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FALCON SUMMIT

JUNE 2013

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COVER PHOTO

Spc. Andy Ayotte, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew chief with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, scans his airspace during a passenger movement mission May 11. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade)



LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Spc. Tanzila Chaudhry, an air traffic controller with F Company (ATC), 2nd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, Task Force Knighthawk, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, scans the airspace over Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan, June 7. Chaudhry is also a fixed-wing pilot, herself, and is only 50 flight hours away from obtaining her commercial pilot license. (Photo by Capt. Pete Smedberg, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade)



We would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Task Force Dragon and Task Force Iron Warrior to the Task Force Falcon family. We are proud to serve shoulder to shoulder with the exceptional Soldiers of these two great aviation task forces during this exciting time in Afghanistan's history. I would ask that you feel free to distribute this newsletter amongst your families, friends and formations and continue to follow the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade on Facebook to monitor the successes and accomplishments of your great Soldiers. Thank you for your support and welcome to the Task Force Falcon team!

FLY TO GLORY!

COL David J. Francis
Task Force Falcon
10th Combat Aviation Brigade
Falcon 6



From Falcon 6:

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

It has been a busy but exciting first month on the ground in Afghanistan. Our Soldiers have hit the ground running and are performing admirably around the clock as we continue to execute the full spectrum of aviation operations across Regional Commands East and North. As the commander of Task Force Falcon and 10th CAB, I could not be more proud of the efforts and sacrifices our Soldiers continue to make each and every day. They are making a true and lasting impact on the outcome of this war as we do our part to bring peace and stability to the people of Afghanistan. The phenomenal work our Soldiers perform day in and day out would not be possible without the outstanding support we receive from our families and support systems in the rear. Families are the backbone of this great organization; your support and dedication is critical to accomplishing our mission.



As we enter a new era in our mission in Afghanistan, the need for Army Aviation is being felt more so than ever before. Task Force Falcon Soldiers are leading the way and are paramount in our drawdown efforts. Our maintainers and support personnel are being called on to keep our aircraft in top condition to meet the demands of ground commanders, and are performing flawlessly. I am tremendously proud of every member of this great task force and want you to know that your hard work is not going unnoticed.

I would like to personally thank the families of our Soldiers. You have the toughest job of all. Your support and dedication gives us strength and enables us to complete the mission. 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 our units and the immeasurable impact they are having on this challenging, but crucial mission. You can be proud of your Soldiers, and know that they cannot do what they do without your continued support. For that, I thank you.

FLY TO GLORY!
COL David J. Francis
Task Force Falcon
10th Combat Aviation Brigade
Falcon 6

From Falcon 65:

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

We are one month into our deployment and everyone is working hard. Our aircrews and support crews continue to do an exceptional job as we begin a new era in Afghanistan's history. The individual efforts of your Soldiers are critical to the current mission. Army aviation is as prevalent as ever as we transition from the U.S. coalition to Afghan control of security operations. The time that your Soldiers spent away from home training on their cutting edge equipment has already played an instrumental role in reducing risk while they provide our ground units the essential support they need.

We are all extremely proud of the hard work and dedication our Aviation Soldiers display on a daily basis. There is no doubt we have the best aviators, maintainers, and support personnel the military has to offer and it is impressive to see what they can do here. They are conducting around the clock

operations in some of the world's harshest, most rugged terrain, and our personnel and equipment are standing up to these challenges. This is a testament to the discipline and dedication of our service men and women.

Families and friends you are our strength. Although you are not physically present with us, your support and dedication provides the motivation used to fuel our efforts. Your unwavering support provides piece of mind and allows everyone here to focus on their critical tasks. Thank you for your continued support; we would not be the professional, dedicated, fighting force without you. Thank you for all that you do. FLY TO GLORY!

CW5 Jeffrey Fitzgerald
10th Combat Aviation Brigade
Chief Warrant Officer of the Brigade
Falcon 65



From Falcon 7:

Friends of 10th CAB and Task Force Falcon, our Soldiers are serving "down range" as our families serve back at "HOME STATION".

Our Soldiers of the "Falcon Brigade" continue to perform their duties honorably as they have at our home stations and on previous deployments. As we enter into the summer months here in Afghanistan, it is critical that we remain focused on the mission. Leaders and Soldiers should ensure standards are met and safety procedures are followed. Standards and safety must come first in our culture as we safeguard ourselves from complacency.

Soldiers: I ask that you continue to challenge yourselves both physically and professionally. Continue to make the good decisions we are accustomed to seeing. Meeting the standard is not good enough -- We owe it to ourselves and the Soldiers standing to our left and right to raise the bar and set high stan-

dards for others to follow.

Families and Friends: Your continued support keeps morale high and is instrumental to our success in overseas. For that, we thank you. You can be extremely proud of the hard work your Soldiers are performing in some of the toughest conditions in Afghanistan. I could not be any more proud of the efforts our Soldiers are making across this great task force. Let us continue to remain motivated and sustain these great efforts being made daily over the next eight months of our deployment. HOOAH!

FLY TO GLORY!
CSM Chad Cuomo
Task Force Falcon
10th Combat Aviation Brigade
Falcon 7



The Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (MAJ) Jerry Johnson

Greetings to everyone from Bagram, the “big house” so to speak. There is always a lot of activity taking place here. SSG Mellott and I are able to travel virtually every week on Mondays and Tuesdays to visit the units and their Religious Support Teams at the four outlying locations. This past Tuesday we took part in an international chaplain conference at Masar-e Sharif led by our German counterparts. It was essentially a roundtable discussion on two main topics, how chaplains (and their assistants by extension, along with the rest of the care teams in the medical field) can help commanders to ensure Soldiers reintegrate well with their families upon return; and, how chaplains can avoid burnout and compassion fatigue themselves, which causes ineffectiveness in helping others, especially for those who have been deployed a lot in the past several years. There is a lot to reflect upon going forward in this deployment. A Key area I want to really focus upon is quality marriages during and returning from these nine or so months.

