

101ST CAB

# DESTINY FLYER



JULY 2010, ISSUE 3

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### *Aiding local villages*



Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

Sgt. Zachary Barrett, F Company, Task Force Eagle Assault Pathfinder squad leader, pulls security for a medical seminar promoting disease prevention to local villagers at the Surri Bazaar outside of Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan June 1. The Pathfinders regularly go out into the villages to meet with the local population.

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# DESTINY FLYER



*Destiny Flyer* is an authorized command information publication for members of the Department of Defense and their Families. Content of this magazine is not

necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Army.

The content of this monthly publication is edited by the Task Force Destiny Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09355.

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## **Task Force Destiny**

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Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor Beharie

## **Hellcats**

Capt. Eric Rempfer  
1st Sgt. Grant Stange

## **Task Force Saber**

Lt. Col. Hank Taylor  
Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Jourdan

## **Task Force No Mercy**

Lt. Col. Scott Hasken  
Command Sgt. Maj. Maurice Terry

## **Task Force Eagle Assault**

Lt. Col. John Kline  
Command Sgt. Maj. Annette Hunter

## **Task Force Shadow**

Lt. Col. Brad Ninness  
Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Lindsey

## **Task Force Troubleshooter**

Lt. Col. William Ferguson  
Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Vance

## **Task Force Ready**

Lt. Col. Robert Howe  
Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Jindrich

## **— ON THE COVER:**

Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

**A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter door gunner surveys the area during a flight transporting personnel from Forward Operating Base Tarin Kowt to FOB Wolverine, Afghanistan May 30.**

# Command Central



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jonathan Koziol

**Soldiers of Task Force Eagle Assault made this sign for TF Destiny commander, Col. William Gayler, to mark his AH-64 Apache parking space at Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan.**

**H**ello again to all of you from Kandahar. I first want to wish all of you a happy 4th of July. In spite of your Soldier not being there to celebrate with you, I hope all of you had a great holiday weekend and are enjoying the summer weather back home. I know many of the task forces here were able to take a short break from their duties to enjoy a cookout and fellowship with one another on such an important day in our Nation's history.

As many of you know, Task Force No Mercy lost a tremendous Soldier and member of their team, SSG Brandon Silk. A great noncommissioned officer and leader in his company, SSG Silk was killed in an aircraft crash while supporting our coalition partners

during a combat mission June 21.

SSG Silk was buried in Old Town, Maine with full military honors July 2 and will be greatly missed. His dedication to duty and love for his fellow Soldiers is part of the legacy he leaves behind. He will continue to inspire others in the execution of their mission. We were all privileged to serve with him and to have had him as part of our team. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his wife Kayce and his parents, Mark and Lynn Silk in their time of loss.

As the deployment passes the 100 day mark, our Soldiers and aircrews continue to perform at an extremely high level, providing incredible aviation support to all members of

the coalition in Afghanistan. Each task force is doing amazing things and performing at an incredibly high operational pace. All across Regional Command (South), conventional and special operations forces have come to rely on all of the Task Force Destiny call signs. Whether it is air movement, air assault operations, security missions or general aviation support, your Soldiers are making a significant difference in the effort here in southern Afghanistan.

Of note, our medevac aircrews continue their heroic and life-saving actions in responding to calls to move casualties out of harm's way to medical care. They have recently been featured in many news articles including the New York and LA Times. If you have not read this piece, I would encourage you to click on the following links and do so:

As part of the normal process in deployments, some commanders and units have relinquished control as we bring on new leadership. First, we have conducted many company changes of command throughout the task forces. These companies will not miss a beat with the great, young officers who were chosen to take the reins. We also thank those captains coming out of command for their great service to their Soldiers. Many of them will remain with the brigade in a different capacity.

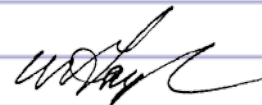
We also welcome the Soldiers from 1-4 Attack out of the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas to the Destiny team this month. By the end of July, more than 100 Soldiers will

be attached to the Brigade here in Kandahar and will conduct operations for coalition forces across RC-South. They are a great group of motivated Soldiers and are great addition to the Destiny Team.

We also say goodbye this month to Task Force Ready, the Germany based general support aviation battalion that fell under Destiny operational control upon our arrival. They have provided tremendous support to Regional Command (West) during their time here. We wish them the best as they return to their Families and loved ones in Germany. Job well done!

In closing, as always, we cannot do what we do here without the tremendous support from all of you back home. The Rear Detachment and Family Readiness Groups continue to bear a huge burden on behalf of all of us, and I am personally grateful for their service to the brigade. I thank each one of you for the sacrifices you continue to make and ask that each of you keep everyone here in your thoughts and prayers. May God bless each and every one of you.

Air Assault and Wings of Destiny!!



COL William Gayler

TF DESTINY

101 CAB Commander

# Command Central



Courtesy photo

**Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor Beharie, Task Force Destiny, gets ready for a mission aboard a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.**

**H**ello again to all the Family and friends of the Destiny Brigade. It is that time again for us to tell you what we were doing since our last update. I know most, if not all of you have settled into a routine, and you are doing a fabulous job of handling the daily business at home. We appreciate what you do very much, because that allows us to focus on the mission here.

We are also aware everyone has started Summer break and the kids are out of school. We realize Summer vacation will be different this year. We all want you and the kids to have a great time and enjoy each other. Please take a

lot of pictures and send them to us. They are a morale booster for us all.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Summer safety. Summer is a time of fun outdoors activities; but think safety first in all you do. Do not allow a time of fun to be a time of sorrow.

Now on to some news I regrettably must give to you. It is with a heavy heart that I inform you we have lost one of our own this past month. Staff Sgt. Brandon Silk, C Company, 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, task organized to Task Force No Mercy, was killed in an aircraft crash June 21. I want to send our condolences to his wife Kayce, his stepson Brayden and also to his parents, Mark and Lynn Silk. All of us here in Task Force Destiny are extremely sorry for your loss. Staff Sgt.

