

PEGASUS

VOL 1 ISSUE 4 SEPTEMBER 2009

MAGAZINE

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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.

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CSM Larry Farmer, CSM

Task Force Saber

LTC Mike Morgan
CSM Richard Sullivan

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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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Remembering 9/11

BY: First Sergeant Dennis Quinn

Task Force Saber, Warhorse 07

11 SEP 2001, I was serving as a Platoon Sergeant with 237th Medical Company in Weisbaden, Germany. I was in my office getting ready to close up for the day when one of the RTOs ran in and told me that "we [U.S.] were under attack". I walked over to Flight Operations and sat down with nearly everyone else in my unit. The scenes on the TV were surreal not to mention shocking. Within hours, the threat level increased substantially. For months, every unit in Wiesbaden was tasked to perform guard duties at various Entry Control Points for all US military establishments around the Wiesbaden and Mainz areas.

The following months, I watched AFN and read the Stars and Stripes trying to follow troop deployments. Like so many others in my unit, I wanted to deploy to Afghanistan. I knew that I would not deploy with my DUSTOFF unit while I was there but I knew I was going to be reassigned to Fort Bragg. I also knew that my "old unit", 2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment was going to deploy to Afghanistan within weeks of my return to Fort Bragg. Prior to my PCS from Germany, I contacted the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade Command Sergeant Major, CSM Fields and asked him for a pinpoint assignment back to 2nd Battalion. I was granted the assignment and reported after two weeks of leave.

I had less than a month to get through replacement, the Airborne Leader's Course, and inprocessing before the unit was scheduled to deploy. When I finally reported to 2nd Battalion, the Battalion Command Sergeant Major, CSM Torres sat down with me and told me that I may not deploy due to the fact that I had spent the last three years overseas with a tour in Kosovo.

I was single and all of my household goods were still being shipped so I had no reason to stay behind and I explained that to the CSM that I requested to return to 2nd Battalion because the unit was deploying. With very little convincing needed, CSM Torres recommended to the Battalion Commander, LTC Bricker that I deploy.

The 2002 deployment Afghanistan was my first deployment in an actual combat zone. The fear of not knowing what the deployment would bring me was easily suppressed by my eagerness to deploy and do my part. I was still motivated and rather angered by the events of 911. I was in the "Panther Inn" Dining Facility on 11 SEP 2002 while AFN aired the various remembrance and memorial clips. Those televised images served as a powerful reminder of why we were deployed and made all the inconveniences of being deployed seem very trivial.

Its been 8 years since US forces first deployed to Afghanistan, it is too easy to forget why we are here. The images of the Towers coming down or the Pentagon seemingly do not have the same affect they had eight years ago. Medals, bonus money, and opportunities to serve in "choice" duty positions while deployed have appeared to replace the "fire" of getting back at an enemy who tried to cripple our nation. I can readily admit, that I often forget why I am here and that my motivation to deploy these days differs from the Soldier I was nine years ago. Writing this testimonial has served as a rather embarrassing reminder to me to why I am here. We should never forget why we are here. It is very easy to complain about virtually everything while we are deployed, but before we do, we should try to remember feeling we felt when over 3000 Americans lost their lives on 911: I believe doing so will help bring some perspective back to each of us.

-Warhorse 07

Notes from the Commander

Troopers of Task Force Pegasus,

We pause to reflect on the tragic events which occurred in America on 9/11 eight years ago. It is a day that many of us will never forget, when a commercial jet hijacked by Islamic extremists flew into one of the Twin Towers, our Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania, murdering over 3,000 American citizens.

The events of 9/11 changed our lives as we knew them, especially for Soldiers and their families. As an Army, we have been engaged in the Global War on Terrorism for eight straight years, and for many of you, this is at least your third war on terror deployment. The many sacrifices that you and your family make on behalf of our nation's security are significant. Quite frankly, the security of our nation would be in jeopardy were it not for volunteers like you and your family; it is really that simple.

Our presence today in Kandahar, the widely recognized birthplace of the Taliban movement, is especially symbolic. It is here that Al Qaeda, aided by the Taliban, planned and supervised the attacks of 9/11. After eight years of combat operations, the fighting in southern Afghanistan remains fierce. From this airfield and forward operation bases throughout the southern region, peppered by the minefields of thirty years of war, American Paratroopers unwaveringly bring the fight to the enemy. Al Qaeda and the Taliban have learned the dreadful cost of attacking the United States and our coalition allies. We continue to achieve significant effects across all our lines of effort. However, much remains to be done. We must continue our efforts to maintaining freedom of movement for Afghans and the international coalition.

