

Wings of Destiny
101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
Volume 2, Issue 11
November 2008

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101st CAB in Afghanistan

Here Comes the Cavalry

Task Force Out Front
Global Presence in Jalalabad

On the Move With
Task Force Eagle Assault

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Task Force No Mercy!
Ready for Action

Training Usual:
2008 GULAG WARS

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DOWN THE LINE
PATHFINDERS SF, AVA CONDUCT FRIES TRAINING

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A compilation with 9 of the 10 previous covers of Wings of Destiny Magazine.

Wings of Destiny

Published by Task Force Destiny Public Affairs

This Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of *Wings of Destiny* are not necessarily official views of, or edited by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Army. The editorial content of this monthly publication is the responsibility of the Task Force Destiny Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09354.

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Hello Soldiers and Families of the Destiny Brigade,

We have come to the end of November, and our Soldiers are busy preparing the aircraft and equipment for redeployment back to Fort Campbell. Our brethren from the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade are arriving in force; we received the first of their aircraft, further evidence that our Relief in Place is fully underway. Soldiers will begin working with their counterparts...specifically sharing a year's worth of experience and knowledge to improve their situational awareness. Our focus now is on maintaining tactical operations, while simultaneously facilitating a smooth transition for TF Thunder.

This past week we celebrated Thanksgiving here in Afghanistan. On the night prior,

I walked through the DFAC around midnight...where I found every cook in the Brigade feverishly slicing, dicing, and preparing for the big day...cakes, ice sculptures, shrimp cocktail, and all the traditional favorites...these dedicated professionals worked all night to ensure our Soldiers enjoyed a meal commensurate with those we're accustomed to in the states. It was truly a special event.

While our thoughts and prayers were with distant families and friends on this special day, we were blessed to enjoy it with a second family, our brothers and sisters in arms with whom we have served over the past year. The bonds of selfless service are unique and lasting, and I'm confident this year's experience will be remembered by the Destiny team for years to come.

As the deployment begins to come to a close, CSM Herndon and I have been visiting our Task Forces to participate in numerous awards ceremonies. The level of skill and professionalism the Soldiers in this brigade demonstrate on a daily basis never ceases to amaze me. During the past year,

they have performed every mission asked of them, and they have truly raised the bar for aviation operations throughout the Army.

We could not have accomplished our jobs over here without the unwavering support of the families at home. What you are doing back there isn't easy...and your efforts do not go unnoticed. To you, I again send my sincerest thanks.

As the reunions begin, please be cautious of the risks that exist back at Fort Campbell. In many regards, these risks outweigh those experienced during the last year of combat. Stay alert, consider the consequences of your decisions, and take care of each other!

It is an honor to serve alongside our nation's best and brightest, and I am extremely proud to be your commander.

Wings of Destiny, Air Assault!

Col. James Richardson

A MESSAGE FROM CSM HERNDON



Hello Wings of Destiny Brigade,

Another month has passed. As I type this, another group of TF Destiny Soldiers are preparing to depart. By the

time you read this, they will already be at Ft. Campbell and more will be following. Our replacements from 159th CAB are either in route or on the ground here. Many containers are packed with equipment and are waiting for shipment. Soon the entire Brigade will be home.

The holiday season is upon us. Thanksgiving has just passed and Christmas is soon to follow. As many of you know, many of the brigade's Soldiers will be home or in route to Ft. Campbell as Christmas approaches. This time of year is especially important as we celebrate and thank each other and our families for the things we have and those special things we are thankful for. I would ask that you keep the

Soldiers of TF Destiny and our families in your thoughts. This is time of year that the families are missed the most.

The brigade's redeployment is moving along. Although the process is a daunting task, we still have a mission to accomplish here, professionally and safely. I ask that you help me as always to keep our soldiers focused on the mission at hand. The redeployment will happen with planning and rehearsing, but our most important mission is here in Afghanistan. Our follow on mission to that is to ensure that we prepare TF Thunder for a successful relief in place and pass every bit of knowledge that we can to them.

When we depart here and arrive at Ft. Campbell, our mission will not end. It will take all of us; Soldiers and families together to ensure our soldiers remain safe and begin the reset process and train up for whatever the future holds. The most important thing once we return is to preserve our force and take care of our families.

