



DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR WARRIOR HERITAGE.



Benini Heritage Center, Air Force Cross Exhibit - Busts Pictured Left to Right; Chapman, Rhyner, Gutierrez and Crawford. (Adcock photo)

AIR FORCE CROSS CEREMONY TODAY AT POPE'S COMBAT CONTROL SCHOOL

Four Airmen being honored

December 6, 2012 – Pope Field, North Carolina – Today there will be a ceremony at 2 p.m. to unveil an Air Force Cross Memorial exhibit at the Combat Control School, Pope Field, Fort Bragg, N.C. It memorializes current and former members of the Combat Control community who are members of the Air Force's Special Operations Command (AFSOC).

The guest speaker will be **Colonel Robert Armfield**, a career Combat Controller and Commander of the 24th Special Operations Wing. The event will honor and highlight four Special Tactics Combat Controllers that have been awarded the Air Force Cross. Attendees will watch as four Special Tactics Combat Controllers – in full assault gear – recite from memory the citations of the Airmen that earned the Air Force Cross.

Those being honored include **Technical Sergeant John Chapman**, from the 24th Special Tactics Squadron, who was awarded the AF Cross for his actions in March of 2003; **Technical Sergeant Zach Rhyner**, from the 21st Special Tactics Squadron, who was awarded the AF Cross for his actions in April of 2008; **Technical Sergeant Robert Gutierrez**, from the 21st Special Tactics Squadron who was awarded the AF Cross for his actions in October of 2009; and **Captain Barry Crawford**, from the 21st Special Tactics Squadron, who was awarded the AF Cross for his actions in May of 2010.

The ceremony will be held at the Combat Control School's Benini Heritage Center and Museum. The museum offers a visual history of the conflicts in which Combat Controllers have participated and played a pivotal role. Tours of the museum are encouraged after the event.

For further information, media should contact the 440th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office by noon December 6 at (907) 244-4373.

Media Release provided by 440th Airlift Wing Public Affairs.
Editorial changes and photo added by OUR WARRIOR HERITAGE Editor.

DISCLAIMER

The Combat Control School's Benini Heritage Center is a privately funded museum operated by the Combat Control School Heritage Foundation (CCSHF). The CCSHF is dedicated to the collection, preservation and exhibition of artifacts documenting the proud history of Combat Control Teams. It is an IRS registered, tax exempt small business, incorporated on 10 December 2009 in the State of North Carolina. The CCHSF is a fully accredited and registered member of the Ft. Bragg, MWR organization. The CCSHF is totally responsible for the funding of displays and exhibits at the Benini Heritage Center. U.S. Government funding is not used in the production of exhibits at the Benini Heritage Center.

Our Warrior Heritage

This is the unofficial, periodic newsletter published by the CCSHF,
an IRS certified nonprofit organization serving the Benini Heritage Center.



December 6, 2012 – Benini Heritage Center (BHC), Combat Control School – Today's AFC exhibit dedication went as planned. The BHC was cleared of museum furniture and filled with folding chairs to accommodate an overflow crowd of visitors. A remote television feed was also added to allow overflow guests to view the ceremonies in a television-equipped classroom. The TV remote allowed overflow visitors to view the ceremony from a comfortable, classroom setting. Following the memorial ceremony, the museum was quickly reconfigured to allow visitors to mingle and view the new AFC exhibit along with other exhibits in the museum.

About The AFC Exhibit – The Air Force Cross (AFC) exhibit was nearly two years in the making. Initially, busts were ordered for the first three recipients. The first three busts were a painful exercise in developing a learning curve for the design and formatting of bronze busts. Little more than a year later the three busts were delivered to the Combat Control School. Within days, we learned a fourth AFC was pending for Captain Barry Crawford. Within a month, the CCSHF identified funding (*generously donated by the Combat Control Association*) to place an order for the Crawford AFC bust. Owing to experience gained in the earlier exercise, Crawford's bust was completed and delivered in late Summer-2012.

Soon after the Crawford bust was delivered, the CCSHF coordinated with the Combat Control School, Combat Control Association and the 24th Special Operations Wing staff to establish the dedication date as 6 December 2012. We wanted a date that coincided with the CCS class 12-006 graduation.

