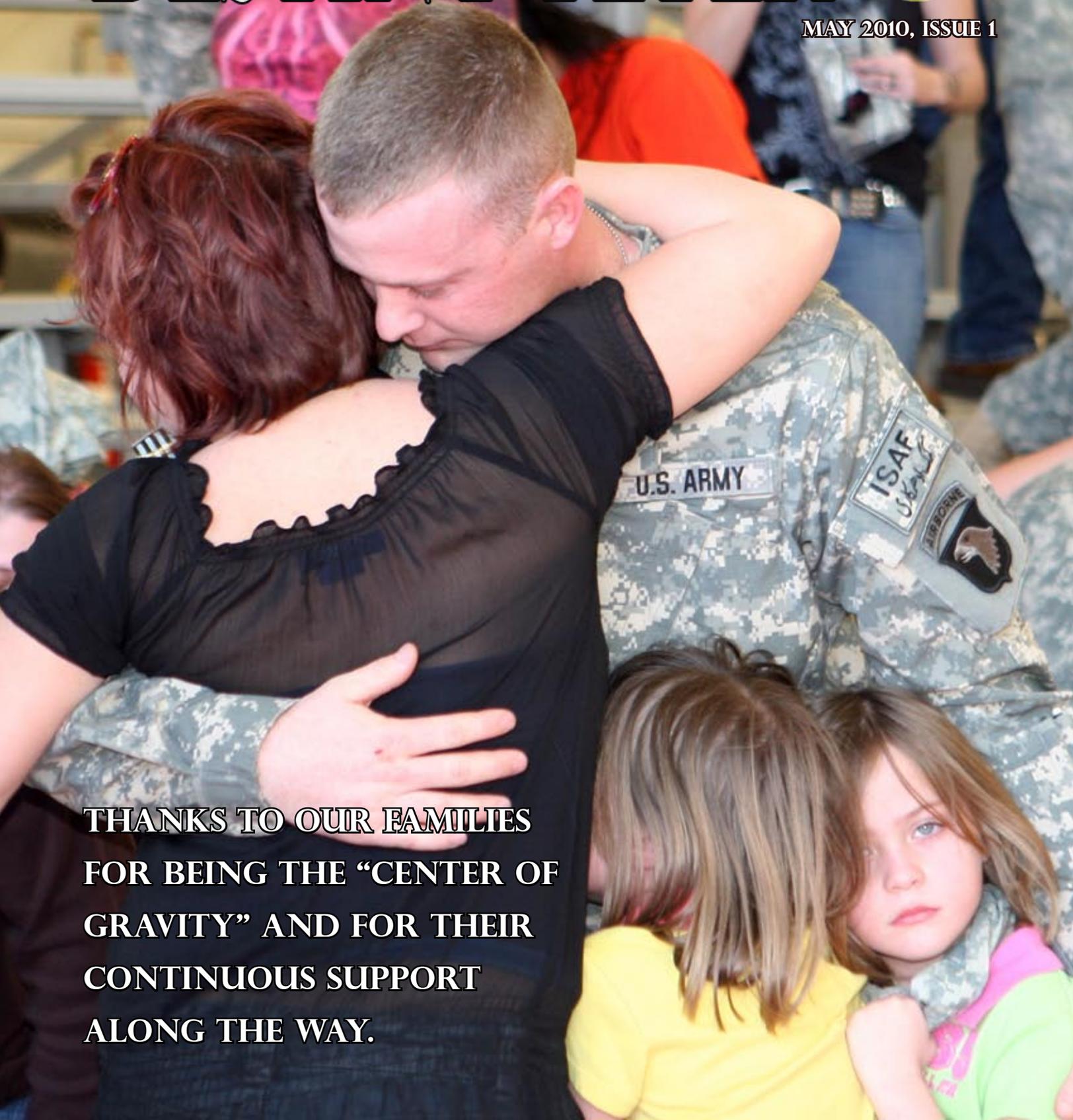


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DESTINY FLYER



MAY 2010, ISSUE 1



THANKS TO OUR FAMILIES
FOR BEING THE "CENTER OF
GRAVITY" AND FOR THEIR
CONTINUOUS SUPPORT
ALONG THE WAY.

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Families say farewell to their loved ones of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade



Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

Three-year-old Jack Myrick watched the hangar doors open as they revealed a row of busses awaiting Soldiers of 101st Combat Aviation Brigade March 8. Among those Soldiers was Jack's uncle, Spc. Christopher L. Myrick, the chaplain assistant for 96th Aviation Support Battalion, who Jack is saying goodbye to.

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If your contract ends during the terms of this deployment, you can now extend your contract and earn extra money.

DESTINY FLYER

Task Force Destiny

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Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor Beharie

Hellcats

Capt. Eric Rempfer
1st Sgt. Grant Stange

Task Force Saber

Lt. Col. William Taylor
Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Jourdan

Task Force No Mercy

Lt. Col. Scott Hasken
Command Sgt. Maj. Maurice Terry

Task Force Eagle Assault

Lt. Col. John Kline
Command Sgt. Maj. Annette Hunter

Task Force Shadow

Lt. Col. Ninness Bradley
Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Lindsey

Task Force Troubleshooter

Lt. Col. William Ferguson
Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Vance

Task Force Ready

Lt. Col. Robert Howe
Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Jindrich

Destiny Flyer is an authorized command information publication for members of the Department of Defense and their families. Content of this magazine is not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Army.

The editorial content of this monthly publication is prepared and edited by the Task Force Destiny Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09355.

Editor's Note:

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Spc. Tracy Weeden
tracy.weeden@afghan.swa.army.mil

ON THE COVER:

Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden
Pfc. Josh A. Carneal, TF Troubleshooter mechanic, embraces his wife Stephanie and six-year-old twin daughters, Vanessa and Victoria, during their last moments together before deploying March 8.

Command Central

Safety During Deployment

-Tell all your Family Members what should or shouldn't be said about the deployment. Sometimes those who don't live in the immediate area or understand operation security (parents, siblings, cousins) might be inclined to say things that can give too much information! My side of the family has no military experience, and I know they think I'm over-dramatic when I tell them "I can't talk about that over the phone." But any information that can be used against our Soldiers or Families is better left unsaid!

