

TASK FORCE *Lifeliners*

December 15, 2010

101st Sustainment Brigade

Volume 1, Issue 1



Lifeliners assume command

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The Official 101st Sustainment Brigade Newsletter

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From the Commander

Greetings from Bagram, Afghanistan. I would like to borrow some of your time to share my thoughts with every member of TF LIFELINER. It is a privilege to serve as your Commander and I am humbled to do so alongside such courageous men and women. You have answered the call of your country, making sacrifices, so that we can live safe and free. The war on terror has required courage and resolve. It has demanded a smarter, more lethal, more agile force. It has required you to sacrifice the comforts of home to answer the calling that many people don't understand or may not support. It has asked you to believe in something larger than yourself and have faith in the inalienable God-given right of freedom and democracy. It has challenged you to stand up for what is right and not just what is given to you. Thank you for the undertaking in making the Afghan people safer.

Our mission in Operation Enduring Freedom is to execute operational and tactical sustainment in Regional Command (RC) East, North, and Capital while partnering with ANSF in order to promote security, improve governance and promote reconstruction and development. In this mission, our 101st STB (TF Sustainer) is joined by the 17th CSSB (TF Always Ready) in RC East and Capital, and the 87th CSSB (TF Pyramid) in RC North. TF Always Ready has HHC and 109th TC from Ft. Richardson, AK; 919th TC from Bay City, MI; 592nd Ammo Co from Billings, Montana; 2123rd TRK Co from Richmond, KY; 360th POL TRK Co from Ft. Carson, CO; 109th POL SUP Co from Ft. Lee, VA; and the 277th Maint Co from Kennesaw, GA. TF Sustainer has HHC and A Co from Ft. Campbell, KY; 374th FM Co from Wilmington, DE; 510th HR Co from Ft. Eustis, VA; 11th QM Air Delivery from Ft. Bragg, NC; and the 111th MAC-P from Ft. Lee, VA. TF Pyramid has HHC from Hinesville, GA; 364th QM Distribution Plt from Ft. Bragg, NC; 557th Maint Co from Ft. Irvin, CA; the 900th PLS TRK Co from Brundidge, AL; and the 302nd TC from Ft. Eustis, VA. I am proud to have all of you as part of the Lifeliner team.

The mission this year will be challenging, with personal risk involved, but the importance of full spectrum logistics is key to the 101st Airborne's success. To our families, thank you for your service to our nation. We wish you all the best holiday season. We miss you.

Merry Christmas, Stay Safe, Army Strong
LIFELINERS, AIR ASSAULT



Col. Michael Peterman
Commander, Task Force Lifeliners

From the CSM

Greetings Lifeliner Family and friends,

Happy Holidays and I hope that all of our Lifeliner Family members and friends are doing well. As we head into the holidays we want to thank everyone once again for your outstanding support over the past month and for you're sacrificing while your Soldier is away from home.

All the Lifeliner Soldiers here in Bagram are doing well and have been busy with their continuous support to the Screaming Eagles and every organization in the central, northern, and capital regions of Afghanistan. The complexity of our mission cannot be overstated. Each day we have to balance the need to protect our soldiers with the ability to reach out and engage the Afghanistan people. We are very proud of their enormous contributions, efforts, and professionalism that are displayed each day.

The Sustainers are engaged with providing mentorship to the 201st Corps Logistics Battalion and the 201st Garrison Support Unit. LTC Davis and CSM Najee are partnered with their Afghan counterparts and have already began to provide an aggressive mentorship program that will no doubt help speed up the logistical capabilities and provide the leadership knowledge that will enhance the capabilities of these two units.

While the mission remains enormous, please know your Soldiers are protected by the best equipment our Nation can provide them and they are well trained for their tasks. The weather has turned temperate and we expect January to be wet and muddy (a typical winter in Afghanistan).

Please have a very safe and joyous Holiday Season and know that we are doing ok here. We will continue to be safe and remain vigilant and mission focused.

