

# 101st Combat Aviation Brigade

Official Publication

No Mercy Eagle Assault Shadow Of The Eagle Trouble Shooters Out Front



Hellcats Dragon Killer Spades Arctic Cowboys Buccaneers

OIF 05-07

# WINGS OF DESTINY MAGAZINE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 101<sup>ST</sup> COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

COMMANDER, 101 AVN BDE.....COL WARREN E. PHIPPS, JR  
CSM, 101 AVN BDE.....CSM TOD L. GLIDEWELL  
101 AVN BDE BRIGADE PAO.....SFC ANTONY JOSEPH  
[tony.joseph@us.army.mil](mailto:tony.joseph@us.army.mil)  
EDITOR, BDE MILITARY JOURNALIST .....SGT RYAN MATSON  
[ryan.c.matson@us.army.mil](mailto:ryan.c.matson@us.army.mil)

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### ***From the Editor***

These are the final articles remaining in our archives from this deployment. I hope you enjoy them,

Air Assault!

SGT Ryan C. Matson, Editor

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# NEWS

## One Day in Iraq: Apache Pilot

*\*Note: This is the fourth in a four-part series profiling the pilots of the four airframes of the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade – Chinook, Kiowa, Blackhawk and Apache - during their deployment to Iraq. This article focuses on Apache pilots from 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion “Expect No Mercy”, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade – their story and average day in Tall Afar as part of Task Force No Mercy.*

**Story and photos by SGT Ryan Matson**  
*101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade*



TALL AFAR, IRAQ -- Before he flew Apaches, Chief Warrant Officer Three Scott Chapman, Company B “Bearcats”, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, worked in a bank. His fellow pilot-in-command, Chief Warrant Officer Two Travis Sitter, also of Company B, drove a UPS truck in Montana. Now they are both flying Apache attack helicopters above and around the city of Tall Afar, Iraq, protecting the city and United States Army Soldiers of the 172<sup>nd</sup> Stryker Brigade from insurgents and terrorists.

The pilots all come from various backgrounds. Chief Warrant Officer Two Jay Porretta started off working on Apaches, after enlisting as an armament specialist, meaning he worked on the various weapons systems on the helicopter. Chief Warrant Officer Two Mike Leatherman was a tanker, meaning he worked in the armor units he now supports as an Apache attack helicopter pilot.



### **In the pilot's seat**

**CW3 Scott Chapman, Company B "Bearcats", 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, prepares for a flight in an AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter from Forward Operating Base Sykes near Tall' Afar, Iraq, June 17.**

"If you look across our company, we all came just about every background you can imagine – we've had people who worked in the medical field, people who were paper pushers, infantry guys, everything," Chapman said.

Now they are all together doing what they love – flying an attack helicopter, supporting the infantry. Each pilot said they would rather fly the Apache than any other airframe in the Army.

"Have you seen the other Army airframes?" Porretta joked. "We're an attack helicopter; I never wanted to fly anything else."

The pilots said they love the firepower and attack capability the Apache brings to the table and its advanced technology.

"The helicopter has great situational awareness," Poretta said. "We don't have to look down at a bunch of gauges to find out what we need to know. Everything we need to know, most of the flight information, is right in front of our eyepiece. The technology makes it easy to fly."

Chapman has now been flying Apaches for 10 years. He said he went to college with the intention of becoming a jet fighter pilot, and finished school in 1990 when the Gulf War ended. He said at the time the military was cutting back its forces,

and it was unlikely he would get a chance to fly jets, so he started working at a bank. But he said his desire to fly never left.

"I still wanted to fly," he said. "I always wanted to be in the military and make a difference."

Chapman said he talked with Army recruiters and learned about the warrant officer program. He was 27 years old, and said he feared he would not be accepted but did not want to give up on his dream and put in a flight packet anyway. Ten months later, he was notified that he was accepted. Chapman admitted that he and his wife, Jacquelyne, had to sacrifice their previous jobs, and a bit of income, to make his new career a reality, but with his wife's support he made it happen.

"I would have regretted it if I didn't do it," he said.

The first step was basic training. After enlisting and completing basic, Chapman went on to Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Alabama, as a newly-promoted sergeant. He then completed flight school and has been flying ever since.

Now Chapman flies on an almost daily basis as part of Task Force No Mercy. He said he is happy with the way his career panned out, especially since he flies much more than a jet pilot would. He also said he feels the Apache is a more challenging aircraft to fly since an Apache requires more effort on the pilot's part to fly. Sitter agreed.

"An airplane wants to fly," Sitter said. "If you let go of the controls on a helicopter, it's going to go all over the place."

Sitter has flown Apaches for six and a half years. He deployed with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom I and discussed some of the differences between both deployments.

"Last time, almost all our missions were directed from division – we didn't fly unless there was something specific to do," he said. "Now we get to directly support lower echelons and we fly all the time."



### Apache Chiefs

CW2 Two Jay Porretta (above), and CW2 Mike Leatherman (left), Company B "Bearcats", 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, prepares for a flight in an AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter from Forward Operating Base Sykes near Tall'Afar, Iraq, June 15.



Sitter said he believes this has strengthened the relationship with the infantry units 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion has supported in Tall Afar, beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division and now, the 172<sup>nd</sup> Stryker Brigade.

“They know us and they know our call signs,” Sitter said.