For the last five months, the 82nd CAB has become a vital part of the fight in southern Afghanistan. We have successfully conducted large scale air assaults for the Marines and British forces occupying and securing Helmand province, clearing one district at a time. We have helped Special Operations Forces seize millions of dollars worth of narcotics traffic that finance criminal activity as well as disrupt insurgent IED networks. Our Counter-IED air patrols continually make emplacing roadside bombs a risk not worth taking. Our Dustoff crews continue supporting MEDEVAC missions for wounded coalition forces and Afghan citizens caught in war's crossfire twenty four hours a day; we recently completed our 800th MEDEVAC mission. The support our MEDEVAC crews provide to saving lives remains our highest priority.

You have made an impact on Operation Enduring Freedom. On the anniversary of the day that brought us into this theater, I urge all Troopers to reconnect with their families, to remember the American people and the way of life that we defend daily. Please pray for continued success in our endeavors.

It is with utmost gratitude that I write these words to the Soldiers and families of Task Force Pegasus. I personally thank you for your sacrifices and ask that you recommit to finishing the job we started; to ensure that liberty, peace, and prosperity are the gifts we leave our children in the years to come. You are indeed the strength of our nation.

Sincerely,
Paul W. Bricker
Colonel, US Army



*Task Force Pegasus Commander
Colonel Paul Bricker*

Notes from the Command Sergeant Major

The Troopers of TF Pegasus have watched August fly by and we are still trying to find where the month went. We are not complaining as the faster the months fly by the faster we can get home



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

to our families and friends. The Temperature although still hot has cooled off in the evening and early morning making it much better when we are outside working. I am sure by now everyone has heard about the proposed Force reduction; I want each Trooper and Family member to know Pegasus 6 and I are working hard to ensure we are not required to send any Trooper home early. TF Pegasus is working hard 24 hours a day bringing the fight to the Taliban and a loss of even 1 Trooper could hamper our progress. The TF Pegasus Staff continues to fight for all of you, in the event we are required to reduce our Force we will make sure the Troopers redeployed can perform a function back at Ft Bragg to support the Rear-D, this will ensure they can be gainfully employed while back at home. Troopers are continuing to depart on R & R leave so if you have not seen your loved one step off the plane yet it is just a matter of time. This is one of the best programs our Army could have come up with as it allows our

hard working Troopers to take a much need break and regroup. During this month we were visited by CSM Brust, he is the RC-South NATO CSM. He walked around every TF here on KAF and spoke with our great Troopers and listened intently as they explained their function on the aircraft, maintenance, motor operation and other areas within TF Pegasus. We were also visited by CSM Hall the new ISAF CSM, he received a great brief on what TF Pegasus brings to the fight and he was extremely pleased with our progress. CSM Hall realizes the Southern sector would not be where it is today had TF Pegasus and your loved ones not deployed. TF Pegasus will continue to engage the enemy when the opportunity presents its-self making us all proud, this also allows us to protect the fighting Soldier regardless what Nation they are from on the ground. Continue to keep all our deployed Troopers in your thoughts and prayers. Their accomplishments here in Afghanistan to date are unprecedented and you should all be extremely proud of your Trooper's contribution in support of this great Nation and our War on Terror. I know P6 and I am!

Pegasus 9
CSM Larry D. Farmer



Command Sergeant Major Larry Farmer, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade command sergeant major recognizing Soldiers from Company D, 2nd Battalion (Task Force Corsair), 82nd Aviation Regiment, 82nd CAB after a change of command ceremony held at Forward Oprating Base Lagman in Zabul Province, Afghanistan. Farmer recognized the Troops individually for their mission accomplishments in support of Task Force Corsair's continued operations in support of forces in southern Afghanistan. Each Soldier was presented the brigade's coin by Farmer as a token of appreciation the their mission accomplishments thus far in the combat tour.

Aviation support in Zabul Province

BY Sgt. Aubree Rundle

*Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan*

Zabul Province, Afghanistan—The US Army rotary-wing aviation footprint in Zabul Province began shortly after the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force Corsair arrived in southern Afghanistan this past spring.

Waiting for the construction and adequate aviation capacity of a developing FOB, Task Force Corsair, from their current location has still increased aviation operations throughout Zabul Province and parts of Kandahar Province by providing aviation support to both coalition and Afghan ground forces elements in the provincial area.

By sending Soldiers immediately to a forward operating base in Zabul, the task force was able to establish flightline staging areas for helicopters supporting missions in the province.

Teams for initiating communications capabilities, medical evacuation (MEDEVAC), forward arming and refueling point (FARP), and aircraft maintainers made it possible for the task force to relocate and provide support to ground force elements.

"The challenge of moving personnel, supplies, aircraft, and equipment was carefully planned and successfully executed," said Task Force Corsair Command Sergeant Major Thomas Hamilton, responding to the expansion of aviation assets movement to outlying area. "The task force went without power in their living quarters or running water for the first two months; now we have power and operational capabilities; the morale of this task force remains high."

