Close Air Support (CAS) in Afghanistan

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This Briefing is: UNCLASSIFIED
Overview

• Role and mission of Tactical Air Control Party (TACP)
• Mazar-E-Sharif Prison Uprising
• Operation Anaconda
• Roberts Ridge
• Summary
Tactical Air Control Party (TACP)

- Provide Theater Airlift Command and Control
- Provide Terminal Attack Control
- Integrate Air, Space, Naval Surface, and Ground Force Operations
- Plan, Request, Coordinate, Control
Who We Fight With

- Airborne
- Air Assault
- Infantry
- Armour
- Mechanized
- Rangers
- Special Forces

Air Combat Command Has Over 3000 Airmen Committed to Joint Air and Ground Operations ... 24 / 7 / 365
Operation ENDURING FREEDOM
The Early Days – A SOF Victory
Special Operations Forces Team
“Viper 33”
- 6 Consecutive Hours of AC-130 Gunship and Fighter Cover
  • 200 rounds of 105 mm
  • 2000 rounds of 40 mm
  • 2000 lb Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) within 400 meters of friendly
- Over 300 enemy killed in action, ZERO Fratricide
Operation ANACONDA

Bagram
Air Support Ops Center
10th MTN DIV

Kandahar
101st ABN (AA)

ANACONDA Area of Ops
Operation ANACONDA
Area of Operations

- Zermat
- Gardez
- Zia (Afghan)
- Rak TAC Ridge
- Screen (SOF)
- TF Rakkasan

POTENTIAL ESCAPE ROUTES

TAKUR GHAR 10200'

OBJ REMINGTON
Challenge of the Terrain

- Whaleback
- Takur Ghar
- Ginger Pass
- Small rocky hills covered the valley
The Enemy
Precision was Essential
D-Day – CAS Carries the Day

Takur Ghar

“Ginger” Pass

RAK TAC Ridge
Roberts Ridge
Imagery of Objective Area

- Takur Ghar
- "Robert's Ridge"
- Chalk 2 LZ
- Whaleback

Looking South East
Looking North onto Takur Ghar
a.k.a. Roberts Ridge

10,200 FT ELEV
Looking North onto Takur Ghar a.k.a. Roberts Ridge

10,200 FT ELEV

3x enemy personnel in bunker

Chalk 2 LZ

Enemy personnel
Looking North onto Takur Ghar
a.k.a. Roberts Ridge
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"THE WHALE"

CONCEPT OF THE OPERATION

LOWER SHAHI
KOT VALLEY

UPPER SHAHI
KOT VALLEY

37 Terminal Attack Controllers
in this area

"THE WHALE"
Shooter Sorties Flown

Operation ANACONDA

More Than 900 Sorties Over 13 Days
“The devastation wrought by [CAS] aircraft helped turn the tide of the battle that day, and saved American lives. “

COL Francis Wiercinski, USA
Commander, TF Rakkasan
And the Lord said, Whom shall I send, And who shall go for us? Then I said, here I am, Send me.

Isaiah 6:8