“When the ground guys say we showed up and got eyes on around the area and



everything instantly calmed down, it’s very rewarding,” Poretta, who is in his third year of flying Apaches after six years as an armament specialist, said. “They’ll thank us and some of the Special Forces guys and Stryker guys will come over and write, we get e-mails from them, too.”

The pilots said that as part of Task Force No Mercy, they are able to fly with Kiowas and Blackhawks while supporting the infantry around Tall Afar. They said they fly “shotgun” missions – missions in which they provide aerial security to Blackhawks and sometimes fly in “pink teams” – missions in which a Kiowa flies low to the ground overhead troops, with the Apache lurking high over head to watch the surrounding area to provide firepower for any threats detected in the area. They also provide convoy security, and the pilots said they are proud to say a convoy Company B has overwatched has never been struck by an improvised roadside device. They said this proves the deterrence factor an Apache armed

with four Hellfire missiles, a 30 mm chain gun with more than 300 rounds, and 19 2.75 inch high-explosive rockets.

The days can be long, the pilots noted. On an average day, they said they may wake up early for a mission brief, look at their log books and, if working with another type of airframe, sort out what

they expect from each other. Next, it is on to the flight line for pre-flight inspections. The missions themselves may last between three and six hours depending on what is called for.

But in the end, doing what they dreamed to do, and keeping their infantry brothers safe is what the pilots said makes their job worthwhile. That, and one other thing.

“It’s a very fun aircraft to fly,” Chapman said.

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### Standing tall

**CW2 Travis Sitter, Company B “Bearcats”, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, prepares for a flight in an AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter from Forward Operating Base Sykes near Tall’Afar, Iraq, June 15.**

# NEWS

## Breaking boards and doing flips

*Soldiers from Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, demonstrate martial arts expertise*

Story and photos by SGT Ryan Matson  
*101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade*



### Big Man Gets Up

MAJ Carl Casey, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, leaps over three Soldiers while executing a tumbling break as part of the Mixed Martial Arts Memorial Day Exhibition May 27 at the Main Gym, Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.



### **Beat-down coming**

**SGT Claudia Tapia, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, left, demonstrates women's self defense.**

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, all part of, or attached to the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, came together May 27 before a crowd of more than 100 Soldiers and civilians from throughout Contingency Operating Base, Iraq, to showcase their martial arts skills.

For weeks the Soldiers had worked choreographing the hour and a half-long presentation, which they called the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade Memorial Day Mixed Martial Arts Exhibition. The show featured exhibitions in the Korean martial arts disciplines of Tae Kwon Do, Kuk Soo Won, and Japanese Jiu Jitsu and judo.

"We would like to dedicate this exhibition in remembrance of America's fallen warriors and heroes of Operation Iraqi Freedom this Memorial Day," 1SG Julie Childress, Company E, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade ("Expect No Mercy"), the program's narrator read at the start of the program. Following a moment of silence, the Soldiers took to the floor to show off the martial arts skills they had learned and honed over the first 9 months of a year-long deployment.

The Tae Kwon Do demonstration featured 11 Soldiers, an Airman and a Sailor. During the exhibition, the group demonstrated forms and breaking techniques. SPC Jose Gonzalez, Company C, 96<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, and SPC Jonathon L. Parker, Company A, 96<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, demonstrated the form known as "Heaven," which is the form of which all others are based on. PFC. Sammy Mao, Company E, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade and PFC Ashton Harris, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, then demonstrated the forms "Thunder," and "Fire," in which the Soldiers broke boards using ax kicks and jump back kicks.

Besides forms and breaking techniques, the Tae Kwon Do demonstration also featured one-step and Olympic style sparring, as demonstrated by Parker, Harris, Mao, SSG Jose G. Ullao-Avelar, Company D, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, SGT Francisco Ortiz, Company D, 40<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion, SPC Tanner L. Richie, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade and Airman SSG Clinton R. Stone, 557<sup>th</sup> Redhorse Expeditionary Squadron. Naval Petty Officer Third Class Ron Belcher also showcased the "Koom Kang" form of Tae Kwon Do during this segment.

SGT Claudia Tapia, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, re-enacted self-defense methods of dealing with multiple attackers during a sexual harassment scenario.

"Self defense, provides you with the attitude of self protection in everyday life, but also heightens your self confidence, strengthens your personal safety, and prevents sexual harassment, anytime, anywhere," Childress read as Tapia hurled attackers to the ground and used strikes to deter their advances.

MAJ Karl Casey, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, provided the Tae Kwon Do demonstration's grand finale by demonstrating the Kor Yo form. To the crowd's applause, he then executed four clean board breaks utilizing a front kick, sliding side kick, ax kick, and back kick breaking sequence. The highlight of Casey's performance came when the 40-year-old, 205-pound Soldier ran across a series of mats, hurled over three squatting Soldiers, executed a swift tumble upon landing and got back on his feet to break a board by delivering a frontal fist punch.

"He has been the backbone of this team," Childress said.

SSG John Yi, a second degree black belt and the group's instructor throughout the course of the deployment said that the demonstration showed how far the group had come in their nine months of training after work duties throughout their deployment. He said their dedication was unwavering and it inspired him to continue training the group, who trained for the demonstration daily for months preceding the program.

