of the Group as the Cold War melted away. This shift, however was interrupted by events in the Middle East.

THE PERSIAN GULF WAR - TOTAL VICTORY IN A LIMITED WAR

Grievances over oil pricing, Kuwaiti loans to Iraq, and Iraqi claims on Kuwaiti territory as well as Saddam Hussein's ambitions to control 40% of the world oil reserves, prompted his invasion of

Kuwait. On 2 August 1990, Iraqi troops and tanks stormed into Kuwait before dawn, seizing oil fields and forcing the royal family into exile in Saudi Arabia. On 4 August 1990, Iraq announced a military government for occupied Kuwait, and on 8 August, Saddam Hussein declared Kuwait to be part of Iraq. On 7 August, President Bush ordered the deployment of US combat troops and war planes to Saudi Arabia. Operation DESERT SHIELD had begun.

On 7 August 1990, the Group was alerted for possible deployment in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD. Ten officers and NCOs from the Group immediately departed to augment SOCCENT. They remained with SOCCENT for the duration of the war. One B Detachment and six A Detachments immediately commenced Arabic language training. A Mobile Training Team (MTT) led by MAJ Pride Nichols deployed from Fort Devens to train the Saudi Arabian National Guard (SANG) in combined arms live fire operations to include close air and artillery fire. During the battle of Khafji, in November of 1990, members of this MTT accompanied SANG Forces into battle, coordinated troop movements, called in airstrikes, and assisted with artillery support.

On 13 January 1991, the Group Commander, COL William Tangney, deployed the Special Forces Operational Base (light) and Forward Operational Base 101 (1-10 SFG) and 102 (2-10 SFG), with one B Detachment each, into South East Turkey. The Boston Herald reported: "The 10th Special Forces Group's penchant for secrecy is so exacting the base publicist didn't know the unit had gone to war until they were on the way home from Operation DESERT STORM." From locations within Turkey, 10th SFG participated in Operation ELUSIVE CONCEPT and prepared to conduct special operations from the north. A team from 1st Battalion participated in a personnel recovery mission deep within Iraq.

On 30 January 1991, MAJ John Stanley, Commander of Company A, 3rd Battalion, deployed his B Detachment with six A Detachments to Saudi Arabia. During the ground war his B Detachment provided direct support for VII Corps. Newsweek later reported: "The CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency warned that the terrain of Western Iraq was so rugged, tanks could cross it, but trucks would bog down, separating the advancing VII Corps from their supplies. But, General Schwarzkopf sent Special Forces teams behind the future battle zone deep inside Iraq to take soil samples, and recon routes for his supply train." MAJ Stanley and his company measurably assisted the efforts of VII Corps. They were the first B Team to support a maneuver unit in the role of a Special Operations Command and Control Element (SOCCE).

OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT

As Operation DESERT STORM began to wind down, the Kurds of Northern Iraq and other indigenous tribes took the opportunity to rebel against a weakened Saddam Hussein. As the rebellion faltered, Hussein, a long-time enemy of the Kurds, unleashed his forces against them. Unable to protect themselves against the onslaught, the Kurds evacuated their villages and retreated into the mountains along the Turkish-Iraqi border. There they found not refuge but death and carnage in the cruel mountains of Southeast Turkey. Within a month of redeploying from DESERT STORM, the Group returned to Turkey.

On the 8th of April 1991, the 1st Battalion from Bad Tolz, deployed to Southeast Turkey and Northern Iraq to conduct humanitarian relief operations for over a half million Kurdish refugees. They were joined on the 13th of April by the 2d Battalion of the 10th Group and on the 21st of April by the 3d Battalion. This deployment marked the first time that the entire Group had been deployed for a EUCOM contingency.

Operation PROVIDE COMFORT was one of the largest relief operations in history. During the critical first three weeks, the 10th Special Forces Group directed and executed the overall ground relief and security efforts. In the words of General Galvin, the CINCEUR "...10th Special Forces Group saved half a million Kurds from extinction."

The conditions in the refugee camps shocked the world. Before 10th Group arrived, an average of 450 refugees perished daily, with 70 percent being children. In two weeks time the rate was approximately 15-20 per day and of these, only 28 percent were children. 10th Group had made the difference.