As always, thank you for your support. We could not do this mission without each and every one of the TF Destiny families. You keep us motivated. I ask you to remember, that the initial 90 days after deployment are the most critical. Remember,

we cannot catch up over night. We must remain very cautious and deliberate on those things we do to let off the steam and energy that has grown during the past 12 months. We will have classes, briefs and training to help us do that. Many of these classes are available to you the families as well. Your assistance and understanding will facilitate a smooth transition back to Ft. Campbell.

I personally want to thank each and every one of you for the support that you continue to provide every day. This deployment is almost over, and you are an integral part of the success we have every day.

Wings of Destiny, Air Assault!

CSM Mark Herndon

Ceremony Highlights Achievements of

"Out Front" Soldiers



JALALABAD AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Soldiers of Task Force Out Front assembled at a maintenance hangar to participate in an awards ceremony November 8.

Brig. Gen James McConville, Combined Joint Task Force-101 Deputy Commanding General, Support, was on hand to preside over the event. The awards presented to the Soldiers included Air Medals and Bronze Stars. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sean Gilland was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Out Front, a multi-functional task force has been operating in Jalalabad for the past 11 months, providing critical aviation support for Infantry units throughout the region. During his address following the presentation of the awards, McConville praised the Soldiers of the task force for always being ready to support the Soldier on the ground.

"What matters is supporting the guy on the ground, and that's what you have done exceptionally well," McConville said. "Looking at the citations for all the awards, there was a common theme; when your brothers on the ground were in trouble, you came to their aid. You came to their aid without regard for your own safety. That's what the cavalry in aviation is all about."

The awards ceremony was a way to honor the hard work and dedication of the Soldiers of Task Force Out Front, who are conducting aviation operations in Jalalabad and the surrounding areas on a much larger scale than previous units have attempted. Due to their successful efforts, successive units will not only have a vastly improved infrastructure, but a proven model

to serve as an operational template.

"It feels great to know that we built a blueprint and a physical foot print for future units to operate from here at Jalalabad," said Lt. Col. John Lynch, Task Force Out Front commander. "Some detailed planning on facilities combined with priority from the Brigade combat teams made it (infrastructure projects) all come together. Operationally, we

came here with the specific purpose of supporting the brigade combat teams with the absolute best support we could provide using all the capabilities the task force brings to the fight. We integrated fully with the BCTs and their subordinate battalions and have experienced tremendous success as a result."

Although only a handful of Soldiers received awards, the success that the task force has achieved during the course of the deployment was the result of every member of the team doing their part.

"The success of the task force is a team effort, with everyone pulling together in the same direction, with the same goal of providing first class aviation support to the ground Soldier," said Lynch. "Our success is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of each Soldier."



Pilot, Father Receive Silver Star Awards



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Thirty years separate the conclusion of the Vietnam War and the start of the Global War on Terrorism. While time, tactics and technology have made today's military vastly different from the one which fought in the jungles of Vietnam, the common denominator in the two conflicts is the American service member, whose bravery and sacrifices secure peace and freedom for America and its allies.

It is a rare occurrence when a Soldier receives a Silver Star for courage under fire. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jonathan Harris became one of the few Soldiers to receive the prestigious award on the evening of November 28, during a ceremony at Combined Joint Task Force-101 Headquarters, but the fact that his father, former Staff Sgt. Gary Harris, was also presented with a Silver Star made the event all the more special.

Through the magic of video teleconferencing, the Harris family got to watch as the younger Harris was presented the Silver Star by Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, CJTF-101 commanding

general, from the conference room at Fort Campbell, Ky. Meanwhile, Soldiers from CJTF-101 watched the video screen, as the elder Harris was pinned with not only the Silver Star, but a Bronze Star he earned as a Soldier serving in Vietnam, which were never formally presented to him.

"It's very rare that we present the Silver Star," Schloesser explained to those in attendance at both Fort Campbell and Afghanistan. "We have a very high standard and we make sure that the few who do earn it have done so through selfless sacrifice. It's clear that Mr. Harris did that, and it is also clear that the nation owes a debt to Staff Sgt. Gary Harris, it was almost 40 years ago that he earned it, and I hope in some small way that we can pay back that debt by presenting him his award with his son's today."

Personal courage and selfless service run deep in the Harris family bloodline, as both father and son reacted similarly in their encounters with enemy forces; by risking their lives to ensure the safety of their comrades.

The elder Harris displayed this courage on August 15, 1969 when as a squad leader in Vietnam, his company which was patrolling the outer perimeter near Gol Ree, was attacked with mortar and rocket fire. He quickly directed the members of his squad to return fire on the enemy. As the attack died down, he moved his squad closer to the perimeter, which had been weakened during the barrage. As the enemy resumed its assault, he directed his squad to return fire once again, breaking the enemy attack. During the engagement, he risked his life by helping medics aid wounded Soldiers and helped bring them to safety.

