

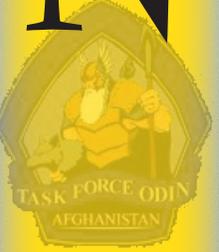
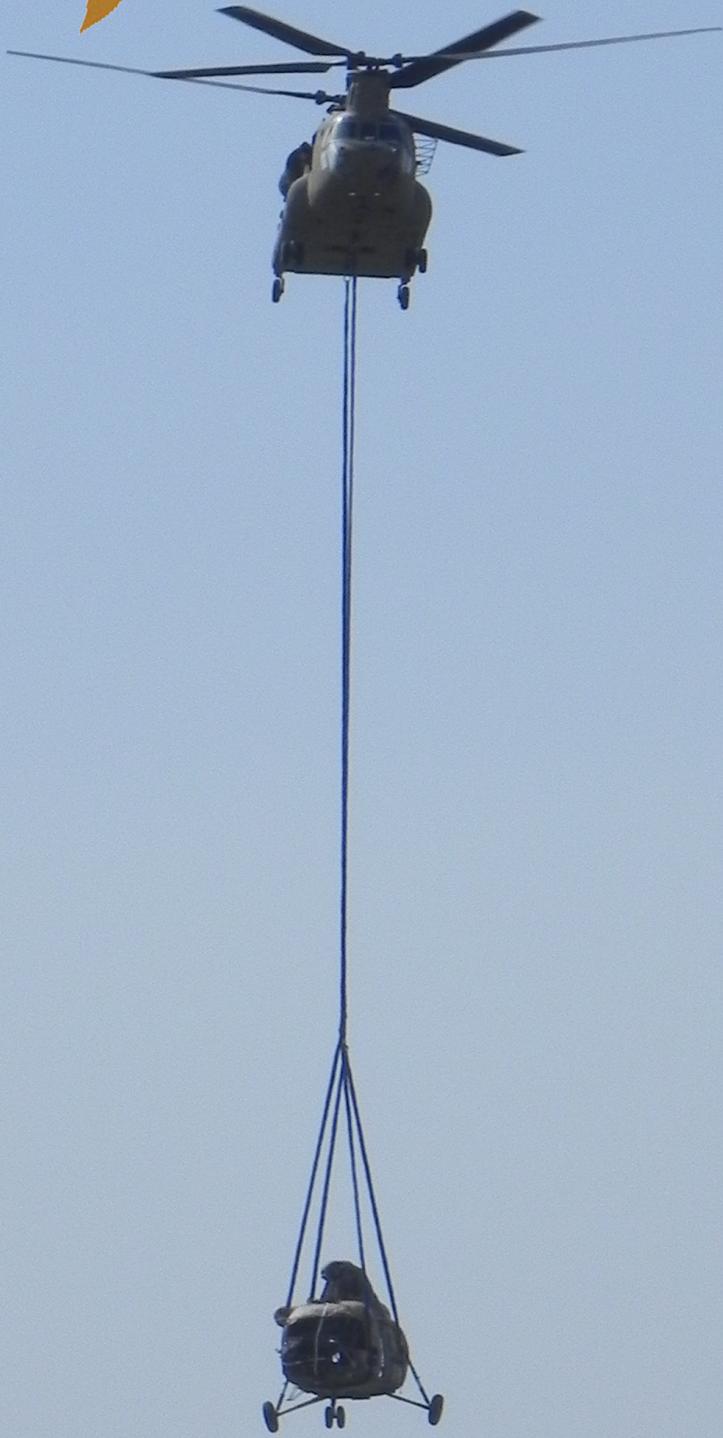
EYE

JUNE 2011



of the

FALCON



MANIFEST

4 From the Leaders



6 Two deployed officers prove service after ostomy is possible



Knighthawk Soldiers promoted **9**

TF Gambler transfers authority to TF Attack **10**

Falcon Soldiers participate in mass casualty exercise **12**

16 Falcon Soldiers provide humanitarian aid to Afghan girls' school



Army pilot receives Distinguished Flying Cross **18**

Equal Opportunity **19**

306th Military Intelligence Battalion takes reins of TF ODIN **20**

22 Dual military and deployment

23 Task Force Falcon says "farewell" to leader

24 ODIN pilot takes up photography



ANSF train medical evacuation procedures **28**

Tigershark pilots remembered at FOB Salerno **32**

EYE OF THE FALCON

June 2011

Falcon Flyer is published in the interest of the servicemembers of the 10th Mountain Infantry (LI) Division's Combat Aviation Brigade. The Falcon Flyer is an Army-funded newsletter authorized for members of the U.S. Army, under the provision of AR 360-1. Contents of the Falcon Flyer are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, or Department of the Army.

10th Mountain Division Commander
Maj. Gen. James Terry

10th CAB Commander
Col. Pedro Almeida

10th CAB Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Patton

10th CAB PAO
Sgt. 1st Class JR Williams

10th CAB PAO NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot

Editor
Pfc. Michael Syner

CONTACT
481.6597

TASK FORCE TIGERSHARK
FOB Salerno
Lt. Col. David Kramer
Command Sgt. Maj. Nicolas Carter

TASK FORCE KNIGHTHAWK
FOB Shank
Lt. Col. Lars Wendt
Command Sgt. Maj. Carlos Escalara

TASK FORCE PHOENIX
Bagram Airfield
Lt. Col. Dennis McKernan
Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Dvorsky

TASK FORCE SIX SHOOTERS
FOB Fenty
Lt. Col. Christopher Downey
Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick McGuire

TASK FORCE EAGLE
Bagram Airfield
Lt. Col. Albert Stiller
Command Sgt. Maj. Zacchaeus Hurst

TASK FORCE ODIN-A
Bagram Airfield
Lt. Col. Kevin Diermeier
Command Sgt. Maj. Marion Travis

TASK FORCE GAMBLER
FOB Sharana
Lt. Col. Jeffrey Thompson
Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Grumbach

TASK FORCE TAEGUEK
Bagram Airfield
Lt. Col. Myougho Choi

TASK FORCE HIPPO
FOB Sharana
Lt. Col. Karel Krejcirik



PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- U.S. Army Spc. Tyler Neff, a flight medic with Company C, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Wyoming Army National Guard, and a native of McCook, Neb., watches as soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, and Afghan National Security Forces carry a litter to the helicopter during medical evacuation training at Combat Outpost Wilderness, Afghanistan, June 3. The training ensured U.S. and Afghan soldiers are proficient in medical evacuation procedures. (Photo by Capt. Jason Beck, 210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Read the rest of the story on page 28

From Falcon 6:

Families, Friends, and Soldiers of Task Force Falcon and 10th CAB,

I hope that the summer is treating all of you well. Here in Afghanistan, where the weather varies between the sweltering heat of Jalalabad and Salerno and the cool evenings of Shank and Sharana, we watched the blistering heat wave that hit many of you stateside this summer. I hope that you are able to find ways to beat the heat and enjoy the summer months.

The mission here continues to move forward with the immeasurable contributions of your Soldiers in this fight. A number of significant changes have occurred in our structure of forces here. Foremost, in May we saw the departure of 101st Airborne Division as our higher headquarters and the arrival of the 1st Cavalry Division to command Regional Command-East. The transition was smooth and we wished good luck and Godspeed to the 101st upon their return to Fort Campbell. We have rolled in just fine under the leadership of 1st Cavalry Division as they carry on the complex challenge of increasing security throughout eastern Afghanistan.

