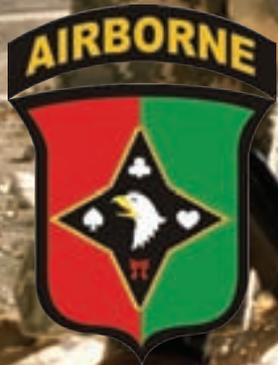


# TASK FORCE *Lifeline*



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*(Front cover) Sgt. Nicholas Delos Reyes stands on a mountainside along the Salang Pass, Parwan, Afghanistan during a mission with the Personnel Security Team. (Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Mary Perez)*



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For more photos, go to  
[www.flickr.com/Lifeliners101](http://www.flickr.com/Lifeliners101)

## *The Official 101st Sustainment Brigade Publication*

Commanding Officer: COL Michael Peterman  
Command Sergeant Major: CSM David Thompson

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## A Message from the Commander and Command Sergeant Major

### From Lifeliner 6

Greetings to the Lifeliner family! We've been home since early November, and it has been great re-connecting with our family and friends here. Coupled with our "deployment family," we have a lot to be thankful for.

2012 will have a significant impact on the 101st Sustainment Brigade. Many of us will be leaving this storied unit, while others of us will be preparing for the next "Rendezvous with Destiny." This year-end almanac is a means to provide our Soldiers and their families with a look into our daily lives while we were downrange. Aspects of our mission, both here and at home, serve to remind us why the Lifeliners are considered the U.S. Army's "Premiere Army Sustainment Unit," as well as detail the impact we had during Operation Enduring Freedom.

I've said it many times, and will continue to say it ... it is truly an honor and privilege these Soldiers gave me to lead this brigade. You are the very best the Army has to offer, and it showed often as Soldiers received the resources and necessities they needed to continue the fight.

Again, I would like to send a special thanks to the families of our Soldiers. Without you, none of this would have been possible. I've always reminded our troops that you as spouses and children did not sign up for ten years of war, but you have been stalwart in your support and providing us stable ground on which to stand.

Please enjoy this issue and remember the time fondly.

LIFELINERS!!

AIR ASSAULT!!



*Col. Michael Peterman  
Brigade Commander*



*Command Sgt. Maj. David Thompson  
Brigade Command Sergeant Major*

### From Lifeliner 7

The saying in the Army, "Always leave your footprint better than you left it for the next guy" was first created they had this brigade in mind. The Lifeliner legacy theater-wide in Afghanistan was well-documented and received by the units and contractors who had an opportunity to work with us.

When I first came onboard, I told each and every senior noncommissioned officer about my philosophy of, "surrounding ourselves with excellence." This was not just some funny saying, or a "rah-rah" speech intended to boost morale. It's meant to be a mission statement that our leaders carry forward, not only to their Soldiers under their command, but forward in their military careers.

Our great Lifeliner Soldiers took the message to heart and performed superbly downrange. There is a legacy worth imitating, and I am certain that other sustainment brigades will follow that example closely in the years to come.

This particular edition serves as a great reminder of who we are as a brigade. It shows the professionalism of our Soldiers, their dedication to duty and mission, and their willingness to overcome any obstacle thrown their way. It has been my honor to have worked with the Army's finest logistics Soldiers.

Surrounding yourself with excellence is easy to do when the people around you are of the same mindset. I could not have picked a better group of men and women to have assigned to. This was a dream assignment to be the command sergeant major of this team, and they made my job easy to do.

Again, thanks to our families for their sacrifices as well. The Lifeliners legacy is as much more yours as it is ours.

LIFELINERS!!

AIR ASSAULT!!

# 716th Military Police Battalion

As he walked into one of the post shopettes dressed in an Army Multi-cami uniform, Lt. Col. David Thompson said he was told, "thank you" and "welcome home" from a few of the civilians there.

"They thought I had come home from a deployment," he said.

The fact was Thompson, commander of the 716th Military Police Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, was actually preparing to head out on deployment. He and the rest of his battalion headquarters staff were leaving for their year-long tour to Afghanistan.