The younger Harris also displayed bravery in the face of danger by exposing himself to enemy fire. On July 2, 2008, Harris, who is a UH





proaching enemy combatant. He entered the helicopter only after ensuring that the members of his crew, the ground forces and the quick reaction force were safely aboard.

“Mr. Harris has been great since the incident,” said Sgt. Dee-Jay Norby, a crew chief who was also involved in the action at Gardez. “He didn’t get down or anything

60 Black Hawk pilot assigned to Company C, 5th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, landed his helicopter at a landing zone near Gardez, Afghanistan to pick up infantry Soldiers for transport, when his aircraft came under attack by enemies using rocket propelled grenades, a heavy machine gun and various assault rifles.

With the aircraft on fire, Harris and crew manage to fly it a short distance before putting it down again. After safely exiting the burning helicopter, the entire crew took up a defensive posture. They managed to contact a CH-47 Chinook which was in the area to help extract them from the battlefield. As the Chinook landed, the enemy resumed fire. It was then that Harris, who was helping one of his wounded crew chiefs to the helicopter, exposed himself to fire by engaging and killing an ap-

afterward; he went right back to business doing his job. It’s really awesome getting to fly with a great group of pilots and crew chiefs.”

This was not the first award that Harris received during the deployment; he was also presented with the Air Medal with Valor device.

In his short address, Harris thanked his flight crew and the crew of the Chinook that performed the rescue operation.

“I’m so lucky to serve with so many great heroes,” said Harris. “Without them, the outcome might not have been so good.”

He also gave a heartfelt thank you to his father, whose life and service set the example for him.

“Every time people thank us for our service, I tell them to thank a Vietnam vet, so dad I want to thank you today.” ♦



Task Force No Mercy



Photos Courtesy of Sgt. Brian Price

First Class Service

96th ASB Motorpool Keeps Vehicles Ready to Roll



Photos Courtesy 96th ASB Motor Pool

SUBJECT: Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wayne Price

COMPANY: HHC BDE

MOS: 153 D (UH-60 Pilot)



Most people don't get the chance to do the thing they love most for a living. When Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wayne Price says that he loves flying for a living, there isn't any doubt that he means it.

Price serves as the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade's UH-60 standardization instructor pilot, and as Brig. Gen. James McConville's (Combined Joint Task Force-101's Deputy Commanding General-Support) pilot. His path to becoming a pilot was slightly different than that of most of the Soldiers who get to sit behind flight controls. A native of Clarksville, Tn., Price learned he could become a pilot while he was a student at Austin Peay State University.

"I was very fortunate because I had a friend who was already a pilot. I got to know him when I was in college," Price explained. "He told me about the warrant officer flight training program and was fortunate enough that his old first sergeant was my recruiter, so I didn't get the run around like a lot of guys do."

After completing Basic combat Training and Warrant Officer Candidate School he attended flight school at Fort Rucker, AL in 1987. In addition to his three combat deployments in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, Price has had year-long assignments to Korea and Honduras. He was also part of a landslide relief effort in Venezuela. Of all the places he has flown, he says that Afghanistan is by far the most challenging.

"As far as flying goes, nothing compares to this," he said. "Everything else everyone has done up until now was basically their high school and college flying; flying here in Afghanistan is definitely graduate level flying. This is some of the most demanding terrain you're ever going to see. The brigade did the best job it could to get everybody prepared for this."

In addition to his duties as one of the senior pilots in the brigade, he also takes pride in being able to offer professional and practical advice to junior pilots.

"I always try to be a good counselor for the guys in their careers and point them down the right career path. I also try to instill upon them flying techniques when they are flying with me; mainly things like power management and staying ahead of the aircraft."

Price says that while flying here is really challenging due to the weather and terrain, he enjoys getting to work with so many talented young pilots.

"The best thing about the job is the flying," said Price. "These are some of the most phenomenal young pilots that I have ever been around. They are so far ahead of where I was when I was a young CW2. They understand things about power management that we didn't worry too much about prior to Afghanistan. We didn't pay a lot of attention to power management for the Black Hawk in the old days because we thought we had all the power in the world. It's not something you had to worry about flying around Kentucky or down at Fort Rucker, but here it's an everyday issue; even Chinook guys have to worry about power in this country."

