

# *Headquarters Air Combat Command*

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## *Close Air Support (CAS) in Afghanistan*



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18th Air Support Operations Group**

**This Briefing is:  
UNCLASSIFIED**

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# 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**

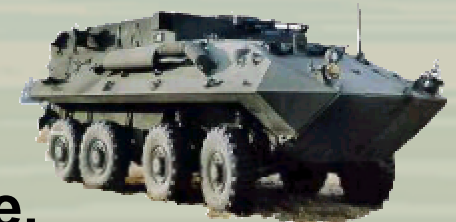


**Provide Terminal  
Attack Control**



**TACP**

**Integrate Air, Space, Naval Surface,  
and Ground Force Operations**



**Plan, Request, Coordinate, Control**



# *Who We Fight With*

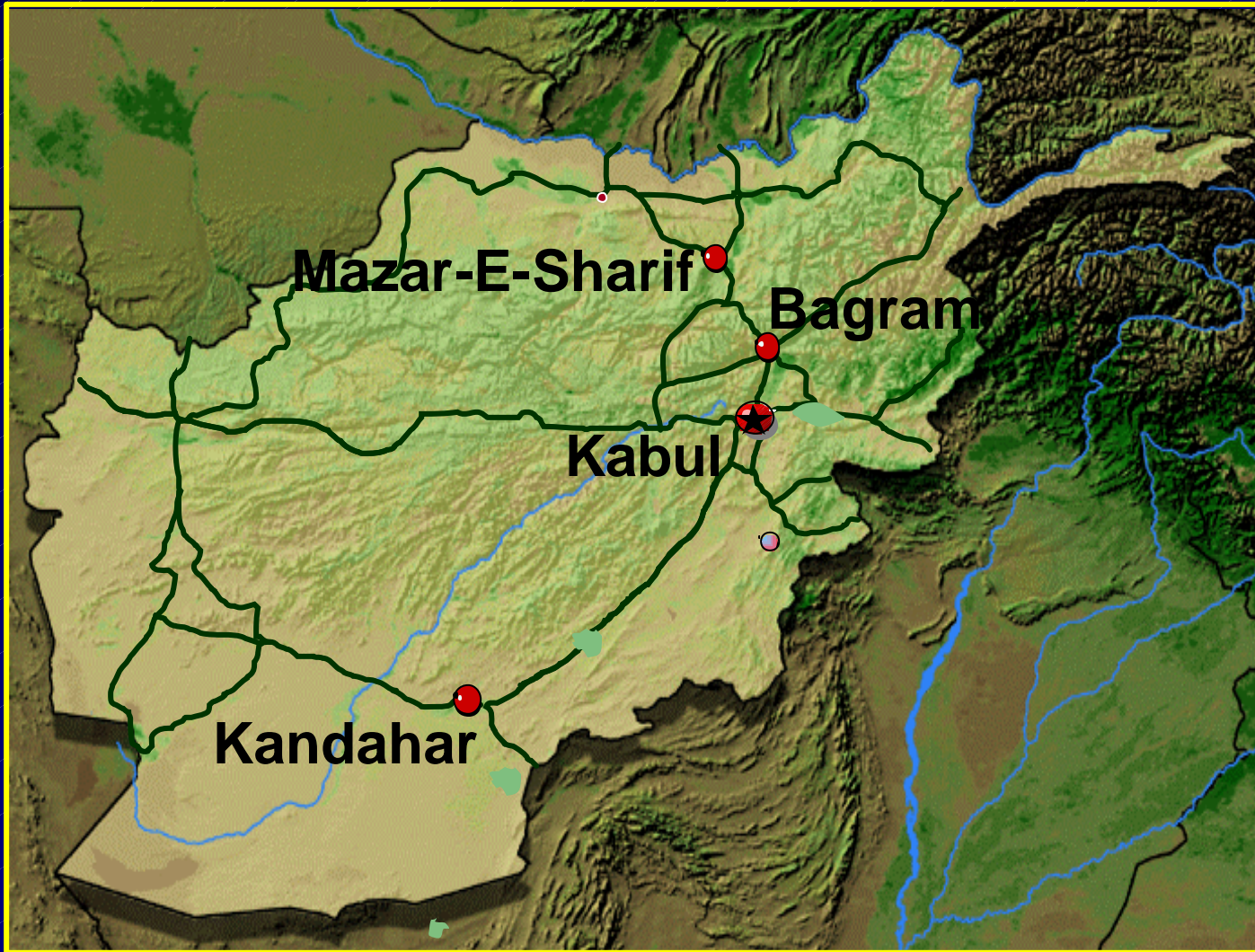
- Airborne
- Air Assault
- Infantry
- Armour
- Mechanized
- Rangers
- Special Forces



