

# Wings of Destiny

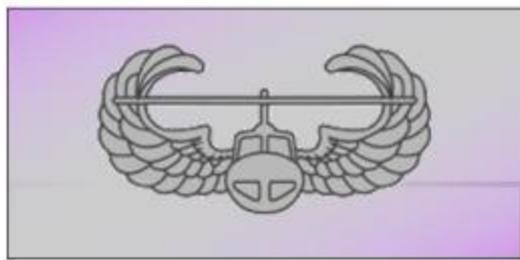
101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

Volume 2 Issue 10 October 2008



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A CH-47 hovers while UH-60 lands at Bagram Airfield.

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## Wings of Destiny

Published by Task Force Destiny Public Affairs

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# COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



**Hello Soldiers and Families of the Destiny Brigade,**

We have come to the end of October, and the Brigade is beginning its preparation

for redeployment. A small group of our Soldiers have already departed theater for Fort Campbell to conduct inventories of equipment being transferred from the 159<sup>th</sup> CAB and prepare for the arrival of the Brigade.

This month, Soldiers from the brigade and across Bagram got a visit from Army Chief of Staff, Gen. George Casey, who took the time to personally reenlist several Destiny Soldiers and speak to the team. He commended the

Brigade for their outstanding performance and continued sacrifice in the name of freedom.

Although we haven't received any snowfall here at Bagram, the caps of the surrounding mountains have begun to turn white... signaling the return of cooler weather and the impending winter season.

Now more than ever, we must remain focused on completing our mission here in Afghanistan. Maintaining strict adherence to discipline, standards, and safety are the keys to successfully completing our tour and bringing everyone home to their loved ones. I am counting on all leaders... from commanders down to squad leaders... to make sure their Soldiers maintain the proper focus and make the right decisions.

I'd like to extend a personal thank you to the families and friends of the Soldiers of the Destiny Brigade. Your en-

couragement and support throughout the deployment have been instrumental to the well-being of our Soldiers and their outstanding performance in combat. I thank you and ask for your continued support as we prepare to transition back home.

**Wings of Destiny, Air Assault!**

**Col. James Richardson**

# A MESSAGE FROM CSM HERNDON



**Hello Wings of Destiny Brigade,**

Another month has passed. The weather is really getting cooler here in Afghanistan as it is at Ft

Campbell. There is actually snow on the mountain tops here. This is a good thing as the cold comes our timeline shortens every day. Some of you may not know it, but 50 or so Brigade Soldiers should be home by the time you read this. Their initial mission will be inventories, then they will stay there as early redeployers and prepare to welcome the rest of the Brigade home. Based upon the proposed timeline many of the Brigade Soldiers are within 60 days of redeploying.

We continue to have many distinguished visitors, to include the Chief of

Staff of the Army and many equipment reset and maintenance teams. As always the performance of the Brigade is lauded by all. Our soldiers continue to perform professionally each and every day.

As most of you know upon redeployment the Army's mission never ceases. I would ask that once we redeploy you all remain flexible and understanding. There will be many things happening from Permanent Change of Stations (PCS), Soldiers moving based upon their choices and the Army's Needs, Schools both professional and technical. There will be Battalion and Brigade Change of Commands as well. So as you see, even though we will be at Ft. Campbell, we will still be busy doing the normal Garrison Army mission.

I would like to commend each and every one of you. The performance and conduct of our soldiers while we conduct this mission we are on is amazing. I attribute their success directly to you the family. The support and dedication you provide daily to your husbands, wives, sons, daughters and significant

others is irreplaceable. Without you and your support we could not accomplish our mission.

As last month, I will once again ask for your assistance as we prepare to redeploy and move through the critical 90 days after redeployment. I ask that you assist us in keeping your Soldier focused on the mission at hand. Once we return we need your assistance keeping our Soldiers safe as well, as we reintegrate into garrison life at Ft. Campbell.

Again, the support you provide us daily is immeasurable. Your contributions to our success are noted daily. You are the reason we do what we do every day, thank you.