The battalion is typical of many of the units assigned to the "Lifeliners" brigade. As other brigades in the 101st Airborne Division deploy and return together entirely with dwell time in between deployments, the sustainment brigade constantly rotate in and out of theater in a support role to larger combat operations.

The battalion's role will be mentoring the Afghan Regional Police Command in Kabul. Instead of conducting foot patrols and being on the ground, theirs will be a more backseat approach, as they will assist and advise the Afghan National Police staff on how to conduct their mission.

The mission falls in line with the Military's mentorship approach, letting the Afghan officials take a lead role in their affairs as a pre-cursor to drawing down combat actions in Afghanistan.

"Our intent is to let [the Afghans] run their mission. We understand that they have their own ideas and they understand what works better in their culture," Thompson said.

This will be the first deployment for many of the soldiers in the battalion to Afghanistan. Many were previously deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Thompson, who has deployed multiple times to Iraq, said he deployed to Afghanistan back in 2002 where he helped train his fellow MPs in detainee operations. Regardless of where you are, the basics of the MP job do not change, he said.

"It might be a different environment, but the fundamentals are the same, in that we know what our duties are," he said.

The battalion spent several months preparing for their deployment, and some soldiers said they are drawing on their experiences in previous deployments to help their comrades who've never set foot in a combat theater.

Sgt. 1st Class Teklinski, battalion sergeant for the 716th MP Bn., said he believes the battalion is ready to conduct their mission and is confident on the amount of deployment experience of his fellow soldiers.

**OPERATION  
ENDURING FREEDOM  
JANUARY 2012 -  
PRESENT  
KABUL, AFGHANISTAN**









# 326th Engineer Battalion

**OPERATION  
NEW DAWN  
JANUARY 2011 -  
DECEMBER 2011  
MOSUL, IRAQ**

Just three days before Christmas, Soldiers of the 326th Engineer Battalion returned home from Operation New Dawn, the last combat troops from Iraq.

"This is a pretty historic moment for Fort Campbell, as these are the last combat troops coming out of Iraq, and we are glad to be getting them home in time for Christmas, said Col. Michael Peterman, the 101st Sustainment Brigade commander.

The 326th Engineers helped trained the Iraqi Army Engineers. They were also responsible for route clearance, which protected U.S. Soldiers on the road.

When they arrived home, Maj. Gen. James McConville, the commander of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), spoke to the engineers and their families.

"It was almost nine years ago, on March 3, 2003, when the first Screaming Eagles began their Rendezvous with Destiny in Iraq," he said. "It was on that day that they began a 507 kilometer air and ground assault through hostile territory.

"Over the years, during multiple deployments, our Army, 101st Soldiers, have risked life and limb to free the people of Iraq from tyranny, and provide them with an opportunity for freedom, an opportunity to govern themselves, an opportunity to plan their destiny, and an opportunity to decide their future.







# CAMPBELL

## OF THE SCREAMING EAGLES

. DONE!

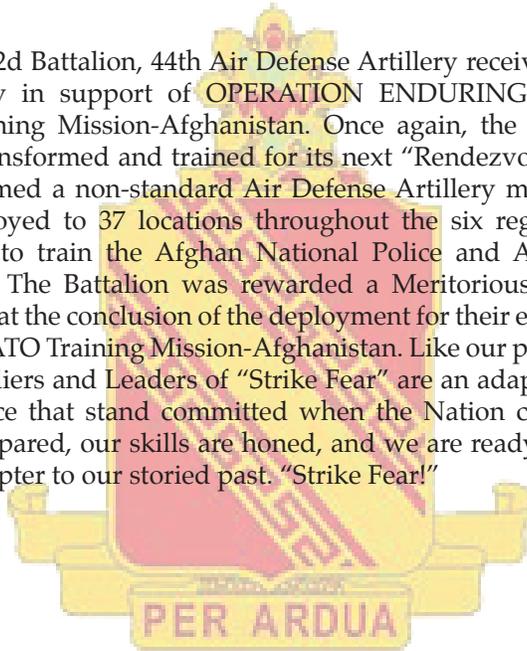
WELCOME HOME





# 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

In April 2010, 2d Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery received a short notice order to deploy in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan. Once again, the battalion quickly transitioned, transformed and trained for its next "Rendezvous with Destiny" where it performed a non-standard Air Defense Artillery mission. This time, 2-44 ADA deployed to 37 locations throughout the six regional commands in Afghanistan to train the Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army. The Battalion was rewarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation at the conclusion of the deployment for their efforts in support of NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan. Like our proud lineage, the Soldiers and Leaders of "Strike Fear" are an adaptive and flexible force that stand committed when the Nation calls. 2-44 ADA is prepared, our skills are honed, and we are ready to add another chapter to our storied past. "Strike Fear!"