-Think about your conversations in public. Whether you are on your cell phone having a conversation about how hard it is to have your Soldier deployed, or if you're out to dinner with a friend, remember, there are possibly people listening who could use this information to harm you.

-Refrain from putting things on your car that would point out the fact that you are alone; "the 1/2 of my heart is in Afghanistan" is an example. Think about all the people who can use that information to target you and your family. Anyone can follow you and find out where you live. While we are all very proud of the fact our Soldier serves their country, we don't want to put ourselves in danger!

-The last point has to do with social media. I know we have sent several things out about it, but it truly bears repeating! Do not put anything about your Soldier being deployed on your Facebook, Twitter, Myspace or any other social media site! It is extremely easy to take that information and find your home address, even if you don't have it on your Facebook page - Google your name and find out what shows up! I found all my old addresses for the last 15 years- to include my current one! So please be VERY careful with what you say! There is a false sense of security with Facebook. Even though the people who put the safety features in place are very smart, there are always smarter people working to undo them! The bottom line is: Don't post anything that you don't want a stranger to know about you!

All of this information isn't intended to make you paranoid. It is to get you thinking and help all of you to stay safe in the next year!

Michele Gayler



Brigade Commander Col. William Gayler and his wife Michele Gayler.



Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor Beharie with his wife Sabrina Beharie, nine-year-old son Raphael and four-year-old daughter Isabella.

Greetings Destiny Families,

Another deployment is upon us, and we wonder where all of the time went since our Soldiers returned from the last one. I encourage all of our spouses to engage and take advantage of all the resources Fort Campbell has for us during this time. Whether it is Super Saturday, Friday nights out or free classes for the kids at Skies Unlimited, remember that a stress free parent is a happy and effective parent.

I also would like to encourage our enlisted spouses to take part in the Enlisted Spouse Club. There is no requirement to become a member. ESC offers an opportunity to get out and meet new people, engage in fun activities at monthly meetings, and if you would like to volunteer, there are endless charitable projects to get involved in.

There are many myths about what a Family Readiness Group is or is supposed to be. Many may believe it is a coffee group or a gossip column. What it is, is a highly effective means to address issues or concerns that effect families during and between deployments. It is a form of mentorship from experienced spouses

to assist those who are new to Army life; it can be a lifeline.

Get to know your FRG leaders, family readiness support assistant's and rear detachment officer in charge and noncommissioned officer in charge. They are available to assist you with any issues or concerns that you may have. If you have any changes in contact information during the deployment, please update your information with your FRG leader or rear detachment. It is important they are able to contact you if needed.

Our automated Immediate Response Information System also requires that you keep your contact information current. The Virtual Army Family Readiness Group webpage and 101st CAB Facebook page will be updated frequently with news for families as well. Let us support and encourage one another and remember to focus on the positive when communicating with your Soldier. May God bless and strengthen our Soldiers and Families during this time of separation.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Beharie, 101st CAB FRG advisor

CHAPLAIN'S

Corner

Friends, Family and Soldiers of Task Force Destiny:

After talking with hundreds of Soldiers across the Brigade, I can say with confidence we are excited about what lies ahead of us. There is much to accomplish, and I know we will. It is a privilege to serve in this capacity.

On the flip side of course, we will miss our families. You also have a hardship to endure. I have never met a stronger group of people than Army spouses and Family. Thank you for all you endure on your own while we are away. Without your support we could not hope to accomplish near as much. Our calling to serve is yours as well. We love you and your support. Thank you.

When you think of us, please pray. That is the single greatest thing you can do for us. Please remember prayer is more effective for our safety and against the enemy than baby wipes and doesn't cost anything!

In Psalm 37 David said: "Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong: for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Psalm 91 says: "[When] he calls upon me ... I will answer



Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

Chaplain Maj. Shawn McCammon speaks to a Combined Joint Task Force congregation during Easter Sunday's Protestant service at Fraise Chapel, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

him; I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation." He is talking about us.

My family and I go into this deployment with great expectations of what God can do. In the previous two deployments, we learned individually things we might not have learned together. We then took these things and brought them to our marriage humbly. The benefits have been powerful for our marriage and family! We expect to find the same this time

also. In some ways this is more exciting and intimidating than the deployment itself.

I have great confidence that God is with us, that He will protect us, and that He will create ways to make us stronger in character and in strength if we will be open to His instruction.

God bless all of you. You are in my prayers.

Maj. Shawn McCammon,
Task Force Destiny Chaplain



OPSEC AND SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES (SNS), like Facebook® and Twitter®, are software applications that connect people and information in spontaneous, interactive ways. While SNS can be useful and fun, they can provide adversaries, such as terrorists, spies and criminals, with critical information needed to harm you or disrupt your mission. Practicing Operations Security (OPSEC) will help you to recognize your critical information and protect it from an adversary. Here are a few safety tips to get you started.

SAFETY CHECKLIST

Personal Information

Do you:

- Keep sensitive, work-related information OFF your profile?
- Keep your plans, schedules and location data to yourself?
- Protect the names and information of coworkers, friends, and family members?
- Tell friends to be careful when posting photos and information about you and your family?

Posted Data

Before posting, did you:

- Check all photos for indicators in the background or reflective surfaces?
- Check filenames and file tags for sensitive data (your name, organization or other details)?

Passwords

Are they:

- Unique from your other online passwords?
- Sufficiently hard to guess?
- Adequately protected (not shared or given away)?

Settings and Privacy

Did you:

- Carefully look for and set all your privacy and security options?
- Determine both your profile and search visibility?
- Sort “friends” into groups and networks, and set access permissions accordingly?
- Verify through other channels that a “friend” request was actually from your friend?
- Add “untrusted” people to the group with the lowest permissions and accesses?

Security

Remember to:

- Keep your anti-virus software updated.
- Beware of links, downloads, and attachments just as you would in e-mails.
- Beware of “apps” or plugins, which are often written by unknown third parties who might use them to access your data and friends.
- Look for HTTPS and the lock icon that indicate active transmission security before logging in or entering sensitive data (especially when using wi-fi hotspots).