Merry Christmas and have a safe and wonderful happy New Year!!
Lifeliner 7

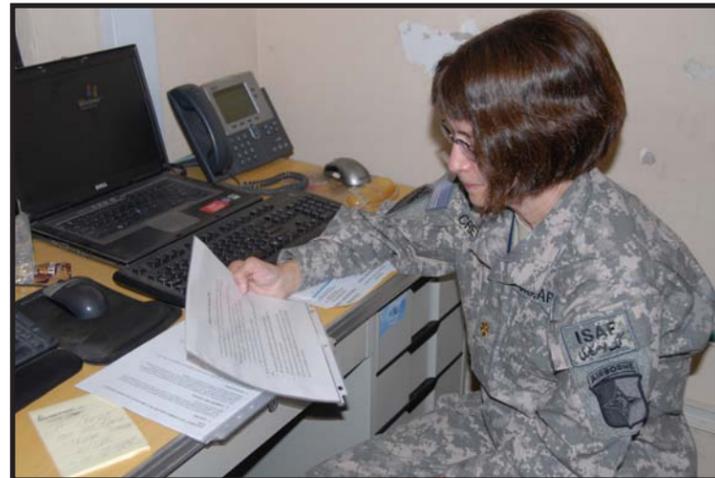


Command Sergeant Major, Task Force Lifeliners

Chaplain's Corner

"Ever-watchful God, who knows the heart and secret desires of all persons search my heart, I pray. See if there be any harm in me; melt all hardness of heart; lead me in your way; and use me for your own purposes in my daily duties at the beginning of this deployment and throughout my time here. Make me a "Lifeline" in word, in work and in spirit. Amen."

From: Maj. Tammie Crews
101st Sustainment Brigade Chaplain



"Prayer leads you to see new paths and to hear new melodies in the air. Prayer is the breath of your life which gives you freedom to go and to stay where you wish and to find the many signs which point out the way to a new land. Praying is not simply some necessary compartment in the daily schedule..., or a source of support in a time of need, nor is it restricted to Sunday morning or as a frame to surround mealtimes. Prayer is living."

From: *Open Hands*
by Henri J. M. Nouwen

Chapel Services

Enduring Faith Chapel

Catholic Mass
Saturday, 1945L

Protestant Traditional Service
Sunday, 0830L

Protestant (ChapelNext) Service
Sunday, 1030L

Catholic Mass
Sunday, 1230L

Protestant (Unplugged) Service
Sunday, 1830L

For Information call:
Enduring Faith Chapel
431-3045



Aviation Chapel

Protestant Service
Sunday, 1900L

AMC Chapel

Protestant Service
Sunday, 2000L

Warrior Chapel

Catholic Mass
Saturday, 1600L

Protestant Service
Saturday, 1000L



Retention



For reenlistment
information
regarding your future
Army career,
contact your unit
reenlistment office



MSG Michael Bonfardine
101st Sustainment Brigade
Career Counselor



SAFETY MESSAGE

Personal Safety

Sexual harassment incidents are on a rise, there was a total of 50 sexual assault incidents during FY09, and have been 15 reported since October. In many cases the victim knew their assailant.

There are several precautions you can take to prevent this from happening to you.

Precautions to consider

1. Regardless if your male or female, always use the buddy system. Never walk alone.
2. Always walk in well lit areas. Avoid walking alone during hours of limited visibility.
3. Ensure someone knows your whereabouts at all times.
4. Always wear your reflector belt during hours of limited visibility.
5. Avoid strangers and report them if they look suspicious.
6. When conducting physical training, ensure it's with a group and stay only in designated running areas. Run against traffic.
7. Maintain situational awareness at all times.
8. Do not permit unnecessary touching.

We can **"BE SAFE,"** if
"Standards Are Fully Enforced."



Why I Serve...

"The reason why I serve in the U.S. Army is because I wanted to get away from the corporate office, working eight to ten hours a day. When I enlisted, I reported to my unit and immediately deployed to Iraq. Before my first enlistment was finished, I completed two deployments. Currently, I'm in theatre for my third time, but this time, in Afghanistan. I reenlisted because I enjoy my job, and plan on making this my career! I have a lot of pride in saying that I've served overseas, leading soldiers in a combat zone and always thankful for a safe travel home. I'm also grateful for having an instructor position at IRT (Innovative Readiness Training), helping train thousands of soldiers to make the missions successful. Most of all, I wouldn't be where I am today without great leadership and support from my family and friends!"