With aviation maintenance elements still located at Kandahar airfield to support heavy phase maintenance of Corsair's helicopters, the task force will eventually be centrally located at the same location provided equipment and facilities required are up and operational.

Task Force Corsair is comprised of a headquarters company element responsible for the tactical operations center, Co. A, 2nd Bn, 82nd Avn. Reg, a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter Company, Co. A, 1st Battalion, 82nd Avn. Reg, an AH-64 Apache Helicopter Company, a detachment of MEDEVAC helicopters and aircrews from Co. C, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Avn. Reg, "DUSTOFF", helicopter maintainers from Co. D, 2-82nd and Co. D, 1-82nd, Co. F, 3-82nd air traffic controllers (ATC), and fuelers and cooks from E Co. 2-82nd.

During deployments, aviation assets, or task forces are established to provide freedom of movement in varied locations to coalition ground force presence throughout southern Afghanistan. Zabul is one of six provincial areas



in the southern region continuing to receive increased US Force presence and security.

Task Force Corsair provides aviation support throughout Zabul and Kandahar province through; cargo and personnel movement and re-supply, support to ground force operational elements by means of air assaulting troops in to objective areas, MEDEVAC support, and aerial reconnaissance and assault to support ground troops against enemy forces.

"We are here to provide aviation support to all coalition forces in this province," said Task Force Corsair Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Carey Wagen. "This province has limitations of movement and aircraft, but coordination with ground forces and supporting operations have been successful. We have supported re-supply support to inbound ground force elements in Zabul Province, and we continue to be pro-active in response to enemy activity and the counter IED-mission."

Proficiency is priority to task force Corsair as each door gunner trained within the task force is RL1 qualified and able to support the aviation mission, said Hamilton. Even Hamilton himself is a door gunner.

"I'm a door gunner to not only be involved in the mission, but also to help cover the flight hours and relieve crew members enabling them to maintain crew rest" said Hamilton.

Task Force Corsair is preparing for another move to a larger airfield and task force command post in Zabul Province scheduled for this fall.

"The FOB is equipped with a maintenance hangar so we can move all our 2-82nd maintainers out from KAF and bring them in with the task force to work more easily on our aircraft," said Wagen.

Task Force Corsair has flown nearly 4000 flight hours in support of full spectrum aviation operations in Zabul Province. Moving thousands of personnel and pounds of cargo, launching MEDEVAC missions almost daily, and continuing support in combat mission and counter-IED, the task force continues to support the aviation mission in one of six provincial areas in southern Afghanistan.

TF Corsair MEDEVAC

responds to Afghan girl struck by RBG on Election Day

BY Sgt. Aubree Rundle

Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan

Zabul Province, Afghanistan—

During election day this past week, Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG) struck a compound near a polling site injuring a young Afghan girl.

US MEDEVAC support by helicopter was requested by Afghan Military police in Shajoy District after the local clinic evaluated the severity of her injuries.

Aniffine was cleaning up in her compound with her family when three RPGs were launched in the direction of a polling site near by. One of RPGs came in contact with her compound and severely wounded her left leg so badly her foot had to be amputated. She also suffered a large wound to the upper leg from the blast.

Her brother, Jaber, an employee at the bazaar in Shajoy had just returned to the compound from the polling center when the attack occurred.

"The government asked the employees of the bazaar to step forward and vote with hope to encourage the town's people to not be afraid to leave their compounds and also vote," said Jaber. "I believe the strike was meant to hit the polling site and I'm worried about my sister getting hurt even though she was just at home cleaning."

Immediately after the RPG attack, Jaber contact the Afghan Military Police

who rushed over to their compound in an ambulance and US MEDEVAC was contacted by the AMP from the clinic upon her arrival responding to the need for Aniffine's evacuation to the nearest hospital.



Sergeant Joshua Sands, flight medic administering aid to a young Afghan girls wounded limb.

The MEDEVAC team from Company C "DUSTOFF", 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade based out of Qalat was the response team for her evacuation.

Jaber traveled with Aniffine on the MEDEVAC helicopter to the Field Surgical Team (FST) in Qalat.

"Treating children is different from treating adults, said Sergeant Joshua Sands, flight medic with "DUSTOFF". "[I try to provide] reassurance by removing my flight mask and becoming more personal with the patient—this helps build trust [when you're treating children]."

Sergeant Sands was the flight medic treating Aniffine in-route to the Qalat FST during the MEDEVAC flight.

"I inspected her wounds, checked her vitals, monitored her IV, and medication for the pain," said Sands. "The most important thing is efficiency and safety when treating patients we MEDEVAC."