TSGT. Keith B. Morris, of the 557<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Redhorse Squadron was the next demonstrator. Morris, a Third Degree Black Belt since January 2001 in the Kuk Soo Won discipline who is training for his fourth-degree status, displayed numerous types of hand and elbow strikes, kicks, joint locks and throw techniques, and grappling techniques in his demonstration. The 17-year veteran of Kuk Soo Won also explained the discipline, noting that it is a combination of various Korean martial arts forms including Tae Kwon Do, Hap Ki Do, Tang Soo Do, and Hwa Rang Do. Morris utilized Yi's students in the demonstration, simply and seemingly effortlessly



#### **Flipping for judo**

**SPC Sheila Pereira, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, throws Sgt. Timothy Hamilton, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, during the judo and Jui-Jitsui portion of the Mixed Martial Arts Memorial Day Exhibition.**

thwarting their attacks using a series of Hap Ki Do wrist locks and joint throws.

SPC Sheila Pereira and SGT Timothy Hamilton, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, wrapped up the program with an intense Jiu-Jitsu demonstration. Pereira, a former national champion female Judo champion, and Hamilton, a nationally ranked wrestler also trained in Jiu-Jitsu demonstrated numerous throwing techniques and grappling submissions techniques while thunderous rock music blared across the gym speakers.

"We are happy to perform this exhibition as a sign of our patriotism," Pereira's introduction to her demonstration read.

"The freedoms we enjoy stem from the efforts of the veterans of our nation's past battles and the men and women here today still sacrificing for something greater than themselves. This Memorial Day, let us reflect on the examples of the heroic Soldiers who fought before us, our fallen comrades here in country, and the friends and families back home who support us during such a critical time."



### Kicking and punching

(Left) SSG Clinton R. Stone, right, breaks a board using a double back spinning kick as part of the Mixed Martial Arts Memorial Day Exhibition May 27 at the Main Gym, Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq. (Right) SPC Jonathon Parker, Company A, 96th Aviation Support Battalion, performs the Tae Kook form known as "Heaven" and "Light".

# NEWS

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## 101st Combat Aviation Brigade hosts Fourth of July celebration at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq

Story by SGT Ryan Matson, Photos by SGT Matson and SPC Casey Clark  
*101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade*



### Up for the big game

Action during the championship volleyball match between 6th Battalion and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade during the Fourth of July celebration at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq. (photo by SPC Casey Clark)

Several weeks ago, Sgt. Rocio Marquez and Spc. Regina Crump, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, sat down to discuss ideas for the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday with company commander Capt. Gina Sannicolas. The end result was the Independence Day Celebration July 4 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, the biggest celebration held on COB Speicher to celebrate the Fourth.



### Good sports

CSM Tod L. Glidewell (top) and COL Warren Phipps (below), sit in the dunking booth during the Fourth of July Celebration at Contingency Operating Speicher, Iraq.

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**Talented individuals**

**Soldiers and Airmen of all ranks participated in the talent show, which wrapped up the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations.**



Marquez said she thought the celebration was important for the Soldiers.

“I think the celebration was important for the morale of the Soldiers, for them to forget they aren’t at home with their families,” she said.

The celebration included various games, tournaments, and entertainment. The day started at 4 p.m. with games such as tug of war matches between the Army, Marines and COB firefighters, water balloon fights with the Marines, a dunking booth, desert bowling, and a DJ. The entertainment continued with the Oasis Band (a group of Soldiers and civilian contractors), the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Band, another DJ and was capped off with a talent show which ran until 10:30 p.m. The day also featured two COB-wide sports tournaments in volleyball and softball, in which 12 teams participated. Both tournaments were won by 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade. Marquez said Sgt. Joel Mick, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, coordinated all the games between the teams in the tournaments.

Marquez credited the success of the celebration to cooperation from many groups.

“We had cooperation from Morale Welfare and Recreation, all the battalions in the brigade and Kellogg, Brown and Root,” she said.

**Other activities...**



Desert Bowling



Division Band



Tug of War



Marines vs. Firemen



The Oasis Band

# NEWS

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## 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade Blackhawk pilot talks about working with the Iraqi Air Force

Story by CW2 David Currier

*Company A, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, Tactical Operations officer*



### **Working Together**

CW2 David Currier, center, in the flight suit, a Tactical Operations officer from Company A, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, poses with members of the Iraqi Air Force who he trained on planning, preparing, executing and assessing Tactical Operations for their unit mission of security and surveillance of oil lines and oil fields in Northern Iraq.

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In Iraq, Soldiers from 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, have spent time working to slowly rebuild the Iraqi Air Force into a force capable of protecting the country and its people. Most of the Iraqi Air Force had sustained tremendous loss of aircraft during Operation Desert Storm, and the Air Force has undergone the challenge of rebuilding with the help of U.S. Soldiers.

The 5-101<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment's Tactical Operations (TACOPS) officers have been assigned to work with Iraqi pilots from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Iraqi Air Squadron to train them on planning, preparing, executing and assessing Tactical Operations for their unit mission of security and surveillance of oil lines and oil fields in Northern Iraq.

The training primarily focused on computer training with the Falcon View program, plus additional training on offensive, defensive and support operations. This training took place at Kirkuk Air Base and lasted about one week. All Iraqi Pilots completed their training May 26.

The Iraqi pilots were eager to learn and were very receptive to the numerous blocks of instructions provided by the TACOPS officers. Despite a significant language barrier, the Iraqi pilots picked up on the computer training quickly and mastered additional blocks of instruction needed to perform Tactical Operations for their unique mission. Upon completion of the course all of the pilots were proficient at a basic level of the detailed mission planning process.

