

# Wings of Destiny

101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

Volume 2 Issue 3

March 2008



On the Move With  
Task Force Eagle Assault

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## On the Cover :

Soldiers of the Pathfinder detachment of Task Force Eagle Assault conduct live fire maneuver training at Tarnak Farm Range.

*(Photo by Spc. George Welcome, TF Destiny Public Affairs)*



## From the editor's desk



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The moment you have all been waiting on has finally arrived, the release of the March issue of *Wings of Destiny* magazine, your monthly brigade news publication.

This month's edition highlights the Soldiers of Task Force Eagle Assault and their multitude of missions supporting Coalition forces in and around Kandahar. Also featured is a story by Pfc. Percy Morales, which details the extraordinary efforts of the Soldiers of Task Force No Mercy in securing and evacuating personnel from a camp that was attacked by Taliban forces. Undoubtedly, their actions saved lives and equipment.

A new feature in this month's '*Wings*' is the Soldier Profile section. Each month in this section we will get to learn a little about the individual Soldiers of the Destiny brigade, and their contributions in helping to make this brigade great. If you have a Soldier you would like to see featured in the Soldier Profile section, please send their name, unit, contact information and a brief description of why you feel the Soldier should be highlighted. Anyone can be nominated regardless of rank. Only one Soldier is featured this month, but if this section becomes a success (which you can help to make it) then we can expand to include even more Soldiers per issue.

That's all for this month, but stay tuned for more of the exciting adventures of the Soldiers of Destiny Brigade.

Until April,

Spc. George Welcome

Wings of Destiny Editor

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# Wings of Destiny

Published by Task Force Destiny Public Affairs

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# COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



I can hardly believe the Task Force has been deployed for nearly 90 days. Much has occurred since we left Fort Campbell. Your Soldiers continue to do amazing things every day.

Whether it is on the flight line launching aircraft, in the motor pool turning wrenches, in the TOC synchronizing operations, or in the aircraft flying missions throughout Afghanistan...the team is performing magnificently!

As I write this, we are in the middle of March Madness...and enjoying the friendly competition associated with making our bracket predictions, watching the occasional game, and checking the results (as a side note, I did have UNC, Kansas, Memphis, and UCLA as my final 4). But March

has also ushered in more favorable flying conditions and a noticeable increase in our operational tempo.

There is one particular event I want to share with you, because it demonstrates the bravery and professionalism of all Task Force Soldiers. I am particularly proud of how our Soldiers reacted to the events surrounding the 3 March suicide bombing at a local Afghanistan District Government Center. As a result of the bombing, there were numerous casualties, predominantly affecting innocent Afghan civilians. Upon news of the incident, Task Force pilots, medics, and Pathfinders quickly responded to the scene, providing life saving care during this chaotic time. Their heroic efforts no doubt saved the lives of many Afghans on that day. This is just one example of the numerous accomplishments of the team.

In closing, I am extremely proud of what the Soldiers are doing and am always moti-

vated by their enthusiasm, dedication to their fellow Soldier, and the mission. Please take great comfort in knowing we are making a difference.

**Wings of Destiny... Air Assault!**

**Col. James Richardson**

# A MESSAGE FROM CSM HERNDON



**To all TF Destiny Soldiers and Families,**

Another month has gone by and the brigade's Soldiers are making history every day. I would like to try and squelch a big rumor.

As of today, the brigade is on a 15 month rotation. I know everyone has heard rumors, but bottom line, until told otherwise by those echelons above division headquarters; we remain on a 15 month time line. That being said, we have completed 90 plus days of that rotation. I will tell you the time is going fast. Some may say otherwise, but from my FOXHOLE, staying busy is the key to the time passing quickly.

As I write this our division is slowly transitioning into theater. This is a good thing. This means we begin working with people we are comfortable with and many we know very well. This transition also marks the start of a busy season moving Soldiers across the battlefield.

We are into the spring weather. It is no longer cold and snowy, but the winds and rain have begun. Historically this season has

3-4 months of wind and late afternoon rain showers. Overall it is nice, not too hot and still a little cool at night. Across the country, the temperatures are ranging from 70-90 degrees. In a few short months, these temperatures will seem cold, as the temperatures will climb by 15-20 degrees on a daily basis, if not more.