SSG Adam Kaiser
Brigade S-3 (Operations), Brigade Battle NCO
Hometown: Dayton, Ohio

...We Serve Too



"I am a proud Army Wife. I also serve my country by standing next to my husband as he and all the other soldiers fight for our freedom. I love my life as an Army wife even though at times it gets hard running 3 boys around to sports, doing homework and explaining to a 3 year old every night that his dad is not going to be here again to tuck him in! I always thought that after the first deployment we would be used to the ones that follow, being this is the third one and seeing it gets no easier I just pray that they all stay safe and can't wait till they are all home again! I love my job, my husband and my country and I'm very proud of all our soldiers!!!"

Janille Kaiser, wife of SSG Adam Kaiser

If you want to share "why you serve,"
contact the 101st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs Office

Announcements



Reenlistments

SSG Carlos Gomez
SPC Evelyn Velez
SGT James Croghan
SPC Eduardo Jones
SPC Damien Barnes
SFC Narada Johnson
SPC James Rundle

Promotions

SFC Allan Grinter
1LT Mia Morrison
1LT Heidi Miller
CPT Sarah Rodriguez

Birthdays

Nov. 8 SPC Eduardo Jones
Nov. 9 SFC Pete Mayes
Dec. 2 Lindsey Schneider
Dec. 4 SPC Sterling Beveridge
Dec. 26 SPC Levi Hannibal
Dec. 30 Andrew Spencer
Dec. 31 SPC Williams Lipscomb

Anniversaries

Nov. 23 SFC David Lamb
Dec. 7 PFC Donté Gordon
Dec. 27 SPC Sterling Beveridge

Lifeliners Arrive in Afghanistan

By Sergeant 1st Class Pete Mayes

TF-Lifeliners, 101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan, November 23, 2010 - The last soldiers of the 101st Sustainment Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, have arrived in Afghanistan to begin their next "Rendezvous with Destiny".

More than 300 soldiers assigned to the "Lifeliners" brigade left Fort Campbell, Ky., in early November to begin their year-long deployment following 15-months of preparation. They are also the sixth brigade from the division to deploy to Afghanistan this year.

Brigade Executive Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Eoff, said the brigade's mission will be to command all tactical logistics battalions in their specific areas of operation across the entire RC-East, North, and Capital regions.

"We direct those units to provide all the classes of supply and maintenance, and keep logistics automation systems running for the subordinate units that belong to those battalions," he said. "We'll also supply back-up support to the brigade support battalions of the combat brigade in their individual battle spaces."

The "Lifeliners" are deploying in support of the Global War to Terrorism for a record fifth time, the most of any active duty sustainment brigade. They will replace the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division and fight alongside their fellow Screaming Eagle brothers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Eoff had nothing but high praise for the brigade's predecessors, saying "they did an outstanding job of setting us up for success."

"The transition at the staff level could not have been easier," he said. "Their automated products they've handed off, their experience and wisdom they gained, and the cross-talk has been truly

exceptional."

"We've had very little friction with the processes they use and the ones we're going to use in making sure the combat Soldier wants for nothing on the battlefield," Eoff said.

The brigade was last at BAF in 2009. For Eoff, who is starting his second combat deployment to Afghanistan, the airfield has vastly changed since he was last here in 2003.

"Back then, (BAF) was a very small and very remote place, with nowhere near the things you see now," he said. "The capability that exists here now is amazing. The changes here ... overwhelming would be a good word for me to use."

This deployment will be the first for many Soldiers assigned to the Sustainment Brigade. The amenities and programs located on BAF will go a long way in helping those Soldiers develop a routine, Eoff said.

"We've got some assets at our disposal to help ease that transition and put their minds at ease," he said. "They're here to make sure the Soldiers know somebody is here that cares for them and cares about them on the ground."

