

November 28, 2007

To all American Warriors,

Over the past several years I have assembled many quotes about Soldiers, Soldiering, warfighting, service, duty and sacrifice. I matched 50 of my favorite quotes with photos from the current battlefield.

It is my hope that our magnificent Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines continue to serve our national defense needs with the courage and character that has ensured our freedoms for over 200 years. I am sure each of you will.

You've got my 6, and for that I am grateful and eternally indebted to each of you for your service and sacrifice.



Bill Coffey

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September 14, 1944 on the Crozon Peninsula (western part of France):

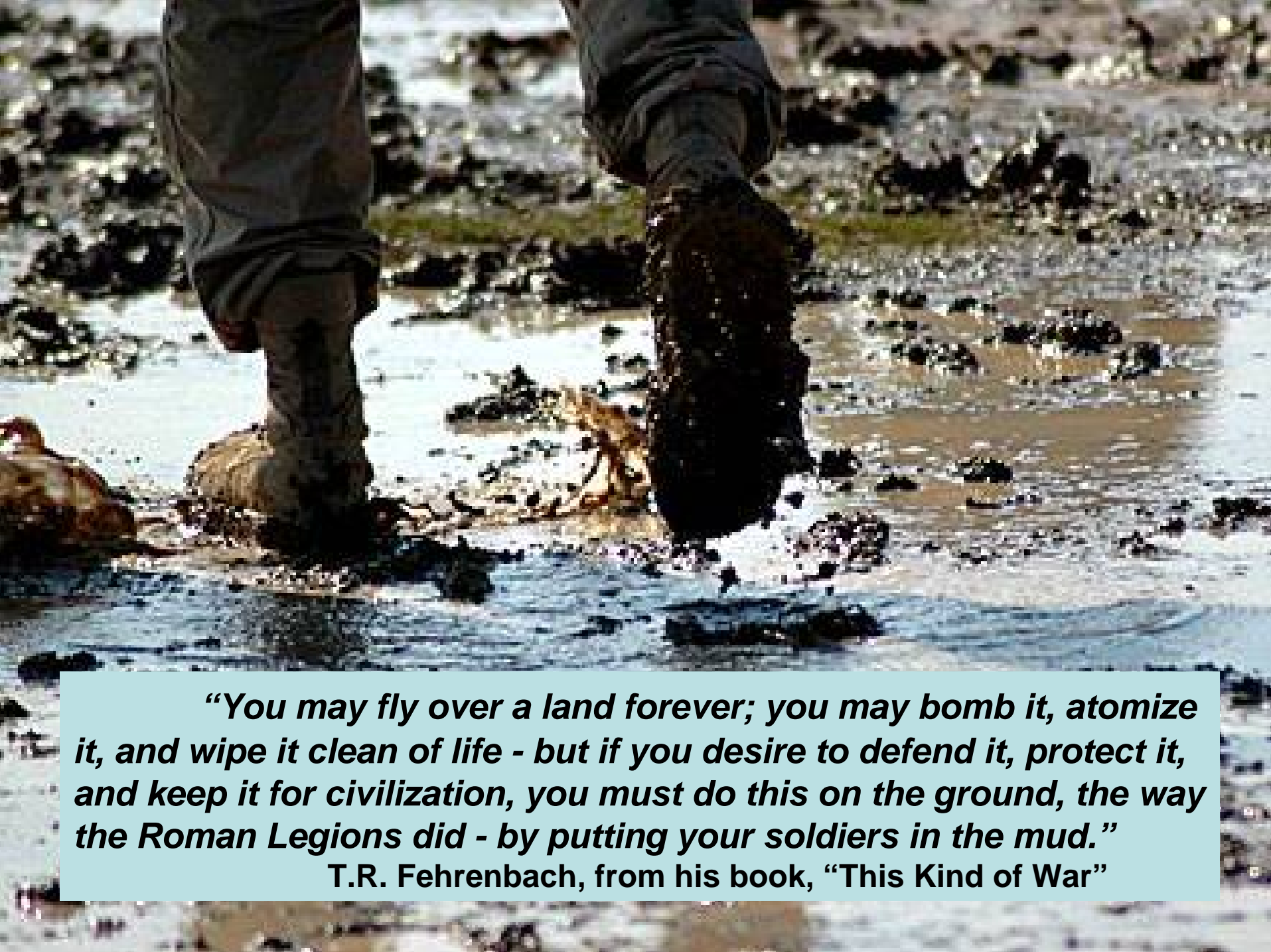
"I am to surrender to you," German LtGen Ramcke told BG Canham, Assistant Division Commander, 8th ID, through his own interpreter. ***"I want to see your credentials"***. BG Canham pointed to the eager dogfaces crowding the entrance with their M-1s. ***"These are my credentials"***. This blunt phrase put the Nazi in his place, and paid dramatic tribute to the real power behind America's Army — the G.I.





