

## Support Our Troops member returns from duty in Iraq

Charles Runner

Five months ago Robson Ranch resident and SOT member Major Tim Forsting deployed to Iraq. On September 21 Tim spoke at the SOT meeting about his experiences while assigned to the J-6, Plans and Policy, US Forces Iraq Command. He provided many interesting details about life in the combat zone. His office was located in Saddam Hussein's former "Victory over America" Palace that now sets within the confines of U.S. Military Camp Slayer in Baghdad. They worked 18-hour days supporting many elements of the US Command.

Tim experienced the violence of war up close and personal. A convoy his unit was traveling in was attacked with an improvised explosive device (IED). However, the technical design of the vehicle that took the direct force of the blast saved all of the occupants. Tim spoke of another close call when the plane he was on encountered an engine fire on takeoff. Tim smiled when he stated that the pilot and co-pilot beat the passengers off of the plane.

Tim thanked the members for the comfort packages we provided his unit, especially the custom roasted coffee from New Orleans, which he noted was envied by the general officers that had to drink the military version of coffee. He presented the SOT members with a U.S. flag that was flown on May 31, 2010 over the Victory Over America Palace in thanks for SOT's support to the soldiers of Task Force Bullet (2010). He also presented us with a piece of "T" wall autographed by members of his



*Tim Forsting addressed the Support Our Troops members on September 21. Photo by Bonnie Glod.*

unit. The special wall protected his unit's offices and quarters from the constant weapons and explosive threats.

SOT was also the recipient of another U.S. flag sent by Major Stephen P. Frank, USAF, the nephew of SOT members Richard and Liz Dinkins. Stephen is assigned to Iraq to train Iraqi Air Force Pilots. The certificate accompanying the flag notes that during July 2010 it was flown over the 52nd Expeditionary Flying Training Squadron located at the Iraqi Air Force College, Tikrit, Iraq. The flag was also flown in the hostile skies over Baghdad aboard a

— **TROOPS** cont. on page 18

USAF F-16 aircraft in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

There are currently 75 service men and women on the SOT support roster. Twenty-

one are deployed overseas. Please join us at our next meeting on September 18 at noon in the clubhouse. Our website is [supportourtropstexas.com](http://supportourtropstexas.com). ☀

**www.**  
**robsonranchpioneerpress** **.com**  
**Read us online now.**