

101ST  
CAB

# DESTINY FLYER



JUNE 2010, ISSUE 2

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JUNE 2010

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Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

**Pvt. Jurece Calhoun, maintenance clerk with E Company, Task Force No Mercy, guards an entry control point while local nationals wait to enter the base during a fire drill with the vehicle inspection team. The VIT searches vehicles coming onto Forward Operating Base Tarin Kowt to heighten base security and Soldiers' safety.**

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# DESTINY FLYER

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## **Task Force Destiny**

Col. William Gayler  
Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor Beharie

## **Hellcats**

Capt. Eric Rempfer  
1st Sgt. Grant Stange

## **Task Force Saber**

Lt. Col. Hank 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. Brad Ninness  
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 content of this monthly publication is edited by the Task Force Destiny Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09355.

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Please send submissions, letters and suggestions to the Task Force **Destiny** Public Affairs Office:

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## **ON THE COVER:**

Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

Cpl. Kenneth Whiteside, E Company, Task Force No Mercy vehicle inspection team noncommissioned officer in charge welds the new Camp Cole entry control point gate as part of the new security measures.

# Command Central



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sadie Bleistein

**Task Force Destiny Commander Col. William Gayler in the cockpit of an AH-64 Apache helicopter getting ready to depart from Qual-I-Nah, Afghanistan.**

Destiny Families,

Hello to all from Afghanistan. First, let me say thank you to each one of you for what you do for us deployed. I know it is not easy picking up the routine without your Soldier there to help with the everyday things, special days, birthdays, anniversaries, etc ... Our Nation owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to each of you for the sacrifices you make, in addition, to those of our Soldiers. I simply wanted to tell you from us forward deployed, thank you very much and you are always in our thoughts and prayers.

It is an honor to be part of this organization at such a critical time in our Nation's history and such an important time for all of our forces serving in Afghanistan. It has become very apparent to the entire Regional Command team that the 101st has arrived. We assumed our mission in

April and have been on an astonishing pace ever since. Our Soldiers have been cited as the best, most professional aviation unit folks have ever seen. That praise came from multiple general officers here in Southern Afghanistan, and it is echoed daily by the supported ground maneuver commanders and their Soldiers. Input like that from our ground forces is our true measure of success and validation.

At every location, our Soldiers are having a huge positive impact. TF No Mercy in our northern provinces conducts a variety of missions in support of our U.S., but mostly coalition partners and continues to do phenomenally well. TF Eagle Assault supports our Eastern provinces in support of U.S. and coalition partners with tremendous flexibility

and professionalism. TF Saber concentrates mission around the clock, and watching our their efforts closer to the brigade headquarters, Soldiers perform with professional expertise but in an area of huge importance and delivers and valor makes me more proud than with any every day. TF Shadow headquarters is with the unit I have ever been a part of previously. Every brigade, but has the most varied mission set Soldier of every specialty has rallied in support of all. They daily travel to every corner of all of our mission, and we could not be successful of our battle-space and execute an incredibly without their efforts each and every day. It is challenging set of missions. TF Troubleshooter truly inspiring to watch.

also shares its headquarters near the brigade We will certainly miss the treasured moments and stays busy with maintenance support and with each of you back home, but doing work logistical support to the entire brigade inside that is so vital to the security of those we love of our Regional Command and that of a second makes this deployment necessary. Our Nation is Regional Command. Even though not from Fort fortunate to have military Families, both direct Campbell, TF Ready (5-158th from Germany) and extended, that support us for what we do and operates far away from the brigade in a separate who make sacrifices that enable the security of Regional Command. They provide superb our way of life. Separation is never easy, and we support for our coalition/joint partners and have ask a great deal of you during these deployments. been welcomed into the 101st team. Again, I want to tell you thank you from the

To steal a comment from our 101st Division bottom of our hearts for your love, thoughts Commanding General, Maj. Gen. John Campbell, and prayers as we focus ourselves on the task “The 101st was asked to send an aviation brigade at hand. The busy pace helps make the time go in support of Regional Command-South, and we by quickly, and we all look forward to that day we always send our best when your unit’s reputation we are reunited with those we love so much. For now, we will stay strong and focused. I ask with our coalition partners relies on the quality that each of you stay strong as well and know of support provided, so we sent the 101 CAB.” we think of you often. May God bless each and

We would certainly like to be working with every one of you and our incredible Soldiers our own higher headquarters, but working for here doing our Nation’s work. Take care and Air the NATO Headquarters under the command of Maj. Gen. Nick Carter has proven rewarding. Assault!

We are exposed daily to different ways of COL Bill Gayler accomplishing things and to an environment CDR, TF DESTINY that is tactically challenging, operationally 101 CAB intense and strategically vital. We execute our



Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

**Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor Beharie, Task Force Destiny, speaking to Soldiers of TF Troubleshooter during a reenlistment ceremony here.**

Hello to all Families, loved ones and friends of the “Destiny” brigade. It is my pleasure to update you on some of what has been happening here in Afghanistan since our last publication of the Destiny Flyer Magazine. Your support of your Soldiers in the Wings of Destiny brigade has been a delight and much appreciated. We cannot do what we do here in combat without your continued support; it is the fuel that drives our motivation. We would also like to send our prayers and well wishes to the Families of our communities in and around Clarksville, Hopkinsville and Oakgrove that have been affected by the flood. It broke our hearts to hear about the devastation that accrued. However, our

Rear Detachment will stand ready to provide support as part of the 101st Screaming Eagle’s efforts to provide aid. Our communities are resilient, and I know we will soon quickly recover together. I would also like to say thank you to our rear detachment leadership and our FRG members for doing a superb job in taking care of our Soldiers and Families.

Now to update you on what has gone on here since we have taken the reigns from the 82nd CAB. We hope you have all enjoyed our inaugural issue of the Destiny Flyer. Our Public Affairs section of Staff Sgt. (Promotable) Sadie Bleistein and Spc. Tracy Weeden are the editors of our magazine, and they are working very hard to bring you an informative and quality product. Our Task Forces are firmly seated in the driver’s seat and are prosecuting the war on terror every day with very positive effects on the battlefield. The commander and I could not be more proud of our Soldiers’ efforts with regards to their professional conduct, zeal and tenacity with which they perform their duties. Our report cards are graded based on the quality of attack, assault and lift support we provide to our customers around the battlefield. Our report cards are looking pretty good based on the laudatory comments and awards our Soldiers are receiving from our customers.

We have also been pretty busy moving a large amount of very important guests around the battlefield as well. We have supported battlefield circulations for a number of dignitaries to include The Speaker Nancy

Pelosi , Sen. Jack Reed, Ambassadors Karl W. Eikenberry and Mark Sedwell, and Reps. Nickey Tsongas, Susan Davis, Howard Bermin and Donna Edwards to name a few.

We have great support here from the USO through several great programs they provide. One such program is the United Through Reading Program. The program allows Soldiers to read books (that are provided) to their kids of all ages while they are recorded in a private setting. Soldiers are allowed thirty minutes to read as many books as they can within the allotted time. They are also allowed to add private messages to the recordings. The USO then mails the recorded disc along with the books that were read to the child anywhere within the United States. I have heard several Soldiers comment on how much they like the program and how much their kids enjoy the video and books. The USO also sponsors well known musicians to perform for the Soldiers as well. Toby Keith was one of the notable headliners that performed for the Soldiers a few weeks ago.

We celebrated the National Day of Prayer sponsored by TF Shadow's Chaplain, Capt. Kevin Trimble. It was a great event even though we had to move the ceremony because of a thunderstorm. Our very own brigade commander was the guest speaker for the event. He gave very sage advice on why it is necessary for us to pray as often as we can. He also reminded us that we should not only pray for Family and friends, but that we should also

pray for all our leaders up and down the chain of command.

On a separate note, I want to let everyone know our division leadership has authorized the broadcasting of all high school graduations on and around Fort Campbell. Some of our Soldiers will not have the opportunity to return home to see their loved ones graduate. The broadcasting will allow them to see their children graduate as it happens. There will also be Video Teleconferencing set up for the Soldiers and kids to talk before the event as well. We want to thank our division for their continued support of our Soldiers and the Wings of Destiny brigade.

I would like to close my update to you until next time by reminding you to do two things for us. First, I want to remind everyone to practice good Operation Security (OPSEC) when communicating over open source media such as Facebook, Twitter, blogs, the telephone and any other means of communication that is not secure. We do not want to get any of our Soldiers or coalition partners hurt because of having sensitive information falling into the wrong hands. Secondly, now that the summer is upon us, please exercise good summer safety. We want to see all your smiling faces at our welcome home ceremonies. May God continue to bless our Soldiers and their Families, our Army and the United States of America.

Destiny 7  
Wings of Destiny  
Air Assault!

# Got Energy?

By Capt. Vincent Luttrell  
*TF No Mercy Chaplain*

## CHAPLAIN'S

*Corner*

Graphic by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

**I**saiah 40:31 But they that wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles.

How are you feeling today? Are you full of energy, ready to go, excited to begin another day? Or are you drained of your energy, tired, wore out?

It does not matter if you are a Soldier who is deployed and dealing with all the stress that accompanies your particular job, or a family member at home, dealing with the separation, the children (which in itself is a full time job) and pursuing a career.

The pressures of life can be overwhelming.

We seem to always have things that were supposed to get done yesterday, things we are working on now and things due tomorrow.

I recently saw a report that 89 percent of Americans feel wore out in their life.

It is not wrong to work hard. Scriptures even speak highly of those who intensely labor for the good.

Feeling fatigued is part of life but should not be a way of life. There is a time to take a break and just relax.

Our bodies need a "time out" to function properly. We are told of instances where even Jesus had to get away from the crowds to rest. He needed rest to recharge physically and time alone with the Father to recharge spiritually.

We need a set time to recover physically, emotionally and even spiritually.