The 82nd CAB MEDEVAC rescue crews assist force elements throughout the southern region of Afghanistan responding to the call for assistance in the treatment, transportation and stabilization of trauma patients; Afghan Forces, coalition forces or local nationals—the call to respond is made.

Task Force Corsair

D Co. 2/82

Change of Command



Lt. Col. Carey Wagen

Task Force Corsair Commander

"At this ceremony we accomplished two things, first we witness the change of command of our Dogpound aviation maintenance company," said Lt. Col. Carey Wagen, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Corsair. "Second, we bid farewell to a fine commander, Capt. Scott Evelyn while welcoming new leadership to the front, Capt. Hans Thomas.

"Scott, you have been a Corsair for as long as I have known you. Even when you were in 122nd Aviation Support Battalion you were task organized under TF Corsair. It runs in your blood and we are proud to have you as a member of our team," said Wagen.

"To our incoming command team, Capt. Thomas and his wife Noelle, congratulations and welcome. You were chosen, Hans, because you are the very best choice for the job at hand. You are inheriting a strong company. Expectations are high, but my confidence that you can accomplish the task is even higher."

1-12 Infantry Air Assault

Aviation assists in the disruption of insurgent communication

BY Sgt. Aubree Rundle
Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan



Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan- Infantry Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division conducted an air assault in Kandahar Province, southern Afghanistan Sunday morning as a counter-insurgency mission to disrupt insurgent communication.

Two Blackhawk helicopters from the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade supported the deliberate operation by inserting and extracting the troops along harsh terrain by method of two-wheel landings allowing the troops to dismount and execute their mission.

“Insertion of troops [by means of helicopters] allows ground forces freedom of maneuver in locations where harsh terrain is a factor,” said Captain Joe Daigle, commander of Company C, 2nd Aviation Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade and pilot supporting the operation. “We take these teams to their mission site, and pull them out safely, minimizing their time on the ground.”



Chaplain's Corner: Perseverance

BY Major (CH) Roger McCay
Task Force Pegasus Brigade Chaplain

Perseverance

A soldier asked me the other day, “What does perseverance mean”? Don’t snicker, that is actually a really good question. You all know people who have demonstrated perseverance. The guy who goes through tough times in his marriage and at times is driven to anger and frustration because of whatever his situation is, but keeps plugging along doing whatever it takes to make the marriage work and won’t quit on his relationship shows perseverance. The soldier who works day in, day out on a 12-hour shift deployed to a war zone under a tyrannical boss but continues to do their best despite the circumstances all the way to the end of their deployment shows perseverance.

Perseverance and endurance are similar in meaning. The marathon runner who trains day in day out running thousands of miles just getting ready for that 26.2 mile race shows endurance. When he runs the race and finishes it he has persevered. Someone who perseveres is the one who endures until the end and finishes the race.

There are many amongst us who are struggling to persevere at something. At the 5 month mark of a deployment the pressure of the distance and stress starts to show its strain on marriages. For some it is the daily question of “How on earth am I to get through this hell?” - whatever that hell might be. Maybe you are asking that question.

To persevere it takes having a reason to do so. Why bother going to the trouble if you don’t have a reason?

A reason that I think can often either be overlooked or undervalued is honor. Yes, honor. Remember in our Army values how honor is essentially the sum of the values? An honorable person keeps their word. A person who has given their word to somebody to “love, honor, and cherish” a person “in sickness and in health, good times and bad, until death do we part” breaks their integrity and stains their honor when they cheat or just give up on their marriage because they simply don’t feel like being married anymore. A soldier who quits on their job because times get difficult and does whatever they can to either get out of the deployment, their enlistment, or commitment violates their honor because they gave their word to do their duty. It doesn’t take a great stretch of the imagination to figure

out how the rest of the Army values come into play in this. But when a person holds their honor at a high value – i.e. when they value themselves as being a worthy, responsible individual who deserves respect – they will do whatever they can to get through troubles in order to keep their honor intact. Otherwise they will have to look in the mirror and know that they are not that.

In our stoic minded army (the Stoics were Greek philosophers who have greatly influenced the military mindset), perseverance has been taken to tremendous extremes, for example by POWs. The drive to perseverance is essential in a POW situation that involves extreme deprivation, torture, etc., or you just die. Jim Stockdale, a former POW in Vietnam took Stoic teachings to heart and claims they helped him persevere as a POW and quotes Epictetus in the book *Stoic Warriors* by Nancy Sherman saying, “A man’s master is he who is able to confer or remove whatever that man seeks or shuns. Whoever then would be free, let him wish nothing, let him decline nothing, which depends on others; else he must necessarily be a slave.” Just think on that one a bit. Reasons to persevere in this case include a desire to be in control, and survival. And you know the Army’s short phrase to instigate this – “Suck it up!”

