

PEGASUS

VOL 1 ISSUE 5 OCTOBER 2009

MAGAZINE



**Army 10 miler
“shadow” Run on
Kandahar Airfield**

**AA6 & AA9
visit Task
Force Pegasus**

Talon Reenlistment

**Task Force Ready
moves out west**

**Safety Tip of
the month:
Traffic**

**Fire Fighters support
Aviation mission**



Official Magazine of
Task Force Pegasus
(82nd Combat Aviation Brigade)

PEGASUS

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 82ND COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

Mission statement:

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

This Month:

- 2: Task Force Ready**
- 3: Message from Pegasus Commander**
- 4: Recognition**
- 5: AA6 & AA9 visit Pegasus**
- 6: 82nd Rock Band visits Kandahar Airfield**
- 7: Message to TF Pegasus from RC(S) Commander**
- 8: Army 10 miler "shadow" run**
- 9: Fire and Rescue support aviation mission**
- 10: SAFETY Tip of the month**
- 11: CK moves to SABER... who stayed**
- 12: Talon Reenlistment ceremony**
- 13: Move to Wolverine**
- 14: Chaplain's Corner**
- back : complimentary comic**

Task Force Commands:

Task Force Pegasus

COL Paul Bricker, Commander
CSM Larry Farmer, CSM

Task Force Saber

LTC Mike Morgan
CSM Richard Sullivan

Task Force Wolfpack

LTC David Jernigan
CSM Wayne Fausz

Task Force Corsair

LTC Carey Wagen
CSM Thomas Hamilton

Task Force Talon

LTC Wade Blackwell
CSM Vernon Brown

Task Force Atlas

LTC Robert Wegner
CSM Lourdes Berrios-Powell

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Content of this magazine is not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Army.

The editorial content of this monthly publication is the responsibility of the Task Force

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Western Afghanistan

BY Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Wright

*Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan*

Kandahar, Afghanistan – In May 2009, the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), or Task Force (TF) Pegasus, took the reins from the 101st Abn. Div. as the U.S. Army rotary wing aviation element supporting southern Afghanistan.

Under the tactical control of a NATO command, TF Pegasus and its five battalion Task Forces transport passengers and cargo in support of expansion in the south; conduct counter-IED (C-IED) operations in support of freedom of movement for the Afghan civilians, Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) members; has five MEDEVAC teams positioned throughout the south on-call 24 hours a day, every day of the week; and supports ground maneuver forces with their ability to insert them onto the battlefield, under low visibility and into hard-to-reach areas quickly and stealthily.

Support from the air has proven to be a vital asset in the south.

“Our lift assets have provided safe passage of over thirty-seven thousand personnel and over 5.1 million pounds of equipment all across the battle space,” said Maj. George Chittenden, TF Pegasus Effects Officer.

“The effects we are having, either conducting our own operations or enabling others is different by region, but all positive,” said Lt. Col. Jeff Becker, TF Pegasus Operations Officer.

TF Pegasus will soon bulk up their fleet with a General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) from the 12th CAB out of Katterbach, Germany. The 5-158th GSAB, or TF Ready, will deploy to western Afghanistan this fall to support efforts toward stability and security in the region. They will fall under the operational control of TF Pegasus.

“They were specifically asked for and approved to provide MEDEVAC and sustainment to the U.S. and Coalition forces that have expanded in RC-W (Regional Command West),” Becker said.

The 82nd Airborne Division’s 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) deployed to Afghanistan in the summer of 2009. Two of their battalions moved west, charged with

conducting combat advisory to the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) in that region.

“(Rotary wing aviation) has enabled operations in RC-W, conducting air assault/raid operations to target INS (insurgent) leadership, cells and cache sites,” said Becker. “The fact is, TF Pegasus has allowed all battle space owners to increase their operational tempo and allowed RC-S to conduct multiple operations at the same time across the region, and do it more regularly.”

TF Ready brings with them a helicopter fleet of Apaches, Blackhawks and Chinooks that number nearly fifty. Pegasus’ support battalion, the 122nd Aviation Support Battalion, or TF Atlas, is providing much of the logistical and maintenance support while Ready builds up and integrates into theater. Soldiers from B Company’s Direct Support platoon of TF Atlas are pulling the helicopters off the Air Force heavy cargo planes and turning them over to contractors to be reassembled.

“We have the best download team in southern Afghanistan working hard to keep anyone we support in the fight,” said Sgt. Michael Cox, AH64 Attack helicopter repairer.

The western area of Afghanistan where TF Ready will operate from has not yet met the conditions with which to park and support Ready’s fleet of helicopters. Atlas is supporting the build-up effort to prepare the area for the incoming GSAB.