This is where the good news of Isaiah 40:31 becomes a spiritual recovery drink for the soul.

The verse states that God will recharge us spiritually if we only allow him to.

We do this by spending time alone with Him. It is the same with physical rest.

The only way we can let our bodies recover is to rest.

If we are too busy to rest, then we are too busy.

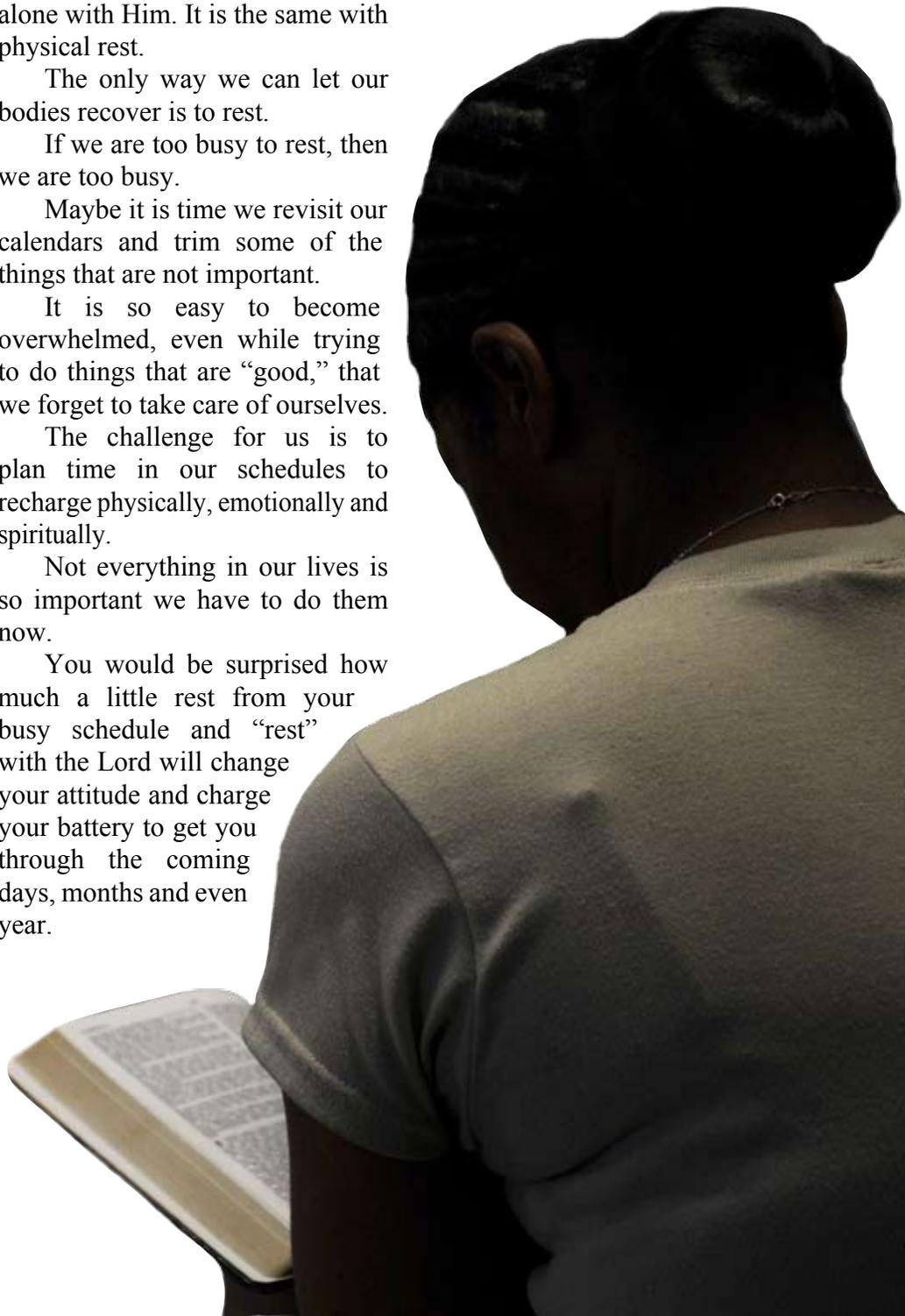
Maybe it is time we revisit our calendars and trim some of the things that are not important.

It is so easy to become overwhelmed, even while trying to do things that are "good," that we forget to take care of ourselves.

The challenge for us is to plan time in our schedules to recharge physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Not everything in our lives is so important we have to do them now.

You would be surprised how much a little rest from your busy schedule and "rest" with the Lord will change your attitude and charge your battery to get you through the coming days, months and even year.



# The 101st Makes History Again

## *Organic Behavioral Health Assets*

**By Capt. Christopher Wilson**  
***TF Destiny Behavioral Health Provider***

Graphics by Staff Sgt. Sadie Bleistein

**M**any of you reading this may not be aware the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Destiny now has organic behavioral health resources.

That is right, you have your very own brigade psychologist and mental health noncommissioned officer. Some of you may be asking, “What’s the big deal?” Allow me a few minutes to address this very question.

First, it is important because the 101st CAB is the very first aviation brigade to have behavioral health assets assigned and/or attached for a deployment ... or any other reason for that matter.

Your leadership identified a need to have behavioral health resources available to you as an organic asset in this unit. This need was identified from the top down and vice versa. Due to the diligent efforts of your leadership, most notably the brigade surgeon and brigade executive officer, the 101st is making history once again.

So for those of you reading this state side, rest assured the Task Force Destiny leadership is once again doing everything within their power to care for your spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister while deployed.

Second, having your own behavioral health assets means you will no longer be required to seek services from “outsiders” who do not possess a strong working knowledge and understanding of the specific demands and mission requirements of an aviation regiment.

Lastly, you will be able to locate one of your

behavioral health providers conveniently within the Destiny Consolidate Aid Station.

For those individuals at locations other than Kandahar Airfield, know that your aid stations are more than able, and willing, to facilitate the necessary referrals.

As for specific services offered, individual counseling is the primary method of service delivery and can focus on a variety of concerns to include, but not limited to: stress management, sleep hygiene, interpersonal relationships, depression, family issues, anxiety and anger management.

Additionally, we are here to offer command consultation on unit specific concerns/needs, group presentations/classes and evaluations for training such as drill sergeant, recruiter and sniper school.

It is also worth mentioning behavioral health services are confidential save for a few very specific circumstances.

Behavioral health services are available Monday through Saturday during the hours of 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. In recognition of the fact that operations run 24/7, other times are possible to meet the needs of the organization or individual.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact Capt. Christopher Wilson at [christopher.wilson@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:christopher.wilson@afghan.swa.army.mil) or Sgt. Kaisha Haig at [kaisha.haig@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:kaisha.haig@afghan.swa.army.mil).

Either of your behavioral health providers can also be reached at (318) 841-2033.



**By Maj. Patrick Birchfield**  
***TF Destiny Flight Surgeon***

Graphics by Staff Sgt. Sadie Bleistein

**M**alaria is a serious mosquito-borne illness that is caused by a microscopic parasite which infects red blood cells.

There are four species of malaria parasites that can infect humans: *Plasmodium falciparum*, *P. malaria*, *P. ovale* and *P. vivax*. Infection with any of the malaria species can make a person feel very ill.

However, infection with *P. falciparum* if not promptly treated, can be fatal. The majority of deaths worldwide are due to this type of malaria.

*Plasmodium vivax* and *P. ovale*, although rarely fatal, can develop dormant liver stages that can reactivate after symptom-free intervals from two through four years, respectively.

Each year, 350-500 million cases of malaria occur worldwide, and more than one million people die.

Malaria parasites are spread by the bites of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes.

Malaria cannot be transmitted from person-to-person like a cold or the flu. You cannot get malaria through casual contact with an infected person (e.g. touching or kissing a person with the disease).

Symptoms vary depending on the specific type of *Plasmodium* involved, but at the outset, generally include fever, shaking, chills, sweats, headache, muscle aches and exhaustion. Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea may also occur. Anemia and jaundice (yellow coloring of skin and eyes) can occur due to the destruction of red blood cells.

Infection with *P. falciparum*, if not promptly treated, can lead to kidney failure, seizures, coma and death.

Typically, symptoms begin ten days to four weeks following the bite of an infected mosquito, but range from as early as seven days to as late as one year or longer, depending on the type of malaria.

Malaria can be effectively treated with a variety of prescription drugs if diagnosed early, and before it becomes severe and life-threatening. If the correct drugs are administered for the proper length of time, malaria can be cured and all the parasites eliminated from the body.

However, if the disease is improperly treated, relapses can occur and parasites can persist in the blood for years or decades.

