

# Wings of Destiny

101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

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*101st CAB in Afghanistan*



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## On the Cover :



A lone UH-60 Black Hawk sits on an icy Bagram Air Field.  
(Photo by  
Maj. Reginald Smith)

## From the editor's desk



Hello,

Thanks for taking the time to read the first issue of *Wings of Destiny*, *your* monthly brigade news publication. Notice that the "your" in the last sentence is italicized. That's because this magazine is all about you, the Soldiers who make the 101<sup>st</sup> CAB the premiere aviation brigade in the United States Army.

This magazine will highlight your events and activities so that your friends, families and the American people can know all the hard work you do and sacrifices you make daily on behalf of our great nation.

As this publication is about *you*, your feedback will be critical to its success. If you have any questions or comments about the magazine or things you'd like to see featured in *Wings of Destiny*, you can e-mail me at [WOD-editor@hotmail.com](mailto:WOD-editor@hotmail.com). Also, if you have photos you would like to have used in the magazine, please send them along with your full name, rank, unit and a brief description of what's taking place in the photo.

I look forward to covering your missions and events during the course of this deployment.

Best of luck,  
Spc. George Welcome  
Wings of Destiny Editor

# Wings of Destiny

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# COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



It's been nearly a month since the bulk of our Brigade left Fort Campbell to begin our latest deployment here to

Afghanistan. In that time, HHC Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion

and 96<sup>th</sup> ASB have successfully completed the hand off with our brothers from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, and have transferred authority.

The brigade TOA ceremony has also been broadcast worldwide by the Armed Forces Network. I must say that in all my deployments, this has been the most seamless relief in place I have been a part of, due in no small part to the professionalism of Soldiers from both units. In February, 2-17 CAV and 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion will complete the

TOA process with their counterparts from the 82<sup>nd</sup>.

So far, one of the biggest adjustments we have had to make is the difference in time and weather. There is a ten and a half hour difference between Fort Campbell and here, and the weather is colder than is the norm at this time of year in Clarksville. Though from what I hear and see, the weather in Clarksville has also been near freezing.

In terms of living conditions, life here is not that bad, though not quite like home. All in all, the brigade is getting settled in and Soldiers have begun their various missions, all of which are critical in making Afghanistan a safe and prosperous place for its people.

I am truly proud of our Soldiers and honored to be their commander. We are off to a great start. The tremendous efforts of the Destiny Soldiers have made the transition even easier and remind us daily why the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade is the

best and most respected in the world.

I would like to thank all family members for their patience, support, courage and efforts in making your Soldiers' lives more tolerable during these long separations. I know that you sacrifice a great deal everyday back home and are also the reason why morale is high. Know that you are always in our thoughts and prayers and it won't be long before we complete this mission and are once more reunited.

Stay safe, stay alert, Wings of Destiny,  
**AIR ASSAULT!!**

**COL James Richardson**  
**Destiny 6**

# A MESSAGE FROM CSM HERNDON



Good day Ft. Campbell, from Afghanistan. We have finally the entire brigade here in Afghanistan. First, I would like to apologize for some of the delays that caused extra

turmoil for the families. The good part is you had extra time to spend with your loved ones.

On 17 January 2008, the 101st CAB completed their Transfer of Authority with the 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. The ceremony was very historic. The last time any aviation assets from Ft. Campbell were in Afghanistan was in 2002. If you do not know, Afghanistan (approximately the size of Texas) is considerably larger than Iraq, and the brigade is stretched across the entire country, with 4 different multi-function task forces. The Troubleshooters of 96<sup>th</sup> ASB are providing support to the entire brigade at each of the locations.

New additions to the Destiny brigade matrix are Task Force Charger, which is a fixed wing detachment that has 18 aircraft mixed between military intelligence, VIP and cargo aircraft. They have approximately 130 Soldiers and civilians assigned to their

ranks. Task Force Deuce is a military intelligence battalion with approximately 300 Soldiers tasked through out the theater providing military intelligence for the brigade and combined joint task force-82. Also included in our task force is Bird Dog Co., which provides real time reconnaissance and surveillance. They are a mix of organic assets and assets from across the Army.

Living conditions here are good and are improving daily. It is winter here and the diversity of this country brings at least three distinct climate and temperature zones. The central part has snow and cold temperatures (15F-35F) on a daily basis; out to the east the temperatures are slightly warmer, with more rain than snow. Down south it is slightly warmer and gets more rain and wind than the central and eastern region.

The food is good at all locations, with many choices. You can choose from fast food, salad bars, and or a full hot meal. On most forward operating bases there is at least one fast food place, Subway, Pizza Hut, Burger King, doughnut shops and coffee shops for the flavored coffee connoisseurs. MWR facilities are adequate and abundant at all the locations and growing daily. Some locations have limited internet but we are working on that. The other MWR facilities range from movie theaters, gyms, libraries, phones and internet cafes.