The basic operation was divided into three phases. Phase one provided immediate emergency relief with food, water and shelter. The intent was to make an accurate assessment of the situation and to organize Kurdish leadership. Phase two provided basic services. The ODA and ODB detachments performed many tasks and missions: pipe water from the mountains, organize food distribution and camp sanitation, service drop zones and landing zones, and coordinate with the multi-national relief organizations. Additionally, they assisted in rendering medical treatment for the refugees. Phase three prepared and moved the refugees from their mountain camps into resettlement camps in Iraq or straight back to their own homes. Way-stations built by 10th SFG(A), provided food, water and fuel, and limited medical help enroute.

Camp Cucurka remained the last obstacle; the refugees refused to leave. The population of the camp was over 100,000 with 80-90% coming from the city or surrounding villages of Dahuk, which Iraqi forces still controlled. MAJ Carl Riester and the men of B Company, 2d Battalion kept order, peace, and health in this Camp under these trying conditions for almost two months. Finally, during the last days of May 1991, coalition forces secured the city of Dahuk. The refugees of Camp Cucurka returned home.

Special Forces soldiers took this operation one day at a time, with patience, compassion and motivation. They showed the world that the United States cares; they also demonstrated that a Special Forces Group has the organization and capability to conduct a large scale operation such as PROVIDE COMFORT. It was not without some cost: CPT Danny Cooper and SFC Todd Reed received Purple Hearts from wounds received by land mine explosions.

Beside the humanitarian aspect of this exercise, 10th Group derived valuable training in large scale GW and FID operations. The suffering, disorganization, confusion found in the refugee camps and the solutions the 10th Group applied to correct them cannot be duplicated in any training environment.

POST COLD WAR AND A CHANGING WORLD

While the world and the 10th Special Forces Group focused on defeating the armored hordes of Saddam Hussein, dramatic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe were underway. The Berlin Wall fell and the Cold War was over. The Soviet Union disintegrated into many independent and free states, which were free to pursue their own destinies without the spectre of reprisal from the Red Army. Many of these new states looked to the West for help in their transitions from communism to freedom. The 10th Special Forces has led the way in opening new relations with the East.

The Group's focus, however, was temporarily directed from Eastern Europe to Somalia as the situation in the summer of 1992 rapidly deteriorated. The press reported Somalia as a humanitarian nightmare, a regional graveyard, and a place where human depredation had finally "outmatched nature's own cruelty". More than one hundred thousand Somalis died from the combined effects of starvation and civil war. Clan-based military factions competed with heavily armed gangs for food and supplies, and there was no national military establishment nor police force to end the brutality. United Nations forces were called on to restore peace and order. During the early days of Operation RESTORE HOPE, 10 December 1992 to 15 January 1993, the 10th Group deployed a Coalition Support Team to Somalia in support of the 1st Belgian Para-Commando Battalion. The team was led by WO1 Doug Bell and SFC(P) Brad Aimone. Bell conducted the amphibious assault at

Kismayo with U.S. Marines and a company of Belgian Para, while the rest of the team flew from Belgium with the remainder of the Battalion in a 9-ship C-130 formation to Kismayo. The CST, all French speakers but one, conducted patrols with Belgian forces, assisted the U.S. 10th Mtn Division with intelligence preparation of the battlefield, and provided security for meetings with Somalian leaders.

Extensive 10th Group involvement in the Military to Military Contact Program for Eastern Europe began in early 1993. In February of that year, 10th Group placed the first SF liaison officer in the Military to Military (Mil-Mil) Headquarters at Patch Barracks, Germany. MAJ Bob Brady worked to convince EUCOM that 10th SFG could be as effective in assisting democratization and stabilization in the new Europe as they had been in deterring aggression against Western Europe. He secured positions for Special Forces soldiers on missions to train and interface with the militaries of Eastern European and Former Soviet Union (FSU) nations. The 2d Battalion sent SFC Rich Gola to work with the Albanian military. He was the first US Army NCO to work in Albania. He was so successful that when the US Navy contingent left, the Albanian Navy asked him to be both the Army and Navy representative. CPT Jack Jensen and SFC Paimore conducted the first airborne exchange with the Polish Army, receiving Polish Jump Wings from the Commander of the 6th Airborne Brigade in the fall of 1993. 10th Special Forces' involvement grew steadily throughout 1993 and into 1994 to include support to 11 attaches and 10 Military Liaison Teams (MLT), in a total of 17 countries. These countries included Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine. By the end of 1994, 10th Special Forces had conducted over 35 missions in Eastern Europe and the FSU.

