



NORMANDY NOW

29th Combat Aviation Brigade – Task Force Normandy

THE LAST CAB STANDING. CAMP TAJI, IRAQ.

29th CAB TOA

Transfer Of Authority

By Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington, 29th CAB Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Underneath a hangar near the flight line on a cool Wednesday afternoon, the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade marked another step on its historic deployment. After nearly two years of training leading up to this deployment, Task Force Normandy officially took command of the the aviation mission in Iraq from the 40th CAB. The transfer of authority ceremony happened Nov. 09, 2011, Camp Taji, Iraq.

The nearly 2,000-Soldier task force from more than 20 states bring many air assets to the fight. These assets include: AH-64 Apaches, CH-47 Chinooks, UH-60 Blackhawks, OH-58 Kiowa Warriors, unmanned aerial systems and fixed-wing air-



craft.

The nearly month long relief-in-place transition period allowed Soldiers from 29th CAB and their counterparts from the 40th CAB to interface.

“I felt more comfortable transitioning the authority yesterday [Nov. 9] than I did

two weeks or two months ago because I’ve seen things here and how we can be integrated into the operation,” said Col. David Carey,

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NORMANDY NOW

Commander:

~Col. David Carey

Command Sergeant Major:

~Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Beyard

Deputy Commanding Officer:

~Lt. Col. Steve Fritz

Public Affairs Officer:

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Design/Editor:

~Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington

Contributors:

~Chaplain (Maj.) William Butler

~Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan

~Spc. Matthew Dornbusch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Lineage and Honors

HHC 29th CAB

Constituted Sept. 30, 1985, in the Maryland Army National Guard as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Aviation Brigade, 29th Infantry Division. Organized and federally recognized July 1, 1986, at Bel Air, Md., the home station changed to Aberdeen Proving Ground Feb. 13, 1989.

Commander's Corner



brigade arrived in the Iraq Theater of Operations in late September, most of the Combat Aviation Brigade spent almost two months training hard at North Fort Hood, Texas.

When we arrived in Kuwait, we began the acclimation process—getting used to the dry desert heat, which would soon turn much cooler. We got our paperwork in order and started setting up an operational headquarters to provide much needed support to our forward elements in Iraq. In Kuwait, our Soldiers are still working tirelessly to develop a base of operations to ensure forward movement of personnel and supplies.

The mission in Kuwait is the cornerstone to the CAB's success in Operation New Dawn and preparation for our follow on mission next year.

On Nov. 9, 2011, Command Sgt.

After two years of preparation, Task Force Normandy is finally taking its place as the "Last CAB Standing". Our mission is to conduct full-spectrum aviation operations until Operation New Dawn comes to a close at the end of December. We will then re-posture to Kuwait and await follow-on orders.

Although some elements of the

Command Sgt. Maj.



tion operations in the Iraqi theater of operations. It was a great day for our Soldiers, one of pride and sense of purpose, and a day that will never be forgotten.

I have great pride in all of our Soldiers for their efforts to work together. By doing so, we were able to seamlessly assume the mission from our sister CAB.

One of the best parts of this job is to visit with Soldiers of the subordinate units. Morale is very high, and Soldiers are doing the very best they can each and every day.

I see and talk to our Soldiers in the fitness center, in the dining facility, often at their work station. They are

Maj. Beyard and I uncased our brigade colors during the transfer of authority ceremony. It was an amazing feeling to hear our history read as we officially took over aviation operations.

The two years between 1942 and 1944, which the 29th Infantry Division spent in England training for the invasion of Normandy, proved eerily similar to our journey to this historic deployment.

What we're about to do has never been done before. The brigade will essentially coordinate the aviation piece of an enormous puzzle—moving almost 40,000 U.S. servicemembers and countless U.S. government employees from Iraq to Kuwait in six weeks. With the incredible work ethic I have already seen from this entire brigade, I am extremely confident and proud of the professionals in Task Force Normandy.

"29, Let's Go!"

David Carey
Colonel

excited about our aviation mission and wonder what is ahead for our unit over the coming year.

I also want to thank the spouses, family members, significant others, friends, employers and others back home for their strong support of our Soldiers. We all appreciate your letters, packages and all the signs of support that come our way. We could not do our job without you.