In the Scriptures perseverance is seen as a necessary trait in order develop character and hope in future glory. How about that for a reason? The apostle Paul writes in Romans 5:3-4 (CMT), “...we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.” Here in the development of character and hope, perseverance through suffering is actually a necessity! This is much like the long difficult miles the marathon runner puts in to build their endurance in order to persevere through the race. The runner suffered in order to build what was needed to persevere in the hope of finishing the race. Maybe that explains why some runners rejoice in their long painful runs while training – they understand this process.

Times are difficult for all of us. 5 months into a year long deployment is hard. You can make it though. Consider your reasons. You can persevere. May God’s blessings be on each of you and your families. All the Way! Airborne! CH McCay

Dust Bowl in Uruzgan Province

Wolfpack Troops stay fit with boxing and football

BY Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Wright

Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan

Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan—Three nights a week a few Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force Wolfpack punch their way through the evening in the corner of a dark tent.

"We've been doing this for about a month out here," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Baker, TF Wolfpack's Apache helicopter maintenance supervisor and boxing coach. "(I wanted) to provide an outlet for stress."

In the very back corner of an Army tent filled with mattresses and bed frames, a small space has been transformed into a boxing gym. Three black mats pull duty as a boxing ring and since there is no electricity wired in yet, the only light comes from the flashlights Baker hangs inside the tent. It's hot, it's dark and the space is small, but Baker and his group of eager would-be boxers don't seem to mind.

"This is a great, fun way to get some amazing cardio," said Sgt. Meagan Young, one of Baker's students. "I have been able to stay fit and the coach really pushes us."

Right now, the group is using some of Baker's gear he's accumulated over the years, but he says they will soon be getting some new stuff from the Battalion. Baker boxed competitively at Battalion and post-level while stationed in Baumholder, Germany from 1993 to 1995, but has since hung up his competitive boxing gloves. He gets his punches in now by training others.

"I have coached and trained people for over sixteen years," began Baker, "ranging from aerobic training to preparation for competition."

"Ultimately, my goal is to provide an outlet for stress that develops in a combat environment. Also, it serves as a tool for discipline creating parameters for the Soldiers to work within."

With temperatures resting comfortably in the triple digits, it's easy to hesitate about exercising outside. The dirt is better described as powder; the dust kicked up from the ground hangs in the air for excruciatingly long periods of time. There's no beating it, just accepting it. Wolfpack Soldiers seem to have embraced it. They not only work in it all day long, but some days in the evening hours, they play in it.

The aptly named Dust Bowl is a pick up football game with slack rules and a lot of laughs. Pilots, crew chiefs, mechanics, and even the Battalion leadership get together and toss the ball around for awhile, creating their own little sandstorm in the process.

"I think this game is pretty good," said Sgt. Roderick Stallworth, a mechanic with TF Wolfpack. "The camaraderie is way better here than other units I've been to."

"It's great for morale," said Spc. Andre Comacho, another Wolfpack mechanic. "Getting dirty is just part of the fun."

"Someone once told me you could be as lazy as you want on deployments," began Young. "To have an outlet that builds self-confidence, self-esteem, and keeps you physically fit is a big plus."



TF Wolfpack 9/11 Run

BY: Lt. Col. David Jernigan
1-82nd Commander

Throughout our history, certain images become engrained in our minds - the flag raising at Iwo Jima; the day President Kennedy was shot; Neil Armstrong stepping on the moon; President Reagan telling the Soviets to "tear down this wall."

For our grandparents the date was December 07 1941 when Japan launched a surprise attack at Pearl Harbor. The next day President Franklin Delano Roosevelt addressed a joint session of Congress and declared that December 07 1941, is a date which will live in infamy.

For all of us, the events of September 11th, 2001 will forever live in our memories. On Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked America in a series of despicable acts of war. They hijacked four passenger jets, crashed two of them into the World Trade Center towers and a third into the Pentagon, causing great loss of life and tremendous damage. The fourth plane crashed in the Pennsylvania countryside, killing all on board but falling short of its intended target because of the heroic efforts of passengers on board. This act of terrorism killed more than 3000 people that day.



Now this war will not be like the wars of the past. This war involves far more than instant retaliation and isolated strikes. This will not be one battle, but a lengthy campaign, unlike any other we have ever seen. It will include dramatic deliberate conventional operations and secret covert operations. It will require not only the military, but also the cooperation of all the inter-agencies to bring the full spectrum of diplomatic, information, military, financial, and economic power to bear on the terrorists. This cannot be done by one nation alone. It will require a coalition of forces from Britain, the Netherlands, Australia, Canada, Poland, Italy, and many other nations. It will also require the people of Afghanistan to stand up against the terrorists. We must continue to pursue the Taliban until there is no place for them to hide, no place for them to seek refuge and no place for them to rest.