Silk was one of the most charismatic and loved Soldiers within our organization and epitomized selfless service. Friends who served with him recounted several examples of his selfless acts at his memorial service held for him here in Afghanistan June 24. One which stands out is when he removed promotion points from his records in order to remain with his unit and his Soldiers during the deployment. He knew that once promoted, he would outgrow his current position and would be transferred to another duty position. Staff Sgt. Silk paid the ultimate sacrifice doing what he loved to do and with the men and women of his unit with whom

he proudly served. He was a great American, a patriot, a warrior and a member of the Destiny team who was taken from us. He is gone, but will not be forgotten. Memorial Day will forever have a new meaning for us all. He was recently memorialized at Tarin Kowt in a very touching and solemn ceremony. The day was very sunny and the clam shell was filled to capacity with both U.S. and coalition Soldiers, civilians from TK, as well as Soldiers from across the entire Destiny Brigade. I know great units take adversity and turn it into positive energy. We will do the same, because we have the very best men and women serving in our brigade. We will finish the job and honor our fallen hero.

The operational tempo has increased here in Regional Command (South) and so has the heat. The days are averaging around 120 degrees now, and I am proud to see our water consumption has exponentially increased as well. The heat normally brings loss in appetite; however, our Soldiers are continuing to eat as noticed by the lines at the many dining facilities around the base. The same can be said for the Soldiers who are located at the other Forward Operating Bases where TF Destiny operates.

Another positive trend is they are doing physical fitness at all locations. I have been to all the locations on a rotational basis, and I was invited to do physical training at each location. They all want to show me that they are doing physical training. I see training programs such

as the P90X, CrossFit, Insanity and personal programs utilizing the gym equipment. No matter the methods or means, they are doing physical training and I am very pleased with that fact. We have an entire year to focus on the mission and ourselves physically. We cannot miss this opportunity.

In closing, I want to thank our Rear Detachment, Family Readiness Group leaders/ advisors as well as our Family Readiness Support administrators for doing a superb job with some very sensitive issues back in the rear. The commander and I are constantly amazed by your tenacious approach to your duties and the sheer volume of what you accomplish every day. May God continue to bless the Soldiers and their Families of the Destiny Brigade, as well as our Nation and our Army.



CSM Trevor Beharie  
CSM, TF DESTINY  
101 CAB

# Praying on Purpose

By Capt. David Hicks  
*TF Eagle Assault Chaplain*

As I ponder persevering through this deployment, I automatically think of prayer. Prayer is powerful and peaceful. It is communication with God, and that communication with God will bring great strength for the tough times ahead. I encourage you to spend time with God daily and pray on purpose. Below is a great article named "Devotion" from the book "In Touch Daily Devotional" by Charles Stanley which emphasizes praying on "purpose."

In a crisis, people sometimes bargain with God. They somehow believe He can be manipulated into acting on their behalf. We do not have to bargain or beg. We simply need to pray effectively. This means calling on God with the confidence that only He can fix our problem (See 2 Corinthians 12:7-9).

In adversity, prayer must have purpose to be effective. Daily conversations with the Lord frequently cover lots of people and topics,

and there is nothing wrong with that. Regular communication builds a healthy relationship with God. But when James speaks about the righteous person's effective prayer reaping results, he is referring to an appeal focused on a single situation and its resolution. The King James Version uses the word "fervent" to describe such requests. These are prayers driven by urgency and a strong desire for resolution. We are to go before the Lord continually, asking for help, strength and a way through the difficulty.

God wants to wield His supernatural power in our lives. But believers can allow pride and self-reliance to get in the way. As long as we think we can handle a tough situation alone, we will not be praying as James describes. An effective prayer recognizes our weakness and His strength. It is when we feel most desperate and helpless that the Spirit of God can release the greatest measure of power.

Effective prayer is honest and real. There is no need to bargain with the Lord. He is pleased to intervene on our behalf when we

