

First 82nd Soldier to reenlist...2010

# PEGASUS

VOL 1 ISSUE 8 JANUARY 2010

MAGAZINE

*Aviators awarded  
Distinguished  
Flying Cross*

*Task Force Ready  
establishes footprint  
in RC-West*

*TF Saber pilot  
reenlists Stryker Soldier...*



GROUND AIR MOBILITY  
Official Magazine of  
Task Force Pegasus

(82nd Combat Aviation Brigade)

# PEGASUS

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 82ND COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

## *Mission statement:*

*On order, deploy and provide full spectrum rotary wing aviation capabilities - attack, assault, reconnaissance, medical evacuation, cargo, command and control, and air-space management - in order to sustain and support operations ranging from combat to civil support.*

## *This Month:*

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- 2 : Earthquake in Haiti**
- 3 : Message from Pegasus Command**
- 4 : Photos from the holidays...**
- 5 : TF Corsair delivers care packages**
- 6 : Message from Retention**
- 7 : New Years Reenlistment... 2010**
- 8 : CH-47F Chinook...**
- 9 : Signal Soldier in TF Pegasus**
- 10 : Message from Safety**
- 11 : Saber pilot reenlists Stryker Soldier**
- 12 : FARP Ops, FOB Wilson**
- 13: Task Force Ready, RC-West**
- 14: AH-64 Apache continues mission**
- 15 : Distinguished Flying Cross**
- 16 : Chaplain's Corner**

## Task Force Commands:

**Task Force Pegasus**  
COL Paul Bricker, Commander  
CSM Larry Farmer, CSM

**Task Force Saber**  
LTC Mike Morgan  
CSM Richard Sullivan

**Task Force Wolfpack**  
LTC David Jernigan  
CSM Wayne Fausz

**Task Force Corsair**  
LTC Carey Wagen  
CSM Thomas Hamilton

**Task Force Talon**  
LTC Wade Blackwell  
CSM Vernon Brown

**Task Force Atlas**  
LTC Robert Wegner  
CSM Lourdes Berrios-Powell

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# Earthquake in Haiti

Information from: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/US/01/14/haiti.us.aid/index.html>

**CNN-** The 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Tuesday afternoon was centered about 10 miles (15 km) southwest of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, which bore the brunt of the destruction.

State Department Counselor Cheryl Mills said U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Ken Merten met Thursday with Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive to coordinate aid efforts.

The United States is providing support to the approximately 45,000 Americans in Haiti, only 300 of whom have expressed an interest in leaving the country, Mills said.

Obama has promised \$100 million in immediate American relief aid to Haiti, an amount the president said will grow.

"This is one of those moments that calls out for American leadership," he said at the White House. "One of the largest relief efforts in our recent history" is now en route to Haiti.

The port was demolished by the [earthquake](#), which left huge chunks of concrete that blocked the road to truck and other traffic, CNN's Chris Lawrence reported. Those trying to transfer supplies from ships to people who need them will face major hurdles, he said.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the United States is providing security help to the the United Nations, which was "equally devastated by the collapse of its headquarters" for its peacekeeping force in Haiti. As many as 150 of its personnel are missing.

She said a contingent of 2,000 Marines will assist international peacekeepers helping to police Haiti, which has no army.

Because the U.S. Embassy is one of the few structures that remains intact, it has become a point of support, providing medical assistance for Americans and Haitians who are able to reach it, Mills said.

The United States has been trying to contact U.S. citizens in Haiti to see what they need, Mills said. Embassy families and nonessential personnel have been ordered to leave.

## Efforts in motion

"We're working feverishly and aggressively to support and provide life-sustaining capability to the citizens of Haiti," Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser said. "They've suffered a great deal."

Offshore, four U.S. Coast Guard cutters and a destroyer were providing support, including helicopter support, he said.

A disaster relief assessment team was surveying the area, and a battalion of paratroopers along with a command-and-control element from the 82nd Airborne arrived Thursday, he said.

The aircraft carrier Carl Vinson is to arrive in Haiti on Friday morning, carrying 19 helicopters and 30 pallets of relief goods, he said. The carrier will help relief workers get around Haiti's decimated infrastructure "to get good where they need to be," Fraser said.