**Wings of Destiny, Air Assault!**

**CSM Mark Herndon**

# Armed



# Disasters



**JALALABAD AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—In combat aviation, flying missions in an aircraft without weapons is similar to a person going bear hunting using only their bare hands; it is something that will almost certainly end in disaster.

For the Troopers in the armament section of Troop D, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, their main priority is to ensure that the weapons systems on their OH-58 D, Kiowa Warriors work flawlessly at all times.

"Everyday we make sure that the weapons are cleaned, the rocket pods are good, and perform fire incurring checks to make sure that the rocket pods are producing enough voltage to fire the rocket," said Pvt. Ulysses Balthazar, a 15 J (Armament, Electrical and Avionic Equipment Repair) with Trp. D. "Keeping the 50.cal clean and all its components working is another thing we do. Any other issues dealing with avionics and electrical systems we fix them."

Maintaining the weapons systems is important because pilots must be able to use them for offensive and defensive measures. The training they conducted in the rear has helped them to be able to keep up with the demands of deployment.

"Back home, we trained to the fullest to simulate the worst possi-

ble conditions," said Balthazar. "Coming over here, we have days where there is absolutely nothing wrong with the birds and they are running great, which is good for us because that means that we are doing our jobs right the first time and not having the same problems over and over."

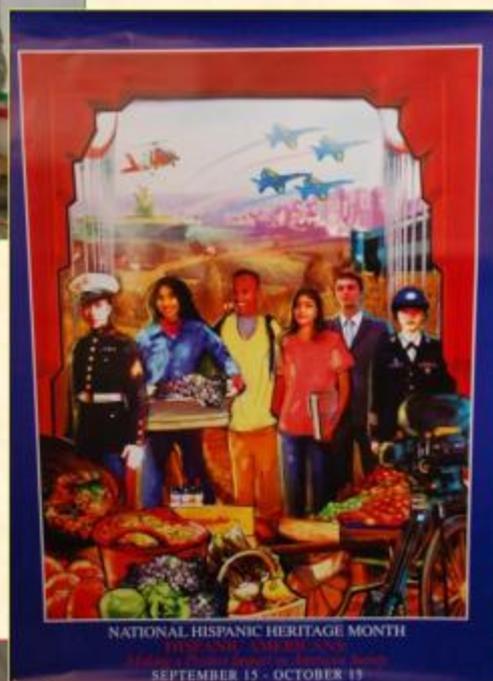
Also helping to make sure that the job is being done properly are the technical inspectors in the troop. Technical inspectors are the subject matter experts who give technical advice to junior maintainers and check their work to make sure there are no deficiencies.

"My responsibilities are to ensure that maintenance is done correctly and that all tasks are performed according to standard," said Sgt. Ronald Roberts, a quality control technical inspector assigned to Trp. D. "I tell the Soldiers to do the job the best they can using the book (regulations), but the book never covers everything, that's why there are experts who can help take them that extra step in their maintenance."

These Soldiers ensure that the unit's helicopters are always mission capable and ready to defeat the enemy.



# Hispanic Heritage Celebration



On October 13, Servicemembers and civilians gathered at the MWR Clamshell to celebrate the contributions made by Hispanic-Americans to the Armed Forces and the nation.

**SUBJECT:** Sgt. Jeremiah Rutledge  
**COMPANY:** C Co. 5-101 Avn. Regt.  
**MOS:** 63 J (Quartermaster Chemical Equipment Repairer)



Trying something new can lead to exciting things that a person would never have experienced continuing in their normal routine. A Soldier from the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade is discovering that taking on a new job and duties is both challenging and rewarding.

When Sgt. Jeremiah Rutledge, a 63 J (Quartermaster Chemical Equipment Repairer) originally assigned to Company E, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment found out that he was going to be a door gunner for the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade's upcoming deployment, he was a bit apprehensive about doing something so far removed from his normal job.