“We are doing everything we can to ensure that the integration of TF Ready into theater is as smooth and easy as possible,” said Staff Sgt. Callen Poole, aircraft structural repairer assigned to TF Atlas.

“We are receiving containers flown in, coordinating with the Spanish to download containers off of the aircraft, and arranging for transportation via Host Nation trucks,” said Capt. Annelies Hickerson, TF Atlas Operations Officer.

Becker says TF Ready will add about 700 personnel to the Pegasus ranks and nearly fifty helicopters. These helicopters will support expansion efforts and ground forces in the western region of Afghanistan. They will also provide MEDEVAC support for the same.

TF Ready will serve a twelve month tour, redeploying to Germany in the fall or winter of 2010.

TF Pegasus is on track to redeploy to Fort Bragg, North Carolina in the spring of 2010.

Troops continue to meet mission demand

Message from Task Force Commander, Col. Paul Bricker

Earlier this week many Troopers of our brigade crested the mid-point for our current deployment here in southern Afghanistan. As I reflect back on the many accomplishments of our Troopers to date, the one to resonate continuously front and center in my mind is the tremendous enthusiasm these Troops continue to display in their commitment here to our mission. This enthusiasm and “can do” attitude has enabled us to project combat power throughout much of southern Afghanistan.

We have helped establish the largest expansion of US force structure in the heart of southern Afghanistan; the location from which the attacks of 9/11 were hatched and orchestrated. And, while expanding and working through the significant challenges of occupying outlying forward operating bases, our crews and combat service support personnel continue to never miss a beat. They are accomplishing every mission with tremendous professionalism and always remaining most responsive to the Coalition and Afghan Security forces in their continued operations to secure the Afghan people.

Over the last month, our aircrews, Pathfinders, and service support personnel have continued to work tirelessly to meet our combat missions and demands. Our attack and scout crews continue to target insurgents involved in employing improvised explosive devices (IED) as well as the entire network of insurgents involved in opposing the Coalition’s mission. Our Chinook and Blackhawk helicopter crews are moving hundreds of tons of cargo and personnel—on top of executing weekly air assault operations targeting insurgent sanctuaries

through counter-IED and counter-narcotic deliberate operations. Our aviation maintainers continue to work feverishly to ensure our aircraft are always in tip-top shape

and our readiness rates remain some of the highest in the Army. Our refuel, armament, communications, food service, maintenance, logistics, administrative personnel and our newest members of the task force: Fire and Rescue assets remain equally committed to ensuring our fighting force never has to worry about anything except their mission.

All the while, we know that while we focus here, our 82nd CAB Rear Detachment leadership and volunteers remain equally committed to caring for our families back home. The mission here requires no less than complete focus. Knowing that our families are well cared for lifts a huge burden that enables our Troopers to remain focused on the mission on hand.