One of the marriage books I have picked up on my travels during deployment is Kay Arthur's *A Marriage without Regrets*. The title is appropriate for our situation. She subtitled the book “No matter where you are or where you've been...” My hope is that each one of us will be able to experience some type of rebirth with our spouses, even while apart. Some of you have been separated a great deal the past few years. In doing the math I saw that Carrie and I have been apart over 40 months since February 2006. That is a lot. Even a clergyman like me who supposedly has all of the insights and tools cannot possibly expect to have a perfect marriage when my wife and I have had to reconnect and rebuild so often. If you are in that boat, allow me to share Kay's insights on communication. She provides a great diagram on page 149:

The Components of Communication Between Husband and Wife

Each partner brings these areas into every communication:

Your Consequential History

Knowledge and wisdom
Past experiences [for us it is separation and deployment]
Self-image
Sense of humor

Current State [again for us it is from separation and deployment]

Emotions
Mood
Current Conflicts
 ✦ With others
 ✦ With each other
 ✦ With yourself
 ✦ With God
 ✦ At work

The Condition of the Heart

Is it evil or good, heart of stone or flesh? (Matthew 12:35, Ezekiel 36:26)
The mouth speaks that which fills the heart. (Matthew 12:34)

The Body

Body Language (Careful if you have Skype or Facetime!)

Tone and Volume of Your Voice

[8% of our communication is verbal; 35% is emotional; 55% is body language; 2% is intuition]

Kay says the following about the words we use (p. 136):

- ✦ They are like arrows that pierce and kill and cannot be recalled.
- ✦ They are like seeds that can grow into trees that bear fruit for generations.
- ✦ They are like sparks that can ignite a conflagration.
- ✦ They are like ropes that can pull a drowning person out of the deep.

Both spouses have two basic needs, for love (security), and a sense of worth (significance). According to Kay, here are some danger signs.

- ✦ "We just don't talk.
- ✦ "We never get below the surface."
- ✦ "We don't have anything in common anymore."
- ✦ "Every time we share our real feelings we end up in a fight."
- ✦ "We'll never understand each other. It's just not worth it. Life is too short!" (p. 136)

Here is some practical advice based upon her understanding of Genesis 2:24, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife."

- Uphold the priority of your marriage.
- Uphold the permanence of your marriage.
- Uphold the oneness of your marriage. (physical, emotional, spiritual)
- Uphold the openness of your marriage. (pp. 145-47)

To accomplish these four "foundation stones," both husband and wife must work hard. All of the practical tips we teach at the Strong Bonds retreats and through other means are of little value if you do not have this overwhelming sense of permanent commitment, "'til death do us part." Before we head home I will offer some specific concrete suggestions on making this happen next winter when we are back face to face. In the meantime, for those of us with video technology to remain in touch, think about our communication with those we love back home.

Take care everyone, Many Blessings, Chaplain Jerry

For those who would like to raise their GT score or improve their math knowledge, Chaplain (MAJ) Johnoson conducts a FAST class each Friday at 1600. Please contact Chaplain (MAJ) Johnson for further details.



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - COL David J. Francis, Task Force Falcon and 10th Combat Aviation Brigade commander, and CSM Chad Cuomo, senior enlisted advisor for the task force and brigade, uncase the unit's colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony May 19, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. During the ceremony, TF Falcon relieved TF Destiny, 101st CAB, and assumed responsibility for Army aviation operations in Regional Command – East and Regional Command – North. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd L. Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade)

Falcon Brigade assumes aviation operations in Afghanistan

By Staff Sgt. Todd L. Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Task Force Falcon, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, assumed Army aviation operations, for eastern and northern Afghanistan, from TF Destiny, 101st CAB, in a ceremony May 19, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Maj. Gen. James C. McConville, Combined Joint Task Force – 101 and Regional Command – East

commander, lauded TF Destiny's performance in Afghanistan, during the TOA ceremony.

“While operating in some of the most challenging terrain and weather, across both Regional Command – East and Regional Command – North, you supported both Afghan National Security Forces and Coalition Forces, as well as a variety of Special Operations, through the execution of numerous air assaults, close combat attacks, Counter-Improvised Explosive Device operations, personnel recovery, armed escort, convoy security, and numerous other operations too many to name,” McConville said. “Your efforts have enabled

Afghan success, and the success of the International Security Assistance Force.”

Maj. Gen. McConville then welcomed Task Force Falcon, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, to the CJTF-101, and to the mission handed over to them by TF Desitny.

“We are very pleased to have the great 10th Combat Aviation Brigade joining us in RC-East and we know they come highly trained, disciplined and fit and ready to pick up where the 101 CAB left off,” he said. “Col. Francis, you and your aviators know you are joining us at a very critical time in this campaign. The summer fighting season is upon us and the Afghan National Security Forces are pressing the offensive.”

Leading up to its current deployment, also slated for 9 months, the Falcon Brigade provided both general and direct support to the 10th Mountain Infantry (LI) Division during four Combined Training Center rotations, two High Altitude Mountainous Environment Training cycles, and three Command Post Exercises. The brigade also supported Hurricane Sandy relief efforts and the Presidential Inauguration, in addition to proficiency training while completing numerous aerial gunneries and the fielding of the UH60 Mike model helicopter.

“Today marks the beginning of the Falcon Brigade’s fourth deployment to Afghanistan, its fifth in the war on terror,” said Col. David J. Francis, TF Falcon and 10th CAB commander. “We will never forget the events that led our nation to war here, but we are also ready to assume this mission in a strategic environment that is different than at any other time in this war and at a crucial time period for the future of this country. The warriors of the 10th CAB will take on the challenges that lie ahead, we will fight and we will win!”

Task Force Falcon is comprised of TF Tigershark, 1-10 Aviation Regiment; TF Knighthawk, 2-10 Aviation Regiment; TF Phoenix, 3-10 General Support Aviation Battalion; all from Fort Drum, NY. The task force is augmented by TF Dragon, 1-501st Aviation Regiment, 1st Armored Division CAB of Fort Bliss, Texas; and TF Iron Warrior 1-104 ARB Pennsylvania National Guard. 🇺🇸



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - The Honor Guard, the traditional bearer of the Nation’s Colors and the unit colors, perform their duties at the transfer of authority ceremony May 19, in which 10th Combat Aviation Brigade/TF Falcon assumed authority from 101st Combat Aviation Brigade/TF Destiny. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade)



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Subordinate task force commanders and their senior enlisted advisors gathered with the TF Falcon commander and senior enlisted advisor at the TF Falcon headquarters building following the transfer of authority ceremony May 19. 10th Combat Aviation Brigade/TF Falcon assumed authority for Army aviation operations in Regional Command - East and Regional Command - North, from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade/TF Destiny. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade)

Afghan squadron partners with 10th CAB

By Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade

KABUL, Afghanistan (May 29, 2013) – The new Afghan Air Force, formed in June 2010, currently has approximately 60 Mi-17 transport helicopters and half a dozen Mi-35 attack helicopters. These crucial assets are spread throughout three AAF Wings located in Kabul, Kandahar, and Shindand.