By the time you read this all four TOAs and one Assumption of Authority will have been completed. TF Destiny and TF Pegasus (BDE), TF No Mercy and TF Desert Hawk, TF Troubleshooter and TF Atlas, TF Eagle Assault and TF Corsair and TF Shadow and TF Talon and the assumption of authority for TF OUTFRONT. With these transfers of authority the Wings of Destiny brigade assumes the mission in the entire Operation Enduring Freedom Theater. I will tell you we are ready and will carry on the fine aviation support that Pegasus has in the past year. From day one our Soldiers have begun to raise the bar with unparalleled and uninterrupted support during the RIP/TOA sequence. This transition has been seamless, as noted by the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Commander. You would be as proud of the Soldiers of TF Destiny as I am.

This is a short first letter with more to follow. Again, I am proud of each and every Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Civilian contractor assigned to and supporting the Destiny Brigade.

**Wings of Destiny**  
**Air Assault !!**  
**CSM Mark Herndon**  
**Destiny 7**

# Task Force Destiny takes control of Aviation Operations in Afghanistan

*Story and Photos by  
Spc. George Welcome  
Task Force Destiny  
Public Affairs*



**Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Herndon and Col. James Richardson uncase the colors of the 101st CAB during a transfer of authority ceremony January 17 at Bagram Airfield.**

**B**AGRAM AIR FIELD, AFGHANISTAN -- The 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade officially began its latest “Rendezvous with Destiny” as it gained control of aviation operations from the 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB in a Transfer of Authority ceremony held January 17, at the Morale Welfare and Recreation tent on Bagram Air Field.

The 101<sup>st</sup> CAB, based at Fort Campbell, Ky., arrived in Afghanistan last month and has assumed responsibility over operations in the area to include providing convoy security, medical evacuations and utilization of air assets in support of ground forces in strengthening the Afghan government and security forces.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB, based out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, has been in Afghanistan since December, 2006. The brigade is lead by Col. Kelly Thomas and Command Sgt. Maj. David Brasfield. In his outgoing speech, Thomas acknowledged the hard work of his Task Force Pegasus Soldiers in supporting coalition forces over the past year.

“I could not be more proud of this task force and its performance in combat,” said Thomas. “Looking back over the past year it occurred to me that our success was largely due to the hard work, commitment and high standards of our commanders, non-commissioned officers and paratroopers of Task Force Pegasus.”

Col. James Richardson and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Herndon uncased the colors of the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, symbolizing their units’ responsibility for the area of operations.



In his remarks following the uncasing of the new colors, Richardson thanked the command staff of Combined Joint Task Force 82 and the Soldiers of Task Force Pegasus for their

hard work.

“Your devotion to duty, unrelenting pursuit of excellence and exceptional performance is recognized throughout the Army,” Richardson stated. “Your numbers in the categories for gallons of fuel pumped, hours flown and maintenance rates are truly impressive, but it is the intangible qualities like esprit de corps and unit sense of pride and individual discipline that sets you apart.”

Richardson concluded his address by assuring his outgoing comrades and the leadership of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne division that Task Force Destiny will continue to uphold the standard set by Task Force Pegasus.

“The 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade stands ready to support the infantry men on the ground in combat and combat service support assets,” said Richardson. “These Soldiers are mentally and physically tough, and are our country’s best and brightest.”



# Legal Advice: Claims



Staff Sgt. Crystal Aldridge  
Task Force Destiny Legal

The inevitable was going to happen, someone's shipping container was going to be pilfered en-route to Afghanistan and both military equipment and personal property were

going to be stolen. TF Destiny has had several shipping containers broken into prior to their arrival at their final destination and as a result Soldiers have lost some of their personal property and military equipment. The following article describes the procedures to turn in a personal property deployment claim to the Fort Campbell Claims Office.

The first thing a Soldier must be able to do is answer three questions in regards to the loss or destruction of their personal property. This does not include military property. The first question is **did the incident occur as alleged?** This can be accomplished with the production of a Military Police Report, a 15-6 investigation, a Financial Liability Investigation of Property Loss (FLIPL), or a statement from the company commander stating the circumstances surrounding the shipping container that was

pilfered. Once the shipping container is noticed as being pilfered the MPs need to be called to the scene directly to investigate. A statement from the company commander can be something like *"On 15 October 2007 we packed shipping container #268 and PFC John, SPC Henry, and SSG Goob had personal boxes/bags/items packed in that container. The container was sealed on 15 October 2007 and shipped to Salerno via Pakistan. Upon arrival of the container at Salerno I (or whoever did) noticed the locks were cut and were not supposed to be. After notifying the MPs, opening the container, and sorting through what was left PFC John, SPC Henry, and SSG Goob were all missing (insert missing items here). I called the MPs and reported the incident as alleged and also took pictures of the cut locks and pilfered items. (Elaborate more if necessary).*

The second question is **can the Soldier establish proof of ownership?** Pictures of the property (if any), pictures of the pilfered container or personal box/bag, statements from friends/fellow Soldiers who knew that the Soldier had owned the said item(s), personal receipts from when the Soldier bought the said equipment, or even credit card statements showing purchase will suffice. The Soldier also needs to submit their DD Form 1750 and/or the loading docu-

ments which were posted both on and in the container.