Those types of programs should prove to be beneficial to first-time deployers such as Specialist Raul Ayala, a brigade legal specialist for the 101st Sustainment Brigade.

"I'm looking forward to this deployment for the general experience and knowledge of it," he said.

Even the act of calling home to his wife of four years has taken on a special meaning.

"I call her every day, every night," Ayala said. "She's taking this deployment very well."

The Sustainment Brigade will officially take over operations from the 82nd Sustainment Brigade during a Uncasing of the Colors Ceremony on December 2.



(Clockwise) Col. Pete Bosse, the 101st Sustainment Brigade rear-detachment commander, sends off a group of Lifeliners. (U.S. Army Photo by Cpt. Russell Willbanks) Staff Sgt. Kofi Nyarko and Chap. Cpt. Vincent Hardy greet Soldiers on the flightline at Bagram Air Field (U.S. Army Photo by Sergeant 1st Class Pete Mayes) Soldiers with the 101st Sustainment Brigade arrive at Bagram Air Field. (U.S. Army Photo by Sergeant 1st Class Pete Mayes) Lifeliners board a bus at Bagram Air Field to begin their mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (U.S. Army Photo by Sergeant 1st Class Pete Mayes) Command Sgt. Maj. Katrina Najee, the 101st Special Troops Battalion command sergeant major, meets with Soldiers as they arrive at Bagram Air Field (U.S. Army Photo by Donte Gordon)



One stop, one center

By Private First Class Michael Vanpool
TF-Lifeliners, 101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan, Nov. 22, 2010 - The construction of a new distribution center is underway on Bagram Air Field.

The Joint Distribution Management Center will allow customers timely, accurate information on the status of their cargo at one centralized location for Regional Commands East, North and Central, said Maj. Theresa Armstrong, distribution chief for support operations, 82nd Sustainment Brigade (Providers), 82nd Airborne Division.

"It's about collaboration, coordination and synchronization," Armstrong said. "It's about getting the job done and not making it harder on everyone. Distribution is getting the right stuff to the right place at the right time."

Currently, customers must go through several agencies to find, secure and transport their goods coming into Bagram. When the JDMC is operational, customers can contact the center for all the information on the status of their cargo, Armstrong said.

The JDMC will provide service to various units, including the the 101st Sustainment Brigade (Lifeliners), 101st Airborne Division, 401st Army Field Services Brigade, 419th Movement Control Battalion, Base Operations, Combined Joint Task Force-101, and Flour Services.

The 82nd Sustainment Brigade started the project, and it will be completed by the 101st Sustainment Brigade. The transfer of the logistics mission from the Providers to the Lifeliners is currently taking place.

The sustainment brigades manage the distribution of all cargo and supplies for Regional Commands East, North and

Central, said Maj. Matthew Reynolds, the distribution chief for support operations, 101st Sustainment Brigade. This is accomplished by making sure transportation managers and liaison officers know what's going on and are synchronized.

Agencies throughout Bagram pooled their resources to support the sustainment brigades construct the building. Officers, noncommissioned officers, junior enlisted soldiers and civilians donated their time and construction expertise to accelerate the construction of the JDMC. The 82nd Sustainment Brigade supplied the building materials.

"Distribution needs to be a team effort for everyone involved," Armstrong said. "All major stakeholders for distribution are involved in the project."

The involved parties are working side by side from the ground breaking to the completion and operation of the JDMC.

"If everyone builds it together, they now have a vested interest in its operation and success," Armstrong said.

Once completed, 40 to 50 servicemembers from the different agencies will operate the JDMC, Armstrong said.

"All the transportation managers will be linked together in order to oversee distribution for Regional Commands East, North and Central," Reynolds said.

Originally, the project was estimated to take years to implement. But with the available resources pooled together, the operational start of the center gained momentum. The construction started Nov. 1 and the JDMC is slated to be operational by the end of December.

"If we can fix Bagram, we can fix all of Afghanistan," Armstrong said. "Before, we've been re-active, but now we're working on maturing the theater and logistics comes first."