"I was volunteered for the job and at first I was upset about the position because I thought I was being put on a suicide mission," Rutledge said, reflecting on that day. "After I went to the company and saw that there were guys who were door gunners during the last rotation, and that they were alive and well with no markers commemorating their lives, I thought I would give it a try. So far the experience has opened my eyes to a whole other side of the Army that I would have never seen just hanging around the motor pool."

Rutledge, who hails from Conway, South Carolina, has been on numerous missions which range from medevac chase, V.I.P missions and troop transport.

"Some of those missions are still classified and I can't discuss them," Rutledge joked. "I'll tell you, I've been on some missions where I got to fly with general Milley (Brig. Gen. Mark Milley, Combined Joint Task Force-101 Deputy Commanding General, Operations) and those have been the most rewarding jobs I've had out here."

When he's not flying around the country on missions, Rutledge likes to spend his off duty time relaxing.

"I spend a lot of time surfing the net and reading books," he said. "I like to brush up on all the TMs (training manuals) and FMs (field manuals) so I can better prepare Soldiers for the battle."

One of the most somber missions Rutledge has been a part of was an equipment recovery mission after the

attack at Wanat, a small coalition outpost which was overrun by insurgents in July, leaving nine U.S. Soldiers dead.

"The day that the Wanat incident happened, we had to go up there to retrieve the Soldiers' gear," recalled Rutledge. "It was one of those life altering moments where you actually come face to face with the blood and guts of your fellow Soldiers. If you were kind of cavalier about this whole war prior to that, then that changed your mind. This is a real war, and there are Soldiers whose families thought they were coming home and they didn't make it. Life happens out here and it ends out here as well."

Rutledge has decided to pursue a career in the Army. He recently re-enlisted to work in supply and hopes to one day become a recruiter.

"I just re-enlisted to change my MOS, I want to be a supply sergeant, my long term goal is to become a recruiter. I want to do that full time because I think it's a better fit for my personality."

Once he returns to Fort Campbell, Rutledge plans on spending as much time as possible with his family.

"I just want to spend as much time with the family as I can. I'm missing a whole season of football," Rutledge exclaimed. My son is a starting receiver at Kenwood High School, my daughter is President of the Beta Club at Kenwood Middle School. I want to try to catch up on lost time, and spend time at the Faith Outreach church (exit 11, Clarksville, Tn.)."

In all, Rutledge says that he tries to remain positive and always remembers that things could be much worse than what they are.

"Attitude is everything," Rutledge stated. "If you have a positive attitude about your job, you'd be surprised at how others perceive you. I've been doing this job for 10 months now and I've done things I never thought I'd do, and I've been exposed to things that I wish other Soldiers had a chance to experience."

**SUBJECT: Sgt. Lili Peraza**

**COMPANY: Task Force Charger**

**MOS: 92 A (Automated Logistical Specialist)**



The strength of the Army comes from the diversity of the Soldiers who fill its ranks. Just as the organization leaves its mark on the people who serve, the experiences that the individual brings into the service helps it to grow.

Sgt. Lili Peraza, a 92 A (Automated Logistical Specialist) assigned to Task Force Charger has travelled a unique road to join the Army. Peraza, who is from Caracas, Venezuela originally came to the United States to go to college.

"I moved to the states for school," she explained. "After taking care of my daughter and not working for a few years, I decided to join the Army. I studied International Business in Venezuela and I thought that 92 A MOS was related with the logistics and sending containers. I thought, 'Oh, that's what I studied'."

During the course of an average day, Peraza checks flares reports, makes trips to the supply warehouse, drops off and collects Soldiers' laundry, takes classes online with AMU (American Military University) and when she has time, collects items for the Egyptian hospital.

"I do not have too much free time," she said. "By the time I am done with work and school I am ready to go to bed."

She says that one of the hardest things about the job is finding supplies in a timely manner.

"Sometimes when you order things, it takes time to get them or simply they won't get here," she explained. "So some supply sergeants from infantry created a (supply) net that just extended to Jalalabad. When any of us needs something we send an e-mail out and somebody always has it and we don't have to wait two months to get it."