“The ultimate determinant in war is a man on the scene with a gun. This man is the final power in war. He is control, he determines who wins. There are those who would dispute this as an absolute, but it is my belief that while other means may critically influence war today, after whatever devastation and destruction may be inflicted on an enemy, if the strategist is forced to strive for final and ultimate control, he must establish, or must present as an inevitable prospect, a man on the scene with a gun. This is the Soldier.”

Rear Admiral Wylie, U.S. Navy, World War II



“You may fly over a land forever; you may bomb it, atomize it, and wipe it clean of life - but if you desire to defend it, protect it, and keep it for civilization, you must do this on the ground, the way the Roman Legions did - by putting your soldiers in the mud.”

T.R. Fehrenbach, from his book, “This Kind of War”



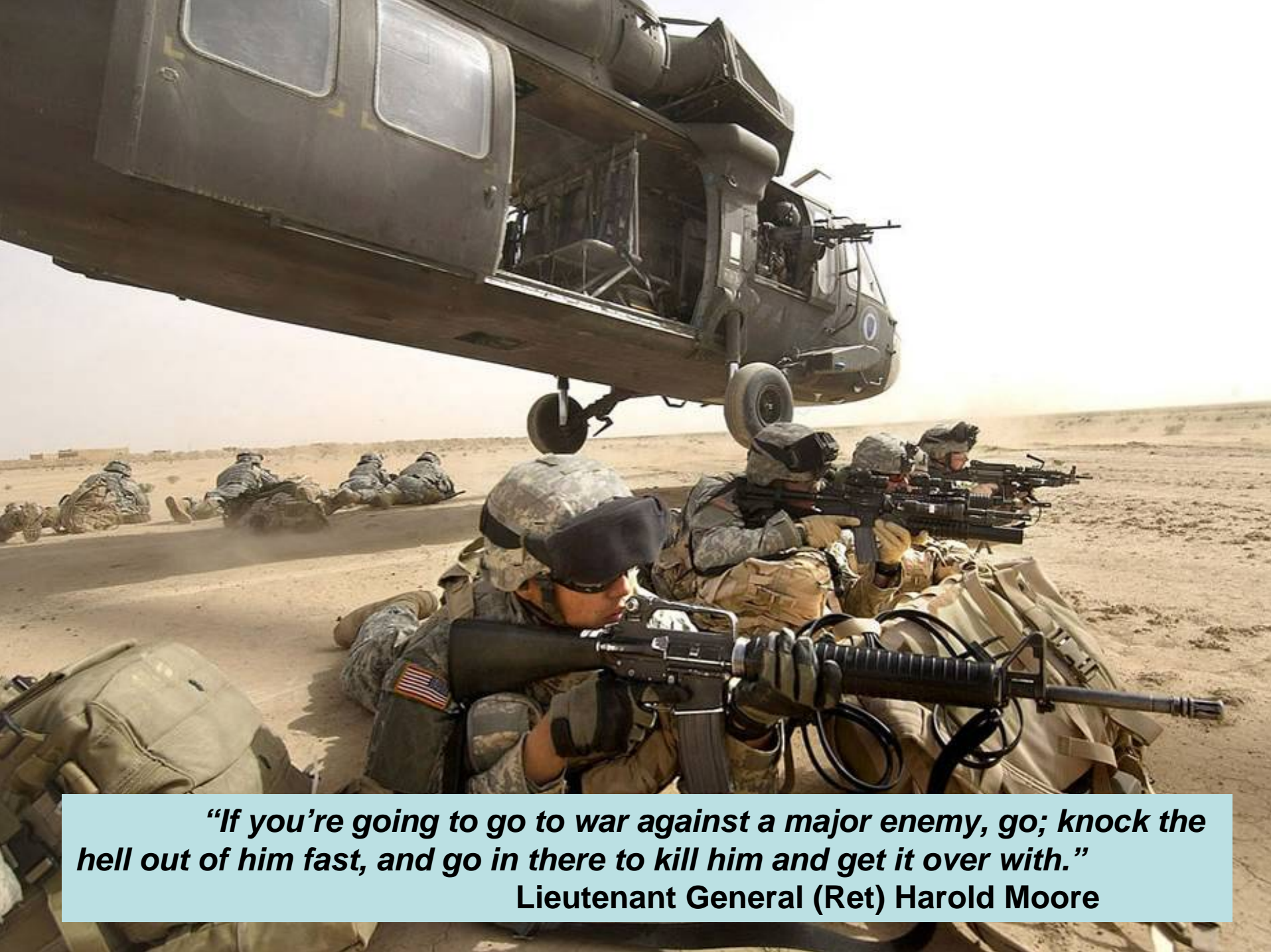
"I'd rather go down the river with seven studs than with a hundred shitheads"

Colonel Charlie Beckwith, founder & CMDR of Delta Force



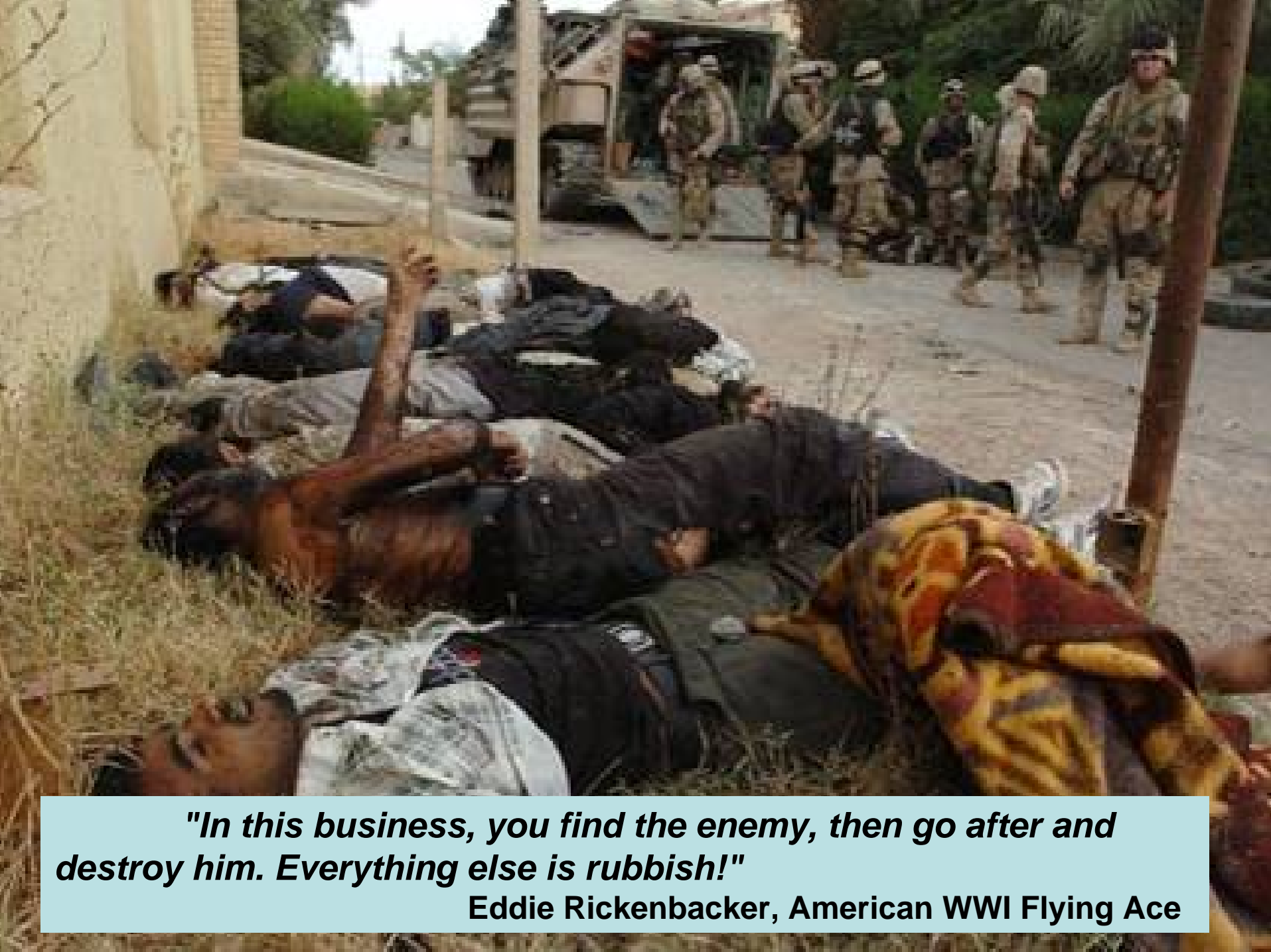
“American soldiers in battle don’t fight for what some president says on T.V., they don’t fight for mom, apple pie, the American flag...they fight for one another.”

LTC Hal Moore, CMDR 1/7 Cav, Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam



“If you’re going to go to war against a major enemy, go; knock the hell out of him fast, and go in there to kill him and get it over with.”