Afghan Lt. Col. Bakhtullah, commander of the 377th AAF Squadron, knows his resources are limited. Through a partnership with air assault flight planning advisors from the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, his aviators are not only learning and developing methods which will maximize operational efficiency, they are also preparing to become instructors of effective planning themselves.

“We do many different missions; supply, passenger movement, (casualty evacuation), search and rescue,” said Bakhtullah through a translator. “But

we have a real need to be able to do air assaults.”

Two of Bakhtullah’s aircrews have already completed the course and flew an Afghan-led air assault mission May 15-18, 2013. The squadron commander, one of the most skilled helicopter pilots in the AAF, decided it was the right time for him to go through the course, along with his standardization pilot, Maj. Farid, so they can begin teaching the class to the rest of their aircrews.

“The goal is to have their instructors teach the course,” said U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Bob Cuyler, an air assault flight planning adviser from 10th CAB and a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter instructor pilot. “In four months, the goal is to have 100 percent of the training done by Afghans.”

In addition to Afghan aviators conducting the training, Cuyler said there are two other objectives he would like to see reached by the end of his 9-month stint; harmonizing the intelligence section with flight tactics and standing up a flight planning cell where pilots who are not flying, plan the flights and then brief the pilots who will be executing the mission.

“None of these pilots are flying for the first time, but there is a variety of skill and ability,” said U.S. Army Capt. Tom Jones, officer in charge of the air assault advisor team, which also includes U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kyle Cheeseman, a UH-60 Black Hawk instructor pilot.

A number of the younger Afghan aviators received training at Fort Rucker, Ala. and the Afghan Flight School in Shindand, Afghanistan. Some of the older aviators learned from the Soviets decades ago and haven’t been able to fly much since.

To support the Afghans flight training, advisors



KABUL, Afghanistan – An Afghan aerial gunner clears the left side of his Mi-17 helicopter May 29, 2013, as the pilots make a left turn into the wind before an air assault training mission from Kabul International Airport. Two Afghan-led aircrews conducted the flight as part of an air assault planning certification course in partnership with advisors from 10th Combat Aviation Brigade. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division Public Affairs)

from the U.S. Air Force and the Czech Republic, specially trained on the Mi-17 and the Mi-35 attack helicopter, respectively, provide mentorship in the cockpit.

Bakhtullah, Farid, and their air crews conducted a training air assault mission May 29, from Kabul International Airport, which Cuyler said went very well. The day before, the aviators participated in a tactics talk in a classroom, planned the mission and rehearsed it in a simulator.

“Helicopters are a combat multiplier,” said Jones. “They are definitely learning how to manage those assets and how to most efficiently utilize their assets. At the crew level, they are solid. When they need to be somewhere on time, they are there.”

One of the most important things the Army advisors are teaching the Afghan aviators is how to integrate flight planning with entities outside the aircraft such as the intelligence section and the ground unit’s needs.

“It’s important to take that information and adjust how you fly,” said Jones. “The entities are becoming autonomous; now it’s a matter of connecting these entities.”

One suggestion the advisors had for integrating with the ground command and control elements was to send pilots to ground operations planning shuras, or meetings; and invite ground combat staff to flight planning briefs.

After the training air assault mission May 29, which Farid had planned and briefed, an after action review was conducted among the aviators. A discussion of what could be improved led to the agreement that, when possible, more time should be made for planning.

Cuyler, who has been an Army pilot for over 20 years, shared how in the U.S. Army, pilots who are not flying the mission spend up to three days planning an air assault flight plan. They then brief

it to the pilots who will actually execute the plan.

The after action review concluded with discussing what areas went well and should be sustained.

“We were on time,” Bakhtullah said with a smile which brought laughter from the other aviators. “We had very good crew coordination.”

“Good landings,” said another Afghan aviator.

Through their partnership with the air assault planning advisors, Bakhtullah and Farid will continue to strengthen the skills of their squadron’s aviators by implementing lessons learned and taking on the direct instruction of air mission planning.

“We have learned a lot from the mentors in a short time,” said Bakhtullah through an interpreter after the AAR. “We are learning standards and we are flying safer. We are doing all we can to be prepared to be able to conduct missions after the U.S. leaves.”



KABUL, Afghanistan - Chief Warrant Officer 5 Bob Cuyler, an air assault planning advisor and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot with 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, presents an intelligence briefing to an Afghan-led aircrew May 29, at Kabul International Airport. The briefing was part of an air mission planning briefing led by Maj. Farid, 377th Afghan Air Force Squadron standardization pilot, before a training air assault flight of two Mi-17 helicopters; part of an air assault planning certification course in partnership with the 10th CAB. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade)

In her father's footsteps; 10th CAB father-daughter deploy to Afghanistan

By Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade

Growing up, Spc. Miranda A. Mogg spent a considerable amount of time away from her father, a U.S. Army helicopter pilot, due to his numerous training events, multiple changes in assignments, and four deployments. After following in her parents' footsteps – her mother Marie was also a Soldier – and enlisting in the Army, then serving year-long tour in Korea, father and daughter are now serving together with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade.

After 29 years in the Army, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael A. Mogg, was considering retirement; but when the opportunity arose for he and his daughter to be assigned to the same company, he decided to postpone retirement for one more deployment; his fifth, her first.

"It's surreal," Miranda said. "I grew up with him always away, and now I get a chance to be out there."