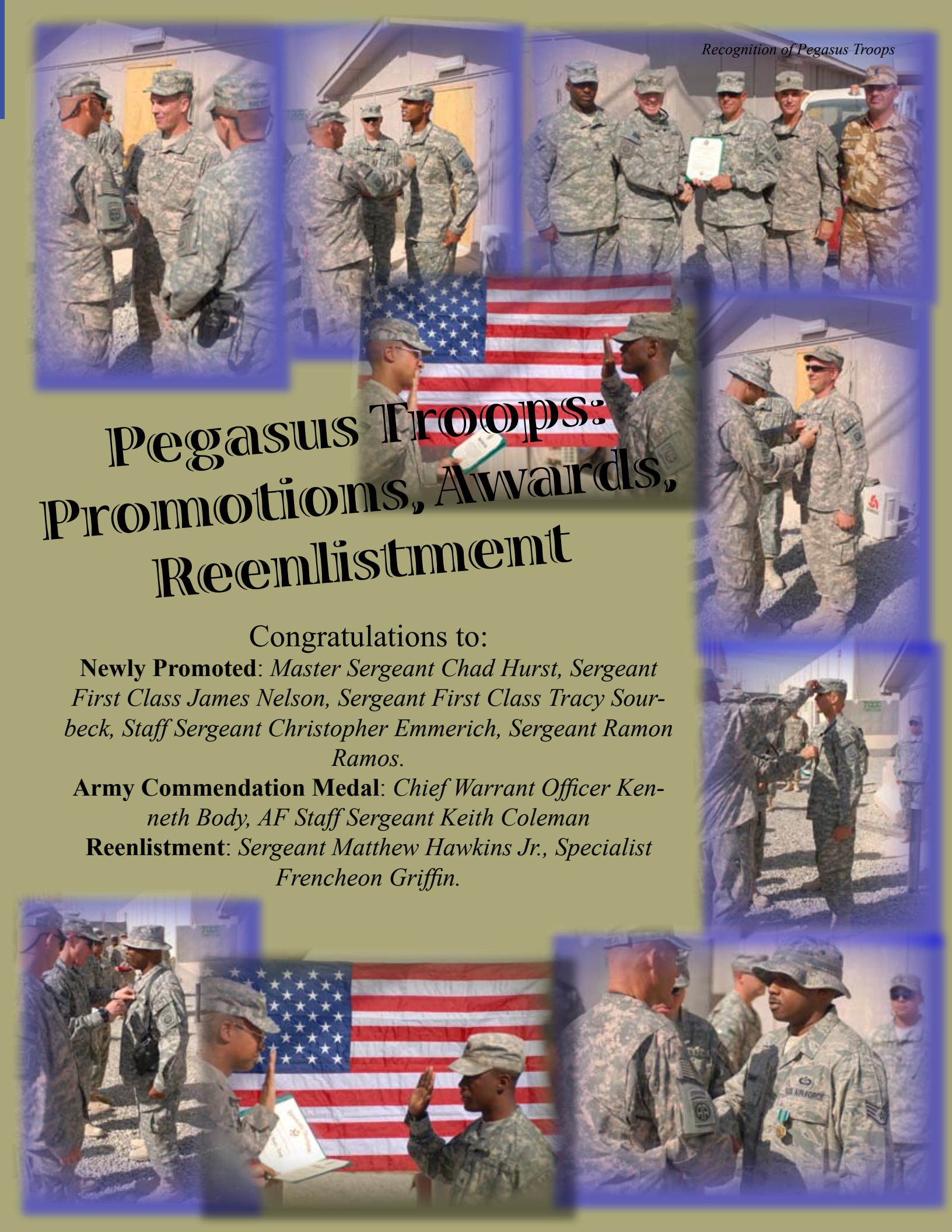
We are grateful for the continued prayers of our families and friends back in America. We do so look forward to seeing them in the spring once our mission here is complete... See you at Green Ramp in April! Thanks again for all you do.

All the Way!

Pegasus 6



*Task Force Pegasus Commander
Colonel Paul Bricker*



Pegasus Troops: Promotions, Awards, Reenlistment

Congratulations to:

Newly Promoted: *Master Sergeant Chad Hurst, Sergeant First Class James Nelson, Sergeant First Class Tracy Sourbeck, Staff Sergeant Christopher Emmerich, Sergeant Ramon Ramos.*

Army Commendation Medal: *Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth Body, AF Staff Sergeant Keith Coleman*

Reenlistment: *Sergeant Matthew Hawkins Jr., Specialist Frencheon Griffen.*

All American 6 & All American 9

visit 82nd CAB, southern Afghanistan

BY Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Wright

*Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan*

Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan – The 82nd Airborne Division is the commanding authority in Afghanistan's eastern region. They assumed responsibility this past June from the 101st Airborne Division. The 82nd's aviation asset, the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, assumed authority of U.S. rotary wing aviation operations in the south just one month prior on May 15th.

Since the two units left Fort Bragg in the spring of this year, the Division going east and the CAB going south, they've conducted two separate missions in two separate regions of the country. Traditionally under the command and control of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 82nd CAB, or Task Force Pegasus, is headquartered by a NATO command in Afghanistan and conducts full spectrum aviation operations ranging from expansion support to aero-medical evacuation to counter IED operations for the entire southern region.

The All American leadership traveled south Thursday and met back up with their Aviation Brigade. Maj. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, the 82nd Airborne Division and Combined Joint Task Force-82 (CJTF-82) commanding general, and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel, the 82nd Abn. Div. and CJTF-82 Cmd. Sgt. Maj., spent a day at Kandahar Air Field talking with the troops and leaders of Task Force Pegasus.

"The 82nd CAB provided an operational overview and intelligence assessment to inform him of the types of combat missions the unit conducts and the environment within which those missions are conducted," said Lt. Col. Jeff Becker, Task Force Pegasus Operations Officer.



(from left to right) 82nd Airborne Division Command Sergeant Major Thomas Capel, 82nd Abn Div (CJTF-82 Commanding General) Maj. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade Commander, Col. Paul Bricker and 82nd CAB Command Sergeant Maj. Larry Farmer, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

During their visit, Scaparrotti presented six awards, including an Air Medal with valor to Capt. Alicia Stahlberg, an Apache pilot for Task Force Saber, one of Task Force Pegasus's Battalion Task Forces deployed to Kandahar. He also presented seven Combat Action Badges and one Combat Medical Badge.