Another very significant change was the departure of two key battalion formations that were folded into Task Force Falcon since the day we assumed the mission in October. Task Force ODIN saw the change in units. LTC Kevin Diermeier and CSM Marion Travis returned to Fort Hood, Texas with their superb team of ODIN warriors after a very successful year of providing intelligence support throughout Afghanistan. In their stead, we now have a new team to form ODIN, led by LTC Dave Rogers and CSM Joseph Depenhart. Also returning to Fort Hood after a phenomenal year of aviation operations was Task Force Gambler, led by LTC Jeff Thompson and CSM Mark Grumbach. They were backfilled by Task Force Attack, led by LTC Doug Brockhard and CSM Anthony Smoots, also from Fort Hood. We recognize the great accomplishments of TF ODIN and TF Gambler; they were superb teammates and provided immense value to the ground forces in RC-East and throughout the country. Their contributions will not go unrecognized. We also warmly welcome our new teammates in this tough fight; they have already exceeded all expectations and are off to a great start.

Significant change is around the corner. By the time you read these notes, the 10th CAB from Fort Drum will have started transitioning out our MEDEVAC unit, which will return to Fort Drum after an unprecedented mission of saving lives of coalition Soldiers and Afghan civilians alike. We will welcome the MEDEVAC company from 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, as we know they also have a challenging year of supporting our Soldiers ahead.

This has been a very, very tough deployment for our Soldiers and Families to date, throughout Task Force Falcon. I would like to take a moment to remember our Fallen Heroes, who will always be remembered as Soldiers, Aviators and Americans who lost their lives in the struggle for Afghanistan's future. I am certain that each of you recall the loss of CW3 Ken White and CW2 Brad Gaudet

on June 5th, as their Kiowa Warrior helicopter went down while they were engaging insurgent fighters. They join the other losses we have endured to date in CW2 Terry Varnadore and CW2 Chris Thibodeau. Each of these men sacrificed their lives in the service of their Nation and in the service of the people of Afghanistan; we will never forget them or their families. Please keep their Families in your thoughts and prayers.

Your Soldiers are doing amazing work here, and each of you deserves to know it. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for news of your units and the immeasurable impact they are having on this mission. You can be proud of your Soldiers, and I know that those Soldiers cannot do what they have done without your support back home. I thank you for that support.

Fly to Glory!
Col. Pedro Almeida
10th Combat Aviation Brigade
Falcon 6



From Falcon 7:

Families, Friends, and Soldiers of Task Force Falcon and 10th CAB,

Our Soldiers continue to perform their duties honorably as they have throughout our deployment. As we get closer to the end of our tour, we must remain focused on the mission. Leaders and Soldiers should ensure standards are met and safety procedures followed. Standards and safety must come first in our culture and we should safeguard ourselves from complacency.

Soldiers, continue to challenge yourselves physically and professionally. Continue making good decisions. Avoid settling for mediocrity. Don't merely meet the standard – raise the bar and set high standards for others to follow.

Families and friends, you can be very proud of the job your Soldiers are doing here. Your continued support keeps morale high and is greatly appreciated.

Let's not forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We honor their sacrifices and commit their legacy to the history of this great brigade.

Fly to Glory!
Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Patton
10th Combat Aviation Brigade
Falcon 7



Two deployed officers prove service after ostomy is possible

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class JR Williams
Task Force Falcon Public Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Cuyler began his quest nearly three years ago. He wanted people to know they could achieve a full, active life following ostomy surgery. In particular, he wanted veterans and fellow soldiers to know that life following this type of surgery existed.

“The United Ostomy Association of America is working with Veterans’ Administration hospitals to bring support and awareness to service members who need to have an ostomy,” explained the Hannibal, N.Y., native. “Veterans aren’t the only ones who need to know what to expect following this kind of surgery. Some of our Soldiers injured by improvised explosive device blasts need an ostomy as a result of their injuries.”

Cuyler advocates the veterans outreach program because he knows all about living with an ostomy. In July 2007, following a seven-year battle with ulcerative colitis, doctors removed his entire colon. The surgery left him with a stoma — an opening through his abdomen with an appliance bag attached. Typically, this kind of surgery meant a discharge from active duty; but Cuyler set his sights on staying in.

After 15 months of research and physical therapy, a medical board cleared Cuyler for active duty and a return to flight status. A 12-month deployment quickly followed and during this time, Cuyler was presented with the Tony Snow Public Service Award from the Great Comebacks program.

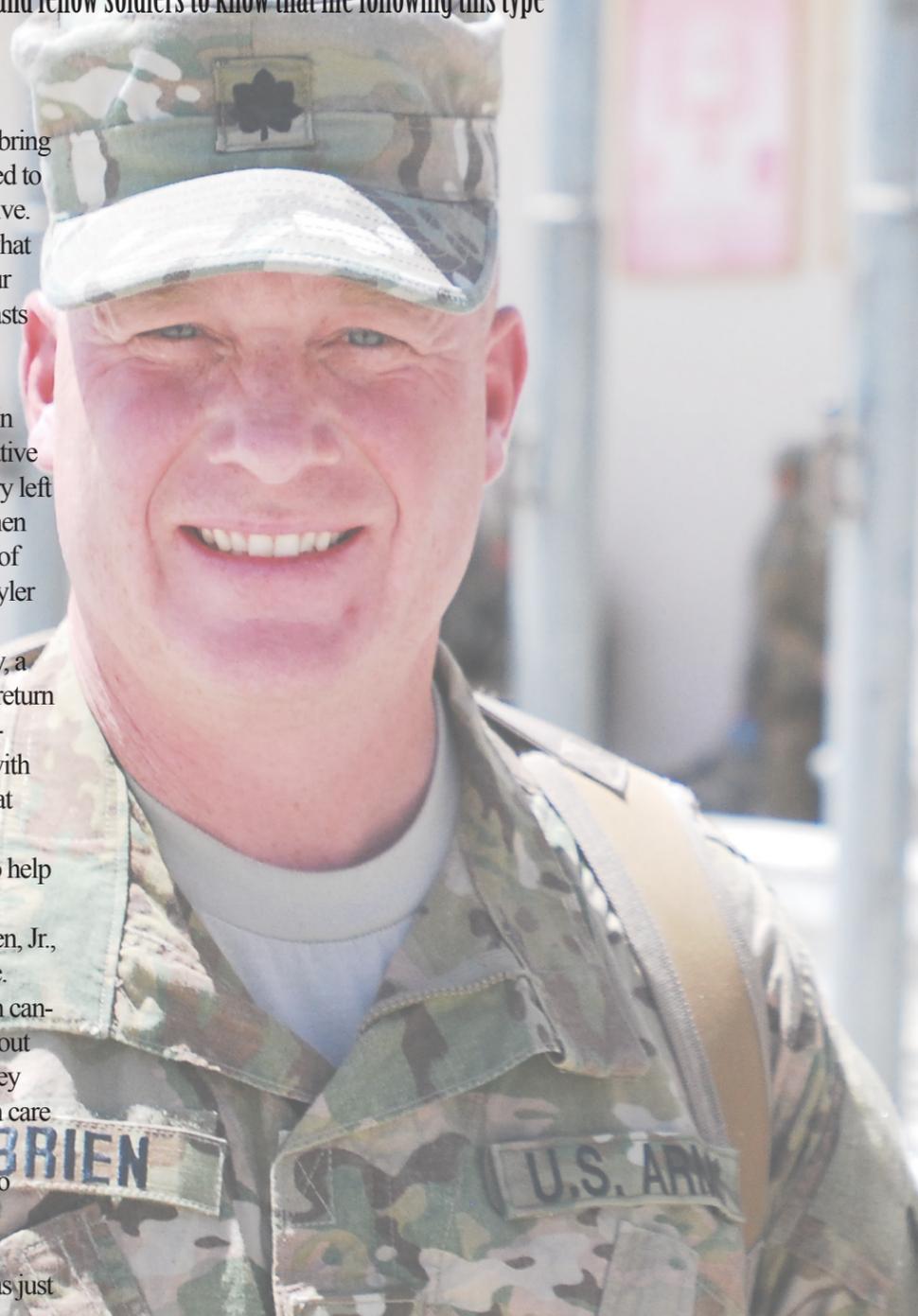
That’s when the pilot began to raise awareness to help others in a similar situation.