Chief Mogg is the master gunner for the 10th CAB, as well as an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter pilot. His daughter, who arrived at Fort Drum in November, serves as an intelligence analyst with the unit's intelligence section. Her work directly influences the planning of the flight routes of the brigade's pilots, including those of her father.

"For once she gets to tell me what to do," said the senior Mogg with a smile.

As much as they are enjoying the experience of deploying together, they both know the seriousness of their roles. With Miranda working in the brigade tactical operations center and her father a pilot, she could be among the first to know if her father is involved in a catastrophic incident.

"We've talked about it," said Chief Mogg. "We have



BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Mogg, an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter pilot and brigade master gunner, and his daughter Spc. Miranda Mogg, a brigade intelligence analyst, serve together with the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade)

to talk about it. It is a possibility. Let's hope this one goes as (well) as the last four."

The biggest difference in what Spc. Mogg had expected about the deployment has been the heightened sense of reality from knowing the specific locations her father is flying.

"I read about all the places he goes," she said. "It's a little more real now."

Since her father is a senior warrant officer in the brigade, he is rather well-known, and in turn, so is his daughter. Miranda jokes that she should have gotten married first so she'd have a different name.

Although she said she joined the Army to have a career for herself and to move around, she notes that it was her father, who she calls her hero, who inspired her.

Before the deployment, Miranda, who lived in the barracks, said she joined her parents nearly every evening for dinner. Now, when their schedules allow, father and daughter make time to work out together at the gym and grab a bite to eat at the dining facility.

"We missed a year with her when she was in Korea," Chief Mogg said. "It's good to be able to catch up."

Catching up will be a bit easier this deployment. 🌸

From TF Dragon command team:

Families, Friends, and Soldiers of Task Force Falcon,

On behalf of TF Dragon, we are extremely proud to have joined Task Force Falcon during Operation Enduring Freedom XIV. Most of the Dragons hail from 1st Armored Division stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, only a few miles from the Mexican border. Fort Bliss, Texas is in the heart of El Paso, Texas, where the weather is hot and the Margaritas are served cold. Currently, our Task Force is positioned at FOB Fenty, Jalalabad and we fly in support of Falcon's overall combat aviation mission in the eastern-most portion of Falcon's area of operation.

For the last four months our aviators, maintainers, and support personnel have performed phenomenally well to support coalition ground operations around the clock in Regional Command- East. In Task Force Dragon, our nucleus consists of 1-501st Aviation Regiment (Attack) troopers from 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade (1AD CAB). At FOB Fenty (Jalalabad), Headquarters and Headquarters Company (Headhunter), B Company (Death Dealer), D Company (Wolfpack), and E Company (Executioner) are all co-located. All the 1-501st Avn Regt Soldiers in FOB Fenty play a major role in aircraft maintenance of over 30 helicopters, sustainment, and command and control. Also from 1st Armored Division, Combat Aviation Brigade, we were assigned C Company, 3-501st Avn Regt. (Chaos Assault) and UH-60L mechanics from the 3rd Battalion Unit Maintenance Company. Additionally, we have expert mechanics from 127th Aviation Support Battalion to help with aircraft maintenance. Our aviation task force can never have enough specialized aircraft mechanics to help sustain a high flying operational tempo, so we can in turn support the Coalition on the ground.

The rest of the team joined us here in Afghanistan. A Company, 1-104th Avn Regt (Attack) is made up of Soldiers from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and they hail from Johnstown and Harrisburg, PA. A/1-104th attack crews, crewchiefs and aircraft provide us with a more robust Apache capability in our area of operations. 2d FSMP (Forward Support Medical Platoon), C Company, 2-149th Avn Regt (Drifter Dust-off) arrived in country a couple of months ahead of us, coming from their unit based out of Martindale Army Airfield in San Antonio, Texas. The FSMP is made up of Soldiers from the Great State of Texas and Oklahoma Army National Guard, specifically from Lexington, OK. They all provide a 24-hour medical evacuation to coalition and Afghan forces in the Nanghar, Nuristan, and Kunar provinces. Lastly, a unit that is familiar to TF Falcon, B Company 3-10 Aviation Regiment (Colossal). We and the coalition rely on their CH-47F's, or Chinook Helicopters, to conduct major troop movements and to move large quantities of supplies. They make operating at extreme altitudes and in harsh environmental conditions look easy and routine.

The next few hot months will be a true test of all the hard work and training Task Force Dragon conducted prior to deployment. The Iron Soldiers of Task Force Dragon are honored and proud to represent 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, and El Paso, Texas during their tour of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. First to Strike! Fly to Glory!

LTC Glen E. Heape
Task Force 1-501st Aviation Regiment
Task Force Dragon
Dragon 6



Spc. Antoine Smith, a petroleum supply specialist with E Company, 1-501 Aviation Regiment, Task Force Drogon, refuels an AH-64D Apache helicopter at the forward arming and refueling point at Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan, May 26.

An AH-64D Apache helicopter pilot with B Company, 1-501st Aviation Regiment, Task Force Dragon, gives two thumbs up while at the forward arming and refueling point at Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan, May 26.



Staff Sgt. Jin Hoh, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter crew chief with B Company, 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, and flying with Task Force Dragon, prepares an M240H prior to a personnel movement mission from Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan.

From TF Iron Warrior command team:

Families, Friends, and Soldiers of 1-104th ARB and Task Force Iron Warriors,

Task Force Iron Warriors continues to "Roll On" as our Pennsylvania elements reach the R-60 mark. Each and every member of the task force is engaged and working hard to sustain the momentum and further advance our capabilities. As our operational tempo increases in virtually every section, whether prompted by direct combat insurgency actions, retrograde and logistics work or redeployment planning, all of our Warriors are excelling in their craft. This uptick in activity will not lessen for any of us until we redeploy.

The actions you take today, whether in the form of simple on-the-job consciousness, insider threat awareness or working to refine anti-complacency plans and actions, will ensure that we maintain appropriate force protection that enables safe and efficient combat aviation mission achievement. We have been very successful engaging our adjacent units, both U.S. and coalition. Training scenarios that leverage emerging technologies improve our organic capabilities, while working and sharing with our coalition comrades assists them in understanding how we do business. This joint training also provides a betterment in each organization's capability, as well.