**Air Combat Command Has Over 3000 Airmen Committed to Joint Air and Ground Operations ... 24 / 7 / 365**



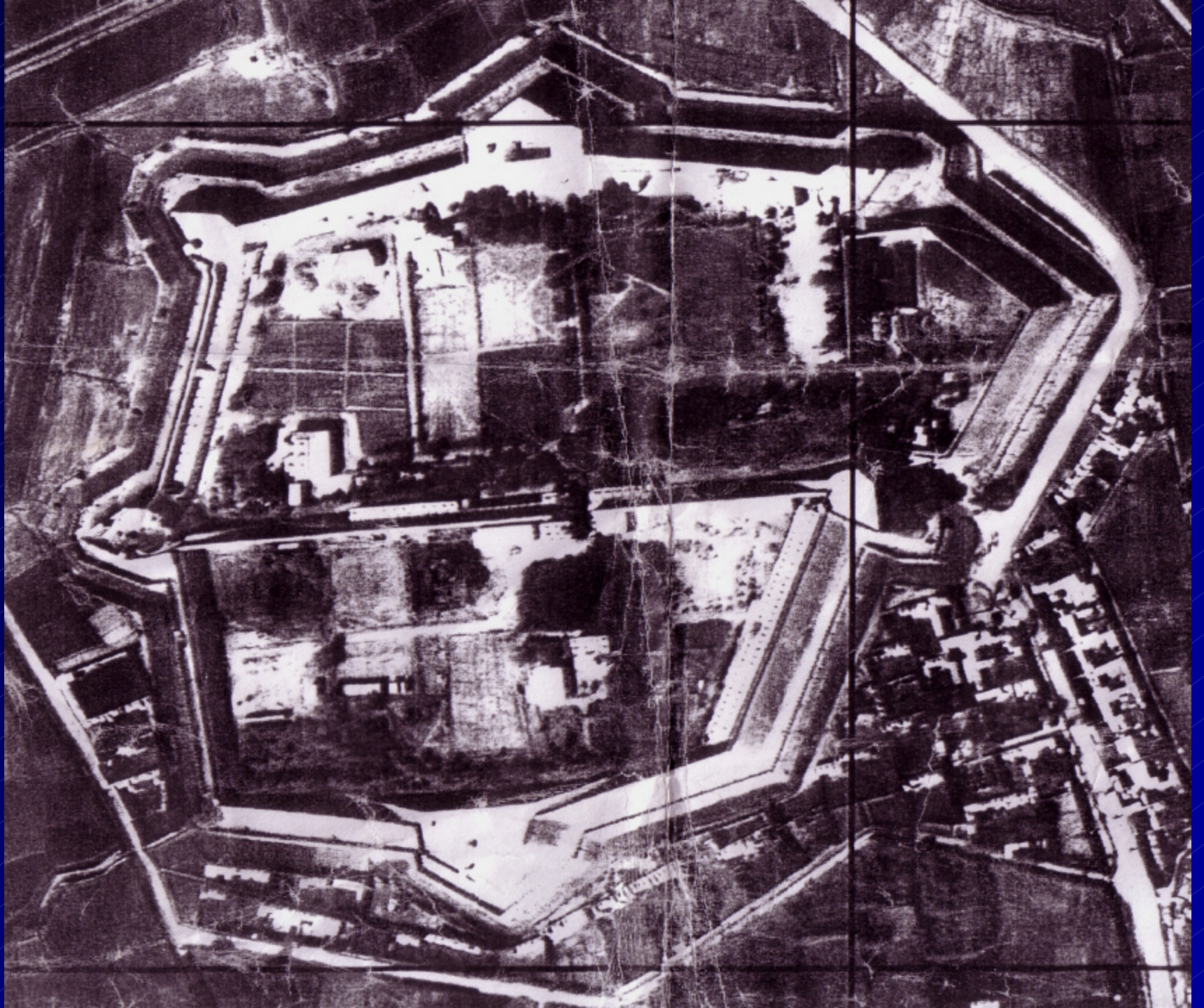
# Operation *ENDURING FREEDOM* *The Early Days – A SOF Victory*

