

THE GOOD 'OLE' DAYS OF SPECIAL FORCES



Marginalized Before JFK

by Charles H. Briscoe

The purpose of this analytical historical commentary is to provide sufficient background and context before explaining the personnel recovery mission done in Iran by 10th Special Forces Group (SFG) in May 1962. That is the subject of the following article, “10th SFG Mountain Recovery Operation – Iran 1962.” So, why was this significant? It was the first operational mission assigned to 10th SFG by U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR).

Because the era spanning 1952 into the early 1960s was a very conflicted period in American history, it is important to review the world situation, the growing Cold War, the internal challenges facing America, and the state of the Army at home and overseas after the Korean and Second World Wars. Factoring these elements with the WWII combat experiences of our Army special operations (ARSOF) leaders during that period will explain why Special Forces (SF) was marginalized by the conventional Army before John F. Kennedy became president. The mythology about the ‘good ole’ days of SF will be debunked. But, we have to start at the beginning in 1952.

The concept of ‘special forces’ was developed and approved by the Army Staff based on the persistent efforts of Brigadier General (BG) Robert A. McClure, the Chief of Psychological Warfare (CPW), our “Father of Special Warfare.” His primary action officer was Colonel (COL) Russell W. Volckmann, the Philippine guerrilla commander who authored Field Manual (FM) 31-21: *Organization and Conduct of Guerrilla Warfare*, October 1951. Organization, training, and

fielding of Special Forces (SF) would be accomplished by the U.S. Army Psychological Warfare (Psywar) Center.

Colonel (COL) Charles H. Karlstad, the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, GA, was called to the Pentagon in May 1952 to receive guidance from BG McClure. COL Karlstad had been selected to command the Army Psywar Center being activated at Fort Bragg, NC, in accordance with General Orders No. 37, Section IV. Lieutenant Colonel Otis E. Hays, Jr., the former Director of Psywar at the Army General School, Fort Riley, KS, was to be the first Director of the Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Department effective 29 May 1952. Colonel (COL) Aaron Bank, an OSS veteran on McClure’s staff, was the first Director of the Special Forces (SF) Department.¹

The manpower slots to create the Psywar Center headquarters and SF were ‘harvested’ from Ranger infantry companies deactivated during the Korean War. Special Forces were to be organized, trained, and deployed overseas early in the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1952-1960). In late 1953, ninety-nine SF-trained officers and sergeants had been assigned to Korea and the 10th SF Group (SFG) shipped out to Germany. These two SF overseas movements coincided with an exponential growth of the Cold War triggered by nuclear weapons.

America’s postwar dominance of the world as the nuclear superpower ended four years to the month after the atomic bombing (A-bombs) of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in August 1945. A Soviet A-bomb in 1949 created



L The U.S. Army Special Operations Command headquarters building at Fort Bragg, NC, was named for Major General (MG) Robert A. McClure, “the Father of Special Warfare.”

R Infantry Colonel (COL) Russell W. Volckmann, USMA '34, refused to surrender and escaped capture to command U.S. Army Forces in the Philippines, Northern Luzon (USAFIP-NL) until August 1945.



The M-28/29 *Davy Crockett* Weapon System (with .50 cal spotting rifle) was a tactical nuclear recoilless gun (smoothbore) that fired an M-388 nuclear projectile 2-4 kilometers. The system was often mounted on an M-38 Jeep or the M-274 ½ ton *Mule*.

nuclear parity and brought superpower status. Atomic parity ended in November 1952 when the US exploded a hydrogen bomb (H-bomb). Parity was regained three years later when the Soviets got their H-bomb. The Cold War arms race escalated with long range nuclear-warhead missiles. Multiple nuclear weapon delivery systems were vital to avoid a one-shot knockout blow from the enemy as Communism spread further in Asia.

America became enraptured in a second Red Scare (the first occurred after WWI when the Communist Reds wrested control of Russia from the Whites) and after Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Communists drove the Nationalists from the mainland in 1949. To add fuel to the Red Scare the Chinese intervened in Korea in late November 1950. It had already taken several years to push the Russians out of the Axis-occupied countries of Western Europe and end Communist-supported upheaval in Greece. With U.S. ground forces a small fraction of WWII levels (more than ninety divisions) President Eisenhower reinforced bipartisan anti-Communism as national policy by making Nuclear Deterrence and Mutual Assured Destruction U.S. defense strategy.

