



Wings of Destiny

OEF XII - XIII



NOVEMBER 2012

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Destiny-6

COL Paul Bontrager



Message From the Cockpit



Hello Soldiers, Families, and friends of Task Force Destiny, welcome to the first newsletter of this deployment. With this newsletter we plan to communicate the major events and happenings while we are deployed here in Afghanistan. Likewise, we look forward to receiving newsletters from our Rear Detachment so we can stay connected with the Families and friends of this great unit.

We grew considerable when we deployed so we must pause to introduce the three battalion organizations we have added to Task Force Destiny. From the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade in Germany we added Task Force Mission Ready and Task Force Gunslinger. Also, from the Utah National Guard we added Task Force Pirate. Welcome to the Wings of Destiny Brigade, we could not complete our mission without you.

Our deployment so far has been going extremely well, which could not happen without all of our professional Soldiers. Every aircraft that flies is indicative of the many Soldiers who came together to make it happen. I hope all of our Soldiers and Families realize the importance of our mission as we secure the Afghan population and provide them with an opportunity for a

better future.

The success of the Wings of Destiny is not only measured by those of us in Afghanistan but also by our Rear Detachment at Fort Campbell. Supporting our Families is their top priority. To the Rear Detachment, Family Readiness Groups (FRG) and volunteers—thank you for your enduring support. We are continually humbled by the many things you do to support our Families and loved ones.

Lastly, I want to express our appreciation for the sacrifices of our Families. We will be successful here in Afghanistan because our Families at home are strong. The support that our Families and loved ones demonstrate every day keeps us going. Whether you are writing letters, participating in an FRG or walking in solidarity as part of the Walk to Afghanistan, your support touches us.

May God continue to bless each and every member of the Wings of Destiny Family.

Paul B.

D6



Destiny-7

CSM Harold Plattenberg



Leading From the Front



First and foremost I would like to thank each and every member of Task Force Destiny and their Families for the continued support in the last couple of months. We have all been through some growing processes that we continue to learn from and rely on each other so that we can become successful in our day to day life experiences. Families continue to be the heart and soul of our ability to do the things that we do here in a deployed theater.

We would like to let each and every one of you know that your efforts and functions being conducted at Fort Campbell and back in other communities across the nation are being felt and heard over here. Whether it is the Walk to Afghanistan efforts or the most recent Trunk or Treat event, we see and appreciate your support. We continue to support such efforts while deployed also and want to let you be aware of these events.

The success of the Brigade is tied to a foundation

that each Soldier has. The pillars of the foundation are tied to physical fitness, spiritual support and the unwavering support of the Families behind them. These all are part of the individual Soldier's ability to stay focused on the assigned job that he or she has. You can be proud of the fact that the Soldiers of the Wings of Destiny are carrying themselves as the true professionals that each and every one of us know that they are. We are doing extremely well over here as we continue to support the Soldiers that rely on our services.

I am extremely proud to tell each of you that your Soldiers make me proud to say that I am their CSM. Their efforts are making a difference in a part of the world that relies on them in providing them a chance in a better way of life.

CSM Harold Plattenberg

D7



Destiny Chaplain CH (MAJ) Billy Graham



Count Your Blessings



Life during deployment can be challenging. Just everyday tasks can take on a struggle all their own. Taking a shower or going to the latrine requires a great deal of effort. Standing in line for chow, only to discover the options for dinner are limited. Sleeping, or merely the attempt to sleep, is frustrated by roommates' habits or work schedules. Mattresses and beds are hard or broke or downright broken down and uncomfortable. The work schedule is long and relentless. These are just the challenges in theatre. The difficulties back home are just as demanding. Dealing with raising the kids; paying the bills; or handling the complexities of finding information and assistance through the myriad of resources on post can be daunting. Then for good measure there is the eventual breaking of something: the car, the washing machine, or the Graham Family's favorite, the hot water heater. If we sit and ponder the challenges we face on a regular basis during deployment, it could be overwhelming. Lest you are wondering why I am addressing things in such dire straits, let me encourage you with another way of seeing things.