The mission of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Iraqi Air Squadron is surveillance and reconnaissance of the Northern pipelines and associated oil fields for condition and security. Surveillance is



performed daily for protection from insurgents and IED's. They accomplish this mission with an American kit plane called a Comp Air 7SLX. The aircraft was a gift from the United Arab Emirates and has been adapted to suit their mission needs. Armed with FLIR, GPS, and four hours of flight time, they have shown they can be a valuable reconnaissance asset. This vital mission is a major step forward in regaining control of their country and securing their natural resources.

To support the Regiment's TACOPS training with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Iraqi Air Squadron, two American local businesses donated aviation kneeboards to the pilots of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Iraqi Air Squadron. Lear Siegler Services of Ft. Rucker, AL. and Wings Aviation Products of Daleville, AL. rushed 20 new (3-fold) kneeboards to 5-101<sup>st</sup> AVN Regt to be presented as graduation gifts to the Iraqi pilots for completing the TACOP's course.

Mr. Charles Gant, program manager of Lear Siegler Services and Ms. Suzy Guzman, President of Wings Aviation Products should receive special recognition for making this gift come true and showing the Iraqi people and Iraqi Air Force that America supports them and will continue to support them until they are strong enough to stand alone.

The Iraqi Air Force and Local Nationals greatly appreciate the support given from both the US military and Americans back home. Colonel Ali, 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron Commander, was amazed by the generosity and support of the American people.

He remarked, "I really appreciate the gift and good faith of the American people. It will take time to have peace in Iraq, but Iraq and America must work as brothers to achieve this goal."

# NEWS

## 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade Iraqi-led Coalition team, Marines, deliver communications to Border Police

Story and photos by SGT Ryan Matson  
*101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade*



### Practice makes perfect

CPT Daniel Sanchez, Marine Border Transition Team for Region Two Headquarters, explains roles in a convoy operation to take communications equipment to the Iraq/Syrian border during training with the Iraqi Border Police July 11.



### Eye in the sky

**An AH-64D Apache helicopter from 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, flies over a convoy of Iraqi Border Police, Soldiers and Marines delivering communications to the border July 12.**

For the past three months, a team of Marines stationed at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, has been working with members of the Iraqi Border Police to help strengthen Iraqi forces along the Syrian border. The small group of Marines -- the Marine Border Transition Team for Region Two, and their Iraqi counterparts -- the Region Two Headquarters, Department of Border Enforcement, have worked together on this mission in Tikrit, Iraq since May 14.

On July 12, the Iraqi and Coalition forces combined for their first big mission – a convoy from Tikrit to Sinjar, Iraq, to distribute communications equipment to the Third Brigade, Region Two Iraqi Border Police units along the border.

“This was an important mission because the Iraqis had a chance to support their units on the border,” CPT Daniel Sanchez, Region Two Marines Headquarters Border Transition Team, said. “It was a big step in allowing them to demonstrate their capability to support their region. It’s another step in the Iraqis assuming full responsibility for the security of Iraq.”

Thirty one pallets of communications equipment, including more than 300 antennas, hand held radios, vehicle-mounted radios, receivers and transmitters were delivered to the border on the convoy. The equipment will be distributed to more than 40 locations along the border, enabling greater communications capabilities amongst the border patrol locations.

“The equipment provides both short and long range communications ability,” CPT Perry Mauer, Region Two Marines Headquarters Border Transition Team, said.

Sanchez said the Iraqi Region Two Headquarters, Department of Border Enforcement, directed the distribution of the equipment.

“We got enough gear out to cover the entire region,” Sanchez said. “We worked with the general and his staff. They decided the distribution plan, and we worked together to coordinate it. The Commandos provided the security piece along the convoy, but overall, the Iraqi Headquarters decided what went where and when it left. We provided the lift and advised them on security.”

During the course of the eight-hour convoy to the border, the Iraqis and Marines also had plenty of support from the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, who the Marines are attached to at COB Speicher. The 96<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion provided five trucks for the convoy, including three flatbeds that carried the communications equipment. SGT Collin Crenshaw, a light-wheel mechanic, and scouts SPC Jared Conklin and PFC Eric Vantyle, a team of Soldiers from 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade who have worked with the Marines since they came to COB Speicher, also were part of the mission. In the skies above, the brigade also lent its air assets, offering additional protection through the air support of Apache helicopters from 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> CAB which escorted the convoys through known hotspots along the route, such as in Mosul.

“We’re a small team, so we couldn’t accomplish our mission and support the Iraqis here without the support of the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade,” Sanchez said. “We’re there to advise the Iraqis, and we can do that, but on any type of operations, the key to our success is going to be the brigade. They’ve been more than supportive. They take an active interest in what we’re doing in the town with the Iraqis. They’ve really gone out of their way to get involved in the mission and ensure success.”

The Marines and Iraqi Commandos train together on a daily basis in Tikrit. The Marines are the first Coalition support to the Iraqi unit training 60 to 70 Iraqi Border Police Commandos each day at their camp on security measures. They have worked together on how to conduct security checkpoints, how to search vehicles effectively, and how to treat detainees, among other things. The Marines have worked with the Iraqis identifying and improving areas of their camp. They installed a generator on the camp and added extra force protection elements such as Hesco Barriers. The Iraqis said together they are making a difference in the effectiveness of the Iraqi Border Police.



#### **On the gun**

**SPC Jared Conklin, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, pulls security from the gunner’s position during the convoy to Sinjar, Iraq, July 12.**

“Every time we have a problem, we cooperate to fix anything that needs to be fixed,” MAJ Ghafari, Iraqi Region Two Headquarters, Department of Border Enforcement, said. “They treat our Soldiers well, they are great teachers, and we get a lot of good experience from them. In my personal opinion, if the Marines stay with us for a year, our Commandos will be perfect.”