Each of us has felt the impact of the acts of September 11th. We have all suffered a great loss. All our hearts have been seared by the sudden and sense-less taking of innocent lives. Today we pray for healing and for the strength to serve and encourage one another in hope and faith.

Scripture says: "Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted." Today we call on every person here to remember and honor the memory of the thousands of victims of these brutal attacks. We are also to remember and honor the lives of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who have died on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln was in Gettysburg as part of the dedication of the Soldiers National Cemetery. In his famous Gettysburg Address he said, "The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

President Lincoln concluded his Gettysburg speech with these words, that still ring true today, "...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Each of us will remember what happened that early Tuesday morning in September. We will remember the moment the news came. We will remember where we were and what we were doing. Some will remember the image of the planes crashing into the buildings. Some will remember the smoke and ash covering the city. Some will remember the fear and panic on the faces of those running down the street. Some will carry memories of a face and a voice gone forever.

We will not forget the citizens of over 80 nations who died that day. We will not forget those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and gave the last full measure to protect our freedoms. We stand on the front line of defense. We defend not only our precious freedoms, but also the freedom of people everywhere to raise their children free from fear.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese Admiral Yamamoto said, "I fear we have awakened a sleeping giant and instilled in him a terrible resolve." What was true then is also true today. The words of President Bush still ring through the mountains of Afghanistan and the T&K Bowl, "We will not waiver. We will not tire. We will not falter. We will not fail. Peace and freedom will prevail." May God continue to bless us and protect us as we defend the right of freedom for the people of Afghanistan.

Thank you.



THE SMELL OF POO... SOMEBODY ONCE TOLD ME, "YOU KNOW, SMELL IS THE FIRST STEP OF DIGESTION." WELL IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WHAT'S FOR DINNER? CAUSE ALL I SMELL IS THE POO POND! I'M STARTING TO WONDER WHAT MY STOMACH MUST THINK EVERY TIME THERE'S A SHIFT IN THE WIND, BECAUSE IT SMELLS LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER EATEN. AND ON THE SAFETY ASPECT OF IT? IF SMELL TRULY IS A PART OF THE TASTING PROCESS, YUCK! JUST HOW HEALTHY CAN IT BE FOR US TO "TASTE" THIS ALL DAY? COULD THIS BE THE REAL REASON WHY WE WERE ISSUED MOPP GEAR? WMD'S, OH I GOT IT. THEY COME ON WHEELS WITH LITTLE VACUUMS ON THE BACK. THOUGH, I'M NOT SURE HOW LONG THE POND HAS BEEN IN ITS PRESENT LOCATION, BUT I'M CURIOUS ON WHAT THE DECIDING FACTOR WAS ON WHERE TO PLACE IT. UPWIND, COME ON REALLY?

*SSG Ruffolo, Michael
BDE Safety NCOIC*

Deliberate Ops: TF Talon & RBG(S)

BY Sgt. Aubree Rundle

*Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan*

Kandahar Airfield Afghanistan- Air convoys of CH-47F Chinook helicopters and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from 3rd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade continue to provide freedom of movement during deliberate operation by inserting and extracting hundreds of British Infantry from The Royal Battle Group 3SCOT RBG (S) into enemy strongholds through the southern region of Afghanistan.

Deliberate operations conducted by means of air assault consist of the inserting and extracting of RBG(S) infantry Soldiers and providing them re-supply of ammunition, water and power sources throughout their mission on the ground.

The RBG(S) execute counter-IED and counter narcotics mission, which are increasing as the ground force assets continue to establish throughout the battlespace in southern Afghanistan.

"We use the US Aviation and they use the British infantry," stated the regimental commander.

Joint-force operations continue to increase and the operational tempo and demand for US Army aviation increases as well.

The 82nd CAB is providing ground forces the freedom of movement throughout the region minimizing the threat of IEDs by traveling the secondary roads throughout the area.

Improvised Explosive Devices and narcotics continue to be discovered and destroyed and the coalition forces which make up the International Security Assistance Forces continue to challenge and engage the insurgency to ensure the security of the Afghan People.

(photos on left): Task Force Talon with RBG (S) during Operation Burs Simi.



News from Reenlistment:

BY Master Sergeant Mike Perry
Task Force Pegasus Career Counselor

The new fiscal year is quickly approaching and it's time to get focused on retention again. Commanders and first sergeants please get with your retention NCOs to sit down and go over your eligibility rosters.

Bonuses are still available and expect this message to be updated within the first couple of weeks into the new FY, policy messages and all other retention related matters apply as well. Movement options should open up and for all troopers who have reenlisted before and been on Ft Bragg for a while, you need to start communicating with your branch assignment managers before you get selected for assignment instructions. It's your career, take charge of it!!