Often we cannot control the challenges we face and the struggles that appear; but we can absolutely control how we think about and respond to those challenges. One such method is contained in a module of the Master Resiliency Training that we all have access to. It is found in the module, "Hunt the Good Stuff." This module encourages us instead of focusing on all the crud in our lives, to look for and consider the good things that can be discovered in the midst of the crud. Compared to other deploy-

ments I've experienced, at least we have showers and latrines. We are enjoying hot food served four times a day, every day. We have beds and mattresses in enclosed shelters to sleep in. We still have a vital mission with the future of multiple nations we are actively impacting. We have the greatest Combat Aviation Brigade in the world in which to serve, and yes I am biased. We have the myriad of resources at our disposal eager to assist and to serve the Soldiers' and Families' needs.

I could go on and on, but I think you get the point. An old hymnist describes this ability when he proclaims: "Count your blessings, Name them one by one; Count your blessings, See what God hath done." Instead of concentrating so much on all that is hard, perhaps we all need to consider the many blessings we enjoy. The Bible declares: "For I have learned to be content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength." We all can use the lesson of looking up and looking in for that contentment, no matter the circumstances. In this upcoming holiday season, pause and count your blessings, write them out one by one if that will help you see what God has done.

CH Billy Graham

Destiny Chaplain



Destiny Important Dates



SMRT Trainings:

November 6 and 16- Thinking Traps

December 7 and 14- Icebergs

Strong Bonds:

November 2-4 Deployed Families

December 7-9 Rear D Soldiers and Families

BN Events:

November 7- 96th ASB Spouse Social

November 8- 6-101 BN FRG Meeting

November 8- 5-101 FRG Meeting

November 13- 2-17 CAV Squadron FRG Meeting

November 17- 6-101 BN FRG Movie Night

November 20- 96th ASB Quarterly Briefing

BN Events Continued:

December 4- 1-101 No Mercy Christmas Party

December 1- 6-101 Christmas Party

December 8- 2-17 CAV Breakfast with Santa

January 11- 96th ASB after the Holidays Bash

BDE Events:

November 8- 101 CAB BUNCO

November 15- ACS Holiday Shopping on a Budget/How to avoid Credit Card Debt

January 18- BDE Half way Dining In

Division Volunteer Ceremony

November 15

December 20

January 17



Task Force No Mercy



Soldier Spotlight

SPC Palacat comes from Hawaii, is married to Lea Palacat and has two children, Taya who is 6, and Xavier who is 9 months. Since first coming to the Spectres, SPC Palacat has displayed an unwavering willingness to accept challenges and an uncanny ability to overcome them. He maintains high APFT score and successfully graduated Air Assault ahead of his peers. Since we've deployed SPC Palacat continues to seek challenges and serve as a rally point for others. He was a key element to our most recent 250 hour inspection. His positive influence and personal drive led the maintenance team to complete the inspection a full day ahead of schedule. He also spent the last two weeks personally entering over 1100 lines of bench stock into the ULLS-A supply system in order to ensure proper account and stock level of all mission essential hardware and bench stock parts. The information entered is also shared among other flight companies, which increases the Task Force's maintenance capability. SPC Palacat and other Spectres like him are the reason for our measurably high level of performance and for all we have been able to accomplish. We are proud of SPC Palacat, his hard work, and his positive impact on the Spectres.



TF No Mercy begins wartime mission

By CPT Matterson Sebastian

With the solemn memory of events of Sept. 11, 2001, the Soldiers of Task Force No Mercy and Task Force Wolf Pack gathered to attend the Transfer of Authority Ceremony between the two units. The Soldiers and aviators of No Mercy were once again given the command to "uncase the colors". The battle cry of "Expect No Mercy" echoed through the air as LTC Bill Ryan and CSM Maurice Terry symbolized the official acceptance of the OEF mission by un-casing the TF No Mercy colors. The battalion will provide full spectrum aviation operations in Regional Command-East, and across the provinces of Khost and Paktya, Afghanistan. The battalion is made up of the AH-64 Apache, the OH-58 Kiowa, the UH-60 Black Hawk, the CH-47 Chinook, Medevac and the RQ-7B Shadow Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

After serving a 12-month tour in combat, LTC John Cyrulik, Commander of TF

Wolf Pack, 1-82nd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, relinquished responsibility for the Area of Operations in Khost province.

LTC Ryan set the tone for the deployment in his speech to the Soldiers of No Mercy.