When she's not working, Peraza is studying for her degree in political science or collecting items for the locals. She also likes to fly, which she hasn't had a chance to do during this deployment. She says that being near the airfield is just like being at home. Growing up, she spent every weekend in an airport in Venezuela, where she became familiar with small aircraft.

"I've been really busy here, so I don't get a chance to fly," said Peraza. "But in Iraq I got to fly every Tuesday. I am grateful for the opportunity that they gave me to go with them on those flights.

I loved it, and I will remember those Tuesdays for the rest of my life. I have been blessed because I do have plenty of good memories, like flying over a bridge that was blown up couple days before in Iraq, or the first time that I sat on the ramp of a Chinook, with my feet hanging out, looking down while wearing night vision goggles. I like flying and all the moments that I spent in those helicopters helped me to deal with the deployment and the personal problems that I had back then. Those moments are unforgettable."

During her previous deployment in 2006, Peraza was able to obtain her American citizenship during a ceremony on Independence Day in Balad, Iraq.

Although some days during a deployment can be quite trying, Peraza believes that staying upbeat is very important.

"I believe in making the best out of what we have. We all have problems and we all have somebody who we miss, but a long face would not send us home early, or make our days go by faster. On the other hand, a smile cheers people up and can make someone's day. So I choose to be happy and make sure that everybody who I pass by gets a smile."

Once the brigade returns from the deployment, Peraza will begin out processing from the Army. She says she'll cherish the experiences she's had in the Army, particularly her time in Task Force Charger.

"It's funny because this will be my last unit, and it's the best unit I've ever been in," she claimed. "Everybody knows their jobs and they do them. We have the best first sergeant, the best commander and the best people. Everybody knows what to do and no one has to be babysat."

After she's cleared post, Peraza plans to visit her family in Venezuela for couple of weeks if the political situation permits, and after that she will be moving to Florida. No matter where else she goes, she'll always look back at her time in the Army fondly.

"I think the things I'll take away from my time in the Army are the friendships, the experiences I've had, the different cultures that I got to be around, and above all I learned to appreciate small things in life. The Army has its ups and downs just like any job anywhere else; it's up to us to make sure it gets better every day." ♦

**SUBJECT: Staff Sgt. Ronald Gloss**

**COMPANY: HSC 96th ASB**

**MOS: 88 N (Transportation Management Coordinator)**



An important factor in the Army's success in any conflict is its ability to move troops and equipment anywhere in the world at any given time.

It's no small feat getting the Army's assets moved from one part of the world to another; it takes considerable effort on the part of the Soldiers responsible for arranging and managing movement.

Staff Sgt. Ronald Gloss, an 88 N (Transportation Management Coordinator) with Headquarters Company, 96th Aviation Support Battalion is one of the Soldiers responsible for making sure the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade's people and equipment gets moved across the battle space and other places in the world.

"I joined the Army for a number of reasons; the most important one was that I joined during a time when Iraq was threatening our freedom. I also needed something more out of life," Gloss explained. "I needed structure in my life, and I needed a challenge so I could set my life straight and make sure that I didn't get caught up into the things that people get into. I was rough around the edges, and I knew the Army would straighten me out, and it did.

When he first went to the recruiter's office in his hometown of Fredonia, N.Y., Gloss was shown three short videos of different jobs the Army had to offer. He was drawn to the 88 N video clip because he thought the job would give him the responsibility and challenge he was looking for. Now, 17 years later, he says he still enjoys the challenges his job provides.

"Every day is different," Gloss said of his job. "When I walk through the door I might have no idea what I will be asked to do, come up with, or produce. I often hear people saying how they get tired of doing the same old job, but it's not like that for me."

One of the most challenging aspects of coordinating so much movement is getting units to understand the process of how things get moved throughout the theater.