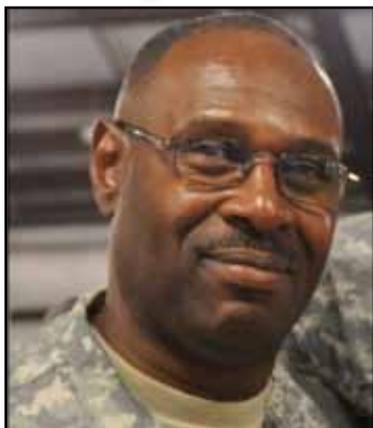
To our Soldiers, you are part of the greatest generation of my lifetime. Your sacrifices can never be measured, and your dedication is overwhelming. Your hard and tireless work each day keeps our nation free. I think I can say a grateful nation thanks you for your patriotism and valor.

"29, Let's Go!"

Thomas Beyard
Command Sergeant Major

Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain (Maj.) William Butler



The challenge of experiencing change in our lives mentally prepares us to step into the unknown. These unknown places will challenge every ounce of our mental capacity to endure.

Each deployment, whether we're in our second or third one, has seasons that change not only the environment, but the human personality. We shouldn't fight or try to run from the experiences that try us day-by-day. We need to embrace the tough and difficult days because they come build us up if we keep the right attitude.

Mentally preparing ourselves for change, in whatever form it may be, will help us control our emotions. The change to transition us into better people. We can prepare our minds for change by stopping our anger from getting the best of us. Anger is an emotion that can be controlled and managed. Anger can be positive if it moves us to do the right thing. On the

other hand, anger expressed in a negative way can cause us to throw away everything we worked hard for.

King Solomon was famous for his proverbs or sayings that sustains one's life; to which he wrote 3,000 of them. Solomon understood the negative consequences of an angry mind out of control. He declared in Proverbs 29:11 "A foolish man lets out all his anger, but a wise man keeps it back quietly." That is to say, one is foolish if he/she allows uncontrolled anger to define their humanity; but a wise person stops, cools down and thinks before making a decision.

As we step into the unknown during this deployment let's challenge ourselves to embrace the changes we'll experience. Mentally preparing our lives is one of the greatest gifts we not only give ourselves but also our families who await our return. Remember, they're equally challenged to explore the unknown world of single-parenting and all the other things that come when love ones go off to war.

Even though military deployment has a way of bringing us into places we've never been, we can still come out on top and be the best person God expect us to be.

Grade **A** Sky



Safety

Story by Quentin Banks

Photos by Master Sgt. Edward Bard 175th

Wing Public Affairs Office

Just east of the runway, in an isolated corner of Weide Army Airfield at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Soldiers of F Company, 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment of the Maryland Army National Guard's 29th Combat Aviation Brigade set up their equipment and begin the day's tasks. These tasks include checking elaborate and expensive equipment and running drills during their two-week annual training. This intense training prepares the unit for an upcoming overseas deployment in support of Operation New Dawn.

These Soldiers are part of an air traffic control unit. They provide safe, orderly, expeditious flow of air traffic with no aviation safety mishaps. In addition to air traffic control, they also operate various radar systems to aid in accomplishing their mission. They also have a team of technicians that service and maintain their equipment.

They have been called to duty for the following missions and deployments: Bosnia in 1999, the Pentagon after Sept. 11, 2001, Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001, Kosovo in 2003 as part of the NATO peacekeeping force, Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005, hurricane relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav in 2008, the 2009 Presidential Inauguration, and the 2010 Winter storms.

"These are really intelligent young people, and leading them is a challenge," said Capt. Mark P. Chambers, company commander. "From the time these Soldiers enlist, it takes about a year to fully train and have them certified. Many go on to have lucrative careers in the civilian sector."

commander of the 29th CAB. “The Soldiers of the 29th CAB have been training for this mission for two years, the only constant is change.”

The brigade will provide full-spectrum aviation operations under United States Division-Center through the end of Operation New Dawn.

This includes: support to operational maneuver, heavy lift, attack, reconnoissance missions and assault; transitioning Soldiers, contractors and U.S. civilians out of the Iraq Joint Operating Area; and cleaning, declassifying and de-cluttering the facilities that have been used to support aviation operations for the past eight years, added Carey.

The outgoing leadership, Col. Mitchell Medigovich and Command Sgt. Maj. David McFerrin from the 40th CAB, cased their brigade’s colors, signifying an end to the unit’s mission in Iraq. The incoming leadership, Col. David Carey and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Beyard from

the 29th CAB, unveiled their brigade’s colors to assume their new mission.