Our soldiers are still re-enlisting in droves. Their reasons are various; stabilization, assignments, training and of course quite a bit of money is being handed out (tax free).

As a brigade task force, all of our locations are growing and improving daily. Bagram (HHC BDE, TF Shadow, TF Troubleshooters and TF Deuce) has received more living accommodations and a couple of office buildings, flight line growth, this includes progress on the new Brigade Tactical Operations Center (TOC), which is expected to be complete in the next few months. Jalalabad, (TF Out Front) is almost in all their permanent structures, the other support facilities are fast on their way to being completed. At Salerno, (TF No Mercy) the major areas of growth are the flight line and work facilities. In Kandahar, (TF Eagle Assault) the personnel surge has caused some space issues, but the improvements and quality of life are by far the best even with the other issues they have.

As you can see, our Soldiers are doing well and their quality of life is improving on a daily basis.

I will tell you I am extremely proud of all of our Soldiers, both those forward and in the rear. They continue to conduct business professionally on a daily basis. I would like to give my personal thanks to all of the spouses who support us every day. Your participation in the FRGs and community events is not missed nor forgotten by your loved ones who are deployed. Thank you for all that you do.

That's about all from OEF for this month.

**Wings of Destiny, Air Assault!**

**CSM Mark Herndon**



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN EAGLE ASSAULT AIRCREW

Story and Photos by Spec. George Welcome

TF Destiny Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD,

Afghanistan— After nearly three months in theater the Soldiers of Task Force Eagle Assault have settled into Kandahar Airfield . A multi-functional aviation task force, Eagle Assault has many missions from transporting coalition forces to battle to providing critical medical evacuation flights.

One of the elements of support they provide is escorts. Pilots and crew chiefs of Task Force Eagle Assault prepared themselves to escort an Australian general and a group of his Soldiers from Forward Operating Base Tarin Khowt.

Before the two UH-60 Black Hawks and one AH-64 Apache could depart Kandahar Airfield to begin their mission, crew chiefs had to make sure that the helicopters were in top condition and mission ready.

“My responsibility is to maintain this aircraft for daily flights said Spec. Jose Per-



domo, of Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> CAB and crew chief for the Apache providing the armed escort for the mission. “When the aircraft is on the ground I have to make sure that it is ready to go, even if that means I’m with it all day.”

Meanwhile, the Black Hawk crews were busy performing pre-flight inspections on their aircraft. Crew members opened covers, checked the rotors, airframe and other items in preparation for the flight, all part of their daily routine.

“A lot of times we’ll get these V.I.P missions without knowing, but we have scheduled V.I.P missions maybe three or four times a week,” said Sgt. Shannon Johnston, a crew chief in Co. B. “It’s been push and shove out here so far, this is really a fast paced job and you always have to be on

your toes.”

After much preparation, the three helicopters taxied to the runway and waited for approval from the tower to depart. Once approval was granted, they ascended and quickly moved out. The trip was proceeding smoothly then an intermittent tail rotor indicator light flashed. The pilots were near their intended destination and landed the aircraft safely.

Once the engine was turned off and the rotors stopped spinning, the crew chiefs got busy with trying to assess and fix the problem. After some time, the crew chiefs were able to figure out what the problem was.

“We had a chip light go off, with suspected metal in the tail rotor gear box,” said Johnston. “The capsule lit up in the front and the fix for that is a precautionary landing, which is what we did. I drained the oil, checked the chip detector and there was

**Spec. Jose Perdomo of Company C, 1st Battalion, 101st CAB makes final checks on an AH-64 before it is due to participate in a V.I.P escort mis-**

Story continued on Page 5



metal on it. Then I filled the tail rotor up, flushed it out and found out that it was a wire harness that was causing the light. We just went through the checklist procedures to find the problem.”



Sgt. Shannon Johnston makes repairs to the tail rotor of the UH-60 while Spc. Angel Vasquez assists from the ground.

sure that everything was functioning properly. After the inspector approved and receiving permission from Eagle Assault headquarters, the helicopter was allowed to continue its mission. ♦

As repairs were being made on the aircraft, the second Black Hawk and escort

Apache continued the mission of transporting the Australian troops to their final destination.