## CHAPLAIN'S

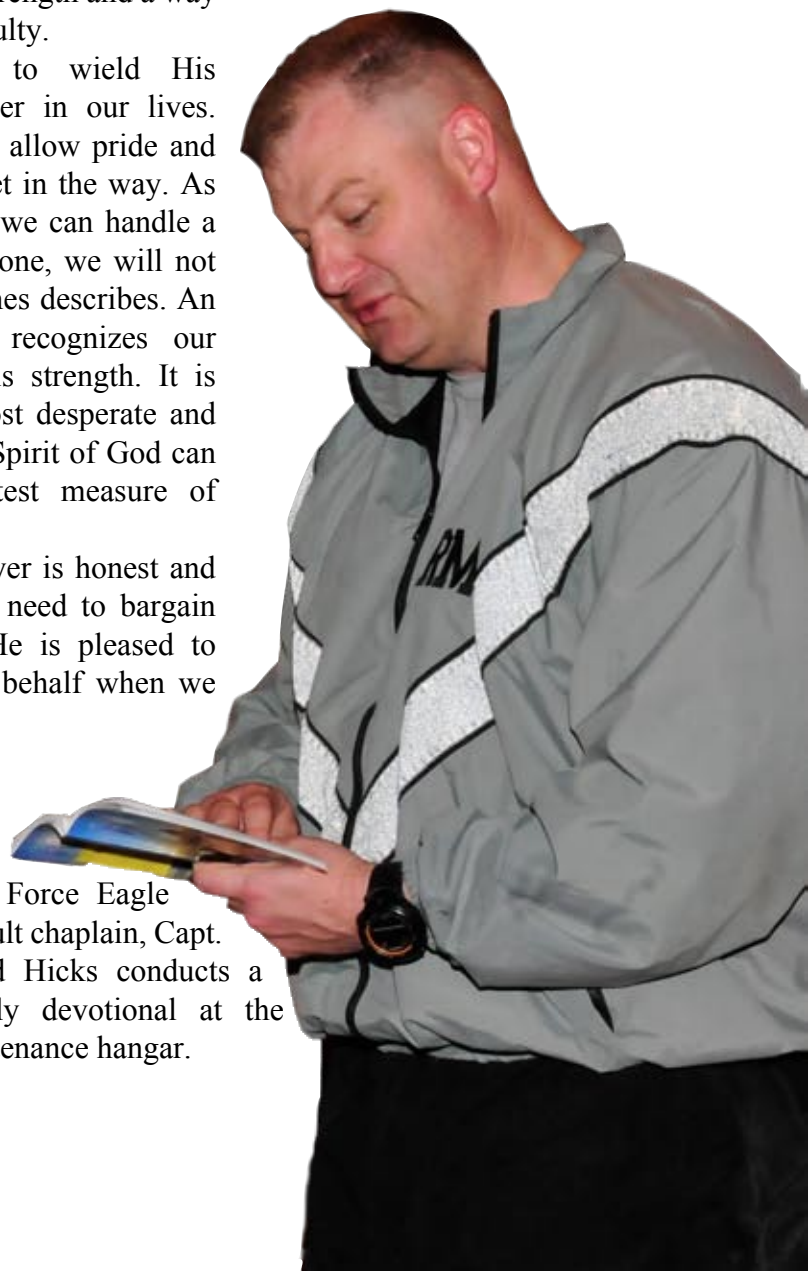
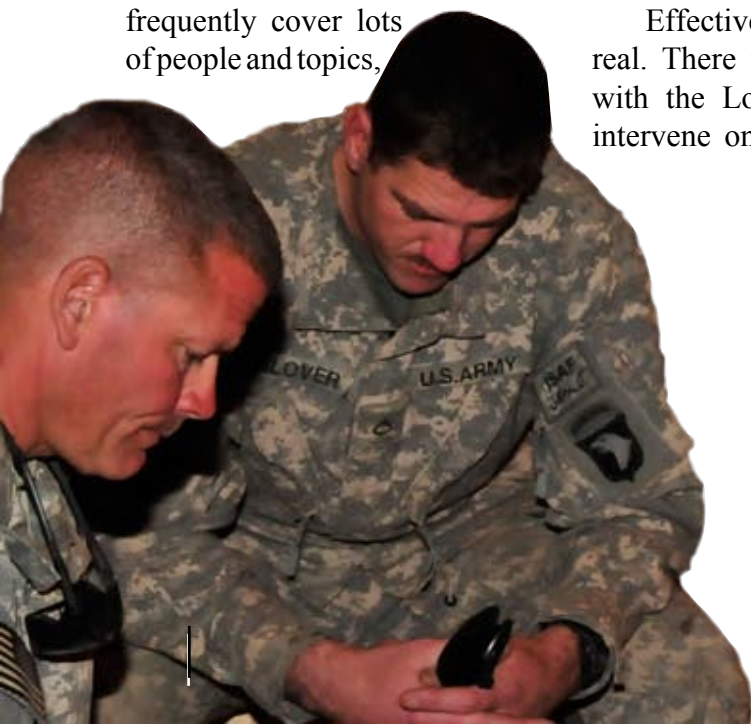
*Corner*

Graphic by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

trust in Him alone to care for us.

Remember, there is power in prayer! Have you talked to God today? Pray on purpose! 2 Timothy 4:7 – "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Finish strong!



Task Force Eagle Assault chaplain, Capt. David Hicks conducts a weekly devotional at the maintenance hangar.





# WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS ... AND STORIES

**T**he Task Force Destiny Public Affairs Office wants your photos and stories. Join the effort in telling our story to loved ones back home through your words and everyday sights.

Photos and stories will be considered for publication in the Destiny Flyer, official 101st Combat Aviation Brigade Facebook page and other media outlets.

A short caption containing who, what, where and when must accompany all photo submissions. Also include the photographer's or journalist's full name, rank, unit, position and hometown.

Keep operational security in mind when considering photos.

Hometown News Releases are also available for you and your Soldiers. You can help your unit by making sure the achievements of those around you receive the deserved recognition.

For more information, or to submit your photos and stories, e-mail the Destiny PAO at [sadie.bleistein@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:sadie.bleistein@afghan.swa.army.mil) or [tracy.weeden@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:tracy.weeden@afghan.swa.army.mil).

## “Wings of Destiny”



## Aiding local villages

Story, photos and graphics by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden, *TF Destiny public affairs noncommissioned officer*

**F**ORWARD OPERATING BASE WOLVERINE, Afghanistan—The villages outside of Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan receive aid from Task Force Eagle Assault and coalition partners in several ways.

The reason for providing aid to these villages is to strengthen the desire for a stable government while boosting their economy and living conditions.

With the assistance of Lithuanian and Afghan forces, TF Eagle Assault conducted a medical seminar June 1 at the Surri Bazaar in Zabul province, Afghanistan.

The purpose of the medical seminar was to educate local nationals from the surrounding villages about medical skills to stop the contraction and spread of diseases.

Capt. Damien Barrineau, TF Eagle Assault physician assistant, taught the villagers the safest way to store food, wash dishes and properly dispose of waste.

He advised them on how to avoid and treat animal and insect bites, sanitize drinking water and care for injuries such as burns, broken bones and abrasions.

Simple ailments such as viruses and infections can threaten the lives

of the local population, said Maj. Charles Rambo, TF Eagle Assault operations officer.

The goal was to get as many men as possible from different villages to attend so they would take back what they learned to teach the rest of their people, said Barrineau.