THINK BEFORE YOU POST! Remember, your information could become public at any time due to hacking, configuration errors, social engineering or the business practice of selling or sharing user data. For more information, visit the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff’s website.

Think. Protect. OPSEC.
www.ioss.gov



Staging a Rendezvous with Destiny

Story by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Wright

Task Force Destiny officially took charge of aviation operations from TF Pegasus during their transfer of authority ceremony..

Task Force Destiny, from Fort Campbell, Ky., officially began their next “Rendezvous with Destiny”, and assumed control of aviation operations from TF Pegasus during a transfer of authority ceremony at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan April 15.

The mission of TF Destiny is to conduct combat operations in support of coalition forces in Regional Command (South) and Regional Command (West) in order to protect the population, separate the insurgents, enhance freedom of movement, and protect the mission of U.S. and coalition forces.

“We are honored to be a part of Regional Command (South),” said Col. William Gayler, TF Destiny commander. “Knowing full well the importance of our efforts here over the next year, both for the

coalition, and most importantly, for the Afghan people.”

TF Destiny embraces this vital mission, acknowledging the importance of their duty here.

“The command team of TF Destiny assume the tremendously important role of providing U.S. Army rotary wing aviation support to Regional Command (South), Region Command (West) and critical medevac support to Regional Command (North),” said Col. Paul Bricker, TF Pegasus commander. “If I could select but one CAB to replace us, it would be this team.”

The Soldiers and leaders of TF Destiny are confident in their ability to assume this mission which TF Pegasus has successfully accomplished.

“With the uncasing of our colors, and assumption of

the mission here today, I can confidently report that the Soldiers serving under these colors are extremely well prepared and focused on the important work which lies ahead,” said Gayler.

TF Destiny conducted multiple training events focusing on both individual and collective tasks.

Aviators and crew chiefs participated in readiness level progression training, performing mission essential tasks to accomplish successful joint and combined operations at the individual, crew and unit levels.

They also participated in High Altitude Aircraft Training at Fort Carson, Colo., challenging aviators with high-altitude flight planning and aircraft operations in mountainous environments, replicating the terrain of Afghanistan.

The brigade conducted multiple



rotations at the Joint Readiness Training Center, improving unit readiness by creating realistic, stressful, joint and combined arms training, and the National Training Center, a realistic battlefield practice across a range of military operations.

They conducted command and control systems training with a brigade level Tactical Operations Center Exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., testing long-range communication capability, training on TOC operations, and verifying battle drills.

Additionally, the brigade's command and control was tested in a situation based Aviation Training Exercise at Fort Rucker, Ala., where all levels of the brigade confirmed their ability to plan, prepare, execute, and maintain situational awareness of multiple complex missions.

"The Destiny team is well trained and well manned and certainly most well led," said Bricker.

As TF Destiny assumes the role of TF Pegasus here, there were many achievements and accomplishments they pay tribute to.

TF Pegasus was the only U.S. Army aviation brigade operating in RC(S) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom X, when they arrived here May 15, 2009.

"There is much more that Pegasus Troopers have accomplished," said Bricker. "We are proud to have supported the coalition here in Afghanistan and earnestly pray for their safety and

protection as this dangerous work here continues."

TF Pegasus accomplished their mission supporting RC(S) and RC(W) by being agile and ready.

"You've had to handle an extraordinary change in mindset, because midway through your tour of duty, our approach has switched from one focused on defeating an insurgency to one that is focused on protecting the population," said Carter. "A far more challenging doctrine that places respect, understanding, and above all, restraint at the forefront of operations. Whereas our generation measured gallantry on the bases of courage under fire, this generation

will be judged on its ability to exercise restraint."

TF Destiny is eager and prepared to exceed these standards set by TF Pegasus in their next "Rendezvous with Destiny."

"I am most confident that the new Destiny team will raise the bar even higher in support of Regional Command (South)," said Bricker. "After having spent the last month overseeing the great team assume their vital role in providing medevac to three-fourths of Afghanistan, armed reconnaissance, air assault, aerial sustainment and general support airlift, you have my word that they are indeed ready to go."



Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

Task Force Destiny Commander Col. William Gayler and Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor Beharie uncased the brigade colors during the transfer of authority ceremony here April 15.

[Add to Your Page's Favorites](#)[Suggest to Your Friends](#)[Send suggestions to the PAO](#)

This is the official 101st Combat Aviation Brigade Facebook page, managed by the 101st CAB Public Affairs Office. We will delete comments that include profanity, hate/sexual content, propaganda, offensive material, or violates security or policy.

Favorite Links

www.facebook.com/101cabwww.flickr.com/wingsofdestinywww.twitter.com/101cab

"You will not post content that is hateful, threatening, pornographic, or that contains nudity or graphic or gratuitous violence. You will not use Facebook to do anything unlawful, misleading, malicious, or discriminatory."

~Facebook's
Statement of Rights and
Responsibilities

101st CAB, Wings of Destiny Beware of operational security!

Do you know who your friends are?

[Share](#)


Staff Sgt. Sadie E. Bleistein, 101st CAB PAO

Though Army Gen. George Washington was not able to ask for the support of the American public via a tweet, he was way ahead of the social media game when it came to accepting friend and group requests.

"Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company," he said.

A recent find in our social media communities has been the use of military support Facebook groups as the construction site for houses of adversary propaganda through violent, anti-American posts, videos and photos. What makes it scarier is friends and families have welcomed the invitation without looking at the pictures hanging on the walls or the violent movies playing on the television.

As members of the military community, there is an obligation to constantly be aware of your surroundings, whether it is talking to someone you can relate to in a foreign land or joining a relatable social media group in Facebook land.

Many group sites offer positive causes to support, so does it really matter what content is hidden between info boards and discussions within their pages? After all, who actually goes in and reads a page after jumping on a viral page bandwagon that all of our other Facebook friends have joined.

"In today's information environment, we place a lot of emphasis on our identities, and the image or reputation we want to portray," said Brig. Gen. Lewis M. Boone, U.S. Army deputy chief of public affairs. "The latter is just human nature. So the question becomes, why would anyone want to take a chance and make a spot judgment on just the name of a particular group, without understanding what its content is? The consequences could very well take a long time to rectify."