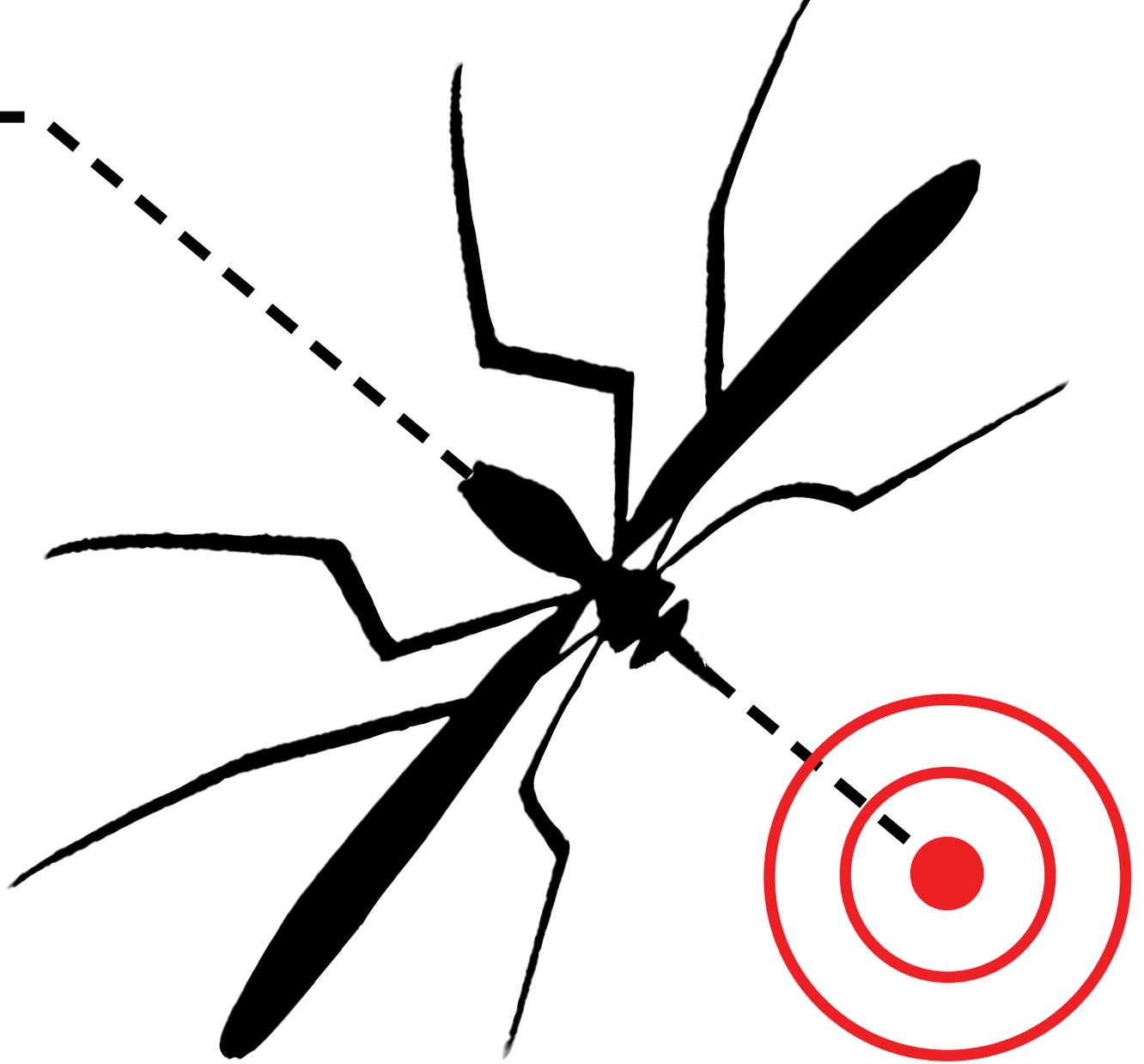
There is no vaccine against malaria. However, there are oral prescription drugs that can help prevent Soldiers from getting infected while visiting areas in which malaria is common.

It is very important for any person who is traveling to areas where malaria occurs to take malaria prevention medication.

You can help prevent malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases by protecting yourself from mosquito bites. Stay inside well-screened areas at dawn, dusk and nighttime. This is when *Anopheles* mosquitoes are most active. Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks whenever you are outdoors. Wear loose-fitting clothing to prevent mosquito bites through thin fabric.

Use both skin and clothing repellents that have been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. They are safe and effective.

For your skin, use a product that contains 20-50



percent DEET. DEET in higher concentrations is no more effective.

For your clothing, use a product that contains permethrin. Permethrin is available commercially as 0.5 percent spray formulations. Permethrin will withstand numerous launderings. Permethrin should only be used on clothing, never on skin.

Take malaria chemoprophylaxis pills as directed by your battalion or brigade surgeon. This is **CRITICAL**.

Eliminate mosquito-breeding sites by cleaning routinely, and emptying water from old tires and other outdoor containers or debris. Make sure door and window screens do not have holes. Vitamin B, ultrasonic devices and “bug zappers” are **NOT** effective in preventing mosquito bites.

**How to take your malaria chemoprophylaxis:**

- **Take each dose with a full glass of water (it is important to drink plenty of water while taking this medicine)**

- **Take with food to avoid an upset stomach**
- **Take all the pills given to you**
- **Try to take the medicine at the same time each day**

• **If you miss a dose, take it as soon as remembered, unless it is almost time for the next dose (if it is nearly time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule)**

**Do NOT “double-up” on doses**

- **Do not share this medication with others**
- **Store at room temperature away from sunlight and moisture**

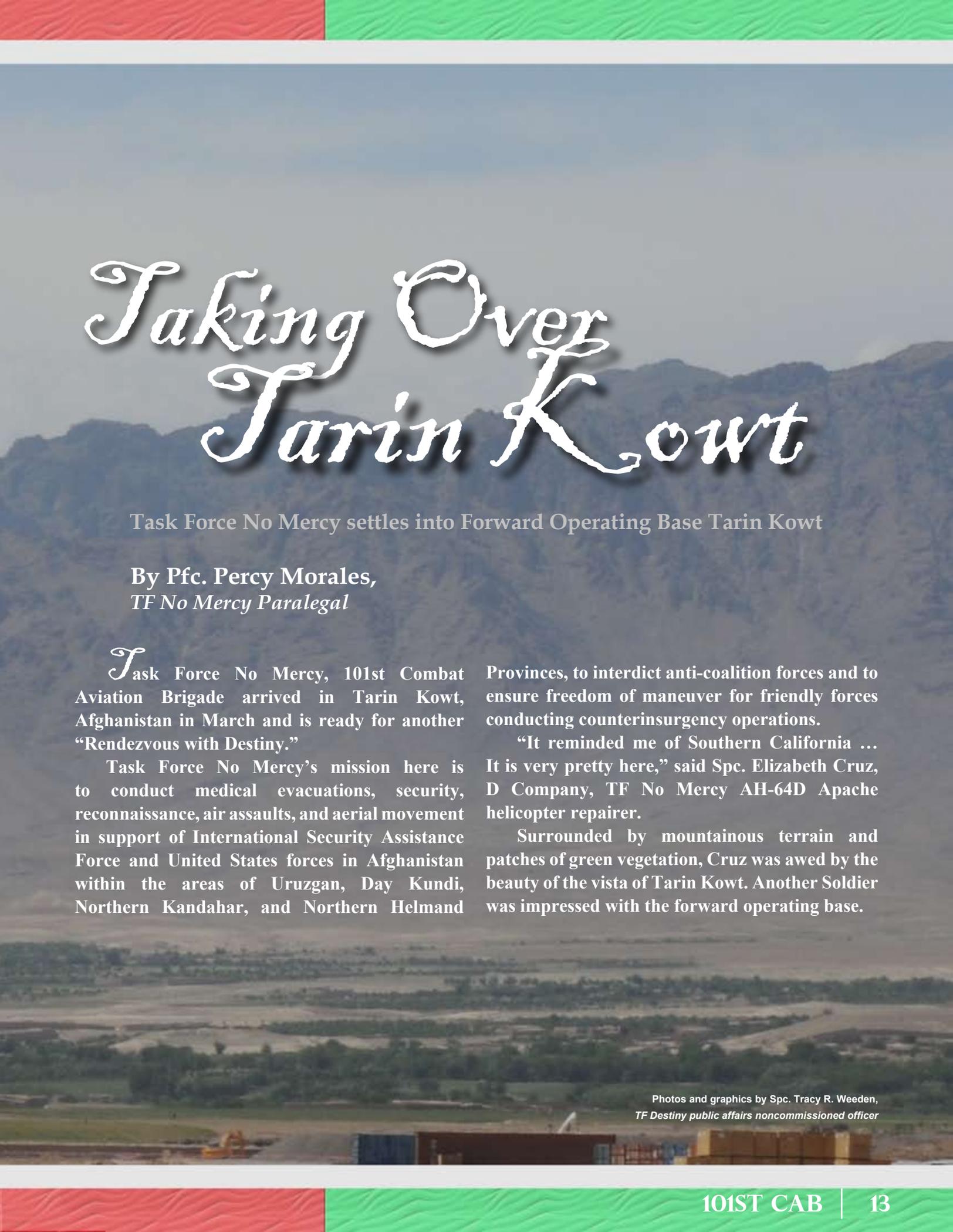
**Remember to continue to take your medications over R&R to keep from developing symptoms and ruining your good time**

Information shamelessly stolen from USACHPPM TA-014-0403 and 18-040-0107.

Check it out for yourself at <http://phc.amedd.army.mil/home>

“ It reminded me of Southern California ...  
It is very pretty here. ”  
- *Spc. Elizabeth Cruz*





# Taking Over Tarin Kowt

Task Force No Mercy settles into Forward Operating Base Tarin Kowt

By Pfc. Percy Morales,  
*TF No Mercy Paralegal*

*T*ask Force No Mercy, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade arrived in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan in March and is ready for another “Rendezvous with Destiny.”

Task Force No Mercy’s mission here is to conduct medical evacuations, security, reconnaissance, air assaults, and aerial movement in support of International Security Assistance Force and United States forces in Afghanistan within the areas of Uruzgan, Day Kundi, Northern Kandahar, and Northern Helmand

Provinces, to interdict anti-coalition forces and to ensure freedom of maneuver for friendly forces conducting counterinsurgency operations.

“It reminded me of Southern California ... It is very pretty here,” said Spc. Elizabeth Cruz, D Company, TF No Mercy AH-64D Apache helicopter repairer.

Surrounded by mountainous terrain and patches of green vegetation, Cruz was awed by the beauty of the vista of Tarin Kowt. Another Soldier was impressed with the forward operating base.

Photos and graphics by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden,  
*TF Destiny public affairs noncommissioned officer*



TF No Mercy AH-64 Apache landing at TK.

“This is my fourth time being deployed, and this is the best FOB I have been to,” said Staff Sgt. Alejandro Sevilla, TF No Mercy noncommissioned officer in charge of communications.