Approximately 40 men attended the seminar.

Staff Sgt. Candice Smith, a female engagement team leader with Operational Detachment Alpha 1233, requested the men's permission to speak with the women of their village, inviting them to a female only medical



**Capt. Damien Barrineau, Task Force Eagle Assault physician assistant, demonstrates how to splint and sling a broken arm during a medical seminar at the Surri Bazaar outside of Forward Operating Base Wolverine June, 1. The medical seminar taught local villagers preventative health care and basic medical care.**

seminar the following day.

The men were hesitant to agree right away, but approximately 20 local women attended the female medical seminar at the Bazaar's new medical facility. They came to receive medical treatment by the U.S. armed forces and stayed for the seminar on disease prevention.

Women are typically the

primary caregivers, said Smith. Educating the women makes the mission more successful.

The medical seminar was successful in training the local population to medically sustain themselves, which is part of the overall mission in Afghanistan.

"With the medical seminars and medical training, we are able to go out into the community and

provide training to the local nationals and their medical providers," said Rambo, "which assists them in taking care of their own people."

F Company, Task Force Eagle Assault Pathfinders escorted Barrineau to the medical seminar and assisted in escorting local and military medical providers to the new local medical clinic at the Surri Bazaar.

There, the local medical providers were able to discuss the progress of their medical treatment and their desires to advance their capabilities.

Mosquito nets, candles, hygiene and medical supplies were given to the villagers who attended the medical seminar, said Barrineau.

After the medical seminar, the Lithuanian special forces conducted a local "shura," which is a meeting or council, with the village elders to inquire about their medical and environmental needs.

Their main concern was having an unstable water supply, said Barrineau.

Task Force Eagle Assault is already assisting the villagers of Bowragay, Afghanistan in maintaining their source of water.

Running under FOB Wolverine are underground aqueducts called "karez," which were built by a civilization before the Afghan people dating back more than a thousand years, said Capt. Stacy Pennington, E Company, TF Eagle Assault's commanding officer.

There are 13 karez holes between 30 to 80 feet deep spread throughout the FOB.

"For safety reasons, we need to have them capped off," said Pennington.

Protecting the karez is important to the Bowragay people because it sustains life there.



**A Bowragay villager working on the karez project removes a temporary cover on top of the newly constructed concrete casing around the karez tunnel on FOB Wolverine, Afghanistan June 5.**

“Somewhere between 500 to 700 people rely on this water source for their drinking water and for all of their agriculture,” said Pennington. “It is very important to their village that they are able to maintain this water source.”

The karez is a stream fed water supply system which is less stable than a water well because it is very dependent on the weather. This year the area received less snow, therefore the water supply is less than usual.

“They are getting maybe

50 percent less water out of their karezes as they did last year,” said Pennington. “It’s jeopardizing their ability to plant a second wheat harvest.”

The construction of these protective casings will allow for their water to flow freely as well as stimulate their economy.

“In addition to making sure that their water supply is safe, we have also been able to create jobs,” said Pennington.

The FOB is managed by TF Eagle Assault, who is responsible

for contracting and paying local employees.

“Word spread throughout the community that the Army is taking care of them,” said Callum. “Which brought us more workers.”

Along with assisting these villagers to protect their water supply and contributing to their prosperity, they are making allies around FOB Wolverine.

It helps with the protection of the FOB because their village is so close, said Pennington. Therefore, it is important to keep good relations with them

It also gives the Soldiers of TF Eagle Assault an opportunity to work with the locals.

“It’s a great experience for the Soldiers to work with someone in their position,” said Callum. “Someone who has the courage to work for us despite the adversities.”

This new casing around the karez opening prevents debris build up and assists with cleaning the water ways more frequently.

If just one collapses, the water supply downstream no longer exists, said Pennington. They wouldn’t have any water at all.

The first phase of constructing concrete casings is almost complete, said 1st Sgt. Otis Rodriguez, E Co. noncommissioned officer in charge. The next phase will be to place metal doors on top of the concrete to secure the karez.

“Our Soldiers will be constructing and installing the metal caps,” said Pennington.

E Co. Soldiers have the skill and materials available to aid the villagers in securing the karezes.

“We have welders and metal workers who are going to help with that,” said Pennington.

Another way to provide these villagers with a stabilized water supply would be to get them a well water system which would feed off of the deeper water tables.

There are three water tables, the stream fed one that services the karez and two which are located beneath the Earth’s surface at 500 and 1200 feet.

“I’m working with the PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team) to help them tap into that local water well,” said Pennington. “That way, they will have more water for their crops.”

The PRT is a team designed to help reconstruct health and social projects in their given province to improve the lives of their citizens.

The PRT of Zabul has recently finished schools, hospitals, wells and bridges throughout the province.

Until that well is in place, TF Eagle Assault is doing what they can to supply the locals with a better life.



**A Bowragay villager manually mixing concrete with a shovel used to build the casing around opening to the karez tunnel here June 5.**



**A worker looks down the karez tunnel while standing in concrete.**





**KEEP  
IT  
FRESH**



**STORY, PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS BY  
SPC. TRACY R. WEEDEN, TF DESTINY  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER**



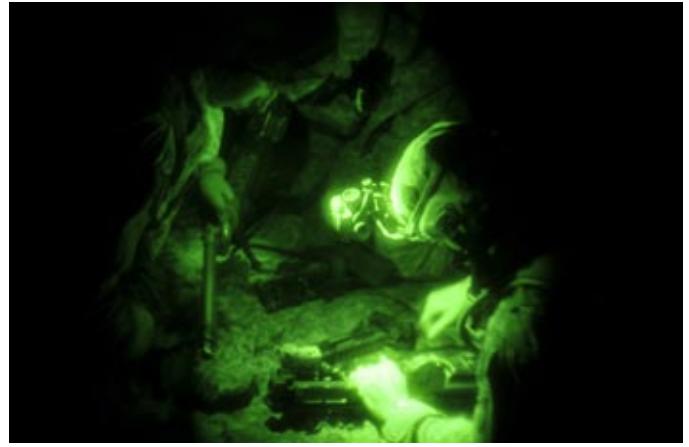
**TASK FORCE EAGLE ASSAULT TRAINS TO IMPROVE AND PRESERVE THEIR SKILLS**

**F**ORWARD OPERATING BASE WOLVERINE, Afghanistan – The Soldiers of Task Force Eagle Assault are constantly finding new ways of keeping their skills fresh and up-to-date to meet the demands of combat.