In the center of the Arms Race with the Soviets delivery of nuclear weapons became the top priority for research and development. Guided ballistic missiles, medium and long-range jet bombers [the U.S. Air Force (USAF) became a separate service in 1947] that could be refueled in the air, and nuclear-powered submarines armed with nuclear-tipped

ballistic missiles capable of hiding under polar ice for months were the goals. The USAF Strategic Air (SAC) and Missile Commands dominated American defense spending after post-Korean War military reductions. Munitions for medium and heavy artillery and engineer cratering demolitions were enhanced with nuclear warheads. In Europe the Army fielded the M-65 280mm atomic cannon that could fire a 550-pound projectile 20 miles.² Offensive and defensive tactics changed markedly as the nuclear enhanced munitions were adapted to fit all environments of warfare—air, sea, and land. Defense-oriented electronic warfare was still in its infancy.

Military force reductions after WWII and Korea left battlefields (defense of Western Europe primarily) to a much smaller Army adapting its tactics to nuclear weaponry. Combat power in the 900,000 soldier Army was contained in fifteen ‘Pentomic’ [pentagon (5 battle groups) + atomic] divisions. Infantry and armored battle groups [strengths similar to the regimental combat teams (RCTs) in the Korean War or today’s light infantry brigade combat teams (BCTs)] formed the core of the fighting divisions.

This discussion focuses on Europe where five ‘Pentomic’ armored and mechanized infantry divisions and one Special Forces group were stationed. They were to delay massive Soviet armored attacks launched after nuclear artillery, rocket, and missile preparations. All ‘Pentomic’ divisions had tactical guided nuclear warhead rockets (the jeep-mounted *Davy Crockett* rocket systems with 2.5 mile ranges) and truck-mobile *Honest John* missiles – 14 miles). U.S. armored

and mechanized infantry divisions had nuclear warheads for medium artillery as well as atomic demolitions. West European allies also furnished combat divisions.

Similarly-armed West German, British, and French divisions reinforced America's five 'Pentomics' in the first line of defense against a Soviet attack into Europe. The two 'Pentomic' airborne divisions were in strategic reserve in the States. Annually, an airborne infantry battle group (alternated between the 82nd and 11th Airborne Divisions) deployed ('gyro-scoped') to Germany for a year to demonstrate Army strategic readiness. The reality was that the Allied forces were outnumbered five to one by the Russian and Eastern Bloc militaries. The Army and Air Force also had roles in the second line of defense.

Air defense and medium range ballistic missiles formed the second defense line. Army *Nike Hercules* and *Hawk* air defense missile systems guarded American skies as well as those of allies worldwide. Air Force strategic medium range ballistic missiles (MRBM), *Jupiters*, having a 1,500 mile range, were statically positioned as far as Turkey as well as on Taiwan (Nationalist China) and in South Korea. Three long-range strategic nuclear weapons systems reinforced the first two lines of defense.

SAC bombers carried nuclear bombs and Air Force intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) stood ready in underground silos across America at the same time nuclear-powered Navy submarines with atomic weapons prowled underwater off Soviet seacoasts. The strategic forces progressed to airborne, ground, and underwater 24/7 alert to counter Soviet ICBMs and long-range bomber attacks. The SAC jet tanker fleet stayed airborne with the bombers. At the same time strategic high altitude photo reconnaissance aircraft overflew Soviet missile sites and military bases to provide early warning.

After a high-altitude U-2 *Dragon Lady* reconnaissance plane was shot down on 1 May 1960, a very bellicose Soviet premier Nikita S. Khrushchev had hard evidence of American 'spy' missions that regularly 'invaded Soviet airspace.' Photos of the contract pilot, Francis G. 'Gary' Powers, and his crashed aircraft, made newspaper front pages around the world. The U-2 shoot down was sufficient to cancel summit talks in Vienna, Austria, with President Eisenhower. That the Soviets possessed an air defense missile that could reach U-2 operational altitudes came as a big surprise and segues into how the 34th U.S. President dealt with 'brushfire' wars that affected American interests.

President Eisenhower relied on Allen W. Dulles and the CIA to resolve these problems. Special Forces became CIA surrogate advisor trainers to friendly indigenous elements, initially in Laos, and then also in South Vietnam. SF operational detachments alpha and bravo (ODAs and ODB command & control elements) were sent overseas on temporary duty (TDY) from 1st SFG on Okinawa and 77th SFG (which became 7th SFG) at Fort Bragg, NC, up to 180 days. The SF teams had little contact with U.S. Military Advisory Assistance Groups (MAAGs) overseas. Meanwhile, the Russians were imposing discipline in the Eastern Bloc countries.