He cited the living accommodations and the dining facility as the basis of his claim.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jason Werner, assigned to C Co., TF No Mercy said he was impressed with the FOB as well.

“I think it was one of the smoothest RIPs, (Relief in Place) on the maintenance side ... in my three deployments,” said Werner.

The transfer of authority ceremony was April 10.

Col. Paul Bricker, Task Force Pegasus commander, spoke about



TF No Mercy transfer of authority ceremony April 10.



the daunting mission he gave the Task Force Wolf Pack commander, Lt. Col. David O. Jernigan.

They transformed dirt, sand and rocks into a FOB that is able to conduct missions throughout the southern region of Afghanistan, said Bricker. With months of hard work and dedication from the United States coalition forces, Task Force Wolf Pack took enormous strides in completing the transformation.

During their deployment, Task Force Wolf Pack conducted various missions to help protect our ground forces and the Afghan community.

“These operations have destroyed and disrupted the insurgent network of support, captured narcotics traffickers and interfered in a major way

with the insurgent command and control and IED [Improvised Explosive Device] networks,” said Col. Bricker.

Jernigan accepted the gratitude from all who recognized the accomplishments of his Task Force. He thanked those who helped in making this “incredible FOB.” He also spoke of the hardships of the deployment.

“Our darkest hour came early on in our deployment when CW4 [Chief Warrant Officer Four] Brent Cole died in a crash just east of Tarin Kowt on 22 March,” said Jernigan. “Brent was a great father, husband, son and friend, and we all miss him a great deal. Cole will Forever be remembered and honored by all who step foot on Camp Cole.”

Jernigan finished his remarks by saying that Task Force No

Mercy now has the fight, leaving the TF No Mercy commander to speak to his Soldiers about the upcoming mission.

“Your success is the standard by which we will judge our success one year from now,” said Lt. Col. Scott A. Hasken, Task Force No Mercy commander.

As he spoke to the Soldiers of Task Force No Mercy, he challenged them to be mindful of the times they are in and reminded them they are taking part in history.

“When you rise for work each day, determine to serve honorably,” said Hasken

Hasken continued his charge. He told his Soldiers they need to be proud of what they do every day as they write out a new history for the 101st Airborne Division and for TF No Mercy.



# TK AT LARGE

Story, Photos and Graphics  
by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden, *TF Destiny*  
public affairs noncommissioned officer



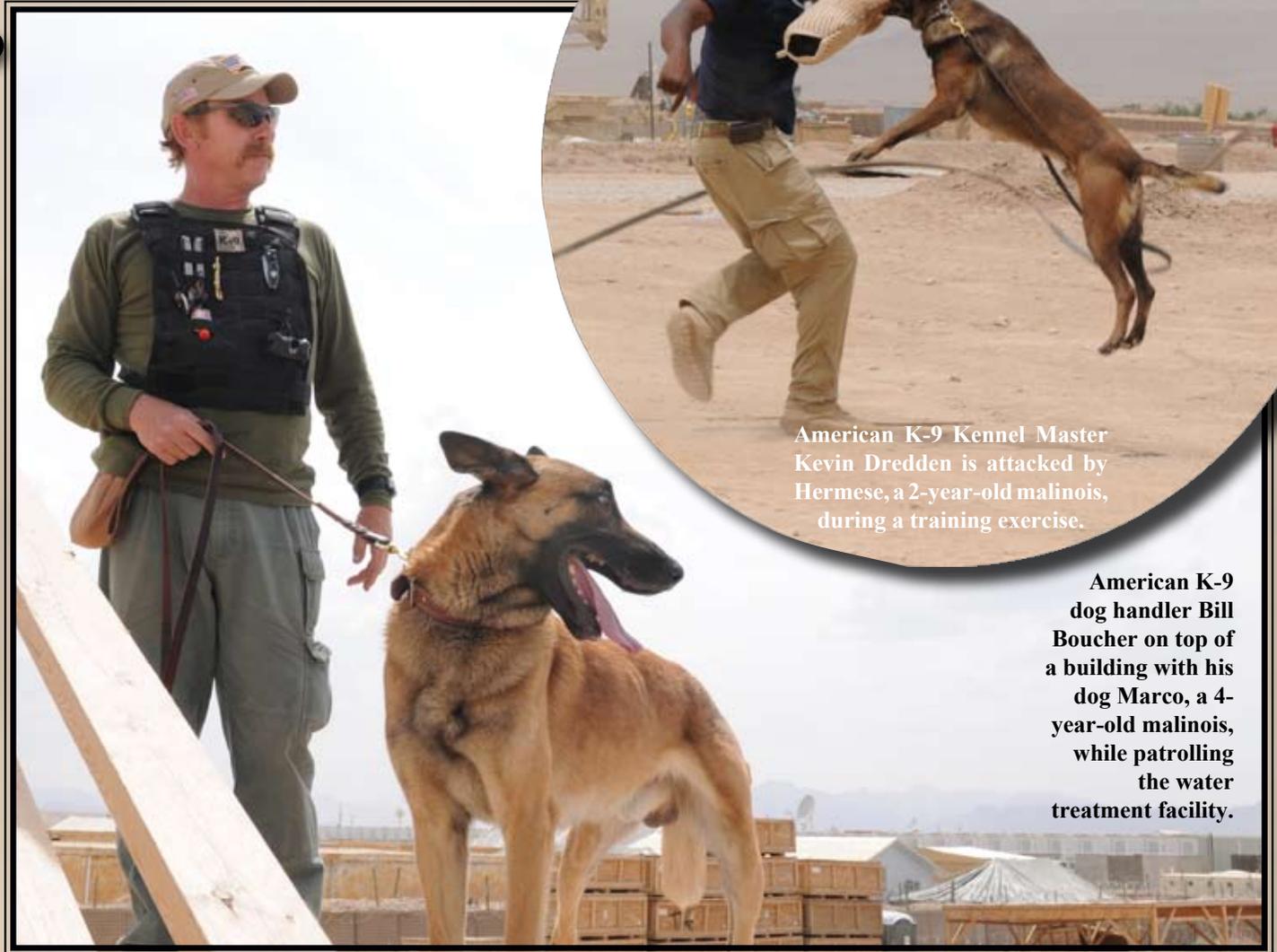
Lt. Col. Scott Hasken, Task Force No Mercy commander, with officers of United States Forces-Afghanistan who met May 2 to discuss operations and security on Forward Operating Base Tarin Kowt.



Lt. Col. Scott Hasken reunites with an old friend Col. Charles R. Hamilton, USFOR-A deputy logistics officer, May 2 when USFOR-A visits TK.



Lt. Col. Scott Hasken greets Col. Robert Ulses, USFOR-A chief of staff, when he arrived to TK May 2.



American K-9 Kennel Master Kevin Dredden is attacked by Hermese, a 2-year-old malinois, during a training exercise.

American K-9 dog handler Bill Boucher on top of a building with his dog Marco, a 4-year-old malinois, while patrolling the water treatment facility.

- **T**ask Force No Mercy command group and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan met with Dutch and Australian coalition partners in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan May 2 to discuss current and future plans for base operations.
- TK is currently run by the Dutch army who is leaving here by late summer. The U.S. will be taking responsibility for future operations.
- A meeting was a means to share information, encourage a smooth change of responsibility and assign authority of tasks.
- “We are going to have to work closely together to make this transition work,” said Col. Robert Ulses, USFOR-A chief of staff.
- The main interests of USFOR-A and the

coalition partners here is force protection, logistical services and air operations.

The Soldiers of TF No Mercy are making major improvements to their base security and operations in TK with the help of USFOR-A.

To amp-up force protection, USFOR-A brought in the American K-9 team to secure entry control points and patrol TK.

“We act as a force multiplier,” said Kevin Dredden, American K-9 kennel master here. “It would take several people more than 20 minutes to search a vehicle for explosives, while it only takes a dog a few minutes.”

The American K-9 arrived at TK in late April. They have multi-purpose dogs used to detect



American K-9 dog team searching a service truck entering Camp Cole entry control point.

Soldier guards the vehicle entry point of Camp Cole, while the K-9 team searches the truck.

and attack. They are trained to detect both explosives and narcotics, and attack on command or when engaged.

“Most of our handlers are ex-cops and ex-military, which adds to force protection,” said Dredden.

All of the dog handlers must be qualified by the 341st Air Force training Squadron and recertified every month.

The dogs serve as a means of protection and physiological deterrence, said Dredden.

The K-9s and handlers train when they are not conducting a mission or during days off duty.

“We have anywhere from four to six dogs working at once, including dogs on call,” said Dredden.

The dogs search trucks passing through the American Camp Cole entry control point, as well as the main ECP.



In addition to the K-9 unit securing the ECP, a Soldier checks every individual’s ID and searches every vehicle entering Camp Cole.