"You have begun your next rendezvous with Destiny in your long, proud lineage," LTC Ryan said. "You are now judged by what you will do, not what you have done. I have full faith and confidence in each and every one of you. I share your sense of anticipation, and am honored to serve with each and every one of you." LTC Ryan went on to thank and congratulate Task Force Wolf Pack on their tremendously successful rotation, as well as to welcome F/1-171 Valkyrie and B/3-328th Titans to the team.

TF No Mercy is organized under the headquarters of 1st battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, and is a subordinate of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Task Force No Mercy





Task Force Saber



Soldier Spotlight

CPL Lisa A. Winston, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, a native of Los Angeles, Calif., volunteered to deploy as advanced party to assist in establishing the HHT footprint three weeks prior to the deployment of the squadron main body. She constructed several projects in troop B-Huts to increase the quality of life for incoming Soldiers. Winston resourced, designed, and painted several task force and troop signs. She re-organized and prepared the troop orderly room, which increased work production and flow once troop arrived in theater. Upon arrival, she assumed full responsibility of work order processing and mayor cell duties two weeks prior to the transfer of authority. She also juggled orderly room and morale welfare and recreation operations 12 hours daily. CPL Winston also created a system, based on standing operating procedures to maintain 100 per-cent work order oversight and tracking for TF Saber.

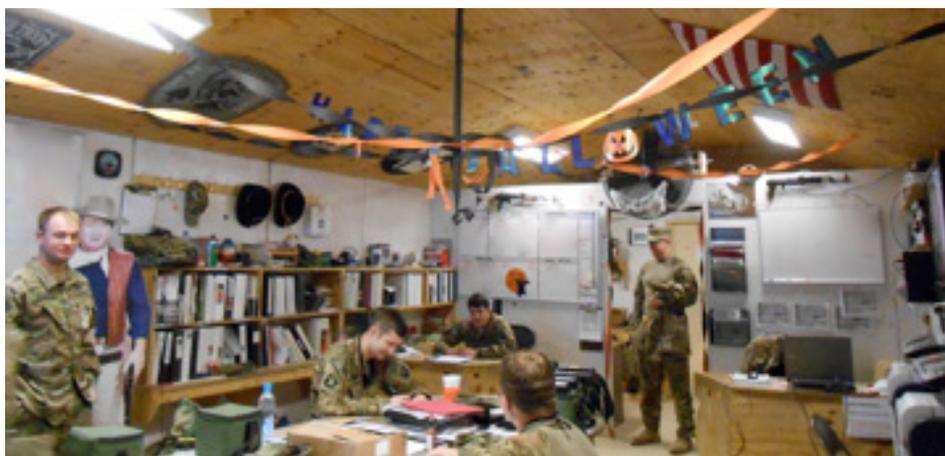


Task Force Saber



Soldier Spotlight

SSG Harrison deployed as a part of the Task Force advance party. He conducted operations to assume responsibility of the FARPs located at Jalalabad Airfield and Asadabad Airfield, Afghanistan prior to the arrival of the rest of Echo Troop. He enabled the III/V platoon to begin refueling and rearming functions in less than 48 hours and supervised the issue of over 60,000 gallons of fuel to U.S. and Coalition Forces partner aircraft. His tireless efforts on the FARP have made it possible for the Task Force to receive and provide uninterrupted combat service support.





Task Force Troubleshooters



Troubleshooter families and soldiers, congratulations on your adjustment to our deployment; this deployment although not as long as the previous still presents a challenge to everyone, especially our families and soldiers deploying for the first time. Hang in there and before you know it we will have our home coming. Everyone's support is greatly appreciated and needed in order to have a successful deployment.

Our Troubleshooters all around the world are doing great things. The mission in Rota, Spain was outstanding, the Troubleshooters along with the other Task Forces provided first class support in ensuring our aircraft and equipment moved forward without delays or losses. The Troubleshooters were the first force on the ground in Bagram ensuring the re-build of all aircraft was accomplished safe and fast to assist in getting the Brigade ready to assume mission.