Lieutenant General (Ret) Harold Moore

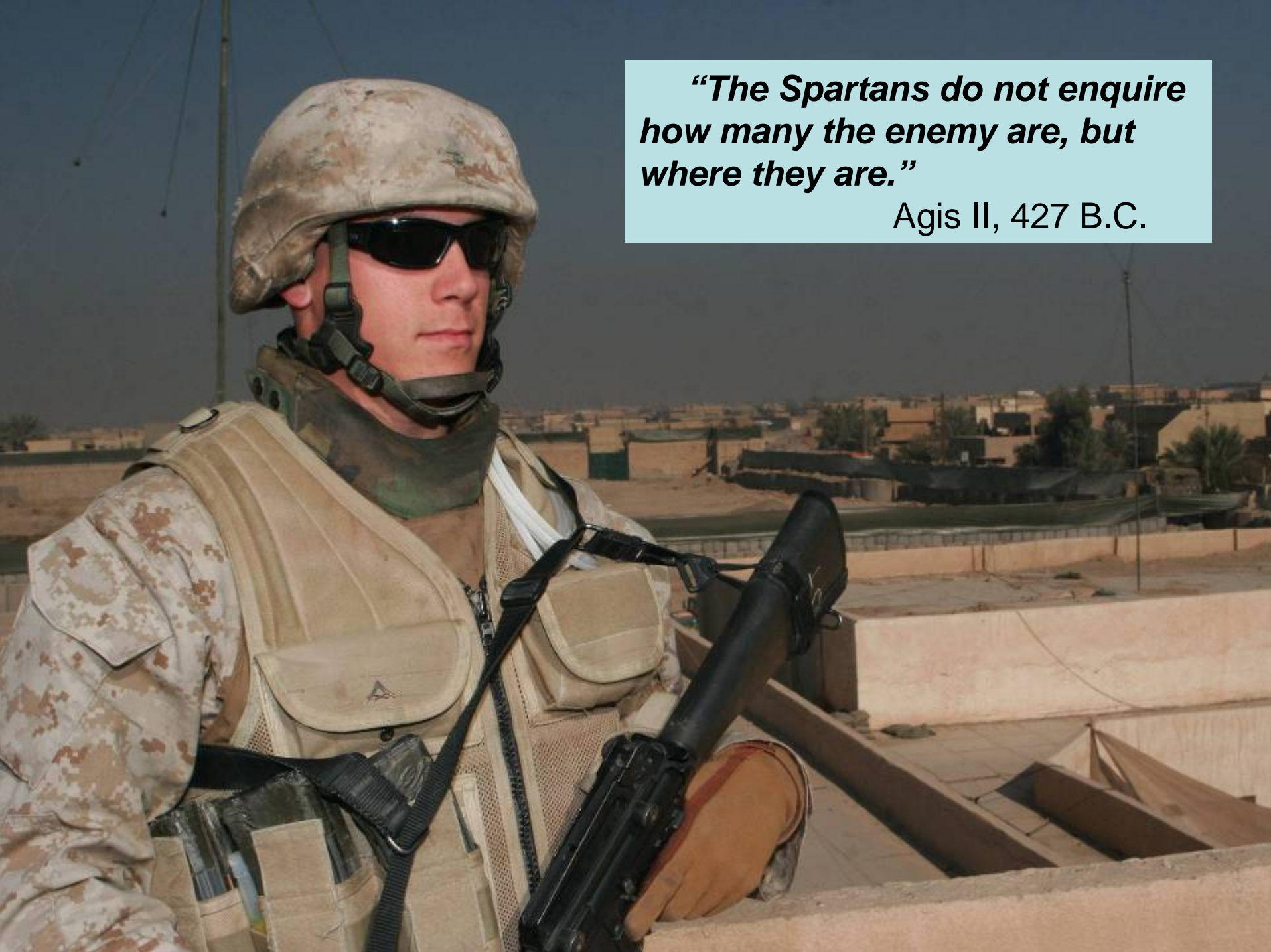


"In this business, you find the enemy, then go after and destroy him. Everything else is rubbish!"

Eddie Rickenbacker, American WWI Flying Ace



"War is hell, but actual combat is a motherfucker."
Colonel David Hackworth



***“The Spartans do not enquire
how many the enemy are, but
where they are.”***

Agis II, 427 B.C.