Others like U.S. Army Lt. Col. William J. O’Brien, Jr., the Director of Public Works for Task Force Yankee.

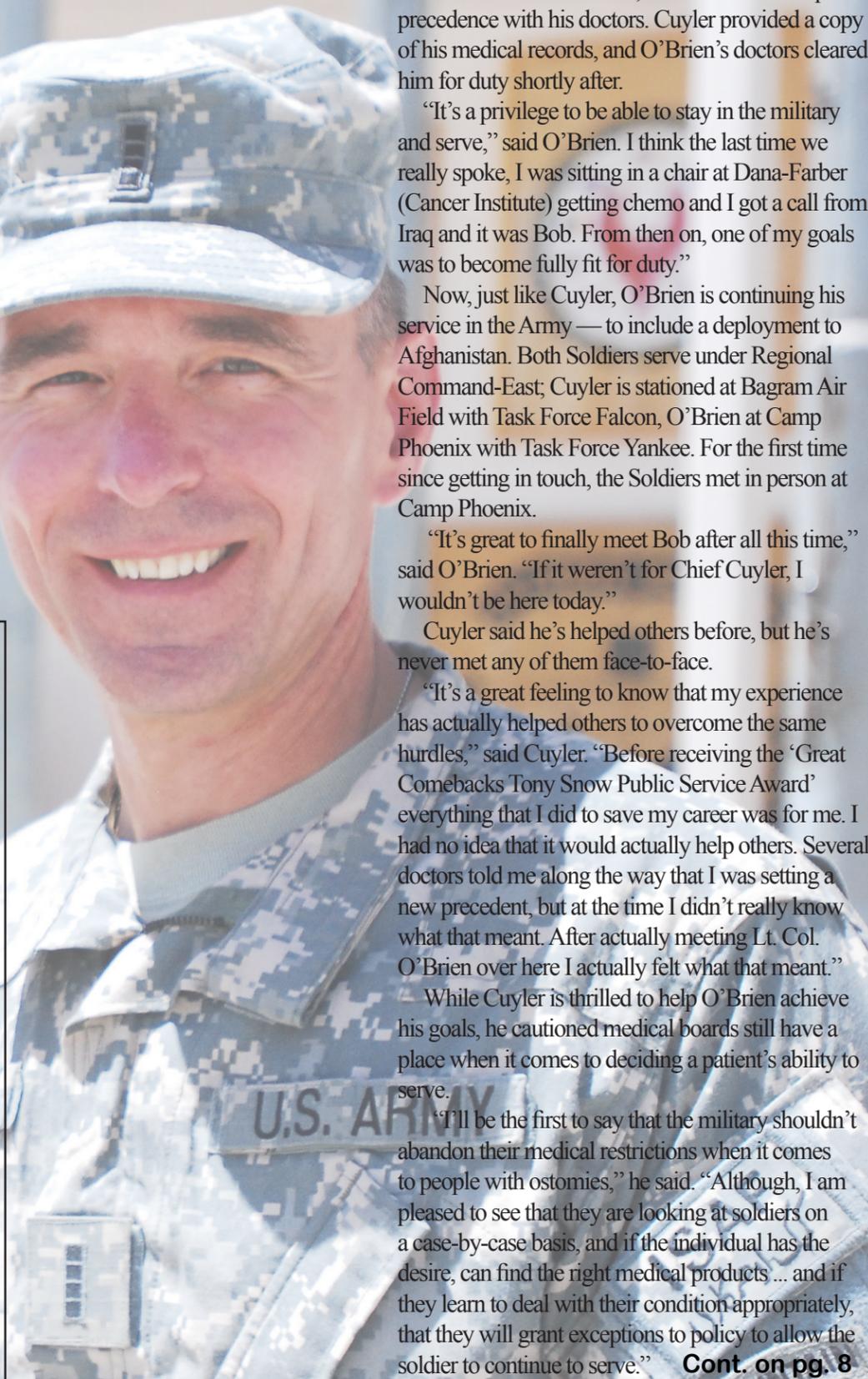
“I received an ostomy after being diagnosed with cancer,” said the Quincy, Mass., native. “I found out about Bob from a company called Ostomy Secrets and they linked us up,” said O’Brien. “From there, he’s taken care of me and made sure I could stay in the military.”

Cuyler’s efforts laid the foundation for O’Brien to remain in the Army.

“I clearly remember the day that I got word that (O’Brien) was a soldier in a similar situation as I was just



CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan – Lt. Col. William O’Brien and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Cuyler stand together in Patriot Square here 18 June. Both O’Brien and Cuyler deployed to Afghanistan with ostomies and hope to spread the word to other Soldiers and veterans living with an ostomy that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. Cuyler and O’Brien are the first Soldiers to remain in service following this type of surgery. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class JR Williams, TF Falcon Public Affairs)



months before,” said Cuyler. “And when I called him it was obvious that he too was going against the grain to not only stay in the military, but to also get cleared to deploy to a combat zone.”

To remain in the service, O’Brien needed to prove precedence with his doctors. Cuyler provided a copy of his medical records, and O’Brien’s doctors cleared him for duty shortly after.

“It’s a privilege to be able to stay in the military and serve,” said O’Brien. I think the last time we really spoke, I was sitting in a chair at Dana-Farber (Cancer Institute) getting chemo and I got a call from Iraq and it was Bob. From then on, one of my goals was to become fully fit for duty.”

Now, just like Cuyler, O’Brien is continuing his service in the Army — to include a deployment to Afghanistan. Both Soldiers serve under Regional Command-East; Cuyler is stationed at Bagram Air Field with Task Force Falcon, O’Brien at Camp Phoenix with Task Force Yankee. For the first time since getting in touch, the Soldiers met in person at Camp Phoenix.

“It’s great to finally meet Bob after all this time,” said O’Brien. “If it weren’t for Chief Cuyler, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Cuyler said he’s helped others before, but he’s never met any of them face-to-face.