The freedom to speak without censorship and limitation does not only refer to verbal speech, but any medium used. Some service members would say that guidance and restrictions to posting and writing on these boards, or even reporting them, would be a violation of the human rights law.

"If you are a soldier, you do have rights to free speech," said Boone. "But use common sense when giving your opinions. Because you are a soldier, you can quickly become a spokesman or representative of all 1.4 million of us who wear the uniform. And the media will quickly help you get the word out, whether you want it or not, for good, or for bad."

Not to mention, Facebook's Statement of Rights and



Do You Know Who Your Friends Are?

[Back to the 101st CAB's Home Page](#)

Discussion: Social Media



Responsibilities reads, “You will not post content that is hateful, threatening, pornographic, or that contains nudity or graphic or gratuitous violence. You will not use Facebook to do anything unlawful, misleading, malicious, or discriminatory.”

You hold the right to report anything that violates the above stated responsibilities.

Critics of the military’s adopted “new” means of communication through social media exploit these adversary sites as exactly the reasons why we should not use such programs claiming there is a lack of education within the ranks. These means of communication could violate operational security and cause other negative impacts on mission readiness.

Given the widespread use of social media, leaders should educate their soldiers on the responsible use of social media, not to regulate or discourage a differing viewpoint, but to reinforce that as representatives of their country, they

are held to a higher standard, said Boone. In certain situations, soldiers can be held accountable for their remarks or actions in the social media arena. However, leaders should not impose limits, forbid or otherwise bar the use of social media in their units. If there are questions on what is, or is not appropriate, there are venues to inquire without sanction. It’s always best to “think before you post.”

Your public affairs office is a great place to start if you have questions concerning social media.

So as our leaders have in the past, associate yourself with friends and groups of good quality if you esteem your own reputation, for ‘tis better to have Tom of Myspace be your only friend, than be in bad company.

Reply

If you have questions or concerns about social media or a social media site, please contact Task Force Destiny Public Affairs Office: Staff Sgt. Sadie Bleistein at sadie.bleistein@afghan.swa.army.mil or Spc. Tracy Weeden at tracy.weeden@afghan.swa.army.mil.

[Post Reply](#)



Families say “Farewell” to their loved ones of 101st CAB

Photos and Story by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

Task Force Destiny began their second yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in March.

The brigade, consisting of approximately 3,000 Soldiers, replaced the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

Their mission is to provide aviation support to the Regional Command (South) and Regional Command (West), supporting the troops of U.S. forces, North

Atlantic Treaty Organization forces, International Security Assistance Force and Afghanistan forces, said Col. William K. Gayler, TF Destiny commander.

In every capacity the brigade will be providing support to the Regional Command (South), Regional Command (west) and the ultimate goal of protecting the Afghan people, said Gayler.

This will allow for Afghanistan to enable their own systems to govern themselves, protect

themselves and provide for their own people, he said.

In order to provide support to the overall mission of Regional Command (South) and Regional Command (West), the Soldiers of TF Destiny must be ready and trained to complete their individual mission or job.

The brigade provides a range of combat support consisting of resupply, troop movement, transportation and security of reconnaissance, said Gayler.

Soldier readiness is essential to the brigade’s mission.

The brigade commander wants his Soldiers to be competent, confident and comfortable, he said.

“Competent at what we do, confident in their abilities



“I really appreciate what they do. They are the bedrock of this organization.”

Col. William K. Gayler



and their leader’s abilities, and comfortable in any environment under any situation because of their confidence,” said Gayler.

Sgt. Charles Weaser, an Apache mechanic deployed with 5th Battalion, TF Destiny said he is confident in his abilities, as well as his units’ ability to succeed in their mission because they were through extensive training. He participated in multiple gunnery training, high altitude training in Colorado, as well as environmental training in the California desert.

These training events were designed to simulate situations Soldiers will face in Afghanistan.

The training has prepared Soldiers physically and mentally for the environmental conditions of Afghanistan, said Weaser.

The TF Destiny commander acknowledged the resting of forces is just as important as the training of forces before their deployment. He does not want Soldiers to be tired while going

into theater.

Leaders of the Task Force made a great effort to make

sure their Soldiers did not spend too much time away from Families while training and preparing for this deployment, said Gayler.

Soldiers do not only have to prepare themselves for their deployment, they must also prepare their Families for their extended departure.

“Truly, any unit’s success runs deeper than just whether or not those individual Soldiers are prepared,” said Gayler. “We have a family readiness group structure and support from our local communities I have never seen before in my career ... they are truly phenomenal.”

It is important for Family Members to be aware of the resources available to help them while their Soldier is deployed.

The Family Members of our deploying Soldiers have

many structures, people and organizations that will ensure they are taken care of, which allows Soldiers to focus on their mission at hand, Gayler said.

These resources consist of Army Community Service, Family Readiness Groups, American Red Cross, Military OneSource, Army Families Online and the 101st CAB official social media pages: www.facebook.com/101cab, www.flickr.com/wingsofdestiny, and www.twitter.com/101cab.

There are also alternative support groups available if these do not suit you.

“FRG doesn’t fit everybody, it may be your church or your neighborhood,” said Michele. “Reach out to

someone or something.”

Support groups provided by the Army and brigade are great outlets to keep you informed and connected.

“Your imagination can run wild,” said Michele. “Too much information is better than none.”

Another great support system is fellow Army Families, because they can relate to your personal experience.

“I think the Army Family becomes your support if you allow it to,” said Michele. “If you reach out and make that connection, it comes in and surrounds you before you know it.”

The Task Force commander would especially like to say thank you to spouses, children, parents, Families and anyone who sees a loved one go into a combat zone.

“I really appreciate what they do,” said Gayler. “They are the bedrock of this organization.”



Each Family Member handles the burden of a loved one deploying differently.

“We take advantage of the time we have together,” said Michele. “We try really hard to just live today and not sit around and think about what’s going to come.”

Even though some families have been through multiple deployments, they still experience difficulties.

“It doesn’t get easier. It is still very hard,” said Michele. “I think what I’ve learned for us is that the first month and the last month are the hardest.”

Once the initial shock of the service member leaving has passed, it is easier to go on with a daily routine.