In order to enhance the effectiveness of the 10th Group, the command strongly emphasizes the Command Language Program (CLP). A solid Group-wide language capability enhances the ability of Group soldiers to effectively work and interface with foreign nationals. Courses are in the target languages of Russian, Polish, Czech, German, and Hungarian. 10th Group sends soldiers to several universities in the United States for immersion language training, and conducts live environmental training within Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia. The Group participates in the language programs offered at the Foreign Language Training Center at Garmisch, Germany. In 1994, the 10th SFG won second place in the Department of Defense Language Olympics, with a team led by SSG Larry Frost.

10th SFG IN RWANDA – OPERATION PROVIDE HOPE

The Group demonstrated its versatility when alerted for Operation PROVIDE HOPE to relieve suffering caused by the genocidal ethnic conflict in Rwanda. In May of 1994, internal strife in Rwanda had erupted into nationwide fighting between the Hutu and Tootsie tribes. Though this was nothing new, the resultant displacement/flight of non-combatants resulted in a massive refugee problem. Based upon the public outcry for help, CINCEUR directed the deployment of forces. The mission was to assist the refugees and get them back to their homes. The challenge to the US force was to facilitate the movement of displaced people of both tribes across inhospitable terrain with little/no assets and little/no water. Widespread starvation, disease and water shortages were planning assumptions, as was the lack of wholehearted commitment of military airlift and transportation assets.

Within days, 10th Group established a JSOTF at Entebbe Airfield, Uganda, while Bravo Company, 2d Battalion; 3d Battalion; and Group Headquarters prepared to deploy. In response to a MITASK to the Group, COL Frank Toney, then the Group Commander, ordered the deployment of an advanced party to further develop the situation and OK'd a tentative plan to deploy a main body within one week, if required. Members of the 10th SFG(A) who made the immediate deployment to Africa included: COL Toney, MAJ Charles King (Grp S3), MAJ Stu Patton (C/2 ODB Cdr) CPT John

Reilly (GSC Cdr/Ordering Officer), CW2 Lindblad (Physicians Assistant), MSG McKenna and SFC Aubin (Ops NCOs), and SSG Respass (Commo NCO).

This ADVON arrived in Entebbe to the chaos you may expect. The strip and apron were capable of handling only limited traffic, and billeting was a hanger for 1000 or so joint personnel. After establishing its own workspace, and making contact with elements of the 3rd SFG(A) under command of LTC Rich Mills, the SF planning cell conducted mission analysis on how to help the movement of the Displaced Persons back home. This involved watering stations spaced across the vast stretches of formidable terrain (the middle of nowhere) that would get people healthy enough to move and uncomfortable enough to keep moving rather than setting up shop to stay.

MSG McKenna and SSG Respass were further deployed to the Embassy in Kigali during an incident in which the Embassy was threatened. These two soldiers provided critical SATCOM to the Ambassador, and were central figures in ensuring the security of the Embassy. The entire 10th SFG element was able to redeploy once the process of moving the displaced persons was well under way a few weeks later.

10th SFG(A) IN HAITI – OPERATION UPHOLD DEMOCRACY

The acceptance of the coalition support team concept after JUST CAUSE, DESERT STORM, and Somalia was demonstrated in the fall of 1994 when Special Forces successfully employed teams to occupy Haiti in Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY. ODA 062 deployed to Poland and linked up with the Polish special operations unit (GROM) and provided coalition support for the duration of the unit's stay in Haiti. CPT Otis McGregor and SSG John Donovan earned the Polish Cross of Bravery for saving the lives of several Haitian nationals. The awards were presented in Warsaw by the Polish Minister of Interior. Subsequently, ODA 045, ODA 046 and ODA 066 performed a similar mission with the Dutch Marines, while other 10th SFG soldiers provided augmentation at various headquarters during the operation.

