

**DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR WARRIOR HERITAGE.**

**W**hy are there two associations operating at the Combat Control School? Proper operation of *The Benini Heritage Center and Museum* requires both military and civilian oversight, responsibility and regulation. The School's Commandant is responsible for CCSA oversight and an elected civilian is responsible for CCSHF activities. The CCSA is an MWR function; while the CCSHF is an incorporated in the state of North Carolina as a non-profit organization.

**5-7 July 2011 – The Combat Control School** – The week of 5 July saw a flurry of activities at the school house as cadre, CCSHF volunteers and contractors prepared for a memorial service, open house and the graduation of twenty-one CCS students on Thursday, 7 July.

**Memorial Service** – A memorial service for two combat controllers, killed in Afghanistan last year, was observed on 7 July 2011. The service honored Senior Airman Daniel Sanchez (Aug 30, 1987- Sept 16, 2010) and Senior Airman Mark Forester (May 15 1981-Sept 29, 2010). The service included a tribute to the two airmen and unveiling of individual name plates on *The CCT Fallen Warrior Monument*. Family members unveiled the name plate of their son. The CCA and CCSHF coordinated financial assistance for the families with the Thales and Harris Corporations to cover travel expenses. We offer special thanks to those companies for their generous support. Lt Col Michael Martin, Deputy Commander, 724<sup>th</sup> Special Tactics Group was the guest speaker for both the Memorial Service and the Class Graduation later the same day.

**Open House** – The CCSA and CCSHF hosted an open house at *The Benini Heritage Center* for students, family members and guests; the crowd was estimated at more than 300. New and updated exhibits included: The new benefactors wall plaques.

**Shown below** are wall plaques exhibited just inside the main entrance of the school. The exhibit lists the names of individuals, companies and organizations that have made substantial contributions to the museum. At right, is a photo of Airman Danny Sanchez, one of the two airmen memorialized during the day's service.



**Shown below** is the newly updated Silver Star recipient exhibit. In the days just before the open house, seven new Silver Star plaques were installed. Shown in the photo is CMSgt (Ret) Wayne Norrad, President of the Combat Control Association. In the foreground is a photo of Airman Mark Forester, one of the two airmen memorialized during the memorial service.



A huge artifact brought back from Baghdad was installed. Sather Air Base or Camp Sather is a United States Air Force base on the west side of Baghdad International Airport. Camp Sather is named in memory of Staff Sergeant Scott Sather, the first enlisted Airman to give his life in Operation

Iraqi Freedom. Sather was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for his leadership of a 24th Special Tactics Squadron reconnaissance task force during the initial stages of the 2003 invasion of Iraq. **Shown below**, is the 4'x8' sign initially installed at Camp Sather's main gate. It was recently replaced by a formal main-gate sign. The original sign - shown here - is hung at the second story level of *The Benini Heritage Center*.



**Shown below** is the CCSHF's flagship project, *The Combat Control Fallen Warrior Memorial Walk*. After several months of delays and severe funding shortfalls, the CCSHF finally bit-the-bullet and deficit funded the project. It was completed on 6 July, a day before the memorial service. The \$3,000.00 project included a decorative border and installation of approximately 1,000 blank bricks. The CCSHF project gives shape, form and finish to the monument area. In the future, as individual bricks are purchased, blank bricks will be removed and replaced with engraved bricks. The inscription shown on the border below reads:

**DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR WARRIOR HERITAGE.**



Finally, **shown in the photo below** is the Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia O-1 Birddog exhibit. The stone at right was recently shaved, polished, re-engraved and newly titled: **DEDICATED TO CCT'S SHADOW WARRIORS, THOSE BRAVE AIRMEN WHO FOUGHT VIETNAM'S OBSCURE BATTLES IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA – 1964-1975**





# Combat Control School

This is an unofficial periodic newsletter published by the Military Association and the Civilian Foundation serving the Combat Control School.



More Memorial Day Photos.