Lifeliners mail room prepares for massive holiday season



Private Larry Fitzwater, mail room clerk of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Sustainment Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, organizes holiday packages. Fitzwater is expecting over 500,000 lbs of mail throughout the holiday season. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Donté Gordon)

By Private 1st Class Donté Gordon
TF-Lifeliners, 101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan, Nov. 23, 2010 - The time of year has come again when family and friends send their love, gifts, and seasonal greetings to those who are unable to be home.

The 101st Sustainment Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, is expected to receive over 500,000 pounds of mail this Christmas, eclipsing more than any unit on Bagram. This year, Private Larry Fitzwater, mail room clerk for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Sustainment Brigade (Lifeliners), will have a key role in making sure Soldiers and their families receive their mail.

"I've been told to prepare for a heavy load around this time of year," Fitzwater said, as the brigade prepares to take over postal operations from 82nd Sustainment Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. "I'm definitely going to prepare myself to stay an hour extra each day during Christmas, but not too much longer during Thanksgiving," Fitzwater said.

The Lifeliners received orders for their fifth deployment to Afghanistan this past

September. They will replace the 82nd Sustainment Brigade and join coalition forces during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Fitzwater has worked as a postal clerk for several months. This is his first deployment. "My former NCO placed me in the mail room. I love my job, and I love being able to have success without any confusion," he said.

Within their first month of arriving in Afghanistan, the 101st Sustainment Brigade accumulated roughly 214,483 pounds of mail, seven times more of which was on ground before they arrived. Although the numbers reflect an already hefty load, Fitzwater said he understands that there's plenty more to come.

"This is a very special time of year for anyone who knows what this holiday is truly about," he said. "That's why I love what I do. It's important, and very gratifying. I enjoy it when the soldiers come around to receive their mail; it makes pretty good conversation."

Soldiers all over the world are aware of how important it is to get their packages out early, avoiding the 'last minute rush'

to the post offices on their respective bases.

"There's only so much mail you can put into the outgoing at one time," Fitzwater said.

"The weight of your package will dictate whether or not it can be loaded in my area of operation, and then later, sent away to the post office by me," Fitzwater said, pointing out the packages needing a serious case of care.

"If soldiers bring mail that exceeds the weight limit, they must take their package to the mail deliverers themselves. I guess you can say I'm an everyday post man, just a better uniform."

Fitzwater then went on to talk about the many memories he's had as a civilian, and soldier during the holiday season.

"I remember living in Florida for about a year, and I hadn't seen my mother throughout the entire time I was away," Fitzwater said.

He said he changed dramatically, adding some weight and facial hair. "When I walked through the door for the first time in a long time, she saw me and couldn't recognize me at all. When she found out it was her son, she went nuts," Fitzwater said, laughing as he could recall her expression.

Fitzwater said it's important for soldiers to be able to hear from their families, especially during times like this. "Even when I'm away from my real family, I have my other family here," he said.

"For a while, I wasn't able to operate anything but military vehicles, which resulted in me having to tell someone I wasn't able to get their mail," Fitzwater said. "That never felt good, especially knowing I'm a better soldier than that."

Fitzwater, understanding how important this time of year is to his fellow soldiers, vowed to never let those past hiccups happen again.

"This time it's for real," he said. "Not that it wasn't before, but now it's crunch time. I'm more motivated than I've ever been; especially knowing how much of a morale booster this can be for my battle buddies and seniors throughout the unit."



Col. John O'Neil, the 82nd Sustainment Brigade commander, briefs representatives from several agencies across Bagram Air Field on the Joint Distribution Management Center at a rehearsal of concept drill, Nov. 22. (U.S. Army photo by Private First Class Michael Vanpool)

Lifeliners assume command in Afghanistan

101st Sustainment Brigade to oversee logistical operations; commander has grand ambitions for unit

By Sergeant 1st Class Pete Mayes

TF-Lifeliners, 101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan, December 2, 2010 – The 101st Sustainment Brigade officially took control of logistical operations from the 82nd Sustainment Brigade during a Transfer of Authority ceremony.

With that ceremony, the “Lifeliners” have assumed operational control of logistics for RC-East, Central and North. For Brigade commander Col. Michael Peterman, the mission is more than about moving cargo and supplies from one route to another.