Once the problem was fixed, a technical inspector on Tarin Khowt made



An Apache takes off followed by a Black Hawk, as they continue their mission of escorting Australian troops across the battlefield.



1st Lt. James Hickey, a Black Hawk pilot, makes some final preparations to the helicopter back on Kandahar Airfield.



During the flight back to KAF, a passenger experienced motion sickness. Sgt. Johnston uses a pressure washer to clean the remains of that adventure.

# The RAZOR'S Edge:



## Pathfinders Keep Skills Sharp on Tarnak Farm Range

Story and Photos by Spc. George Welcome

TF Destiny Public Affairs



they ran the drill once more, adding a personnel recovery element in which the Pathfinders simulated rescuing an injured pilot, providing medical care and moving the casualty to the designated rally point.

“The purpose of this training is to sustain our combat readiness while utilizing the air support assets we have access to,” said Staff Sgt. Alfred Tello, platoon sergeant for the TF Eagle Assault Pathfinders.

After the drills were conducted a few more times the live fire portion began. A UH-60 Black Hawk landed on a dusty road adjacent to the range to pick up the lead team. As it took off to fly its pattern, the door gunners fired their weapons down range, providing suppressive fire for the ground team. The second team remained in place in a security halt until the helicopter returned with the lead team.

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan**— Maintaining combat effectiveness is important for any fighting force. For the Pathfinders of Task Force Eagle Assault, training and preparation, during times of calm, result in success in combat.

On March 16, the Pathfinders conducted live fire maneuver training on Tarnak Farm Range, a dusty, flat plot of land near Kandahar Airfield. The range, which was once used as a training area for Al Qaeda and Taliban Forces, is now used by Coalition forces as a multi-purpose range.

“About twice a week we get to come out to Tarnak,” said Sgt. Nicholas Posatiere, a team leader with the Pathfinders. “We try to throw different scenarios in to change up the training, but our main mission is personnel recovery and downed aircraft recovery. We concentrate on our main mission but also keep up with our common tasks.”

The training consisted of three phases of dry runs. The first phase was a react to contact right battle drill, where the Soldiers, divided into alpha and bravo teams, simulated exiting an aircraft and moving in a tactical formation. They would then receive simulated fire from the right, then take cover and return fire. The drill was then repeated from the opposite side, and finally

When the lead team exited the helicopter and moved toward the objective, on the debris laden field, the second team followed behind, arranged in a wedge formation. The Soldiers would take simulated fire from the enemy and engage this time with real rounds. Soldiers engaged the enemy with their modified M4 assault rifles, the M203 rifle, squad automatic weapons and the AT-4 anti tank rocket launcher. Dust, colored smoke and the sounds of multiple weapons firing filled the air.

“We’ve had the chance to do a couple of live missions since we’ve been here,” Spc. Martin Stiffer, Pathfinder team member. “While our mission is primarily personnel recovery, we can conduct hasty raids and set up traffic control points.”

Through the painstaking process of simulating combat conditions, the Pathfinders ensure that they will be able to maintain their razor sharp combat edge as an elite unit. ♦





# Aid in the Air :



## Alghan Medics learn to treat patients during MEDEVAC flights

Story by Spc. George Welcome Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Miller

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**-- Helping to train and prepare the Afghan national Army to one day protect their nation on their own is a big part of the mission for Coalition Forces; equally as important as finding and destroying insurgents.

Soldiers of Task Force Eagle Assault are

doing their part in ensuring that the Afghan service will have well trained medical personnel to tend to their wounded during mis-

sions and medical evacuations. A three week medical training program has been instituted to teach Afghan medics how to treat their wounded during a medical evacuation flight.

"This program started with Task Force Corsair (82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division) and Capt. Gary Means who was their flight surgeon," said Capt. Brock Benedict, flight surgeon for Task Force Eagle Assault. "Through an agreement with the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and TF Corsair, they got a program up and running where essentially the Afghan National Army air corps will train medics during a ground phase training in Kabul. Cmdr. Joey Swartz (ANA commander) hand selects the medic

who is at the top of his class to come down here to be integrated into our medevac platforms."

Although the program does not provide the Afghan medic with an official certification, the experience they gain by performing their medical tasks with a flight company prepares them for what they might face as flight medics.