“It’s a very historic time for the U.S. A war, started in 2003, is coming to an end, and the 29th CAB will be the last aviation unit that’s going to be here [Iraq],” said Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Beyard, command sergeant major of the 29th CAB. “I feel good about that because we’re closing out that chapter in American history.”



1-111 TOA



Task Force Makos, 1st Battalion, 111 Aviation Regiment, officially took command from Task Force DragonMasters, 1st General Support Aviation Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment, in a transfer of authority ceremony Nov. 14, 2011, at Camp Taji, Iraq.

The outgoing leadership, Lt. Col. Richard Wilson and Command Sgt. Maj. Maynard Valeriano from the 1-171, cased their battalion’s colors signifying an end to the unit’s mission in Iraq. The incoming leadership, Lt. Col. William Mignon and Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Hambrick from the 1-111, unveiled their battalion’s colors.



1-151st Splits to Kirkuk

1st Lt. Randy Swingle and Spc. Jacob Reese with the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, South Carolina Army National Guard, prepare an Apache for flight on the flightline of Contingency Operation Station Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Oct. 17, 2011.

By Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan, 1-151st ARB, Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATION STATION WARRIOR, Iraq – 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion has been conducting split base operations since A Company, a small group of D Company maintenance and a few members from HHC moved to COS Warrior, Kirkuk, Oct. 5. Now called Task Force Nightmare, they are working with 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry from Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

“Before we got here, the camp was getting mortared every day, several times a day,” said 1st Lt. Luke Mole, a pilot with A Company. “Now that we are flying our missions, the mortars have almost stopped.”

A Company First Sergeant William Miller said, “We have not dropped a single mission for any reason. Our pilots and maintenance personnel are doing a great job.”

According to Staff Sgt. Toby Wiggers, section sergeant for D Company maintenance, “D and A Company have been working together since the unit’s field training

program at Fort Hood. We are a great team.”

“Together,” continued Wiggers, “we have helped shut down the camps in northern Iraq. We have escorted convoys out of Mosul, Mirez, Speicher, and we will close down Warrior before we leave.”

Chief Warrant Officer Harry Hynes, pilot and maintenance officer for D Company said, “We are flying a third of the units missions with less than a fourth of the maintenance personnel from the unit. Everyone has really pulled together and made it work.”

“The mission’s success has been a collaborative effort,” said Chief Warrant Officer Dan Putnam, A Company pilot. “Our purpose was to come here to cover numerous convoys and none have been hit. Also, there has been a drastic reduction in the indirect fire on the camp since we have been flying. And we wouldn’t be able to keep flying without great maintenance.”

“The need for teamwork has required everyone to step forward,” added Putnam. “Camaraderie and cohesiveness has been great.”

“One of the more exciting missions we have had so far was that we got to escort Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commander of U.S. Forces, Iraq, to his meeting with the Iraqi president,” said Putnam. “The pilots were Lt. Col. Ray Davis, our battalion commander, and Chief Warrant Officer Deborah Glenn.”

Task Force Nightmare has been working alongside the 6-17th CAV. Unit lines were never drawn, said Hynes. “The 6-17th CAV has treated us like part of their team. They have been very forthcoming with information and helpful with our needs.”

“Task Force Nightmare has had a successful mission in Kirkuk, flying more than 250 hours in less than two weeks,” added Hynes. “And we will keep up this pace until the day we leave.”

Spheres of Recognition



Staff Sgt. David Wiggins and 1st Sgt. Phyllis Combs were awarded Army Achievement Medals Sept. 30, 2011, for exceptional and exemplary service for the 29th CAB.



Pfc. Daniel Cermak, a health care specialist (68W) in the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, was promoted to specialist in front of a morning formation on Oct. 24, 2011.



1st Lt. Abba Welte, an automations officer in the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, was promoted to captain in front of a formation on Sept. 30, 2011.



Sgt. Kristy Sumner, a health care specialist (68W) in the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, was promoted to staff sergeant in a morning formation on Sept. 28, 2011.



1st Sgt. Edward Monteith of the, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, was promoted to command sergeant major in front of the regiment, on Oct. 23, 2011. Originally from Ohio, he has served in the Active Army as well as the National Guard throughout 23 years of service.



Pvt. Peter Hollands, an aviation operations specialist, in the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, was promoted to private first class in front of a morning formation on Oct. 31, 2011.