US-sponsored *Radio Free Europe* broadcasts that encouraged uprisings behind the Iron Curtain ended shortly after Soviet tanks crushed the Hungarian Revolution in 1956. Washington simply watched and then embarrassedly granted asylum to the 'patriots.'³ Ironically, this was a time when there were three airborne battle groups, one in Augsburg and two in Mainz, and the 10th SFG in Bad Toelz.⁴ That same year President Eisenhower appealed to the United Nations (UN) to force the withdrawal of Israeli, French, and British forces from the Suez after Egypt's Abdel



Former Air Force Captain Francis G. 'Gary' Powers was a CIA civilian pilot flying U-2 high-altitude reconnaissance missions from Incirlik, Turkey, when shot down over the Soviet Union on 1 May 1960. The Lockheed U-2 *Dragon Lady* was a single-jet engine, ultra-high altitude reconnaissance aircraft operated by the U.S. Air Force and Central Intelligence Agency. It did day and night, high-altitude (70,000 feet), all-weather intelligence gathering from 1955-1989.

Gamal Nasser nationalized the canal. Postwar colonial independence movements spread from Palestine to north and central Africa and into the Middle East.

Knowing the situational dynamics that impacted on Special Forces in its first decade of existence, one can better understand why it was marginalized by conventional Army commands in Europe during 'the good ole' days of SF. First, ground defense of Western Europe had been the Army's top priority since WWII. Second, based on the Soviet armor threat that mission was assigned to conventional combat heavy forces, especially in the postwar nuclear environment in which the Air Force and Navy were key to strategic defense and nuclear retaliation. Third, with ground defense tied to armor and mechanized divisions Army veterans of the European Theater Operations (ETO) in WWII were most familiar with that type of warfare. Few Army SOF icons possessed those credentials.

Only Colonel Charles H. Karlstad, the first U.S. Army Psychological Warfare (Psywar) Center commander, had that pedigree. The WWI combat infantryman rose from major (MAJ) to brigadier general (BG) fighting *Panzer* forces across Europe in the 14th Armored Division. While BG Robert A. McClure was another WWII and ETO veteran, he was General Eisenhower's Chief of Psywar. COL Aaron Bank, the 'Father of SF' and the first 10th SFG commander, served short tours in Europe and Asia while detailed to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). COL Edson D. Raff, who succeeded Karlstad at the Psywar Center, like the majority of those commanders following him and COL Bank well past the 1960s, were WWII paratroopers and infantrymen.

Throughout WWII and the Korean War, airborne divisions and regimental combat teams and Ranger units were regarded as strategic theater assets. They were committed to specific key, short duration missions. They were withdrawn to rear areas to reconstitute and prepare for future 'spearhead' missions. Like the airborne the OSS operational elements in Europe performed short term combat missions. Conventional Army senior leaders resented the OSS, the airborne, and the Rangers because they had a high priority for personnel and constantly recruited the best officers and soldiers who were the 'backbone' of wartime fighting forces.

Conventional line units slugged it out day and night in all weather, year after year with determined, combat-hardened German, Italian, Japanese, North Korean, and then, Communist Chinese defenders. Strategic forces, the *prima donas*, did not. Naturally, attitudes developed and became prevalent among senior Army leaders which created a lasting schism. The SF reaction to 'Big Army' USAREUR was to adopt a super elitist posture and align with the airborne. But, the biggest hurdle to acceptance by Army leaders in USAREUR was that the SF planned 'to fight the last war' in a nuclear age after the Communist countries had 'locked down' their societies.

To compound disparities with 'heavy' Army in Europe, SF operated using OSS doctrine, tactics, and techniques of 1944.⁵ The guerrilla advisory role performed in Korea



Infantry Colonel (COL) Charles H. Karlstad, the first Commandant of the U.S. Army Psychological Warfare (Psywar) School, Fort Bragg, NC, was the Commander of Combat Command Alpha (CCA), 14th Armored Division, as a Brigadier General (BG).



Colonel (COL) Aaron Bank, the "Father of Special Forces," enlisted in the Army on 19 August 1942, three months before his fortieth birthday. Despite his unusual fitness, Bank was classified 'too old for combat' in Officer Candidate School (OCS) and was commissioned Transportation Corps. He transferred to Infantry while assigned to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

(1953-1954) by almost a hundred SF officers and sergeants was never inculcated in SF training. The fact that all cross-border operations into North Korea were failures was likewise ignored.⁶ **Note: SF did not get its Special Atomic Demolition Munition (SADM) mission until 1962.⁷

COL Bank proselytized that 10th SFG would launch airborne OSS-like 'behind the lines' missions into the Soviet Union from France. Painfully aware that the Soviet Bloc ground and air forces outnumbered them five to one, American armor and mechanized infantry leaders thought Special Forces would contribute nothing to a short-lived fight involving nuclear weapons. They anticipated that theirs would probably be a two-week delaying action. To them SF was ignoring the realities of modern war and the capability of Americans to survive 'behind the Iron Curtain.'⁸ Contrastingly, Psywar units sent to Germany, the 5th Loudspeaker & Leaflet (L&L) Company and US Army Reserve 301st Radio Broadcasting & Leaflet (RB&L) Group, were well received. Psywarriors had fought alongside ETO conventional forces to win the war in Europe.