Scaparrotti addressed the group commenting that he had heard nothing but great things about the 82nd CAB in support of Regional Command-South. He went on to say that it would be these aviators and warfighters that will be recognized as the war heroes for young Paratroopers to come.

"Before departing for RC-E (Regional Command East), (Scaparrotti) had a BBQ lunch with the leadership and honored troops from the 82nd CAB and the leadership of the 4/82 BCT," said Becker. The Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team is also currently deployed to Afghanistan.

In the nearly six months Task Force Pegasus has been deployed to Afghanistan, they've conducted more than 4,300 missions ranging from RC-S expansion support moving passengers and cargo, to deliberate operations like air assault and area reconnaissance and security, to standby missions like MEDEVAC and aerial response force launches. Working alongside Coalition and Afghan Security Forces, they continue to operate to improve the security and stability



(center) Captain Alicia Stahlburg, AH-64 Apache Helicopter pilot receiving her Air Medal (V) From 82nd Abn Div Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti.

82nd Rock Band performs in southern Afghanistan

BY Sgt. Aubree Rundle

Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan

Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan— Large crowds of US and Coalition forces gathered Wednesday and Thursday night on Kandahar Airfield (KAF) to watch the performance of the 82nd Airborne Division's rock band "No Reserve".

Deployed for a year under the command of the Combined Joint Task Force 82 (CJTF-82) in Regional Command-East, Afghanistan, this was the band's first mission to RC-South to entertain Troops in theatre.

Performing at the rotary-wing flight line, boardwalk and Harvest Falcon (living area for hundreds of US service members on KAF), No Reserve entertained crowds enriched with US service members, Coalition forces, and civilian contractors with various cover songs and a cohesive stage performance.

The 82nd Abn Div woodwind quartet also traveled to RC-South performing classical numbers in front of a Canadian coffee shop and in the international dining facility at lunch during the band's visit.

"It's an honor to be invited here to perform for these service members," said Specialist Christine Permenter, lead vocalist in the band. Permenter joined the Army originally as a flute player.

As original members of the 82nd Abn Div marching band, No Reserve's rock band members spend their time during deployment performing for Troops during forward operating base events and military celebrations. They play songs from various genre's of music such as country western, pop, alternative rock, and classic rock.

"Over the past four years, this has been the best group to be a part of," said Sergeant 1st Class James Donahue, bass player and noncommissioned officer-in-charge, No

Reserve.

US Army rotary-wing helicopters from the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade made it possible for the band's travel and performance at KAF.

"The fact that we were brought down here by request is really great," said Sergeant Bridgette Dyer, vocalist and pianist, No Reserve.

Originating as an invitation to perform for a Blackhawk helicopter company in support of the aircrew's appreciation and recognition of their outgoing company commander, No Reserve's performance schedule and support of troop morale was expanded to the entire airfield.

The coordination through the Morale Welfare Recreation (MWR) team and installation support made it possible for the rock band to provide entertainment to the Troops across KAF and perform more than one time.

"It was a great turn out, the boardwalk was filled and we had a great time performing for the aviation crews that made this all possible," said Donahue. "It doesn't matter if we play for one person or one thousand people; we get on stage and we have a good time."

"No Reserve"

82nd Airborne Division Rock Band



Task Force Pegasus maintains operational initiative

Brave Soldiers of TF Pegasus,

This year we celebrate the 65th anniversary of operation Market Garden. In one of the most daring airborne operations ever seen the history of three Airborne Divisions and an Independent Polish Airborne Brigade had the mission to secure bridges over 5 rivers and canals in The Netherlands to set the conditions for the ground force (XXX Corps) to link up with the paratroopers, penetrate deep in Holland and then turn east to outflank the German forces defending the Ruhr area. One of these divisions, as you all know, was the 82nd Airborne Division, whose proud heritage you carry and foster.

In 1944, the people of Holland lived through four years of German occupation and were faced with starvation, fear, hate, and intimidation. The liberation of Groesbeek and Nijmegen and the securing of the bridges at Grae and Nijmegen secured the people from the German regime and brought freedom, hope and a glance of bright future to the Dutch people. But this came with a price. During its campaign in Holland, the 82nd Abn Div took more than 3,000 casualties.

Now, 65 years later, we are fighting to bring security, hope and a better future to the people of Afghanistan. And again the 82nd Abn Div is involved, now as the best Air Assault unit of its size in the world. Again we take casualties, but again we will prevail. To win, we need the tactical and operational mobility, the sensors and the fire power of your task force. It is these effects that give us the opportunity to increase the operational tempo and maintain the operational initiative.