"A major challenge is units trying to move personnel and equipment and not being certain how it's done," said Gloss. "Sometimes I don't get all the information I need in a timely manner to make that happen. If units want to move people by air, I have to put in a request with the MCT 96 hours out. The biggest chal-

lenge for the units is prior planning. A lot of times they need to move stuff and want to do it fast, but they don't realize that their piece is very small when you look at the big picture and limited resources that we have in Afghanistan."

When he's not working, Gloss enjoys spending his free time talking to his wife and other family members. He also likes to socialize with other Soldiers.

"I like talking with people and socializing," said Gloss. "I like calling my wife, my brother and my dad. Those are the people who are really important in my life, so

I'll call home every day; I'll spend the 20 cents a minute (on the call) I don't care. It helps me stay in contact with them. Every opportunity I get when I go home on leave, I go and visit family just so I can get reconnected with them. Family is very important to me."

Gloss says that his family is extremely supportive of his military career, even though his duty often keeps them apart.

"They understand," he said of his family. "My dad was in the Navy, my younger brother and sister-in-law are in the Army, and my youngest brother served in the Air force. Every single member of my family is 100 percent supportive of me being in the military. They are so supportive to a point that I almost don't understand it, because sometimes I lose touch and there are things that happen in their lives that I don't even get to know about."

Looking back over the past months, Gloss says that this deployment has been challenging due to all the moving parts and coordination, but has also been easy because he has been granted autonomy to make many decisions, and works with a great team.

"I'll be happy and satisfied when we are all back at Fort Campbell in our respective places, and all the equipment is back there, safe and sound with no losses. That would be awesome."

As for the continuation of his career, Gloss says he plans to stay in the Army past 20 years.

"My intention is to stay as long as the Army will let me," stated Gloss. "I love the Army, it's been fun." ♦

# Your Health

## Preventing Hypothermia and Frostbite

When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced. Prolonged exposure to cold will eventually use up your body's stored energy. The result is hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature. Body temperature that is too low affects the brain, making the victim unable to think clearly or move well. This makes hypothermia particularly dangerous because a person may not know it is happening and won't be able to do anything about it.

Hypothermia is most likely at very cold temperatures, but it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water.

Victims of hypothermia are often (1) elderly people with inadequate food, clothing, or heating; (2) babies sleeping in cold bedrooms; (3) people who remain outdoors for long periods—the homeless, hikers, hunters, etc.; and (4) people who drink alcohol or use illicit drugs.

### Recognizing Hypothermia

Warnings signs of hypothermia:

- shivering, exhaustion
- confusion, fumbling hands
- memory loss, slurred speech
- bright red, cold skin

### What to Do

If you notice any of these signs, take the person's temperature. If it is below 95°, the situation is an emergency—get medical attention immediately.

If medical care is not available, begin warming the person, as follows:

- Get the victim into a warm room or shelter.
- If the victim has on any wet clothing, remove it.
- Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head, and groin—using an electric blanket, if available. Or use skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels, or sheets.
- Warm beverages can help increase the body temperature, but do not give alcoholic beverages. Do not try to give beverages to an unconscious person.
- After body temperature has increased, keep the person dry and wrapped in a warm blanket, including the head and neck.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible.

A person with severe hypothermia may be unconscious and may not seem to have a pulse or to be breathing. In this case, handle the victim gently, and get emergency assistance immediately. Even if the victim appears dead, CPR should be provided. CPR should continue while the victim is being warmed, until the victim responds or medical aid becomes available. In some cases, hypothermia victims who appear to be dead can be successfully resuscitated.

### Frostbite

Frostbite is an injury to the body that is caused by freezing. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and color in affected areas. It most often affects the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, or toes. Frostbite can permanently damage the body, and severe cases can lead to amputation. The risk of frostbite is increased in people with reduced blood circulation and among people who are not dressed properly for extremely cold temperatures.

### Recognizing Frostbite

At the first signs of redness or pain in any skin area, get out of the cold or protect any exposed skin—frostbite may be beginning. Any of the following signs may indicate frostbite:

- a white or grayish-yellow skin area
- skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- numbness

A victim is often unaware of frostbite until someone else points it out because the frozen tissues are numb.

