

THE HEARTBEAT

The Official Magazine of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division



Operation: Welcome Home

The STRIKE Brigade returns to Fort Campbell
page 9

The Commander-In-Chief in Fort Campbell

The US President and Vice-President visits The Screamin' Eagles
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STRIKE Honors its Fallen Heroes

The 2nd BCT unveils CTFS OEF 10-11 Memorial
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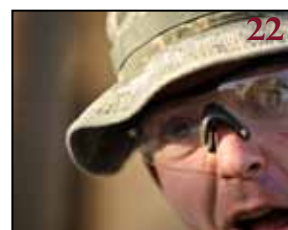
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Combined Task Force Strike Soldiers with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, reunite with their families and loved ones at Fort Campbell's Hangar 3, after returning from STRIKE's deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan.



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Words from the Top



To the Soldiers of the 2d BCT, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) "STRIKE":

Congratulations on completing your mission in Afghanistan! As you prepare to depart the theater for your return to Fort Campbell, please know that I deeply admire and appreciate all that you have done for NATO ISAF, for the people of Afghanistan and for our Nation.

The 2d Brigade Combat Team and the 502d Infantry Regiment enjoy a proud history dating back to WWII. From the drop zones of Normandy and the jungles of Vietnam, to the sands of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Afghanistan, members of the Five-Oh-Deuce have served with great honor. Most recently, of course, you and your Afghan partners have cleared the Taliban from their most important safe haven, including Mullah Omar's home district in Kandahar Province, resulting in significantly improved security in the Regional Command-South area of Afghanistan. In so doing, Task Force Strike has made substantial contributions to our efforts to protect the Afghan population and to prevent Afghanistan from once again becoming a sanctuary for terrorists. You can be rightly proud of your service and your accomplishments.

As you prepare to redeploy, let us also remember our courageous fallen comrades who fought so bravely and who gave their all for our Nation to protect the freedoms and values we cherish. We can never adequately repay our debt to these heroes or their loved ones. Their sacrifice can never be forgotten.

Please extend my sincere appreciation to your families and other supporters who stood behind you during this mission. The backing of your families and friends is symbolic of the enormous support that all Americans hold for you and our Nation's men and women in uniform who serve in harm's way. Your families demonstrated indomitable spirit in supporting you in the face of a long, difficult separation. We are very appreciative, indeed, not only of your selfless service, but of their sacrifices as well.

It is a privilege to thank you all personally for your great work in Afghanistan, for your dedication to the accomplishment of an important mission and your service to our great Nation. Good luck and Godspeed in all the lies ahead. And best wishes for a memorable celebration as you return home and continue your proud tradition as "Strike Soldiers."

-David H. Petraeus



The Doctor's Orders with Lt. Col Michael Wirt

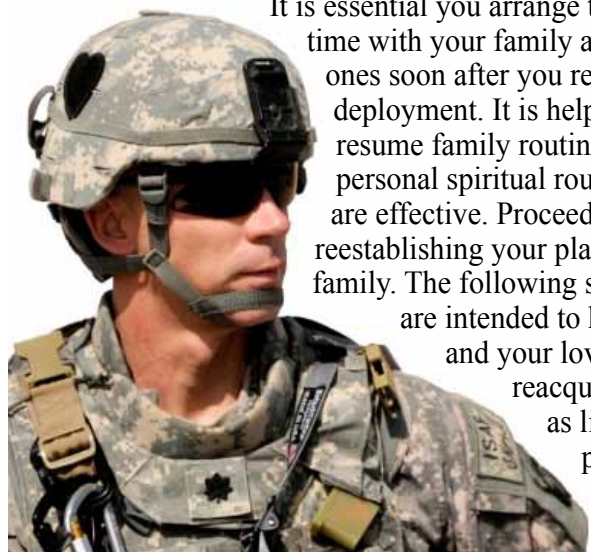
As CTF STRIKE prepares to redeploy from Afghanistan, it is important to identify redeployment issues and concerns you or your family might have. Over the time you have been away, you have undoubtedly undergone changes based on your experiences. Your family, friends or loved ones have also experienced changes. This is normal. Knowing what to expect, how to deal with the changes and where to get help, can make homecoming enjoyable and less stressful for everyone. Redeployment is also a time to take care of yourself, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

MEDICAL STATUS - Medical Requirements for redeployment include: -Completion of a Post-Deployment Health Assessment Form (DD Form 2796).
-Completion of the Eagle Risk Assessment Tool (ERAT)
-Completion of all malaria medication, if prescribed.
Continue Doxycycline for 4 weeks after departing theater. Also take 14 days of Primaquine, if prescribed, 1 tablet daily, issued at reverse SRP.
-Post-deployment tuberculosis skin test (TST) is required at the time of re-deployment.

