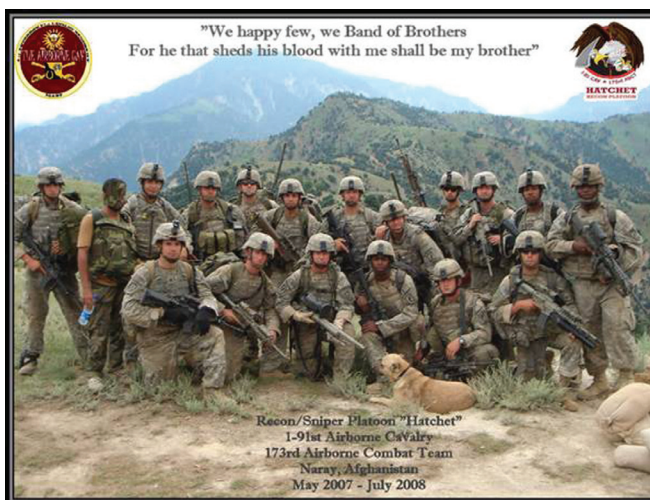


## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

TEAM RANSTAD was so named by the troops of the 1-91st Airborne Cavalry - Recon/Sniper Platoon "Hatchet".

Bruce Ranstad and Bobby Vachio served together aboard the USS Spruance (DD-963). Bruce was the ship's Chief Master-Arms and Bobby was part of the team Bruce trained for the ship's self-defense when they were deployed to the Persian Gulf in 1988 to confront Iranian aggression. Upon the ship's return to the States, Bobby met Bruce's son, Nick (who was 9-years old at the time) during a "Tiger Cruise" where sons of the ship's crew were allowed onboard for a 3-day cruise.

Bobby left the Navy shortly after; Bruce continued his career until retiring after 20-years of service. In 2007 they reconnected on a Navy website and Bruce told Bobby that Nick was now grown up and had just deployed with the 1-91st Airborne Cavalry, Recon/Sniper Platoon "Hatchet". The platoon was to be assigned to an extremely remote Forward Operating Base in the Hindu Kush mountains of northeastern Afghanistan, right on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border, with only a river separating the two.



*1-91st Airborne Cavalry Recon/Sniper Platoon "Hatchet"  
FOB Naray, Afghanistan  
(now FOB Bostick, renamed for Major Thomas G. Bostick, Jr.,  
former CO of Bravo Troop "Bulldawg", 1-91st, who fell July 2007)*

Bobby, being a member of the website AR15.com, started a forum asking other members if they'd be interested in sending boxes to the platoon - the response was absolutely overwhelming! The platoon started to receive not only boxes filled with good old American treats, movies, socks, heat packs, baby wipes, hibachi's, field showers, etc., from the members - but also equipment and gear from companies like Battery Station; LaRue Tactical; Tactical Girl calendars; Tactical Night Vision; and the list goes on and on.

Christmas that year resulted in over 250 boxes!! A Chinook helicopter was once filled with nothing but boxes for the platoon!! This resulted in the troops of the platoon saying if they needed anything...

**"Let Ranstad know ... his Team will help!"**

Thus, we became who we are and we wear that title proudly! We have continued to do the same since. It has become our calling, so to speak. We have continued to "adopt" frontline units as they rotate in and out of both Iraq and Afghanistan - from ALL branches of service.

## WE SERVE THOSE WHO SERVE

As to our "namesake"... he's recently been promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant!

Nick holds the American record for the longest confirmed sniper kill in Afghanistan at 1.3 miles with the famous Barrett .50 rifle.

The sniper "Ghille suit" he used in Afghanistan is on permanent display at the National Rifle Association Museum in Fairfax, Virginia.

Nick was on the cover of the June 2010 issue of "Soldier of Fortune"; he was featured in an article about snipers in the New York Post's May 30th 2010 Memorial Day issue; and the National Geographic Channel is currently in post-production for a documentary about the man behind the rifle, Mr. Ronnie Barrett. Nick will be in a small part of that program. Air date is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2011; the working title is "Sniper, Inc."