But all of this could not be achieved without the support of our home front. While we are just “doing our job”, they are the ones who have to face the absence of their partner and have to cope with problems that would otherwise be solved in partnership. So, let me use this opportunity to say how proud I am to serve together with you and order you to pass on my deepest respect to your home front. They should get a medal for this mission!

All the way!

*Major General Mart de Kruif
RC (S) Commander*

Major General Mart de Kruif with 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade (Task Force Pegasus) Commander, Col. Paul Bricker on the flight line during de Kruif's visit to the task force's US Army rotary wing fleet of helicopters. Kandahar, Afghanistan.



Major General Mart de Kruif
RC(S) Commander



Army 10 Miler held at Kandahar, Afghanistan



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

Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan—Hours before sunrise more than 900 participants gathered in support of the US Army 10 Miler “shadow” run held on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan 4 Oct.

Representatives from 15 different nations arrived in running gear and pace counters to test their abilities.

The 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, currently deployed as the US Army aviation asset in Regional Command-South hosted the race as a “shadow run” to the actual Army 10 Miler held in Washington D.C. each year.

“I am very thankful to the Army 10 Miler organization for sponsoring this run and allowing the 82nd CAB to bring this prestigious race to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan,” said US Army Captain Abraham Osborn, operations officer and event coordinator, 82nd CAB.

Once the race kicked off, an OH-58 Kiowa Warrior Helicopter from the aviation brigade was on site providing aerial surveillance over the route, and according to a number of runners: visual stimulation and motivation.

“The race was exhilarating...between the energy from the other runners, and the Kiowa circling over head— it pretty motivating,” said US Army Specialist Virginia Bagby.

Bagby, like many other runners participating in the race, trains for various host nation fitness events held for deployed coalition forces on KAF.

The day before the race US Army Sergeant James Patterson, after posting a message to his family online received multiple motivational and encouraging replies from friends and family in the states.

“During the race I experienced the same encouragement along the route from onlookers and other runners as I did from family and friends back home,” said Patterson, command group for 82nd CAB and participant in the race. “The encouragement and the run itself gave me time to reflect on what we are all here for.”

With the Afghan dust clouding the route across the six to eight mile marker, runners returned across the finish line with powdered eyebrows and hair, but smiles and energy were anything but absent.

After the majority of runners crossed the finish line, the top three male and female runners were recognized and presented a plaque from Brigadier General Ben Hodges, deputy commander for Regional Command-South.

The winner of the race overall was Mr. Joseph Boland, Canadian service member finishing the 10 mile race in 58 minutes and 55 seconds.

Empty water bottles filled up trash bins and the crowd depleted into the morning to continue on with the mission in southern Afghanistan.

“It was great to see so many people... I really felt a sense of camaraderie,” said Lt. Michael Karlson, 82nd CAB and participant in the run.

Fire, Crash and Rescue

supports aviation mission

BY Sgt. Aubree Rundle

*Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan*

Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan—The aviation mission continues to maximize freedom of movement and assist ground force elements throughout the southern region of Afghanistan and providing support to the western region as well.

With the countless hours logged executing combat operations, risk assessments and support assets must be readily available in the event of an incident with aircraft or crews.

The 95th Engineer detachment, assigned to the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade in southern Afghanistan holds the operational responsibility for Fire, Crash and Rescue missions in the southern region.

“Primarily, the fire fighter’s mission in southern Afghanistan is to provide Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) to the 82nd CAB assets and to support the build up missions in Regional Command-West,” said Sergeant 1st Class Matthew Michalek, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 95th Engineer Detachment.

A combination of fire fighter teams from Fort Polk, Louisiana, Fort Drum, New York, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and Fort Stewart, Georgia make up the five teams in 95th Engineer Detachment.

Each team is equipped with one- Tactical Fire Fighting Truck (TFFT) that has capabilities for structural, aircraft and wild-land fire fighting, said Michalek. “It carries one thousand gallons of water, 60 gallons each of class A and B foam and six crew members.”

Operating on 72-hour shifts, the crews stand-by in support of incidences that would call for the response and support of fire and rescue assets on Kandahar Airfield.

“We plan to expand our support to other forward operating bases in southern and western Afghanistan to provide rescue capabilities to other force elements in the months to come,” said Staff Sergeant Derek Caterinicchio, fire fighter crew chief, 95th Engineer Detachment.

While on and off duty, the teams maintain mission readiness by conducting scenario training such as “glass house” clearance; this allows teams to respond to a building fire and possible victims trapped inside. Communication, clearance of all obstacles and team cohesion affect every passing second of the scenario. Other training conducted such as downed aircraft response and casualty extraction and vehicle extraction also apply to the fire fighter team’s mission demands.