POTENTIAL CHANGES IN YOUR HEALTH - Most Soldiers experience minor, temporary changes in their health after redeployment. This can be due to the stress of the mission, deployment travel, jet lag, and adapting to a different schedule and diet. You may feel tired, with sore or achy muscles, or experience a change in appetite. These effects should be temporary, if these symptoms do not improve, or if they seem to be getting worse, be sure to see your health care provider. The first symptoms of some illnesses, especially some infections, may not appear until days, weeks, or even months after contact. For this reason, it is very important that you tell your physician where and when you were deployed.

REUNION WITH YOUR LOVED ONES - Returning home can be every bit as stressful and confusing as leaving.

It is essential you arrange to spend time with your family and loved ones soon after you return from deployment. It is helpful to resume family routines and personal spiritual routines that are effective. Proceed slowly in reestablishing your place in the family. The following suggestions are intended to help you and your loved ones get reacquainted with as little stress as possible.



Soldiers

-Take time to listen and talk. -Make time for each child and for your spouse. -Support the good things your family has done. -Manage money carefully. -Don't overdo the "reunion parties."

Spouses -Avoid a busy schedule. -Go slowly in making adjustments. -Remind your spouse that they are still needed. -Discuss division of the family chores. -Stick to a budget until you have time to talk about money matters. -Make time to be alone with your spouse. -Be patient in rebuilding your relationship.

Children -Slowly resume the old rules and routines. -Be available to your child, with time and emotions. -Let the child be the first to renew the bond. -Expect some changes in your child. -Focus on successes; limit criticisms. -Encourage your child to tell you everything that happened while you were away

EXPECTATIONS FOR SOLDIERS -Even though you may want to talk about your experiences, your family may not. -Roles may have changed with regard to basic chores and household duties. -Face-to-face communication may be difficult after a separation. -Closeness may be awkward at first. -Children grow up during separations; they may seem different. -Spouses become more independent, and may need more space. -You may have to change your outlook on priorities in the household.

EXPECTATIONS FOR SPOUSES -Soldiers may have changed. -Soldiers may feel "closed-in" or claustrophobic and may need space to feel comfortable. -Soldiers often feel overwhelmed by the everyday noise and confusion of home life. -Soldiers may need time to resume sleeping patterns. -Soldiers may feel left out and need time to adjust. -Soldiers may feel hurt when small children are slow to hug them and show emotions.

WHAT CHILDREN MAY FEEL -Babies less than 1 year old may cry when you hold them; toddlers may not know you at first. -Preschoolers 3-5 years old may be afraid of you. -School-aged children 6-12 years old may demand more of your time than other children. -Teenagers may seem moody, and act as if they don't care. -Some children may be anxious, fearing your expectations of them. -Children may have symptoms of minor illnesses. -Children may be torn by loyalties to the spouse who remained at home.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE HEALTH CONCERNS?

Information was adapted from the US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine at:
<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil>.

The Chaplain Says... *by Chaplain (Maj.) David Beavers*

“They didn’t plan to fail; they failed to plan” -- We’ve all heard this expression before, but that doesn’t mean that we all take it to heart. What does it take to be successful on a patrol? You have the plan for the mission giving you your task and purpose which fits into the larger plan for the overall operation. You have the logistical support supplying the patrol element with everything from ammunition to food to special equipment needed for the operation. You have training, meaning the Soldiers going out are trained for what role they will perform ranging from how to use an APOBS to how to react during contact. You have coordination meaning that supporting and commanding elements are aware of your patrol and stand ready to assist as needed. As you can easily see, the list is long, but could go much longer.

The challenges we face as we move toward reintegration are sometimes as stressful as a patrol in combat: People, opinions, locations, and many other things have changed over the course of our deployment; New patterns may have developed in the lives of those we love; Adjustment time will need to be spent to move from a “war zone” to a “home zone”.

An approach to having a successful reunion with friends, family, and loved ones fits well with planning for an operation in Afghanistan. (Aside from the explosives and the firearms.)

Your first step will be identifying your desired end state. A good example herein would be “my wife, children, dog, and I are living, working, and having fun together as a close-knit family”. Your next step will be your and your family’s plan of how to move from where you are now (separated by approximately 8 time zones) to reach your desired end state. This will need to be separated into different steps along the way. A good breakdown of these steps might look like the following:

Step 1: Focus on physically reconnecting with your family.

Step 2: Talk through changes that have occurred.

Step 3: Take time to emotionally reconnect with each family member.

Step 4: Negotiate a joint way-ahead.

Step 5: Live based on your joint plan.

Step 6: Reevaluate emotions/feelings as you continue moving forward as a family.

As with any plan, these steps will have sub-steps in support of them. For example, under “Step 1: Focus on physically reconnecting with your family” supporting steps might include: A. Soldier and family are physically in the same location. B. Soldier returns home with their family. C. Soldier interacts with family.