So, what 'value added' could 800 Special Forces soldiers provide USAREUR? Much smaller than a battle group with negligible fire power, they proved to be a godsend after post-Korean War reductions-in-force (RIFs) eroded operational readiness in Europe. The sudden influx of non-commissioned officers (NCOs) who reverted from reserve officer ranks of 10th SFG, fixed key USAREUR personnel



On the left, Colonel (COL) Michael 'Iron Mike' Paulick, USMA '40, the highly decorated third commander of 10th SFG.

Above right, newly-promoted Lieutenant General (LTG) Paul D. Adams, the V Corps commanding general, got very upset when COL Michael Paulick put a Green Beret on his head. MG Adams was commanding general, U.S. Army Forces in the Middle East (Task Force 201) in Beirut in 1958.

Unable to stop the exodus of people to the West via the Russian Zone in Berlin, the East German government in mid-August 1961 established a temporary concertina barbed wire fence guarded by police along the border. Family visits to East Berlin were denied.



shortages. But, the RIF also gutted the SF of combat experience, cut strength 30 percent, and reduced 10th SFG to two companies.⁹ By then COL Bank was long gone from his succeeding assignment as the USAREUR G-3 Plans Officer.

His successor twice removed, the highly decorated COL Michael 'Iron Mike' Paulick, did not improve the image of SF among the European senior officers. His practice of 'button holing' USAREUR generals after Seventh Army NCO Academy graduations came to an end with Lieutenant General (LTG) Paul D. Adams. When a green beret bearing three stars was placed on the head of the unsuspecting V Corps commander (former executive officer of the WWII First Special Service Force [FSSF]), LTG Adams angrily ripped it off, flung the beret at COL Paulick, and stormed out.¹⁰ To compound SF integration problems in USAREUR G-3 Plans, that paid parachute position was regularly filled by airborne officers knowing little about Special Forces.

Thus, special warfare annexes to the USAREUR war plans read like vague contingency plans (CONPLANS). SF employment in field exercises was consistently notional.

Typically the 10th SFG furnished aggressors for corps and division maneuvers. SF teams regularly 'infiltrated' command posts to upset senior commanders.¹¹ Consistent with WWII OSS TTPs, SF conducted elaborate escape and evasion 'rat line' exercises for NATO pilots and aircrews. Personnel with problems were usually shipped to Berlin.¹² The heavy Army ruled Europe. While regularly put 'on alert' in Flint Kaserne few SF operational deployments occurred.

The 10th SFG was put on alert with USAREUR during the 1956 Hungarian Uprising as well as the Suez Crisis and during those in Berlin and Beirut in 1958. However, SF never went beyond that stage. It was the 'gyro-scoped' 11th Airborne Division battle group from Augsburg, Germany, that joined two U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) battalion landing teams (BLTs) in Beirut. The paratroopers opened the airport and restored a semblance of peace in Lebanon (July-October 1958). During the Congo Crisis in 1960, three 10th SFG soldiers clandestinely coordinated air evacuation of 3,000 European refugees. This very successful operation was not publicized.¹³

It was President John F. Kennedy (1961-1963) and his Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara, who expanded national security strategy to cover the broader spectrum of conflict. Kennedy's 'flexible response' covered the gamut from nuclear war to countering insurgency and assisting new countries combat Communist-inspired 'wars of national liberation.' America's armed forces were to be reshaped to accommodate special warfare. The Army's Special Forces were to have key roles.¹⁴ Premier Kruschchev became a 'constant thorn' to President Kennedy after the CIA-contrived Cuban Bay of Pigs invasion turned into a fiasco in April 1961.

Denying access to the Western zones in August 1961 proved to be an escalation of earlier Soviet-instigated challenges in occupied Berlin. A week after the East Germans began erecting barbed wire barriers to block egress from the Russian sector, President Kennedy dispatched his Vice President, Lyndon B. Johnson, to the divided city to emphasize White House concerns. On Saturday, 19 August 1961 Vice President Johnson's arrival at Tempelhof Airport was greeted by an American military honor guard. He was to give two reassuring speeches to a large crowd of Berliners outside the City Hall and the House of Representatives inside. The Vice President had already spent the previous afternoon and evening with West German officials in Bonn.¹⁵