Throughout the next 60 days, leaders of Task Force Iron Warriors will continue to impart our operational knowledge and battlefield experience upon our incoming counterparts. The 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion of the Missouri Army National Guard will be best prepared to assume aviation operations and assume the responsibilities of the Iron Warriors' footprint in Regional Commands East, North and West. We look forward to setting the stage for their success within Task Force Falcon by sharing our lessons learned and welcoming them into the 10th CAB family.

IRON WARRIORS, ROLL ON!

LTC John Kovac
1-104th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion
Task Force Iron Warriors

CSM Sean Livolsi
1-104th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion
Task Force Iron Warriors

1-104th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion prepares for redeployment, aviation operations successfully continue in Regional Command - North

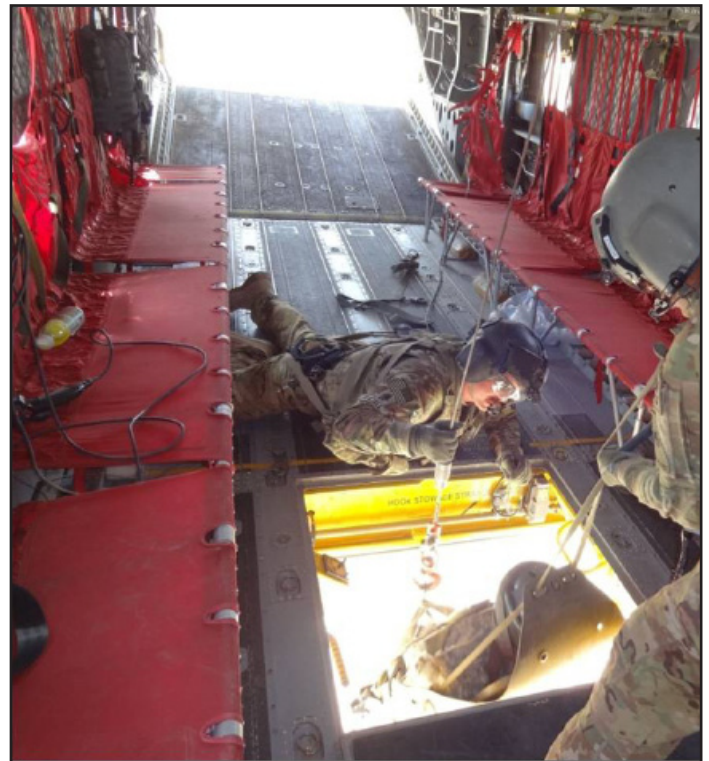
By U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ellen Smith,
Task Force Iron Warrior

BALKH PROVINCE, Afghanistan (June 11, 2013) – As the 1-104th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, headquarters element of Task Force Iron Warriors, approaches the two month mark of our upcoming transfer of authority and is a few months into the fighting season, many may find that the pace of operations has significantly increased. While staff sections are in the thick of redeployment planning and RIP/TOA coordination and units pack and prepare for the arrival of their replacements, aviation operations in Regional Command – North continue.

The Black Knights (B Company, 2-501st General Support Aviation Battalion), continue training in order to accomplish our mission of ground force support. This month the Black Knight pilots and crewmembers have conducted rescue hoist training in preparation for contingency operations. With the assistance of subject matter experts and support from C Company, 2-501st GSAB, “Lonestar Dustoff”, the Black Knights were able to successfully train and qualify our crews to perform rescue hoist operations in the inhospitable and challenging terrain of northern Afghanistan. 🇺🇸



MAZAR E SHARIF, Afghanistan – Spc. David Pressnell and Sgt. Esmeraldo Benavides manage the “tag” line during recent hoist training.



MAZAR E SHARIF, Afghanistan – (Above) 1SG Mike Nuttall and PFC Alexander Batista draw in “Rescue Rachel” during rescue hoist training.

Pennsylvania National Guard father, daughter deploy together

By Capt. Pete Smedberg, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade

For many military families, deployments mean long stretches far from the comforts of home and family. This is not the case for 1st Sgt. James Harvey, the senior enlisted advisor for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 104th Aviation Regiment, out of Johnstown, Pa, which is serving as the headquarters for 1-501st Aviation Regiment, Task Force Iron Warrior out of Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan.

Harvey is currently deployed to Afghanistan on his third combat deployment and is accompanying his daughter, Sgt. Jamie Harvey, on her first deployment since joining the Pennsylvania National Guard five years ago.

Sgt. Harvey is an AH-64 Apache helicopter mechanic and currently serves as a production control non-commissioned officer for TF Iron Warrior.

This father-daughter duo serve in different companies and work different shifts, but this does not stop them from spending quality time together.

“We try to meet up every Sunday and go to church together,” said the younger Harvey. “Sometimes it is difficult to see each other working different shifts, but we make it work.”

When able, the Harvey duo enjoy calling home together to catch up with the rest of the family. The Sgt. Harvey is a full time guardsman and, although she recently completed her associate degree to become a dental assistant, she plans to make a career out of the Army.

When asked about his third and final deployment, the elder Harvey said, “my wife made me go to watch after my daughter.”

The Sgt. Harvey, like her dad, has a deep understanding of Army aviation and is entertaining the thought of becoming an AH-64 Apache or a CH-47 Chinook helicopter pilot.



MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan - 1st Sgt. James Harvey, the senior enlisted advisor for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 104th Aviation Regiment, is deployed with his daughter Sgt. Jamie Harvey, an AH-64 Apache helicopter mechanic. Both are serving under 1-501st Aviation Regiment, Task Force Iron Warrior at Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan. (Photo by Capt. Pete Smedberg, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade)

First Sergeant Harvey is no stranger to combat deployments and holds a wide variety of military occupational specialties ranging from supply to numerous ground maintenance specialties. When time permits, the senior Harvey enjoys hosting cookouts in the company area every other Sunday for his company of over 100 Soldiers.

The Harveys do not always get to spend time together at these cookouts due to conflicting work schedules, but were able to get together for lunch on the afternoon of June 4, 2013.

During this get-together, Sgt. Harvey joked that her dad “can be pretty demanding” but this does not stop her from outscoring him on the Army Physical Fitness Test. “She is a Physical Training stud,” joked her father.