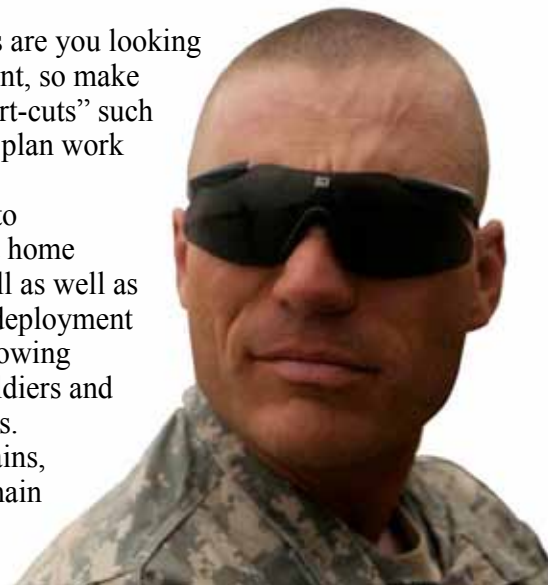
Will planning all this out take a lot of time? “Yes”; however, you will find what you gain from something is generally in proportion to the amount of time you invest into it. Once you and your loved ones/friends, have come up with a solid plan leading to your end state, there is still more you can do to ensure success.

A major first step is to ensure you have good “comms”. Commo folks always like saying “you can talk about us, but you can’t talk without us” so what is your communication plan? Start talking now about your plan, your goals, and your expectations. Plan to invest a large amount of time in talking through issues, changes, wishes, plans, etc. A good rule of thumb is to incorporate the use of a “time out” if needed. This is a code between you and those you care about that allows for a brief cooling-off period if things are getting too heated. It is important to remember that if there is a time out, there needs to be a time in when the conversation continues. A time out is not a chance to avoid forever a topic that may be uncomfortable. Take the time to share and to listen. A very good method of communication is to restate back and forth what it is that you are hearing. This ensures that everyone is “on the same page” in a conversation and reduces stress and confusion.

The second thing you can do is to take a look at your logistics. What funds are you looking at being able to spend? Your finances will be quite different upon redeployment, so make sure you plan out anything you want to buy and steer clear of purchasing “short-cuts” such as maxing out credit cards. Look at the resources you will need to make your plan work and develop and adhere to a budget.

Take advantage of the training you and your loved ones can get both prior to redeployment and following. Briefings are given to Soldiers in country and at home station and training is available for family members in person at Fort Campbell as well as online. (You can even go to the STRIKE FACEBOOK page and view the Redeployment Read-Aheads which highlight redeployment issues and keys to success.) Following redeployment, there will also be numerous Strong Bonds Retreats to assist Soldiers and families as well as many opportunities provided by Army Community Services.

You don’t have to execute your reintegration mission on your own. Chaplains, Chaplain Assistants, Behavioral Health counselors, Army OneSource, your Chain of Command, your battle buddies, and many other persons and agencies stand ever ready to lend assistance. Never hesitate to request help!



COMBINED TASK FORCE STRIKE



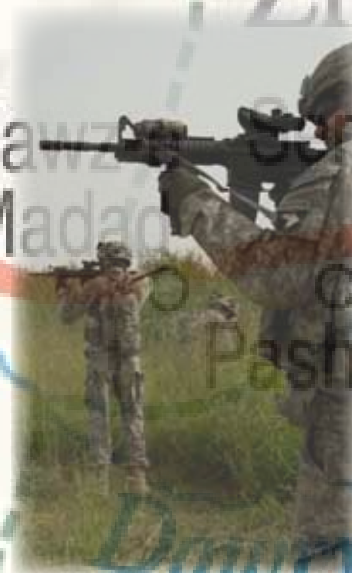
AB-PASHMUL-SIAH CHOY-HOWZ-E-MADAD-MUSHAN-TERR

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM



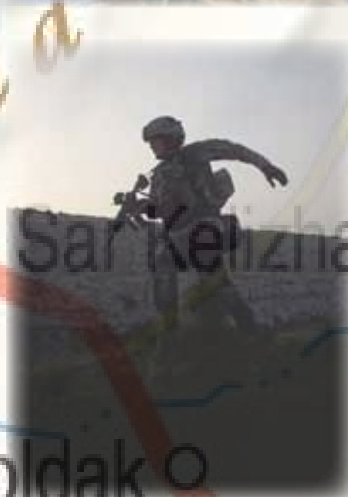
RA NOVA-NALGHAM-SENJARAY-TALUKAN-PASAAB-GHUND

-MAIWAND-PANJWA'I-



AR-AZIZULLAH-BABUR-JELAWUR-HUTAL-SANGESAR-MAK

-ZHARAY-ARGHANDAB-



KUAN-ASHOQA-KOLK-D'WAR-KANDALAI-NOWRUZI-ZANGA

They're Back!!

STRIKE Returns Home

Col. Arthur Kandarian, commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Command Sgt. Maj. Alonzo Smith, Strike CSM, uncase the brigade colors at Fort Campbell's Hangar 3, April 21. The Strike command team and the Soldiers of the Strike Brigade returned home from during the months of April and May from their deployment to southern Afghanistan.

Places like Zharay, Arghandab, Maiwand and Panjwa'i has been the make shift home for the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) for the past year, but from the April 3 through May 3, the 101st's Strike Soldiers have returned from Afghanistan to their true home of Fort Campbell, Ky. The Soldiers are glad to be back on familiar territory.