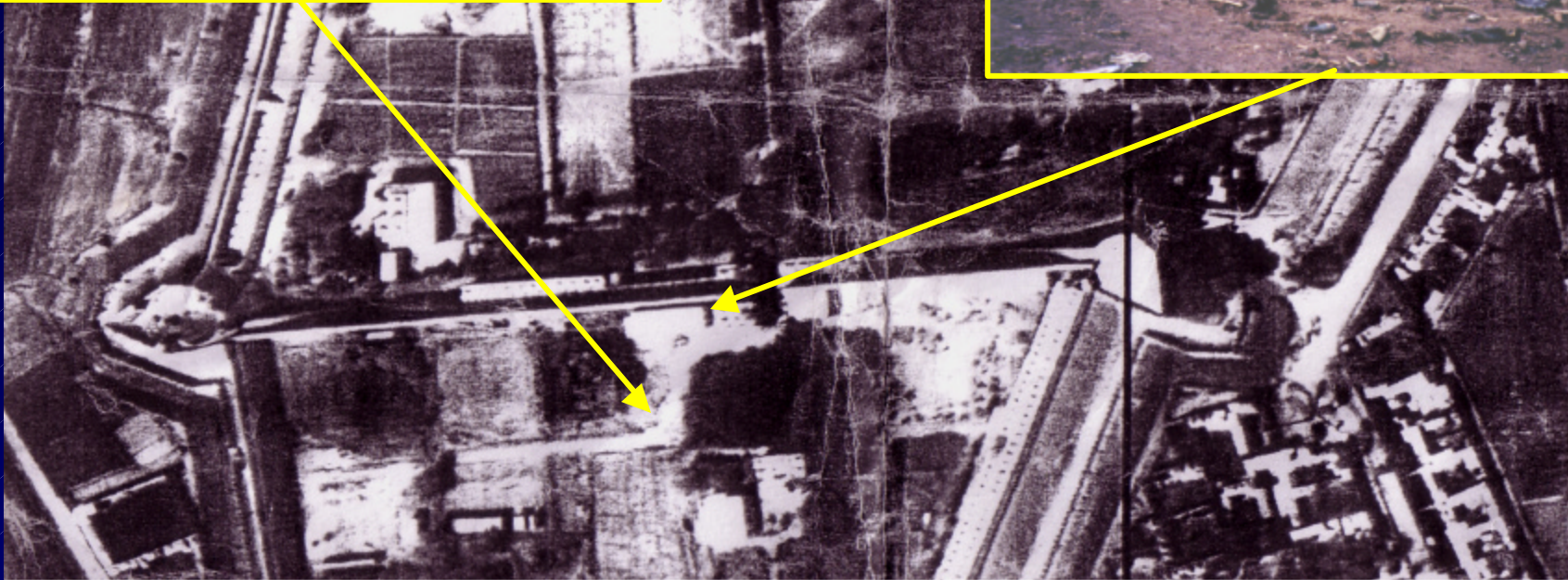




# *Special Operations Forces Team* *"Viper 33"*





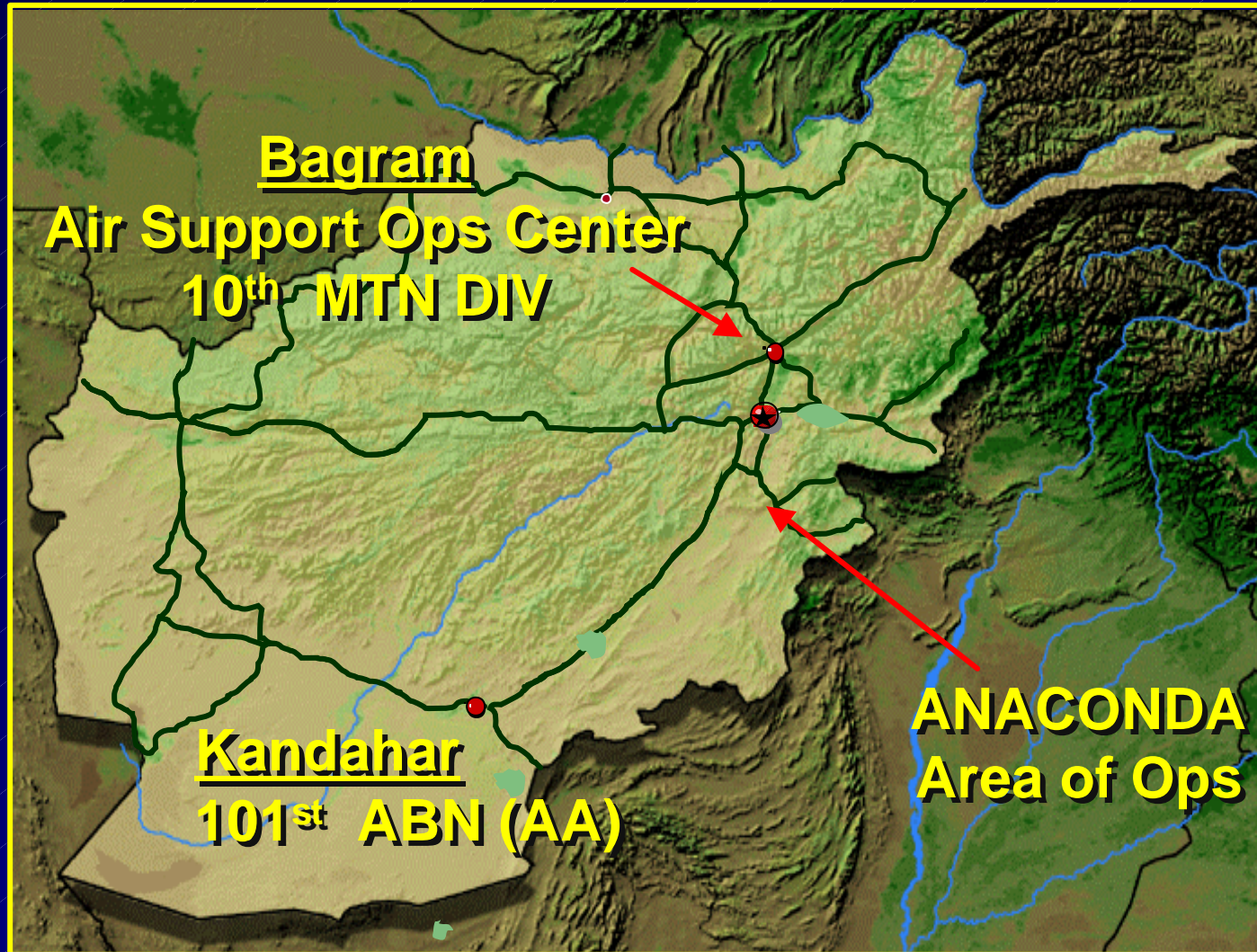


- **6 Consecutive Hours of AC-130 Gunship and Fighter Cover**
  - 200 rounds of 105 mm
  - 2000 rounds of 40 mm
  - 2000 lb Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) within 400 meters of friendly
- **Over 300 enemy killed in action, ZERO Fratricide**





