

# [***A CIA veteran who survived a hand-to-hand battle with Al Qaeda is now helping Afghans escape the Taliban***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:66VR-TJ21-JCK6-60K8-00000-00&context=1516831)

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Courtesy David Tyson

Team Alpha group photo

Team Alpha, an elite group of CIA operatives, whose covert mission was to partner with Afghan allies to oust the Taliban and drive Al Qaeda from Afghanistan after the attacks of 9/11. Back row: CIA case officer David Tyson (2nd from right) and Mike Spann, the first American combat casualty in the war (far right).

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Laura Lejuwaan Photography/ Courtesy CIA via Getty Images file

CIA officer Johnny "Mike" Spann.

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Courtesy David Tyson

Afghan Commander Mohammed Faqir Jawzjani with Captain Mark Nutsch in Northern Afghanistan

Afghan Commander Mohammed Faqir Jawzjani with Capt. Mark Nutsch, head of a U.S. Special Forces team in Northern Afghanistan in 2001. Nutsch is part of the group now working to help former Afghan allies escape the Taliban.

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Courtesy Dr. Abdul Azim Rasul

David Tyson with Mohammed Faqir Jawzjani and his family at their home in New Jersey

Mohammed Faqir Jawzjani (center, back row), a former Afghan commander, and his family now live in New Jersey after being evacuated with the help of former U.S. partners, including David Tyson (second to left, back row).

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