“We are happy to work with the Marines,” CPT Ziad, Region Two Headquarters, Department of Border Enforcement, said. “The Marines practice with our Iraqi Border Police officers.”

One of the future goals Ziad said the Iraqi Border police have identified with the Marines is establishing a range on the camp.

“We are ready to work with the Marines on any mission,” he said.

Prior to delivering the communications equipment, the Iraqis and Marines worked together to determine each other’s roles in the convoy. They rehearsed staging the vehicles and also worked together in formulating plans to deal with threats such as traffic circles, where the Iraqi Border Police used their police trucks to seal off traffic and allow the convoy to pass safely through congested city streets.

“Unfortunately, right now some of the Iraqi resources are somewhat limited, and that’s where we come in, to facilitate their mission and work together to solve problems. The gear we delivered gives the Iraqi Border Police extra capability to perform their mission,” Sanchez said.

Sanchez said he was pleased with the way the Iraqis and Marines were able to work together on the mission.

“Overall, they displayed everything we’ve taught them and a little more,” he said. “It couldn’t have gone better. They had good command and control of their security elements, their tactics, techniques and procedures were solid, and you could tell the individual soldiers were really adept at providing that security, at everything from reporting threats to the mission planning aspects. We worked together to identify routes and threats and a lot of the things we did we decided on together. They did an awesome job.”



#### Police call

LT Marc Ginez, Marine Border Transition Team for Region Two, left, talks with members of the Region Two Headquarters, Department of Border Enforcement, during training with the Marines and Iraqi Border Police July 11 in Tikrit, Iraq.

# More pictures...



# NEWS

## Making Art Out of Nothing

Story and photos by SGT Ryan Matson  
*101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade*



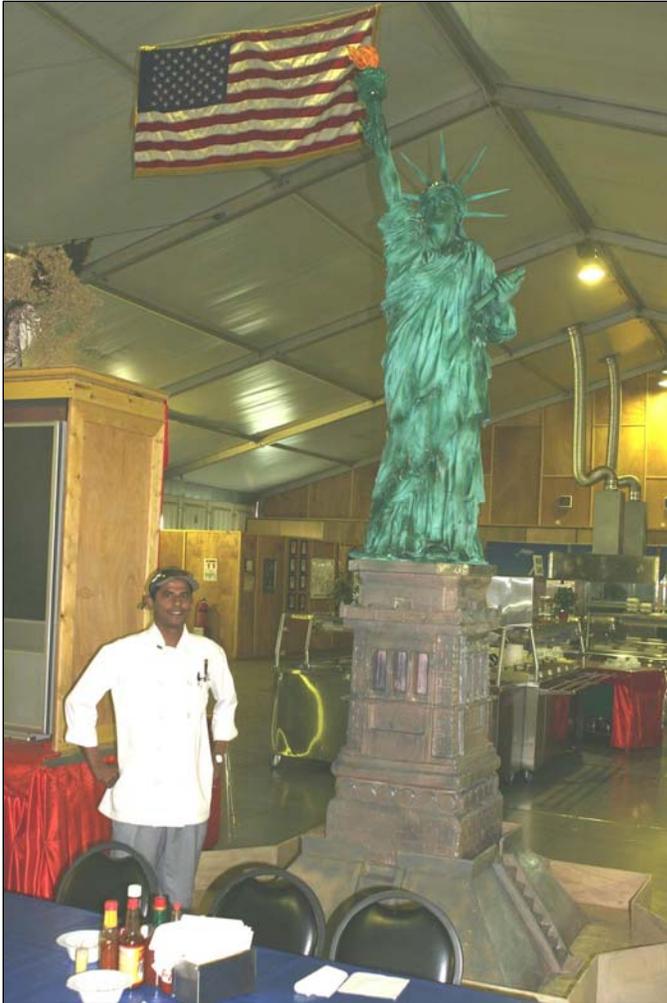
### The amazing artist

Senath Fernando, one of the employees at the Eagle's Nest Cafe on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, works on his picture of Marilyn Monroe and James Dean. Fernando has made several carvings which continue to amaze the patrons of the dining facility, and is working on a painting of the movie stars now.

Standing in the front of the Eagle's Nest Dining Facility on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, beneath an American flag, is a 19-foot-tall Statue of Liberty.

"It looks so much like the real thing, people think we bought it," Jesse Vater, the civilian Kellogg, Brown and Root manager of the Eagle's Nest Dining Facility, said.

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### **A pretty good replica**

**Fernando stands beside the 19-foot Statue of Liberty he carved out of styrofoam.**

Airborne Division (Air Assault) Screaming Eagles, who are deployed to Iraq out of Fort Campbell, Ky., and many of whom are stationed at COB Speicher now.

According to Vater, when the management saw Fernando's eagle, they moved him out of the kitchen and made him the permanent chow hall artist.

Fernando works out of a small room behind the chow hall. He is still gathering supplies and Vater says since it is sometimes hard to get them, he scavenges for materials, such as old pieces of foam. But, when he gets them, Vater said he works magic on the materials.

"He makes amazing things out of whatever he can find," Vater marveled.

Sculpting is not Fernando's only talent. He is currently working on a 9-foot-tall painting of James Dean and Marilyn Monroe. He has made most of his art from a few pictures gathered off the internet of his subject matter.