Pfc. Christopher Kemink, a fire support specialist in the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, was promoted to specialist in front of a morning formation on Oct. 2, 2011.

@ A Glance

Maj. Brian Pipkin, 1st Lt. Randy Swingle and Spc. Jacob Reese with the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, South Carolina Army National Guard, now a part of Task Force Normandy, prepare for flight on the flight line of Contingency Operation Station Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Oct. 17, 2011.



Chief Warrant Officer Dan Putnam and 1st Lt. Arfraja McLeod, pilots in the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, South Carolina Army National Guard, now a part of Task Force Normandy, fly over Contingency Operation Station Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Oct. 17, 2011.

Master Sgt. Iris Cruz-Story moves to a position in a 360-degree security perimeter after exiting the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle Egress Trainer at Fort Hood, Texas, on Sept. 16, 2011.



Spc. Russell Meadows, a fire support specialist for the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, applies camouflage before a night mission as part of the opposing forces in a training exercise at Fort Hood, Texas, with the 10th Mountain Division's 4-31 Infantry Regiment on Oct. 3, 2011.



**By 1st Lt. Kristofer Baumgartner,
29th CAB Public Affairs Officer**

FORT HOOD, Texas – Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade trained here Sept. 13 and 15 on skills to fight and survive in the contemporary battlefield environment.

Approximately 100 Soldiers reviewed Modern Army Combatives Program techniques and learned more advanced moves, over a two-day period, designed for troops operating in contemporary environments such as close quarters and civil disturbance scenarios.

“This reinforces and expands on the training we’ve learned in our other combatives training,” said Master Sgt. Carl McKlveen, signal systems chief with the 29th CAB. “It gives us a better understanding of how to respond in a close quarters or hand to hand combat situation.”

The Soldiers started by reviewing the core combatives positions—the rear guard, the front mount, the guard and side control—as well as body throws and choking techniques to quickly subdue an opponent.

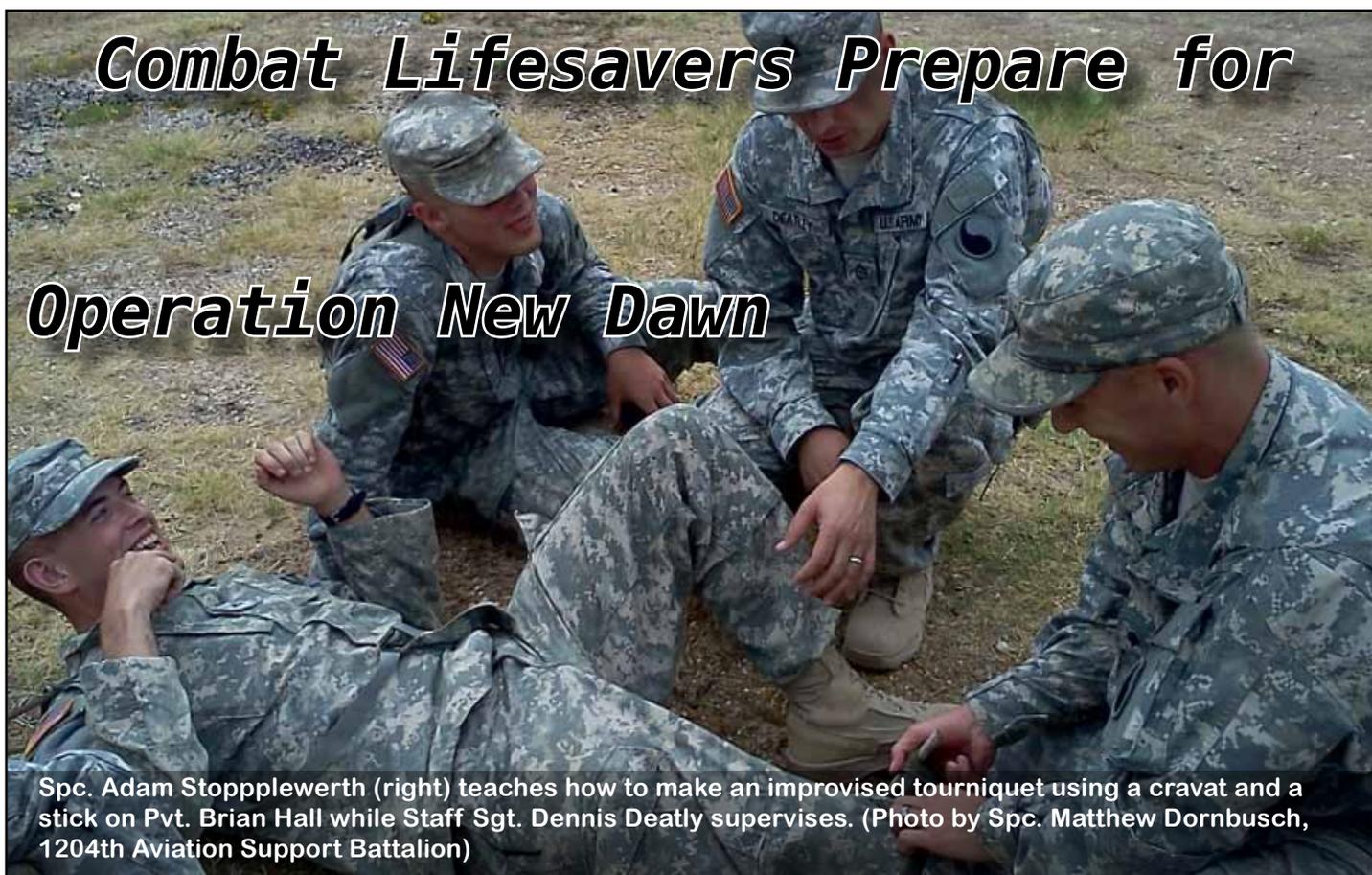
Following the review, Soldiers put on full combat gear including the 35-pound Improved Outer Tactical Vest, Advanced Combat Helmet, tactical gloves and eye protection in addition to a variety of “dummy” weapons such as the M9 service pistol, M4 carbine assault rifle and rubber knives. Although non-operational, the mock weapons mimicked real weapons in terms of weight and size.