EMERGENCE OF DEMOCRACY IN EASTERN EUROPE

In late 1994, the floodgates opened for 10th SFG involvement in Eastern Europe, including the first joint combined exchange training (JCET) missions to former Communist countries. ODA 093 trained in Slovakia in August, ODA 076 deployed to Albania in September at the request of the Secretary of Defense, and ODA 064 visited Romania in November. At the same time, 10th Group played host to delegations of Eastern European officers, visiting under the Familiarization Tour (FAM) program. By early 1995, military leaders from Slovakia, Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, Romania, Bulgaria, and the Minister of Defense for the Ukraine, had made visits to 10th SFG. In 1995, ODA 095 conducted a search and rescue JCET with Hungary, the highest visibility Partnership for Peace exercise at the time. ODA 051 conducted a peace-keeping JCET with Lithuanian forces at the request of the Ambassador, and C/2-10 conducted Partnership for Peace (PFP) exercise DOUBLE EAGLE in Poland with the Polish 4th Mech Division and the U.S. 1st Armored Division. The most significant exchange training event of the year was the 2d Battalion's deployment to the Joint Readiness Training Center, Ft Polk, LA and for the PFP exercise COOPERATIVE NUGGET. With augmentation from 3d Battalion, the 2d Battalion, commanded by LTC Mike Dietrick, provided coalition liaison elements to 14 European and former Warsaw Pact and Soviet Union platoons and companies. 10th Group's contribution as advisors, trainers, and subject matter experts on Peace Operations were instrumental to the success of the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment, the commanding conventional force headquarters.

10th Group continued to play a role in the ongoing mission in Northern Iraq (Operation PROVIDE COMFORT II) and the mission of NATO support to UN forces in the former Yugoslavia (Operation PROVIDE PROMISE). The Group lost two of its own on 14 April 1994, when SSG Ricky Robinson and SSG Paul Barclay of A Company, 2d Battalion, died in a tragic fratricide incident, a

UH 60 helicopter downing over Northern Iraq. At Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in a moving ceremony in the shadow of the Green Beret monument, LTG J.T. Scott, the USASOC Commanding General, awarded the Purple Heart to the bereaved families. In remembrance, on Memorial Day, 1995, the 10th SFG assisted the families in placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

10th SFG(A) MOVES TO COLORADO

In 1968, prior to the move of 10th Group to Fort Devens, GEN Lemnitzer, then the Commander in Chief of the US European Command wrote, "...in every instance, the professionalism of your troopers has evoked only the highest praise and gratitude from the allied and friendly forces with whom your officers and men have worked. The presence...of Special Forces...has complimented the defensive shield of NATO..." GEN Wayne Downing, Commander in Chief of the US Special Operations Command, in 1995, acknowledged the move to Fort Carson in a letter to the Group Commander, stating, "The Group returned from Europe in 1968, less 1st Battalion, which remained in Germany. However, the Group continued to be a key player in the deterrence mission of the European Command.10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) fought the Cold War and materially assisted in victory for ourselves and the NATO alliance.The retirees and veterans of the Group who settled in New England constitute a reservoir of talent and patriotism that will remain.my best wishes for a great future in Colorado."

On 1 September 1994, the colors of the 2d Battalion, under the command of LTC Bruce Hoover, were uncased at Fort Carson during a formal welcome ceremony hosted by MG Schwartz, Commanding General of the 4th Infantry Division. The 3d Battalion joined the 2d Battalion in Colorado on 20 July 1995, uncasing its colors at a change of command giving LTC Peter Gustaitis the reigns of the unit.

On 15 September 1995, at the 43rd Annual 10th Group Ball, former Commanders, Command Sergeants Major, and Group veterans gathered together to uncasing the 10th SFG colors, officially signifying the end of a 27 year presence in New England and the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the organization.