“It’s a great feeling to know that my experience has actually helped others to overcome the same hurdles,” said Cuyler. “Before receiving the ‘Great Comebacks Tony Snow Public Service Award’ everything that I did to save my career was for me. I had no idea that it would actually help others. Several doctors told me along the way that I was setting a new precedent, but at the time I didn’t really know what that meant. After actually meeting Lt. Col. O’Brien over here I actually felt what that meant.”

While Cuyler is thrilled to help O’Brien achieve his goals, he cautioned medical boards still have a place when it comes to deciding a patient’s ability to serve.

“I’ll be the first to say that the military shouldn’t abandon their medical restrictions when it comes to people with ostomies,” he said. “Although, I am pleased to see that they are looking at soldiers on a case-by-case basis, and if the individual has the desire, can find the right medical products ... and if they learn to deal with their condition appropriately, that they will grant exceptions to policy to allow the soldier to continue to serve.” **Cont. on pg. 8**

Now, both men advocate others to use the veterans outreach program and to pursue goals following the surgery. They say a common misconception leads ostomates and others to believe they'll never engage in rigorous activities again. Besides facing the rigors of a deployment (complete with body armor), both men continue their athletic pursuits. Chief Cuyler runs a half-marathon each week to help raise awareness for the veterans outreach program. And O'Brien still enjoys a favorite pastime when he's home in Massachusetts.

"I'm playing on the Red Leg hockey team, it's with the Massachusetts National Guard, and we go to Vegas once a year to play in tournaments, so I'm really enjoying that. I'm still kicking."

According to Cuyler, O'Brien now stands as another example to other ostomates that life isn't over after ostomy surgery.

"Unfortunately, many soldiers and veterans (both young and old) do not continue to pursue their dreams following surgery," said Cuyler. "I have talked with nurses who care for Soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who now have permanent ostomies because of combat injuries, and a common theme I hear is that many of these young men and women are ashamed of their condition (they try to hide it from others), and they give up on pursuing many of their dreams."

Cuyler said it was his support group that helped him after the surgery.

"If it wasn't for the help that I received from the members of my local ostomy support group, I wouldn't be here today," he said. "The effect of support from others in a similar situation is powerful. UOAA acknowledges this, and therefore, they have created the VA outreach program. Our goal is the reach out to as many veterans as we can to offer both advice, and support."

"Just have hope that you'll get through it. People like Chief Cuyler and myself are living proof that if you put your mind to it you can do just about anything," said O'Brien.

The UOAA is a national network for bowel and urinary diversion support groups in the United States. The veterans outreach program provides support, information, advocacy and service to veterans and active duty personnel affected by medical issues which have necessitated or may necessitate ostomy or bowel, bladder diversion surgery. The veterans outreach program came about to help military veterans, both young and old, live with their ostomies.

For more information about the veterans outreach program, go online to <http://www.ostomy.org/>.



CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan – Lt. Col. William O'Brien and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Cuyler trade tips about taking care of themselves during deployment. Both O'Brien and Cuyler continued their service following ostomy surgery. The two met in person for the first time here June 18. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class JR Williams, TF Falcon Public Affairs)

Knighthawk Soldiers Promoted

Photos by Sgt. Janell Emerson
Task Force Knighthawk



FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHANK, Afghanistan -- Pfc. Eva S. Hayes and Pfc. Jerrell R. Roberts are promoted to specialist during a ceremony held here May 30. Both Hayes and Roberts are with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Knighthawk.



FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHANK, Afghanistan -- Sgt. Justin S. Mood and Sgt. Erica N. Daniels after the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Knighthawk promotion ceremony held here May 30.



FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHANK, Afghanistan -- Sgt. Erica Daniels is promoted by Master Sgt. Anthony D. Grainger during a ceremony held here May 30. Both Daniels and Grainger are with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Knighthawk, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade.

TF Gambler transfers authority to TF Attack

By U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Syner
Task Force Falcon Public Affairs

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Task Force Gambler, a battalion-sized element under 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, transferred authority to Task Force Attack, which is comprised of Soldiers with 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, during a ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Sharana here June 24.

Gambler Soldiers, from 4th Battalion, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, have been deployed to FOB Sharana in support of Operation Enduring Freedom since June 2010.

“We’re impressed with your accomplishments, professionalism, and dedication to mission accomplishment,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Douglas Brockhard, the commander of Task Force Attack.

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Lt. Col. Douglas Brockhard, the commander of Task Force Attack, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, Combined Joint Task Force-1, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Smoots, the senior enlisted advisor for the Task Force, uncased the unit’s colors during a relief in place/transfer of authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Sharana June 24. TF Attack is taking over TF Gambler’s mission here while TF Gambler redeploys to Fort Carson, Colo. after a year of deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Syner, Task Force Falcon Public Affairs)

TF Gambler, and now TF Attack, are responsible for a broad mission, providing aviation assets for everything from medical evacuation to fire support and resupply. Both task forces have a variety of aircraft, including the AH-64 Apache, OH-58 Kiowa, CH-47 Chinook, and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters

Gambler Soldiers have flown over 1,600 air operations and movements, more than 400 medical evacuation missions, and helped build an airfield at their location, FOB Sharana.

“I am extremely proud of the Soldiers in TF Gambler. Without you, we would never have been able to complete our mission,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jeffery Thompson, the commander of TF Gambler. “We had a good time here, but I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t



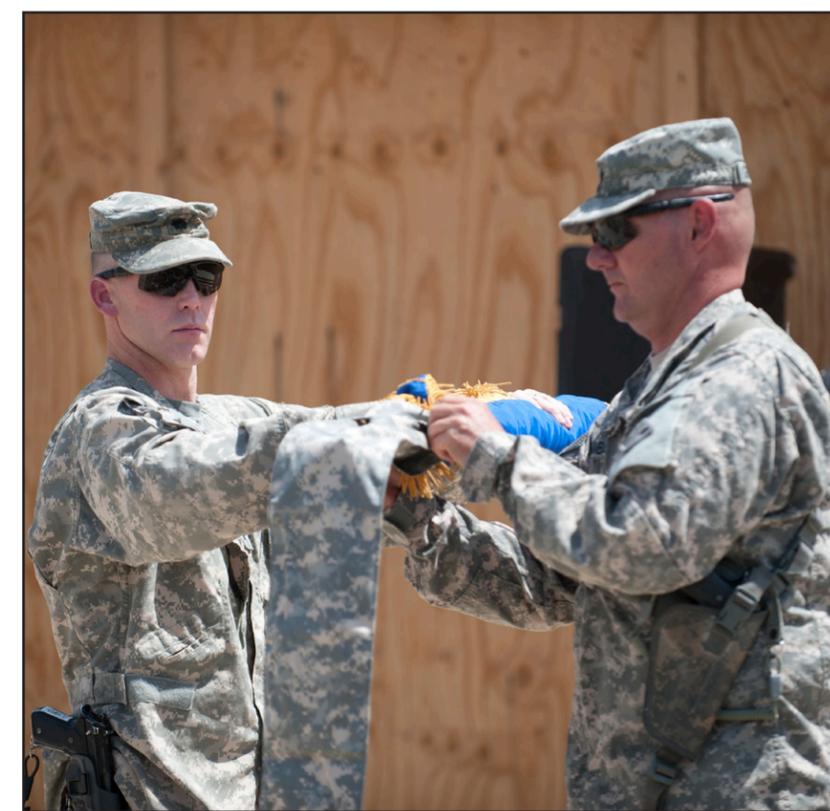
happy to see TF Attack replacing us, allowing us to return home knowing that a capable group of Soldiers is taking over the mission.”