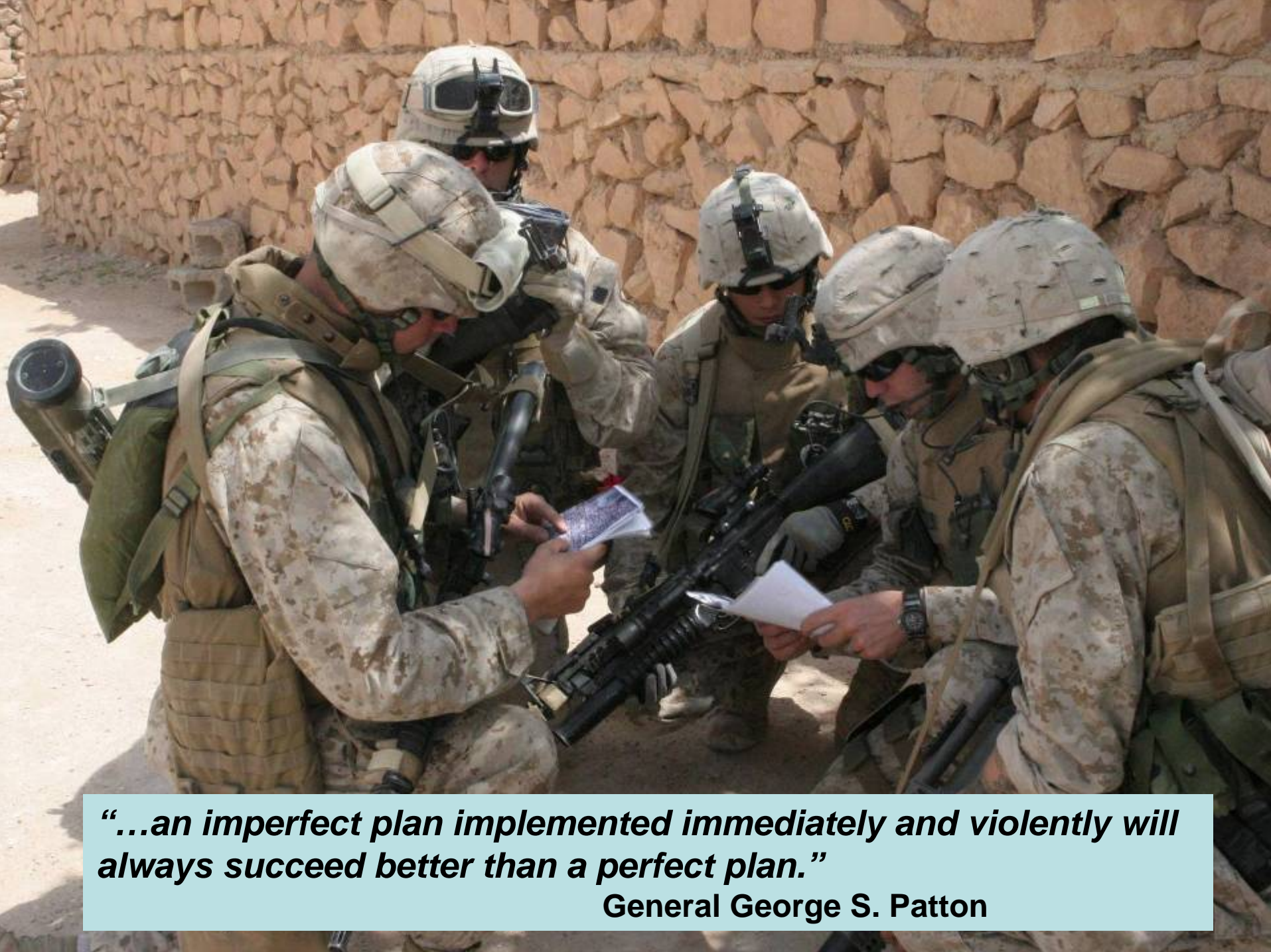


***This is the law:
The purpose of fighting is to win.
There is no possible victory in defense.
The sword is more important than the shield and skill is more important than either.
The final weapon is the brain. All else is supplemental.***

John Steinbeck



"May God have mercy upon my enemies, because I won't."
General George S. Patton Jr.



“...an imperfect plan implemented immediately and violently will always succeed better than a perfect plan.”

General George S. Patton



“The Soldiers of TF 2-7 IN rose to the occasion. All of the values their mothers and fathers and grandparents taught them, they learned. They stepped up to the plate. They did not just follow their leaders, they ACCOMPANIED their leaders. Sometimes, they LED the way! They said, “Sir, the enemy’s over there ... don’t worry, we’ll get you there!”

LTC Scott Rutter, Commander, TF 2-7 IN, May 15, 2003



"I LIKE MARINES, BECAUSE BEING A MARINE IS SERIOUS BUSINESS. WE'RE NOT A SOCIAL CLUB OR A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION AND WE DON'T PRETEND TO BE ONE. WE'RE A BROTHERHOOD OF "WARRIORS" -- NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS, PURE AND SIMPLE. WE ARE IN THE ASS-KICKING BUSINESS, AND UNFORTUNATELY, THESE DAYS BUSINESS IS GOOD.

COLONEL JAMES. M. LOWE, COMMANDER, MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, 2004

"We win here or lose everywhere; if we win here, we improve the chances of winning everywhere."

General MacArthur, Korean War





“Your job is to point that rifle into the other guy’s face and shoot him dead.”

General Matthew Ridgeway, instructions to his troops, Korean War, 1950



"Somewhere a True Believer is training to kill you. He is training with minimum food or water, in austere conditions, day and night. The only thing clean on him is his weapon. He doesn't worry about what workout to do---his rucksack weighs what it weighs, and he runs until the enemy stops chasing him. The True Believer doesn't care 'how hard it is'; he knows he either wins or he dies. He doesn't go home at 1700; he is home. He knows only the 'Cause.' Now, who wants to quit?"

NCOIC of the Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course in a welcome speech to new SF candidates



“I don't mind being called tough, because in this racket it's the tough guys who lead the survivors.”

General Curtis LeMay, USAF

“We have funny things that happen. I can remember standing in a land fill in southern Iraq where we began one of our attacks, and watching my guys so tired from lack of sleep....literally fall on the ground, with their gear on, on top of each other. I then watched "my boys" swat flies for each other, guard each other, share water with each other, offer food for those that did not have any chow, express their disdain for the trash heap that was our home, all the while ready to do battle and if necessary die for each other. I saw with my own eyes the actual creation of the closeness and bond that historians write about in times of war amongst fighting men.”

1LT John G. Gibson, 82nd Airborne Division, Baghdad, Iraq





“People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf”

George Orwell



“In the final measure, nothing speaks like deeds”

General John A. Wickham, Jr.



When we do our jobs, people shoot at us



“When in war, men must die, they can’t be managed to their deaths, they must be led.”

