

# **Robert A. Benton**

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## **Profile of Experience**

**Research and Analysis, Planning and Evaluating, Interagency Coordination, Strategy Development, Civil-Military Operations, Counterinsurgency Operations, Civil Governance, International Development, Liaison, Advising, Education, and Instruction**

## **Special Recognition and Awards**

- Bronze Star Medal
- Combat Action Badge
- University of Utah Dean's List
- Camp Le'Monier, Djibouti, CJTF-HOA Noncommissioned Officer of the Month
- Honor Graduate Civil Affairs Course (38B)
- Consistently scored the maximum points (300) on the U.S. Army Physical Fitness Test

## **Education**

**Queen's University Belfast**  
**Master of Arts- Violence, Terrorism and Security**

**Belfast, Northern Ireland**  
**September 2013**

**University of Utah**  
**Bachelor of Science- International Studies**

**Salt Lake City, Utah**  
**December 2009**

## **Training and Certification**

- Small Group Lead Instructor Course
- Total Army Instructor Course
- Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course
- Primary Leadership Development Course
- Anti-Terrorism Officer (ATO LEVEL 1)

## **Robert Benton**

### **Relevant Experience:**

**402<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion**

**East Africa, (Kenya / Comoros)**

January 2011 – January 2012

Rank: Staff Sergeant / E-6 / 40hrs per week / Salary and per diem \$6,500 month

Position: Civil Affairs Specialist / Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC)

- DUTIES
- Identify and establish relationships with U.S. and Foreign officials at all levels of government and civilian industry in order to strengthen and legitimize U.S. presence, and enable the team to positively impact the advancement of DoD Initiatives. Examples of relationships include Comorian Ministers and staff in the ministries of Defense, Education, and Public Health, local municipal leadership to include Police forces, Mayor's office and school district leaders. As part of a deployed Civil Affairs team I also had regular phone calls and meeting with Defense Attaché (DAT), DoS Political Officers, and other influential members of command.
- Create a comprehensive list of key figures in a given area, and create a systematic method to collect and disseminate information on best practices. For example, establishing naming conventions for information databases.
- Conduct research in all civil affairs functional specialties to assess the impact of USG efforts and the feasibility of USG sponsored development projects.
- Conduct research and draft project proposals which support in country strategy and comply with policies set by DoD, DoS, USAID, and other sources of funding.
- Brief commanders in bi-monthly meetings with the CJTF-HOA Joint Command Staff to assist with the sharing of best practices and other innovations.
- Provide observations, inputs and cultural expertise to senior US Military Command, Kenyan Liaison officers (KUSLO), and other officials to aid in the development and coordination of efforts.
- Plan, Implement and Evaluate development projects and Civil-Military Operations in support of U.S. security strategy in Comoros and Kenya.
- Draft daily situation reports (SITREPS) to keep senior military officials informed of the efforts and actions of the Civil Affairs Teams in the Field.
- Maintain databases of information (TIGR, Excel) relevant to the relationships established with Military, Civilian, and Industry officials.
- ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of a mobile training team that that conducted Civil Military Operations training in Kenya.
- Advised, Trained and Mentored Kenyan Engineer Battalion soldiers in Civil Military Operations doctrine, practices and applications (Soldiers then deployed to support operations in Somalia).
- Guided English Discussion Groups at the Comorian Military Language Academy in an effort to forge long-term relationships between the United States and the Comorian Defense Ministry.

- Coordinated a development project aimed at strengthening relationships between three separate Comorian Ministries (Education, Health, Military) and local media which resulted in the distribution of malaria education materials that benefited approximately 18,000 Comorian primary students on the Island of Grande Comore, Comoros.
- Managed the transport, accounting and distribution of over \$90,000 in cash used to fund development projects and military operations throughout Comoros.
- Developed written standard operating procedures which resulted in the communication of over 100 village and school assessments.
- Immediately following NATO's removal of Muammar Gaddafi in October of 2011, I was charged with drafting and delivering a speech to Comorian Military members which explained the rationale for the intervention. Until NATO's intervention, the Gaddafi Regime had funded the Comorian military's payroll. My guided discussion of the recent events satisfied the soldiers and university students, and no unwelcome situations followed.

## **Robert Benton**

**405<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion**

**Qalat, Zabul Province, Afghanistan**

February 2006 – May 2007

Rank: Sergeant / E-5 / 40hrs per week / \$3,500 monthly

Position: Civil Affairs Generalist

- Provided cultural expertise in support of Special Operations Forces (SOF), Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), and U.S. combat maneuver forces.
- Planned, implemented, and evaluated projects and Civil Military Operations conducted by military forces and other organizations in Zabul Province (e.g. Construction and Opening of a Medical Clinic in Shinkay, Zabul).
- Educated key Officials in order to minimize civilian interface with military operations being conducted by U.S. and Coalition forces in Zabul province.
- Established relationships and Conducted Liaison with civilian authorities (Provincial Governor, Sub-Governor, Staff, local religious leader) in order to coordinate meetings with superior U.S. officers.
- Provided briefings and cultural expertise to representatives from USAID, US Department of Agriculture and US Department of State on the feasibility, effectiveness and potential impact of Long-Range development projects in Zabul Province.
- Hosted visits by High Ranking U.S. Officials to include Senator Bill Frist of Tennessee and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.
- Interacted daily with host nation nationals on issues of base security (Afghan Security Forces)
- Conducted operations to obtain data, testimony and verification of Key Result Indicators and Measures of Effectiveness in relation to ongoing or past development projects in Zabul Province.
- Conducted maintenance and maintained accountability of four vehicles, weapons, and equipment valued well in excess of \$400,000.
- While Stateside (New Jersey): Taught the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations re-classification course which focused on using community influencers and resources to further DoD goals and initiatives.

References upon request-