“It’s how we keep the edge,” said Lt. Col. John

Kline. “We have to continue to train in order to stay proficient.”

“Everything we do is a perishable skill, and we can’t expect the training we did in garrison to last through the deployment,” said Maj. Charles Rambo, TF Eagle Assault training officer.



Pathfinders of F Co., TF Eagle Assault work together to secure a 200 pound dummy for an air extraction (left), and reassemble weapons (right) during a night practical training exercise at Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan June 5.

Every company at TF Wolverine has a different training objective in order to keep their skills fresh.

“We train every day,” said Spc. Jonathan Waldrop, TF Eagle Assault Pathfinder.

It is important for them to train as a team because they have Soldiers who arrived to the unit right before deploying, said Capt. Matthew Lensing, TF Eagle Assault Pathfinder Company commander. They train according to their mission here, which consists of personnel recovery, landing zone preparation and battle tactics.

During a nighttime practical exercise, the Pathfinders participated in a competition that tested their team’s abilities.

The exercise consisted of assessing and transporting a casualty, calling in a nine-line medevac request, land navigation, and escape and evasion tactics.

During the exercise, the main goal was to track down the pilot of a simulated downed aircraft who had escaped and was trying to evade the enemy.

Stations were set up along the course to test the Soldiers’ abilities,

including memory and weapon assembly tests, said Lensing.

All around the FOB, Soldiers are training mentally and physically.

Capt. Stacy Pennington, TF Eagle Assault E Co. commander, is holding a fast track class which meets four times a week to help raise the Soldiers’ General Technical score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test.

Soldiers may need to raise their overall test score in order to meet their intended reenlistment or reclassification requirements.

Other Soldiers are testing their limits physically with extreme physical fitness training.

Soldiers are participating in different physical fitness exercises such as unarmed combatives, “Insanity” and “CrossFit.”

Unarmed combatives, a hand to hand fighting technique, is an Army combat skill to supplement combat abilities. “CrossFit” and “Insanity” are intense physical fitness exercise programs specifically designed to increase strength and endurance.

“PT is a good way for Soldiers to train their bodies every day,” said Rambo.

Other elements of the task

force are reaching out to help additional members of the FOB practice necessary combat skills.

Capt. Damien Barrineau, TF Eagle Assault physician assistant, trains the security guards and contractors here on basic medical response techniques. He teaches them how to use the medical supplies found at the casualty collection points and how to respond to combat injuries such as chest trauma, airway blockage, abrasions and burns.

After each lesson, Barrineau allows the participants to practice what they just learned on each other.

Practicing helps them learn and remember the skills, he said.

TF Eagle Assault’s aviation safety officer, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eric Collier, helped coordinate a live fire training exercise for the fire department here.

The FOB perimeter was reconfigured, leaving some guard towers for them to put to good use, said Collier

“We train best with live fire,” said Staff Sgt. Derek Caterinicchio, 95th Engineering Detachment, 20th Engineering





The 95th Engineer Detachment, 20th Engineer Brigade fire fighters rapidly respond to extinguish an intentional guard tower fire during a live fire training exercise June 2 at Forward Operating Base Wolverine.

An excess guard tower was set on fire by Task Force Eagle Assault during a live fire training exercise for fire fighters at Forward Operating Base Wolverine June 2. The unexpected training event tested the response time of the fire department.



Brigade fire station chief. “Since the crew wasn’t expecting the fire, it worked best to see how they reacted from start to finish.”

Even though they conduct training frequently, this event was unique.

This live fire training was the first one they were able to do here, but they train three days a week on fire fighting procedures for aircraft and structure fires, said Caterinicchio.

It is important for these firefighters to train together here, because they are a detachment of Soldiers who come from different units.

“As with any training event, it gives us an idea of what we could work on ... it went really well,” said Caterinicchio.

The live fire training was productive and successful.

“They had the fastest response time of any fire department I’ve ever worked with,” said Collier. “They reacted very quickly, and that’s very conducive to the aviation operations.”

Because helicopters carry fuel, a fire onboard can spread very fast and be extremely dangerous.

“Quick reaction prevents loss of life and total loss of equipment,” said Collier.

The training built confidence in the firefighters as well as the task force.

The fire department was allowed to test their men, equipment and show the chain of command how quickly they can react and respond to a fire, said Collier.

“He (Caterinicchio) gained the confidence of every person who flies every day,” said Collier. “Now they are assured that if they were to come in with a fire onboard, the fire department is going to take care of them.”

The live fire was also a good experience for the overall task force. Soldiers from all around the FOB were reporting the fire to the tactical operation center via radio.

The safety office conducts training for the protection of the task force as a whole.

They recently trained with Tri-max, an anti-flame foam fire extinguisher. Participants included the forward armament refueling point personnel, as well as Soldiers from every company within the task force, said Collier.

Keeping up-to-date on training ensures the safety of all the service members and contractors on FOB Wolverine.

“It’s our responsibility to make sure our Soldiers have the proper training, equipment and leadership to remain safe,” said Rambo.

Blackhawk crew chiefs also conduct frequent training to sharpen their skills.