The Harvey family has deep military ties. First Sergeant Harvey’s oldest daughter is married to a United States Marine while his youngest daughter is currently serving in the United States Marine Corps as a radio and telephone operator at Camp Pendleton, Calif. “My hair is turning gray from raising all these girls,” said the senior Harvey. “Jaime is the middle child out of the five.”



From Renegade 6:

Hello Renegade Families!

We are all settling into our new living areas in our home away from home very well. We have wasted no time in getting straight to work and our new routines are keeping us very busy. I'm happy to report that everyone has been performing better than ever and that all the training we went through back home is really paying off.

We recently held our Combat Patch ceremony which is a tradition with ties all the way back to the Civil War. It recognizes all the Soldiers transforming from service members to veterans and is a moment of great pride for all of us. I am incredibly proud and honored to be serving alongside such great patriots.

That said, there is no way we could do it on our own. I would especially like to thank everyone for their sacrifices back at Fort Drum. Knowing that there are such wonderful families supporting us really does make a difference in keeping morale high here on the front lines.

Take care, thanks again, and FLY TO GLORY!

- CPT Eric V. Trivette (RENEGADE 6)



From TF Tigershark command team:

"Character, in the long run, is the decisive factor in the life of an individual and of nations alike."

--Theodore Roosevelt

As we near the end of our first month since the Transfer of Authority with Task Force No Mercy, the Tigersharks are doing extremely well. I'm exceptionally proud of how our Soldiers are performing and the discipline with which they execute every task. This includes our Soldiers here in Salerno, Orgun-E as well as Task Force members at Fort Drum. Equally as impressive are our incredible families and support from the FRGs. Thank you.

Our first month has gone by quickly for the team forward as we have stayed extremely busy supporting the Currahees from the 101st Airborne Division, 2nd BCT (Commando) from 10th Mountain Division, and other coalition forces. It has been an honor to serve alongside such great Soldiers.

As we prepared for our recent combat patch ceremony, we remembered those who have served before us to bring peace and security to Afghanistan, and those who initially served being from our two storied divisions....10th Mountain Division and the 101st Airborne Division. As we remember the sacrifices of those who have served so valiantly, it was a little over two years ago that we lost CW3 Ken White and CW2 Brad Gaudet. We will never forget our fallen comrades and the sacrifices of their families as well. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

We recently kicked off the "Run to Afghanistan". It was great to see pictures of our families motivated and ready to run. We had a kick-off event here as well, and I challenged our Task Force to run 1000 miles in the first 24 hours. We are tabulating miles for the first 24 hours to determine if the push of "Mustache for Miles" was achieved. It was great fun for our team, and I'll provide an update in next month's newsletter. I want to encourage each of you to participate as this is a great way to manage stress and to improve our fitness while counting down the days/miles until redeployment.

Know that your Soldiers are performing magnificently, and continue to display the character that is the decisive factor here in Afghanistan. They continue to make an incredible difference to the security of Afghanistan and the future for our Afghan partners.

Fly to Glory and Strike at Night!

LTC Chad E. Ward

CSM David R. Paul

Tigershark 6

Tigershark 7



FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan - Spc. Michael Hooks a petroleum supply specialist with E Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment (ATTACK), stands at attention as he waits for Lt. Col. Chad Ward, 1-10 Avn. Regt. and TF Tigershark commander to land and shut down an AH-64 Apache helicopter. Upon shutting down, Ward administered the oath of reenlistment to Hooks. After having served 5 years, Hooks reenlisted to become an unmanned aerial vehicle operator.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan - Capt. Peyton Hurley, 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment (ATTACK) and Task Force Tigershark intelligence officer-in-charge, administers the oath of reenlistment to Sgt. Joseph Siddons, an intelligence analyst with 1-10 Avn. Regt. (ATTACK) and TF Tigershark. Siddons reenlisted for 12-month stabilization at Fort Drum.



FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan - Spc. Britany Sciandra, a chaplain assistant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment (ATTACK), fires an M240B from a military all-terrain vehicle.

A Point from Dad; hard work results in success for local prep wrestler

By Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade

In the Carthage High School wrestling practice room there is a sign that reads, “Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard”.

Andrew W. McFarland, 15, has achieved a lot in the sport of wrestling through hard work and attributes his strong work ethic to his father.

“My father helps me be mentally tough for the sport by having hard practices and helping me push through those hard practices,” said Andrew, who has been a member of CHS Varsity wrestling team since he was a 7th grader.

This past season, Andrew won the Frontier League Class A Championship and placed second in Section III at 113 pounds; one win from qualifying for the New York State Wrestling Tournament. More recently, in April, he won a National United Wrestling Association for Youth National Title for his age group at 118 pounds and only allowed a single point scored against him throughout the tournament in Battle Creek, Mich. He also placed 7th in the National High School Coaches Association National Tournament for Freshman, earning All-American honors at 113 pounds at Virginia Beach, Va.

Andrew’s father, Capt. Chris A. McFarland, commander of D Company, 1-10 Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, is no stranger to the sport, having grown up and earning a state runner-up finish in Iowa, wrestling’s vortex.

It was Andrew’s father who got him started in the sport when, during an assignment at Fort Benning, Ga., in 2003, he brought home a youth wrestling



Andrew McFarland, with his father beside him, holds a certificate signifying his All-American status he earned at the National United Wrestling Association for Your Nationals, April 14, at Battle Creek, Mich. Throughout the tournament, McFarland only gave up a single point enroute to his title at 118 pounds. Andrew’s father, Capt. Chris McFarland, commander of D Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, has coached his son since he was 7 years old. (Courtesy photo)

program flyer and asked his then 7-year-old son if he would like to give the sport a try. Andrew said yes and his dad volunteered to assist coach the program. McFarland has been his son’s coach ever since, which has included volunteering at every level of Carthage Wrestling.

“I keep my thumb on him pretty hard,” McFarland said. “He has a good work ethic but I keep reminding him his hard work is what has gotten him the successes he has achieved.”

The two have been able to spend a lot of quality father-son time together because of wrestling. It is evident that both truly love the sport and appreciate the relationship they have because of it.

“Being able to have my dad with me during the wrestling season has helped me a lot,” said Andrew. “My dad is my motivator.”