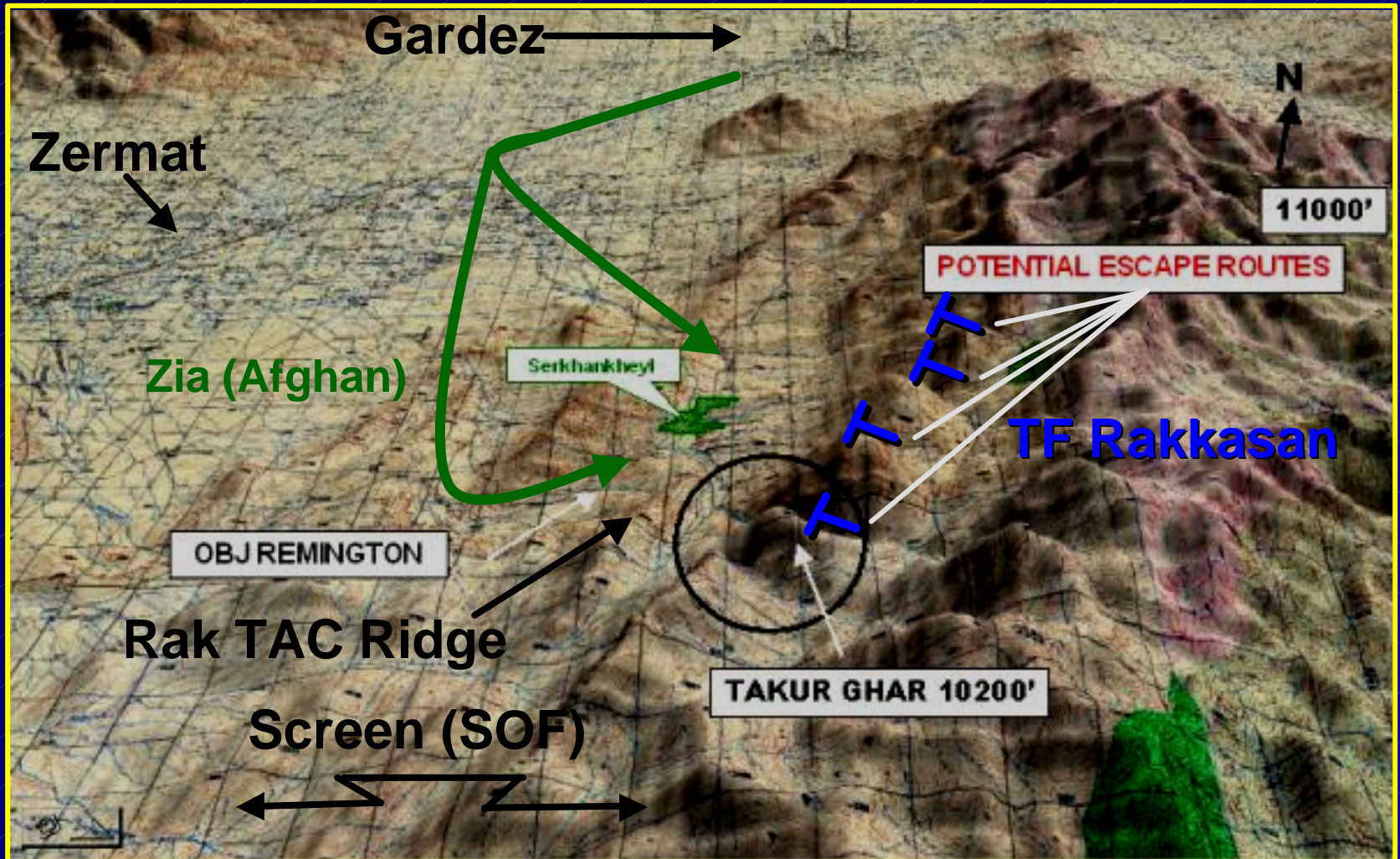
# Operation ANACONDA