"It's an emotional time, all the

things we did over in Afghanistan were tremendous and we did it as a family," said 1st Sgt. Jimmy Sadler of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, who while deployed conducted missions in Kandahar's Arghandab district. "Watching the men and women coming off the planes build up those emotions, the good ones and now we are home together, back here on American soil where we

need to be."

About 20 flights in all brought back the Strike Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment; 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion and 526th Brigade Support Battalion as the



The Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) stand in formation moments before entering Hangar 3 to a crowd of friends and families.



Strike Soldiers and their loved ones embrace each other after being released from their redeployment formation at Fort Campbell's flight line. Tears of joy and terms of endearments were heard throughout the hangar.

Strike Force Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment continued combat operations in Zharay district. Awaiting each returning flight at Fort Campbell's Hangar 3 were the friends of families of Strike, who were eager to greet their heroes while walking off the aircraft.

"It is so good to see my son and I am so proud of him and all of the Soldiers," said Tammy Massingill, mother of Sgt. Raven Massingill of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT and was deployed to the Zharay district. "We've been waiting for this amazing day."

The Strike Brigade's historic deployment to southern Afghanistan involved well known operations such as Dragon Strike, Dragon Wrath and Dragon Descent. The leaders of Strike are also proud of the accomplishments made by Combined Task Force Strike.

"The entire deployment was a great opportunity for the brigade and 1-75 and the Soldiers exceeded every expectation during the deployment," said Lt. Col. Thomas McFadyen, commander of 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, who controlled central Zharay during Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11. "Now that we're back, we're looking forward to spending time with our families and some well deserved time at home."

The week long travel from

Afghanistan back to the states included stops at Kandahar Airfield and Manas Airbase in Kyrgyzstan. Also awaiting the arrival at Fort Campbell runway were some of the brigade's Wounded Warriors.

"One of the biggest emotions I feel seeing them come home is relief and I am absolutely proud to be here to witness it," said Cpl. David Bixler of HHB, 1st Btn., 320th FAR who was seriously wounded in while operating in Arghandab. "They have achieved so many good things for me just to look at the bad; it's good to see them come home."

The Strike Soldiers walking down the stairs from the plane to the landing strip are enjoying being back with their loved ones.

"It's great to be home with the family and friends and ready to make up for lost time," said Capt. Ginger Donohoo, commander, Co. B, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion. "It's always a good day to see Soldiers and families reintegrate together; these are very exciting times."



Cpl. David Bixler, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, receives hugs and hand shakes from his battle buddies of returning Top Gun Soldiers at the flight line. The Strike Wounded Warriors were often seen at most of the Strike welcome home ceremonies.



A Strike holds his wife during a welcome home ceremony at Fort Campbell's Hangar 3. Hundreds of family members would greet their redeployed hero(s) as the 2nd BCT returned home from their historic deployment to southern Afghanistan. Combined Task Force Strike was often called "The Tip of the Spear" in referencing its operations in Kandahar.



Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) stand in formation and are thanked guest speakers from Fort Campbell. Each returning Strike flight from the months of April and May held a welcome home ceremony comprised of families and friends.

STRIKE Families Reunited



“In Your Arms Again”



SAPPER BEASTS AWARDED 'BEST ENGINEER COMPANY IN THE ARMY'

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) has worked hard to bring security to the Kandahar province of Afghanistan. Their accomplishments come from the efforts of some of the best Soldiers the Army has to offer.

Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd BCT was awarded the 2010 Itschner Award for Best Engineer Company in the Army under Forces Command, while at Forward Operating Base Pasab, Mar. 11, 2011.

The award is named in honor of Lt. Gen. Emerson Itschner, the 39th Chief of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The company received the award for their contributions and achievements throughout Strike Brigade's area of operation. Combat Engineers, carpenters and clerical workers with "Sapper Beasts" worked together to build FOB Pasab and clear fields and roads of hidden homemade explosives.

To the Sapper Beast Soldiers, this was welcomed recognition of a job well done.

"I feel awesome about it," said Sgt. Albert Miller, a native of Bridgeton, NJ., and the company's only certified carpenter. "It's a great thing. All of our guys worked hard for this and it's great to see the efforts of our company get recognition."

Many of the wooden structures on FOB Pasab were built by Miller and other Sapper Beast Soldiers, Miller said.

The construction on FOB Pasab is just one of the many things the Sapper Beasts accomplished while in Afghanistan. Their contributions to Combined Task Force

Strike's operations include building checkpoints, training non-engineer Soldiers on demolitions such as Anti-personnel Obstacle Breaching Systems and Mine Clearing Line Charges for route clearance.

To recognize their achievement, Soldiers of Sapper Beast were visited by the command sergeant major of Regional Command South, Afghanistan. Command Sergeant Major Christopher Greca, a native of Grays Lake, Ill., and division command sergeant major, 10th Mountain Division, spoke to the Soldiers at FOB Pasab's flight line, Mar. 24.