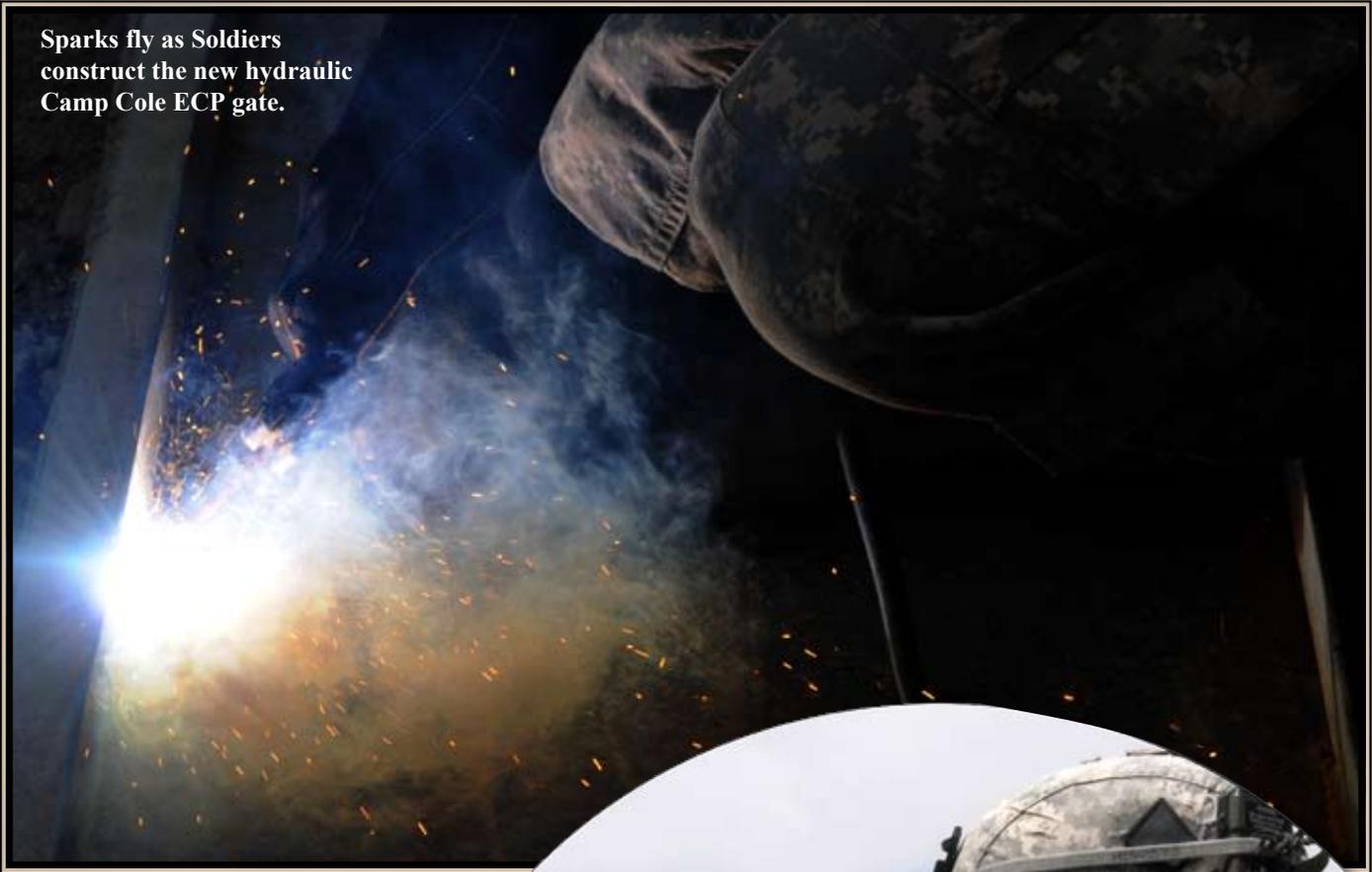
Vehicles must also have a vehicle pass, said Maj. John Nalls, TF No Mercy executive officer.

In addition to the K-9s thorough checks, Soldiers are

adding to force protection by manning the Camp Cole ECP 24/7.

“Everything that we have been doing has improved the security of the FOB by at least 85 percent since we’ve taken over,” said Sgt. David Zarcone, TF No Mercy wheeled vehicle mechanic, and Camp Cole ECP guard noncommissioned officer.

Sparks fly as Soldiers construct the new hydraulic Camp Cole ECP gate.



Before TF No Mercy arrived, many of these security measures were not set into place.

In addition to their efforts, wheeled vehicle mechanics and welders of E Company are currently designing and building a hydraulic gate system for this ECP.



“We have a lot of different MOSs (military occupational specialties) working on this project and hope that our efforts are not in vain,” said Sgt. 1st Class Allen Welch, E Co. motor sergeant. “But we are doing our best to support our command and preserve life the best we can.”

Camp Cole ECP guards understand the importance of their job and are also dedicated

TF No Mercy VIT conducting an after action review on a fire drill at the ‘soak yard.’

to keeping their fellow Soldiers safe.

“We pull weekly duty,” said Zarcone. “That way, we get to know the people coming in and out and know what to look for.”

The Dutch have maintained contracts with local nationals for many of the logistical services on TK.

USFOR-A is responsible for maintaining these contracts once the Dutch leave, said Nalls.

Many services are contracted out to civilians such as food services, facility maintenance and construction.

Afghan security guards man the gates and guard the perimeter of the base. They are individually contracted by the Dutch, said Dutch Army Maj. Chris Heukers, TK base commander.

He would have liked to have them contracted as one unit, but they would be considered a

militia. Therefore, each guard is contracted individually, he said.

Contracted local nationals are assigned their own area on base, which calls for heightened security on individual camps.

To add to the security of our American Soldiers, TF No Mercy has employed the vehicle inspection team of Echo Co. to search all maintenance and delivery trucks supporting U.S. Forces.

All vehicles entering the base at TK must go through certain security procedures.

The VIT will physically search the driver and passengers of vehicles entering the main ECP. They are contained while their vehicle is searched, said Cpl. Kenneth Whiteside, VIT team NCO in charge.

“We also look for any markings or tattoos related to the Taliban,” said Whiteside. “If they do have any, we enter their information into

a database.”

VIT is just one more measure TF No Mercy is taking in force protection.

“The dogs search the truck first, and then my team goes through to search for weapons,” said Whiteside.

The trucks must then sit for a 24-hour period in what they call the ‘soak yard’ here before entering the base.

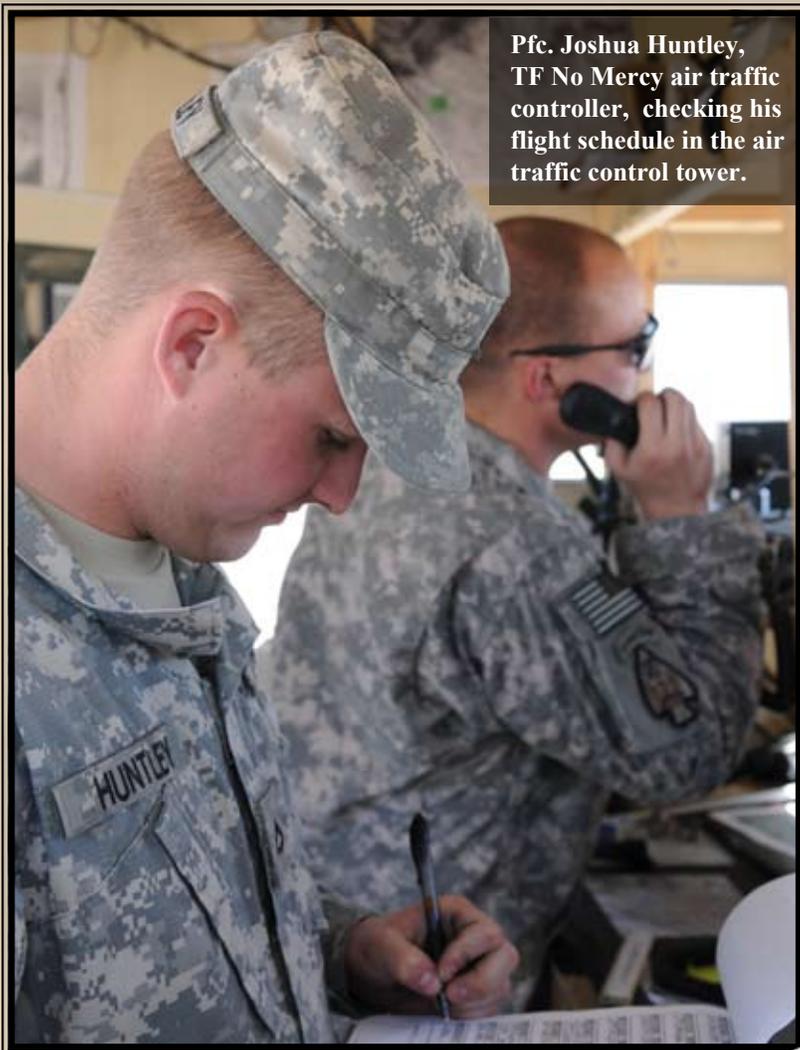
When the Dutch leave TK, logistical operations and contracts may change, but TF No Mercy’s roll in security and air operations will remain consistent.

There are plans in progress to extend the runway, relocate the helicopter parking lot and move the Camp Cole ECP further away from the Soldier’s living area, said Nalls.

The Dutch have proposed



A Soldier guarding an entry control point during a fire drill with VIT at the ‘Soak yard’ on FOB TK while local nationals stand by to enter the gate



Pfc. Joshua Huntley, TF No Mercy air traffic controller, checking his flight schedule in the air traffic control tower.

The air traffic control tower manages air traffic within a five-mile radius, said Ashkar.

Along with the additional air traffic, there will be some minor changes of authority concerning air operations such as the aircraft weapons range.

The Dutch currently run the weapon range used by military aircraft. Therefore, they grant permission for aircraft to use the range, while we give the aircraft permission to take off and enter the airspace, said Ashkar.

USFOR-A will be assigning the responsibility of the weapon range to U.S. Forces.

With the efforts and contributions of TF No Mercy along with USFOR-A in maintaining air operations and base security, the transition of authority from the Dutch to the U.S. forces should be successful, increasing the safety and pride of Soldiers.



A fixed wing aircraft shares the runway with a rotary wing helicopter.

building a civilian airport on TK to support the local nationals need for transportation, said Nalls.

The airport is slated to be built where the current No Mercy helicopter parking is located.

TF No Mercy's air traffic control tower currently has authority of all air operations, said Sgt. Brian Ashkar, TF No Mercy air traffic controller.

The air traffic control tower will also be responsible for the additional incoming and outgoing traffic.

We coordinate and control all air movement here, said Ashkar.

Air traffic coming and going from TK consists of fixed wing, rotary wing, and unmanned aerial vehicles of military and commercial use.