In the fall of 1995, the 10th SFG(A) aggressively executed training from its new home at Fort Carson. Deploying 2d Battalion for a second time in two months to JRTC, the 10th SFG(A) assisted the Army in the testing of sophisticated equipment and information age warfare concepts as part of a Force XXI Army Warfighting Experiment. 3d Battalion deployed to JRTC to shake out the new staff that had been built at Fort Carson only weeks before, and 2d Battalion reopened the CMTC in Germany by providing a SOCCE and two special reconnaissance ODAs in support of the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized).

OPERATIONS IN THE BALKANS – OLD MISSION; NEW PARADIGM

From 30 August to 2 September 1995, search and rescue operations were conducted by 1-10 SFG(A) operating from San Vito Air Station, Italy, to retrieve French pilots shot down by Serb anti-aircraft fire in Bosnia-Herzegovina. CPT Douglas McVey led ODA 024 on MH-53 night patrols and received numerous rounds of enemy fire while conducting CSAR operations, during which two U.S. Air Force personnel were wounded from enemy fire. Although the pilots could not be located, the effort demonstrated NATO resolve to the warring factions. The pilots were recovered by diplomatic efforts after the signing of the Dayton Treaty.

On 8 December 1995, the advanced element of the Group Headquarters deployed to Kiseljak, Bosnia-Herzegovina to become the first U.S. combat force to enter that country as part of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. 1LT Peter Hudson, HSC, 3-10 and SFC Jay Savage, HHC, 10th SFG(A) made the cover of national newspapers and magazines worldwide symbolically representing America's entry into the operation. COL Geoffrey C. Lambert, the 10th SFG(A) Group Commander, and key

elements of his staff deployed to support the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) as part of the multinational CJSOTF (British, French, Italian, Dutch, and U.S.). The CJSOTF was the land component for SOCIFOR (SOCEUR) in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, the first-ever NATO peace enforcement operation. The 1st Battalion, 10 SFG(A), commanded by LTC Frank Bohle, was the subordinate FOB, providing command and control for companies and ODAs from the 1st, 5th, and 10th Groups.

The 3d Battalion, 10th SFG(A), commanded by LTC Peter Gustaitis, co-located with SOCEUR at San Vito, Italy and ran the ISOFAC. MAJ Mark Rosengard, GSC Commander, built the SOCIFOR supply center, to include a firing range in an abandoned bowling alley. Liaison Coordination Elements (LCEs), tailored SF teams with attached Air Force Special Operations personnel, were provided to reflagging UN units and incoming coalition units from Russia, Pakistan, the Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Malaysia, Egypt, and Turkey. In place prior to D-day, the SF teams provided vital communications and intelligence connectivity between NATO's ARRC Headquarters and its subordinate units during the first critical weeks of the operation. Of significance were the Special Forces Company headquarters being located with each multinational division headquarters: C/3-10, commanded by MAJ Max Bowers, in the 3d United Kingdom Division sector; A/1-10, commanded by MAJ Kenneth Boretti, in the French 6th Infantry Division sector; and B/1-10, commanded by MAJ Taylor Beattie in the U.S. 1st Armored Division sector.

LATE 1990's: EMERGENT OPERATIONS CONTINUED

In the spring of 1996, the 1st Battalion, having largely disengaged from Bosnia, was alerted as part of a SOCEUR JTF to recover the missing passengers from a tragic aircraft accident in Croatia. The deceased included Secretary Ron Brown, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. Overcoming coordination roadblocks and difficult weather, the missing were recovered quickly and professionally by 1-10 soldiers.

Events afforded the 1st Battalion little time to recover. When peace talks collapsed in Liberia, SOCEUR alerted the unit for the mission of evacuating endangered Americans and other designated nationalities from that war torn African nation. With the capital Monrovia and much of the countryside in chaos, 1st Battalion and SOCEUR established an Intermediate Staging Base (ISB) in neighboring Sierra Leone, and in 10 days, evacuated 2000 personnel to safety. On 18 April 1996, after the bulk of the mission was concluded, 1-10 conducted a relief-in-place with a Marine Task Force and redeployed to home station.