The 90 day window still applies to these troopers who fail to reenlist and needs an exception to policy from the Brigade Commander before going to HRC for final review.

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TF Saber enforces freedom of movement

BY Maj. Matthew Weinshel
Executive Officer, Task Force Saber
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan

Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan- The 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade's 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment (Task Force Saber) arrived in Afghanistan in April, 2009, with a charter and the important task of maintaining freedom of movement along the main routes in Kandahar Province. Despite a general lack of infrastructure at Kandahar Airfield, the entire TF immediately launched into this mission with a vengeance. The entire Chain of Command realized that TF Saber's ability to maintain open lines of communication would set the conditions for other additional U.S. forces to expand into Regional Command South (RC-S). The TF accomplished this through several key missions, including Counter Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) operations and a lot of direct work with ground forces.

For TF Saber, the "greatest complement comes from demand for our services from the ground force," states Lt. Col Mike Morgan, TF Saber's Commander. "We exist to support the ground force Commander and his general intent. Through our partnering, we can apply pressure to the enemy from the air and the ground. We build credibility, respect, and trust [with the Ground Force]," said Morgan. Initially, RC-S did not have many ground forces constantly out, engaging the local population, or developing intelligence to fight the insurgents. Through the recent increase in U.S. forces, many more Soldiers are out patrolling and establishing security. They need timely and accurate intelligence to execute their missions, remain safe, and locate enemy fighters. Through TF Saber's 24 hour a day, 7 day a week operations, it provides that intelligence and quick reaction to friendly ground forces throughout Kandahar Province. Of course, this sometimes turns into situations where TF Saber aviators must engage the enemy with weapon systems and they have done magnificently. The TF's aviators routinely eliminated enemy forces from the battlefield, both with its own weapon systems and coordinating for other weapon systems to make the

engagement.

In TF Saber's primary mission, the C-IED fight, TF Saber set the standard. For many of the enemy engagements, it's a function of "find, fix, and finish," said MAJ Michael Demirjian, the TF Saber S3. TF Saber started developing its intelligence to find the enemy long before it ever left Fort Bragg. Its S2 intelligence section started analyzing historical and current trends plus terrain. Once in theater, the S2 shop built relationships and integrated with every other sensor on the battlefield, allowing it to accurately forecast the locations of IED emplacement teams and the IED facilitators. The intelligence officer and her staff translated those forecasts into areas of interest, where aviators could focus their attention during reconnaissance missions. Once the TF's Scout Weapons Teams and Attack Weapons Teams accurately identified those locations, they developed the situation through continued reconnaissance, both with their aircraft and through teaming with other Coalition forces. Clearing the area of friendly forces and accurately identifying enemy activity, those teams then engaged and removed the enemy forces from the battlefield.

Since arrival in Afghanistan, TF Saber flew over 11,500 hours, keeping its aircraft maintained at an exceptional rate well above the Department of the Army standard. The TF is on tap to fly almost 30,000 hours by the end of the deployment, under some of the toughest conditions, including multiple environments. The TF Commander, LTC Morgan easily stated, "We have three primary tasks that allow us to do our mission: Fixing, FARPing, and flying." TF Saber's maintainers are certainly taking care of the first primary task, both with scheduled and unscheduled services. Its engine mechanics performed 19 major engine services on OH-58Ds, several engine replacements, numerous component changes on both AH-64s and OH-58Ds, and a host of other maintenance procedures. "They are the heart of the Task Force and really keep us going. Without their hard work, dedication, and unbelievable magic to make it happen, we would be unable to meet any of our missions," said Command Sergeant Major Richard Sullivan, the TF Command Sergeant Major.

In its first five months in combat, TF Saber had an unbelievable impact on the ability of ISAF to conduct operations and expand in RC-S. TF Saber's constant pressure on enemy forces changed the entire paradigm in Kandahar Province, allowing local nationals and Coalition military forces to move throughout the area.



Task Force Saber Soldiers performing light maintenance on an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior Helicopter.

TF Saber maintaining physical fitness with Cross Fit

BY Sgt. Aubree Rundle

Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan

Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan—Troops with 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment (Task Force Saber) maintain physical fitness and mission readiness by applying a well know program called Cross Fit.

Cross Fit is a strength and conditioning program used by tactical operations teams and also law enforcement academies and mix martial artists and is designed to be applied and effected for any committed individual.

Task Force Saber's Command Sergeant Major Richard Sullivan is a certified Cross-Fit instructor and has been since 2005.

"Cross Fit' [intent] is training you for a better life," said Sullivan. "It has been adapted to any person to meet their needs and challenge them."