"CSTCA's whole goal was to focus on Afghans helping Afghans, to help this country run on its own" Benedict said. "They are training the Afghan people to do lots of different things, whether it's the police force, the military force or this piece, being the medical force, so when they come here the whole goal of the operation is to help them stand up their own medevac system."

The three week program is not designed to teach the medics basic medical skills, but to teach them what happens in route during a medical evacuation flight.

"I think this training program is really where the rubber meets the road," said Capt. Mark Jones, detachment commander, Company C, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade. "We actually have Afghan flight medics here training with us so they can take their skills back to their own units. Basically every time we get a mission they fly with us, and when we get a mission that involves ANA or ANP, they actually get to treat the casualty."

For many of the Afghan medics, their training in Kandahar is the first time they ever

board a helicopter, so a portion of the training is dedicated to getting them used to getting patients on board and treating them in flight conditions.

"I would say that so far there is not much nervousness in getting them adjusted to the helicopter," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Doolen, flight medic and program trainer. "There is a little bit of the deer in the headlight look in getting them used to the aircraft, as with any flight medic at first, but they calm down and they get right to business treating the patients."

The first Afghan medic to complete the three week training course since Task Force Eagle Assault took control of the program was a soldier named Hyattullah. The task force is currently training their third medic.

"This is the kind of program that we are glad to participate in," said Jones. "I really feel like this is the reason we are here. Yes, we are here to do our jobs and save lives, but we are also here to train the ANA and get them prepared to do these things themselves so at some point we can go home." ◆

**(Below) Hyattullah watches during a medevac mission in the Kandahar area.**





# Task Force No Mercy responds to Attack on Sabari District Center

Story by Pfc. Percy Morales

The full moon is said to have strange and unusual effects on people such as inciting crime and violence. Unfortunately in Afghanistan such occurrences are often intensified. Recently, Task Force No Mercy encountered a most strenuous night at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Salerno.

A small camp in eastern Khowst, north of FOB Salerno, called the Sabari District Center, was attacked by Taliban forces. It is believed that the destruction was caused by someone using a suicide improvised explosive device. A



photograph of the catastrophic destruction shows that half of the facility was demolished.

When Task Force No Mercy's Tactical Operating Center received the news, helicopters and ground forces were quickly dispatched to help stabilize the camp. The Bearcats of Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion launched their Apaches to screen the surrounding area. The threat of hellfire raining down on anyone would assuredly discontinue further carnage.

Phoenix, Company A, 5th Battalion, flew the Pathfinders of Company F, 5th Battalion, to the scene of the demolition.

"Apache pilots, seeing the Blackhawk land, are often amazed at the agility that our birds have to make a combat landing," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Joel Williamson. To the pilots and the crew chiefs of the Blackhawks, however, it is just normal daily operations.

A few Pathfinders led by Staff Sgt. Jaidante Burton immediately secured the high ground to the north. This allowed the recovery team to extricate the casualties. Burton also identified and inventoried numerous high dollar items left behind.

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Lumpkin was with the second chalk of Soldiers to be transported to Sabari. His team swiftly set up a defense on the western front. Lumpkin then took rescue tools and supervised his Soldiers in clearing away debris and rubble. The Pathfinders pulled security throughout the night until they were relieved in the morning.

Maj. Joel Magsig, Task Force No Mercy executive officer, explained how the Pathfinders made an impact with their ground troops in very little time.

"In less than an hour, the Pathfinders had established a perimeter, and helped stabilize the Sabari District Center, and were triaging