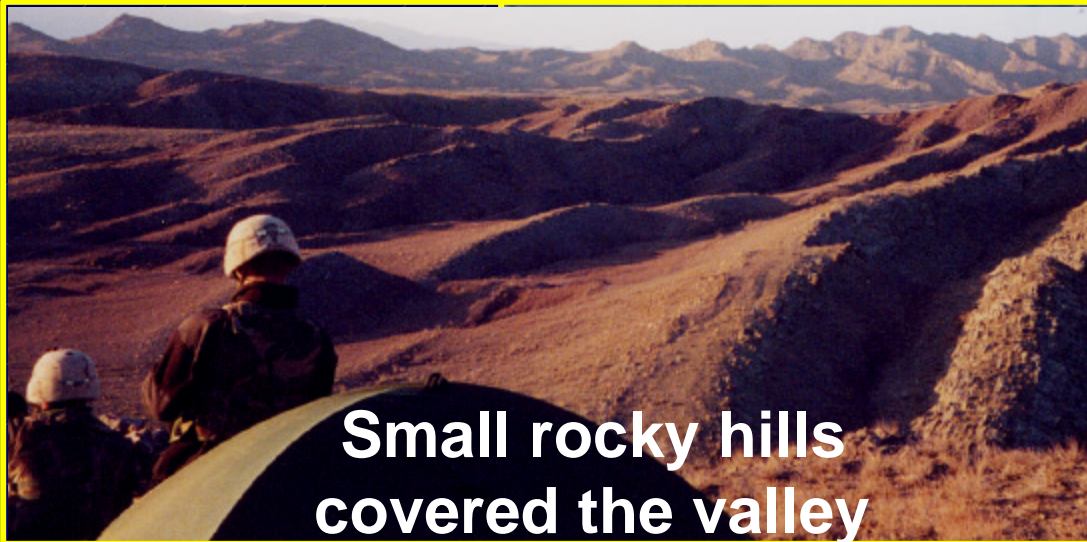
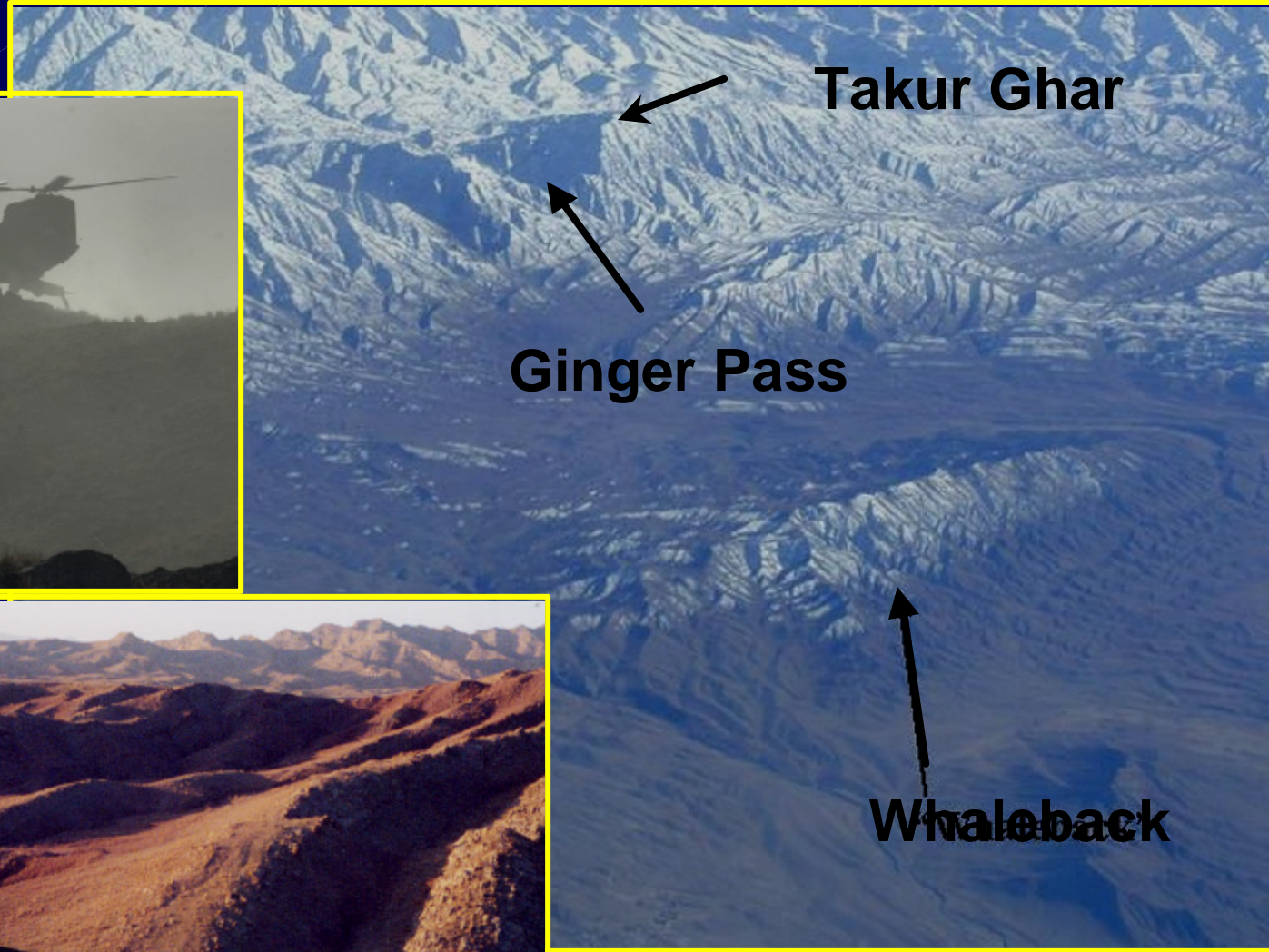
# Operation ANACONDA

