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## A TRUE WARRIOR

US Navy Seaman Chris Mesnard takes a moment between rounds in a makeshift MMA gym erected inside Forward Operating Base Delhi, Helmand province, Afghanistan. The image, taken in 2011, illustrates the lengths our troops will go through to train even in a war zone. Mesnard retired from the Navy to pursue his career in MMA. The 24-year-old pro, now sponsored by Ranger Up, currently trains out of Tiger Muay in Phuket. "While training in Afghanistan, operating in a combat zone and pushing my mental and physical limits, I learned that will is the deciding factor in success," Mesnard said via e-mail. "If you have the will and the determination to fight tooth and nail for your goal, nothing can hold you back."

Photography by SGT. REECE LODDER

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NOVEMBER 29, 2011  
FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELHI,  
HELMAND PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN