

# Wings of Destiny

101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

Volume 2 Issue 2

February 2008



Here Comes the Cavalry

Task Force Out Front  
Establishes Presence in Jalalabad

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## On the Cover :

An OH-58 D Kiowa Warrior takes off from Jalalabad Airfield to conduct a mission.

(Photo by Spc. George Welcome TF Destiny PAO)



## From the editor's desk



Hello again,

Thank you for checking your inboxes and taking a few minutes to peruse the second issue of Wings of Destiny magazine, *your* monthly brigade news publication.

This month's feature story focuses on Task Force Out Front assuming control of aviation operations in Jalalabad and the newest asset to their area, the OH-58 D Kiowa Warrior. In another story, Kiowa pilots of Task Force Out Front speak about their experiences and challenges while flying in Afghanistan so far.

Army Vice Chief of Staff, Gen. Richard Cody paid a special visit to the Soldiers of Task Force Destiny. During his time here, the general re-enlisted, promoted, and presented awards to several Soldiers, all of which is included in this edition.

In a story by 2nd Lt. Orlando Varela, the Soldiers of the Command Post Node of Company C, 96<sup>th</sup> ASB are highlighted as they conducted a combat sling load mission at Forward Operating Base Airborne. Also, included are articles and pictures showing various events that have happened within the Task Force during the past month.

As always, if you have any stories or photos you would like to submit, questions or comments about 'Wings' please send them to [WODeditor@hotmail.com](mailto:WODeditor@hotmail.com). I am on Outlook so I can be reached there as well. Please keep in mind that we have at least 10 more issues left so don't worry, every Task Force will be the feature of the magazine at least once, maybe more if the *Force* allows, so please limit your angry phone calls and e-mails to two per day.

My boss (The incomparable Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Antony Joseph) tells me that I should thank you all for supporting your Public Affairs Office, so thank you all sincerely for letting us take a bunch of pictures and ask questions while you make the mission happen. We really do appreciate it. Really, we do.

Until the end of March,  
Spc. George Welcome  
Wings of Destiny Editor

# Wings of Destiny

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# COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



The Destiny Brigade has been hard at work across the Afghanistan theater as each Battalion Task Force establishes operations and seeks to improve their res-

pective Forward Operating Bases. Here at Bagram Airfield, The Task Force Destiny footprint received a much needed face lift as Hellcat 6, Capt. Gina SanNicolas, and her Soldiers redesigned and painted the Aviation Brigade's Dining Facility and Fitness Center, further improving our Soldiers' quality of life.

Another highlight of the past month was a visit by the Vice Chief of Staff of the

Army, Gen. Richard Cody. Of note, Gen. Cody personally promoted two Soldiers, re-enlisted another 37, and presented numerous awards. After a short tour of the BAF footprint, he was off to FOB Salerno to visit with Task Force No Mercy.

Task Force Out Front continues to make remarkable progress as they stand up the first ever Aviation Task Force in Jalalabad. They have recently occupied a series of new living quarters and are nearing completion of a new Task Force headquarters. Moreover, between Task Forces Out Front and No Mercy, we are keeping the local concrete manufacturers in business, a boost not only for our aircraft parking plan, but also for the local economies in Afghanistan.

Task Force Eagle Assault continues to provide outstanding aviation support in the

southern portion of the country while working with many of our coalition partners in Kandahar.

As the weather here starts to warm up, we will be busy transporting personnel and equipment around the battlefield in preparation for the arrival of 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) headquarters. I am proud of each and every Soldier in the Brigade and the remarkable things we continue to accomplish in support of the Soldiers on the ground and the people of Afghanistan.

**"Wings of Destiny"**

**Air Assault !**

**Col. James Richardson**

**Destiny 6**

# A MESSAGE FROM CSM HERNDON



Hello Soldiers and family members of the Destiny Brigade. Another month has gone by on our way to completing yet another Rendezvous with Destiny.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB has departed after a very successful rotation. The Soldiers of the 101<sup>st</sup> CAB have stepped up to the plate and continue to provide un-interrupted aviation support to our brothers on the ground.

On a daily basis our working and living areas are improving as we assume a steady state operation. Those Soldiers who were initially strapped for space are slowly spreading out and getting comfortable.

Over the next month our Division Headquarters will arrive and we will again be working for and with familiar faces and friends. Our mission will not change; we will just be working for and with people we know.

Over the last month we have had many visitors, from Congressional delegates to Senators and a few high level General officers. One in particular was Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Richard Cody. He has a place in the hearts of all 101<sup>st</sup> CAB Soldiers as he not only has history in the brigade, but is a past division commander and many of us have served under / with him many times. His visit was very productive. He had breakfast with about 80 Soldiers, re-enlisted 37 Soldiers, promoted 2 Soldiers and presented awards. He not only visited us here at Bagram, but also paid a visit to the TF No Mercy Soldiers at Salerno before heading back to the Pentagon.

As I write this, the weather is quickly changing from winter to spring across the country. The snow in Bagram is about gone after two days of snow a week ago and accumulations of 10 plus inches in Bagram. The weather in the other three locations has been very nice with occasional rain. The temperature in Kandahar reached close to 80 degrees last week. It is still cool at night, but getting better every day.

Our time here is quickly ticking away. As I write this, the R & R leave cycle has begun, so soon some of you will be seeing your loved ones coming home for a short R & R period to reset and come back re-energized to complete the deployment.

Rest assured the Destiny Brigade Soldiers continue to set the standard with unmatched aviation support within the Operation Enduring Freedom theater of operations.

**Wings of Destiny**

**Air Assault !**

**CSM Mark Herndon**

**Destiny 7**

# Task Force Out Front Establishes Presence in Jalalabad



Story and Photos by  
Spc. George Welcome  
TF Destiny Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE FENTY, Afghanistan**— In wars past, the role of the cavalry unit in combat has been to serve as the “eyes and ears” of the division, providing awareness of the terrain and the enemy’s capabilities. The cavalry’s great speed, adaptability and fighting prowess served well for reconnaissance, thwarting enemy attacks, and decimating the weakened opposition.

While today’s cavalry troopers have traded horses for tracks, wheels and rotors, their impact on the battlefield remains as pivotal now as it was then. Task Force “Out Front” of the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, a multifunctional, mixed airframe task force is providing aviation support for the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade. New to their area of operations is the OH-58 D Kiowa Warrior, a reconnaissance and light attack helicopter. Its use over the skies of Jalalabad and surrounding areas will allow Task Force Out Front to continue in the proud tradition of the cavalry.

“Our mission is to provide full spectrum aviation support to Task Force Bayonet in the Nuristan, Nangahar, Kohnar and Logman provinces,” said Lt. Col. John Lynch, Task Force Out Front commander. “Full spectrum means we provide everything from attack helicopters, to Chinooks to move supplies and conduct air assaults, the same with our Black Hawks, and our Kiowas will provide reconnaissance. We also provide maintenance and FARP (Forward Arming and Refueling Point) support as well.”

Initially, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, which is the core of TF Out Front, was slated to deploy to Iraq instead of Afghanistan. It was thought that the

single engine Kiowa Warrior would have difficulty operating in Afghanistan’s higher elevation.

“The driving force behind bringing the Kiowa Warrior here was the desire to put an aviation Task Force headquarters with a squadron commander here in Jalalabad,” said Lynch. “There are certainly challenges present with the Kiowa. We had to look at areas on the map where we could use the Kiowa successfully, and that’s usually in the lower elevations.”

Despite some of the limitations of the Kiowa Warrior, the Task Force is committed to finding ways to use its assets to making the ground safer for coalition forces and the people of Afghanistan.

“Kiowa Warriors have never operated up here in the north,” said Maj. Jeffrey Bouma, Task Force Out Front executive officer. “We’ve already done a lot of good work with convoy security, reconnaissance; we’ve already found a number of I.E.D

(Improvised Explosive Device) locations and escorted over 50 convoys during security missions. That along with the CH-47’s we have here as well as the Black Hawks and

MEDEVAC assets being added should have a positive impact. I really think we are going to have a chance to get the enemy off his game. We have three times as much aviation than has ever been placed out here before.”

Currently, the most common mission for Kiowa pilots in the Task Force is con-

voy security.

“I just flew in a convoy security mission with some added area reconnaissance yesterday,” said Bouma. “It was good mission; we were successful in getting the convoy from its start point to its release point with out any I.E.D or small arms incidents. I talked to Raptor 6 (Lt. Col. Jeff Milhorn, 173<sup>rd</sup> Special Troops Battalion commander) and he was appreciative of the coverage the Kiowas provided.”

According to Bouma, the Kiowa Warrior is easy to maintain, easy to get airborne, very low maintenance relative to other airframes in the Army. Once it’s up there it can provide effective coverage. But all that would not be possible without support from maintainers who keep the aircraft flying.

“D Troop’s mission is aviation maintenance in support of the task force combat operations,” said Capt. Andrew Herzberg,



D Troop commander. “We maintain and repair all four MDS’; attack helicopters, cargo helicopters, utility helicopters and observation helicopters. The biggest challenge we have right now is that everyone who was in the troop back in Fort Camp-

**Story Continued from Pg. 4**

bell was an OH-58 D maintainer. We got over here and picked up all the other MDS' and there is a very steep learning curve involved in learning how other aircraft are maintained, because it's completely different than how Kiowas are maintained. Fortunately I have a really good crew here who are all motivated and excited to be doing their jobs."

Fuel and ammunition are also important in keeping the helicopters of Task Force Out Front in the fight.

"The forward support troop provides organizational and direct support in reference to refueling and supplying ammunition and ground maintenance," said Capt. Brian Falcasantos, E Troop commander. "Basically we are responsible for all the maintenance for non-aviation assets. As we weren't replacing any unit, we've had to develop the systems we needed to make sure we were tracking everything. We get all the non-sexy jobs; refueling, resupplying ammunition and fixing trucks, but without us the task force wouldn't be able accomplish its mission."

With a long mission in front of them, Task Force Out Front hopes that in their time in the Jalalabad area, they can not only cause major disruption in enemy activity, but leave their base and area of operations better for the unit that will replace them.

"We want to have the footprint established for the next team, so when they hit the ground they can go right into conducting whatever operations they want to conduct," said Lynch. "They won't have to waste a lot of time and energy worrying about the infrastructure. They will be able to conduct phase maintenance here because they'll have the proper space and tools, instead of having to send aircraft back to Bagram. Operationally, we want to be flexible enough and adapt over the course of the deployment to pose a challenge to the enemy and make them react in ways they did not want to. If we can do that we absolutely will help the ground force commander here to be successful in this area." ♦



# Bird's Eye View: Kiowa Warrior Pilots Adjust to Flying in Afghanistan



Story and Photos by Spc. George Welton, FF Detachment Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE FENTY, Afghanistan**—The Kiowa Warrior pilots of Task Force Out Front have arrived to Jalalabad and are acclimating themselves to the area of operations. As the OH-58 D airframe is new to the northern portion of Afghanistan, they are busy finding ways to use their aircraft effectively to support ground forces in the area.

The task force has participated in numerous training activities to prepare pilots for the tasks they currently face.

"We had gunnery in March, April, June and August and we switched our TTPs (Techniques, Tactics and Procedures)," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lou Papesca, senior instructor pilot for 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment. "We also went to high altitude training at Fort Carson. Flying in the mountains at Carson is not much different for us than flying here, we use the same techniques."

This rotation to Operation Enduring Freedom is the first time many of the pilots, including the senior aviators, have flown in Afghanistan. It is common practice in the squadron for junior pilots to fly with senior pilots, as part of their progression.

"Right now what we've put together a battle roster of pilots and take their experience," said Papesca. "If it's a senior pilot, he'll fly with a junior pilot; two mid-grade pilots will usually fly together. It's not always a perfect system, but it takes into account everyone's experience level."

In their short time in theater, the pilots have already added to their combat experiences with multiple enemy engagements.

"We have had near daily contact with the enemy while flying the Kiowa Warrior in the Nuristan, Nangahar, Khonjar and Logman provinces," said Lt. Col. John Lynch, Task Force Out Front Commander. "He is finding it extremely difficult to move with the freedom he once enjoyed. We are actively pursuing him in his traditional hiding places; no one place is safe anymore. These contacts have resulted in several direct and indirect fire engagements."

"Additionally," Lynch added, "our crews have worked several Close Air Support (CAS) missions with the Air Force JTAC teams located throughout the N2KL. Our most successful engagements have been those employing joint fires; helicopters, CAS and mortars/artillery in support of the Soldier on the ground. The enemy cannot react to all of those systems working together and many have been killed. Our Kiowa Warrior crew chiefs and pilots have been able to quickly adapt to many of the challenges initially faced on deploying a new task force in theater. There is no doubt that we have a great team that is able to rapidly find, fix and finish the enemy."

For some of the newer pilots flying in the area, the experience has been true to the training they have received in garrison.

"The performance of the aircraft has not been as limited as people expected it would be," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Trent, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon leader, Troop A, 2-17 CAV. "There doesn't seem to be a magical altitude where the aircraft just comes apart, it's handling just fine. As far as flying is concerned, missions in theater are what the experienced pilots told us they might be."

According to the pilots, flying the Kiowa Warrior is the best job an Army aviator could have.

"It's unlike anything I could ever describe to anybody who has not done it," Trent said of the experience of flying a Kiowa Warrior. "It is an exciting and exhilarating time. There's never a dull moment. It's not easy to get complacent in the aircraft because we are constantly moving back and forth. It's an aircraft that makes you fly it; you have to focus on flying at all times."

Chief Warrant Officers 2 Jess Martin and Deidra Adams, two prior service Soldiers, are pilots who are serving in their first deployment as aviators.

"I really love the aircraft, and I think there are going to be opportunities in the theater for us to do really well," said Martin. "So far we've done a lot of reconnaissance in areas where we didn't have assets to do that previously. We also do a lot of convoy escorts and security for ground forces when they conduct their deliberate missions."

"Before we take off, the senior pilots always stress situational awareness on these missions," said Adams. "We want to continue to learn how to do our jobs better, and provide support for the ground guys."

Soldiers on the ground also play an important role in helping pilots perform their missions. Helicopter crew chiefs help perform daily checks and maintenance to keep the aircraft mission ready.

"As a crew chief, it's my job to do everything I can to keep the aircraft 100 percent ready and make sure our pilots are safe and can get their mission completed without any problems," said Pfc. David Gardner.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lou Papesca (center) goes over a flight plan with two junior pilots prior to a standards evaluation.

Gardner, who has been in the Army for a year, hopes to become a Kiowa pilot himself in the future.

"I'm thinking very seriously about getting a packet together and turning it in," said Gardner. "The OH-58 D is very versatile, there's something about that bird that appeals to me more than the others. I try to soak up all the knowledge I can from my NCOs and the pilots. I'm just trying to learn all I can to become a better crew chief and one day, a pilot." ◆

# Handoffs Complete, TF Destiny in Charge!

## TF Eagle Assault takes control of Kandahar



Task Force Eagle Assault conducted their TOA ceremony on January 30, 2008 gaining control of aviation operations in Kandahar.



Photos courtesy of TF Eagle Assault

## Task Force Out Front Assumes Authority in Jalalabad



Photos courtesy of CSMMark Hemdon



Task Force Out Front assumed authority of aviation operations in Jalalabad during a ceremony on February 1, 2008.

## Task Force Shadow Takes Charge



On February 2, 2008 Task Force Shadow gained control of general support aviation operations for the theater.



# Army Vice Chief of Staff Visits Task Force Destiny



**B** AGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Army Vice Chief of Staff, Gen. Richard A. Cody visited the Soldiers of Task Force Destiny on February 9 to conduct a mass re-enlistment and awards ceremony.

The morning started with Cody having breakfast at the aviation dining facility with a select group of Soldiers, representing each unit in the Task Force. He praised the Soldiers for serving their country in a time of combat.

“You should be extremely proud of what you are doing because you are the very best our country has to offer,” said Cody. “Not only are you the best physically and mentally, but most important, morally.”

After fielding questions from the Soldiers in attendance, Cody was presented with a Task Force sweatshirt by Task Force Destiny commander Col. James Richardson.

“Soldiers love General Cody,” Richardson said. “They respect him because they know he believes in taking care of Soldiers.”

At the conclusion of breakfast, the event moved to the Task Force Shadow hangar, where the re-enlistment and awards ceremony took place.

Before the ceremony began, the General took time to personally sign each Soldier’s re-enlistment certificate.

“If a Soldier decides to re-enlist and stay in this outfit, I can at least sign their certificate,” he said.

During the ceremony, two Soldiers were promoted, 37 re-enlisted, and other Soldiers received awards ranging from the Army Commendation Medal to the Army Achievement Medal for their work in getting Task Force Destiny functioning in Afghanistan.



# Service members celebrate MLK Day, Black History Month



*"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance, and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."*

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Service members and civilians gathered at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation clamshell tent here, on the afternoon of January 25 to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. day and Black History month. The event was organized by the Equal Opportunity representatives from various units across the compound.

The event highlighted some of the major cultural contributions of African Americans to American society. Black History Month is derived from Negro History Week, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926. He chose February because it contained the birthdays of both President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

The event included gospel selections sung by the Enduring Faith Choir, an interpretive dance by the Enduring Faith Dance Team and poetry readings. The guest speaker was Sgt. Maj. Wayne Durham.

# Chaplain's Corner

## Healthy Living



Maj. Donald Kammer  
Task Force Destiny Chaplain

As January comes around each year many of us set down our goals, with great hopes. By February our diets have dropped off our plates; our decision to stop a destructive behavior has been put on hold; and our plans to further our education have been sidetracked because of other priorities.

It never fails; we fail to meet our lofty January goals. So, is there any word that can touch our dilemma our feelings of failure? I believe that the Holy Scripture has something to say for many of us who struggle in this fashion. I invite you to listen for a moment.

The Book of Proverbs suggests several decisions we can make which would help us with healthy living. Setting goals is not enough. We need to accompany goal setting with decision making, with decisive action. We need both! We are good with goals; but typically, it is in the area of making decisions that we fail.

1. The first and most important decision we must make has to do with God and our relationship with Him.

*Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the Lord and shun evil.*

*This will bring health to your body  
and nourishment to your bones*  
(Proverbs 3:7-8).

This is an amazing word. The author of this Proverb asks us to be humble and to acknowledge God. When we do this our life will experience the benefits that spiritual and moral peace can bring to us. The good life, we so long for, begins first as a godly life. What a thought!

2. The second decision has to do with cultivating the friendship with your

spouse. In this case the author speaks of the wife.

*A wife of noble character is her husband's crown,*

*but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones* (Proverbs 12:4).

Scholars tell us that the book of Proverbs was intended as fatherly advice to sons. Therefore it has a focus on men, but the principles also apply to women. The decision of who a person selects as a life mate is absolutely critical to one's happiness. That decision can determine whether you have abundant joy or miserable grief in life. So choose wisely! I did; and Josephine is her name.

3. One's Attitude is the next decision that you must make. Many years ago, when I was an enlisted Soldier, I was in a unit with terrible morale. The people around me were critical, negative and it influenced me to have a lousy attitude. Yet, I lived in a wonderfully beautiful area in Germany. Those lousy attitudes poisoned the possible joy and fun that I could have had. I chose to have a bad attitude like many others, unfortunately. Friends, "stinking thinking" is always a choice too. Try to have a good attitude, even if people around you try to drag you down and make you swallow their *negativity pills*. Listen to these words.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick,  
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life  
(Proverbs 13:12).

A heart at peace gives life to the body,  
but envy rots the bones (Proverbs  
14:30).

A cheerful heart is good medicine,  
but a crushed spirit dries up the bones  
(Proverbs 17:22).

A man's spirit sustains him in sick-

ness,

but a crushed spirit who can bear?  
(Proverbs 18:14).

4. Finally, the words that we use with others are so important. Leaders who constantly use foul and offensive language in front of others create an atmosphere, which in the long run is poisonous to a healthy community. A good word spoken with joy; a word of encouragement; or a pat on the back with a hug has more results in the long run than well meant negative encouragement techniques.

Today, when I am writing this word, we had the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, General Richard Cody, visit us in Bagram. He is a four star general and many of the Soldiers were thrilled at his presence. He went out of his way to encourage, hug, shake hands and provide a positive mentorship model. They will never forget his encouragement and the time he took to connect. His actions perfectly fit the following Scriptures.

*A cheerful look brings joy to the heart,  
and good news gives health to the bones* (Proverbs 15:30).

*Pleasant words are a honeycomb,  
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones* (Proverbs 16:24).

Friends, our decisions in life can bring joy and health to us. How we speak to others affects their wellbeing. Who we choose as a life partner is the difference between feeling wonderful and feeling miserable. For those who are not yet married, choose wisely. I also believe our choice of words affect our own health and that of others. Praise uplifts, while criticism depresses. So, criticize others sparingly (and only if really necessary), but praise lavishly. ♦

# Your Health + Malaria



Lt. Col. Brian Smalley  
Task Force Destiny Surgeon

Malaria, the world's number one infectious disease, is spread

through the bite of the female Anopheles Mosquito.

In Afghanistan the threat is extremely high and Malaria cases have been reported in the months of February through November. Malaria risk is highest between dusk and dawn, as the mosquitoes feed at night. There are four species of malaria parasites: Plasmodium Falciparum, P. Malariae, P. Vivax and P. Ovale. Only Falciparum malaria is potentially life threatening.

Malaria contracted in Afghanistan is primarily P. Vivax. Malaria symptoms are typically flu-like and may come and go. They include fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, a vague feeling of being ill and, sometimes, vomiting, diarrhea and coughing. Individuals with severe Falciparum Malaria may develop liver and kidney failure, convulsions, coma and death. Malaria symptoms may develop as early as seven days after infection and as late as several months after leaving a country or after stopping preventive drugs.

If Malaria, Vivax or Ovale forms of Malaria are left untreated, episodes may recur for months or years. The Malariae form can recur more than 25 years after exposure.

The risk of acquiring Malaria varies from area to area, but cases have been reported in all regions of Afghanistan. If you think you may have the symptoms of malaria, even if mild, you should seek medical treatment immediately. Delay of treatment could result in serious or even fatal consequences.

## PRIMARY PROTECTIVE MEASURES

The first line of defense is to avoid the bites of the Anopheles mosquitoes, which usually bite during dusk until dawn. During the nighttime hours, you should avoid outdoor exposure and:

- Remain in air conditioned or well screened areas.
- Use mosquito netting.
- Wear clothing that covers most of your body.
- Use Permethrin to spray bed nets and clothing
- Apply insect repellents containing 20%-35% DEET

(N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide). Always follow the directions on the label.

## PREVENTIVE THERAPY

There is no vaccine for malaria, so preventive medications (chemoprophylaxis) are used. The medication we use primarily is Doxycycline. It prevents the disease from developing in your body. Since this may not be 100% effective, insect precautions should still be used.

**Doxycycline:** The dosage of Doxycycline is 100 mg (one capsule) once a day. Therapy begins one day before entering the malarious area, continues every day while in the area and extends for four weeks after leaving the area. Soldiers shall continue taking their Doxycycline while on R&R.

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

The side effects of Doxycycline include photosensitivity, which may result in a severe sunburn. This risk can be minimized by wearing hats and using sunscreen. Women who take Doxycycline may develop yeast infections. If you experience any side effects, have an allergy or sensitivity to Doxycycline, please consult your Battalion provider at the Health Clinic. ♦



**MALARIA IS NO JOKE.**  
**TAKE YOUR DOXYCYCLINE**  
**PILLS AS PRESCRIBED !**

# Legal Advice: Taxes



Pfc. Percy Morales  
TF No Mercy Paralegal

It is the beginning of the new year, and tax season has officially begun. The mere mention of the word may strike fear and loathing into the hearts of many Americans for now they have to prove how much patriotism they have through monetary support.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has declared that deployed Service Members have more on their minds than filing federal taxes. As such, those serving in the Armed Forces have many advantages. You can decide whether to file your federal taxes now or wait until you return, as well as go to many online resources that provide free filing for Service Members. If you choose, you may give a Power of Attorney to your loved one. In addition, while you are in a combat zone, you are exempt from paying federal taxes which is an additional bonus.

If serving in a combat zone, you have an automatic extension of 180 days to file your 2007 taxes once you have returned from your deployment. In addition to the 180 days, your deadline is also extended by the number of days you had left to take action with the IRS when you entered the combat zone. For example, you have 3 ½ months (1 January – 15 April) to file your tax return. Any days left in this period when you entered the combat zone are added to the 180 days. This extension also applies to contingency operations outside the United States. An example of these “extra days” is if you were deployed before 1 January of the current filing year. Upon your return from a combat zone you have 180 days plus 3 ½ months to file your federal taxes. This means that if you are expecting to pay federal taxes, you can wait to pay them off when you have saved up the money, or if you are a single Soldier and do not need the money right away, you can wait until you get back and that money will be there. Kind of like an added bonus for returning from deployment.

If you are expecting a return in taxes and you would like to receive that money as soon as possible, there are a few websites you can visit to file your taxes for free. As a Service Member websites such as: [www.turbotax.com](http://www.turbotax.com); [www.taxslayer.com](http://www.taxslayer.com); and [www.handrblock.com](http://www.handrblock.com) are helpful. You can go through [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) for other links as well. These sites provide basic services for filing taxes. If you are trying to pay fewer taxes and are trying to tweak the system, those services are an additional fee.

For those of you who have trusted your spouse or loved ones to file your federal taxes, he or she can go to the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Office on any installa-

tion, and representatives can file your taxes at no expense. The Fort Campbell office is the SGT Brett T. Christian Tax Center, located between Burger King and Dryer Field House and can be reached at (270) 798-1040. The tax center is open year round. The personnel at the VITA office have had the same introductory training as the accountant that charges for his service. If you wish, your loved one can take advantage of this free service, provided you have given them a power of attorney to do so. There is a form you can download from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) (IRS Form 2848) and this form does not have to be notarized. For more information regarding having someone else file your taxes for you, please see IRS Publication 17, page 14.

Since being in a combat zone, you may have already noticed you are exempt from paying federal taxes. If your state of residence is either Kentucky or Tennessee, your state taxes are exempt as well. It's just another benefit of being deployed. However, combat zone tax exclusion for officers is based on the highest rate of enlisted pay plus Hostile Fire Pay/Imminent Danger Pay (\$225.00), which is \$7,100.10 per month for the 2008 tax year. If a commissioned officer makes more than this amount per month, the additional monies will be taxed by the federal government.

Congress is currently legislating a bill that would provide rebates for virtually every American who files their taxes. Speculations are from \$500 to \$600 for single individuals and \$1,000 to \$1,200 for couples. Congress is also working on rebates for children somewhere in the neighborhood of \$300 per child. While Congress is still ironing out the wrinkles in the bill, they estimate you can start seeing the money as soon as June 2008. The purpose of the bill is to boost the slow economy as we are facing a recession.

In conclusion, the IRS is exactly that, a service to help Americans assume their most patriotic duty—paying taxes. So, take a deep breath, relax, and reap the benefits of filing your taxes. The IRS is not trying to hold an axe over your head. Unless, of course, you are to be audited, even then the IRS gives you 180 days from the time you get back from a combat zone for you to have time to prepare. ♦



# CPN Conducts Combat Sling Load

*Story and photos by  
2nd Lt. Orlando Varela  
Company C, 96th ASB*



**FORWARD OPERATING BASE AIRBORNE, Afghanistan**— Command Post Node from Company C, 96<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion, 101 Combat Aviation Brigade conducted a combat sling-load mission en route to Forward Operating Base Airborne on 17 January.

Using a 25 thousand-pound sling-load set, Sgt. Jason Barber an Air Assault qualified non-commissioned officer, took charge of the sling load team. His team assembled the sling-load and rigged all the equipment in a dual point configuration. This rigging allows the CH-47 to travel at increased rates of speed and a smooth and straight ride for the equipment.

A team of six personnel from 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, C Co. moved out to F.O.B Airborne to establish communications in order to support Task Force Fury within F.O.B Airborne.

Once the equipment landed at F.O.B Airborne, the CPN team was able to begin installing the KU-band satellite and CPN stacks. Seeing some challenging configuration issues, Spc.

Brandon Ostrowski managed to work through all the obstacles allowing for CPN to provide uninterrupted communications.

The CPN team was sent out to operate reliable communication, providing secure internet protocol (SIPR) and non-secure internet protocol (NIPR) voice over internet phone (VOIP) and data capabilities. While at F.O.B Airborne, the CPN team will have to monitor system status, ensuring continuous phone and data connectivity that is mission essential.

For the remainder of the deployment, the members of Team CPN 337, Sgt.

Mark Baier, Sgt. Stanton Washington, Spc. Brandon Ostrowski, and Pfc. Edward McNaughton, will remain at F.O.B Airborne to provide TF Fury and their replacement unit with uninterrupted communications. Because of the possibility of stress levels becoming elevated

the leadership plans to rotate other members in and out of F.O.B Airborne.

Unlike the relatively modern environment that is within Bagram Airfield, F.O.B Airborne is rustic. The sparse setting and dangerous surroundings are obstacles that the team will have to overcome to continue providing communication of a high mission-required level.

“As long as these guys keep focus and remember their training, I have full confidence that my two NCOs will set mission and safety as a high priority,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Breeds, platoon sergeant of 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. ♦



# Legends of Wrestling Tour Comes to Bagram

Story and Photos by  
Spc. George Walcome  
TF Destiny Public Affairs



Pfc. Michael Grandi Jr., of HHC 101st CAB holds the Championship belt as he takes a picture with the "Legends of Wrestling" on January 26 at the MWR clamshell on Bagram Airfield.

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**— The Legends of Wrestling tour rolled into Bagram Airfield on Jan. 26, and service members and civilians gathered at the Morale Welfare and Recreation tent here, to take part in the festivities.

Professional wrestling greats Nikolai Volkoff, Greg "The Hammer" Valentine, Diamond Dallas Page and legendary manager "The Mouth of the South" Jimmy Hart took pictures with and signed autographs for the wrestling fanatics. Trivia questions were asked of the crowd, those who gave correct responses won hats and t-shirts.

For some die-hard wrestling fans, the event was a dream come true.

"I became a wrestling fan in 1999 after constantly seeing it on T.V.," said Pfc. Michael Grandi Jr., of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, who has attended numerous live wrestling events such as WWE Raw, Smack Down and The Great American Bash. "I had constant adrenaline pumping during the event," he said of meeting his idols. "It was really cool how laid back they were. And

none of the Soldiers were bothering them; they took pictures, got their autographs and moved along. There was a mutual respect."

The meet and greet

session lasted for just over an hour, with the stars posing with and chatting with all comers. Afterward, those who stayed were treated to an inspirational speech by former three time WCW Heavyweight Champion, Page.

In his address, Page told of how he overcame a turbulent family life, learning disability and other issues, to achieve his dreams through a process he called "living life at 90 percent."

"I once heard Lou Holtz say, life is 10 percent of what happens to you and 90 percent of how you react to it," said Page. "In our personal lives and our professional lives we are constantly hit with one adversity after another, most of which we have no control over. The one thing we have control over is our mindset."

Page introduced the audience to his no impact workout system called Yoga for Regular Guys. Page,

a self proclaimed "guy's guy", once scoffed at the idea of doing Yoga, until a spinal injury threatened to keep him out of the ring.

"When I got injured my wife tried to get me to do Yoga," Page said. "But I always thought Yoga was for sissies. I learned that flexibility was the key to youth not just in the body, but in the mind. I wanted to get back to wrestling so badly that I started doing it."

At the completion of his rousing speech, Page received a standing ovation from the audience. After signing more autographs and taking photos with fans. He led all those who stayed behind through an intense hour-long session of Yoga for Regular Guys.

The program which consisted slow count isometric exercises, static holds and various Yoga poses managed to raise heart rates and get the crowd sweating.

"I liked it a lot, it was an awesome workout," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Cranford, of Company C, 3<sup>rd</sup> General Support Aviation Battalion, 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB. "I am going to get the DVD and keep doing it. Once I get better, I will introduce it to my guys for P.T."



DDP checks Soldiers' posture in the "Downward Dog" pose.



# Visions of Destiny

Two TF Shadow Soldiers keep watch for potential threats from the ramp of a CH-47 during a flight from Bagram to Jalalabad.



1st Sgt. James Legrand secures the rotors of a Chinook on Bagram Airfield.



Maj. John Wimberley (right) presents a plaque to outgoing TF Troubleshooter executive officer, Maj. Tracy Lanier during a farewell luncheon in Jan.



Soldiers enjoy some “frosty combat” on a snowy day at Camp Albert