Within four days, 700 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne will be in Haiti, he

said.

Those numbers will swell considerably. On Tuesday, three more ships will arrive, carrying 2,200 Marines and heavy equipment, he said.

By Saturday, 5,000 to 6,000 men and women dedicated to supporting the relief effort will be in Haiti, he said.

And a week from Friday, the USNS Comfort, a hospital ship, is slated to arrive, he said. "We are aggressively pursuing every action we can to provide relief to Haiti." The ship is staffed by a crew of 64 and 560 hospital personnel.

## Impact Your World: How you can help

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton urged people to donate to [www.clintonfoundation.org/haitiearthquake](http://www.clintonfoundation.org/haitiearthquake).

"Anybody who sends us money, we're just going to move it into those supplies quickly," he said.

He urged world leaders who have already made a commitment at a Clinton Foundation donors' conference to ensure they had fulfilled it. "Most countries are way behind on fulfilling it," he said. "They [Haitians] need your help now."

Ban said the United Nations will issue a "flash appeal" on Friday. The U.N. defines a flash appeal as a tool for structuring a coordinated humanitarian response for the first three to six months of an emergency.

However, officials are trying to figure out how much to request, Ban said. "It is very hard at this time to have an exact estimate."

The Red Cross promised \$10 million in aid, along with supplies such as tarps, mosquito nets and cooking sets. The World Food Programme was airlifting 86 metric tons of food, enough for more than 500,000 meals, including ready-to-eat food and high-energy biscuits, it said.

Doctors Without Borders said in a statement it has treated more than 1,000 people since the earthquake, operating out of open-air hospitals, and its primary concern is "the overwhelming numbers of people who need immediate treatment and major surgery." Food, water and shelter materials are also in short supply, said the organization.

<http://www.clintonfoundation.org/haitiearthquake/>

Numerous other aid groups -- Islamic Relief USA, AmeriCares, UNICEF, the International Rescue Committee and the Salvation Army, among others -- were also contributing to relief efforts. UNICEF relief worker Guido Cornale told CNN that in Jacmel, a city southwest of Port-au-Prince, UNICEF was providing clean drinking water to those affected by the quake and has distributed 2,500 kits that can be used to set up kitchens in camps set up by the government to house victims.

Aid also came from other, more unconventional sources. The Jolie-Pitt Foundation started by actors Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, donated \$1 Million to Doctors without Borders; the New York Yankees donated \$500,000, Major League Baseball \$1 million. And the American Red Cross and musician Wyclef Jean's Yele foundation were accepting donations by text message -- \$10 by texting "Haiti" to 90999, and \$5 by texting "Yele" to 501501. The donations will appear on cell phone bills.

And businesses including UPS, Google, Coca-Cola, Lowe's, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation and Wal-Mart each pledged at least \$500,000 for relief efforts.

## *From the Pegasus Command Team*



*Task Force Pegasus Commander  
Colonel Paul Bricker*

Troopers and Families of TF Pegasus,

Happy New Year! Our Pegasus Team continues its outstanding record of performance to our mission here in southern Afghanistan. Our team here was recently joined by TF Ready, a European based aviation unit where it is assigned to the 12th Aviation Brigade. TF Ready is built around the 5-158th General Support Aviation Battalion, and augmented with an Apache company from 2-159th Aviation. We are proud to have them on our team and look forward to their contribution to our efforts in western Afghanistan.

Since my last update, the brigade's operational tempo has remained fierce with increased Coalition momentum focused on protecting the Afghan people and our Coalition Troopers. Our aviation maintenance focus continues to enable us to meet our mission requirements, with those over whom we fly, remaining central.

The holiday period passed by quickly, however; rest assured we were all reminiscing fondly of our families back in America.

One memorable event that remains etched in my mind was our Christmas Eve gathering around the fire barrel outside the brigade headquarters. Approximately 50 Pegasus Troopers joined together to sing Christmas carols, enjoy hot chocolate, and listen to

Chaplain McCay read scripture that drew us back to the reason we celebrate Christmas. And then, to make the evening more memorable, a group of Romanian Soldiers joined us in our celebration, honoring us with singing traditional Christmas carols in their native Romanian language. It was a special time and one I shall never forget.