**OPERATION  
ENDURING FREEDOM  
JULY 2010 -  
JULY 2011  
KABUL, AFGHANISTAN**









# End of the tour with the Lifeliners

## *Brigade Commander gives assessment of Afghanistan deployment*

*by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes  
101st Sustainment Brigade*

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan - One of the first things people notice about 101st Sustainment Brigade Commander, Col. Mike Peterman, is that he likes to measure mission success through numbers.

As in, how many bundles of fuel were delivered to various units at the many Forward Operating Bases throughout Afghanistan, or how many pallets of supplies and resources his rigger teams built to sustain the warfighter. That's just how his mind works.

His brigade, also known as the "Lifeliners" recently completed their year-long combat deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He often describes Afghanistan as, "the most complex and treacherous terrain in the world logistically," and his multiple deployments there add credence to his assessment. Prior to his return, Peterman sat down and gave his thoughts about how this deployment went.

"On a scale of one to 10, I'd give our mission a 10. I thought all the task force components did very well this rotation. I mean, it's hard to actually put metrics on it, but I'd say it's as close to a 10 as it could be. This is a very tough fight; I mean, Afghanistan logistically is the most complex environment in the world. It's got the poorest roads, some of the highest mountains, and a pretty determined enemy that are working against their own people. Task Force Lifeliner from the active duty, guard, and reserve units all meeting here at

Bagram have done incredibly good work within our battlespace supporting 13 brigade combat teams in the mountains. Most BCTs and Aviation units will pick up some elements of different units, but none of them pick whole formations from guard and reserves that they've never worked with before. We have, and everything that makes us combat logistics on the battlefield, we met there."

"We were at good this mission because Our noncommissioned officers in these formations. Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. (David) Thompson had great engagements with his NCOs here and used the 101st Airborne Division "Bluebook" standard as the measuring stick - not just the 101st Sustainment Brigade Soldiers, but for all the Soldiers who fell under us. The standards were established initially among the NCOs and once they were understood, they were enforced at that level. Because of that, they were sustained at 13 brigade combat teams with little groups of Lifeliners at those FOBs. Some of those groups were lead by lieutenants, but most were led by NCOs who made sure that we were successful. Good leaders have known for years that good formations have good NCOs enforcing standards and making sure that when no one's looking, we're always doing the right thing."

"We built this city on swagger." "Every commander has an opportunity to go out and recruit the team they need. In the Army, because of multiple transitions, you don't always get the exact man or woman who you want in your formation; however, we were extremely fortunate from the last brigade commander



*Col. Michael Peterman, the 101st Sustainment Brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Thompson, command sergeant major of the brigade, case the Lifeliner colors at a transfer of authority ceremony with the 10th Sustainment Brigade at Bagram Air Field, Nov. 2. The brigade concluded a year long deployment supporting combat forces in Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Micahel Vanpool)*



and command sergeant major that they left a really good cadre of officers and senior NCOs from the previous deployment. We also picked up some senior officers from Special Forces and others by happenstance. We picked up some good captains who trained with us two months before deploying. It's the same discussion with the NCOs: establishing the standards, ensuring they're enforced, and growing the team along the way. One of the things we really did well this rotation was lean on our executive officer and our deputy commander to really focus the officer corps as a learning organization. We conducted After Action Reviews, and learned and strived to do better. We also did some things differently because we had the baseline knowledge from our NCOs and junior officers who had been here before. So we do have a bit of a swagger. We believe as the Lifeliners we are the gold standard of Army logistics. All of the other battalions in our brigade ... the 326th Engineer Battalion, the 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment ... are also the gold standards in their respective formations either in combat or demonstrated in garrison. Elite units demonstrate that they are elite, and I think we've done that this year in exceptionally harsh terrain and really working through some problems as an organization. We've earned that swagger."