Introducing the Recipients - The President of the United States of America, authorized by Title 10, Section 8742, U.S.C., awarded the Air Force Cross to:

TSgt John Chapman (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in military operation against an armed enemy of the United States as a 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Combat Controller in the vicinity of Gardez, in the eastern highlands of Afghanistan, on 4 March 2002. (*Adcock photo*)

[Click here for full text Air Force Cross citation.](#)

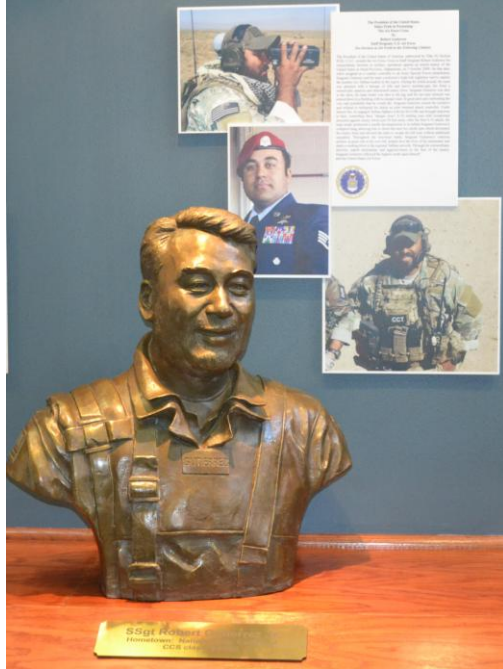


Senior Airman Zachary J. Rhyner, United States Air Force, for extraordinary heroism in military operations against an armed enemy of the United States while serving with the 21st Special Tactics Squadron, at Nuristan Province, Afghanistan on 6 April 2008. (*Adcock photo*)

[Click here for full text Air Force Cross citation.](#)

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Sergeant Robert Gutierrez for extraordinary heroism in military operations against an armed enemy of the United States in Herat Province, Afghanistan, on 5 October 2009. *(Adcock photo)*

[Click here for full text Air Force Cross citation.](#)



Captain Barry F. Crawford for extraordinary heroism in military operations against an armed enemy of the United States as Special Tactics Officer near Laghman Province, Afghanistan, on 4 May 2010. *(Adcock photo)*

[Click here for full text Air Force Cross citation.](#)

Support the Combat Control School Heritage Foundation – We are constantly bombarding the CCT community with appeals for donations to support the Benini Heritage Center. This is another appeal.

*Printed in full color, this 8.5x11" poster is one of a 10 poster set offered as a fund raiser by the Combat Control School Heritage Foundation. All proceeds go directly to the care and feeding of the Benini Heritage Center. To order your set, send \$30.00 to cover the cost of the posters and priority mailing to U.S. and APO addressees. Send your cash, check or money order to **CCSHF, 2301 Robeson Plaza, Suite 102, Fayetteville, NC 28305.***

THE RED BERET SEA

Big blue ocean waves came crashing ashore, a sea of Red Berets walked right through my door.
Many solemn faces I didn't know, knelt down around me and held me just so.
"Your son died in combat", are the words I still hear as the blue ocean waves whispered in my ear.
"He made the ultimate sacrifice" he continued to say, "our Brother - your Son - wouldn't have it any other way."
Those big ocean waves continue to stir in my head, the confusion and turmoil... still all a blur. But now the waves whisper stories of hope, love and faith They're those of your Brother - my Son - Daniel Ray. His smile was felt by ALL, not just his family, but by those blue ocean waves of the Red Beret Sea.

He is loved by so many and I've come to understand, the blue ocean waves are a Brotherhood of Man.
His fortitude, guts and bravery show through, just as the waves of the ocean inside each of you.
But in spite of the swell of the tides from this sea, it all just makes sense and is so clear to me.
The Red Beret Sea fills this hole in my heart it's his way of showing that he'd never depart.
He holds us and guides us and will show us the way
We love you so much my baby Daniel Ray.



Yvette Sierra Duchene

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If you are a more serious contributor, consider adding your name to the group of “generous benefactors.” A donation of as little as \$2,500.00 will land you on a plaque at the front entrance to the Combat Control School. And finally, you can add your name on a Memorial Brick in the Memorial Walk, adjacent to the Warrior Monument and American Flag, in front of the Combat Control School. For assistance, email me at gene.adcock@embarqmail.com, Subject: Memorial Brick Order Form. (Adcock photos)