"Painting is my favorite," Fernando said. "It's very easy for me, no problem."

But this is no statue manufactured out of a cast mold from a company. It is a work of art created by Senath Fernando, a 32-year-old employee of the Eagle's Nest Café from Sri Lanka. The statue, a 19-foot replica of the real thing which weighs almost 200 pounds, was crafted by hand out of Styrofoam with a knife. The base of the statue is wood. Fernando said he colored the statue using spray paint and a mix of latex paint and food coloring. The details are so close to the real statue, right down to the toenails on Lady' Liberty's feet, that many Soldiers at the dining facility have commented they can't believe that it was carved by hand by a person who works there.

But it is true, and this is not Fernando's first work of art to grace the dining facility. For Valentine's Day, he crafted a couple. For Memorial Day, he made the traditional Army memorial display of a fallen Soldier, the boots (which he shined himself), the M-4, and helmet.

Fernando's first creation was an eagle which sits perched above the television set in the dining facility, to symbolize the 101<sup>st</sup>

He estimates the painting will take a couple weeks to complete. His massive Statue of Liberty was completed in 39 days, and the memorial stand, which is also remarkably detailed, took a month and a half to complete, he said.

Fernando said he has been sculpting for nine years and his father was an artist, and grandfather a woodcarver. His family has 150 years of combined art experience.

"I've seen a lot guys who make decorations at food places, but I've never seen anyone near this good before," Vater said. "He's absolutely amazing."



### **Military sculptures**

**(Above) A sculpture Fernando made of a 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Screaming Eagle. (Right) A memorial stand display Fernando sculpted for Memorial Day.**



# NEWS

## Command Sergeant Major Teaches Hunter's Safety in Iraq

Story and photos by SGT Ryan Matson  
*101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade*



### Teaching his craft

CSM Tod L. Glidewell, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade Command Sergeant Major, teaches a block of instruction during his hunter's safety course offered July 21 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq. It is the second time Glidewell has taught the course while the brigade has been deployed to Iraq.

Command Sergeant Major Tod Glidewell, the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade command sergeant major, has been a Soldier in the United States Army for 24 years, but got his first gun, a single-shot .20 gauge shotgun, when he was 12 years old. He learned firearms safety through hunting, and July 21 he passed some of his knowledge on to young Soldiers in the brigade when he conducted a hunter's safety course taught at Destiny Chapel on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

This was the 25<sup>th</sup> time Glidewell has taught a hunter's safety course since becoming a certified instructor back in 1998, and his second time teaching a course to Soldiers from his brigade while deployed to Iraq.

"It's a great opportunity to interact with children and adults in a hobby that I'm already passionate about," Glidewell said.

Glidewell began his class by asking the 68 Soldiers in the class, "Why do we hunt?"

Each answer was different, ranging from "To spend time in the outdoors," to "so there will be enough deer next year," to "so I can hide from my wife."

The class covered all of the basics of hunters safety, such as firearm safety, different firearms used for hunting and their features, what to do when lost in the woods, dressing practically for the elements to avoid hypothermia, and much more.

Much of Glidewell's class talked about military developments which were carried over into the area of hunting and fishing. For example, he said the development of wearing fluorescent orange while hunting started as an Army experiment to determine which color could most easily be seen in the wilderness. He explained how many of the rifles and firearms used to harvest game had been used as weapons of war that were brought back and used to hunt following conflicts. He said he did this because his audience this time happened to be his brigade's Soldiers.

"It helps Soldiers relate to the subject," he said. He also said Soldiers are already familiar with some of the subjects covered in the class.

"Soldiers know a lot about ethics – they receive ethics training in the Army," he said. "And modern weapons are another thing they already know, so we don't have to explain that as much, which is why I spent a little more time talking about bow hunting and muzzleloaders."

He also talked about hunting as part of American history. He explained that the idea to rifle a barrel so as to provide a more accurate trajectory for the bullet is an American innovation. He explained the significance of brass on a muzzleloader.

"Many people think this is just for decoration," Glidewell said, pointing to a slide showing the ornate brass plates on the side of the weapon. "While it is true that to a mountain man, his weapon was his life and he took great pride in it, the brass also does not conduct static electricity."

Glidewell said he had a reason for relating all the military and American history during the class.

"Hunting is a part of our American heritage," he said.

When the class was over, each Soldier had passed the written exam following the instruction segment and received a temporary hunter's education certification card, which is good for 120 days, until they get their permanent card from the State of Kentucky. The certification is good throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. With the certification, Soldiers are able to purchase their hunting licenses. For \$25, a Soldier can buy a license to hunt and fish on Fort Campbell which will be good until March.

One Soldier who received certification for the first time was 1LT Susan Raglin, Company C, 96<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion.

"I'd never been exposed to hunting, but it's always something I've been interested in, so the class was the perfect opportunity to see what's involved when it comes to hunting, and the perfect platform to talk to experienced hunters," Raglin said.

"The class gave me a lot of good information, such as what a good rifle is to start hunting with. I thought CSM Glidewell did a good job in keeping the audience engaged and watering down the information so things were simple and easy to understand. He's an excellent speaker and it was cool that he took the opportunity to offer this to anyone interested in the brigade over here. Now that I have my temporary hunter's safety card I want to get out there with someone who knows the sport!"

Glidewell said he got into teaching hunter's education through teaching bow and arrow skills to cub scouts at Fort Campbell in 1993, before Aaron Daniels, a sportsman in the Fort Campbell area, asked him to become a certified teacher. He hunts and fishes on Fort Campbell and in surrounding communities and is an active member of the Fort Campbell Advisory Committee. He has been hunting since he was a youngster growing up in rural Northeastern Pennsylvania. Still, he said he has a lot to learn.