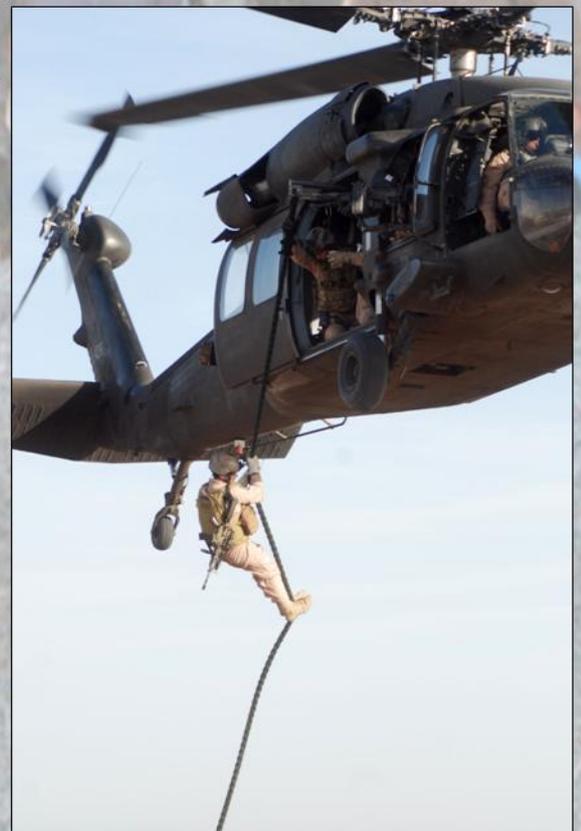
patients out of the rubble," Magsig said. "To me, they were very effective, knowing that before the incident happened the Pathfinders were in the middle of fast rope training [for air assault missions]."

Dustoff Company, C 6th Battalion, was given the task to get the wounded out of Sabari and into the hands of skilled physicians in Salerno. Their quick response to the situation was essential to preserving the lives. Capt. (Chaplain) Abraham Dispennette and Spc. David Poston helped carry casualties from the helicopters to the hospital giving them solace every step of the way.

During the night when efforts seemed to dwindle, several Headquarters and Headquarters Company Soldiers were told to help with possible wounded getting off night flights. They were led by Staff Sgt. Gereld Emery and Staff Sgt. Joseph Scott. After waiting a few minutes it was evident that there was not going to be a need for as many troops as were present. Emery asked the group for a few volunteers, with eagerness in their eyes to help their comrades. Nearly all of the Soldiers present raised their hands. They helped load lumber and Hesco Barriers used for the reconstruction of the destroyed building.

The disaster that at Sabari District Center may have caused the weak at heart to cower. However, when you have the right people in the right places who stand up, lead and direct what needs to be done it all seems rather minor.

Through the responsiveness of everyone involved from the medics to the infantry in the field, Task Force No Mercy has shown they are ready, trained and proficient in conducting the most difficult of missions. ♦



**SUBJECT: Spc. Roland Young**

**COMPANY: HHC BDE**

**MOS: 15 P (Aviation Operations Specialist)**



Much is often made of the Soldiers whose jobs grant them a certain amount of visibility in the eyes of the public. Infantrymen, pilots and medical personnel are common subjects of news stories, television shows and movies, but very rarely does the public hear about the Soldiers who are proudly serving their country behind the scenes.

One such Soldier is Spc. Roland Young, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Young's job as an aviation operations specialist isn't one that is glamorized, but without the Soldiers who perform it, managing flight operations at home and in combat zones would be tumultuous.

Working 12 hour shifts in the brigade's tactical operations center can sometimes be a mix of extreme boredom and frantic activity.

"The atmosphere in the T.O.C is mixed from day to day," explained Young, a native of Lowell, Mass. "It all depends, some days it's very slow and I feel like banging my head against the desk and hoping something happens, then the next thing you know things go from zero to 200 miles per hour in under a minute."

Things began taking off for Young when he enlisted to join the Army on September 15, 2000.

"I joined the military because I didn't really want to go to college, and I got tired of working the same part time and full time jobs for minimum wage, so I decided that the Army would be the best avenue of approach," said Young.

Serving in his second combat deployment to Afghanistan, and third overall, Young has seen much during his seven years of service.

"It's definitely been an experience being in the Army, it's been like a rollercoaster ride," Young claimed. "I've been to Afghanistan, Iraq, Texas, Louisiana, Arizona and Georgia. Pretty much during the past seven years I have been moving non-stop. "The best experience I have had since being in the Army

was coming here to Bagram in 2002. It was absolutely desolate then and the living conditions were minimal, the food was terrible and there was hardly any running water. It was terrible, but in hindsight it was a very good time, in a weird way."

When he is not busy monitoring battle at the operations center, Young spends his free time sleeping, doing physical training and visiting with his friends. Maintaining communication with his family is also important to him.

"I highly enjoy sleep," joked Young. "Everyone says it's a crutch, but it's not. Sleep is outstanding. That's pretty much my routine; sleep P.T. and work. Cigarettes and coffee are also necessities, especially coffee." "I try to call my family every week, or every other week. I am constantly e-mailing them and I try to call my brother when he is around. My parents don't like me being deployed so much, but at the same time they know that it's my choice so they're behind me 100 percent."

