

CCT @ The Eye of the Storm

720 STG/CC HOLIDAY MESSAGE from Colonel Brad Thompson

Thursday, December 17, 2009, Hurlburt Field, FL - Greetings and Happy Holidays to our ST Family; we have had a very busy year and I don't see it slowing down any time soon. Chief Lamonica and I just returned from a short visit to Afghanistan and Iraq and you'll be happy to know, and as expected. Our men and women forward are "packing the mail" and taking it to the enemy with a vengeance. Their morale and well-being is high in both theaters. I ask that, as you take a well-deserved break over the holidays, please remember to keep them in your thoughts and prayers-especially their families, as they continue to sacrifice back here on a daily basis.



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Col. Bradley Thompson, 720th Special Tactics Group commander, presents Staff Sgt. Dean Conner, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, with the certificate to accompany the Purple Heart during a ceremony here July 21. The combat controller was also awarded two Bronze Star Medals, one with Valor, for his heroic actions during a hostile fire situation. During a hail of incoming enemy gunfire, Sergeant Conner suffered a gunshot wound. He continued to return fire and call in support from above, despite his injury. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Emily Moore)

Additionally, as Chief Lamonica and I traversed the AOR, we were frequently asked what the President's recent "troop surge in Afghanistan" announcement means to ST. My reply is this-demand will continue to exceed supply for our forces across all skill sets we provide. All SOF will continue to fill in any gaps and seams as traditional combat forces draw down in places elsewhere to support the surge. Hence, I see us getting busier and busier.

I ask that you try not to look too long term, but rather at the 5-meter target and how you can continue to make an immediate impact in ST and our SOF mission, while working diligently to balance and invest in your family life. On our end, we will continue to work very hard to add more forces to our ranks to relieve some of the deployment pressure.

In the meantime, please stay with us. Each and every one of you is critical to our ST mission. Enjoy your holiday break and come back to us safely. "We need each and every one of you."

HooYah

TN Sends

NOTE: This online-only information was added to the CCT history after publication of *The Eye of the Storm – A history of Combat Control Teams.*