"I'm just a student of the art, not a subject matter expert," Glidewell said.



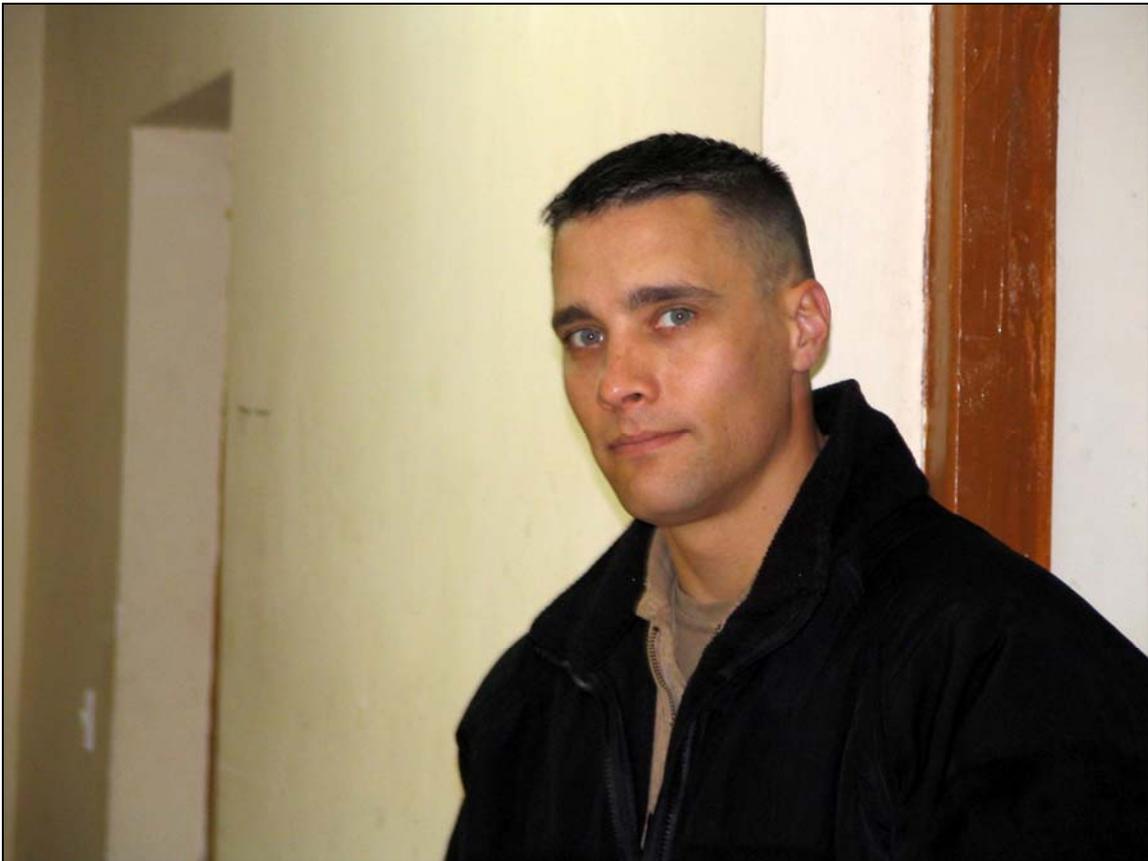
# NEWS

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## Friends, fellow Soldiers, Remember Fallen Warrior

*1-10 Attack Aviation pilots recall memories of downed comrades*

Story by SGT Ryan Matson, photos courtesy of 1-10 Attack  
*101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade*



### Remembered

CW3 Mitchell Carver, a pilot with Company B, 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment. Carver and fellow pilot CW2r Kyle Jackson were shot down while flying a mission over Mosul, Iraq, Jan. 13. His fellow pilots in Company B recently took some time to reflect on the memory of a peer and friend with whom they served. (photo courtesy of 1-10 Attack)

*WINGS OF DESTINY MAGAZINE \* 101<sup>ST</sup> AVIATION BRIGADE \* 28*

It has been roughly six months since the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter flown by CW2 Kyle Jackson and CW3 Mitchell Carver was shot down over the streets of Northern Mosul, Iraq, Jan. 13, but for their friends and fellow pilots in Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, the memories of the types of people they were remains everlasting.

"He was a great guy, he would do anything for you, a real smart guy, a good aviator and a down-to-earth family guy," CW2 Andrew Barclay, a pilot with Company B recalled of his friend and fellow pilot Kyle Jackson, who was from Sarasota, Florida. "I knew him a couple years. I flew with him in the other aircraft on missions a lot. He was probably my best friend in this unit."

Barclay said he met Jackson in flight school at Fort Rucker, Ala., in the Kiowa Warrior flight class, which graduated about a month after his own class.

"When he came to Bravo Company, he was my age, he had just got out of flight school too, he had a wife with a little girl, I have a wife and two little girls, so we just kind of hit it off," Barclay said. "We hung out at Drum for about a year before we left and then when we came here, too. I'd go to the gym and stuff with him and we would hang out quite a bit. He was an interesting guy. He was in the Marines before the Army so he was really into the military. He loved all that military stuff, the Marine Corps, 'Hoorah' stuff like that. I'm kind of into the same sort of thing, so we got along like that. He was also a big family guy – he didn't really go out too much or party all the time, he stayed home with his wife and little girl. That was cool. I was into the same thing. Our families used to hang out together. Overall I'd just say he was a real decent guy."