"This is an outstanding achievement," Greca said. "Strike Brigade has made history here in Afghanistan and you were a big part of that effort."

Greca thanked the Soldiers for their service and spoke to the troops about their upcoming return home. He encouraged them to continue setting the example for units following in their footsteps.

"Be professional; the Soldiers coming to replace you are

looking to you as an example," said Greca. "There is no finer engineer company in the Army than you."

Greca gave a divisional coin to eight Soldiers, selected by their team leaders for outstanding contributions to Sapper Beast's efforts. Each Soldier was responsible for the overall success of the company, Greca said.

"I've been working at the burn pit, mail delivery, sergeant major's details, wherever I was needed," said Pfc. Gregory Cerease, a native of Delray Beach, Fla., a supply specialist with Sapper Beasts and one of the coin recipients. "My team leader selected me for a coin because of all the work I did. I feel privileged to be a part of this company and to have received this recognition."

The Soldiers of Sapper Beast have had a direct impact on CTF Strike's mission in Afghanistan. Their contributions helped coalition forces bring security to the region and may have a lasting impact after Strike Brigade has returned home.



Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Greca, division command sergeant major with 10th Mountain Division, talks to Soldiers of Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), at Forward Operating Base Pasab, Mar. 24. Greca congratulated the Soldiers on winning the 2010 Itschner Award for 'Best Engineer Company in the Army' and encouraged them to continue leading by their example.

STRIKE'S SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE PLATOON WINS NSA DIRECTOR'S CUP 2010



Soldiers with Signals Intelligence Platoon of Company B, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), pose with their NSA Director's Cup award for 'Best in the Army' among intelligence units, June 21. The Award was received for the platoon's hard work and achievements during their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, 2010-2011.

The ability to monitor enemy activity is an advantage 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) used regularly while deployed. Strike Brigade's intelligence assets went to work immediately upon deploying to Forward Operating Base Pasab in the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan.

Military Intelligence provides Soldiers with valuable insight into the enemy. Intelligence Soldiers worked long hours in rough conditions to collect, identify and sort valuable information for use by ground forces.

Every year, the National Security Agency's Director, Army Gen. Keith Alexander, a native of Syracuse, N.Y., selects the best intelligence unit within each branch of service to receive the Director's Cup. The Signals Intelligence Platoon of Company B, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Strike Brigade, was awarded the 2010 Director's Cup for being the best intelligence unit in the Army, April 13, 2011.

The platoon returned to Fort Campbell, Ky., April 22, and received the award May 23 at the NSA headquarters at Fort Meade, Md. The

award recognized the platoon's efforts and contributions to the intelligence community as being the 'Best in the Army' for 2010.

Throughout the deployment, the platoon was responsible for intercepting, analyzing and reporting information useful to Strike Brigade's mission.

"We looked for anything suspicious," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Tierney, a native of Warwick, R.I., a low level voice intercept non-commissioned officer with the platoon. "We monitored radio transmissions to identify suicide bombers, homemade explosive teams, insurgent leadership and other enemy targets."

Many Soldiers in the SigInt platoon worked long hours every day with little downtime, often being reminded to sleep, said Tierney.

When 2nd BCT arrived at FOB Pasab, it had no intelligence infrastructure for the SigInt platoon to work with. With no buildings or proper equipment, the battle to provide the best intelligence possible began from the ground-up and required a lot of work to achieve.

"We came a long way since [our] arrival at FOB Pasab," said

1st. Lt. Spencer French, a native of Chatsworth, Calif., and SigInt platoon leader. "We didn't have an infrastructure to inherit from any outgoing units; we built our operations ourselves from nothing and worked constantly to provide the best intelligence we could gather."

This bare-bones setup grew to be a fully-functional intelligence gathering facility. The SigInt Soldiers kept the command staff of Combined Task Force Strike updated on all enemy activities and helped arrest key insurgent leaders, avert homemade bomb detonations and prevent ambushes on patrol.

"By giving this information to commanders, the platoon helped save the lives of many Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Scott Strahammer, a native of Arlington Heights, Ill., and signals intelligence control non-commissioned officer in charge. "We didn't set out to win an award. We were just doing our job to the best of our abilities. I am very proud of the work everyone did in Afghanistan."

Alexander toured the intelligence facilities at FOB Pasab, January 10, 2011. He spoke to the SigInt Soldiers and urged them to continue to do well in their endeavors.

"When General Alexander visited, we were encouraged to be nominated for the Director's Cup," said French. "Ten or 15 other intelligence units were also nominated by their brigades. On April 13th, we received word we'd been selected as the winner. That was a big accomplishment. We're all very proud."

The SigInt platoon contributed to Strike Brigade's mission and was recognized as the outstanding unit it is. The NSA Director's Cup represents the excellent service to the Strike Soldiers who serve with distinction.

OBAMA, BIDEN COME TO CAMPBELL

The 44th United States' President, Barack Obama and the US' 47th Vice President, Joe Biden, touched down onto Fort Campbell's airstrip, exited Air Force One and visited the Screaming Eagle Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), May 6.