“You hit a rhythm, and you just go,” said Michele. “You still are sad, and you still have times when you think ‘I can’t do this,’ but then something happens and you move into the next day and you just keep going.”

The endeavor is different for every Family Member. Although they all may experience the same sadness, everyone has a different way of coping.

Michele said her three girls all have a different way of handling their father's deployment, and that was something that she had to learn over time.

As children mature, they will handle each deployment in a different manner.

One crying hysterically is their way of coping while another shutting down completely and showing no emotion is their way, said Michele.

Even in times of weakness and hardship, Soldier's Families will come together to find their strength.

Military Families are the strongest type because of what they adapt to, said Michele.

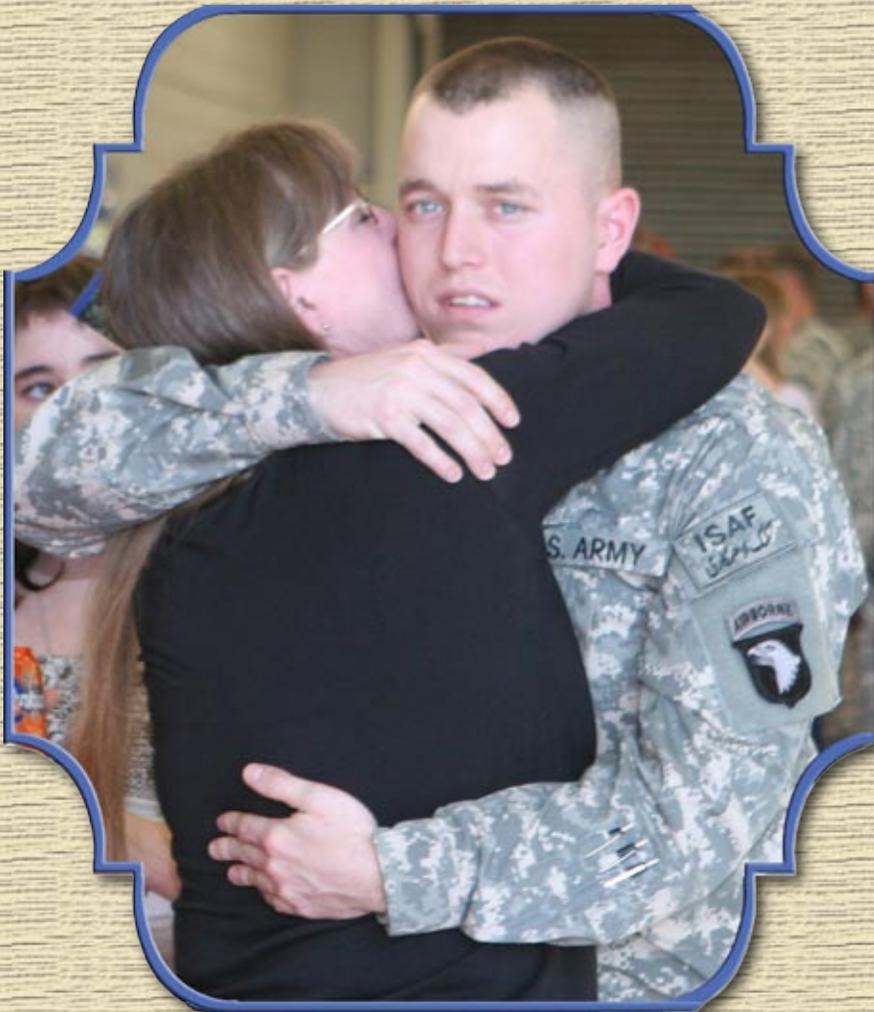
Another factor which is very important to Soldiers and Families is communication. Soldiers having personal laptops and internet access can easily keep strong relations with Family back home.

It's more comforting to see your Soldier live on your computer screen while being able to have a real conversation, rather than written letters, said Michele.

As Family Members say 'farewell' to their Soldier, it is important for them to stay positive and informed.

It will allow for the Soldier to stay focused on their mission, rather than worrying about their family back home so they can return home safely a year from now.

Even though you may feel alone, there are people who are trained, willing and available to help you through any difficulties you may face through this deployment.



**“I think that
the Army
Family
becomes
your
support ...”**

Michele Gayler

Things to Consider

Story by Whitney Bailey

Kee your house looking the same. Just as a pile of newspapers and mail is a signal to criminals that you're gone on vacation, a previously immaculate lawn looking overgrown and weedy can tip off others that you're at home by yourself.

Don't hang service banners. This may be both the easiest and hardest thing to do. It can be a frustrating decision, but you should only hang service banners inside your home where they are not visible from the outside. Also, if you are having service or repair work done in your home, be sure to remove anything that might notify a stranger that your spouse is away.

Avoid distribution lists. Many groups create lists of deployed Soldiers and distribute them to those who ask how they can help support our troops. Their purpose is often to give others the opportunity to send packages or letters. However, many people with good intentions will often photocopy and distribute the list even further. Once this happens, there is no way to control who knows that your spouse is deployed.

Invest in additional safety features. Even if a high-tech security system is not an option, there are many other inexpensive ways to make your home safer and help give you peace of mind. Motion sensors can be installed on previously existing exterior lighting and can alert you if someone is nearing your home.