# TF No Mercy assists villagers and coalition



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan LoFranco, TF No Mercy UH-60 Blackhawk pilot

**Australian soldiers pull security for TF No Mercy while village elders exit four UH-60 Blackhawks to go to their local “Shura,” meaning gathering or council, in Gizab April 26.**

Story by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden,  
*TF Destiny public affairs noncommissioned officer*

**T**ARIN KOWT, Afghanistan – Task Force No Mercy provided air support to Australian coalition partners in the detainment of four suspected insurgents, including one high-level insurgent leader, in Gizab May 1.

The coalition also recovered weapons and a large amount,

100,000 Pakistan rupees (\$5,000), along with the detainment of the suspected insurgent leader, said Capt. Tammy Price, TF No Mercy security officer.

The villagers in Gizab captured the insurgents and then called on the coalition forces for assistance, said Price. They did not want the repercussions of detaining the

insurgents and requested help from the coalition.

The villagers in this area are very cooperative in capturing and driving out insurgents.

“The local Nationals had taken it upon themselves to rid the insurgents from the area,” said Price.

The mission to transport the

Australians up to Gizab came when an informant in the village called their Australian contact to notify them they had four insurgents they wanted to turn over to us, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Neil Rogers, TF No Mercy Blackhawk pilot and tactical operations officer.

“Our crew was on standby,” said Rogers. “We were ready to go when the call came in.”

TF No Mercy aircraft and flight crews were fully prepared for this mission.

TF No Mercy has a very low rate of maintenance issues.

They were never delayed due to maintenance, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Russell Juart, TF No Mercy Apache pilot. Ninety-nine percent of the time, there are no issues with maintenance.

The Task Force along with their Australian coalition partners arrived in Gizab shortly after the call arrived.

They had four Blackhawks and two Apaches delivering the first set of troops, said Rogers.

Each Blackhawk carried approximately nine Australian

soldiers and two Blackhawk crew chiefs.

“The Apaches were aerial escorts for resupply and transportation security,” said Juart.

Once TF No Mercy left the landing zone in Gizab dropping off the first set of Australian troops, the troops on ground received an attack by small arms fire, said Rogers.

The Apaches escorting the air assault mission provided suppressive fire and security for the troops on the ground.

Once the fire had stopped, and they received the ‘all clear,’ they landed four more Blackhawks with additional ground troops for reinforcement, said Rogers.

During this week-long mission, TF No Mercy also supplied air support to the local nationals by transporting their village elders participating in the local “Shura,” meaning gathering or council, to discuss their wants and needs in supporting counterinsurgency, said Price.

Throughout the week, TF No Mercy was supplying the villagers and ground troops with food and

water during resupply missions to Gizab, said Rogers.

Although the mission was interrupted by hostile fire, TF No Mercy continued to support their coalition partners and ally villagers.

It was not until May 1, that the hostile fire was under control and the area was secure, said Rogers. TF No Mercy was then able to transport the detainees.

The Soldiers and pilots of TF No Mercy were dedicated to the mission at hand.

“During the mission, we rotated several different crews, running ten-hour mission blocks,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Adam Marik, TF No Mercy Apache pilot. “However, the first crew was on longer because of ground contact.”

The week long mission aimed to secure suspected insurgents, provide security and support to our coalition partners was a success because of the dedication of our allies and expertise of pilots, crew chiefs and mechanics of TF No Mercy.



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan LoFranco, TF No Mercy UH-60 Blackhawk pilot

**TF No Mercy assisted in transporting village elders to their local “Shura,” meaning gathering or council, in Gizab April 26.**

# ATTACK

## AH-64D Apache

“A two seat cockpit for the best helicopter pilots in the world,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jonathan Koziol, Destiny master gunner. Each pilot has their own temperature controlled stations devided by a blast shield with an opening to exchange items, like a taxi cab.

**Wind vane**  
automatically tells the pilots the speed and direction of the wind which ultimately assists with putting rounds on target.

**19 shot rocket pod**  
carries a variety of different rockets from high explosive, illumination smoke or flachette rockets. All of which can be selected by the pilots in the cockpit depending on the target they are shooting at.

**Hellfire missile system**  
A laser guided missile which seeks a designated target assigned by either ground forces or aviation assets. Used for a variety of purposes including anti-tank and enclosed spaces such as caves.

**Target Acquisition and Designation System (A.K.A. TADS)**  
used primarily by the pilot in the front seat. It contains a laser designator, a camera used during the daytime and FLIR and used to find targets up to five miles away.

**Pilot night vision system**  
uses Forward Looking Infrared (A.K.A. FLIR) for pilots to see at night and under any weather conditions.

*Photo and graphics by Staff Sgt. Sadie Bleistein*

**30 mm Chain Gun**

This gun follows the sight of the pilot using sensors allowing them to fly in one direction and fire toward another. The rounds have the same explosive force as a grenade



# *The Bird Doctors*

*The aircraft maintainers of Task Force No Mercy work tirelessly around the clock to make sure aircraft are available for upcoming missions.*

**Story, photos and graphics  
by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden,  
TF Destiny public affairs  
noncommissioned officer**

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**“ The more they fly,  
the easier they are to  
maintain. ”**  
*- Sgt. 1st Class Peter Drake*



A close-up photograph of a helicopter engine component, likely a compressor or turbine section. The image shows a series of curved, metallic blades or vanes arranged in a row. A prominent feature is a curved metal structure with several oval-shaped cutouts. In the upper left, there is a cylindrical component with a blue stripe. The background is blurred, showing other parts of the engine and some greenery.

**An AH-64 Apache helicopter engine removed from the aircraft and awaiting repair.**



The intricate machinery of the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter engine awaiting its checkup and diagnoses from the bird doctors of TF No Mercy who keeps these birds flying in the skies of Afghanistan.

When helicopters are needed within a moment's notice, it is the mechanics of these fine birds who are responsible for their readiness, just as our flight surgeon is responsible for us.

The aircraft maintainers of Task Force No Mercy work tirelessly around the clock to make sure aircraft are available for upcoming missions.

Helicopter maintenance is a 24-hour operation.

Maintaining helicopters in Afghanistan requires additional maintenance and care compared to Fort Campbell, Ky.

Preventative maintenance for the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters in Afghanistan requires parts to be lubricated every ten flight-hours here, as opposed to every 40 flight-hours back in the states, said Pfc. Emmanuel Carter, TF No Mercy Blackhawk mechanic.

Preventative maintenance is possibly the most important role of these mechanics.

"As long as we keep up with preventative maintenance, we won't run into many issues," said Carter.

Different helicopters require different preventative maintenance schedules.

The Blackhawks will receive a major mechanical inspection every 120 flight-hours, said Carter. "All the way from the nose of the aircraft to the tail."

Although this is a key aspect of their job, they also run into instances where a helicopter needs something specific repaired.

"Typically once the aircraft has had so many flight-hours, something will have to be cleaned or replaced," said Carter.

If a part needs to be replaced due to a malfunction, the pilot is notified by an internal system which alerts them of electronic or mechanical errors.

The system tells them a general area of the malfunction, and then they will troubleshoot to find out the specific problem, said Staff

Sgt. Terrence Vaughn, TF No Mercy Blackhawk maintenance supervisor.

The remote location of TF No Mercy causes the only problem these mechanics have no control over.

One thing that slows them down is when they have to order parts they do not have here; it could take up to a week to be delivered, said Vaughn.

When the maintenance team needs parts, it is the tech supply office that orders and tracks the supply orders.

Not all the aircraft TF No Mercy pilots fly were brought from Fort Campbell. We acquired helicopters from the previous unit, said Carter.

"The birds (aircraft) that have been out here for a while tend to need more TLC," said Carter.

The AH-64 Apache helicopters require a different type of maintenance since they are a heavily armed aircraft.

They have several different

weapons systems consisting of the hellfire missiles, 2.75" rocket and 30 mm machine gun which these Soldiers are responsible for configuring and loading, said Sgt. 1st Class Peter Drake, TF No Mercy Apache armament platoon sergeant.

The Apache armament, avionics and electrical systems repair team is responsible for arming the aircraft as well as maintaining all electrical systems throughout the Apache.

The rocket and missile system locations can be interchanged depending on the needs of the mission, said Drake.

Different technology is used for each weapon system on the Apache which requires electrical systems maintenance.

"The Target Acquisition

Detection system is very labor intensive," said Drake. "This is what the pilot looks through when acquiring a target with the 30 mm machine gun."

Because of their complex systems, the Apaches require a lot of work.

**“ The Apache is like a flying computer. ”**

*-Sgt. 1st Class Peter Drake*

"The Apache is like a flying computer," said Drake. Pretty much every part of this aircraft has a wire or electrical signal running to it.

This platoon is working continually to ensure the electrical systems on the Apaches are functioning properly.

These Soldiers work 12-hour shifts, rather than the eight hours

they are used to, because of the tremendous work load here, said Drake.

The Apaches require several different maintenance inspections.

"There are mandatory 125, 250, and 500-flight-hour inspections," said Drake. "The 500-flight-hour inspection is the major one though."

During the 500-flight-hour inspection, the Apache is practically stripped down and rebuilt.

The flight-hours must be monitored and evenly distributed throughout the Apaches to allow this type of thorough maintenance.