They train on a variety of tasks

such as how to communicate with pilots, firing, monitoring fuel and diagnosing malfunctions on the aircraft, said Sgt. Keith Pinkard, flight instructor, A. Co., TF Eagle Assault.

They conduct their training at different stages to ensure all bases are covered.

This training is known as readiness level training. It consists of individual, mission related and advanced skills. The training can include mock air assaults, personnel recovery and multiple airframe operations, said Pinkard.

After completing a training event, Pfc. Jonathan Tillery, crew chief, A Co., TF Eagle Assault, said he felt more confident in his calling, gunnery and overall crew chief abilities.

“We’re not all work, even though we do take our job and the environment we are in very seriously,” said Rambo. “We do other things too -- like hold competitions.”

The task force is having a marksmanship competition to challenge their Soldiers to brush up on their marksmanship skills.

Spc. Sean Halm, A Company, Task Force Eagle Assault crew chief, practices loading and securing cargo on a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during down time at Forward Operating Base Wolverine.





Crew chiefs and door gunners of A Co., Task Force Eagle Assault, train on a regular basis. Every day is a learning experience for pilots and crew chiefs in Afghanistan.

“All of the companies have been afforded the opportunity and allocated enough training ammunition to go out and maintain or improve their proficiency,” said Rambo.

While TF Eagle Assault is advancing their Soldiers with training exercises, every day in combat is a training experience.

“We are constantly learning,” said Rambo. “Every day we are trying to get better. The harder we work at that, the safer we are going to be on the battlefield.”

However, there is no reason to relax and settle for the knowledge we have already retained or training we have already conducted.

“We don’t want to sit back and be happy with the way things are,” said Rambo. “We always want to get better.”

*What do you do to keep yourself healthy here, and how are your diet and exercise habits different from back home?*

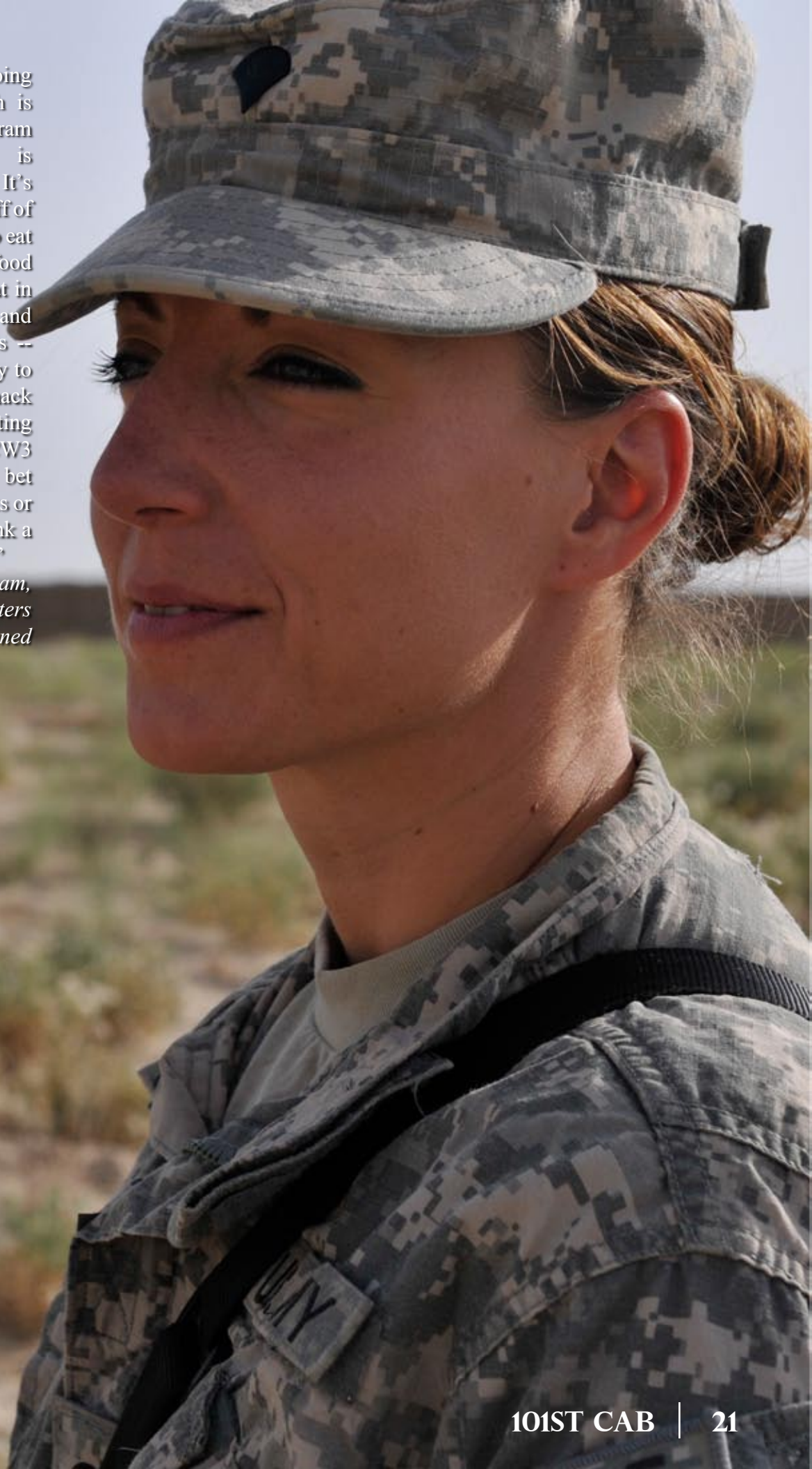
"I don't really have much of an eating habit. I just eat lunch and dinner. My diet is different from back home, because I would go out to eat a lot with my family to spend time together. I just eat what's in the DFAC (dining facility) here, nothing. My exercise consists of running in the morning and doing some push-ups and sit-ups. The altitude here affected my running at the beginning, but I've gotten used to it now."