Despite continuous deployments and more time spent in foreign countries than at home, Young says that his time in the Army has been a blast.

"I love it," said Young of being in the Army. "It's a very different approach than your average American takes. I remember when I joined it was at a time of peace, and the only thing we had going on was the situation in Bosnia, and the next thing you know we are in Afghanistan and Iraq. I have very little to complain about though, this has been one of the best things I've ever done with my life." ♦





# Soldiers participate in DART simulation training

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**— In the event of a helicopter crash, Soldiers on

here and hearing everyone talk, gives me a good knowledge base.”

Downed Aircraft Recovery Teams or DART, need to be prepared to recover aircraft so that the sensitive technology in them does not fall into the hands of the enemy.

The Soldiers of Company A 96<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion conducted some virtual training that allowed them to learn the concept of how to conduct a DART mission without ever leaving the compound.

The training which seems similar to many shooting games available on high-end game consoles, allows Soldiers to communicate and work together in a virtual environment. Each Soldier represented a team member in the convoy simulation. They wore headsets with microphones to talk freely to one another.

The training gave Soldiers the opportunity to simulate the experience of going on a real DART mission.

“This is the first time we have conducted this type of training,” said Spc. Amber Huskinson, who works in the Co. A orderly room. “It gives you good pointers, since I work in an office I don’t get to do a lot of this type of stuff, so being in

“The training is good to have for future reference,” said Pfc. James Hill, who works in the company supply room. “Now if we ever have to go outside the wire, we’ll have a better understanding of what to do.” ♦



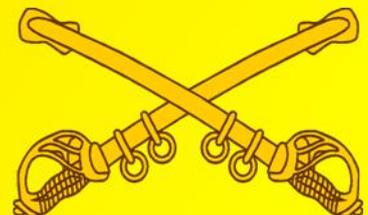
**THINKING  
ABOUT STAYING  
ARMY ?  
YOUR 101ST CAB  
RETENTION TEAM  
CAN HELP  
VISIT THEIR OFFICE AT BLDG. H1 OR CALL  
SFC FRAZIER &  
SSG MANHERZ AT  
431-2536 / 2549**

# Tail 361 Undergoes 300 Hour Inspections



**T**he Soldiers of Troop D, 2-17 Cavalry Regiment recently performed a 300 hour inspection on 361, one of the Kiowa Warriors assigned to their unit. As implied in its name, the maintenance is performed after the aircraft has completed 300 flight hours. During this inspection all the internal mechanisms of the engine are inspected. The inspection of the engine can take up to 12

hours. The mechanics of Troop D have also been tasked with maintaining the engines of other airframes since deploying to Afghanistan in order to take care of the array of aircraft within the task force. The section is led by Sgt. Justin Thompson. ♦



# Chaplain's Corner Easter



Maj. Donald Kammer  
Task Force Destiny Chaplain



Destiny personnel had dynamic worship opportunities at Bagram this Easter 2008. Over fifteen hundred people from all walks of life attended four worship services on Easter Sunday. The worship was a beautiful sight, both to see and to experience, especially as so many 101<sup>st</sup> CAB Soldiers praised God along with our diverse Bagram community. The crowd included Air Force, Navy, Marine, allied, contractor, and many other participants. The day was a festive occasion of joy and celebration.

For many who attended these worship opportunities, simply saying these words, "He is not here, but He has risen," with so many people, was a profound and enduring experience. ◆

# Your Health



Maj. Patrick Birchfield  
TF Shadow Flight Surgeon

## Staying Healthy in Afghanistan

### A Soldier's Guide to Staying Healthy in Afghanistan

This country-specific guide is intended to provide information that can help reduce your risk of Disease and Non-battle Injuries (DNBI) when deployed.