“I’ve done combatives quite a bit but never had the introduction of the M4 dummy rifles ... and body armor—it was a totally new aspect,” said Staff Sgt. Mike Campbell, a senior satellite communication systems operator from Frederick, Md.

Wearing the equipment they will be using daily during their upcoming deployment to Southwest Asia, the Soldiers learned how to maintain their balance and control while keeping a potential threat from getting too close and possibly controlling their weapon or forcing the Soldier out of position.

“We learned how to keep the enemy away using our hands, not necessarily our weapons,” said Sgt. 1st Class David Shaina, networks systems supervisor. “It’s important because you don’t want to lose your weapon and take yourself out of the fight.”

MACP was introduced to the Army in 2002 and borrows heavily from Brazilian jiu-jitsu, a martial art that focuses on grappling and fighting on the ground. It has become more well-known in recent years with popularity of televised mixed martial arts competitions.



Combat Lifesavers Prepare for

Operation New Dawn

Spc. Adam Stoppplerwerth (right) teaches how to make an improvised tourniquet using a cravat and a stick on Pvt. Brian Hall while Staff Sgt. Dennis Deatly supervises. (Photo by Spc. Matthew Dornbusch, 1204th Aviation Support Battalion)

**By Spc. Matthew Dornbusch,
1204th Aviation Support Battalion**

FORT HOOD, Texas – Before deploying in support of Operation New Dawn members of the Kentucky Army National Guard’s 1204th Aviation Support Battalion, a part of Task Force Normandy, received some very special training.

A combat lifesaver is a non-medical Soldier trained to provide advanced first aid and lifesaving procedures beyond the level of self-aid or buddy-aid. This definition however doesn’t stress the importance of these Soldiers’ new role.

“The combat lifesaver is one of the most important soldiers on the battlefield today, as they are typically the

first soldiers to respond to casualties,” said 1st Lt. Robert White, 1204th Aviation Support Battalion physician assistant.

The combat lifesaver course – taught to the 1204th troops at Fort Hood Oct. 8-9 – included a wide range of techniques ranging from how to control bleeding with tourniquets to moving a casualty without causing further damage.

“The right medical intervention at the right time is how medics save lives. Treatment with tourniquets to stop major bleeding from extremities has reduced the number of preventable deaths significantly,” said Sgt. Jon Krull. “Teaching the combat lifesaver students

the correct steps will help sustain the casualty until they can receive proper medical treatment.”

“It is vital that combat lifesavers know how to treat the four most common preventable causes of death on the battlefield today, bleeding, tension pneumothorax, airway complications, and hypothermia,” said Staff Sgt. Dennis Deatly, the battalion’s treatment non-commissioned officer.