Colonel Dandridge “Mike” Malone, US Army, Infantry



“But to the fighting soldier that phase of the war is behind. It was left behind after his first battle. His blood is up. He is fighting for his life, and killing now for him is as much a profession as writing is for me.”

Ernie Pyle



“Understanding future warfare is the most important responsibility of those who must defend a nation from future enemies!”
Major General Perry M. Smith



"You cannot exaggerate about the Marines. They are convinced to the point of arrogance, that they are the most ferocious fighters on earth- and the amusing thing about it is that they are."

Father Kevin Keaney, 1st MarDiv Chaplain, Korean War



"Every morning, I get up, get out of bed, and get on my knees and thank God for waking up in America ... (She is) the light of the world ... A nation of heroes ... The real stars are wearing body armor on top of their battle dress uniforms in 130 degree heat and they do not have stunt doubles to come in for them when the going gets rough and the bullets and the shrapnel start flying. They are the real stars, fighting terrorism and trying to free a nation."

Ben Stein



"When you men get home and face an anti-war protester, look him in the eyes and shake his hand. Then, wink at his girlfriend, because she knows she's dating a pussy."

Attributed to General Tommy Franks



“THERE COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE 71 VIRGINS AWAITING THEM IN HEAVEN – BECAUSE AS OUR HYMN SAYS “THE STREETS ARE GUARDED BY UNITED STATES MARINES!”

US Marine, Iraq



"What is a hero? My heroes are the young men who faced the issues of war and possible death, and then weighed those concerns against obligations to their country. Citizen-soldiers, who interrupted their personal and professional lives at their most formative stage, in the timeless phrase of the Confederate Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, 'not for fame or reward, not for place or for rank, but in simple obedience to duty, as they understood it.'" Senator James Webb (D-VA) & Former Secretary of the Navy



"The soldier is the centerpiece of all our units. Most effective, flexible and adaptable asset we possess. Rapidly retasked from combat to stability operations to homeland defense. Best sensor: receives and processes information better than any technology. Face of the United States overseas. Everything we do is designed to support the soldier."

Army G-3, General Cody, February 2005

"My first wish would be that my military family, and the whole Army, should consider themselves as a band of brothers, willing and ready to die for each other."

General George Washington



SGT Shields SPC Velez

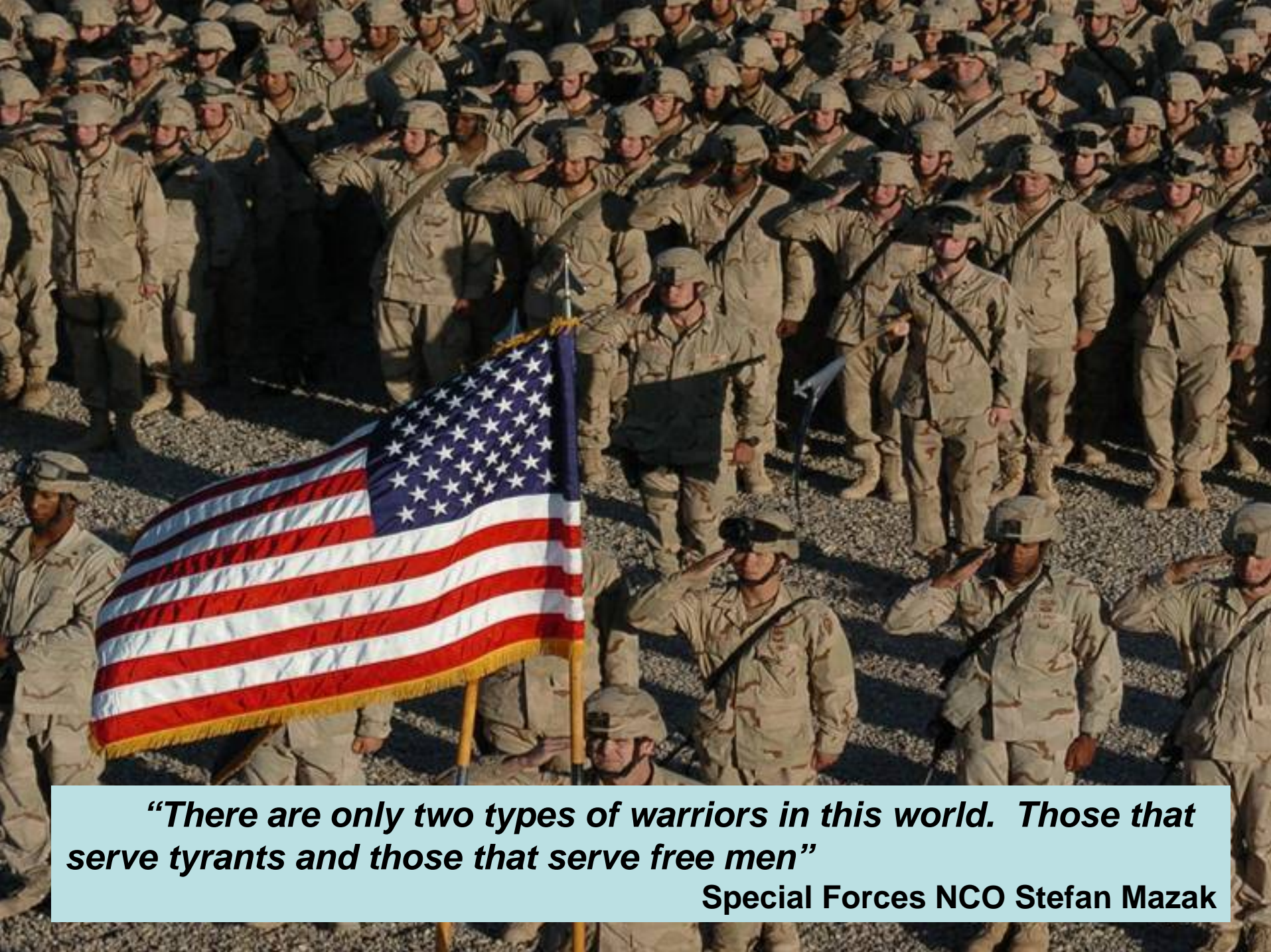
"We're here today to pay tribute to two great soldiers; to two great Americans. I am 100 percent convinced we will win this war because we have soldiers like Sgt. Shields and Spc. Velez, and the enemy does not. The enemy has no response for sergeants that risk everything to rescue their injured comrades only to immediately return to the fight. The enemy has no answer to soldiers standing over their injured buddies, even when it means their own lives, so that others will live. Because of that, we will win."