At 10:30 AM on Sunday, 20 August, Vice President Johnson was waiting at the border of the Western Sector to welcome Colonel (COL) Glover S. Johns, Jr. who was leading the 1st Battle Group, 18th Infantry [8th Infantry Division (8th ID)] from Mannheim, West Germany. For two days the mechanized infantry (1,600 men) had convoyed 500 vehicles and rolling stock on the *autobahn*. Berliners watching their arrival were disappointed by the small number of tanks that accompanied them; 'Pentomic' divisions had a single armor battalion; the 1st Battle

Group got a tank company. The 8th ID mechanized battle group demonstrated U.S. resolve. All convoy serials went unchallenged by the Soviet check points. After talking with COL Johns for a few minutes the vice president mingled with the soldiers, welcoming them to Berlin.¹⁶

Accompanied by retired General Lucius D. Clay, the respected former military governor, Vice President Johnson was briefed by British, French, and American commanders in Berlin.¹⁷ Allegedly, when the 10th SFG detachment explained that their mission was to organize resistance in Soviet bloc countries, the vice president suggested that SF might better be oriented towards the Middle East. Regardless of the source, this became the justification to reorganize the 10th SFG in Germany.¹⁸

The understrength Tenth, two companies since the mid-1950s, internally reorganized to stand up a third company focused on North Africa and the Middle East. The task fell to Major (MAJ) Charles M. Simpson III, the Group S-3. MAJ Simpson had been the Middle East history professor at West Point after a summer of graduate studies at the American University in Beirut. Though Simpson had just commanded an SF company, he volunteered to form the new unit.¹⁹ Captain (CPT) Herbert Y. Schandler, a Military Academy colleague, was an ODA commander. Previously oriented towards Poland, ODA 33 was refocused on Iran, and two men were sent off to learn Farsi.²⁰ Back in the States, President John F. Kennedy was directing his military service chiefs to inculcate special warfare into their mission sets.

The first sidebar explains what happened after President Kennedy did this and the impact on Special Forces. The second sidebar details the measures taken by Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy to keep the Shah of Iran from declaring his country 'non-aligned'—the critical opening for Soviet assistance. Alliances were crucial to halt the spread of Communist influence.



President John F. Kennedy sent Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson to demonstrate White House concern about the Soviets creating barbed wire barricades and posting East German police to deny access to East Berlin. Vice President Johnson welcomed soldiers of the 1st Battle Group, 18th Infantry, 8th Infantry Division, sent from Mannheim to reinforce Berlin.

JFK, the Army & Special Warfare

The Army took the new president's vision most seriously. Two directives were issued to evaluate special warfare capabilities, doctrine, and training and to make organization, equipment, and employment recommendations. Secretary of the Army, Elvis J. Stahr, Jr., tasked Brigadier General (BG) Richard G. Stilwell, the Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Army (SACSA), General (GEN) Earle G. Wheeler, to visit and report on the "Counter-Insurgency Operations Course and Related Matters" presented at the Special Warfare Center (SWC) and in the Army's three Unified Commands; and to explain "Army Activities in Underdeveloped Areas Short of Declared War." The entire Army, not just Special Forces, was to be surveyed. "Special warfare was to be complementary rather than an alternate means."²¹

The Army Chief of Staff sent the second requirement to Continental Army Command (CONARC), the precursor to today's Forces Command and Training and Doctrine Command (FORSCOM and TRADOC). Lieutenant General (LTG) Hamilton L. Howze, the Commanding General (CG), XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC, was directed to chair a Special Warfare Board for CONARC from 8-25 January 1962. Officers from the SWC and the corps staffs were to evaluate courses of instruction, doctrine, organizational structures, SF employment, PSYOP and Civic Action (CA) capabilities as well as individual and unit equipment from uniforms to vehicles, aircraft, and radios. SF groups (SFG) would have flight platoons with helicopters and airplanes. Special warfare capabilities were to be expanded Army-wide as well as the SF, CA, and PSYOP units. The Stilwell Reports (personnel recommendations) were included in this first Howze Board Report. Ongoing SF operations and experiences in Laos and South Vietnam served as examples.²²

Advisory duty in Southeast Asia (SEA) was the top priority for 77th SFG (which became 7th SFG) at Fort Bragg and 1st SFG on Okinawa. Communist-supported insurgency in north Laos threatened national stability. It was beyond the capabilities of the U.S. Army advisors supporting the Royal Lao military. South Vietnam first wanted Ranger training advisors before expanding to SF advisors. ODAs were sent overseas temporary duty (TDY) to satisfy these CIA-generated requirements. One Ranger-qualified SF officer proved insufficient to organize and advise newly-forming Vietnamese Ranger companies.²³ In the aftermath of the 1961 Berlin crisis the Cold War stabilized somewhat in Europe as the Middle East moved into the limelight.