## Area of Operations





# Challenge of the Terrain



# The Enemy



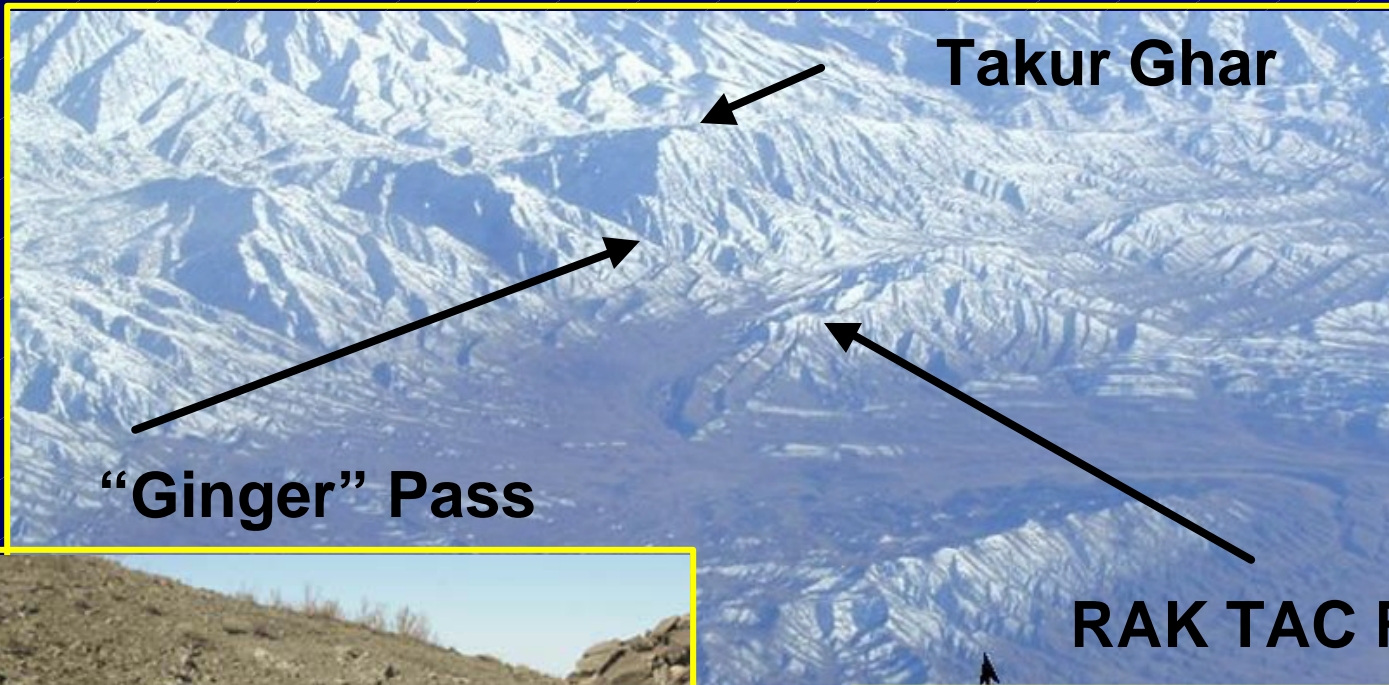


# *Precision was Essential*





# D-Day – CAS Carries the Day



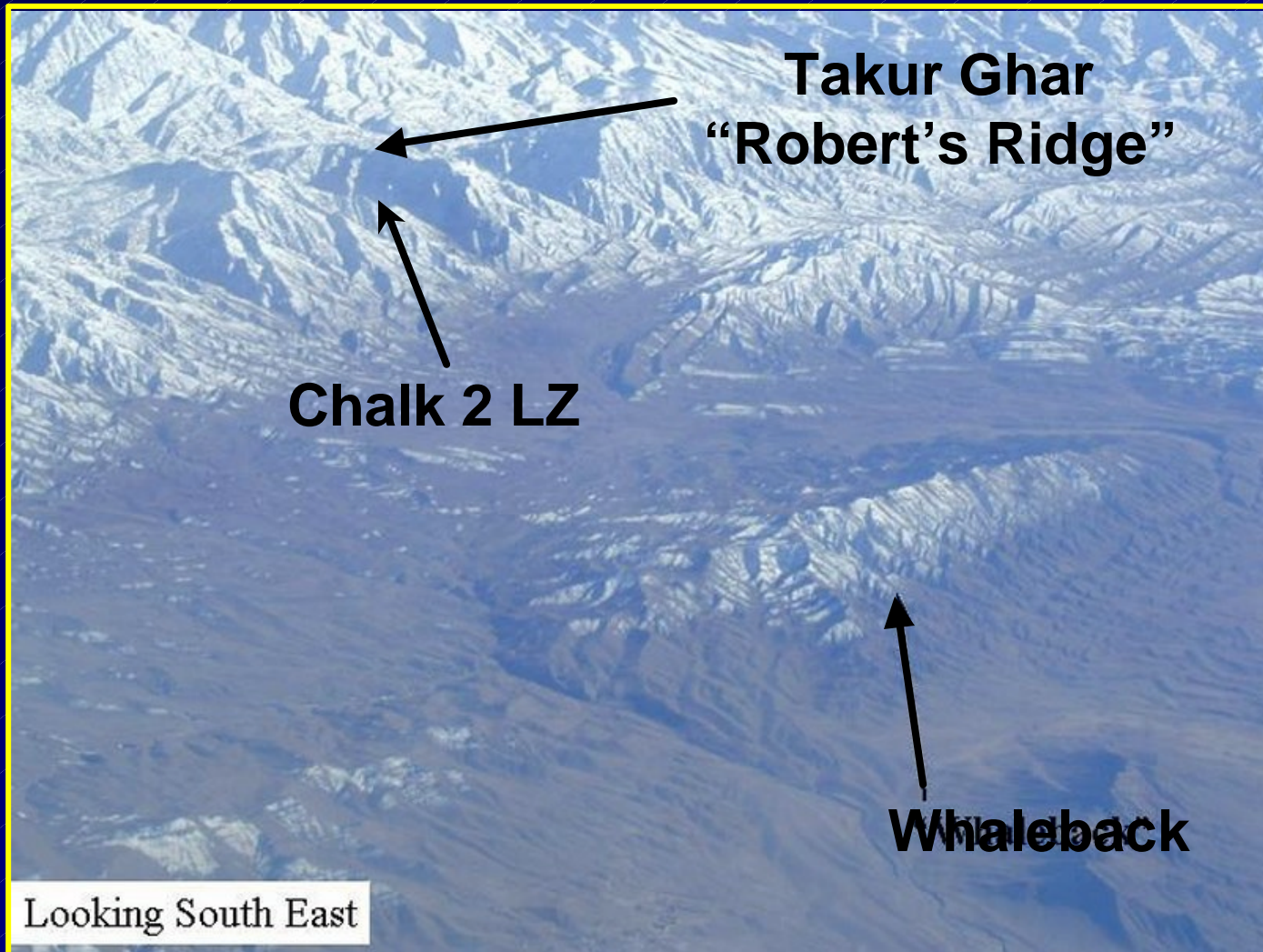


# *Roberts Ridge*





# *Imagery of Objective Area*



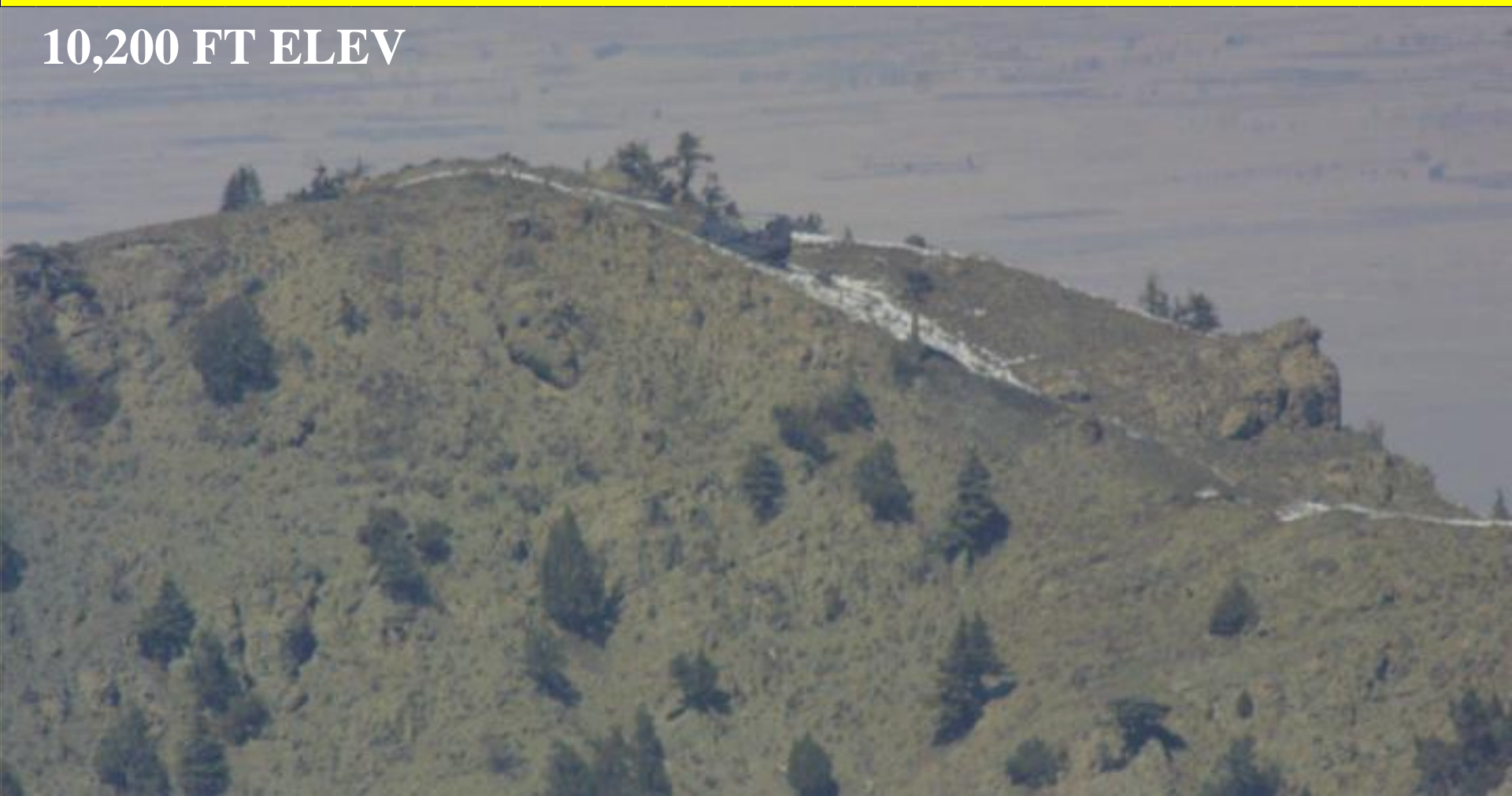