“We must give (the Afghan people) life skills. We have to help the Afghan National Army build and hold the muscle necessary for securing their country,” he said. “As we go toward 2014, we can look them in the eye and know that we helped them build a system where they can support themselves,” he said.

Peterman is an advocate of “three-dimensional logistics” – that is, using available air and ground space to get needed cargo to Soldiers at the various Forward Operating Bases in his regions. But he also said he is an advocate of building partnerships with the Afghan people that will lead them to greater self-sufficiency.

This is the brigade’s fifth deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Since assuming command of the 101st Sustainment Brigade in June 2009, everything Peterman has tried to prepare his unit for has been for this purpose.

They spent the past 18 months preparing for their mission. One of the key themes Peterman stressed to his troops was partnership with the local Afghan populace. That meant his brigade taking a hands-on approach on helping ensure the Afghan’s economic success as well as being able to protect their own.

“We found that many of the companies here don’t hire Afghan workers. That is not supporting Gen. (David) Petraeus’ intent here,” Peterman said. “There’s a huge potential here for recruitment and growth.”

As for the overarching mission of getting supplies to the Soldiers, Peterman has a checklist of projects, including aerial delivery, fuel transport, and mail distribution. Other projects include overseeing the construction of a Joint Management Distribution Center and working with the Afghan National Army logistics commander at FOB Dawson-Petrie.

Peterman and Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. David Thompson spent Thanksgiving Day visiting Soldiers around BAF, thanking them for what they do and for the upcoming mission.

“Many of these guys have been deployed here three or four times. It’s the least we can do for these guys,” Peterman said. “We succeed at our mission because we have good leaders and Soldiers who are a part of this.”

The commander also praised the 82nd Sustainment Brigade for helping facilitate a “seamless transition.”

“This is what professionals do. We’ve been ripping together for almost one year. Anytime you have two great units working together, you’ll have a great hand-off,” he said. “We want to do the same for our replacement when they arrive.”

Sustainment Brigades in general do not receive the media attention of their counterparts in Brigade Combat teams, or Aviation units. To a certain degree, Peterman said that’s fine with him.

“We’re the quiet professionals. We know who we are and we don’t need the fanfare,” he said.

“The smile on a Soldier’s face when he receives his mail, or food on the table ... that’s our thanks,” Thompson said.



Thanksgiving spirit at Camp Dawson-Petree

By Specialist Justin Sepuvela

101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP DAWSON-PETREE, Afghanistan, Nov. 25, 2010 - Thanksgiving is a time of celebration when families gather around the dinner table and enjoy good food and fellowship. And for the 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade stationed at Camp Gamberi, Afghanistan, it was no different.

Held inside Camp Dawson-Petree's dining facility, Maj. General John Campbell, commander of Combined Joint Task Force-101 and 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), spent time talking with the Soldiers. He stressed the importance of the U.S. and Afghanistan collaboration and the coordinated effort together to improve the situation in Afghanistan, as well as the significance of each other's part. Along with him were Afghan Col. Massau, of the 201st CORPS GSU, and Afghan Col. Rahman, of the CLK.

Before the meal, Chap. (Capt.) Vincent Hardy, the 101st STB

chaplain, offered a prayer to all the Soldiers, wishing them safety and good fellowship during their deployment.

Following the prayer, it was time to eat. The Flour staff generously prepared a feast, which consisted of more than the American staple of turkey and stuffing. There were many foods to choose from, including shrimp, ham, sweet potato pie, and even eggnog. To compliment the entire meal, the Flour staff crafted an ice sculpture in the likeness of a "screaming eagle," the mascot of the 101st Airborne Division, and a gaint paper-mache turkey. Fellowship was not lost on the meal though. The Afghan National Army, American Soldiers and civilians all came together and enjoyed each other's company and conversation.

The coalition friendship has definitely grown stronger not only during this Thanksgiving dinner, but since U.S. troops were first invited to be stationed at Camp Dawson-Petree. It has become a lasting friendship and un forgettable memory for all who have taken part in its endeavor.