**LTC James Rainey, CMDR (pictured left), 2/7th Cavalry Regt., Camp Taji, Iraq, Nov 27, 2004
SGT Jonathan B. Shields and SPC Jose A. Velez, both gave their lives while rescuing others.**



“I do not love the bright sword for it's sharpness, nor the arrow for it's swiftness, nor the warrior for his glory. I love only that which they defend”

J R Tolkien



“There are only two types of warriors in this world. Those that serve tyrants and those that serve free men”

Special Forces NCO Stefan Mazak



“The patriot volunteer, fighting for country and his rights, makes the most reliable soldier on earth.”

Thomas J. Jackson



“Nothing is as strong as the heart of a volunteer.”

LTC Jimmy Doolittle, WWII



"An unarmed man can only flee from evil, and evil is not overcome by fleeing from it."

Jeff Cooper



"Hate war, but love the American Warrior."

LTG Harold G. Moore (Ret.)

“The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.”

General Douglas MacArthur





“War is cruel and you cannot refine it.”

General William Tecumseh Sherman, US Civil War, 1864

***“Victory is reserved for those who are
willing to pay its price.” Sun Tzu***





“We gave each of our fallen comrades a fitting memorial and mourned their loss. Each time, I knew these heroes left wives, husbands, children and other loved ones behind. They were all volunteers and each had their reasons for joining the Army and defending their country. They all had great plans for the future, but none of them had planned on dying in combat. These soldiers will never see their children graduate from high school, will never attend their weddings, will never coach their little league baseball teams.”

Colonel Ted Spain, Brigade Commander who had 13 KIAs from his unit, OIF, Feb 2004



“Heart is what makes the American Soldier”
SFC Barbara Ray, 1993



“The world is witnessing first hand, live on television, the hearts of American warriors -- and the spirit and pride only displayed by magnificent young men and women who are volunteers in the fight for the cause of freedom. It's all about heart.”

Colonel. A.J. Stewart, 71st Flying Training Wing commander, 2004



Immediately after a bombing in Baghdad, June 2007, which killed at least 21 people and injured at least 66 was a shooter, maybe targeting people in the crowd. Amid all the Iraqis who are running from the gunfire was a U.S. soldier, standing tall, perhaps looking in the direction of the gunshots, not apparently looking for cover. An Iraqi boy seeks shelter behind the soldier, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division. The first picture shows it all. The kid's face shows he is scared to death, and he's running to the safest spot he can find: this soldier who stands between him and danger. It would be difficult to stage a picture that provides a more potent metaphor for the role played by United States in this wretched world.

“Where there is one brave man, in the thickest of the fight, there is the post of honor.”

Henry David Thoreau



"Where do we get guys like this the reporter asked? The answer is as simple as it is profound. You give them to us. You parents, you families, you brothers and sisters, grandparents, uncles and aunts, friends, you loan us these wonderful young people. They are the fruit of our country, raised by caring parents or a single parent, nurtured in love, and taught that Americans are supposed to have concern for the rights, freedoms and needs of not only our own citizens, but the citizens of the world ... The credit for their goodness, and their greatness, rests with all of you back home. The mothers, the fathers, husbands, wives, all of the family members, all the friends, the teachers, the preachers, scout leaders, football coaches, volunteer youth workers of all sorts, each person who had a positive impact on the lives of these young people deserves a piece of the credit."