The third question is **can the Soldier establish the value of the property?** Value can be established through pictures, receipts, and anything the Soldier may have to confirm value. If an item is completely missing, the Soldier needs to find the same or similar item on the internet and print off a picture of the item along with the value (i.e. from drugstore.com, amazon.com, aafes.com, etc). If a Soldier has an unusual item (i.e. family heirloom, wood jewelry boxes, etc.), he/she must do the best job they can to describe the item and its value.

The Soldier must also submit a DD Form 1842 and DD Form 1844. Blank forms and examples can be obtained from the Brigade Legal Office or any Battalion Paralegal.

Scan and e-mail all deployment claim requests to SSG Crystal Aldridge, Brigade Senior Paralegal NCO, at: [crystal.aldridge@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:crystal.aldridge@afghan.swa.army.mil) or [crystal.aldridge@us.army.mil](mailto:crystal.aldridge@us.army.mil). The deployment claims, after being reviewed and finalized will be forwarded to the Fort Campbell Claims Office. Allow the Claims Office at least three weeks to complete your claim. If your claim is payable, payment will be direct deposited into your bank account on file with DFAS.



**THINKING  
ABOUT STAYING  
ARMY ?  
YOUR 101ST CAB  
RETENTION TEAM  
CAN HELP  
VISIT THEIR OFFICE AT BLDG. H1 OR CALL  
SFC FRAZIER &  
SSG MANIERZ AT  
431-2536 / 2549**

# Troubleshooter Soldier becomes first in brigade to re-enlist



Spc. George Welcome  
Task Force Destiny Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan-- On January 18, a Soldier from the 96th Aviation Support Battalion re-enlisted and became the first Soldier in the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade to re-enlist while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom IX.

Staff Sgt. Richard White, of Company A, 96<sup>th</sup> ASB had his final re-enlistment before going into career status. Re-enlisting in the midst of personal tragedy however, is above and beyond the call of duty.

Earlier that day, White was informed of the death of his brother back home in Los Angeles. While no one could have blamed him for waiting to have the ceremony until after returning from emergency leave, he decided to press on, and at 5 p.m. local the ceremony was performed on the tarmac outside of the Destiny Wings flight terminal.

"Standing before you is a warrior, a non-commissioned officer and leader," said Lt. Col. Christopher Wolfe, commander of 96<sup>th</sup> ASB, to the Soldiers standing in the formation.

White has a rather unique military service history. After he completed a seven year enlistment in the Army, he had a break in service. Following that break, he joined the Marine Corps for an additional eight years. In 2006, he re-joined the Army, coming to the Troubleshooter team.

"Standing next to me is the epitome of selfless service. The epitome of duty," Wolfe continued, just before giving the oath of enlistment. After the swearing in and reading of the Troubleshooters prayer, White was given an opportunity to speak to his fellow Soldiers.

In his brief address, White stressed the importance of being thankful for life.

"When I woke up this morning, I never knew that I could feel so much pain at one time," said White. "But I thank God and I know that joy comes in the morning. I just want to say enjoy this day. Don't take the person to your left or right for granted, because tomorrow they could be gone. Enjoy your days as God gives them to you, enjoy your youth."

After the completion of remarks, White was presented with the certificate of re-enlistment and the battalion coin. As a tribute to his brother, the colors used during the re-enlistment ceremony were retired and presented to White.

As the Soldiers of Company A filed past to offer White simultaneous congratulations and condolences, it was clear that the Road Runners are more than just a team, but a family.



# Keeping up the Goodwill



Conducting humanitarian aid missions is one of many ways coalition forces help to improve the lives of the people of Afghanistan.

On January 3, Soldiers of Task Force Pegasus of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade along with Soldiers of Task Force Destiny of the 101<sup>st</sup> CAB visited the Egyptian Field hospital on Bagram Air Base. Throughout their year-long tour, Task Force Pegasus' unit ministry team had conducted humanitarian aid missions at the hospital, which serves the local population of Bagram.

In addition to the Soldiers, representatives from

Operation Care arrived with items to distribute. The aid given to the impoverished people included shoes and clothing, toys, soccer balls and candy for the children. The items are donated by people back home in the states.