Their visit came a few days after the President's on the killing of Al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden. Obama thanked the Fort Campbell Soldiers for their efforts and sacrifices made in the War on Terror.

"I came here for a simple reason, to say thank you on behalf of America," said Obama. "This has been a historic week in the life of our nation. Thanks to the incredible skill, courage of countless individuals -- intelligence, military -- over many years, the terrorist leader that struck our nation



President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden smile at the crowd of 2200 Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Ft. Campbell, Ky., May 6. The visit was to say thank you to the Screaming Eagle Soldiers for the efforts and accomplishments in the War on Terror. Redeployed Soldiers from the 101st's Strike Brigade were among the invited.

on 9/11 will never threaten America again."

The President went on to talk about the accomplishments made in the war directly resulting from the actions of the 101st Air-

borne Division.

"You have been on the front lines of this fight nor nearly 10 years," said Obama. "You were there in those early days, driving the Taliban from

power, pushing al Qaeda out of its safe havens. Over time, as the insurgency grew, you went back for, in some cases, a second time, a third time, a fourth... So here's what each of you must know. Because of your service, because of your sacrifices, we're making progress in Afghanistan. In some of the toughest parts of the country, General Campbell and the 101st are taking

insurgents and their leaders off the battlefield and helping Afghans reclaim their communities."

Obama then talked about the killing of Bin Laden and how the fight continues in the next phase of the war.

"We have cut off their head and we will ultimately them...this continues to be a very tough fight," said Obama. "But because of this progress, we're moving into a new phase. In the coming months, we'll start transferring responsibility for security to Afghan forces... We'll build a long-term partnership with the Afghan people, so that al Qaeda can never again threaten America from that country."

His speech to the audience of 2200 was short and straightforward. The sea of green was made up of Soldiers wearing "Old Abe" patches and media



President Barack Obama waves to the crowd of 2200 Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), at Ft. Campbell, Ky., May 6. He spoke thank the Screaming' Eagles Soldiers for their efforts in the War on Terror and addressed the recent capture of Al Qaeda leader, Osama Bin Laden.

affiliates. Strike Soldiers with the 101st's 2nd Brigade Combat Team enjoyed hearing what their Commander-in-Chief had to say.

"For him to talk about how well the US Army did and for him to come down here just to thank us really meant a lot to me," said Sgt. 1st Class James Fountain, a maintenance supervisor with Strike's 526th Brigade Support Battalion. "Out of everything he said, his 'thank you' was the part that hit me best, even from all the way in the nose bleed seats I was in."

Other Strike Soldiers mentioned how seeing Obama in person was motivational and more units across the Army should have the same opportunity.

"Seeing President Obama was a great opportunity and it gives me that 'Stars and Stripes' kind of feeling," said Staff Sgt. John Wilkinson, a special electronic devices repairer also with the 526th. "He

should absolutely go and see the other Army units redeploying back to the states because it's just a great thing to see your Commander-in-Chief."

The Strike Brigade is just coming back from their deployment to southern Afghanistan and most of their Soldiers have already signed out on military leave, but the ones who met with President Obama said it was worth spending their off time in a full, hot hangar to be a part of a special occasion.

"This is the first time I've met the President and I'm excited to be here," said Spc. Anthony Eashman, a human intelligence collector with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT. "He made the effort to be here at Fort Campbell so I'm going to make the effort to be here at Fort Campbell and I liked the whole speech; his whole appreciation for our hard work. I salute you Mr. President."



Air Force One, the jetliner that carried President Barrack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden to Fort Campbell, May 6, sits at the flight line as the two spoke with Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). The visit was brief, but impacted some of the Strike Soldiers in attendance.



National and local media covered President Obama's visit to Fort Campbell. Mike Tobin, Fox News correspondent, reports the event live throughout the nation. Tobin also interviewed Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) about meeting their commander-in-chief.



The packed hangar at Ft. Campbell's flight line held Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), as they listened to President Barack Obama speak, May 6. Obama's visit was to say thank you to the Screaming Eagle Soldiers for the efforts and accomplishments in the War on Terror.

STRIKE's Fallen Journalist Honored in Nation's Capital



An image of Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter, the noncommissioned officer in charge of Strike's Public Affairs Office has been added to the wall of reporters in the Newseum, Washington D.C., May 17. Hunter was dedicated to the telling of the Strike Soldier story and was killed by an improvised explosive device while covering a unit in Kandahar.

A 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Soldier was among those honored during a rededication of the Journalists Memorial at the Newseum Monday. Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter, an Army writer and photographer, was killed in Afghanistan while telling the Strike Soldier's story,

Hunter has the distinction of being the only military journalist since Vietnam to be honored on the Journalists Memorial.

A total of 59 reporters, photographers, videographers, editors, crew members and news executives who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2010 were honored at the annual event. Another 18 journalists killed in previous years were also memorialized. All 77 names were added to the towering frosted-glass memorial.

