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Major museum expansion opens

by Sandy Klotz

ASOM

The Airborne & Special Operations Museum continued its mission of providing a unique, educational experience Wednesday by opening its first major exhibit expansion since the museum opened in 2000. The expansion focuses on the worldwide mission of Army special operations forces from 1980 to the present.

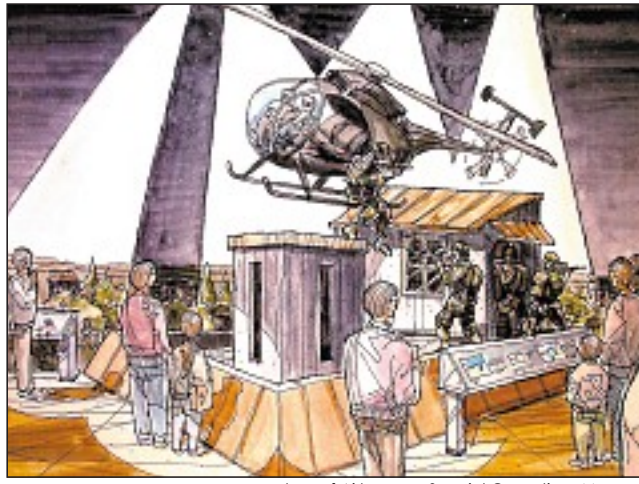
The expansion was dedicated during a ceremony Wednesday. Gen. Bryan "Doug" Brown, commander, US Special Operations Command was the keynote speaker.

Construction on the nearly 3,000-square-foot expansion began in May. The new exhibits incorporate previously unfinished storage space and alter part of the original gallery.

Technical direction and other support for the project were provided by Fort Bragg's U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

New exhibits include the rescue of Kurt Muse from Panama's Modelo Prison, close air support in Operation Enduring Freedom, Special Forces and Northern Alliance troops meeting in an Afghan hut, a civil affairs MedCap scene in the Philippines, Special Forces students training in a Robin Sage exercise, a ground mobility vehicle in Northern Iraq, and a map depicting Special Operations worldwide missions. The exhibits come to life through a combination of scenery, equipment, mannequins, audio-visual presentations and photography. The total cost of the expansion was \$950,000. The graphics panels, museum mannequins

and dioramas cost \$850,000, and construction, electrical, exhibit lighting, and audio-visual elements cost \$100,000. USASOC funded \$800,000 of the exhibit additions to better tell the Army special operations story. Additionally, donations to the Airborne and Special Operations Foundation funded a portion of this expansion and will provide additional updates in the future.



courtesy of Airborne & Special Operations Museum

An artist's rendition of the Airborne and Special Operations museum's latest expansion.

A first-ever partnership between the ASOM and the Smithsonian Institution allowed the museum access to the Smithsonian's best

contractors for bids. Design & Production (D&P) of Lorton, Va. was awarded the project.

"D&P produced our 30,000-square-foot permanent gallery in 2000, which has assured design compatibility between the new work and the original displays," said museum director Dr. John Duvall.

The mission of the ASOM is to provide a unique educational experience on United States history and basic core values through the preservation, interpretation and recognition of U.S. Army airborne and special operations history, equipment, technology, legend, art and weaponry.

Veterans of Army SOF who are interested in donating items to the museum are encouraged to contact DuVall at john.duvallsr1@us.army.mil.

Fort Bragg announces access control point changes

by Stephanie L. Tatum

Paraglide

In order to ease access onto Fort Bragg and in response to a recent traffic survey, starting Oct. 8, Fort Bragg will close the Yadkin Rd access control point to non-Department of Defense card holders and close three access control points and change the operating hours of a fourth.

"The change with the greatest potential impact upon most visitors to Fort Bragg will be allowing only DoD-issued identification card holders access through the Yadkin Road ACP," said Tom McCollum, Fort Bragg's deputy public affairs officer. "This ACP handles roughly 12,000 cars a day. It only takes two drivers without a DoD-issued identification card to back this gate up quickly."

Drivers attempting to enter the Yadkin Road ACP without a DoD identification card will be diverted to the All-American ACP.

The Gruber Rd West ACP at the intersection of Gruber Road and Bragg Boulevard, north of Stryker Golf Course and adjacent to Anzio Acres, will be closed permanently.