“The training allows the teams to work with different people and familiarization of each other’s techniques,” said Specialist Keith Fulton, fire fighter, 95th Engineer Detachment.

There are just over 300 active duty fire fighters in the US Army today. When not deployed, the units support their civilian fire stations on military bases and train in preparation for combat deployments in support of fire and rescue mission.

“This is both challenging and rewarding,” said Michalek. “Challenging by having five detachments from four different locations that have different tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) and oversight of various units with limited fire fighter experience; rewarding given the fact that this number of fire fighters have been given a structured mission that has not been seen in years.”

To train for war is to maintain tactical and technical proficiency... training is key in sustaining mission readiness. Whether it is combat supporting roles or combat service supporting roles, every day deployed Soldiers carry out their mission fighting the war in Afghanistan.

Three Fire Fighters from 95th Engineer Detachment putting on their oxygen masks before clearing a house during a training exercise



Pegasus Safety



By: Chief Warrant Officer Jon Lane
Safety Officer
Task Force Pegasus

What every Paratrooper needs to know:

- There are over 20k people on KAF.
- PMO does not know the total number of NTVs/AMVs/MHEs on KAF.
- PMO does not have adequate resources to enforce traffic violations and unsafe operations.
- There is already one pedestrian hit and run fatality on KAF – unsolved.
- COMKAF leadership has stated “Vehicles have right of way”.
- Many vehicle operators on KAF do not speak English.
- Think the odds are stacked in your favor?

The Ones who stayed...

CK feeds Task Force Saber Troops

BY 2LT Michael Karlson

*Task Force Saber
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan*

Throughout the month of September, Task Forces across the Combat Aviation Brigade sent most of their Food Service Specialists back to Fort Bragg. The only Task Force that retained all of its food service specialists was Task Force Saber. On September 29th, Task Force Saber cooks prepared and served the first hot meal at Mustang Ramp using the Containerized Kitchen (CK). It took several weeks of preparation to reach that point; first, selecting a site, then laying and leveling gravel. The food service specialists set up equipment, inventoried, and tested it; they picked up rations and developed a meal plan. For several of the food service specialists, this was their first time working on the CK, so they had to train. The CK, named the "Hot Spur Inn" by Task Force Saber cooks, is open for lunch and dinner meals for all Troopers at Mustang Ramp.

The Dining Facility (DFAC) Troopers from Task Force Saber start their work day at 8 a.m. They accomplish many tasks before they can serve a meal. They pull rations from one of the 20-foot refrigerated containers. They prepare food and cook it using Modern Burner Units (MBUs). As the food is cooked, they store it in warmers, to make room for the preparation of more food. They serve lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m. Immediately after they complete this meal, they begin preparation for the next one. They serve the evening meal from 5:30 to 7:00. After dinner, they clean the system and preposition rations for easy access the next day. Their day usually ends at 8 p.m.

"Our Troopers are very proud to be doing their jobs. They are members of an award winning team from Fort Bragg, and are exhibiting the same superior performance on this CK," said Staff Sgt. Adrian Parker, DFAC Platoon Sergeant.

"My unit in Korea operated in the field for 45 days at a time. We had six cooks, working off of an MKT [Mobile Kitchen Trailer]," said Spc. Travisha Kelley, Task Force Saber DFAC. "It is basically the same as the CK, but a little bit smaller. This is another great

experience. Field training builds strong, confident cooks in the dining facility."

The cooks are not the only ones working on the CK system. It takes a total of six Troopers, everyday, from throughout the Task Force, to support Kitchen Police (KP) duty. Tasks include cleaning dishes, policing up trash, cleaning tables, setting up, and working the outside line.

"KP is hard work but it seems to go by pretty fast; I know it's pretty important," said Private 1st Class Carnell Egana.

The first meal served on the CK was steak and crab legs. Since then, the Task Force Saber cooks have turned out chicken alfredo, chicken and beef stir fry, several short order meals, and many others.

"The success of the CK is a Squadron effort," said Staff Sgt. Michael Mosley, head of Task Force Saber's Food Service section. "My Troopers, as well as the KPs, make two great meals every day here at Mustang Ramp."

The following individuals make up the TF Saber DFAC team: SSG Michael Mosley, SSG Adrian Parker, SSG Donte Murphy, SGT Travis Burton, SGT Earl Lendore, SGT Joseph Smith, SPC Travisha Kelley, PFC Kiara Parrish, and PFC Arnaldo Rivera.