The training being conducted at Task Force Saber gym, created by the Troops within the task force ranges from heavy lifting, rigorous exercise, strength and endurance, and timed workouts.

"The exercise sets have women's names; they destroy you," said Sullivan.

Having nearly 50 Troops involved in the Cross Fit program, the command sergeant major has seen significant results in his Soldiers.

"When I started this out here I had three male Soldiers on the over-weight program," said Sullivan. "After 38 days, two of the Soldiers that started six percent over body-fat standards were one percent under and even, and the other Soldier who started four percent over body-fat standards is now two percent under."



photos: (from top to bottom left side) Staff Sergeant Coye Savell, Troop D, 1-17th CAV lifting 225 lbs. during cross fit workout: "Diane". Sergeant 1st Class Paul Evans, Troop D, 1-17th CAV lifting 225 lbs. during cross fit workout: Diane. Major Matthew Weinshel, executive officer, 1-17th CAV doing handstand push-ups during cross fit workout: Diane.

(from top to bottom right side) Command Sergeant Major Richard Sullivan, 1-17th CAV duirng cross fit exercise at 1-17th CAV holding the legs of SFC Paul Evans duirng handstand push-ups. Sergeant Danny Chang, Troop D crossing the rope bars hounng outside TF Saber gym.

CRSP YARD

US Force vehicles arrive by the hundreds in southern Afghanistan

BY Sgt. Aubree Rundle

Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan

Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan—US ground forces rely on vehicle operability to successfully carry out convoy operations in southern Afghanistan.

In order for this to happen, all US tactical vehicles arriving in theater must first be cleared and inspected by the Central Receiving and Shipping Point (CRSP) here.

All-wheel mechanics from 122nd Aviation Support Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade support the demand for receipt and inspection of US tactical vehicles by providing a maintenance team assigned to the CRSP as the number of arriving vehicles increases.

“Our mission is to get all vehicles to the Troops as fast as possible so they can complete their mission out here,” said Keith Hall, head of Quality

Assurance (QA) team, Army Material Command (AMC).

Inspecting more than a dozen vehicles each day, the maintenance teams from 122nd ASB, 82nd CAB have assisted AMC contractors for the past two months.

“We inspect all US tactical vehicles arriving to Kandahar,” said Sgt. Shawn McClellan, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, technical inspection. “We conduct twenty-level inspections on different vehicles to ensure their operational and then push them out to the task forces.”

Last month alone, the CRSP completed more than three hundred inspections, according to Hall.

During the inspection process the maintenance team checks everything used on the vehicle while it is moving i.e. tires, fluids, windshield, brakes,

is great; they’re motivated, they do the right thing, they work hard even under harsh climate,” said McClellan. “My team is very knowledgeable with previous experience with maintenance of farming equipment and components of vehicles.”

A number of the Troops assigned to the maintenance team are on their first deployment to Afghanistan and just completed their Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as all-wheel mechanics.

“This is a really good experience to apply skills we already know and learned through hands-on training—we stay busy,” said Private Chuck Givens, all-wheel mechanic, HSC, 122nd ASB.

With the increased presence of ground force assets continuing to arrive through the summer and into the fall, the demand for operational preparation and ability increases as well.

“We have more than two thousand tactical vehicles and equipment in route [as the US Force ground presence continues to increase] and the team continues to work hard,” said hall. “When these vehicles are released back to the task forces they are ‘show room’ ready for missions.



NCO Induction Ceremony



Congratulations to the following inducties:

**Sergeant Meghan Goins, HSC, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant Jose Magallanes, HSC, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant Shawn McClelland, HSC, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant John McDonough, HSC, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant Phillip A. Beaufort, Co. A, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant William T. Kennedy, Co. A, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant Tedd A. Rosenthal, Co. A, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant Carlos E. Whatley Jr. , Co. A, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant Travis M. Zinn, Co. A, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant Kent A. Bothwell, Co. B, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant Tony W. Fisher Jr. , Co. B, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant Curtis Guild, Co. B, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant Jeremiah J. Wilfong, Co. B, 122nd ASB,
Sergeant Robert Brown, 95th Engineer Detachment,
Sergeant Scott Forney, 95th Engineer Detachment,
Sergeant Angelica Pierce, HHC, 82nd CAB.**



*Guest Speaker,
Command Sergeant
Major Larry Farmer, 82nd Combat
Aviation Brigade
command sergeant
major spoke to the
NCO Corps induc-
ties about what it
means to be a leader
of Soldiers.*



*Sergeant John
McDonough,
HSC, 122nd
Aviation Support
Battalion being
inducted into
the Noncommis-
sioned Officer's
Corps during
122nd NCO in-
duction ceremony
12 September.*



THE DRIVING FORCE

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