Apaches fly an average of 130 flight-hours per week, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stephen Spicer, TF No Mercy production

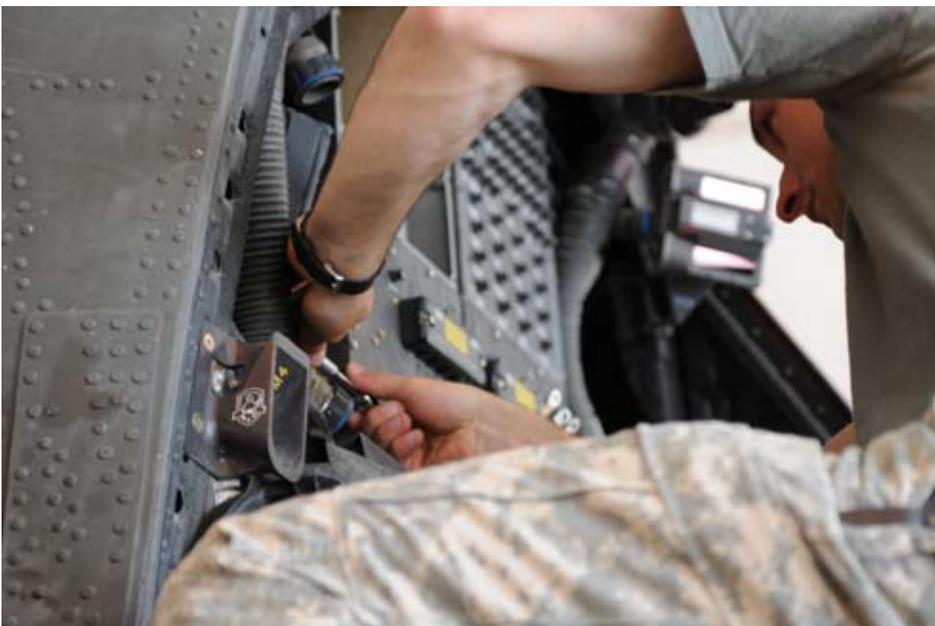


The insides of an AH-64 Apache helicopter exposed during it's routine 500-flight-hour maintenance.



*Above:* Spc. Elizabeth Cruz, TF No Mercy Apache maintainer, looks over the tail of an Apache during a 500-flight-hour inspection.

*Below:* Staff Sgt. Chad Patterson, TF No Mercy Apache armament, avionics and electrical systems repairer, removes a panel from an Apache during its 500-flight-hour inspection.



control officer.

“The more they fly, the easier they are to maintain,” said Drake.



The armament platoon also mans the forward armament refueling point, where aircraft land to refuel and re-arm their weapons systems, while the Apache pilots are out on missions.

Civilians are contracted to refuel the aircraft on Tarin Kowt, but the armament platoon is responsible for arming the mission, said Drake.

The Apache is a very intricate piece of machinery. Soldiers are armed with interactive electronic tactical manuals to help them with their highly complicated job.

They learn a lot from experience, but the IETM helps guide them through any task at hand, said Pfc. Jason Garlow, Apache armament, avionics and electrical systems repairer.

Both the Blackhawk and Apache mechanics use their leaders as mentors and guides.

“The team we have is really good,” said Carter. “We have some experienced maintainers who are there to coach the newer Soldiers if there is ever a question or concern.”

Even though Vaughn has a lot of confidence in his mechanics, he still double-checks their work to ensure the pilot’s safety.

“Once the maintenance is done, I ensure it is done properly and safely,” said Vaughn. “I also keep a historical record of each aircraft.”

The helicopter mechanics contribute greatly to the readiness and speed of TF No Mercy.

In the end, the pilots and crew chiefs can be confident their

aircraft is in top-notch condition and always ready for the next mission at hand.



Right: Pfc. Jeff Greider, TF No Mercy Apache armament, avionics and electrical systems repairer assists Pfc. Jason Garlow, Apache armament, avionics and electrical systems repairer, install an electrical component in the Apache by using the IETM in the cockpit of the Apache.



Below: A series of photos showing Pfc. Jonathon marlow, TF No Mercy Apache maintainer, working on the Apache's 500-flight-hour inspection.





**NAME:** Angel Altamirano  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Nicaragua  
**MOS:** 91W Metal Worker



Welder by trade  
**GUARD BY NIGHT**

Story, photos and graphics by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden,  
*TF Destiny public affairs noncommissioned officer*

**W**hen approaching the American entry control point of Camp Cole, Forward Operating Base Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan by foot, the large concrete barriers confining the pedestrian walkway may give you a wary feeling while local vehicles are being searched.

Of course this is done for your protection, but it acts as a reminder of the danger Soldiers face.

When given the go ahead to approach the ECP, you are greeted with the smile and enthusiasm of Pfc. Angel Altamirano, welder by trade, ECP guard by night! His attitude gives service members

confidence and relieves any apprehensions.

Altamirano has the responsibility of securing the camp where Soldiers live during an eight hour shift every day.

Before deploying to Afghanistan with Task Force No Mercy, Altamirano was diagnosed with a 45 percent loss of hearing.

However, he is medically cleared and physically able to accomplish his mission.

He is confident in his abilities as a Soldier and drives on with the mission at hand.

“I challenge myself every day,” said Altamirano. “I never

put my condition in front of me, because that would stop me from doing what I came here to do.”

He was assigned to guard the ECP after working at the motorpool and the loud noises of the machinery began causing him more discomfort and problems.

“We placed Altamirano on ECP because the noise there would not be as loud, and he only has to work eight hours a day instead of the normal ten or 12 hours,” said 1st Sgt. Darrell Dawkins, E Company, TF No Mercy.

Despite the change of his



Pfc. Angel Altamirano greeting Soldiers at the Camp Cole entry control point while checking IDs.

work environment, he is seeking medical help to relieve the pain and correct the problem.

“We will be sending him back to the rear detachment for more medical treatment,” said Dawkins.

Although he suffers from a hearing problem, he keeps a positive attitude.

Altamirano said he puts his pain aside so he can live each day to the fullest.

“It’s better to be a part of the solution than a part of the problem,” he said.

He is always on guard and alert while checking everyone’s identification, as well as searching the bags and trucks of contractors entering the camp.

His hearing problem does not get in the way of him accomplishing his duty as an ECP guard. He is still able to communicate easily with everyone he works with.

“We work together so that we can do the best job securing this place,” said Altamirano. “Since I am here on a regular basis, I communicate everything with the NCO on duty.”

He will communicate what he sees and learns from the experiences with others he works with to ensure nothing gets past them.

“People are trying to see how we do our job so that they can try to get past us,” he said.

Altamirano said the enemy is looking for their weakness, but they have none when it comes to protecting Camp Cole.

One instance when he suspected someone was testing them was when an Afghan man tried to enter with bottles of body wash strapped to his torso.

He notified his sergeant, and they began to question and search the man.

Altamirano says that he has learned a lot about people from their demeanor and how they act around the Soldiers on guard.

“When people react oddly, then I know something isn’t right,” he said. “I will search harder until I feel that I have done all that I can do to ensure that the job was done right.”

Altamirano is very confident and comfortable as an ECP guard.

Although he endures the discomfort of his hearing problem on a daily basis, he is more worried about other people learning from his mistakes and enjoying his job protecting other Soldiers.

“I am always telling people to wear earplugs,” said Altamirano.

“You don’t think about it now, but it will affect you in the long run.”

Altamirano was an auto mechanic for 15 years before joining the Army. Due to constant loud noise and never wearing earplugs, the nerves in his ears were damaged over the years.

While on guard at the ECP, no one realizes his discomfort because of the smile on his face and his enthusiasm.

Even as Altamirano is preparing to leave Afghanistan to receive medical treatment for his condition, he encourages other Soldiers to keep their earplugs in and their spirits high.



**Pfc. Angel Altamirano**  
searching a service truck.

**VOICES OF DESTINY**



**Soldier Information**

Name		Rank
Tasha Williams		Sgt.
Branch of Service	Company	Unit
USA	E Co.	TF No Mercy
Job title		
Orderly room noncommissioned officer in charge		
What do you do on your off-time here and how does it compare to your off-time at home?		
I go to the gym when I get off of work here and then relax by surfing the internet while catching up on bills and news. <b>Back home I would spend time catching up with my daughter</b> while checking her homework and spending time with her.		



**Soldier Information**

Name		Rank
Louie O. Gonzalez		1st Lt.
Branch of Service	Company	Unit
USA	HHC	TF No Mercy
Job title		
Joint network node platoon leader		
What do you do on your off-time here and how does it compare to your off-time at home?		
<b>I play lacrosse and teach other Soldiers to play</b> who I wouldn't normally be able to back home. I read a lot and play more Xbox. I also get to spend more time playing my guitar here than I am normally able to.		



**Soldier Information**

Name		Rank
Chris Comandao		Spc.
Branch of Service	Company	Unit
USA	HHC	TF No Mercy
Job title		
Supply Specialist		
What do you do on your off-time here and how does it compare to your off-time at home?		
I spent a lot of time out to eat back home. <b>I take Pashto classes and other classes provided here.</b> I go online and read books here like I would back home. I also get to go to church on the weekends.		



**Soldier Information**

Name		Rank
Jonathan Williams		Pfc.
Branch of Service	Company	Unit
USA	HHC	TF No Mercy
Job title		
Human resources specialist Clerk		
What do you do on your off-time here and how does it compare to your off-time at home?		
Here I talk with friends and family on Facebook. I also spend a lot of time completing <b>Army correspondence courses and studying for the board.</b> I have a lot of friends within the unit, so that's not much different from back home.		

Graphics by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

## Giving Thanks to the ones who came before us



**By Staff Sgt. Sadie Blestein,**  
*TF Destiny public affairs officer*

While many Vietnamese were paying homage to their ancestors and looking forward to a year where the opportunity of peace might prevail, the 101st Aviation Battalion was called upon to perform what some may call, the most unique airmobile combat assault mission in the Vietnam War.

The year was 1968, during the Asian Lunar New Year known as “TET,” observed from Jan. 30 until Feb. 1. It is a holiday, which in many ways, is comparable to the American Thanksgiving and New Years.

Tet is a time of year when families reunite, and celebrate the start of the spring planting season. It also signifies a time to make self improvements.