*Troops from 1-17th CAV
(Task Force Saber) being
served and enjoying the
containerized kitchen (CK)
set up at Kandahar Airfield,
Afghanistan*





"I'm impressed with this generation of Soldiers."

Continued support to mission... Troops reenlist

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



Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan—Less than a year ago Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced the order for increased US force operational presence in Afghanistan.

Tens of thousands of troops have deployed to southern Afghanistan beginning this past spring in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and while deployed a number of them are taking their oath of reenlistment continuing support to their mission.

The 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade's 3rd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment (Task Force Talon) recently conducted a reenlistment ceremony with Soldiers from their battalion taking the oath of reenlistment as the largest group to reenlist in the 82nd Airborne Division this month.

"While our country is at war these Troops, some of which have been on multiple deployments, know what they are doing and choose to stay in the military—its humbling," said Lt. Col. Wade Blackwell, commander Task Force Talon.

Whether the reason for reenlisting is

for stabilization, military occupational specialty (MOS) re-class, bonus money, relocation to a new duty station or just continuing their time in the Active Army, the Troops are taking the oath to continue serving their country while in a combat zone.

"One percent of Americans are willing and can serve in the armed forces," said Command Sergeant Major. Vernon Brown, TF Talon command sergeant major. "When Soldiers reenlist it's beneficial to the service as they are already trained and have experience; they're an asset and it honorable to any command."

Before Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom began, Troops enlisted in the military for educational benefits and job training and experience, said Blackwell. Now, Troops are enlisting in the military to service their country in support of our overseas operations during a time of war.

The biggest esteem went out to the leadership within 3-82nd Avn Reg; Blackwell and Brown both accredited

the hard work of their career counselor: Staff Sergeant Mantrell Walker, junior noncommissioned officers, and senior leaders and first sergeants for providing examples of "character and outstanding American leadership" to the upcoming troops in their battalion.

"I work with these Soldiers and counsel them to make sure they understand what their options are," said Walker. "Whether it is a duty assignment overseas like Germany or Korea, MOS re-class, or re-location to reunite with a Soldier's spouse at a different base; I work hard to make sure they get what they ask for."

Task Force Talon is one of five battalions within the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade currently deployed in support of coalition force operations in southern Afghanistan.

"The team concept is here; Talon is about the team and meeting the standards—on time, on target; it takes the team to do it," Blackwell's response to the continued efforts and service of his Troops after the ceremony.

Wolverine in Progress

BY Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Wright

*Task Force Pegasus Public Affairs
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan*

Kandahar, Afghanistan – Organically, Task Force (TF) Corsair is the 2-82nd Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) assigned to the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB). Since deploying to Afghanistan in late April this year, they are TF Corsair, an element that provides MEDEVAC, air assault, cargo and passenger transport, and counter-IED (C-IED) capabilities.

When the 82nd CAB, or TF Pegasus, took over command of U.S. Army rotary wing aviation operations in southern Afghanistan last May, they signed on to provide aerial support to Coalition and Afghan Security Forces operating in the south. That's a lot of area to cover and made it necessary for TF Pegasus to position two of its Task Forces, TF Corsair and TF Wolfpack, in neighboring provinces.

Corsair has been operating out of Zabul Province since the end of May. They moved into a small Forward Operating Base (FOB) near the town of Qalat with their fleet of nearly twenty helicopters.

"Due to the efforts of the Corsair Troopers, the TF has established an operations center," said Maj. David Bresser, Corsair operations officer. "The Troopers built tent floors with scrap wood and pallets found around the FOB."

The Corsair team also built a small aircraft parking area coordinating the placement of acres of gravel and the filling of HESCO barriers.

"It may be a little austere, but the tents and small work areas are functional," Bresser said.

They may be functional, but the FOB they occupy now is not their permanent home. Corsair established a footprint on this base so they could operate while they wait to move further south into their intended home-base.

"Obstacles remain for our next move," said Bresser, "but that hasn't stopped Corsair from influencing the completion of the FOB."

Since the start of the deployment, Corsair has used its resources to help push progress at their new FOB. They've got Soldiers from their Forward Support Company (FSC) helping personnel at the FOB with force protection, manning guard towers and the entry control point (ECP) twenty-four hours a day while contractors and military engineers plug away at construction.

"They (the FSC) have an extremely efficient company command post with all the required connectivity," said Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Thomas Hamilton, Corsair Cmd. Sgt. Maj. "Having a presence on the ground has been extremely helpful with the coordination for our main TF to arrive."

The Corsair maintenance company has already made their way out to the new location.