Combat lifesavers can be the link between life and death. Medics can’t always be present, a fact that the Army has come to realize. Combat lifesaver training is unique, proficient and yields results.

Pink Belts For Awareness



Members of the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion with the South Carolina Army National Guard, show their support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month by raising money to donate to the Palmetto Health Foundation and wearing pink physical training belts.

By Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan, 1-151st ARB, Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The month of October was Breast Cancer Awareness month, and to show their support, members of the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion with the South Carolina Army National Guard, joined together to raise money for the Palmetto Health Foundation in S.C. and wear pink reflective physical training belts as a symbol of their support.

It was the idea of Pfc. Charles Summerlin and Pfc. Theo Aycock, Apache mechanics in D. Company, to have the battalion raise money while deployed to Camp Taji, Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn. Summerlin said he has been doing something to raise money for breast cancer research for several years now, “I just wanted to get everyone in the battalion involved,” he said.

Staff Sgt. Melinda Sims, intelligence analyst in Head-

“It made me happy to see how many were willing to give for those back home even while we are here, already giving up so much for our country.”

- Pfc. Charles Summerlin
Apache mechanic in D. Company

quarters and Headquarters Company, 1-151 ARB, coordinated with Palmetto Health Foundation so all proceeds collected would be delivered to their foundation.

“I feel very strongly about this,” said Sims. “My mother died of breast cancer when I was 10, and I just want there to be a cure. I want to help more people be able to pay for doctor visits and screenings.”

“I didn’t do the hard work, I only made sure we could wear the pink PT belts while in uniform, and [I] got in contact with the foundation. Summerlin and Aycock did all the work,” added Sims.

Pink is an unusual color for a PT belt to be worn around

camp, but it was a great symbol to show that the unit was pulling together to do something for breast cancer awareness month, said Summerlin.

“There are no regulations about what color our PT belts have to be, just that we have to wear them in both ACU’s and in our physical training uniform,” he added. “The company we bought them from even sewed the pink Breast Cancer Ribbon on them.”

“We were able to raise more than \$1,500,” said Summerlin. “It’s not a lot, but it’s something. It made me happy to see how many were willing to give for those back home even while we are here, already giving up so much for our country.”

Operation Flight Horizon

By Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington, 29th
CAB Public Affairs

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – On a rainy Tuesday morning Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, poured into the Directorate of Simulation building at Fort Rucker Ala. The aviation training exercise, Operation Flight Horizon, began Sept. 20, 2011, and ended Sept. 27. It aimed to test the nearly 2,000-troop brigade mobilized in support of Operation New Dawn.

“Every Soldier in this brigade is highly motivated to accomplish the mission,” said Col. David Carey, 29th CAB commander. “The mission in Iraq and the mission in the theater is important to the U.S. national interest.”

“It validated in my mind that were capable of being an aviation brigade and we are ready to deploy.”

**- Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Beyard
29th CAB command sergeant major.**

Post-mobilization training benefits every Soldier from the newest private to seasoned veteran with multiple deployments. Soldiers qualified with their individual weapons, rollover training, and other training necessary to be ready to perform the mission. The ATX was the



culminating training event for the 29th CAB’s staff sections.

“I feel like I’m proficient in working on the Command Post of the Future, but we had the opportunity to cross train other Soldiers . . . and I got to cross train on other things too,” said Spc. Amanda

centric planning and execution capabilities in order to best support the ground commander.

The 166th Aviation Brigade evaluated the ATX to certify that the unit could successfully complete its mission. During the exercise, the unit dealt with medical and casualty evacuations, downed aircraft, air assaults, Red Cross messages, as well as troop and VIP transport.

“All the things that we would deal with in theater, the evaluators would inject into the scenario so our staff could exercise its processes. Then the evaluators could determine if we were doing it correctly,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Beyard, 29th CAB command sergeant major. “To me, the exercise proved what I already knew. . . . It validated in my mind that were capable of being an aviation brigade, and we are ready to deploy.”

King, a 29th CAB aviation operations specialist.

The ATX allowed the CAB to examine its coordination with its subordinate units in a collective training environment. It offered a unique opportunity for the commander to perfect the unit’s aviation-

Soldiers from Task Force Normandy's 1204th Aviation Support Battalion refuel UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters during ongoing training operations Sept. 29 at Fort Hood, Texas. (Photo by Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington, 29th CAB Public Affairs)



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