I will also never forget the volume of care packages...literally truck loads of mail arrived during the Christmas season. The support of our families and the American people was overwhelming and helped so many of our Troopers understand how much they are appreciated.

Recently, Senator John McCain, Sen. Joe Lieberman, Sen. Chad Thune, the US Ambassador to Afghanistan, and General Stanley McChrystal all traveled to Kandahar to visit with the troops. Our very own TF Talon flew them safely and on their return to the airbase, they paused for a few moments for photos, hugs, and autographs. It was indeed a special time for those troops who were able to meet these distinguished public servants. And, little did I know, that CW5 Craig Wheeler's mom went to school with Sen. Lieberman; this made for quite the photo op on Mike Ramp! And, not less than a week later, we flew Sen. Carl Levin and Sen. Lindsey Graham. It is always a proud moment to observe Task Force Pegasus support our nations senior statesman and senior military officers.

Our mission here continues unabated with less than 100 days remaining before the 82nd CAB returns to Fort Bragg and our eagerly awaited reunion with our loved ones. We will remain focused and ask for your continued prayers and support.

ATW!

Respectfully,  
Pegasus 6



*Task Force Pegasus Command Sergeant Major  
Command Sergeant Major Larry Farmer*

Pegasus Team,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2010. We had a great year in 2009 and I expect 2010 will bring many exciting times and challenges for us all.

We closed off 2009 with a Brigade Task Force Trooper and NCO of the Quarter Board. I am proud to say TF Corsair (2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment) was represented with outstanding Troopers as both winners came from that great organization. Congratulations go out to Sergeant Bayer and Specialist Colon. If you have a moment please take the time to congratulate them and shake their hands.

We have one quarter board remaining for this deployment scheduled for February. We will be holding our Ground and Air Maintainer of the Quarter Board. Once they are complete we will have our quarterly winners compete and the task force command sergeants major and I will select our annual winners for our deployment. All four winners will be recognized at our Brigade Formal before we

depart for Block leave at the end of May.

TF Troopers as we wind down this deployment please take time to make sure we are conducting our redeployment right. We are all looking forward to returning home to our loved ones and any Trooper hurt during our preparation for redeployment will affect the

entire task force. You have achieved such heights during this deployment and I could not be more proud of each and every one of you and what you have accomplished for the team. I want to thank each of you for your continued support and a special thank you to the families back home; know you are loved and missed each and every day.

ATW!

Pegasus 9

Photos from the holidays...



*(Above) Task Force Pegasus command and Soldiers gathered around the burn barrel for Christmas carols. (Upper right) Colonel Bricker and Command Sergeant Major Farmer with members of Headquarters, Brigade sing carols around a flame. (Right) Members of the Romanian Army sing Christmas carols for TF Pegasus accompanied by Headquarters Soldier Specialist Minzler, a native of Romania.*



*(Above) Members of 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment (Task Force Saber) gather round a tree for a candle-light service Christmas Eve. (Upper left) 82nd CAB Commander, Colonel Bricker with Aviators from 2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment "Vipers" after flying in the snow, Zabul Province. (Left) Members of the task force toast in the new year with a reenlistment.*

# “Operation Care Package”

Task Force Corsair delivers care packages to ground troops with the help of “Santa”



**BY: Staff Sergeant Aubree Clute**  
*Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs*

**Zabul Province, Afghanistan**—Throughout the holiday season, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 82<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment (Task Force Corsair), 82<sup>nd</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade shared the holiday spirit with Troops on ground while maintaining focus of their aviation mission in southern Afghanistan. With an abundance of care-packages delivered to TF Corsair on their base, the aviation task force decided to plan: “Operation Care Package”; an aviation mission aircrews dedicated to visiting a number of combat outposts (COP) and forward operating bases (FOB) to deliver care packages filled with hygiene products, books, letters, and goodies to Infantry components scattered throughout the province from supporting organizations in the US.

More than a dozen outposts were visited throughout Zabul Province by TF Corsair aircrews to ensure the delivery of these care packages and supplies to Infantry Soldiers from 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 508<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Task Force Fury), 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, and other US Forces in the provincial area.

A number of these locations are without running water and electricity.