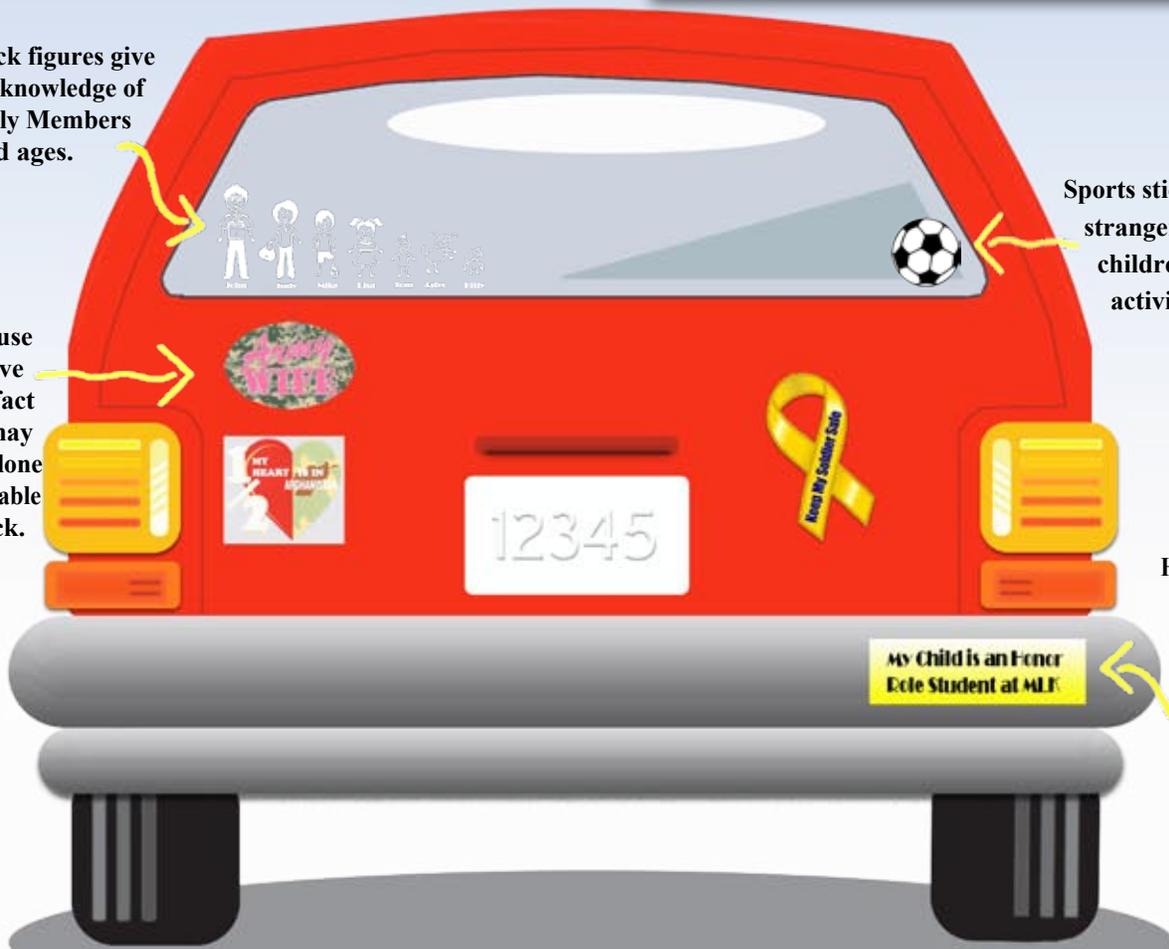
- Avoid using "Keep my Soldier safe" ribbons on your vehicle
- Ensure your home is well lit at night and entryways are visible
- Mow your grass often and keep your yard tidy
- Be wary of adding your name to support lists. Ask questions and ensure that the list will not be distributed to others
- Talk to children about who they can and can't tell about your spouse's deployment
- Keep cars parked outside clean and move them frequently

Family stick figures give predators knowledge of your Family Members names and ages.

Army spouse stickers give away the fact that you may be home alone and vulnerable to an attack.

Sports stickers inform strangers of your children's school activities.

Honor Role and school bumper stickers tell them where your child attends school.



IT'S FAST... IT'S FREE... IT'S SECURE



Easy Steps for Registration & Sending Your First HooahMail



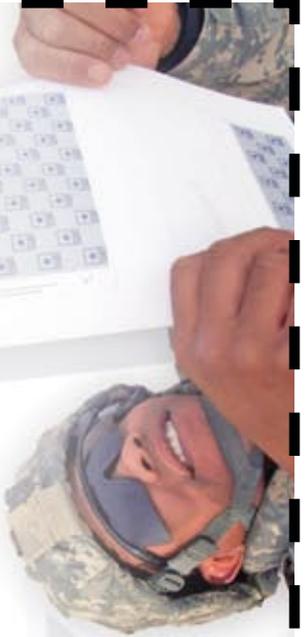
Send a Lasting Memory!

Now your letters to your deployed Soldiers can be downloaded and ready for delivery usually within

24 Hours

(not days or weeks)

HooahMail is Fast, Safe, Secure, Accurate, Private ...and FREE!



Customer Care

Toll Free: 1-877-507-9673 ext: 703 or Online at www.HooahMail.us: select HELP from menu tab then select Customer Care.

Intended Use

Intended for personal use by Families and friends of deployed Soldiers. Letter and photo are submitted via the Internet, and printed and delivered by the Army Post Office.

Have you written Your Soldier today?



1. Go to www.HooahMail.us

2. Register for a New Account
3. Add Recipient to your Address Book
4. Compose Letter
5. Attach Photo if desired (prints B&W)
6. Send Letter

How Does HooahMail Work?

1. Sender logs onto www.HooahMail.us to create and send their letter.
2. The letter is sent to the HooahMail secure server.
3. The designated Army Post Office downloads the letter to a special machine which prints, folds and seals it.
4. The letter is delivered through unit mail call.
5. Soldier reads and re-reads letter.

HooahMail service has a tremendous positive effect on morale by providing unparalleled delivery times. HooahMail can be submitted worldwide via Internet. It is Fast, Safe, Secure, Accurate, Private...and FREE.

HooahMail Advantages Over Traditional USPS Mail

- FAST - Available for delivery - usually within 24 hours.
- FREE - No costs to individual users.
- Addresses are selected from a drop-down list to ensure 100% accuracy.
- HooahMail augments USPS letter mail.

HooahMail is NOT E-mail

HooahMail allows a Soldier to keep a physical reminder of their loved ones with them at all times and can be read and re-read. Unlike email, computer access is not required to read or receive HooahMail.



HooahMail is Secure and Private

The HooahMail Printer, Folder and Sealer ensures complete privacy and the contents remain confidential.



What is HooahMail?

HooahMail is based upon and patterned after the successful deployment of Hybrid Mail technology currently in use by the USMC since 2003 known as MotoMail.

The HooahMail service provides a discreet and secure way of sending a letter and photograph via the internet which is hand delivered to your Soldier. This service is a combination of the electronic world and delivery by the Army Post Office.