Middle East Tensions and Iran

Three months after Egypt leader Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal, Israeli armed forces invaded (29 October 1956). Two days later French and British paratroopers joined them. They seized key operating facilities. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev threatened to rain nuclear missiles down on Europe unless the invaders withdrew. President Eisenhower, wanting to avoid European colonialism issues after the Russian intervention in Hungary, acquiesced and arranged a United Nations (UN) ceasefire to prompt withdrawals. America's refusal to fund the Aswan Dam provided a way for the Soviets to gain a foothold in the Middle East. The Egyptians accepted Russian financing and engineering assistance for their project.²⁴ U.S. intervention in Beirut in 1958 calmed the Mediterranean turmoil, but President Eisenhower wanted alliances with Middle East countries that bordered the Soviet Union. Those agreeing to accept the U.S. operated *Jupiter* MRBM missiles received more military aid.

Despite a 1956 mutual non-aggression pact that provided a Topographic Training Team ('Triple T') from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Shah (Mohammed Reza Pahlavi) of Iran demurred in 1961 on stationing U.S. missiles.²⁵ He was trying to improve Soviet relations because his army was antiquated. President John F. Kennedy was frustrated by the dilemma—the Shah wanted modern weapons, aircraft, and combat vehicles despite having a largely untrained military and police force. The armed forces needed to be organized and well-trained in the basics before being provided modern American arms, equipment, vehicles, and aircraft. To facilitate the reorganization and training of the Iranian armed forces the U.S. military missions were combined [Army Mission Headquarters (ARMISH) to the Iranian Army, the GENMISH organizing a rural constabulary, and the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG)].

The resultant ARMISH-MAAG became the largest U.S. military mission in the world. Before the American Embassy was seized in 1977, fifty thousand U.S. citizens were working in Iran not including the 1,500 U.S. Government personnel in the embassy. Contract employees accompanied new military technology and weapons purchases.²⁶ As the head of the fourth largest oil producing country, the Shah was a major U.S. customer for armaments. The military engineers of both countries benefitted greatly from the non-intrusive topographic and survey training and mapping done by U.S. Army Map Service 'Triple T' teams since 1957.²⁷

In Summary

Demonstrating the relevance of Special Warfare, Special Forces, and Army Special Operations Forces (ARSOF) to the Army and their evolving national security roles is a continual challenge. That responsibility rests on the credibility of ARSOF leaders at all levels working with the vast majority of conventional Army leaders who dominate the Officer Corps. SF has always promulgated tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) and doctrine intimately tied to the WWII OSS.

In 1962, seventeen years after the U.S. military embraced nuclear weapons to defend Europe, SF got its only nuclear weapon. The Special Atomic Demolition Munitions (SADM) was a one-way, soldier delivery mission.²⁸ Interdependence, interoperability, and integration, practiced overseas today, were absent from SF vocabulary until the late 1970s. True integration requires flexibility, agility to adjust from supported to supporting, and a solid understanding of conventional Army doctrine, tactics and operational readiness standards. This is what is required to demonstrate 'value added' to conventional warfighters.

SF credibility in the 1950s and early 1960s was hurt by leaders short on conventional Army combat experience.

Promulgating WWII-era unconventional warfare (UW) doctrine and TTPs as its combat role in nuclear age warfighting did not help. Disregarding societal controls (homeland security) inherent with paranoid Communism, SF cultural and situational awareness became locked into a 1944 world of enemy-occupied 'free' countries. Ironically, these same conclusions were articulated in 1983 by retired SF Colonels Robert B. Rheault and Charles M. Simpson III and LTG William P. Yarborough, a major ARSOF icon, in his foreword to *Inside the Green Berets: The First Thirty Years: A History of U.S. Army Special Forces*. Notwithstanding, this historical analysis commentary should place the significance of the 10th SFG mission to Iran in May 1962 in perspective.

The 10th SFG grabbed the 1962 operational mission detailed in the following article. It was a significant task that afforded an orientation to Iran. Though the assignment was not an exciting 'blood and guts,' highly classified, combat mission 'behind enemy lines,' the Tenth leadership realized that it could be a 'door opener' to a key Middle Eastern country that was critical to the United States in the Cold War against Communism. †



In 1962, Special Forces was assigned to deliver and detonate the B-54 Special Atomic Demolition Muniton (SADM) shown rigged for airdrop.



MAJ Charles M. Simpson III, author, and Middle East history professor at West Point, was the Group S-3 for the 10th SFG during LBJ's visit to Berlin. He later commanded the 1st Special Forces Group



Key ARSOF icon LTG William P. Yarborough.