On 22 May 1996, GEN Shalikhvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a personal message, stated that "...SOCEUR and its associated special operations forces ...have done a super job on some very short-notice, high-profile missions while continuing to support Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR and PROVIDE COMFORT,....Special Operations Forces continue to lead the way in USEUCOM and the rest of the world in support of the National Security Strategy of engagement and enlargement. ...Such a high level of sustained performance can be obtained only through unstinting hard work and personal sacrifice by service members and their families..."

In December 1996, the British-led Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR transitioned over to the US-led Operation JOINT GUARD, and with it, the CJSOTF transitioned as well to US command. The Group's participation increased, both on the CJSOTF and FOB staffs as well as the operational elements, as 10th Group took over the Joint Commissioned Observer (JCO) peace-monitoring mission. The thoroughly professional performance of duty by 10th Group soldiers in this complicated, demanding situation continues the tradition of excellence established over the past 45 years by the soldiers of the 10th Group.

TRANSITIONING TO THE 21st CENTURY

1997 and 1998 have seen the Group continue its efforts in the former Eastern Bloc, with multiple JCETs to the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, and Macedonia; mobile training teams (MTT) to the Slovak Republic and Latvia; and Traveling Contact Teams (TCT) and Familiarization Tours (FAM) with Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, and the Ukraine. Once again, the Group's contributions in providing coalition support teams (CST) to forces from over 20 countries during the Partnership for Peace Exercise COOPERATIVE NUGGET '97 at Fort Polk, LA proved crucial to the resounding success of the Exercise.

During two solemn ceremonies on 19 and 21 May 1998, several facilities in the 10th SFG(A) complex were dedicated to the memory of members of the 10th Group who had been killed while serving their nation on active duty. These ceremonies were attended by members of the families of the fallen soldiers, as well as numerous retirees and friends of the 10th SFG(A). The 10th Group soldiers memorialized were: Master Sergeants Gary Gordon, Mark Laroche, and Tim Martin; Sergeants First Class Cliff Strickland and Joe Gradzewicz; and Staff Sergeants Paul Barclay and Ricky Robinson.

In August 1998, along with the name change of Operation JOINT GUARD to Operation JOINT FORGE, the Group's ongoing JCO mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina downsized from a battalion level commitment to a company (plus) deployment. The 2d Battalion, under command of LTC Tom Rendall, trained special operations teams from Britain, the Netherlands, France and Italy to take over the JCO duties in the SFOR's Southwest and Southeast sectors. The 2d Battalion officially closed its FOB operations in the BH on 18 August.

In the winter of 1999, tensions were heightening in the Balkans, with the impending "Brcko Arbitration Decision" on the future of that northern Bosnian city, and increased fighting between ethnic Albanian paramilitary forces and Serbian Army and police forces in the Serbian Province of Kosovo. Soldiers of C Company, 2d Battalion, led by MAJ Steven Ryan and the omnipresent SGM Peter Moosey, were involved in numerous hostile incidents in February and March in SFOR's northern sector, Multi-National District-North, or "MND-N". Later in 1999, 10th SFG(A) handed the Bosnian mission over to 3rd Group in order to focus on events unfolding in other part of the FRY: KOSOVO

10th SFG(A) IN KOSOVO – OPERATION JOINT GUARDIAN

In March 1999, 1st Battalion under command of LTC Christopher Perkins deployed to San Vito again, establishing FOB 101, and employing all their companies in support of the JSOTF-NOBLE ANVIL for Operation ALLIED FORCE and the Kosovo-related NATO-led airstrikes into Serbia. During this deployment 1/10 participated in numerous sensitive operations, and in many instances did so in heroic fashion, to include rescues of two downed NATO aircrews behind enemy lines.

As the political situation developed to require entry of ground forces into Kosovo, 10th SFG(A) elements again led the way. Operations in Kosovo continue to the present time, employing company-sized rotations for 120 days at a time. Our soldiers in Kosovo are performing a broad spectrum of unconventional warfare operations in support on US and Multi-National goals in the ongoing effort to maintain the very tenuous peace and stability in that critical region of the world.

Today, the 10th SFG's "Quiet Professionals", cognizant of the unit's great history, rooted in the art of unconventional warfare, are deployed and engaged, standing ready twenty-four hours a day to answer our nation's call. They are truly, as stated on the Tenth Group coin, "The Best."