In support of the mission, an aviation maintenance contractor dressed up as “Santa Claus” and delivered the care packages in large-white mail bags to the Troops on ground. Needless to say Troops were pleased to be greeted by the white-bearded jolly man in red bearing gifts over the holidays in Afghanistan.

# REENLIST... AVIATION

BY: Sergeant 1st Class Zinita McCall  
122nd ASB Career Counselor

*Aviation has always been a challenging branch to reenlist for. Unlike combat arms and other branches, aviation units limit Soldiers to where they can go and have a higher deployment agenda.*

*We work 24/7 to make sure we can take care of the aviation Soldiers and show them all that the Army has to offer i.e. Officer Candidate School (OCS), Green to Gold, warrant officer programs, drill sergeant assignments, recruiting assignments, and available assignments within other aviation units.*

*Some of the great assignments we were able to offer Soldiers were: Fort Detrick, Maryland, Fort Lee, Virginia, Fort Eustis, Virginia, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Fort Gordon, Georgia, Hawaii, Germany, Japan, and a number of duty assignments to remain with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade.*

*We encourage Soldiers to take charge of their careers before someone else does. A lot of Soldiers are coming down on orders for "needs of the Army" sending those Soldiers to places they have not dreamed of going.*

*The bonus message is supposed to decrease and/or no longer be available to deployed Soldiers by the end of January 2010. The Army has met its end strength, and reenlistment is getting ready to slow-down much like last year.*

*Encourage your Soldier to visit their retention office if they are in their two-year reenlistment window to make a good decision for their future goals.*

*We don't just reenlist Soldiers; we are Career Counselors and we can assist them in their future goals... whether it be progressing to a new station or ending their time in service.*



## First 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Soldier to reenlist: 2010

US Army Captain John Abella (left), Company Commander for Company A, 122<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Support Battalion, 82<sup>nd</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade administering the Oath of Reenlistment to Sergeant Michael L. Williams (right) of Company A, 122<sup>nd</sup> ASB at the stroke of midnight in Kandahar Afghanistan, making Williams the first 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Soldier to reenlist in 2010.

BY: Staff Sergeant Aubree Clute  
Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs

**Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan**—At the stroke of midnight, Troopers from 122<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Support Battalion, 82<sup>nd</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade gathered to witness the reenlistment of US Army Sergeant Michael L. Williams, Company A, 122<sup>nd</sup> ASB making him the first 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Trooper to reenlist in 2010.

Williams, a reenlistment noncommissioned officer for 122<sup>nd</sup> ASB reenlisted for four additional years of regular Army service with hope to continue career progression and future assignments overseas.

When asked about being the first 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn. Div. Trooper to reenlist in 2010 Williams replied with, “This is an outstanding moment in my life; a once and a lifetime opportunity and I am really impressed with the turn out and support of people from 122<sup>nd</sup> ASB.”

After taking his Oath of Reenlistment administered to him by Co. A, 122<sup>nd</sup> ASB Commander, US Army Captain John Abella, Williams drew the attention of the crowd with thanks and emphasized the importance of continued service and commitment to the United States military through tough times and deployments.

Also on 01 January, 2010 Sergeant Jeremy Mitchell from 1st Battalion, 82<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment (Task Force Wolfpack) was reenlisted by Chief Warrant Officer Geroge Davis, Food Service Officer, 82<sup>nd</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade making him the second Soldier in the 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB to reenlist in 2010. Mitchell, a food service specialist will be taking an overseas assignment to Germany after redeploying with the 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB this spring.





# CH-47F Chinook



*(Above) US Army CH-47F Chinook helicopter from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment sling-loading a high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV) over Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.*



***Southern Afghanistan- The CH-47F Chinook helicopter is the latest model Chinook flown by US Army aircrews. The Chinook can slingload up to 10 thousand pounds in one lift. Since their arrival to Kandahar Airfield last April, Company B "Flippers", 3rd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment has assisted in over 60 slingload missions and more than eight-million pounds of cargo movement throughout the southern region.***

*(Left) Through the gunner's window of a Chinook helicopter, flight engineer, US Army Sergeant Julio Acevedo from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment keeps close watch of the lead Chinook helicopter sling-loading a high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV) over Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.*

# 82nd CAB Signal Troopers

## Provide Essential Communications

BY: MAJ Christopher Byrd  
Task Force Pegasus Signal Officer

### Friends and family members,

As the Brigade Signal Officer, I want to provide you all with some insight into the amazing work your spouses and sons and daughters are doing here in Afghanistan. Our brigade footprint spans across some of the most rugged and austere terrain you could possibly imagine, and without the secure and reliable, radio, telephone and computer communications support your loved ones provide on a 24/7 basis, the mission would be close to impossible to carry out.