"We can all learn from our young Soldiers"



Second Lieutenant Courtney Wrinkles, Sergeant First Class Katherine Lawson-Best and Sgt. Regina Reyna of Human Resources Operation Branch, Support Operation, Task Force-Lifeliners. (Photo courtesy of Sergeant First Class Katherine Lawson-Best)

By Sgt. 1st Class Katherine Lawson-Best

101st Sustainment Brigade Support Operations

Sgt. Regina M. Reyna comes from a proud family who has served in just about all branches of the Armed Forces except the U.S. Coast Guard. The Houston, Texas native works in the Human Resources Operations Branch (S.P.O.) in the 101st Sustainment Brigade as an Information Management Systems Sergeant (42F). She's been in the Army for four and a half years and is on her second deployment, in the same unit, returning to the same location here in Bagram, Afghanistan. During her first deployment, she was assigned to the "Lifeliners" S-1 shop as the awards clerk.

Second Lieutenant Courtney M. Wrinkles and Sergeant First Class Katherine E. Lawson-Best are deployed for the first time. Wrinkles has been in the Army a little under two years, while Lawson-Best has been for more than 18 years. From the time they were alerted that they were going to Bagram, they started asking the young NCO for "deployment hints".

Questions ranged from "Where and how do we live" to "How's the food in the DFAC?" Reyna willingly answered their questions and gave them other helpful advice so they'd both be prepared. Reyna also helped to prepare Private 1st Class Jordan Bailey for deployment as well by conducting proper pre-combat checks and inspections to ensure he was ready for his "Rendezvous with Destiny". "I don't know if I'd be prepared if it weren't for my NCO, SGT Reyna" Bailey said.

They also had their Officer-In-Charge, Major Michael Thiesfeld, Master Sgt. Richard Randolph, Warrant Officer 1 Lashawn Ortello, all Iraq war veterans, to rely on as well. The Soldiers in HROB are not only a team, they're a family!

Lifeliners return: *A brighter symbol, another rendezvous*

By Private 1st Class Donte Gordon

TF Lifeliners, 101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan, December 5, 2010 – On the eve of the “Transfer of Authority” ceremony, Soldiers with Task-Force Lifeliners, 101st Sustainment Brigade, began constructing a two-story replica of their Brigade insignia.

The symbol, known to many Lifeliners as the “Death Star,” stands two stories tall, and roughly 50 feet in width. Just like the symbol displayed on the unit’s patch, the towering “Death Star” displays an aura of power and command, making everyone on Bagram Air Field aware of the unit’s presence.

This is the Brigade’s second time constructing the heralded “Death Star.” It was first built during the Brigade’s previous deployment to Afghanistan in 2008.

“The first time we built the Brigade symbol, it took about two weeks,” said Sgt. Maj. Doug Emmons, the Operations Sergeant Major of 101st Sustainment Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

Emmons said the command group drew up the plans, and assigned soldiers to create the structure.

“We knew (back then) we were going to do something special prior to our arrival,” he said. “We packed the CONEX with the necessary materials needed to get the job done, and got it done.”

Sgt. David Eldridge, a clerk in the 101st Sustainment Brigade’s S-3 shop, was involved in constructing the Brigade symbol during the last deployment. This time, he instructed his fellow noncommissioned officers who were involved in the project for the first time.

“Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Blake, the former (brigade) Command Sergeant Major, helped build the symbol the first time, as well as being one of the originators of the purpose, design, and construction,” Eldridge said.

“This time around, it took us less time to put this project together; just under a week,” Eldridge said.

Sergeant Major Emmons said the “Death Star” symbol is meant to give Soldiers inspiration.

“Emmons said the brigade’s current’ insignia had not yet been approved by the Institute of Heraldry when the “Death



(Top) The completed 101st Sustainment Brigade insignia stands 2 stories tall and is 50 feet wide. (U.S. Army photos by Private 1st Class Donte Gordon) (Bottom) Sgt. Patrick Croghan, Sgt. David Eldridge and Sgt. Leon Crosswell, operations clerks for the 101st Sustainment Brigade, begin construction on the brigade insignia outside TF- Lifeliners headquarters.