"We view our mission ..." "We did exactly what we were supposed to do for teammates. With Task Lifeliners, there are no customers. There are men and women out in those mountains pulling lanyards, working in the villages, doing the right thing that the American people have asked them to be here for and they should want for nothing. Gasoline, parts, pencils, paper ... whatever it is, the Lifeliners have touched it."

"Understanding Afghanistan..." "It's more than just saying that Afghanistan is different than Iraq. In Iraq, it is also a very tough fight, but the difference is that you've got mountains we have to traverse that are in excess of 14,000 feet. Today, in Afghanistan, it is knowing in the mountains. The three main passageways that we have to traverse our convoys at night are 12,000 feet elevation. They will move through at night, through the snow, at 12,000 feet, to move that ammunition, mail, or MRAP that was blown up three days ago to our teammates. It's the environment you've got to lay out for each of those Iraq vets and make sure that we put those great officers and NCOs with Iraq experience in tune with the complexities of Afghanistan. It's intuitive to say, 'Iraq is not Afghanistan.' The culture of the people in Afghanistan, you've got

to understand who they are, both tribally, locally, and within the battlespace where we operate are very different. Distinctly different environments with distinctly different needs. In the north, it's pretty secure, and there are opportunities to work on lines of effort involving economic development. In the east, however, security is a little bit tougher. Each of our formations have to stay in tune with that. There's still a threat up north, but it's a different threat. That's what we have to convey to our Iraq vets: who we're fighting, and what the opportunities are there to effect."

"Partnership with the Afghans" "... The more we're tied into the local community, the less problems we have because they start telling us what's out there. In essence, we became members of the community. The Afghan leaders we worked with understand that educating the children is the way out of poverty and number of other things that have stopped them from growing and provide them with no other option except to put IEDs on the road. In Bagram. We also worked with the Afghan National Army logistics units on developing, mentoring and training themselves. It's gotten to the place now where they began taking the lead on their own training. We consider that a win-win for us and them."

"On the loss of Soldiers during the deployment at Forward Operating Base Gamberi and recovering from the loss" "It talks to the nature of this formation that we lose these Soldiers, conducted the ramp ceremony to send them home, asked for volunteers to fill in their places, and within five minutes, had enough Soldiers to carry on the mission. Our Afghan partners there also lost an equal amount of their Soldiers in the attack. We learned some lessons from that: by us standing there the next day, we sent a huge message to the enemy and the Afghan Army that the Lifeliners were not going to let anyone quit. We were all on board. The Afghan Army was slow to recover from the incident, but the Lifeliners pushed and nudged them along and would not let them quit. We also lost Soldiers from our Alaska unit from a convoy attack, and the next day, they were out there continuing their mission. There was also the Soldiers from the Pennsylvania Guard that we lost due to an IED. Again, they finished their mission. The fact is, we've got to generate 14 convoys a night to sustain our combat forces in Afghanistan, and every one of them understands their duty and stepped back in their duty."

# 129th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan-The 129th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) from the 101st Sustainment Brigade will hand their mission over to the 375th CSSB from Mobile, Alabama on October 12, 2011 at Camp Leatherneck in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan after their yearlong deployment.

The 129th CSSB deployed to the Helmand Province to provide logistical support to all of the Coalition Forces in Regional Command Southwest. The battalion provided supply, transportation, distribution, and maintenance support to the Marines of the First and Second Marine Expeditionary Forces and to Coalition partners from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Australia, and France.

Throughout the year, the battalion provided command and control to nine different companies from both the active and reserve components. In doing so, they successfully completed over 233 Combat Logistics Convoys that traveled over 435,000 miles and delivered over 43,000 tons of commodities and equipment throughout the dangerous Helmand and Kandahar Provinces. One of the most notable missions that the battalion completed was the recovery of a downed French F-2000 Mirage Aircraft. The successful completion of this mission prevented critical intelligence from falling into the hands of insurgents. In accomplishing their missions the Soldiers and Airmen of the 129th CSSB earned a total of 76 Purple Hearts and 330 Combat Action Badges through their direct engagements with insurgents.