HooahMail is now available to Soldiers and their Families and friends who want to send fast photos and correspondence to deployed Soldiers. Soldiers serving in Afghanistan are able to receive mail from their loved ones that is printed and ready for delivery- usually within 24 hours, not days or weeks.

Can I Track HooahMail?

Yes, track the status of your HooahMail through 3 Stages

Stage 1: HooahMail is received at Server

Stage 2: HooahMail is downloaded in Afghanistan

Stage 3: HooahMail is actually printed

HooahMail is Printed at Designated Army Post Offices in Theater

The Army Post Office serving the recipient's location downloads all HooahMail and sends to a special

print/fold/sealer ensuring confidentiality. HooahMail is then delivered through Army Post Office unit mail call.

How Much

Does it Cost?

- HooahMail is FREE for everyone
- Army Post Offices in Afghanistan will deliver HooahMail through conventional unit mail call

www.HooahMail.us



Website features:

- Photos can be attached (prints 4" x 7" B&W)
- Allows you to create a personal Address Book
- User only required to know mailing address
- Family can track status of HooahMail sent
- Tell A Friend Module
- Customer Service Module
- Free, Downloadable Quick Letter Writer program

Security Measures

Information courtesy of Capt. Andrea Dadisman, brigade security officer

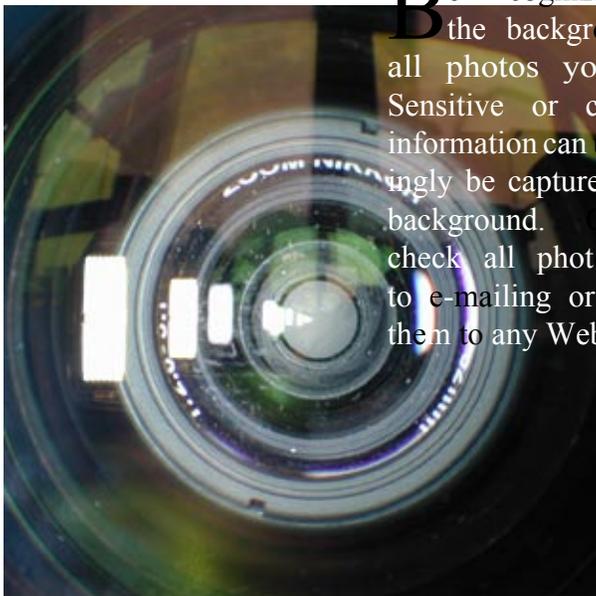


Only use cash for purchases at the bazaar. Do not trade items that are clearly identifiable as U.S. items, especially military equipment.



Due to limited security protocols on the locally provided Internet services, limit all activities (on-line shopping, e-mails, banking, bill paying) that require transmission of personnel data. If possible, conduct these transactions on U.S. Government nonsecure internet protocol router computers. Always ensure that Web sites requiring personnel information have the correct security ratings.

Be cognizant of the background in all photos you take. Sensitive or classified information can unknowingly be captured in the background. Carefully check all photos prior to e-mailing or posting them to any Web site.



Remove and destroy all postage labels containing the information of family and friends. These can easily be collected from the trash and used to target the loved ones.



Be extremely aware of the information that is being sent over local cell phones. These conversations are easily compromised by third parties. Do not use cell phones to conduct official business or discuss sensitive material. The same considerations should be made for conversations over the defense switch network.



Educate your spouses and Families regarding the information they make available to other people. While patriotic and supportive, items such as: yellow ribbons, family service member flags, window decals, ect. advertise the fact that your spouse or family is home alone and vulnerable.

Voices of Destiny

How do you prepare yourself and your family for long separations?



Just spending as much time with each other as possible. Making sure finances, personal belongings, along with bills, are taken care of and preparing for things that might come up. Right now, it is just about getting ready to go; getting in the mind set. I try to talk to them as much as I can about what I do so they understand what I am going to do. I think it will make it a little easier for them if they know what I do in the air and what I do on the ground. It will give them some kind of comfort that I'm safe. I really don't think you can totally prepare to be gone away from family for an extended period of time, but just do what you can with the time you are given and find a way while you're gone to connect.

-1st Lt. Aaron Scully, A Co. executive officer, Task Force No Mercy

Basically make sure the kids understand it is a short term thing, it's not forever and it's not as dangerous as they think it is. We had to make wills, power of attorneys, and financial arrangements to have an allotment to my mother-in-law so when we deploy, she will have money to take care of the kids because she is our family care plan.

-Pvt. Chastadaie P. Clay, Black Hawk mechanic, D Co., Task Force Eagle Assault



Prepare myself by keeping up on my training, constantly training, making sure you're not slacking off and be at your best all the time. Timeline was real important for us to prepare ourselves because we knew what we were looking forward to and what was coming. It was no surprise. As far as preparing your family, just talk as much as possible. You have to leave an opening for your kids to ask any questions they need to, any questions at all. Spend as much time as you physically can with everybody, your wife and your kids. Make sure you have something planned out, and don't waste your time.

-Sgt. Charles Weaser, Apache mechanic,
Task Force Eagle Assault

Based off of my time in the military, I've learned to always be prepared for long separations. What a lot of Soldiers will do is wait until it is close to deployment before they start preparing their wills, preparing their powers of attorney and spending more time with the family. I believe that you have to do that anyway because you never know when you are going to get called up for a deployment. To spend as much time as you can with your family and friends, better yourself throughout your career, throughout the time that you are at home, because you never know when the call will come that you may have to leave tomorrow.