For the last 90 days the Troubleshooters have assumed mission, and have improved on every product or commodity they are now responsible to manage. Within the Blacksheep, the entire staff across the Battalion has revamped their

shops in order to provide the right support to the companies were needed and when needed. The SPO Nation has improved the accountability of every class of supply to include the distribution of aircraft on the ground CL IX Air parts via the "Eagle Express" aerial delivery aircraft. The motorpool team is now managing the Brigade consolidated motorpool providing contact maintenance teams not only to the Battalion but to outlying forward operating bases were our Troubleshooters are working and have equipment needing maintenance support. Our Troubleshooters continue to be an integral part of the Brigade consolidated Aid Station, providing first class medical support. The Road Runners have revamped the three FARPs they are responsible for and have giving an entire new facelift to the Support Supply Activity. The Big Ugly Team continues to provide first class aviation maintenance support across the entire Brigade at four forward operating bases and three Battalion FARPs to include two additional FARPs for two other Task Forces. The mighty Cipher Team came in with a total different mission set, to manage a Division Rotary Wing Passenger Terminal/Arrival and Departure Aerial Cargo Group and are doing a phenomenal job. The Cipher team

has received accolades from every VIP that has transitioned through the passenger terminal.

I am extremely proud of every soldier that deployed in support of the Battalion's mission. I am equally proud of the soldiers left in the Rear in order to manage all of our equipment and day to day business. Again, Troubleshooters around the world continue to leave their mark of success in every task they perform.

Congratulations to all of the Troubleshooters who have been promoted and took the opportunity to reenlist. Families, thank you for your endless support, love and prayers. With your support the Troubleshooters will continue their march towards mission success. Please continue to support your FRGs and Battalion social events. God Bless you all.

FIX, MOVE, COMMUNICATE, TROUBLESHOOTERS!

Sincerely

Ben Bahoque, TS6

Task Force Troubleshooters





Task Force Eagle Assault



By: 1LT Landon Cheben

Since transfer of authority, Eagle Assault has taken the past month to get into a battle rhythm that allows each individual team in the battalion to learn the patterns and tendencies of their specific task. The tactical operations center especially has been growing and learning as new teams rotate in and out on a daily basis to provide around-the-clock coverage of Eagle Assault aircraft and missions. Critical to the TOC team has been Cpl. Ryan Patterson, one of the Battle NCO's running the show and representing 5-101. Arriving at Forward Operating Base Shank several weeks before anyone else, he has been key in Task Force Eagle Assault's transition into operating aircraft and completing missions in the Wardak and Logar provinces. He has readily displayed on multiple occasions the willingness and ability to train other soldiers to become better at their own job, and to learn the job of another. The TOC has to be flexible and everyone needs to know what everyone else is doing, both inside the building, and outside; both at the present time, and the next 24-48 hours. Patterson has positively distinguished himself as a leader and proved himself a crucial person by bettering soldiers around him to complete missions at TF Eagle Assault.



Task Force Eagle Assault





Task Force Shadow



By Spc. Frank Lovejoy

Soldiers with 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Shadow opened a internet café for their fellow soldiers in TF Shadow's footprint on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan on Oct. 26, 2012.

The creation of a fully stocked morale welfare and recreation internet café equipped with ten phones to call home, and 20 computers for school work, army correspondence courses and even 3 webcams for the ever-popular, skype sessions to loved ones, in just 3 weeks, was no easy feat. A project starting with the intent from the task force command sergeant major to allow Soldiers to complete required training, to the end result is awesome.

Soldiers who are willing to help each other is a quality that we hope all Soldiers will have, but is rare to find.

“I just like to help

people out,” SPC Cody Johnson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade chaplain's assistant, a native of Lehigh Acers, Fla. “I like to make peoples' day better. I've always been like that.”

SPC Jason O'Neal, Supply Sergeant, HHC, 6-101 CAB, was a major contributor to the requisition, and supply for almost all of the required materials that went into the construction, and development of the Internet Café.

“They needed supplies,” said O'Neal. “Whatever benefits them, makes me happy.”

In all six Soldiers were given awards for their involvement in the outstanding projects completion from HHC, 6-101 CAB, but one soldier who, most involved agree, was a huge impact on mentoring them in this endeavor, was SFC Christopher William, HHC, 6-101 CAB, signal operations noncommissioned

officer-in-charge, a native of Columbus, Ohio.

“You got to see soldiers step up, and take leadership roles, and you watched them grow, personally and professionally,” said Williams. “I was personally very proud of all of them to see the pride that they took in something that they were turning over and providing.”