The 4th Bn. Soldiers will be returning to Fort Carson, Colo. this summer.

The 1st ACB Soldiers, which deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, assumed the duties and responsibilities of Task Force Gambler, and are focused on mission accomplishment.

“I have full faith and confidence that we will successfully accomplish the task we’ve been given,” said Brockhard. “We will do everything within human and mechanical limitations to support the efforts of our brothers in arms.”

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Lt. Col. Douglas Brockhard, the commander of Task Force Attack, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, Combined Joint Task Force-1, addresses the attendees of a relief in place/transfer of authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Sharana here June 24. TF Attack is taking over TF Gambler’s mission here while TF Gambler redeploys to Fort Carson, Colo. after a year of deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Syner, Task Force Falcon Public Affairs)



PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jeffery Thompson, the commander of 4th Battalion, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Falcon, Combined Joint Task Force-1, who deployed from Fort Carson, Colo., and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Grumbach, the senior enlisted advisor of 4th Bn., case the unit’s colors during a relief in place/transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Sharana, Afghanistan, June 24. Task Force Gambler has been deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom since June 2010. (Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Syner, Task Force Falcon Public Affairs)

Falcon Soldiers participate in mass casualty exercise

U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Syner
Task Force Falcon Public Affairs

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division, Task Force Falcon, held a force protection exercise with a twist at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 30. The exercise simulated attacks that resulted in casualties, forcing the Soldiers

to react appropriately to casualties while continuing security for the brigade’s operating area.

“We wanted to take (the force protection exercise) to the next level,” said U.S. Army Capt. Matthew Romanych, the Headquarters and Headquarters Com-

pany commander from Piseco Lake, N.Y. and primary organizer of the event. “We wanted to add a little more realism so that Soldiers would be prepared to react if something serious happens.”

The training began at night with the company

sending a message to HHC Soldiers and neighboring Falcon units including TF Observe Detect Identify and Neutralize-Afghanistan and TF Mountain Eagle to immediately increase security.

The Soldiers demonstrated their ability to

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Trick (left), an Inverness, Fla., native, and the medical operations noncommissioned officer in charge with 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Task Force Falcon, and U.S. Army Spc. Jessica Williamson (right), a medic with the 10th CAB’s Aviation Consolidated Aid Station, and a native of Long Island, N.Y., apply mock injuries to U.S. Army Spc. Brandon Paulus before the beginning of a training exercise at Bagram Airfield Afghanistan, June 30. Paulus, a Cameron, N.C., native, was selected to play a burn and laceration victim after a simulated attack on the camp during a force protection exercise. (Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Syner, Task Force Falcon Public Affairs)



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Medics treat their patient, U.S. Army Pfc. Wendell Brown, a Baltimore native with Headquarters Support Company, Task Force Mountain Eagle, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, for the numerous mock wounds he received from a simulated mortar attack during a training exercise at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 30. (Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Syner, Task Force Falcon Public Affairs)

increase security on the task force's area, restrict passage, and patrol nearby areas to help protect important assets on the camp, to include the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade headquarters.

Ordinarily, demonstrating their proficiency would have been the extent of the training, but the Soldiers who responded were instructed that, in the exercise scenario, the camp had been hit with indirect fire and had likely suffered casualties. After being briefed, the Soldiers on the FORCEPRO teams moved out, assuming their positions as stationary and patrolling guards.

While the FORCEPRO Soldiers played a significant role in the exercise, the training also tested the mettle of TF Falcon medics and doctors.

"Our medics are going to set up a casualty collection point and treat patients," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Trick, the medical operations noncommissioned officer in charge, and native of Inverness, Fla. "They'll treat patients there until the casualties can be moved off to a facility, like what we'd do in real life."

About half an hour into the exercise, the casualties started screaming (if conscious) to attract the patrolling Soldiers. After discovering a casualty, the teams reacted quickly

to determine how severe the wounds were, provide medical treatment immediately if necessary, and move the patient to the casualty collection point.

"We want realism," said Romanych. "I want these Soldiers, who would be responsible for keeping a lot of people safe, to know that they are capable of performing during the real deal."

As Soldiers brought the casualties to the CCP, the medics manning the station reacted quickly, tearing off armor, placing tourniquets, bandages, and splints to stabilize patients and move casualties out of the way so that others may be treated.

"The medics are a huge part of this exercise," said U.S. Army Spc. Jessica Williamson, a medic with the 10th CAB Aviation Consolidated Aid Station and one of the organizers for the training exercise.

"We have to know if our massive casualty reaction plan works," the Long Island, N.Y., native, added.

After roughly two hours, the exercise ended and the Soldiers on the FORCEPRO team rescued all of the casualties.

"The exercise went well," Romanych said. "The whole purpose of these things is to identify deficiencies and correct them. I'm confident in the abilities of the Soldiers assigned to protecting the camp." 🇺🇸



BAGRAM, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Smale (right) of New Bedford, Mass., a medic with the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade's Aviation Consolidated Aid Station, treats U.S. Army Spc. Addison Isaacs, a simulated casualty with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Task Force Falcon, and a native of Mountain Home, Ark., during a training exercise at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 30. Smale, along with other medics in the ACAS, responded to a massive casualty training scenario by treating patients brought to their casualty collection point. (Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Syner, Task Force Falcon Public Affairs)

Aviation Soldiers provide humanitarian aid to Afghan girls' school

U.S. Army Sgt. Amanda Jo Brown
Task Force Phoenix

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – A small Afghan town, tucked away in the Salang Mountains between two of Afghanistan’s most populated cities, was stirred up when a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter – crewed by Company A, 1st Battalion, 169th General Support Aviation Regiment, Task Force Phoenix, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade- touched down and unloaded their fellow Phoenix Soldiers so they could provide humanitarian aid to the local Salang Girls’ School June 11.

The Phoenix Soldiers secured their ground positions as they watched the massive aircraft blades toss large brown plumes of dirt into the air around them.

As the dirt settled, U.S. Army 1st Lt. Carlos Del Real, the ground commander for Troop C, Task Force Red Horse, 1-113 Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, greeted Chaplain (Capt.) Robert Hearon, the chaplain for TF Phoenix, and led the Phoenix team to the school.

The Phoenix Soldiers quickly distributed all of the supplies and took some time to speak with the school administrators.

U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Jamie Latham, Company E, TF Phoenix distribution platoon leader, was the officer in charge of the Phoenix female team which handed out the items.

“When we arrived at the school, the school administrators were welcoming and elated to see the group,” said Latham, of Bethlehem, Pa., “The people [of Salang] are very eager to learn and improve their own education. With the aid of our interpreter, we handed out book bags full with pencils, pens, notebooks, and other school supplies (...) to kindergarten through seventh graders. Afterward, we visited the classrooms and interacted with the children that we were able to help.”

Latham asked the girls about their educational goals for their future.

“Many of the students expressed interest in becoming doctors, lawyers, or police men,” said Latham, “School supplies and continued support of the education system will help create more beneficial members of society.”



PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Jamie Latham, Company E, Task Force Phoenix, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade distribution platoon leader, passes down book bags full of school supplies to be distributed to the Afghan girls at the Salang Girls School June 11. Latham is a native of Bethlehem, Pa. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Amanda Jo Brown, Task Force Falcon)

The chaplain agreed.

“I wanted to give much needed supplies to the female students who have very little,” said Hearon, a native of Greenville, S.C., “To help ensure they have a brighter future with more opportunities by enabling them to obtain a better education.”

School supplies and electricity are things that many people take for granted on a day to day basis. While the school in Salang Valley has a shortage of both of these commodities, the locals are not deterred from pursuing their dreams of a better educated generation.

“The local Afghan girls were very shy and did not speak much,” said Latham, “The momentary smiles on many of their faces conveyed their appreciation.”

The male Phoenix Soldiers on the mission watched from outside the room as the school supplies were distributed. U.S. Army Sgt. Brian MacConaghy, Hearon’s assistant, watched the event from the hallway.

“The [children] seemed very receptive and thankful,” said MacConaghy, of Madison Heights, Mich., “You could see by the looks on the girls’ faces - as they received items

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Jamie Latham, Company E, Task Force Phoenix, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade distribution platoon leader, poses with two Afghan girls from the town of Salang after providing them each with their own book bag full of school supplies June 11. Latham is a native of Bethlehem, Pa. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Amanda Jo Brown, Task Force Phoenix)



- that this was a rare occasion for them.”

MacConaghy explained that even though he could not interact with the students that he felt rewarded to provide aid to those in need.

“My goal for the deployment was to do my part to leave a positive impact on the people of Afghanistan,” said MacConaghy, “Through this mission, I was able to accomplish that by utilizing outside resources to collect supplies that would be used to enhance the Afghan females’ education which would help them achieve their career goals.”

Latham reflected a similar view as MacConaghy.

“The supplies provided from TF Phoenix and the unit ministry team will help enable the students to study and continue learning,” said Latham, “The teachers will be able to see more of the student’s work instead of teaching primarily through lecture.”

After a successful mission to provide humanitarian aid to locals in the area, MacConaghy, Latham and Hearon said they feel accomplished knowing they had the opportunity to help some of those in need in Regional Command – East and hope to do so again before redeploying stateside.

U.S. Army Pilot receives Distinguished Flying Cross

Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Amanda Jo Brown
Task Force Phoenix



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mitchell Deremer, Company C "Warlords," Task Force Phoenix, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, is a company standardization pilot in command for the Warlords. Deremer received the Distinguished Flying Cross from U.S. Army Brigadier General James Richardson, the deputy command general of Combined Joint Task Force-1, June 20. Deremer received this prestigious award for his actions when he rescued a pilot who was injured from a crash while conducting high altitude training in Colorado. His actions saved the life of this fellow pilot on June 30, 2010. Deremer deployed from Fort Drum, N.Y.



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mitchell Deremer, Company C "Warlords," Task Force Phoenix, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, is a company standardization pilot in command for the Warlords. Deremer speaks to everyone regarding the awarding of the Distinguished Flying Cross from U.S. Army Brigadier General James Richardson, the deputy command general of Combined Joint Task Force-1, June 20. Deremer received this prestigious award for his actions when he rescued a pilot who was injured from a crash while conducting high altitude training in Colorado. His actions saved the life of this fellow pilot on June 30, 2010. Deremer deployed from Fort Drum, N.Y.

Equal Opportunity: Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month



I think it is awesome that there is an Asian Awareness Month. As a Chinese woman in this culturally diverse service in the U.S. Army, my experience has been interesting. I've learned that cultural differences in expressions and conversations can sometime be viewed differently from people to people. I am extremely happy to know that I am different, and I feel very lucky to be able to experience and explore the difference in cultures and I appreciate the opportunity given to me to express my thought through this Asian Awareness Month.
--Sgt. Binh Mach

Asian and Pacific Islanders are helping to write the next chapter in our American heritage.
--Sgt. 1st Class James Slinger



Jiyon Lee and Geumahm Lee Slinger



Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to me is not only a celebration of accomplishments, culture and contributions of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States, but also a reminder of what makes the United States of America different from other countries around the world. What makes the United States of America so different from other countries is the many different types of cultures and people that make up the United States, Asians and Pacific Islanders being part of it.
--Sgt. Penn Tran

306th Military Intelligence Battalion Takes Reins of TF ODIN

U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Syner
Task Force Falcon Public Affairs

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Task Force Observe Detect Identify Neutralize-Afghanistan, a battalion-sized element under 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division saw the hand over of the task force from 3rd Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment, to the 306th Military Intelligence Battalion at Bagram Airfield June 13 during a relief in place/transfer of authority ceremony.

Soldiers from the 3rd Bn., 214th Aviation Regt., have been deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom since July 2010.

“Over the course of the past

year, 3rd Bn., 214th Aviation Regt., has provided critical intelligence support to Soldiers in the fight on a daily basis,” said U.S. Marine Maj. Gen. James Laster, the deputy chief of staff for Combined Joint Operations, International Security Assistance Force.

TF ODIN is largely responsible for unmanned aerial vehicles and the missions they’re used for, primarily reconnaissance and surveillance.

“You have provided over 50,000 hours of aerial support to commanders in all six regional commands. You have directly engaged the enemy with Hellfire missiles

on armed reconnaissance missions with zero allegations of civilian casualties. You have produced over 55,000 intelligence reports,” Laster said, addressing the Soldiers of the 3rd Bn., 214th Aviation Regt.

“During this year, 3-214th was honored to be chosen as the 2010 Fixed Wing Aviation Unit of the year,” said U.S. Army Maj. Jason Periatt, the executive officer and acting commander of ODIN, and native of “This honor would not have been possible without the dedication and excellent support of the Task Force’s active, Guard and Reserve components, and the Department of the Army civilians

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Lt. Col. Paul Rogers, the commander of 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, Task Force Falcon, Combined Joint Task Force-1, a native of Sparta, Miss., and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Depenhart, the senior enlisted advisor for the 306th MI Bn., Richmond, Ga., uncased the unit’s colors during a relief in place/transfer of authority ceremony held here June 13. The 306th MI Battalion took over Task Force Observe Detect Identify Neutralize-Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Syner, Task Force Falcon Public Affairs)



BAGRAM, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Maj. Jason Periatt, the executive officer and acting commander of 3rd Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment, Task Force Falcon, Combined Joint Task Force-1, who deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Marion Travis, the senior enlisted advisor of 3rd Bn., Chatham, Mich., case the unit’s colors during a relief in place/transfer of authority ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 13. The 3rd Bn. has been deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom since July 2010. (Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Syner, Task Force Falcon Public Affairs)

and contractor teammates all coming together to form one cohesive team and strive for excellence”

The 3rd Bn. will return to Fort Hood, Texas this summer.

The 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, which also deployed from Fort Hood, assumed the duties and responsibilities of 3rd Battalion, and are focused on mission accomplishment.

“The demand for the missions this unit performs is ever increasing, and I assure you this unit will continue to refine procedures that will create efficiencies in this process,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Paul Rogers, the commander of the 306th and native of Sparta, Miss. “The 306th is ready to assume the mission.”

“[The 306th MI Battalion]

inherits a reputation of excellence and takes leadership of several strong existing operations,” Laster said. “You are the right command team to continue this mission, and I wish you Godspeed as you integrate even further capabilities, the capacity to protect Soldiers in the fight and ensure their success as we take the fight to the enemy.”