During the course of his career, Price has enjoyed a wide variety of assignments. He lists working for various commanders and his time as the standardization pilot for 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment as some of the highlights of his time in the Army.

"The Army has been absolutely fantastic," said Price. "I was going to retire, but I was offered CW5, I decided to stick around because I love what I do and I love being around the people." ♦



Capt. David Thorneloe
TF Destiny Trial Counsel

Legal Advice

Using Your VA Loan

Owning your own home is the American Dream. It's also the biggest purchase most people will ever make. For many Americans, the cost is unaffordable. Fortunately, as Soldiers, we can take advantage of VA Loans that bring the American Dream within our reach.

What is a VA Loan?

A Veteran's Administration (VA) "Loan" is really just a mortgage that is guaranteed by the VA. Your loan can actually come from nearly any lender. With a few specialized exceptions, the VA doesn't make loans itself. It just guarantees to your lender that if you default, it will make good on the loan.

What are the advantages of a VA Loan?

The biggest advantage of a VA Loan is that you can avoid making a down payment. In the past, zero down payment mortgages were common even outside of the VA. But now, in response to the recent financial crisis, lenders are tightening their credit requirements and often forcing borrowers to make down payments of 20% on conventional 30 year fixed rate mortgages. Without the VA, you might need \$20,000 in cash or more upfront.

VA Loans can also be cheaper once you are in your home. Most people are aware that their monthly mortgage payment consists of principal, interest, home owner's insurance and taxes. But for millions of Americans, there's another payment they are making every month too. It's called Private Mortgage Insurance, more commonly known as "PML." PMI isn't insurance that benefits you though. It protects the lender in case you default on your loan. PMI rates vary, but for a \$1000 monthly mortgage it could add as much as \$100 to your monthly payment. Very thoughtful of you to buy insurance for your lender, but don't expect a Christmas card. So, here's where VA Loans shine: since VA Loans are already guaranteed, you do not pay PMI. This can save you thousands of dollars over the life of your mortgage.

What are the disadvantages of a VA Loan?

VA Loans do require an initial funding fee that you will

have to pay up front along with all other closing costs. This fee can be rolled up into the loan. Active duty Soldiers all have to pay this fee. Only discharged disabled veterans receiving VA disability compensation or unmarried surviving spouses of veterans are exempt.

Who is eligible for a VA Loan?

Active duty Service Members and Veterans are eligible. Service Members become eligible after 90 days on active duty. Once discharged, a Veteran is eligible if he or she completed 24 months of continuous active duty and received any type of discharge other than a dishonorable discharge. Some special circumstance exceptions to the 24 month rule do exist.

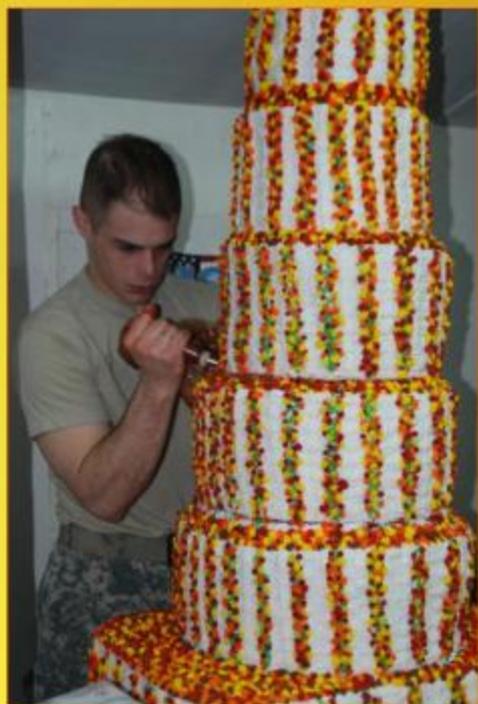
Aspiring borrowers can certify their eligibility to their lender by giving them a VA Certificate of Eligibility. You can obtain this certificate from the VA by filling out a VA Form 26-1880, Request for a Certificate of Eligibility. Many lenders also have access to the ACE (Automated Certificate of Eligibility) system and can generate your certificate for you instantly.

Happy Borrowing

Not everyone is eligible and not everyone needs the protections of a VA Loan. Wise borrowers will closely examine all their potential lending sources and select a home within their means. For more information, visit www.homeloans.va.gov.



Preparation for Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving Day 2008



Visions of Destiny