#### Afghanistan Overview

Afghanistan is approximately the size of Texas and is divided into three geographic regions. The elevation ranges from 500 feet above sea level in the Southwestern Plateau to 25,000 feet in the Central Highlands. Afghanistan has a mostly dry climate marked by seasonal, regional, and daily temperature extremes. The country also has the "Wind of 120 Days," which blows from June through September at velocities that occasionally exceed 110 mph. In the west, mean daily maximum temperatures in summer (April through September) and winter (October through March) generally are 20° F warmer than those in Kabul. The rainy season lasts from October through April. Although rainfall usu-

ally is scant, periodic heavy rains combined with melting snow have caused flooding. Generally, no area receives more than 15 inches of rain annually.

#### Sand, Wind and Dust

Sand, wind, and dust cause health problems, particularly to skin, eyes, throat and lungs. Take care of problems early to avoid infection. Dry air, dust and wind dry out the nose and throat and can also cause nosebleeds, coughing and wheezing. Cracked, chapped fingers reduce manual dexterity. Body areas (such as ears, armpits, groin, elbows, knees, feet, and the area under breasts) that collect dust and sand are susceptible to chafing, abrasion and infection.

- Wash your face and eyelids several times per day.
- Carry at least two pairs of glasses and a copy of your prescription. **Do not wear contact lenses; AR 40-63 prohibits contact lens use during a military deployment.**
- Breathe through a wet face cloth, or coat the nostrils with a small amount

of petroleum jelly to minimize drying of mucous membranes. Protect your lips with lip balm.

- Shield your face with cloth materials to protect from blowing dust and sand.
- Wear goggles to protect your eyes from wind, dust and sand or when traveling in open vehicles.
- Wear gloves and use moisturizing skin lotion to protect your hands.

#### Food and Water Borne Diseases

Do not consume any food, water, or beverages (to include bottled water) that have not been approved by the U.S. military. Assume all non-approved food, ice, and water is contaminated. Water and food items available in Afghanistan, including dairy products, fish, fruits, and vegetables, may contain unsafe levels of pesticides, chemical fertilizers, bacteria, and viruses. Contamination with human or animal waste is widespread. Even a one-time consumption of these foods or water may cause severe illness. ♦

# Legal Advice:



Staff Sgt. Crystal Aldridge  
Task Force Destiny Legal

## Power of Attorney

Who wants a power of attorney? I do. I do. The Destiny Justice team receives requests for powers of attorney almost daily. Some Soldiers really need a power of attorney (POA) and others come to our office because, "My NCO told me I had to get a POA". Hopefully this article will shed some light not only on powers of attorney but also what is required if you finally take the plunge and obtain one.

There are two types of POAs, General and Special. A General POA authorizes the attorney-in-fact to be able to do anything on behalf of the grantor except change the grantor's life insurance. A Special POA allows the grantor to "specifically" state what he/she wants the attorney-in-fact to do; for example, a grantor can authorize his/her attorney-in-fact to only register a vehicle and nothing more if that's what the grantor feels is appropriate.

The best option in any circumstance is always to proceed with a Special POA. Why? Because a SPOA offers the best safety measure for a grantor (the person giving the power to someone else). When you give a family member or close friend a SPOA to take care of your car you know that person can not sell your house from under you. Whereas if you gave your family member or close friend a General POA to take care of your car you might be in debt for lots of money because that person decided to take out a small personal loan in your name.

Any person who wishes to have a General POA must first be briefed by an attorney, either face-to-face, telephonically, or in writing to understand the ins/outs and consequences of a General POA. It also lets you understand that you, as the grantor, are the sole responsible person for whatever your attorney-in-fact does with your general power of attorney.

A Special POA is always the best course of action because most agencies do not accept a General POA. When you, as a grantor, want to give someone the authority to act on your behalf, there are a few unwritten rules to follow. The *first rule* is to think about what you want the grantor to actually do (i.e., buy a house, take care of your children, do your taxes, or obtain a loan). The *second rule* is to contact the agencies that are to accept your POA to determine what they are willing to accept. This is definitely true when it comes to property and bank accounts. When buying/selling real prop-

erty, the mortgage company/real estate agencies want to see either the legal description of the real property or the physical address. As far as bank accounts, most banks want the name of the bank, account holder name, and account number (s). The *third rule* is for you to make sure you trust the person you are appointing. Friends you just acquired are normally not a safe bet to act as an attorney-in-fact. If you follow these three simple rules, your Special POA should be smooth sailing.