Maj. Gen. Olinto M. Barsanti, 101st Airborne Division commander, published a memorandum Jan. 21, 1968:

“During this three-day holiday period, we must be especially watchful and security conscious. The enemy will take advantage of any opportunity to conduct subversive activities among the people and raid our base camps. The Viet Cong have broken truces before. We must therefore maintain the maximum degree of vigilance in our security posture.”

The TET offensive began as Barsanti’s apprehensive warnings became a reality.

In the early morning of Jan. 31, a Viet Cong sapper platoon dressed in civilian clothes breached the courtyard wall of the American

Embassy in Saigon.

Despite the gallant efforts of the embassy guards, sections of the embassy including parts of the main building fell under control of communist forces.

With such a politically important building on the verge of falling into enemy hands, the quickest way to move troops to this location was by helicopter.

At 5 a.m., the nation called on the 101st Aviation Battalion, and air mission commander, Lt. Col. John R. McGregor to lead this mission.

Because of the Viet Cong infiltration, discrimination of friendly and opposition forces within the complex was impossible, eliminating the use of preparatory fires. Also at risk

from the effects of aerial fires were the sensitive records and equipment housed within the complex.

With the grounds and buildings partially overrun by enemy forces, limited firing capabilities and time running out for our comrades resisting the enemy from within, there was only one possible landing - the roof.

Five UH-1H Huey helicopters, known as "slicks," carried a platoon task force of Soldiers from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment beyond the courtyard walls of the embassy. The task force was to conduct a heliborne assault to the roof top before sweeping and securing the grounds.

The lead bird was commanded by McGregor. He made two attempts to bring the Soldiers to the roof, but met fierce ground fire. The door gunners were at a loss, to return fire would almost certainly result in the loss of friendly forces.

As McGregor went in for his third attempt, friendly ground forces were able to provide covering fire and the first slick landed at 8:34 a.m.

Only one bird was able to hover down to the roof at a time, and as the Soldiers came down, the air assault began.

With the task force moving across an exposed roof top, McGregor and his pilots maneuvered their slicks to shield the infantry as they moved forward and down into the building.

By 8:45 a.m., the air assault was

complete and within 45 minutes, the embassy and surrounding area was secure.

Only one American casualty was suffered during the embassy relief mission; McGregor's door gunner was wounded, but what may have been the most unique airmobile combat assault in the Vietnam War had come to a successful end.

Information from this article was gathered through the TET Offensive Debriefing Report, July 1968; Annual Supplement to the History of the 101st Aviation Battalion, Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1968; and the TET Holiday Memorandum, Jan. 21, 1968.



Graphics by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden



# STAY FLYING *On The* WINGS OF DESTINY

Photos and graphics by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden,  
*TF Destiny public affairs noncommissioned officer*

**Task Force No Mercy Soldiers, Spc. Jessie Peters, ammunition specialist and Sgt. Cameron Marsh, aircraft fuel handler, reenlisting May 2 in the new chapel on Forward Operating Base Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan.**



**Story by Master Sgt. Michael D. Brown,**  
*TF Destiny career counselor*

**T**he success of recruiting and retention has caused the Army to slow down the number of Soldiers that reenlist.

As of April 28, the Army changed retention policy to allow only those Soldiers with an expiration term of service date of Oct. 1, 2010 thru Sept. 30, 2011 to reenlist for options which they are qualified for.

All other Soldiers must wait until Oct. 1, 2010 or reenlist for the needs of the Army, only with no guarantee of assignment or training.

As an exception, Soldiers serving in an over strengthened military occupation specialties will only have the option of reenlisting for a shortage MOS.

A new Selective Reenlistment Bonus-Tiered Program message was released May 7, with an effective date of May 13.

Here is a snap-shot of how the change affected military occupation specialties within the brigade. See your career counselor for more information.



**Staff Sgt. Mariah Parks, Task Force Troubleshooter security noncommissioned officer in charge, is congratulated by her husband Staff Sgt. Richard Parks, Task Force Saber, after her reenlistment ceremony at the Kandahar Airfield boardwalk May 14.**

**(11B) Infantryman**

**Bonus amount decreased for E-1 through E-5**

**(13F) Fire Support Specialist**

**E-1 through E-4 added to bonus program**

**(15D) Aircraft Powertrain Repairer**

**E-1 through E-4 added to bonus program**

**(15N) Avionic Mechanic**

**E-5 added to bonus program**

**(15Q) Air Traffic Controller**

**E-5 added to bonus program**

**(21Y) Geospatial Engineers**

**E-4 through E-6 bonus amount increased**

**(25L) Cable Systems Installer**

**Bonus amount increased**

**(25N) Nodal Network Systems Specialist**

**E-1 through E-4 bonus amounts decreased**

**(15J) Aircraft Armament, Electronic, Avionic  
Systems Repairer**

**Bonus amount decreased**

**(15R) AH-64 Helicopter Repairer**

**E-5 added to bonus program**

**E-6 and E-7 bonus amount decreased**

**(15S) OH-58D Helicopter Repairer**

**E-5 and E-6 bonus decreased**

**E-7 removed from bonus program**

**(15T) UH-60 Helicopter Repairer**

**E-5 bonus amount increased**

**E-7 bonus amount decreased**

**(15U) CH-47 Helicopter Repairer**

**E-1 through E-4 added to bonus program**

**E-6 bonus amount increased**

**(25B) Information Technology Specialist**

**Bonus amounts decreased**

**E-7 removed from bonus program**

**(25U) Signal Systems Specialist**

**E1 through E-4 removed from bonus program**

**E-5 through E-7 added to bonus program**

**(94E) Radio/Communications Security Repairer**

**Bonus amount decreased**

**(46Q) Public Affairs Specialist**

**Bonus increased**

**(46R) Public Affairs Specialist (Broadcasting)**

**Bonus increased**

**(68W) Health Care Specialist**

**Bonus increased**

**(89B) Ammunition Specialist**

**E1 through E-4 added to bonus program**

**(91C) Utilities Equipment Repairer**

**E1 through E-4 added to bonus qualification**

**(91D) Power Generated Equipment Repairer**

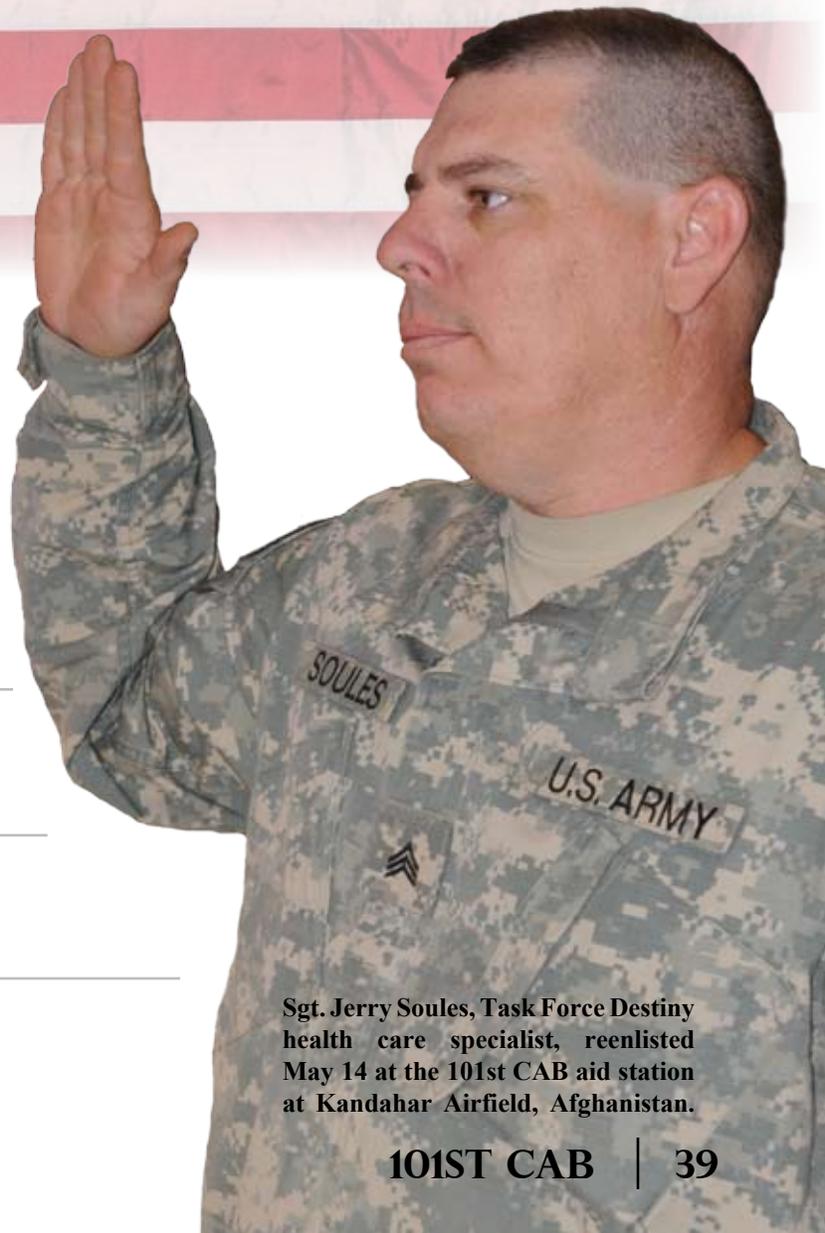
**E1 through E-4 added to bonus program**

**(91W) Metal Worker**

**E1 through E-4 added to bonus program**

**(94R) Avionic Survey Representative**

**E-5 bonus amount decreased**



Sgt. Jerry Soules, Task Force Destiny health care specialist, reenlisted May 14 at the 101st CAB aid station at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.



*A CH-47 Chinook helicopter crew chief surveys the ground as Lt. Col. Bill Ryan and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jonathan Koziol, TF Destiny master gunner, escorts in an AH-64 Apache helicopter on a flight from Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.*

Photo by Staff Sgt. Sadie Bleistein, TF Destiny public affairs officer