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Lt. Col. Paul Rogers, the commander of 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, Task Force Falcon, Combined Joint Task Force-1, and native of Sparta, Miss., addresses the Soldiers of Task Force Observe Detect Identify Neutralize-Afghanistan during a relief in place/transfer of authority ceremony held at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 13. The 306th assumed the role of 3rd Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment as TF ODIN. (Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Syner, Task Force Falcon Public Affairs)



Dual Military and Deployment: How they make it work

By U.S. Army Spc. Diane Tyus
Task Force Six Shooters



FORWARD OPERATING BASE FENTY, Afghanistan- U.S. Army Pfc. Steve Ortiz of Cleveland, an aircraft mechanic with Troop D, Task Force Shooter, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, affixes new rank to the uniform of his wife, Spc. Luz Rivera of Providence, R.I. Rivera is an aviation operations specialist with TF Six Shooters here. (Photo by U.S. Army 1st Lt. John Panzer, Task Force Six Shooters)

NANGARHAR, Afghanistan – Being the new guy, or in this case, the new girl, is always a challenge. Add to this, the pressures of a first deployment, and trying to build a future with the person you love. It can get a little overwhelming, and it would be too easy to lose yourself in all the commotion. But such is not the case with U.S. Army Spc. Luz Rivera of Providence, R.I., the newest task force operations Soldier of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Task Force Six Shooters, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division.

A newlywed on her first deployment, recently promoted, and assigned to a new unit, Rivera managed to not only rise in rank, but exceed all expectations.

Rivera credits most of her success and motivation to her husband, U.S. Army Pfc. Steve Ortiz of Cleveland, an aircraft mechanic with Troop D, TF Six Shooters, 10th CAB, 10th Mtn. Div.

“Honestly, without him, I’d probably still be a private,” said Rivera. “He lets me vent when I’m stressed and motivates me to do the best I can. He keeps me grounded when I feel like I’m losing track of who I am.”

Rivera was previously assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF Knighthawk, 10th CAB, but was moved to TF Six Shooters to be with her husband.

“We may work in separate troops and on opposite shifts, but we still manage to spend time together,” said Rivera. “We encourage one another to drive on during hard times.”

The first year of their marriage, Ortiz attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training. They are now spending their second year as a married couple in Afghanistan.

“Even though we don’t get to spend much time together doing normal married couple activities, we are grateful for whatever time we have with each other,” she said.

“I don’t think there’s anywhere I could imagine myself being without [Ortiz], even if it is Afghanistan,” referring to his wife Rivera.

Despite serving at the same base, the couple still faces challenges.

“I don’t get to spend too much time with her so the time we do have we usually just watch a movie and talk. I think being so close and still so far away from each other is kind of the worst part.”

Even with the unique struggle the two face, Ortiz is grateful for what time he gets to spend with his spouse.

“The best part of my deployment is knowing that no matter how tough work is, or how tired I am after a shift, I get to go spend even the tiniest bit of time with the person who loves me the most.”

For some newlyweds, the biggest concern is finding their home or finding the right furniture to fill up that home, but for Rivera and her husband Ortiz, their home is with each other, whether that be in Afghanistan or the United States. 🌟

Task Force Falcon says “farewell” to leader

Photos by U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Dvorsky
Task Force Phoenix



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Col. Pedro Almeida, Task Force Falcon commander, presents the Bronze Star to Lt. Col. David McGurk, outgoing TF Falcon executive officer, May 29 at the brigade headquarters. Col. Almeida expressed his appreciation for Lt. Col. McGurk’s contributions to the success of the task force. “Our success is due to his efforts,” said Col. Almeida. “He is a tremendously effective leader.”

McGurk is preparing to assume a battalion command position.

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Lt. Col. Shawn Prickett, Task Force Falcon deputy commander, presents a plaque to Lt. Col. David McGurk, outgoing TF Falcon executive officer, May 29 at the brigade headquarters. “This has been a wonderful opportunity,” said Lt. Col. McGurk. “We’ve got a lot accomplished. I’ve learned a lot from the people I’ve worked with.”

McGurk is preparing to assume a battalion command position.



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Lt. Col. David McGurk, outgoing Task Force Falcon executive officer, addresses his colleagues May 29 at the brigade headquarters during his farewell ceremony. McGurk received a Bronze Star and a plaque presented on behalf of the TF Falcon staff.

McGurk is preparing to assume a battalion command position.

TF ODIN pilot takes up photography to share experiences, memories

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot
Task Force Falcon Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – During a deployment, Soldiers may feel like their lives are on hold; isolated from loved ones for nearly 12 months; they eagerly wait to return home and resume their lives. But deployments can also offer an opportunity for growth and the discovery of new interests.

“It doesn’t matter if you’re a Soldier out patrolling or a Soldier sitting in an office, the

mind needs an outlet to stay healthy,” says U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Johnson, a standardization operator for the Alpha Warrior unmanned aerial vehicle with Company A, Task Force ODIN-A, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, TF Falcon. “When we’re not flying, everybody’s just doing their own hobbies. Some guys play Xbox; I do photography.”

The Oklahoma City na-

tive has taken up photography not only to relieve stress during his deployment, but to preserve memories and to prepare for a post-retirement career.

In August 2010, around the beginning of his current deployment, Johnson was experimenting with a computer program which allows users to manipulate and enhance images. An average photographer, Johnson found he could enhance his photos to make them look very good.

“Once he realized that the quality of a photo or image drives the time needed to fix it, he looked into better quality cameras and then it was on,” said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Diets, a platoon sergeant with TF ODIN-A and a native of Baltimore.

Johnson says it was the ability to hold onto memories that created a strong desire to learn all he could about photography and to acquire the best equipment he could afford.

“I have so many good memories but not many photos to show for them,” said Johnson, who currently resides in Sierra Vista, Ariz., with his wife

and daughters.

Johnson said he’s looked at photos of his family and friends and isn’t impressed with the quality. He’s seen photos of friends who’ve paid a lot of money to have them done professionally and he’s confident he can do as well for much less.

“There are certain techniques that bring out the best in a photo subject; positioning, colors and lighting can all be used to make people look their best,” Johnson explained. “In addition, digital enhancements can whiten teeth, smooth out skin and remove blemishes.”

During his two-week mid-tour leave, Johnson said he invested in lighting and background drops so he could begin taking portrait photos in his home. He’s considering starting a portrait photography business out of his home after he retires in about three years.

Meanwhile, due to a limited amount of subjects to photograph here at Bagram Airfield, Johnson said he also experiments with manipulating photos, which he describes as taking a photo and either adding an

Cont. on pg. 26



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Johnson, a Warrior Alpha unmanned aerial vehicle standardization operator with Company A, Task Force ODIN-A, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, photographs a Warrior Alpha UAV here May 23. The Oklahoma City native has immersed himself in learning photography and photo editing since the beginning of his deployment, not only pass time, but to preserve memories and prepare for a post-retirement career. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot, Task Force Falcon Public Affairs)



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – In this photo manipulation by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Johnson, a Warrior Alpha unmanned aerial vehicle standardization operator with Company A, Task Force ODIN-A, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, TF Falcon, a Warrior Alpha UAV appears to fly before the moon. The Oklahoma City native creates photo manipulations such as this for fun and to spark people’s imagination. (Photo manipulation by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Johnson, TF ODIN-A)

Cont. from pg. 24

object that wasn't there or removing an object.