"We have continued to stay in the fight by conducting aircraft maintenance at Kandahar (and in Zabul and Uruzgan Provinces)," said Hamilton. "Our maintainers have done a superb job of keeping our aircraft operational. They have done a great deal with a minimum of assets. Our total flight hours can attest to that."

According to Bresser, the land selected for placement of the new FOB "was not ideal." The setting is mountainous, and the early stages of construction involved moving incredible "amounts of earth to level the ground for an airfield and life support structures."

"The engineers from the Army, Air Force, and Marines, along with the Navy Seabees have dedicated an incredible effort to make occupation of a desolate area a reality," said Bresser. "We continue to monitor the progress and are making all the necessary preparations to begin our move there."

"In spite of the hardships Corsair has encountered, morale is high," said Bresser. "Troopers are extremely motivated and the Corsair presence is felt throughout Zabul Province."

Bresser says the recent Afghan elections were a success in Zabul, noting that "there was very minor violence, and turnout seemed high." He also says the main highway has increased movement and local bazaars are doing very well.

The Corsair team, once moved to their new FOB, will still be operating in Zabul Province.



During a visit to Forward Operating Base Wolverine 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade Commander, Col. Paul Bricker accompanied by TF Corsair commander, engineer and expansion land survey experts checked the progress of infrastructure development and accommodations for 2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force Corsair Troops. With the progress of the FOB, Corsair helicopters and personnel should be able to operate from this base in the near future. This marks the continued aviation footprint expansion in southern Afghanistan.

Chaplain's CORNER: To Achieve Excellence

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

To Achieve Excellence

Recently, I was engaged in a discussion on what it takes to achieve excellence in a given area. It was generally agreed that to be excellent at something it takes practice. The important question is however, "How much practice is enough?" In Malcolm Gladwell's book *Outliers* he explains what he calls "The 10,000 – Hour Rule". Essentially this is the minimum level of practice required to achieve excellence at performing a complex task. He quotes a researcher named Daniel Levtvin, "The emerging picture...is that ten thousand hours of practice is required to achieve the level of mastery associated with being a world-class expert – in anything. In study after study, of composers, basketball players, fiction writers, ice skaters, concert pianists, chess players, master criminals, and what have you, this number comes up again and again."

I had a young man ask me the other day, "Chaplain, what does it take to get big arms?" Yeah, I can hear the laughter at that one. Took me by surprise too. However, in our military society a large number of soldiers, both men and women, seek to achieve some level of physical excellence. This can encompass many areas such as running and endurance, power-lifting, or a combination of the two in cross-fit, and often they just want to succeed at building their bodies like those people we see on the covers of the muscle mags at the PX. Well, to achieve excellence in any of these areas practice is the key and requires consistency and effort.

If your goal is to have large muscles and great strength, it is absolutely necessary to be consistent. This means work at it day in day out, week in week out year in year out. If you want it bad enough you will figure out how to get the time in. Understandably, in our deployed situation training opportunities can be difficult to find due to shifts or maybe bad or no facilities if you're on a primitive COP. But consider this: Arnold, prior to being a world champion, was a tanker when he served in the military. He used to load weights to

train with on his tank during field problems, and he got up earlier than everyone else to train. Along these lines the guys I served with in Iraq saw their training time so important they acquired weights from wherever they could and carried them out to their COPs in their Bradley Fighting Vehicles. There they trained hard when not patrolling. These guys reaped the rewards of greater strength, physiques, and (as a side benefit) mental relief from stress. Here in Afghanistan I've also seen some tremendous dedication by troopers to make sure they get their training in – and you know whom I'm referring to. With that said, like I was asked, if you want big arms you have to stick with training for years despite being tired or doing shift work or whatever excuse seems convenient. Otherwise you simply will never achieve your goal.

Another point is that you have to actually put effort into your regimen, and effort can be really painful. If, for instance, you are sore and have a difficult time walking for two or three days after a leg training session then maybe you trained sufficiently. Otherwise, you likely didn't move forward towards your goal. Please recognize the difference between soreness and injury, though. Injury will set you back if you don't address it.

Simply put, to achieve the physical transformation that so many want requires a consistency that takes discipline and diligence combined with great effort. This same principle of practice applies in order to achieve true excellence at anything: whether it is playing the guitar, learning a language, or becoming the best you can be at your chosen profession.

With six months left in our deployment, imagine where you will be when we go home if you apply these principles to the three areas of the Soul Challenge seeking improvement physically, mentally, and in spiritual disciplines. You certainly will have achieved some noticeable results. After a few years you will have achieved tremendous things. What's keeping you from success in your goals? May God bless you in all your endeavors! Chaplain McCay

INCOMING!



SHEPARD

The commercialization of the military