# Looking North onto Takur Ghar a.k.a. Roberts Ridge



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



# CONCEPT OF THE OPERATION



KK



ZK

UPPER SHAHI  
KOT VALLEY

BDE TAC

SERKHANKHEL  
**OBJ REMINGTON**  
MARZAK  
BABUKHEL

LOWER SHAHI  
KOT VALLEY

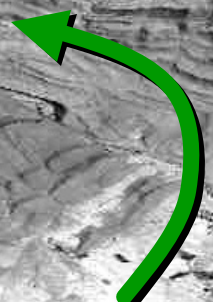
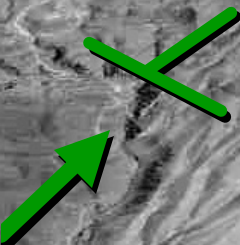
"THE WHALE"



ZIA



ZIA



# CONCEPT OF THE OPERATION



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UPPER SHAHI  
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"THE WHALE"

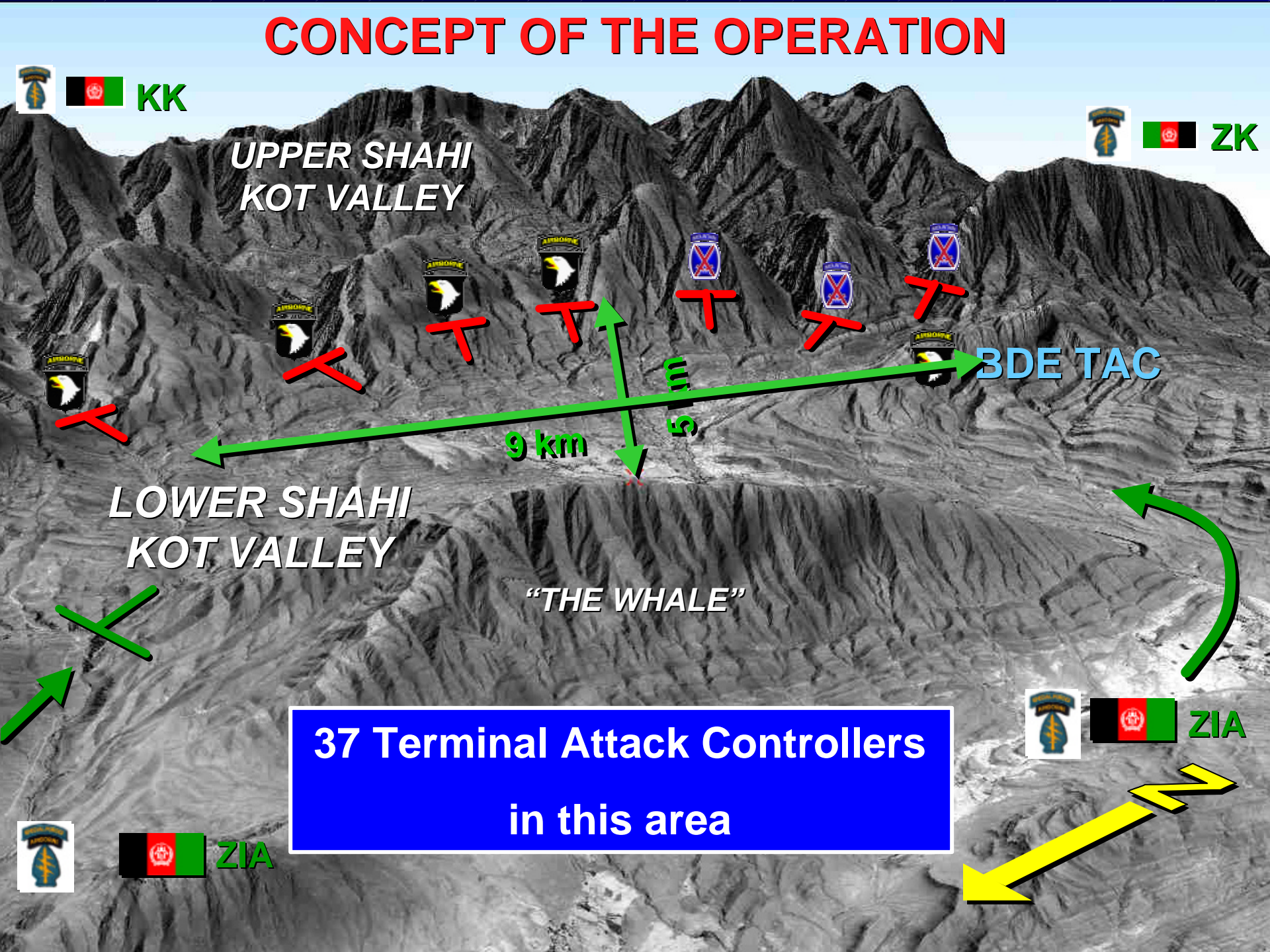
37 Terminal Attack Controllers  
in this area



ZIA



ZIA





# Shooter Sorties Flown



# D-Day: Air strike into “Ginger Pass”

Takur Ghar

“Heather Pass”

“Ginger Pass”

“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**