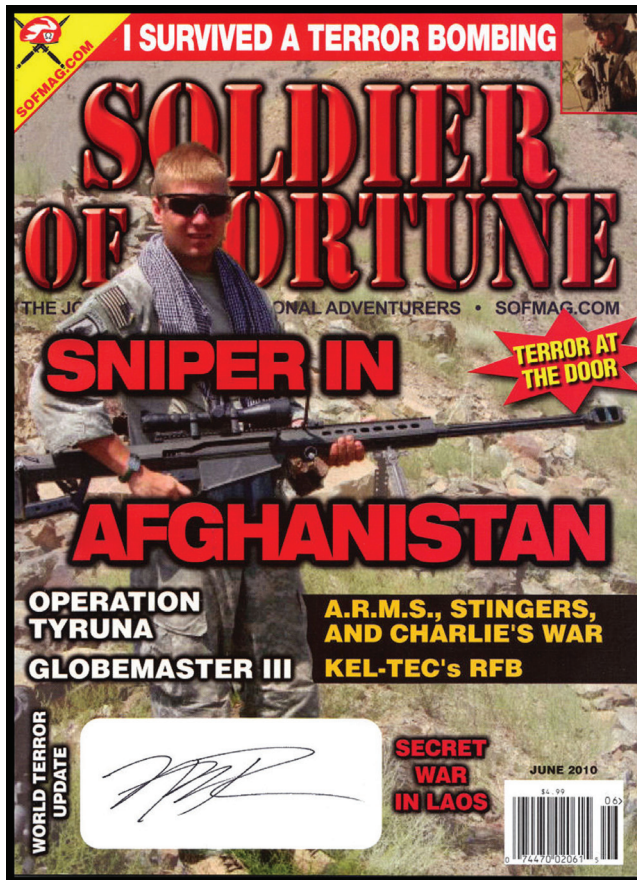
Additionally, Nick was honored by the Tennessee House of Representatives for making his record shot with a Tennessee built rifle.



*Nick at one of his sniper overlook positions*



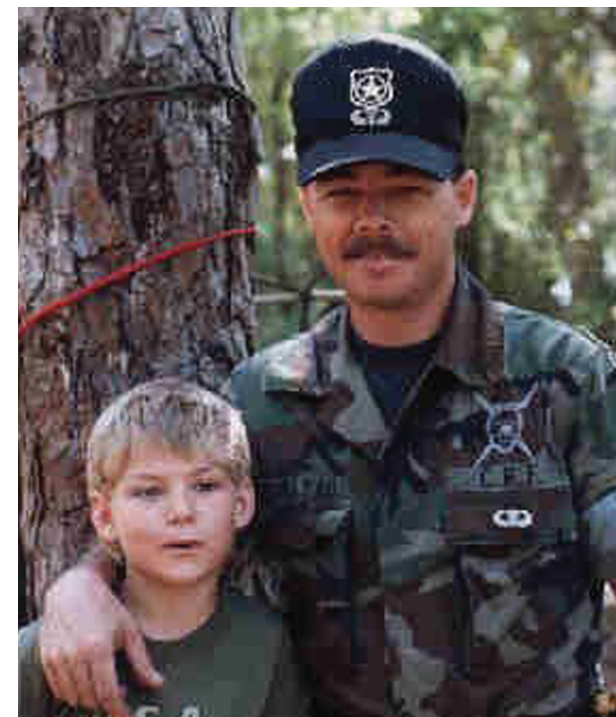
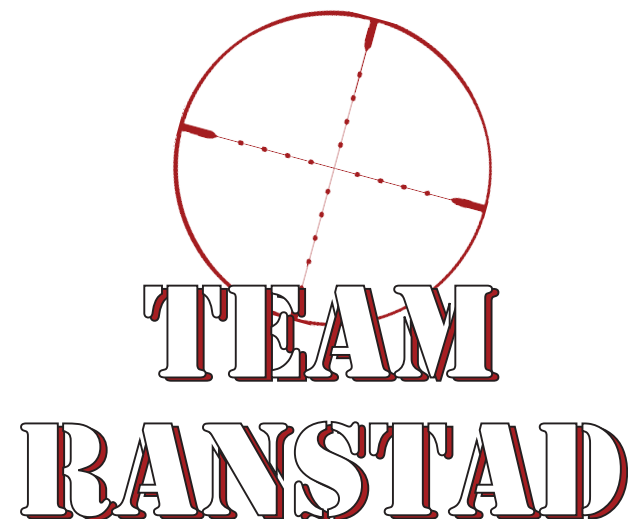
Nick on break during a "16 hour" patrol that turned into a two week endurance mission.



In June 2010 Nick was featured on the cover of "Soldier of Fortune" magazine. The issue tells the story of his 1.3 mile shot in his own words.



THIS is what we do...Nick at FOB Bostic, Christmas 2007  
Just SOME of the boxes they received!!



Bruce and Nick Ranstad  
Florida 1988

"You all do more than just slapping a yellow ribbon on the back of a truck"

XO of a Stryker Unit in Iraq - 2009

### LINKS OF INTEREST:

Team Ranstad's current forum – Join  
www.AR15.com and Us - Get Involved!!  
<http://www.ar15.com/forums/topic.html?b=1&f=5&t=1075022&page=1>

Soldier of Fortune Magazine (a copy of the June 2010 issue can be obtained here) <https://www.sofmag.com/store/june-2010-printed-back-issue>

New York Post, Memorial Day 2010 Story  
[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/how\\_to\\_shoot\\_someone\\_from\\_mile\\_away\\_IMSIqYg7vw1zVbZRI2OUOP/0](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/how_to_shoot_someone_from_mile_away_IMSIqYg7vw1zVbZRI2OUOP/0)

Tennessee Legislature Presentation  
[http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=110&clip\\_id=3989](http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=110&clip_id=3989)

(Click on "Personal Orders" and move the cursor to 14:26 minutes to watch the presentation)