

Editor's BLOG

The real PFC Brent Wilson story started to sink into my head a little bit after I finished with the Thanksgiving dinner dishes. My wife had gotten a letter from him in Iraq during the summer months saying thanks for the pounds of coffee and other good things sent to the Boys to help keep them feeling loved while they played around in the sand. It's a long story, but the Boys belong to the S6 of the 10th Special Forces Group out of Fort Carson, Colo. We learned of them through our daughter, Air Force 1st Lt. Patricia Rodriguez who deployed over to Iraq to serve with them in the J6 of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force for the Arabian Peninsula.

So Patty came home for Thanksgiving a few weeks after her tour in Iraq and, after the dishes, showed us a little video montage the Boys put together before she left. It had the normal stuff proud moms and dads like to see of their children. One of the pictures, though, showed Wilson hiding behind sunglasses with an Army buddy and their guns. She said he was a hero. The story went along the lines of a young communications Soldier on watch one day when he saw through the SatCom video feed that bad guys were up to no good with a small number of American troops. Wilson called in help and led the Soldiers to capture four enemy combatants - and saved lives. Patty went on to explain how Wilson regularly went outside the wire to show the Special Forces teams how to make all the latest SatCom and Blue Force Tracking gadgets work right.

It was a holiday, but the Wilson story logged into my brain as a good introduction for my blog on how great American Soldiers make space work. A few days later, a spot report arrived via email from one of our own FA40 Space Operations Officers - LTC Victoria Miralda - hit my in box. She had just hit the sand in the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

"Mike, from day one this Commercial Exploitation Team, under the superb leadership of MAJ Rod Fischer and MSG Marc Acito, has made its' mark of excellence bringing production and emerging technology to new levels of operational support. They have set a new standard of tenacity and responsiveness in their contributions to the CENTCOM theater and Coalition forces. An example was when the CET members traveled to the International Zone to train Iraqi soldiers and government officials in the acquisition and use of unclassified commercial imagery.

"MSG Acito had previously trained other Iraqi officials on the same skills and one of his students from the earlier class co-taught this class with him. At the completion of the class, MSG Acito presented graduation cer-

Production 2009!

Also New Concepts in Space!

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in Space: The Best Job in ARMY!



Handwritten notes and a calendar grid on lined paper. The notes are organized by season: **Spring**, **Summer**, **Fall**, and **Winter**. A paperclip is attached to the top right. The notes include:

- Spring:** on screen, march
- Summer:** PRINT, Post
- Fall:** Sw Ba
- Winter:** Holiday, February Winter 2009, Article Deadline, Production, Hot New Space Concepts, Notes

tificate to the students. He also presented the Iraqi instructor with a Trainer Certification certificate. All of the students were very proud of their accomplishments and were anxious to make use of their skills to improve the security of Iraqi. This training gives the Iraqi forces the ability to view and manipulate commercial imagery for operations without having to rely on US forces."

The constant idea between Wilson and CET is sharing information that can help with the fight. There is a similar article about the team mentoring the Afghanistan National Army starting on page 28 of this edition. This planted an idea.

So I had lunch with the editors of the Air Force High Frontier Journal. We came up with this joint announcement as we close out 2008: "The Air Force High Frontier Journal and Army Space Journal are entering into a collaborative effort for 2009. Because audiences of both publications share a common interest in how space issues impact the national security environment, the editors of both publications have agreed to create an article exchange program in order to share ideas across their respective communities. With the intent to broaden perspectives through information and idea sharing, we will encourage our readers and authors to submit articles related to our themes."

The plan is just now evolving, so look for details and results in our 2009 editions.

Mike Howard
Editor-in-chief

Handwritten notes above the calendar: "TAPPING into space!" and "Space Warrior - METL!"

| JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
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