In one of his photo manipulations, Johnson enlarged an image of the moon he had taken and placed an image he took of an Alpha Warrior unmanned aerial vehicle in front of the moon.

"How lucky would I be to just happen to be pointing the camera at the moon and then one of my Warriors flies in front of it?" he asks with a smile. "I do these photos for fun; to spark people's imagination."

For those who are considering getting into photography, Johnson first recommends learning the basics, such as composition and lighting.

"Do your studying and if you figure out that it's something you're enjoying, start investing in it," he said. "If your pleasure is making people happy, do portrait photography. If your pleasure is in the beauty of the world, do landscape photography. I'm motivated by making people look their best. That's where I get my satisfaction."

Johnson has produced company posters and mementos for his colleagues. According to Diets, Johnson's photography has contributed to the morale of the unit.

"Everyone stops and comments on the quality of his work," said Diets.

"He has done photos of

the promotion ceremonies for the sergeants and staff sergeants, made a collage for each one and printed them on photo quality paper for them."

During previous deployments, Johnson spent his down time in the gym, working to improve his fitness. On this deployment, the ability to hold on to memories – for himself, and for others – through photography, became his passion; one that he intends to continue to build on.

"The older I get the more I start to appreciate the world around me and what it has to offer," Johnson said. "When I see something I enjoy, I like to take a photo and share that experience with others."

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – In this photo manipulation by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Johnson, a Warrior Alpha unmanned aerial vehicle standardization operator with Company A, Task Force ODIN-A, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, TF Falcon, a senior leader counsels a Soldier in Johnson's "Counseling Session." (Photo manipulation by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Johnson, TF ODIN-A)



ANSF train on medical evacuation procedures

Story by Staff Sgt. Andrew Guffey
Task Force Duke

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Soldiers from Company C, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Wyoming Army National Guard, conducted a training session for U.S. Army soldiers and Afghan National Security Forces on helicopter medical evacuation procedures at Combat Outpost Wilderness, Afghanistan, June 3.

Story continued on page 31

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Keith Snipes, a crew chief with Company C, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Wyoming Army National Guard, and a native of Cheyenne, Wyo., hoists two Soldiers into a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter on Combat Outpost Wilderness, Afghanistan, June 3. The hoist training enhanced the skills of ground medics and to train Afghan National Security Forces medics in evacuation procedures. (Photo by Capt. Jason Beck, 210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- U.S. Army Spc. Tyler Neff, a flight medic with Company C, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Wyoming Army National Guard, and a native of McCook, Neb., watches as soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, and Afghan National Security Forces carry a litter to the helicopter during medical evacuation training at Combat Outpost Wilderness, Afghanistan, June 3. The training ensured U.S. and Afghan soldiers are proficient in medical evacuation procedures. (Photo by Capt. Jason Beck, 210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Story continued from page 29

U.S. Army Spc. Tyler Neff, a native of McCook, Neb., and U.S. Army Sgt. Andy Monnin from Long Mount, Colo., both flight medics assigned to Company C, went over changes in the evacuation process and ways to load a litter and hook patients up to a helicopter hoist cable.

They finished the training with a few dry runs and then hands-on practice.

“This training will give me a good assessment of how they will react to an evacuation,” said U.S. Army Capt. J.P. Montreuil, a physician’s assistant assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regt., 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, and native of

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- Medics from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke observe Afghan National Army medics placing a soldier in a litter during medical evacuation training on Combat Outpost Wilderness, Afghanistan, June 3. ANSF routinely train with U.S. forces to enhance their skills and to learn how to provide proper medical treatment to casualties. (Photo by Capt. Jason Beck, 210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

New Orleans.

There are only two ways to hoist patients into a helicopter: a hook used to haul ambulatory patients and a litter for more seriously wounded personnel.

“This is a good refresher for me,” said U.S. Army Pfc. Tommy Cook, a native of King, N.C., and a medic assigned to HHT, 6th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div, TF Duke. “It helps to remind me to keep an open mind because everything can change.”

Several ANSF medics and their leadership also received training on the procedures on calling for and assisting in a medical evacuation.

“We always like to train with the Americans,” said one of the ANSF medics. “They

are showing us the way to be able to take care of our own country.”

The last part of the day’s training included hoisting two pairs of soldiers into the helicopter.

“We like to get out and put a face to the guy on the radio, so when they call us things go a lot smoother,” said U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Foley, a pilot assigned to Company C, and a native of Cheyenne, Wyo.

After the training, the American and Afghan soldiers walked away with a little more insight and confidence on evacuation procedures, said some of the soldiers.

“When we have to do it we are pretty proficient,” said Foley. 🇺🇸



Tigershark pilots remembered at FOB Salerno

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan – Soldiers and Friends of Task Force Tigershark held a memorial ceremony here in remembrance of two fallen pilots June 8.

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bradley Gaudet and U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth White, both OH-58 Kiowa helicopter pilots with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Tigershark, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, Combined Joint Task Force-1, died June 5 during a

mission in Khost province.

“I can say that I am truly honored and humbled to have known and been given the opportunity to serve with these two great men and their loss will not be forgotten,” said Maj. Brook Lee, the operations officer in charge for Task Force Tigershark.

The memorial was held in a ceremonies tent, where White’s and Gaudet’s boots, rifles, identification tags, and photos were displayed in the traditional method for fallen servicemembers.

“Thank you for all coming today in order to honor and remember Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth White and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bradley Gaudet. These two great men were outstanding warrant officers and cavalry pilots, who made the ultimate sacrifice on 5 June 2011 while taking the fight to the enemy. They both did the job that they love, and they loved doing their job,” Lee said. “I know that Ken and Brad were extremely proud to be among you all and to have served with you. They were the

best of what Army aviation is, and embodied what we all strive to be.”

U.S. Army Capt. Joshua Simpson, the commander of Troop B, 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, spoke of the loss.

“Today is a hard day and a day I hoped that would never come. Today we remember two extremely dynamic individuals. I am proud to have known and fought alongside both Brad and Ken. Their loss is not only a loss to their families but also to [the Army],” Simpson said.

White is survived by his wife Sarah, his two daughters Alita

and Natalie, and his son Seth.

White received the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, two Air Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, two Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, two Over Seas Service Ribbons, the Senior Aviator Badge, the Combat Action Badge and the Meritorious Unit Citation.

Gaudet is survived by his wife Ginny Van Marter, his

daughters Tealie and Addyson, his mother Ronda and his father Ronnie.

Gaudet’s decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with “V” device, the Army Achievement Medal, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the International Security Assistance Force NATO Medal, the Army Aviator Badge, and the Combat Action Badge.



In Memory Of:

Chief Warrant Officer 2
Bradley Gaudet

Chief Warrant Officer 3
Kenneth White



June 5, 2011



June 5, 2011

Eye of the Falcon

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Medics with Task Force Falcon, 10th Mountain Division, treat a "casualty" during a training exercise held at Bagram Airfield here June 30. (Photo by Pfc. Michael Syner, Task Force Falcon Public Affairs)



June 2011