Since we arrived in country, almost 10 months ago, the Signal Troopers of Task Force Pegasus have been extremely busy providing essential communications support to our pilots, logisticians, mechanics, medics and operational planners ultimately responsible for executing the CAB's combat mission – enabling the international coalition to secure a bright future for the people of Afghanistan. Deploying several months early at the leading edge of the troop surge in Afghanistan has not slowed them down one bit. They hit the ground running and quickly established communications support at more than six Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) building a first class telephone and computer network to support their respective battalions and the brigade. It has been simply amazing watching the progress – imagine seeing an old Soviet-era mine field transform into a mini-city supported by a complex network capable of world-wide communications.

Signal Troopers work around the clock, behind the scenes servicing computers, radios and phones to ensure communications is always available when needed. Even the most straightforward of communications tasks is accomplished with laser precision. The work they do sustains the critical link between the pilot flying the helicopter, the Infantry securing the ground and the commander directing the action. No matter the challenge, the CAB's Signal Troopers will go wherever needed and do whatever is needed to ensure success.

Part of our mission is to separate the enemy from the Afghan people and sometimes that means going to some pretty remote, inhospitable locations to support

ground forces that are partnering with Afghan Security Forces. As a result, our Aero MEDEVAC detachments push forward to these locations to ensure immediate medical support is available to US, Afghan and other coalition forces. Routinely, the CAB employs satellite based communications equipment to the forward units with the headquarters located hundreds of miles away. Most recently, the CAB has deployed SNAP, or SIPR NIPR Access Point terminals, to these forward locations to provide secret and unclassified telephone and computer support. The SNAP terminals are typically operated by Air Force personnel, but CAB's Troopers eagerly joined the fight, quickly learning to use this new technology and playing a key role in making sure that emails, phone calls and chat sessions always work. Their work is absolutely essential to the MEDEVAC mission. This is just one example of the outstanding work they perform each and every day.

The CAB's Signal Troopers have answered every challenge with determination and tenacity. This "can do attitude" sets them apart from other units and is one of the reasons the 82nd is always called upon for the toughest jobs. Whether it's helping out fellow US Troopers or other coalition forces, the Signal Troopers represent the Division and the Army extremely well and we are all very proud to serve alongside them daily.

Thank you for all that you do on the home front to support these extremely competent and professional men and women during this most important deployment. Our thoughts and prayers are always with you as you take care of business back home.



*Sergeant 1st Class Michael Cade, brigade signal NCOIC assists UK signal personnel on setting up SATCOM radio.*

# Pegasus Safety

BY: Chief Warrant Officer Jon Lande  
Brigade Safety Officer

That's it, we are finally here! Where is that you might ask? How about the most high risk phase of a year long deployment... "the red zone", "the home stretch", or "the downhill slide"; all these phrases we have heard in the past to describe the last 90 days of a deployment.

Historically, this is the most dangerous period of a deployment for all the reasons you have heard before; complacency, fatigue, overconfidence, preoccupation, and get-home-itis. In fact, for those who may not be aware, the brigade and battalion task force commanders are required to elevate risk approval thresholds for the first and last 90 days of a deployment for those exact reasons. Yep, the statistics confirm it and the lessons have been written in blood and pain. If there is ever a time for increased focus, adherence to standards and engaged leadership, that time is now.

Your temptations may cause you to stray from known procedures and established standards. Why? Because of your success that is why. Nothing has gone wrong yet and you always succeed in your mission. You must strive not to lose sight of those proven procedures and techniques that generated your accomplishments. That is especially important as we hand over the reins to our replacements. It is imperative that we do not compromise our tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) while assisting them in assuming our mission.