As part of the transition between the 82<sup>nd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup>, chaplain Maj. Shmuel Felzenberg, who has been conducting these missions, introduced incoming Task Force Destiny chaplain Maj. Donald Kammer and his assistant Staff Sgt. Crescencio Lamas to the soldiers and staff who work at the hospital.

# Your Health

Medicine is first about prevention and then about healing. Prevention is often seen as vicarious change of unforeseen reasoning. In the medical realm however, we have a window into the reasons and encourage eagerness toward change. This change may be welcomed, but truth be told, change rarely is. As Tolstoy said, "everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."

No place is more evident as to the reluctance for change than in the medical world. It is here that we see chronic medical issues derive from a patient's animosity to make adjustments; today's discomfort for a better tomorrow, if you will.

Though the medics, ourselves, are not spared from this lethargic and malignant mentality, we must press on to something greater. As the 82<sup>nd</sup> maintained a certain standard, the 101<sup>st</sup> will continue this mission with their own version. Though these standards are different there are similarities of a much greater nobility to be dwelled upon. It is this similarity that encourages us onward and upward.

We as a collective body, are Soldiers; defenders of freedom, faith and a future for those who cannot guarantee their own. It is this reason if not solely, that we as Soldiers embrace change and adapt accordingly. Be it taking a malaria prophylaxis to ensure our fighting strength and combat the numerous cases of malaria in this

region or aiding in a smooth transition, between brother divisions. Adapting to our environment helps us effectively carry on a mission of vigilant pursuit of a distasteful enemy. Charles Dubois sums it up perfectly as stating, "The important thing is this: To be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become."

We will proudly be a page in this country's struggle for freedom from the tyranny of oppression. We will proudly be what we need to be in order to help this world toward the progression of freedom and away from disheartening crimes and merciless murder. So that one day this world can see its own progression, that they may see their sons and daughters change into the men and women who will carry on the burdens we carry now. We must continue to ensure that the changing that must and will occur in this world is that of progression. Not only for the Soldiers replacing their brothers and sisters in arms, but mainly for the young children who beg for candy, food, and water, from the Soldiers of tomorrow.

We have a responsibility to the world, to the wounded, to the oppressed. It is in this that we have found our calling, and our calling is simple, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals." Martin Luther King Jr.

**Spc. Michael Patterson 82nd Abn. Div.**

## Chaplain's Corner



Maj. Donald Kammer  
Task Force Destiny Chaplain

### Leadership: How to get people involved

What are some good strategies for leaders to help their people be involved in the hard work at hand? I will mention a few.

Asking your people to help out with a hard job is not easy. Some just don't like to work. But your job as a leader is much more difficult if you choose to do

everything yourself, make all of the decisions and fix all the problems. Leaders who neglect to encourage their own people to contribute often fail. They rarely accomplish their goals because they have not employed every resource at hand. They don't mentor those under them and they also fail to achieve potential successes. Every leader has got to involve their people in the process of solving problems, especially if the leader wants to succeed.

One important method which helps us, is creating an information flow from you to others. This includes posting information with

good presentation appearance, opening up your calendar to the community and being easily accessible to others. This means keeping your calendar accurate, because it helps others in their planning. When we do this others can anticipate and contribute to solutions. Holding meetings that go over time limits or appear on short notice frustrates those who wish to contribute to the solution. This frustration leads to apathy; and apathy leads to accomplishing tasks with little help from others. Such a failure to plan is painfully exhausting over the long haul.

So, I encourage all leaders, junior and senior, to be free with their information flow. Share information widely. Communicate. Pay attention to your use of other people's time. Trust your subordinates to do a good job, and they will. And if they don't, they may the next time or the time after that. Your workload will be reduced and you will have more time to accomplish more important tasks. Give them the freedom to make mistakes and you will have less work on your hands and on your back. The bottom line....empower your people...respect their time. ♦

# Task Force Troubleshooter Assumes Responsibility for Aviation Support Operations



On January 23, 2008 Task Force Troubleshooter took control of Aviation Support Operations during a transfer of authority ceremony with Task Force Atlas held at the MWR Clamshell on Bagram Airfield.



# Task Force No Mercy Takes Control



On January 21, 2008 Task Force No Mercy gained control of Aviation Operations from Task Force Desert Hawk during a Transfer of Authority ceremony held at F.O.B Salerno.



# HELLCATS GET PATCHED UP



On January 17, 2008 following the transfer of authority ceremony between the 82nd and 101st CABs, Soldiers of HHC 101st Combat Aviation Brigade conducted a combat patch ceremony. The ceremony was held to award Soldiers who are serving in their first combat deployment with the 101st, right shoulder "Screaming Eagle" patch.