### What to Do

If you detect symptoms of frostbite, seek medical care. Because frostbite and hypothermia both result from exposure, first determine whether the victim also shows signs of hypothermia, as described previously. Hypothermia is a more serious medical condition and requires emergency medical assistance.

If (1) there is frostbite but no sign of hypothermia and (2) immediate medical care is not available, proceed as follows:

- Get into a warm room as soon as possible.
- Unless absolutely necessary, do not walk on frostbitten feet or toes—this increases the damage.
- Immerse the affected area in warm—not hot—water (the temperature should be comfortable to the touch for unaffected parts of the body).
- Or, warm the affected area using body heat. For example, the heat of an armpit can be used to warm frostbitten fingers.
- Do not rub the frostbitten area with snow or massage it at all. This can cause more damage.
- Don't use a heating pad, heat lamp, or the heat of a stove, fireplace, or radiator for warming. Affected areas are numb and can be easily burned.

These procedures are not substitutes for proper medical care. Hypothermia is a medical emergency and frostbite should be evaluated by a health care provider. It is a good idea to take a first aid and emergency resuscitation (CPR) course to prepare for cold-weather health problems. Knowing what to do is an important part of protecting your health and the health of others.

Taking preventive action is your best defense against having to deal with extreme cold-weather conditions. By preparing in advance for winter emergencies, and by observing safety precautions during times of extremely cold weather, you can reduce the risk of weather-related health problems.



*Spc. Saream Connell*

**TF Out Front Paralegal Specialist**

# Legal Advice

## *Purchasing A New Car*

Redeployment is right around the corner and Soldiers are looking forward to returning home, and getting back to the normal routine of life before deployment. With a little extra deployment cash on the side, Soldiers often look into making big purchases.

Aside from the purchase of a home, what would be the second most expensive item consumers can entice themselves with, especially now with the extra cash from deployment?

The purchase of a new vehicle, of course! The average price of a new car sold in the United States is \$28,400.00, as stated by the National Automobile Dealers Association. Before purchasing a new car you should know the importance of making a smart deal.

First and foremost...don't rush yourself. Purchasing a new car is a big investment. Definitely do some research. Think about what kind of car you want to purchase, the available options, and most importantly, how much you are willing to spend. Being prepared will help relieve you from feeling pressured into making a hasty or expensive decision, as well as help you score a better deal.

Consider these suggestions:

Check publications at a library, bookstore, or on the internet, that discuss new car features and prices, as they may provide information on the dealer's costs for specific models and options.

Don't just settle for a couple of dealerships. Shop around to get the best possible price by comparing models and prices in ads and at dealer showrooms. You also may want to contact car-buying services to make comparisons.

Plan to negotiate on price. Dealers may be willing to bar-

gain on their profit margin, often between 10 and 20 percent. Usually, this is the difference between the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) and the invoice price.

Because the price is a factor in the dealer's calculations regardless of whether you pay cash or finance your car-and also affects your monthly payments-, negotiating the price can save you money.

Consider ordering your new car if you don't see what you want on the dealer's lot. This option may take longer, but

cars on the lot may have options or features that you don't want-which can easily add more dollars to the listed price. However, dealers often want to sell their current inventory to make room for their new ones quickly, so you may get lucky and be able to negotiate a good deal if an in-stock car meets your needs.



Make sure you **READ BETWEEN THE LINES**. Many new car dealers advertise unusually low interest rates and other special promotions. Ads promising high trade-in allowances and free or low-cost options may help you shop, but finding the best deal requires careful comparisons.

Many factors determine whether a special offer provides genuine savings. The interest rate, for example, is only part of the car dealer's financing package. Terms like the size of the down payment also affect the total financing cost.

Remember, before you think about spending your hard-earned deployment money on a brand new car, do your research...exercise your options as a consumer! Spend your money wisely!

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/autos/aut05.shtm> and [www.jagcnet.army.mil](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil).



# Visions of Destiny