Now I would be remiss if I did not impart a "war story" especially since I now have 26 years worth. Once many years ago a young warrant officer found himself off the flight schedule during a three-day cease fire of hostilities. As his assembly area was now squarely in enemy territory with considerable abandoned equipment nearby he elected to do some exploring. He soon found himself over the next ridge several hundred yards away from his encampment and safely in open desert. Amidst the debris field of hastily discarded gear he found himself staring at an open crate of factory fresh hand grenades. At least 2 dozen new "lethal baseballs" on which the paint was barely dry. Now what red blooded American Soldier wouldn't dream of quenching his boredom with a little frag tossing? The temptation was considerable – no one around; nobody that would get injured. That is, no one except me... the voice of logic was creeping in. Why would I risk losing a hand or worse to a malfunction after enduring seven months in a GP medium (tent) with 12 other Troopers, 120 degree heat, sandstorms, no tv, no internet.... Not this close to going home! Point of the story – you have come too far and worked too hard just to risk it all on a hasty decision or shortcut. **STAY FOCUSED** and we will see you on green ramp!

# Kiowa pilots support Stryker reenlistment

**BY: Private 1st Class Nathan Booth**  
*5/2 SBCT Public Affairs*

**KANDAHAR AIR FIELD**, Afghanistan – Sgt. John Bulford, an Akron, Ohio native assigned to 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, reenlisted on Forward Operating Base Frontenac, Afghanistan, Dec. 26 with the help of a trusted battle buddy he'd never met before.

In the first two weeks of December Bulford, a sniper team leader for C Company, 1-17 Infantry, defeated several insurgent attempts to emplace Improvised Explosive Devices by guiding air Scout Weapons Teams onto the targets. The SWTs, comprised of two OH-58D Kiowa helicopters, allowed Bulford to accomplish his mission to secure the roads with lethal precision, at a distance beyond the range of his team.

Naturally, two weeks later, when he asked those Kiowa pilots to administer his oath of reenlistment, they agreed.

"We were conducting route reconnaissance until we were cleared in to the FOB for the ceremony. His company had assembled at the FOB, so we came in and landed," said Chief Warrant Officer Dave Ginn, assigned to Crusader Troop, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade. "While my sister ship was refueling I noticed his company had assembled so I took the helicopter right up to them and landed. I knew the guys would really like that." Bulford was able to take his oath inside of one of the helicopters that had assisted him so many times.

"He came over and my co-pilot got out and gave him his helmet and helped him get seated and plugged him in to the intercom system and from there we just sort of had small talk for a little while," Ginn said. "Once I felt that he was comfortable and ready to roll we went through the reenlistment oath."

Bulford felt honored to have his oath administered by those he had worked so closely with.

"Shamus [the SWT call sign] is the biggest asset to the Infantrymen on the ground," he said. "No matter what the situation looks like, it's a relief to know that those guys overhead will put rockets where we need them."

Ginn also was honored to help the soldiers on the ground.

"It's obviously an honor. The fact that they request us by name not only for air support but also to do something like a reenlistment shows that we have a strong relationship and a strong bond with our guys on the ground," Ginn said. "They trust us and we trust them. It's definitely positive feedback for us to know that we're doing a good job out there for them."

Ginn also attested to the character of Bulford, a leader from the hardest hit battalion in Afghanistan since 2001.

"For someone to continue putting themselves in situations like that, it obviously says something about his courage and moral conviction and commitment," Ginn said.

The similarity in their numerical designation isn't the only thing the two units share. They also share a bond forged in battle.

"I would say it's a pretty strong bond considering the nature of the engagement and the nature of the fight that we're currently in," Ginn said. "It's not easy doing what we're doing. We give them everything we can to make sure that they make it through there."



(Above) Chief Warrant Officer Dave Ginn, an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter pilot with Crusader Troop, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, talks about Kiowa operations in the Kandahar region Jan. 4. CW2 Ginn reenlisted Sgt. John Bulford, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Stryker Dec. 26. (US Army photo by Capt. Adam Weece)



(Below) Sgt. John Bulford (right, in cockpit), C Co, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade, is reenlisted by CW2 Dave Ginn (left, in cockpit) from TF Saber on Forward Operating Base Frontenac Dec. 26. (Army photo courtesy of 1-17 Infantry)