*-1st Sgt. Otis Rodriguez, E Company noncommissioned officer in charge*

# VOICES of DESTINY

“Out here a group of us are doing the Insanity work-out, which is a 60 day video workout program for cardio endurance that is approximately an hour a day. It’s helped me drop two minutes off of my run time. It’s a lot easier to eat healthy out here because the food is available to you. I try to eat in moderation with lots of fruits and vegetables and no fried foods -- only on occasions. I try to stay to the five food groups and not snack throughout the day. A motivating factor is that my supervisor, CW3 Collier, and I have a running bet that neither of us can eat sweets or sugar for a month. I try to drink a lot of water and less soda too.”

*-Spc. Laura Conyngham,  
Headquarters and Headquarters  
Company safety noncommissioned  
officer in charge*





"I eat a lot of ice cream for my calcium intake because I don't like the milk out here. I also do a lot of walking since I don't have a vehicle like I did back home. And I do a sit-up when I get out of bed every morning!"

*-Chief Warrant Officer 3 Caleb Lnenicka, A Company, TF Eagle Assault test pilot*



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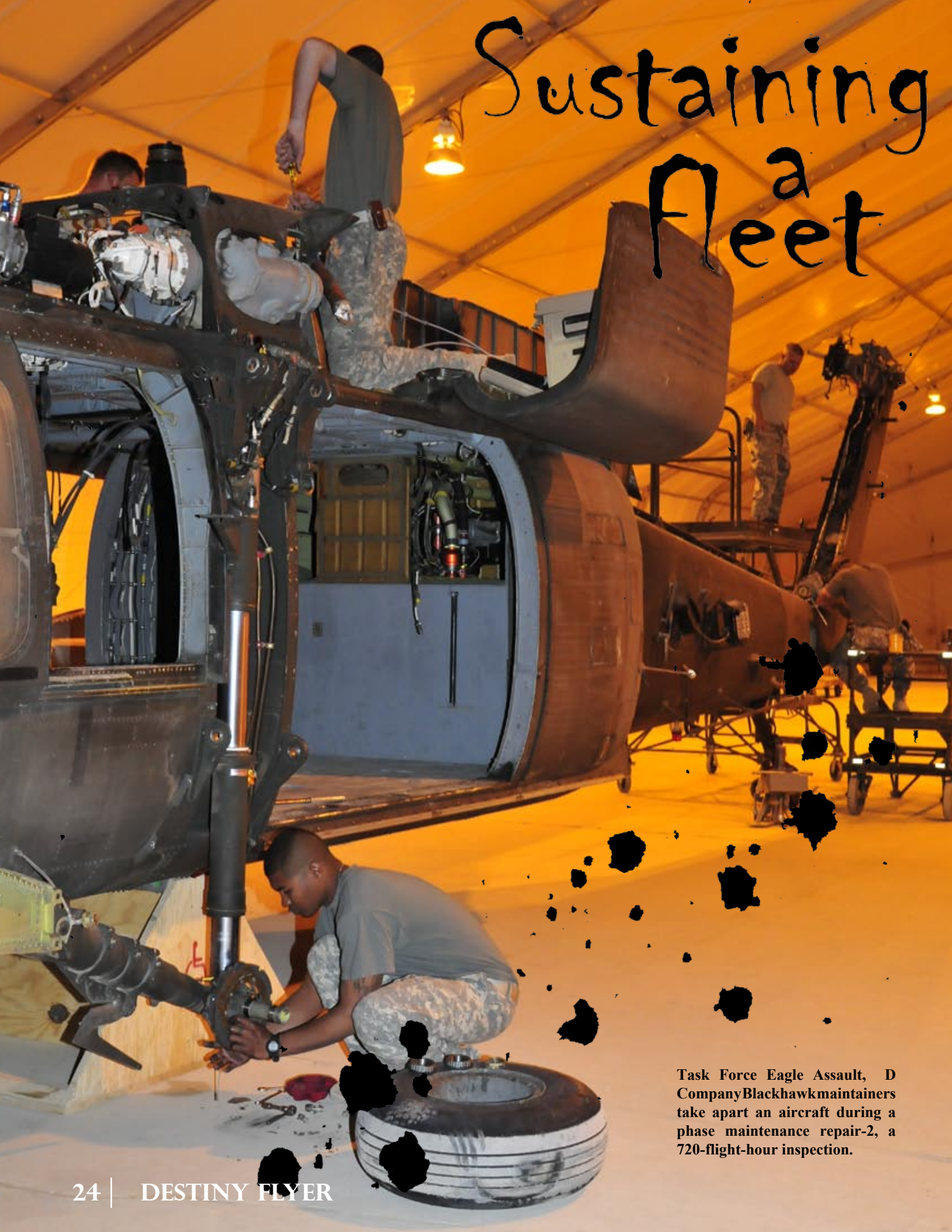
DO NOT  
GRAB



“I go the gym a lot because it’s so hot here and run outside in the early morning and evening hours. I also eat a lot of fruits and vegetables. I try to keep the same routine I had back home to stay fit on my own initiative.”

*-Capt. Tim Devine, C Company, TF Eagle Assault Apache pilot*

# Sustaining a Fleet



Task Force Eagle Assault, D Company Blackhawk maintainers take apart an aircraft during a phase maintenance repair-2, a 720-flight-hour inspection.



Story, photos and graphics by  
Spc. Tracy R. Weeden, TF Destiny  
public affairs noncommissioned officer

**F**ORWARD OPERATING  
BASE WOLVERINE,  
Afghanistan – Task Force  
Eagle Assault recently found  
themselves having to do the  
unheard of.