“This is such a good thing for the Soldiers,” said LTC Joel Aoki, commander, 6-101 CAB, TF Shadow. “In my opinion, this facility sends two messages. First, we recognize that our Soldiers' time is important. Having a facility so close to where we work should make it much easier for them to stay connected with friends and family throughout the day. Second, it shows that we are committed to providing our Soldiers with the opportunity to continue their education through on-line schooling. I can't say enough how thankful I am for the team we do here at Bagram”

Task Force Shadow





12th CAB



Task Force Gunslinger and Task Force Ready from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade join Task Force Destiny to extend the effectiveness of the Destiny Brigade further across RC-East and into RC-North. TF Gunslinger, a task force of AH-64 Apache helicopters brings attack capability to FOB Sharana and TF Ready brings lift and movement as well as MEDEVAC capability to territory under the command of the German Army. TF Destiny is proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers and sisters stationed in Germany.

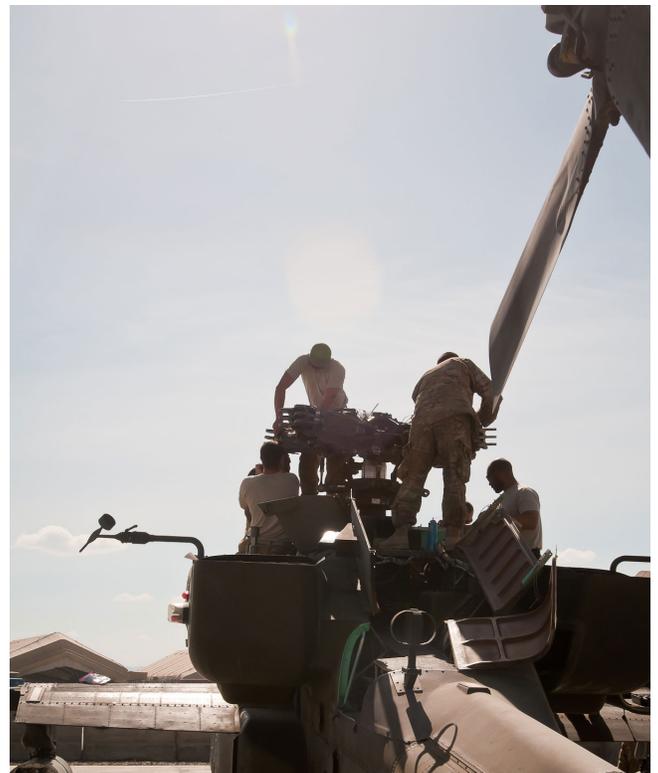


12th Combat Aviation Brigade



Photo by U.S. Army SGT Nicholas Morles

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Mechanics attached to 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Gunslinger, conduct maintenance on an AH-64 Apache helicopter. These Soldiers ensure that the Squadron remains on a high level of operational readiness at all times.





Task Force Pirate



Task Force Pirate is a mid size Task Force based out of FOB Kunduz, comprised of both Active duty and National Guard Soldiers with a mirage of Rotary Wing Airframes for Attack-Reconnaissance, Utility, MEDEVAC and Cargo missions. 1st BN 211th ARB, Utah Army National Guard, is the Headquarters unit for TF Pirate with elements from 12th CAB based out of Ramstein Germany. TF Pirate is just months from completing a successful deployment based on a great working relationship with active component elements from the 12th CAB that was nurtured months prior to coming to theater.

Soldiers of both 12th CAB and the 211th have learned much from each other based on previous deployment experience, but have enjoyed a near seamless transition towards working together. The 1-211th ARB boasts one other successful deployment to OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM making this deployment their second time deployed to this theater. There have been many challenges for TF Pirate; a moderate OP-TEMPO, transitioning between three “parent” Brigade Headquarters and manning drawdown to mention a few. Regardless of the challenges that TF Pirate is forced to endure, the Air Pirates will always come ahead and are ready for more!

Soldiers with TF Pirate of the Utah Army National Guard celebrate Oktoberfest with their German counterparts in a cook-out including bratwurst, pretzls and non-alcoholic beer on Forward Operating Base Kunduz in Kunduz Province, Afghanistan.



Task Force Pirate