# Echo Troop keeps Kiowas in the fight, FOB Wilson



*The POL platoon from Echo Troop, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment (Task Force Saber) is responsible for re-fueling and re-arming OH-58 Kiowa Warrior Helicopters from a number of forward arming and refueling points (FARPs) throughout the southern region of Afghanistan in support of the Kiowa's aerial reconnaissance mission.*



# Task Force Ready opens FARP Daytona

5st Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment; General Support Aviation Battalion, RC-West

BY:1LT Andrew Wempe  
Task Force Ready Public Affairs

**Regional Command-West, Afghanistan-**At 0930 on 7 January 2010, E Company, 5-158<sup>th</sup> General Support Aviation Battalion, pumped the first of potentially millions of gallons of fuel in support of aircraft operations throughout Regional Command-West.

The 300,000 gallon fuel capacity FARP will service aircraft not only within Task Force Ready but also for rotary wing assets throughout RC-West. The FARP opened for business when SSG Gregory Martin, SGT Troy Thomas, and SGT Henry Lanns refueled two Flipper CH-47F aircraft (82<sup>nd</sup> CAB) of Task Force Talon.

Only three weeks ago, the FARP area was a barren, dangerous section of land on the North East corner of Shindand Airfield



**SSG Gregory Martin (FARP NCOIC) pumps the first thousand gallons of fuel from FARP Daytona.**

that had not been cleared of mines or UXOs. For three weeks, contractors and Task Force Ready Soldiers worked feverishly to demine, clear, level, lay gravel, and provide FARP security before the installation of fuel bags commenced. Once the six 50,000 gallon capacity fuel bags were installed, and fuel testing was completed, the FARP opened to very happy customers throughout RC-West.

“The opening of FARP Daytona is instrumental to sustaining the future aviation mission sets throughout RC-West,” said 2LT James Burnham, FARP OIC. There are plans to expand FARP Daytona from two refueling points to four refueling points, including two rearming pads for attack aircraft. In addition to FARP Daytona, E Company is preparing to assume responsibility of up to four more FARP locations throughout RC-West.



**Flipper 11 approaches FARP Daytona to top off.**

# AH-64 APACHE

## THE MISSION IN THE SOUTH & PREPARING FOR THE WEST

BY: Captain Aaron Schilleci,  
C Co. 1-82<sup>nd</sup> Commander, Task Force Wolfpack

**Southern Afghanistan-** The decision was made in December by Task for Wolfpack to launch six- Attack Weapons Teams (ATW) a day in order to inundate northern Kandahar, central Helmand and Uruzgan Provinces with AH-6HD Apache helicopters in an effort to provide a continuous reminder to the Taliban that we are overhead and ever present in the battlespace of Regional Command-South, Afghanistan.

Despite the number of kinetic engagements decreasing over the past couple of months, the reports have shown that the enemy has recently been “losing faith” and in some cases surrendering due in part to the shadow of imminent death cast overhead.

The integration in the joint challenging to say the least. utilize tactical patience and causalities—in many instances utilizes women and children as

With the transition of the environment; the Task Force Wolfpack and TF Ready aircrews are evolving to develop a much closer and integrated relationship with our US and Coalition customer units in an effort to enable long-term successes such as improved protection for the Afghan civilians and a greater degree of freedom of movement on the battlefield for military and local nationals alike.

The foundation of all combat hours flown by TF Wolfpack and TF Ready has been enabled by a maintenance effort which has proven to be nothing short of unbelievable. We will continue to run and fly hard to the very end of this deployment. I am very proud of all of the pilots and crew chiefs who make up TF Wolfpack and was glad to have the opportunity to serve and fly with Captain Eckerman and Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 159<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment (Task Force Ready- Apache flight company)

*“We are over-  
head and ever  
present”  
- Schilleci*

by the unrelenting Apache coverage

and combined battlespace has been Aircrews are constantly tested to expert judgment to avoid civilian against an enemy who routinely human shields.

brigade’s focus to a less kinetic





In this photograph from left to right: US Army Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Denton, OH-58 Kiowa Warrior pilot for 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment (Task Force Saber), 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB, Major Matthew Weinsel, operations officer and Kiowa pilot, 1-17<sup>th</sup> CAV (TF Saber), 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB, Major General John McDonald, Deputy Commander, US Forces-Afghanistan, Chief Warrant Officer Larry Thomas, CH-47F Chinook pilot for 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion (TF Talon), 82<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB, Chief Warrant Officer Eric Slover, Chinook pilot, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. (TF Talon), 82<sup>nd</sup> Avn. Reg., 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB, Chief Warrant Officer David Ginn, Kiowa pilot, 1-17<sup>th</sup> CAV (TF Saber), 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB, Sergeant Roger Rathbun, flight engineer for 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. (TF Talon), 82<sup>nd</sup> Avn. Reg., 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB, and 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB Commander, Colonel Paul Bricker.