Colonel Ron Smith, US Army, From, "The war in Iraq, what the media doesn't tell you," The Meridien Star, March 9, 2005



"Be ashamed to die until you have done something good for mankind."

American pastor Dr. Vernon Johnson during the Revolutionary War



“I remind you again we had those elections [in Afghanistan and Iraq] because we had boots on the ground and we had people that could help people, and we had people on the ground that could get into somebody’s face when they had to, and do whatever was required.”

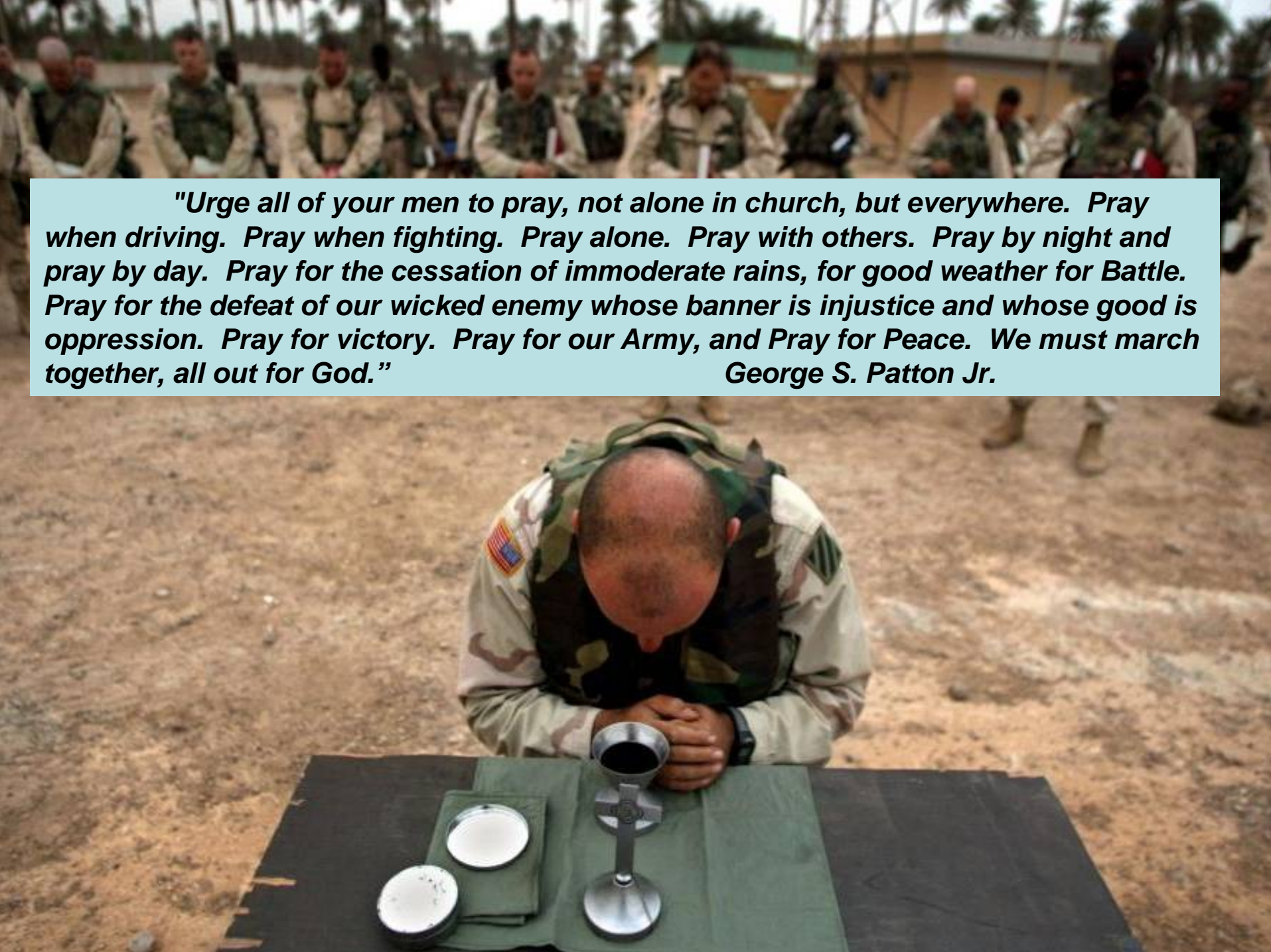
General Peter J. Schoomaker, April 11, 2005

AND WHEN HE GETS TO HEAVEN,
TO SAINT PETER HE WILL TELL:

"JUST ANOTHER SOLDIER REPORTING, SIR,
HE SERVED MY TIME IN HELL."



"If you're going through hell, keep going."
Winston Churchill



"Urge all of your men to pray, not alone in church, but everywhere. Pray when driving. Pray when fighting. Pray alone. Pray with others. Pray by night and pray by day. Pray for the cessation of immoderate rains, for good weather for Battle. Pray for the defeat of our wicked enemy whose banner is injustice and whose good is oppression. Pray for victory. Pray for our Army, and Pray for Peace. We must march together, all out for God."

George S. Patton Jr.