"The 77 individuals we honor here today were brought together in a fellowship that none of them

would have chosen - a fellowship chosen by their commitment, their courage, and ultimately, their sacrifice," said Chris Wells, former senior vice president of the Freedom Forum, during the rededication. "The common thread that united them all was their commitment to journalism, and the fact that they

left us all too soon."

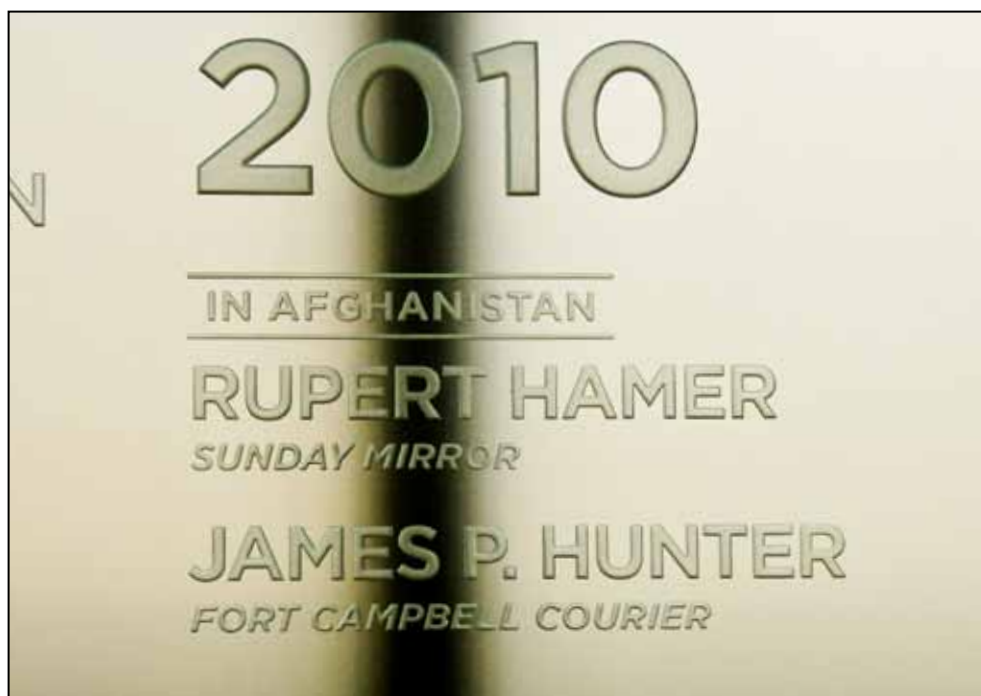
Guest speaker Krishna Bharat, founder of Google News, said the journalists all gave their lives while trying to address a fundamental human problem.

"It can be hard for us to care about people we cannot see, living in conditions we have not experienced, with predicaments we cannot understand," Bharat said.

For Hunter, 25, those people were his fellow Soldiers of 2nd BCT. He was killed by a roadside-bomb attack in Afghanistan June 18, 2010, while covering an infantry squad on patrol in Kandahar for the Fort Campbell Courier.

Sgt. Joe Padula, a friend and one of Hunter's Soldiers, who attended the rededication ceremony, said Hunter was passionate about being on the front lines with the troops and sharing their stories with the American public.

"He would always mentor to me, 'Listen Joe, I need you to under-



Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter's name has been etched onto a glass wall of reporters who have died while telling the story.

stand: to tell the Soldier's story, you must fight by their side," Padula said.

Susan Bennett, senior vice president of exhibits, programs and media relations for the Newseum, said each candidate goes through a rigorous vetting process.

"One of the stipulations is that they work for an independent news agency," Bennett explained, saying the journalists they consider must have "freedom to write what they see, and report the news without censorship or editorial control by a government."

Since military journalists work for the United States government, many of their news organizations don't qualify, she said.

"But, we look at each case individually, and we thought, in this case, both the publication and [Hunter's] work met the criteria."

Lt. Col. Larry Porter, 2nd BCT Public Affairs Officer and Hunter's former supervisor, attended the ceremony and said he understands the perceptions that exist about military journalists.

"Most people think that military journalists and combat correspon-

dents, they just write the story that we want them to write," Porter said.

Padula, also a writer and photographer with the 2nd BCT, said he hopes Hunter's inclusion on the Journalists Memorial opens doors for more military journalists to be taken seriously.

"Army journalists, for whatever reason, they tend to get a little side-swiped," Padula said. "Maybe the media will start publishing us more now. No doubt this is a step in the right direction."

Both Padula and Porter think Hunter would be proud to know that, even in death, he is leading the way for Army journalists.

"Wherever he is right now, I know he's saying, 'See, I'm still showing you guys what you're supposed to be doing,'" Porter said. Padula agreed.

"The Sergeant Hunter story," Padula thought, "will be the standard operating procedure for the Army journalists of tomorrow."



The names and faces of 2,084 journalists have been honored on the Newseum's Journalist Memorial. Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter is the only military journalist since Vietnam to be a part of those honored.