Deployments and training commitments have caused McFarland to miss parts of previous wrestling seasons, including Andrew’s first year on Varsity when

he was a 7th grader. He is currently on his second deployment with the 10th CAB and said he will likely miss the beginning of the 2013-2014 season during which it is expected that Andrew will achieve another significant milestone. Andrew is just nine wins away from his 100th career high school victory. McFarland said he hopes there may be a way for him to witness the event through the power of the Internet.

But although his current deployment will cause him to miss the beginning of Andrew's Junior season, McFarland said he is very excited that his unit's timeline will put him back home in time for the post season and a possible run for a New York State Title.

Although it is harder to stay focused while his dad is deployed, the two of them stay in touch through Facebook, Skype and occasional phone calls, said Andrew, who added that while his dad is gone he can count

on CHS Head Wrestling Coach Donald Dorchester to provide direct motivation.

"I am constantly reminded (by Dorchester) of who I want to be and what I am working for," Andrew said.

Since the high school season concluded around the end of February, Andrew, who said his ultimate goal is to win a state high school title and to wrestle in college, currently practices with former CHS state champion Shane Brady, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, along with a few other teammates.

What Andrew likes most about wrestling is the importance of being mentally tough. Mental toughness is what has pushed him to work hard over the years and it is hard work that has led to his success in the sport he loves.

A point made by dad from the very beginning. 🏆



Andrew W. McFarland controls his opponent during the 113-pound division at the Herkimer Wrestling Invitational Dec. 8, 2012, in Herkimer, NY. McFarland, a Carthage High School Freshmen captain of the Varsity wrestling team, went on to pin his opponent in 2:43. (Courtesy photo)

From TF Knighthawk command team:

Families, Friends, and Soldiers of Task Force Knighthawk,

Your soldiers are doing amazing work in support of ground commanders and Afghan security forces and are making a historic difference in this pivotal time in Afghanistan's history. TF Knighthawk hit the ground running and has not stopped. As the largest Aviation Task Force, our soldiers operate throughout all of eastern Afghanistan and have had the opportunity to serve alongside multiple ground forces from many different countries. Most importantly we have been serving with and supporting our brothers and sisters from 1st and 2nd Brigade Combat Teams from Fort Drum. Knighthawks, Commandos, and Warriors have been dominating the battlefield as we assist the Afghan Forces in defending their country.

Your soldiers have been conducting operations around the clock, and continue to impress not only me, but also the leadership at the highest levels. We could not conduct operations at this tempo without the unwavering support from the families and friends back home. Your dedication is crucial to maintaining unit morale, and it gives us the fuel needed to accomplish the mission. You are the backbone of this great task force; thank you for all that you do.

We have made many new comrades within the task force since we arrived, in addition to the eight companies that deployed together from Fort Drum, we integrated Bravo Company 1-126th Aviation from the California National Guard, Charlie Company 1-501st Aviation from Fort Bliss, TX, Fox Company 1-227th from Fort Riley, KS and our MEDEVAC element from TF Phoenix. Together we have formed a tight team capable of accomplishing any mission.

As we finish our recent move to our new operating location, our soldiers have made great strides in building up our new home. Each day we make ourselves safer, restore the creature comforts, connectivity, and MWR facilities to give our soldiers the ability to relax a little and spend some time connecting with the family and friends back home.

As we continue on into the summer months, let us not forget those that have made the ultimate sacrifice along the way. CPT Aaron Blanchard and 1LT RJ Hess sacrificed their lives in the service of their nation and of the people of Afghanistan. We will never forget them or their families. Please keep the families of these brave men in your thoughts and prayers.

FLY TO GLORY!

LTC Matthew W. Braman
Task Force Knighthawk Commander
10th Combat Aviation Brigade
Knighthawk 6

CSM Robert D. Parmer
Task Force Knighthawk CSM
10th Combat Aviation Brigade
Knighthawk 7

10th CAB Pathfinders test personnel recovery

By Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade

LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Soldiers and aviators train to avoid catastrophic events, but when they happen, Soldiers from the F Company "Pathfinders", 2-10 Aviation Regiment, Task Force Knighthawk, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, stand ready around the clock to respond.

"Our mission is personnel recovery and personnel extraction," said Capt. Chris Gage, F Co. commander. "We train to extract pilots and soldiers from aircraft and up-armored vehicles."

Shortly after their arrival to Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan, all three Pathfinder platoons from F Co. conducted personnel recovery training May 10-11, to certify their capabilities.

"This training helped to validate us to assume the Combined Joint Task Force mission of personnel recovery for Regional Command East," Gage said.

When a Soldier or aviator is trapped in a vehicle or

aircraft, special equipment is often required to cut and lift the vehicle's armor in order to extract the trapped person. The Pathfinders are proficient at utilizing this equipment.

During their recent training, the Pathfinders were alerted to a simulated downed aircraft in which an aviator was trapped. Within 15 minutes, they had donned their equipment, moved out to a waiting UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, and were in the air.

The helicopter dropped the Pathfinders off at the site of the downed aircraft that had been secured by ground forces.

After assessing the situation, they went to work; cutting away parts of the aircraft that were preventing the aviator from getting out. Simultaneously, the unit's medics assessed the aviator's health status and, dependent on accessibility, treated injuries requiring immediate attention.

Once the aviator was extracted, a call was made for the Pathfinders to be picked up. As the platoons waited for their helicopter, Soldiers pulled what they



LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – A Soldier from F Company (Pathfinders), 2-10 Aviation Regiment, Task Force Knighthawk, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, uses a rescue saw to cut away material preventing a simulated aviator from exiting a simulated downed aircraft during training May 10, 2013 at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan. The Pathfinder Company's mission is personnel recovery for which the unit stands ready around the clock. (Photo by Capt. Chris Gage, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade)



LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – A Soldier from F Company (Pathfinders), 2-10 Aviation Regiment, Task Force Knighthawk, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, uses a rescue saw to cut away material preventing a simulated aviator from exiting a simulated downed aircraft during training May 10, at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan. The Pathfinder Company's mission is personnel recovery for which the unit stands ready around the clock. (Photo by Capt. Chris Gage, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade)


could salvage from the downed aircraft, gathered their equipment, and maintained security. Medics continued to treat the aviator and prepare him for transport.