Star” was first put up. “It took a year to get our symbol approved,” he said.

Finding an actual official name for the structure – other than the “Death Star” - might take even longer.

“I’ve heard it all,” Emmons said, laughing at all of the names and random remarks about the Brigade symbol.

“Everyone has their special name for it. I’ve heard ‘Death Star’, ‘Ninja Star’, and ‘Throwing Star’. I’ve even heard someone say they could probably see it from the moon,” Emmons said, continuing to laugh, being tickled by the comments and names given to the Lifeliner Symbol.

Settling from his laughter, Emmons expressed his personal view of the Brigade symbol, further explaining why he believes it’s such an inspiration.

“Great motivation for the Soldiers, a tribute to the Lifeliners,” he said. “You want to let everyone know who you are. Let them know that we’re here.”



Obama visits Soldiers in Afghanistan

Lifeliners among audience of president’s surprise visit

By Sergeant 1st Class Pete Mayes

TF-Lifeliners, 101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan, Dec. 3, 2010 - More than 2,000 enthusiastic service members, including soldiers with the 101st Sustainment Brigade (Lifeliners), were on hand to welcome President Obama, who made a surprise visit here Friday night.

The president praised the troops for the continued efforts in their fight against the insurgents, saying the recent surge has weakened the Taliban. He also thanked them for their selfless sacrifice of spending time away from their families this holiday season.

“I wanted to spend some time with the men and women of the greatest fighting force the world has ever known,” he said. “In the 21st Century, there are people who shrink away from the responsibility you embrace... that is the legacy you have forged and carry forward.”

The visit was the second time Obama visited troops in Afghanistan, who have been here for the past nine years.

The brigade had been notified of a special visit from a “very important dignitary,” the day before, but primary leaders did not receive the full details of the visit until hours before the event.

“They kept a tight hush on this for security purposes,” said First Sgt. Terence Clay, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade. “Having been deployed before, with all this going into effect, it didn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out what they were preparing for.”

Soldiers from the brigade gathered together shortly before 8 p.m. and then headed toward a hangar on the base. The president came out after 10: 30 p.m. and spoke to the troops for about 19 minutes.

“The process was long, but it was worth the wait,” Clay said.

Obama also addressed his administration’s decision to freeze the salaries of top Federal workers, but not its military, and also pledge to defeat Al-Qaeda. He also spent approximately 45 minutes greeting Soldiers and taking pictures with them after his speech before leaving.

Spc. Stevie Massey, a mechanic with the 101st Sustainment Brigade, said she didn’t focus much on Obama’s speech because she was too busy taking photos.

“I was really excited,” she said. “People were yelling and screaming all over the place.”

Massey said the crowd treated their photos like collector’s cards. “Everyone is asking to trade pictures with each other,” she said.

This was Massey’s second time seeing Obama in person. She was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, during the shooting incident when he came and visited the post.

“This was definitely a lot better this time around,” she said.

Clay described Obama’s speech as “timely.”

“His intent was to reassure us and show his appreciation for what we’re doing, as well as recognize the real heroes of this conflict, which are the families,” he said. “Anytime a leader gets in the foxhole with his troops means a lot to us. He allowed people to come here and see him, touch him, talk to him, rather than see him on TV.”

Staff Sgt. Michael Simon, a supply NCO for the 101st Sustainment Brigade, echoed Clay’s sentiments.

“Anytime the Commander-in-Chief takes time out of his schedule to visit the troop reinforces his commitment to us,” he said. “He’s letting us know that he’s with us and will stick with until the mission is complete.”

(Below) President Barack Obama receives an 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) t-shirt from Maj. John Campbell, commanding general for the 101st. (U.S. Army photo by Private 1st Class Donte Gordon) (Bottom left) President Obama speaks to the 2,000 servicemembers in attendance. He thanks them for their service and reassured them of his support. (U.S. Army photo by Private 1st Class Donte Gordon) (Bottom right) President Obama met with Soldiers and took photos with them for about 45 minutes after his speech (U.S. Army photo by Private 1st Class Donte Gordon)



A day in the *Life* Liners

