Talking Points About Airpower

- CAS is a Mission not an Airplane
- Air/Ground Innovation = High Tech + Low Tech
- Distributed Forward Air Control
- The Digital and Analog worlds are coming together
- CAS is still the hardest thing we do in joint war fighting
- General Vessey’s challenge to airmen
- Shared situational awareness: cockpit to foxhole
- Challenges
CAS is a Mission not an Airplane

- A-10, F-16, F-15E, F-117, B-1, B-2, B-52, AC-130
- F-14, F-18, AV-8
- AH-1, AH-64, AH-6J, MH-53
- All Services and Allies
Air/Ground Innovation: (High Tech + Low Tech) SOF and Airpower
Enemy Forces “Taliban” in pockets across Afghanistan
- 99 to 1 --ratio--(soft) targets compared to fixed (structural)
- US friendly disposition minimal (SOF war)
- Non-linear, non-contiguous battlefield
- Air distances (significant)
- Almost no airspace restrictions (in the beginning)
- Command and control environment
  - Very simple at first
  - Increasingly became more complex
  - Very restrictive ROE (Restricted Tgt List)
Airpower Buffet: 24/7
Interdiction and Responsive CAS
Initial Operations had Few Airspace Management Restrictions, But as Operations Progressed…
Airspace Management Became More Complex
Distributed Forward Air Control

Attached USAF ground forward air controllers with SOF
Augmented airborne forward air control
Extensive use of JSTARS
Developed intermediate air control for SOF
Air Support flowed into and out of 6 x 9 KM box
Joint Air Request Net (JARN)
Iraqi Freedom—A Five Front War
“I don’t want to say that it would be a mistake for the services to engage in service-centric lessons learned. But to some extent I will say it. This was not a war fought by the Army or the Navy or the Air Force…or the Marines. It was a war that’s been fought by joint forces under excellent leadership”

-- Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Pentagon News Briefing, April 15, 2003
Two in the South, the West, North and Urban Baghdad
Digital and Analog Perspectives
V Corps Ground space Perspective (Analog)

CENTCOM SHAPING

CORPS SHAPING
DIV CAS Type 1/2/3

FWD BNDY
FSCL
DIV FWD BNDY
FLOT
CFLCC REAR

CENTCOM EFFECTS
CFLCC EFFECTS
CORPS EFFECTS
CFACC Battle space Perspective (Digital)

CFACC / CFLCC

CFACC

CFLCC

Forward Boundary

“FSCL”

FLOT
Theater Air Control Air-Ground System Elements
Airpower Effectiveness Across the Range of Combat Environments
Finding It
Finding It

(blown up imagery of grid box)
ISSUE: SNIPER TAKING TOLL ON U.S. FORCES IN NAJAF; MARINE MGYSGT KILLED MINUTES EARLIER

BACKGROUND: DENSE URBAN ENVIRONMENT, COLLATERAL DAMAGE LIMITED OPTIONS

ACTION: RAVAGE 30 ENGAGED SNIPER WITH ONE HELLFIRE

IMPACT: F2T2EA FROM A SINGLE PLATFORM
ISSUE: PERSISTENT SURVEILLANCE LOCATES ZARQAWI ASSOCIATES

BACKGROUND: PREDATOR PROVIDES ABILITY TO MAINTAIN CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE

ACTION: RAPID RETARGETING – REVISED DMPI PASSED IN-FLIGHT TO STRIKE EAGLES; TGT STRUCK 3 MINS LATER

IMPACT: ~12 TERRORISTS KIA; INITIATED SERIES OF STRIKES ON AMZ NETWORK IN FALLUJAH
Airpower Effectiveness Across the Range of Combat Environments
The Forward Air Controller
Captain “Dino” Murray, F-16 Pilot, Assigned to 101st AASLT Div
Advances and Innovations: New Tech/Low Tech
“John Madden” Video Imagery

1. JTAC views video
2. JTAC “captures” still image
3. JTAC “marks up” image
“John Madden” Video Imagery

A-10 Kneeboard
& VMF Equipped Aircraft
(F/A-18 & JSF)

JTAC
TACP-CASS
& ROVER

Electronic Kneeboard
Pilot “opens” marked image

N 035 43.264
E 119 21.047
H 1882
Future of Air/Ground Collaboration
Light Infantry Battalion
Airborne Battalion
Mech/Armor
Stryker Brigade
Special Forces TACP
Ranger TACP
Challenges

Airspace

Future Aircraft

Combat ID

Frequency Bandwidth

Urban Enemy Asymmetric Advantage