The ACP at Knox Street East leading to the Material

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photo by Spc. Joshua R. Ford/3rd BCT PAO

A land owner of Forward Operating Base Paliwoda signs papers to receive compensation for land he hasn't seen since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom at the Joint Coordination Center Sept. 28, in Balad, Iraq.

Giving back to the people

Soldiers give compensation to landowners near Balad

by Spc. Joshua R. Ford
3rd BCT PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PALIWODA, Iraq — When coalition forces came to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, they borrowed land from Iraqi landowners through the country to facilitate military infrastructure

needs to base strategic operations.

The nearly 3.5 thousand acres of land that makes up Forward Operating Base Paliwoda was borrowed in July 2003.

Now, three years later, the Army is giving compensation for what most of the true landowners of Paliwoda thought they had

lost forever.

Lt. Col. Jeffery Martindale, commander, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, and Balad government officials — including Balad mayor Amir Abdulhadi Marhun — paid 64 land owners during a ceremony Sept. 28 on FOB Paliwoda.

"It is a pleasure to pay you

today," said Martindale.

"I thank you for allowing us to use your land and I thank you for waiting so long to receive this money," he added.

The lot owners of Paliwoda were paid from July 2003 all the way up to March 31, 2006, said Staff

See *Landowners*, page 5A

GWOT memorial groundbreaking set for 2008

by Stacey Avian Robinson

Paraglide

When asked what the Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial is, Jason Savage, designer and project coordinator, responded, "It's an international monument honoring the Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice fighting the War on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan."

"The goal of this memorial is to graphically represent and immortalize those who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan fighting the War on Terrorism," added Savage.

At present the developer working with Savage is Carl Regutti, an award-winning sculptor and chemist. Regutti sculpted the centerpiece bronze for the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial, which was recently dedicated in Raleigh, N.C. Savage is a graphic designer and director of the Zoe Foundation, Inc., an organization dedicated to saving the tiger before extinction. Detailed information on the two principals can be read by following "The Tributes," link on the War on Terrorism Memorial Web site.

Savage also said that a start date for construction to

See *Memorial*, page 5A

Army captain puts a life ahead of his own

by Maj. Sonise Lumbaca

1st TSC PAO

On Sept. 12, Capt. Bryan Ash, anti-terrorism force protection officer, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), was driving back to Fayetteville from Orlando, Fla., to attend a class he was taking to complete his master's degree. Ash had been on vacation with his family at Disney World. While driving on I-95, some-



Ash

where south of Savannah, Ga., a life-changing event occurred that would personally affect Ash and a complete stranger.

"I was driving behind a van that seemed to be swerving on the road," Ash said. "I had this feeling that (the van) was going to wreck."

Although Ash wasn't sure why the vehicle was swerving, he had his suspicions and was concerned about it. As a result, he made a 911 call to notify authorities.

About five minutes later and still driving behind the van, Ash noticed a foreign object in the road. The van ahead of him was

unable to avoid the object and ended up hitting it, causing a couple of the tires on the vehicle to blow out. This blowout caused the driver of the van to lose control of the vehicle.

"The vehicle spun out of control and flipped four or five times and then rolled off the embankment," Ash said.

Observing this, Ash immediately stopped, got out of his car and quickly made a second 911 call. When he reached the embankment, he saw that the driver was in a lot of trouble.

"I could see (the driver of the van) hanging upside-down and he

wasn't moving," Ash said. "The roof of the van was crushed, the windows were blown out."

As Ash approached the vehicle closer, the van burst into flames. He made his third and final call to 911 to inform them of the situation and of his intentions of helping the driver.

Since the van caught on fire quickly and the driver appeared trapped and unconscious, Ash had to move fast.

"I crawled on my belly and got as close as possible to the driver to undo his seat belt," Ash said.

Undoing the seat belt wasn't a simple task, Ash added.

"The smoke (coming from the vehicle) was so thick and black that I couldn't see anything. So, I had trouble undoing (the seat belt)."

Ash removed himself from the vehicle, noting that there was a truck driver standing more than 10 feet behind him with a fire extinguisher, and asked the truck driver if he had a knife so that he could cut the seat belt. Unfortunately, the truck driver didn't have one, so Ash crawled on his stomach once again and made his way to the cab of the vehicle a second time to free

See *Captain*, page 5A