In these tough economic times the battalion remained focused on being good stewards of resources while at Camp Leatherneck. Through the battalion's initiative they were able to return over ten million dollars worth of property back to the Army supply system. They also took the lead on three key Afghan National Army (ANA) partnerships that provided mentors to the ANA and taught their Soldiers the basics of providing logistical support and further enhanced their ability to be self-sustaining.

The Soldiers of the 129th CSSB have served their country with distinction which has truly resulted in mission success. The support they provided assisted the Coalition Forces in Regional Command Southwest in bringing stability to the Helmand Province. Though there is still work to be done, the 129th CSSB has left a legacy that will eventually lead to Afghanistan assuming complete control of the security of their country. They have completed this "rendezvous with destiny" and are ready to take on the challenges of their next one.

**OPERATION  
ENDURING FREEDOM  
NOVEMBER 2010 -  
OCTOBER 2011  
CAMP LEATHERNECK,  
AFGHANISTAN**









# 101st Special Troops Battalion

The 101st STB began its deployment to Bagram Air Field in support of Operation Enduring Freedom November 16, 2010. They assumed control of all human resources, finance, customs headquarters administration and aerial delivery operations for Regional Commands North, East and Capitol.

During the past year, the Sustainers supported six company-level units and five detachments with more than 1,300 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in the active, reserve and guard components.

The human resources company provided postal support at more than 22 forward operating bases and 180,000 military, coalition and civilian personnel. They moved more than 60 million pounds of mail.

The finance management company revamped the process of Commercial Vendor Services, which pays contractors, so that the payment took five less days for processing and payment.

The aerial delivery detachment rigged and airdropped nearly 6,500 bundles of life and combat sustaining supplies, equaling more than 4,500 tons. The detachment broke the Bagram airdrop record by rigging 1,147 bundles, or 1.1 million pounds, this past holiday season.

The Sustainers also spearheaded a mentorship program with the Afghan National Army. The mentorship team taught and coached maintenance, transportation, medical, support operations and staff functions. The team also initiated the ANA's first maintenance course.

Alpha Signal Company installed and managed the largest communication network supported by a single Joint Network Node in theater.

**OPERATION  
ENDURING FREEDOM  
NOVEMBER 2010 -  
OCTOBER 2011  
BAGRAM AIR FIELD,  
AFGHANISTAN**

















# *Our Fallen Heroes Gone But Not Forgotten*





*Sgt. 1st Class Charles Adkins  
101st Special Troops Battalion*



*Staff Sgt. Cynthia Taylor  
101st Special Troops Battalion*



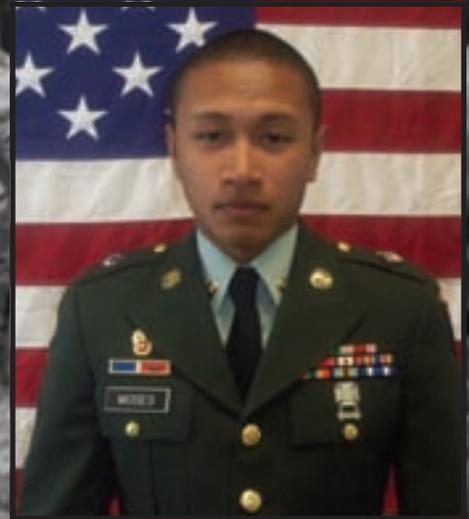
*Sgt. Linda Pierre  
101st Special Troops Battalion*



*Sgt. James Darrough  
101st Finance Company*



*Spc. Joseph Cemper  
101st Special Troops Battalion*



*Spc. Sonny Moses  
101st Special Troops Battalion*



*Spc. Michael Roberts  
561st Military Police Company*



*Spc. Christopher Scott  
561st Military Police Company*



LIFELINERS VITA VERSUS



LIFELINERS VITA VERSUS



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