



## Army Mountain Warfare School

### PRESENTERS:

LTC Nate Lord Commander  
SSG Duncan Domey Instructor



# Overview



- Introduction:
- Mountain Operations Experience
  - History of US ARMY Mountain Operations
- Mountain Operations
  - Intelligence
  - Maneuver
  - Logistics
  - -Medical
- Current Experience
  - OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM - Afghanistan
  - Lessons Learned

## References/sources:

“Mountain Warfare in Afghanistan Soldiers Brief”: ASW

“OEF Mountain Operations: Comments and Photos from 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team”

Afghan Commander AAR Book “OEF VII Supplement” Company Commander Reflections, 1 Year Later



# Current Operations



Company/Platoon/Squad Counterinsurgency patrols

- Dismounted



- Mounted





# Intelligence



## The Mountains of Afghanistan

- Cover about 70 percent of the Country
- Some combat operations at or above 3,657 m / 12,000 ft MSL
- Can be very diverse (weather, vegetation, slope, population, etc.)
- U.S. forces in the east are operating daily operations in mountainous terrain



# Intelligence Lessons Learned



## The Mountain Enemy

Survives by having a mastery of the terrain

Attacks only when and where he chooses using a variety of irregular tactics

Uses the mountains to reduce our technology and firepower superiority



# Maneuver Lessons Learned



- **Soldier success in the mountains depends on:**
- Fitness
- Shooting skills
- Movement skills
- Commo skills
- Medical skills





# Maneuver Lessons Learned



- Every Soldier must know call for fire.
- Enemy engages from long distance and break contact behind terrain feature- indirect fire on any location and likely withdrawal routes.
- Binoculars / Optics / Lasers for weapons
- Soldiers must be taught long range and high angle marksmanship



# Maneuver Lessons Learned



- Basic mountaineering skills are critical
- Reconnaissance is important
- Increased movement times must be planned
- Plan over watch positions carefully and expect enemy contact in the most difficult terrain



# Logistics-Combat Support



Soldier load limited to 1 to 1 ½ days of supply for dismounted operations

Soldiers carrying in excess of 50 kilos

Aerial

Local national porters, pack animals

Cache



*3-71 CAV resupply operations*



# Soldier Load





# Medical care in the mountains



- **Environmental injuries**
  - Hypothermia may occur in any temperature range!
  - Cold weather injuries
    - Frost bite
  - Heat injuries
- **High Altitude injuries**
  - AMS (Acute Mountain Sickness)
  - HAPE (High Altitude Pulmonary Edema)
  - HACE (High Altitude Cerebral Edema)



**ACM choose terrain that is restrictive  
and makes ground or aerial evacuations  
difficult**



**MEDIC  
COMING  
DOWN WITH  
LITTER**



**LITTER  
UP!**



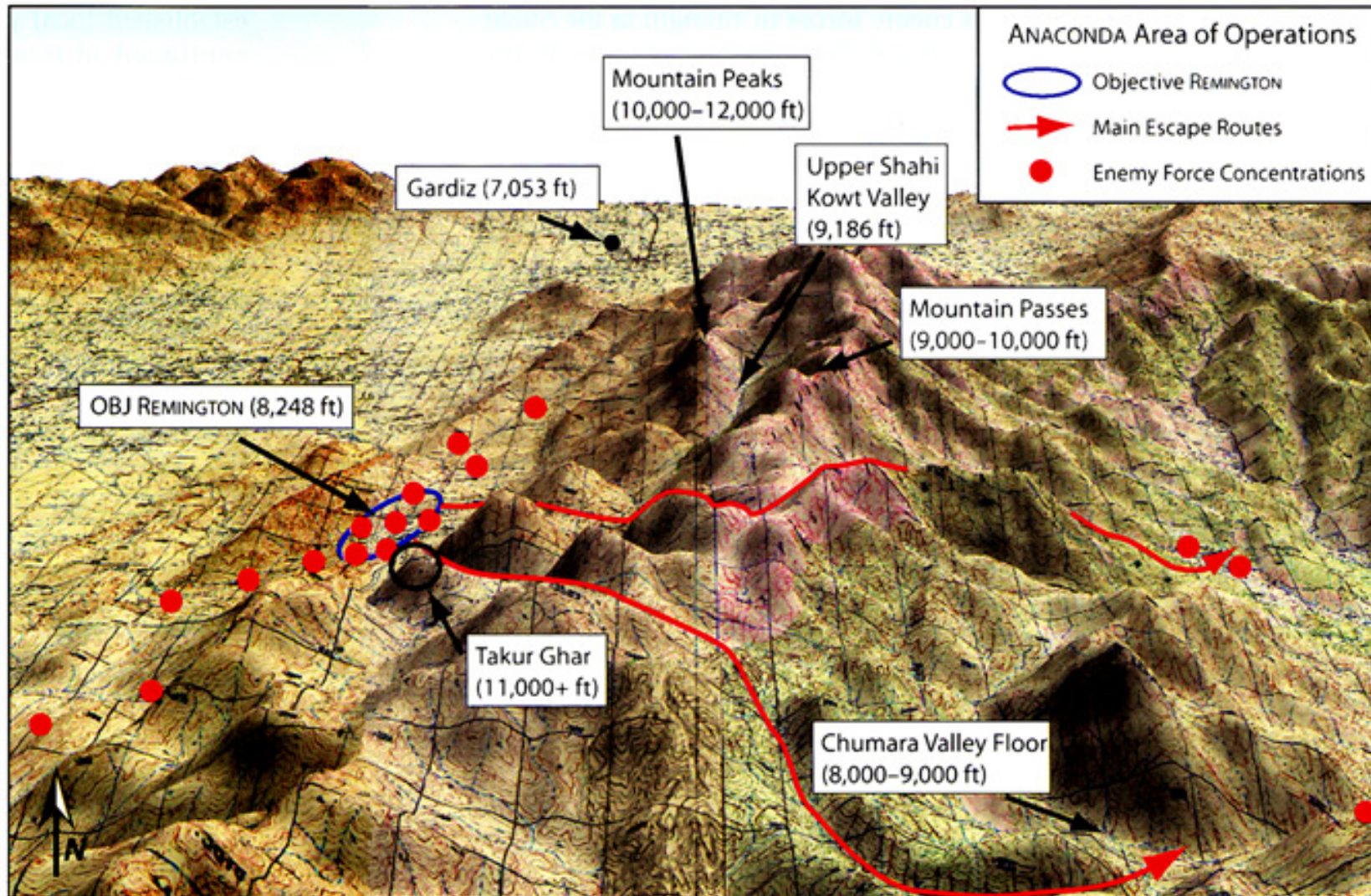
# Anaconda NCO lessons learned



- SSG Duncan Domey
- Heavy Mortar Platoon, 1/87 Infantry, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division
- 1-12 March 2002



# Operation Anaconda





# Summary

- Success depends on you-The Mountain Leader.
- What works- Use of small elements that mutually support each other with fit, well trained Soldiers and good junior leadership
- What doesn't work- large scale complicated plans solely dependant on helicopters and technology
- Questions