For the dozens of Pathfinders who make up the three platoons that participated in the training, the scenario was very realistic as none of them were aware of the training before hand.

“We were alerted as any normal mission would happen and were assessed on all aspects of our response, from initial alert to completion of the mission”, said Sgt. Tucker C. White, a Pathfinder team leader with the company.

Training such as this will be conducted throughout the deployment to maintain proficiency in person-

nel recovery skills that were developed over months of training at the unit’s home, Fort Drum, N.Y. Conducting this training within a week of arrival ensures that the Soldiers, their unit, and CJTF – 101 know they are capable of assuming the personnel recovery mission in eastern Afghanistan.

The specialized company put their skills to use in its previous deployment to eastern Afghanistan, when 10th CAB’s pathfinders extracted a foreign soldier whose arm was pinned beneath an over-turned armored vehicle, as a result of a detonated roadside bomb. Using specialized equipment, the Soldiers were able to lift the vehicle with air bags just enough to extract the injured soldier and get him to medical treatment. 



LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Soldiers from F Company “Pathfinders”, 2-10 Aviation Regiment, Task Force Knight-hawk, 10th Combat Aviation Briage, conduct personnel extraction combined training with the 101st CAB May 10, 2013, at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan. The 10th CAB Pathfinders conducted the training to validate their ability to assume the personnel recovery mission for eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by Capt. Chris Gage, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade)

From TF Phoenix command team:

Hello TF PHOENIX (PH) Families, Friends, and Soldiers,

I hope this note finds everyone doing well and preparing for a great summer. By the time you receive this update we will have been executing our mission here in Afghanistan for roughly a month. TF SHADOW (6/101 AVN REGT) performed extremely well and provided us a great transition as we moved onto Bagram Airfield. We at TF PH wish them well as they observe some well deserved time off with their families and friends.

The Transfer of Authority is complete between 3-10 AVN and 6-101 AVN and with this event complete TF PH is now responsible for the majority of General Support Aviation requirements across Regional Command (RC) East. Additionally we have the “Bandits” from B/277th under our helm and they are already providing the 10th CAB with superb Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Support. TF PH is responsible for an awesome mission requirement daily for aircraft and crews in charge of flying in this mountainous area. Additionally we have elements of our Task Force located in different areas throughout RC East where our Echo Company is providing first rate refuel support between Bagram Airfield and Methar Lam forward operating base (FOB) and our Charlie Company (Air Ambulance) is providing aeromedical evacuation coverage across four different FOBs. I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the fact our D Company is knee deep already into two separate aircraft phases in addition to unscheduled maintenance support for all 50 aircraft supporting in the Task Force. Lastly, providing first rate command and control over watch support is our own Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

I’d like to introduce to the TF PH family two National Guard aviation companies that are currently under our command here at Bagram; A/2-104th is a Command Aviation Company from Pennsylvania and B/1-126th is a CH-47D company from California. Both these companies have been operating in Afghanistan for a few months are performing incredibly well. We look forward to continued service alongside these two great companies.

To the TF PH family members, your Soldiers are doing well and have adapted quickly to the busy pace here in Afghanistan. I thank you for the letters, cards, packages, and well wishes as we have begun our rotation here in RC-East. I feel the time is going to quickly pass as busy as all our Soldiers will be. CSM Garretson and I continue to reinforce safety and cohesion amongst everyone.

Until my letter to you next month, enjoy the pretty summer at Ft. Drum and surrounding areas.

Born of Fire!

LTC Anthony A. Meador “PHOENIX 06”

A rare rendezvous: father, son duo deploy with 10th CAB

By 2nd Lt. Sean Crawford, B Company, 277th Aviation Battalion

Deployments are a tough time for many military families, and for good reason. For nine months or more they are separated and unable to share in the great times and splendors that American life offers to so many others. However, every once in a while an opportunity presents itself that makes home for some Soldiers seem less far away; a situation where two Soldiers are able to serve their nation in the same country, the same region, and the same unit as father and son.

10th Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers Staff Sgt. Peter Marshall, Sr. and Pfc. Peter Marshall, Jr., are one such duo who will get the unique opportunity to spend the next nine months in Afghanistan and share a unique bond that most family members will never have.

“It’s pretty cool,” said the younger Marshall, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter maintainer and crew chief with B Company, 3-10 Aviation Regiment, 10th CAB. “Not many people get to say that they deployed with their dad.”

Staff Sgt. Marshall agreed.

“It’s the best feeling in the world knowing that this is his first deployment and my last one and we get to share it together,” said Marshall, Sr., an AH-64 Apache helicopter technical inspector with B Company, 277th Aviation Support Battalion, 10th CAB. “Over the years I haven’t had as much time to spend with him due to the deployments and other requirements of the Army. Now we are here together and can make up for some of that lost time.”

Although the father and son duo both belong to the same unit they currently live in different areas, Staff Sgt. Marshall lives on Bagram Airfield and his son lives on Forward Operating Base Fenty in Nangarhar



BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Staff Sgt. Peter Marshall, Sr., an AH-64 Apache helicopter technical inspector with B Company, 277th Aviation Support Battalion, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, and his son Pfc. Peter Marshall, Jr., a CH-47 Chinook helicopter repairer and crew chief, got to spend a few days together at Bagram Airfield in May. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade)

Province. However, even in light of their circumstances the Marshalls stay connected regularly.

“Facebook is usually the way we keep in touch,” Staff Sgt. Marshall said. “However, I still don’t bother him too much and let him do his own thing over at (FOB Fenty). But like any parent should, I still need to see how he is doing.”

The Marshalls said they have a strong support network back home, with all of their friends and family members rooting and wishing them both a successful mission and safe return.

“My mom is happy that I deployed with my dad and all of my family constantly post about how my dad and I are deployed,” said Pfc. Marshall.

Few families can say they were able to deploy together in the same unit; a truly unique opportunity.

Staff Sgt. Marshall said he knows this opportunity is quite unique and that it is important to enjoy it while it lasts.

“Being with him on his first deployment is special,” said the older Marshall. “But it will be even more special when we get back.”