BY: Staff Sergeant Aubree Clute  
Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs

**Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan**—Three OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter pilots, two CH-47F Chinook helicopter pilots and a Chinook flight engineer from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross from US Forces-Afghanistan Deputy Commander, Major General John McDonald 13 January at Kandahar Airfield. Recognized for their acts of heroism during aviation operations in southern Afghanistan, McDonald accompanied by 82<sup>nd</sup> CAB Commander, Colonel Paul Bricker pinned the DFC on each of the six aviators before a crowd of command support and fellow crew members.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is a medal awarded to any officer and enlisted member of the US Armed Forces who distinguishes himself or herself in support of operations by “heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight and dates back to 1918. The first DFC was awarded to Charles Lindberg. Other distinguished recipients of the DFC are: Jimmy Stewart, John McCain and George Bush.



# Finish Strong

BY: Chaplain (MAJ) Roger McCay  
*Task Force Pegasus Chaplain*

As we sail into the last quarter of our deployment it seems to me as if the first 9 months have just flown by. On the other hand, it didn't necessarily seem like it was flying by at the time.

For some folks it is even as if time has sped up. Unfortunately that is because they are anticipating the coming day of redeployment with trepidation. This is probably an experience of the phenomena mentioned by Solomon in Proverbs 21:19 which says "Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife." If that's you, we chaplains have something for you. Come see us, and we'll work through some home strategies for household harmony. And be sure to participate in all our marriage retreats. The first ones are in May.

But, if you are like most people it seems as if we are experiencing what marathoners experience about mile 20. It's like someone has put a piano on our back. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but it is if time has slowed down. Time has that quirk when you are really looking forward to something that is coming up.

Passing the time quickly really is what most of us want over here. Here are some suggestions that might help accomplish that:

**First** - Set some short-term goals to accomplish. For me, that is my sermon. When my turn comes to preach on Sunday I'm preaching whether I'm ready or not. So, I've got to do all my sermon prep, get the sermon written, and be prepared to give it on time. This speeds up time for me because the closer it is to Sunday, the more I fret on getting it done along with all the other things I've got going on. The interesting effect of this is that time speeds up for a few days before I preach. What kind of short-term goals can you set?

**Second** - Try catching up on the Soul Challenge if you've slacked on it. This incorporates some elements of #1. If you've fallen behind on your studies, then try to cram like you are preparing for an exam to get to where you would be if you had been studying all along. If you still don't have that bench press you want, then set a date for a max effort bench with your goal in mind. For us at HHC BDE the commander has set a date for the PT test. It has been amazing how many more people seem to be in the gym and on the road lately as a result dreading that date. In your spiritual disciplines, if you haven't been reading your Bible, catch up on all that you would have read by this time in the deployment if you had been consistent by cutting out your People Magazine or Maxim reading time. The Bible is better for you anyway.

**Third** - Focus on what you are doing at any particular moment. This was Yoda's complaint with Luke. He was always looking to the future as a dreamer, so he had issues. Focus on the present issues at hand and before you know it the future will be here. Jesus put it this way in Matthew 7:34, "...do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

But whether time has sped up or slowed down for you I encourage you to stay the course. If you've deployed before, you know the deal from here. If this is your first trip to war, then look at the thousands and thousands of Troopers that have done it before and made it just fine. If they can do it, you can do it.

Since you've been here in Afghanistan you have done some tremendous things. If you look back at all the things you've done to get us to where we are now, you can see honest to goodness real fruit of your labor. You can be proud of what you have done and hold your head high. Once we get home, you will be a returning hero to all those who know you. Finish strong.

May God's blessings be upon you!

CH McCay



*...The light at the end of the tunnel*