

News Team from Sinclair's WZTV-TV in Nashville Reports From Afghanistan

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 20 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- WZTV-TV (FOX 17) in Nashville, Tennessee distinguished itself from other news programs when it became one of the first local television stations in the United States to send local reporters to Afghanistan to cover the War on Terrorism. WZTV is one of 29 television stations owned or operated by Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: SBGI) that produce local news. Sinclair owns or operates a total of 63 television stations in the U.S.

"The news staff at WZTV approached us with the idea as a way of bringing the viewers more personalized stories about the war," commented David Smith, CEO of Sinclair. "While the national news has focused on the war's progression, WZTV's news crew wanted to focus on our soldiers and the people of Kandahar."

Reporting from Afghanistan for WZTV's 'FOX 17 News' was reporter, Rey Harris, and photographer, Bob Shrader, who traveled with the 101st Airborne Division to their destination in Kandahar. Once there, the 101st took over for the Marines in guarding Taliban prisoners at the Kandahar Airport and maintaining U.S. control of the airport.

"The long, 21-hour military flight from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky to Afghanistan was pretty rough, but it was nothing compared to what we found in Kandahar," commented Harris. "We had been told conditions were difficult. That was an understatement."

Harris and Shrader, a former CNN photographer with a military background, stayed with other media personnel inside the bombed out Kandahar Airport terminal. "All the windows were shattered and temperatures inside were well below freezing. There was no hot water, no hot food, no heat and only an outside toilet," said Shrader. "The conditions in which we lived and worked in Kandahar were challenging to say the least. It was almost a full time job just to keep our equipment clean and operating."

In addition to breaking several major news stories, the Harris and Shrader team was the only crew to get an exclusive interview with FBI Director Robert Mueller about terrorist threats in the U.S. and against American soldiers in Kandahar.

By the time the crew had completed their three-week mission, they had shot, produced and fed back almost a dozen news stories for Sinclair television stations, with another dozen stories yet to be aired.

"Hopefully those images will help our viewers better understand the role of our military in the War on Terror and what life is like for those trying to survive in a war-torn nation best known for its poverty and for training terrorists," said Harris.

Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., one of the largest and most diversified television broadcasting companies, currently owns and operates, programs, or provides sales services to 63 television stations in 40 markets. Sinclair's television group includes FOX, WB, ABC, CBS, NBC, and UPN affiliates and reaches approximately 25.0% of all U.S. television households. For more information, please visit Sinclair's website at www.sbgi.net.

MAKE YOUR OPINION COUNT - [Click Here](#)
<http://tbutton.prnewswire.com/prn/11690X76815227>

SOURCE Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.

Web site: <http://www.sbgi.net>

CONTACT: Ken Smith, News Director of WZTV-TV (FOX 17), +1-615-369-5573

Company News On-Call: <http://www.prnewswire.com/gh/cnoc/comp/110203.html>