Barclay also recalled some of the funnier moments with his friend.

"He caught a lot of crap from the company because he was a loud guy and would say what was on his mind - say it the way it was, but deep down he would do anything for the company. He loved what he did, he loved the military," Barclay said.

When asked about particular moments with Jackson, Barclay and 1LT Robert Redfield, who was flying in the other Kiowa helicopter when the pilots were shot down, recalled a particular fun moment that exhibited his spirit.

"He had a tendency to run his mouth and he wouldn't hold anything back," Barclay remembered with a smile. "I remember one time we were all in the office and he was repeating everything that Dan (CW3 Dan Johnson) was saying. Dan was one of the senior aviators he flew with a lot, and he was getting on Kyle, so Kyle started repeating everything Dan said. Dan was telling him 'You better stop it,' and he just kept going with it. That was just the kind of guy he was, he wouldn't quit. So another pilot, Dave, threw a water bottle at him. So now both of them were on Kyle. So he threw it back open and we jumped him. We taped him up to the chair and we took him out to the road. He sat there in the road as a convoy was rolling by and we got a picture of it. It was a pretty fun time."

Barclay and Redfield also said Jackson was an innovative and mechanical-minded person, with a lot of ideas.

"Kyle was the type who, if he was given a piece of equipment, would never take it as it was," Redfield said. "He always had some crazy idea or scheme. He would always take what you gave him and rig it some way totally different to improve on it."

"He was constantly trying to come up with new ideas, new things," Barclay said. "He came up with this brass catcher that caught the brass as it came flying out of your weapon. He thought that he could sell that too the Army and make a million dollars. He just kind of had the mind where if he saw everyday things he could make them better. He was real handy, real good with tools. He built a lot of his own furniture and things like that."

CW4 Ed King, remembered his friend Mitchell Carver, who grew up near Asheville, N.C., in the town of Leicester, N.C. He worked with Carver as an instructor at Fort Rucker before both came to 1-10 Attack and deployed to Iraq together. The two were also roommates at the beginning of the deployment when 1-10 Attack was at Q-West. The two asked to live and did live, next to each other, when the battalion moved to Mosul.

“From a military standpoint, he was probably one of the most professional Soldiers, officers, aviators I’ve ever met,” King said. “He was very smart and well-rounded in a lot of areas. He was a maintenance pilot, who became an instructor pilot, who went back to becoming a maintenance pilot. Either one of those jobs is difficult for a lot of people to do. He did them both and did them both well. His potential was limitless. Whatever he did in the Army was up to him.”

“He was a great friend. There was a pretty big difference in our ages – he was almost ten years younger than I was. But we had a lot in common as warrant officers and some of our backgrounds. We had a lot of good times sitting around talking about the Company, the Battalion, the Army, but also about our families. He often spoke of his brother, mother, father and girlfriend.”

He said wherever he went, Carver was able to improve. He said at Fort Rucker, Carver, though an instructor pilot, was also able to handle maintenance issues, such as finding parts from units that weren’t using them.

“He was a multi-tasker, he was very impressive,” King said.

King said he was happy to be able to serve with Carver at both Fort Rucker and as part of 1-10 Attack.

“For me, being a new guy, he was always a friendly face, someone I could talk to,” King said. “He and I hit it off pretty well together.”

King said his talents were not only restricted to aviation.

“He was artistic, too,” King said. “I remember once he found a soft stone here and within a couple days he took a knife and carved a ram’s head out of it. It was pretty incredible. We shipped it home with his stuff. He was a woodworker and he built furniture for a place he and his girlfriend used to go to in Alabama. He was a very talented guy, fun to be with. He and I would watch movies and stuff together. He was easy to talk to on a professional and friendly basis.”

King said Carver often spoke about his family while deployed.

“He loved his niece and nephew, his brother’s kids, he talked a lot about them,” King said. “He had their pictures plastered all over his wall in his CHU (Containerized Housing Unit.) He was very proud of them. He always said ‘If I never have kids, that’s fine, because they’re mine.’ He was a proud uncle and cared very much for them.”

The pilots said they still think of their friends every day.

“I miss his company,” King said of Carver. “I miss having somebody to talk with. He was a happy guy with a good attitude. He didn’t curse, he was just a really great guy, I don’t know how to put it. He was a great young American.”

“In the short amount of time I knew him, I grew to like him a great deal. I miss him, there’s not a day that goes by I don’t think of him. His whole town turned out for his funeral. I think that speaks highly of him and his family. I think that sums it all up, says a great deal about you.”

“It’s hard,” Barclay acknowledged emotionally. “I just felt like, family-wise and children-wise that I had a lot in common with Kyle. It’s hard to not only lose a friend but to know his wife and his daughter are going through that also. He was a true friend to me and I continue to pray for his family.”



### Remembered

CW2 Kyle Jackson, left, enjoys a holiday dinner with his friend and fellow Kiowa pilot Chief Warrant Officer Two Andrew Barclay, right. (photo courtesy of 1-10 Attack)

# PARTING SHOT



Nothing beats a good pie in the face

LT Elizabeth Casebeer (seated) gets a taste of some nasty pie during a fundraising event for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade. (photo by SFC Tony Joseph)

*WINGS OF DESTINY MAGAZINE \* 101<sup>ST</sup> AVIATION BRIGADE \* 32*