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Endnotes

- 1 Commanding Officer, The Psychological Warfare Center, Fort Bragg, NC, (COL C.H. Karlstad) letter to Chief, Psychological Warfare, Washington 29, DC, SUBJ: Activation of the Psychological Warfare School dated 12 September 1952. USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 2 "M-65 Atomic Cannon" at <http://globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ground/m65.htm> accessed 3/28/2017. The M-65 'atomic cannon' was the Army's largest artillery gun. 'Atomic Annie' was based on the German K5 Railroad Gun of WWII that was used against American landings in Italy. This 'Anzio Annie' dated to 280mm howitzers used by the Japanese to capture Port Arthur during the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905. Sadly, the M-65 atomic cannon was obsolete before it was fully fielded in Europe. But, it did not leave the inventory until 1963.
- 3 Former Sergeant (SGT) Rudolf G. Horvath, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 10 June 2008, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. SGT Horvath, a Lodge Act soldier from Hungary, helped to conduct the 10th SFG escape and evasion course for the NATO pilots in Europe. Having fulfilled his five year commitment to the Army, he became a U.S. citizen in February 1957. While working and applying to colleges Horvath heard about the Hungarian 'revolutionaries' given sanctuary in the U.S. Since these 'revolutionaries' were being housed at nearby Fort Dix, he volunteered to assist. After a few days Horvath left disgusted. Most of the Hungarian 'revolutionaries' only wanted an 'unfettered' ticket to the U.S.'
- 4 Retired CSM Michael N. Martin, interview by Briscoe, 20 April 2017, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited by name and date.
- 5 Retired Major Caesar J. Civatella, interview by Briscoe, 14 February 2017, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. "COL Aaron Bank showed up at Fort Bragg with his car trunk loaded with still classified OSS manuals and pamphlets. That's what we used to prepare our lesson plans for Special Forces training," remembered then First Lieutenant (1LT) Civatella.
- 6 Retired Colonel Richard M. Ripley, interview by Briscoe, 20 October 2008, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 7 Colin Schultz, "For 25 Years, U.S. Special Forces Carried Miniature Nukes on Their Backs" at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/25-years-us-special-forces-carried-miniature-nukes-their-backs-180949700> accessed 3/08/2017.
- 8 Special Forces would not be assigned a nuclear warfare mission until 1962. Following the two-man rule of nuclear surety SF Operational Detachments Alpha (ODA) were to deliver (ground, air, and water) the B-54 Special Atomic Demolition Munition (SADM) that contained a *Davy Crockett* nuclear war head. Then, they had to physically confirm its detonation. Explosive yield could be adjusted from 10 tons to 1 kiloton. Escape from the explosive effects was possible but the radiative fallout was not. Schultz, "For 25 Years, U.S. Special Forces Carried Miniature Nukes on Their Backs."
- 9 Retired COL Carl M. Bergstrom, interview by Briscoe, 4 March 2011, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 10 Charles M. Simpson III, *Inside the Green Berets: The First Thirty Years* (Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1983), 49.
- 11 Retired COL William J. Richardson, Jr., interview by Briscoe, 9 September 2011, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC; Martin interview, 20 April 2017.
- 12 Retired LTC Glenn W. Metcalf, Jr., interview by Briscoe, 3 February 2011, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC; retired COL George Maracek, interview by Briscoe, 11 February 2009, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 13 Retired COL Sully de Fontaine, interviews by Briscoe, 23 April and 22 September 2009, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited by name and date. Shortly after the Hungarian Revolt began in 1956, CPT de Fontaine 'visited' his cousin, the French military attaché in Budapest. As a dual-national de Fontaine maintained a current French passport. His post-mission assessment that the 'freedom fighters' were not 'patriots' was sufficient for COL Aaron Bank, Special Warfare Branch chief, G-3 U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR), Heidelberg, Germany, to recommend that Special Forces not be inserted as advisors. De Fontaine interview, 23 April 2009; The senior State Department official in the Congo in 1960 was Ambassador Clare H. 'Charlie' Timberlake. Assisting him was Frank C. Carlucci III. CPT de Fontaine briefed these two daily on the rescue mission. Ambassador Frank C. Carlucci III, interview by Briscoe, 28 July 2009, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 14 Charles R. Shrader, *History of Operations Research in the United States Army, Vol. II: 1961-1973* (Washington, DC: Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army for Operations Research, 2008): 265.