-Sgt. Maj. Samuel Tyre Jr., chief of
operations, Task Force Destiny

HISTORY

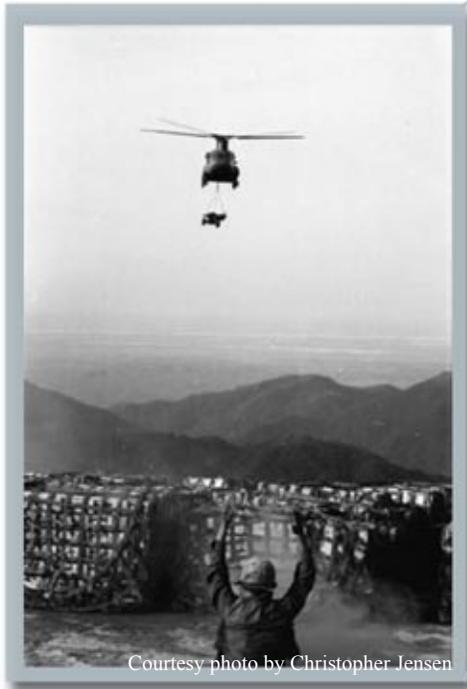
101st CAB Proves valor at

Firebase Ripcord

Story by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden
101st Combat Aviation Brigade

In July 1970, the 101st Aviation Group, currently the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, was awarded the Valorous Unit Award in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam, for their success in extracting personnel and materiel from Fire Support Base Ripcord, a military base in Vietnam similar to the current day Forward Operating Base

The North Vietnamese Army began its assault on Firebase Ripcord with mortar and small arms fire July 1.



Courtesy photo by Christopher Jensen





*Courtesy photos by
Christopher Jenson*

The 101st Aviation Group began transporting troops and airlifting needed supplies onto Firebase Ripcord, despite heavy enemy fire.

Throughout the attacks, the 101st Aviation Group was called upon to deliver ammunition and supplies, while transporting casualties and troops of 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry on and around Firebase Ripcord. At the same time, they were directed to perform combat assaults in order to oppose the escalation of enemy forces.

After approximately 20 days under constant attack, it became urgent to extract units and equipment. With guidance from the commander and the tactical operation center of 3rd Brigade, the 101st Aviation Group Commander, Col. Ed Davis, planned a mission to promptly remove artillery and equipment from the firebase followed immediately by the extraction of troops.

Maintenance personnel were ordered to have maximum aircraft in flyable condition, while pilots received thorough briefings based on information gathered by the Aviation Group's

intelligence. Strict flight routes and downed aircraft procedures were explained.

The mission required 52 lift helicopters, UH-1H Hueys and CH-47 Chinooks, along with attack helicopters, AH-1G Cobras, to escort and provide suppressive fire for the extraction.

Even though the enemy position was no more than 100 meters south of the pick-up zone, the suppressive fire of the AH-1G Cobra was successful in preventing the enemy from destroying aircrafts during this extraction.

Throughout the entire equipment move, the pathfinders of Pathfinder Platoon, 101st Aviation Group were constantly exposed to hostile fire while directing the landing of each aircraft and hooking up loads.

For their actions, all pathfinders who took part in the extraction of Firebase Ripcord were awarded the Silver Star.

During the extraction of the 506th Infantry, the pilots faced many challenges. They were required to hover down through thick trees and over rough terrain while troops boarded.

Some aircrafts landed to find that troops were not waiting to board because of the intensity of mortar fire and had to hover to another pad closer



to the tactical operating center bunker.

Throughout the operation, 30 aircraft received intensive fire. Eight CH-47 Chinooks were hit and one destroyed; two AH-1G Cobras and 12 UH-1H Hueys were hit.

A total of eight crew members and two pathfinders received wounds as a result of hostile fire.

Because of the actions taken by maintenance personnel, commanders, staff, flight crews and pathfinders, this operation was a success.

Had it not been for the expertise, commitment and selfless service of the 101st Aviation Group, the extraction of troops and equipment from the besieged Firebase Ripcord would not have been completed with such a minimal loss of men and materiel.

STAY FLYING *On The* WINGS OF DESTINY

Story and photos by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

Soldiers deployed with the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade whose contract expiration term of service falls within their time in theater, may now voluntarily extend their assignment to cover the length of the deployment for a monetary reward through the Deployment Extension Incentive Program.

DEIP was activated in place of the Stop Loss program Jan. 1, 2010,

to offer Soldiers the opportunity to stay with their unit during the term of deployment.

The Stop Loss program required Soldiers to stay in the Army past their expiration of term of service if they were assigned to a deployed unit.

DEIP allows Soldiers to extend their ETS to 60 days after their units' redeployment date.

Soldiers who choose to participate in the program will receive \$350 per month for each full month they extend their service commitment.

DEIP payments are tax-free while in theatre.

To take advantage of this program, Soldiers must enroll 90 days prior to their ETS date.

This program only applies to Soldiers who are fit and eligible for



Three Soldiers of Task Force Troubleshooter reenlisted April 2 during the first reenlistment ceremony at Kandahar Airfield. In addition to their reenlistment certificates, they were all given a coin by the brigade command sergeant major.



Left: Spc. Jorge Moreno, power generation equipment repairer reenlisted for six years as an initial reenlistee. Moreno has been in the Army for two years.
Below: Sgt. Jimmy D. Evans, utilities equipment repairer is a mid-term reenlistee. He has been in the Army for seven years.

Career Counselors:

Task Force Destiny

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Staff Sgt. Anthony W. Cotita, a heavy wheel mechanic reenlisted indefinitely as a career Soldier. He is a former Marine from Pensacola, Fla., and has been in the Army for two years.

the deployment, however Soldiers are not required to meet the reenlistment qualification criteria.

If the Soldier were to return early from their deployment, their DEIP payments would be terminated. However, the first Cololen in the Soldier's chain of command may make the decision not to terminate a Soldiers DEIP pay, depending on the circumstances.

The Soldiers participating in this program will receive their initial DEIP payment on their end of month pay. Payments will continue through the end of the extension period.

Soldiers interested in this program should speak with their servicing career counselor.

Soldiers also had the opportunity to extend their ETS date six to nine month prior to this deployment, allow them to receive \$500 per month for each full month they extended their commitment.

Task Force Destiny has had 195 Soldiers participate in the DEIP, which makes more than 50 percent of eligible Soldiers who have participated. Several Soldiers have taken advantage of the program since arriving in theater.

Contributions by Master Sgt. Michael D. Brown, brigade career counselor

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Task Force Ready

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Family Members wave goodbye to Soldiers of the 101st CAB as they depart the hangar for their yearlong deployment to Afghanistan after a going away ceremony at Fort Campbell.