Lt. Col. Larry Porter, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Public Affairs Officer, looks at the picture of Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter at Washington D.C. Newseum, a museum for media events and personnel. Hunter was his Soldier and was killed in action while on a patrol in Kandahar, Afghanistan on June 18, 2010.

Combined Task Force Strike's Fallen Dedication



The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), unveiled its Combined Task Force Strike Fallen Memorial at Fort Campbell, July 8. The Strike Brigade added the names of the 66 Soldiers killed in their area of operation during Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11.

Family members of the fallen Soldiers attended a memorial dedication ceremony Strike Brigade held to honor its fallen Soldiers from Operation Enduring Freedom 2010-2011, in front of the brigade headquarters, FT. Campbell, Ky., July 8.

The carved stone memorial stands about five feet tall and eight feet wide, featuring a map of the Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan, covered in stars representing the locations of forward operating bases and combat outposts Strike Brigade maintained. On either side of the map are the names of the fallen carved into the stone structure. The emblems of the units that made up Combined Task Force Strike adorn the pedestal below the memorial.

The new memorial stands outside Strike headquarters. Along with memorials from World War II, Viet Nam and Iraq, they tell the story of the brigade and those who served.

“We gather today to honor the lives and sacrifices of 65 brothers and sister with whom we fought with, served with, and will forever remember,” said Col. Arthur Kandarian, commander of Strike Brigade. “Together we answered our nation’s call, and were ordered to deploy as the lead surge brigade to regional command south in Kandahar Province and selflessly served to accomplish our mission.”

The Strike Soldiers worked to secure the region, once the central point of Taliban power. Many battles were

fought across the grape fields and farms where Soldiers faced threats from small arms fire to the unseen dangers of hidden homemade explosives.

“This monument is more than names etched into stone,” said Sgt. Mike Monroe, narrator for the ceremony and videographer for 2nd BCT. “This monument marks eternally the lives of those who have served with the Strike Brigade and paid the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom.”

These Soldiers and their sacrifice will never be forgotten, said Monroe.

During the ceremony a painting was presented to the brigade by the parents of 1st Lt. Todd Weaver, who died in combat while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. The painting depicts Soldiers at a field memorial service for a fallen comrade.

Each of the six battalions within Strike Brigade dedicated a memorial to the Soldiers who had fallen within their ranks. The ceremonies began July 7, with the dedication of 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Btn., 502nd Inf. Regt., 1st Btn., 75 Cavalry Regiment, 1st Btn., 320th FAR, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Btn. and 526 Brigade Support Btn. conducted separate memorials to honor their fallen from Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11.



Battalions and Squadron Honor their Fallen



The 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), unveiled its battalion memorial at Fort Campbell, July 8. First Strike added the names of ten Soldiers killed in their area of operation during Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11.



The 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), unveiled its squadron memorial at Fort Campbell, July 8. Strike Cav added the names of 6 Soldiers killed in their area of operation during Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11.



The 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), unveiled its battalion memorial at Fort Campbell, July 8. Strike's Top Guns added the names of eight Soldiers killed in their area of operation during Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11.



The 526th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), unveiled its battalion memorial at Fort Campbell, July 8. Best By Performance added the names of 3 Soldiers killed in their area of operation during Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11.



The 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), unveiled its battalion memorial at Fort Campbell, July 8. Strike's Raptor added the names of 4 Soldiers killed in their area of operation during Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11.



The 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), due to its late redeployment, plans to unveil its battalion memorial at Fort Campbell in the near future. Strike Force will add the names of 15 Soldiers killed in their area of operation during Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11.



Combined Task Force STRIKE

Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11

Kandahar, Afghanistan



2nd Brigade Combat Team,
101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)



FACES of STRIKE



WE WILL NEVER FORGET



Honoring Our Fallen



Cpl. Justin Ross, 22, of Green Bay, Wisc., died of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire in Kandahar's Zharay district, March 27. He was assigned to 428th Engineer Company, 863rd Engineer Battalion.



Cpl. Brandon Kirton, 19, of Maidsville, W. Va., died of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire in Kandahar's Zharay district, May 18. He was assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment.





FALLEN HEROES



NEVER FORGET




STRIKE HONORS







A weekly look
at STRIKE's History

The Brigade Facebook Page

The STRIKE Brigade is in the social networking world with the Brigade Facebook Page. On it are images and videos of the great missions and actions involving the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. Join to start conversations and leave comments about everything the Team is doing. Watch the Brigade's Tv show, the 'Strike Zone' with monthly updates of our time in Afghanistan, read about the illustrious history of 2nd Brigade in the weekly edition of 'Strike Honors'. The page is an awesome way to stay close your Soldiers, even while they are far away.

To be a part of the STRIKE Brigade via the internet; log onto your Facebook page, click in the search box and type 2nd Brigade Strike. When the 502nd  comes up click on it and then click 'like'. Join the already thousands of viewers keeping up with the STRIKE Brigade! 1 km Select Sex: ▾



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