- 15 "The Berlin Wall, Fifty Years Ago" at <http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB354/index.htm> accessed 1/30/2017; Papers of Lyndon B. Johnson, Vice Presidential Papers. Daily Diary, 18-23 August 1961 (Berlin Trip), Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum.
- 16 "The Berlin Wall, Fifty Years Ago"; Lyndon B. Johnson, Vice Presidential Papers. Daily Diary, 18-23 August 1961 (Berlin Trip).
- 17 "The Berlin Wall, Fifty Years Ago"; Lyndon B. Johnson, Vice Presidential Papers. Daily Diary, 18-23 August 1961 (Berlin Trip).
- 18 Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was sent on behest of President John F. Kennedy on 20 August 1961, a week after the East Germans began constructing a barbed wire fence to deny access to East Berlin. Johnson greeted the 1600-man 1st Battle Group, 18th Infantry, 8th Infantry Division that convoyed from Mannheim, Germany. Colonel Glover S. Johns, Jr. was the commander. The SF team would have been the Berlin Detachment, 10th SFG. This differs from retired COL Herbert Y. Schandler memories, who said it was President Kennedy. It will be 26 May 1963 before Kennedy declares that "all free men...are citizens of Berlin *Ich bin ein Berliner*." Schandler, *Memoirs*, 36; "Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson Delivers Remarks to the Press upon His Return from West Germany" at <https://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/Archives/JFKWHP-KN-C18601.aspx> accessed 1/30/2017; "The Berlin Wall, Fifty Years Ago"; Donald A. Carter, "The U.S. Military Response to the 1960-1962 Berlin Crisis" at <https://www.archives.gov/files> accessed 1/30/2017.
- 19 Simpson, *Inside the Green Berets*, 70. The last time 10th SFG was a robust unit dated to its arrival in Germany in 1953. Post-Korean War officer reductions-in-force (RIFs) improved non-commissioned officer (NCO) strengths in U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) while simultaneously severely depleting SF ranks at Bad Toelz.
- 20 Schandler, *Memoirs*, 39. A medic was sent to Defense Language School in Monterey, CA, for Farsi while the team sergeant went to the Berlitz School in Munich for a month.
- 21 Christopher K. Ives, *US Special Forces and Counterinsurgency in Vietnam: Military Innovation and Institutional Failure, 1961-1963* (New York: Routledge, 2007), 60; Shrader, *History of Operations Research in the United States Army, II*, 254.
- 22 Schrader, *History of Operations Research in the U.S. Army, Vol. II*, 255. The second Howze Board specifically addressed air mobility in support of conventional Army conducting special warfare missions.
- 23 Retired LTC Reuben L. Mooradian, interviews by Dr. Briscoe, 20 and 30 May 2013, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC; "Army Marks 50 Years Since First Vietnam Casualty" at <https://www.army.mil/article/5692/army-marks-50-years-since-first-vietnam-casualty> accessed 3/21/2017. CPT Mooradian, an 8240th AV veteran in the Korean War, was the first officer to attend Vietnamese language school at the Defense Language Institute (DLI) in Monterey, CA in 1957 enroute to becoming the first Republic of Vietnam Army (ARVN) Special Forces Advisor in the Military Advisory Assistance Group (MAAG), Vietnam. An SF and Ranger-qualified officer, CPT Harry G. 'Hank' Cramer, Jr., the ARVN Ranger Advisor working in the South Vietnamese Military Academy in Dalat, welcomed Mooradian. This officer's family had accompanied him to South Vietnam. The West Point '46 Korean War veteran was the first Special Forces soldier killed in Vietnam on 21 October 1957. CPT Mooradian extended for a two-year assignment because it took eight months for President Ngo Dinh Diem's brother, Nhu, to hand select *Lực Lượng Đặc Biệt (LLDB)* personnel.
- 24 Department of State. Office of the Historian. "Milestones: 1953-1960: The Suez Crisis, 1956" at <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/suez> accessed 3/21/2017.
- 25 Richard F. Nyrop (editor), Department of Army Pamphlet 550-68: *Iran: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: The American University, January 1978), xvi, xviii, 232; Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army. *The Army Map Service: Its Mission, History and Organization: Fifty Years of Progressive Military Mapping 1910-1960* (Washington, DC: Army Map Service, 1960); C.B. Colby, *Mapping the World: A Global Project of the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army* (New York: Coward-McCann, Inc., 1959); *Cold War Mapping Mission: The 329th Geodetic Detachment and the 64th Engineer Topographic Battalion, 1956-1970* (Bennington, VT: Merriam Press, 2014), 90. The 1956 mutual aggression agreement between Iran and the U.S. allowed a Topographic Training Team (TTT/'Triple T') of survey and mapping technicians to train the Imperial Iranian National Geographic Organization (NGO) in mapping. The TTT provided equipment and training and were active in the survey work.
- 26 *Iran: A Country Study*, 415.
- 27 *The Army Map Service; Colby, Mapping the World; Cold War Mapping Mission*, 90.
- 28 Schultz, "For 25 Years, U.S. Special Forces Carried Miniature Nukes on Their Backs."