If you want someone to take care of your children, you should know the children's full names and birthdates. If your vehicle is your concern, you must be able to provide the year, make, model, and vehicle identification number (VIN) of that vehicle. Defense Finance and Accounting System (DFAS) will only accept a Special POA, as well as Fort Campbell Family Housing (FCFH).

One of the largest POA requests of spouses of deployed Service Members is a Guardianship POA for an attorney-in-fact to take care of his/her child(ren) in the event something happens to the non-deployed spouse and he/she ends up in the hospital until either he/she gets better or the deployed spouse can return. Both parents of the children should personally sign a POA to appoint a guardian for the children. For the non-deployed parent, this can be accomplished at the Fort Campbell Legal Assistance Office; please call (270) 798-4432-/4927 for hours of operation.

Please keep in mind you should never be forced or coerced into obtaining a power of attorney. Your leaders cannot tell you that you HAVE to get a power of attorney because you are deploying. If you want a power of attorney, then by all means get one done, but if you do not want to get one, do not feel pressured to do so.

If you are a deployed Service Member you can obtain a POA or guidance concerning one from the Brigade Legal Office located on Bagram Airfield or your local Legal Assistance Office.

If there is a legal article you want to see in a future issue of *Wings of Destiny*, please e-mail SSG Aldridge at [crystal.aldridge@us.army.mil](mailto:crystal.aldridge@us.army.mil) with the topic and why you want to read about it. ♦



# NFL players visit service members in Afghanistan



People in attendance get an opportunity to receive autographed footballs and photographs from the football players.



Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel, DCSM, 82nd Airborne Division makes a speech after being presented with a portrait of Pat Tillman.



Dedicated Chicago Bears fan, Staff Sgt. Charles Manherz gets a picture taken with The Bears' Tommie Harris.



Sgt. 1st Class Scott Sneen gets a Green Bay Packers sign autographed by author and sports journalist Peter King.

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—** Though the Pro Bowl marked the end of the season, football fans from all across Bagram Airfield packed the Morale Welfare and Recreation Clamshell on March 8 to take part in a meet and greet session with members of the National Football League.

Football stars Mike Rucker, of the Carolina Panthers, Luis Castillo, of the San Diego Chargers and Tommie Harris, of the Chicago Bears, along with Sports Illustrated senior writer and football analyst, Peter King wrapped their five day USO tour at Bagram, their tour having taken them from Manas, Kyrgyzstan to various bases in Afghanistan.

“On behalf of everyone here from the NFL and USO, we just want to thank you all for welcoming us so warmly,” said King. “Everywhere we’ve been people have been good to us and friendly. With everything you guys have going on you still make the time to

come out and talk to us.”

The players took turns in succession discussing their experiences during the tour and how they have gained a stronger appreciation for the sacrifices service members make.

“One of the things that I realized during this trip was the reality of life,” said Rucker. “So many times back home you see what’s going on here on T.V. and there’s so much discord. But to come out here and see you guys has been a great experience, to travel to different places, and see how you are and how you work. No one complains but everyone works together to get the job done. One of the things that I will do when I get home is use my platform to tell everyone about the great job you are doing and the sacrifices you make. We love you guys.”

After the microphone had been passed to each of the players, King led the audience in a

game of NFL trivia. Service members would ask a question of any of the panelists, once answered; King would ask the inquisitor a trivia question about their favorite NFL team. Prizes for correct answers were special USO T-Shirts.

A myriad of questions were asked and the service members got to ask the players questions and take photographs with them. For many it was an opportunity of a lifetime to meet with some of their favorite players.

“When you get a chance to actually see a player who you’ve admired for years, then to meet them and talk to them man to man, that’s something you get to share with your children and your children’s children,” said Staff Sgt. Charles Manherz, 96<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion career counselor. “It was like they were just as touched coming over here to see the Soldiers and hear what we had to say, as we were to hear them.” ♦

# Visions of Destiny



A Pathfinder looks down a rope to ensure that his team members have landed safely.



Col. James Richardson and Spc. Devan Stewart take a picture after Stewart's recent re-enlistment.



Soldiers of Company A, 96th ASB make Bagram Airfield more like home as they paint Old Abe onto the flight line.



A Soldier re-enlists in Jalalabad under a huge American flag.



Col. Richardson promotes his driver, Nicholas Esparza, to the rank of Specialist in the brigade conference room.