The UH-60 Blackhawk  
helicopter maintainers of D  
Company, TF Eagle Assault, had  
to complete two different phase  
maintenance inspections at the  
same time.

“We had a fleet of aircraft that  
were not up to the 101st aircraft  
standard,” said Capt. Michael  
Ishida, D Co. commander, TF  
Eagle Assault. “They needed a lot  
of care”

The two aircraft receiving  
phase maintenance inspections  
were at two different phases. One  
was in a PMI-1, a 360-flight-hour  
inspection, and the other in a PMI-  
2, a 720-flight-hour inspection.

The phases were done at the  
perfect time, where it did not impact  
their mission to have both aircraft  
down, said Lt. Col. John Kline, TF  
Eagle Assault commander. They  
had enough aircraft to support  
their missions.

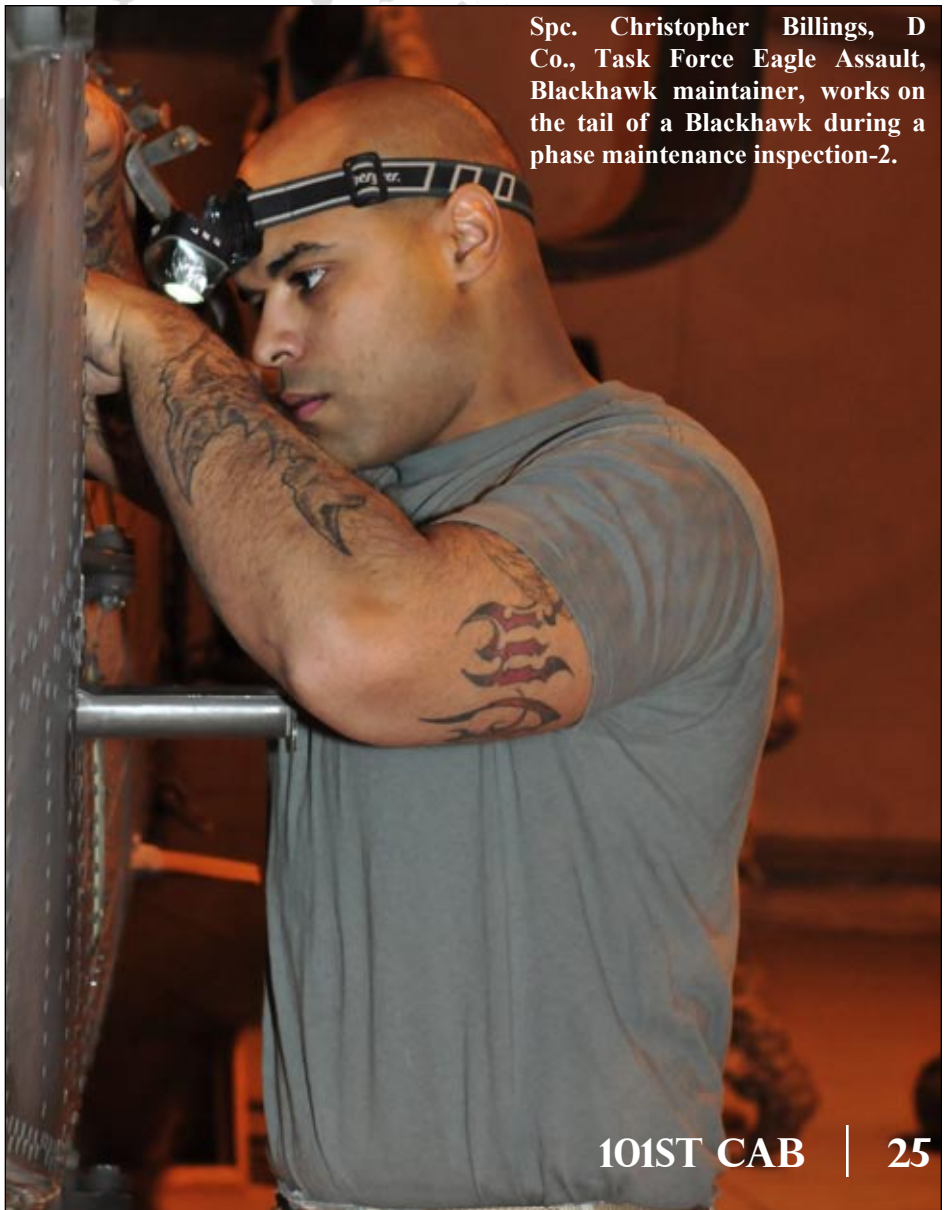
These aircraft were flown 10  
flight hours more than the brigade  
monthly standard for several  
months. The brigade standard  
allows a regulated number of flight  
hours per aircraft.

“A flow allows you to fly your  
aircraft so that you don’t fly all  
your aircraft into inspection at the  
same time,” said Ishida.

Due to mission requirements,  
the aircraft were flown over the  
standard flight hours.



Spc. Christopher Billings,  
D Company, Task Force  
Eagle Assault Blackhawk  
maintainer, prepares an  
interior gear box to be removed  
from the tail of a Blackhawk.



Spc. Christopher Billings, D  
Co., Task Force Eagle Assault,  
Blackhawk maintainer, works on  
the tail of a Blackhawk during a  
phase maintenance inspection-2.



Spc. Royce Larison, D Co., Task Force Eagle Assault, Blackhawk maintainer, prepares the tail gear box to be removed from a Blackhawk.

“Normally you would like to stagger the PMIs so that you are not faced with back-to-back inspections, and the maintenance crew and aircraft fleet is not stretched thin,” said Ishida.

The only problem they had was not having the adequate personnel to work on two different helicopters needing so much attention to detail.

The task force is equipped with enough maintainers to conduct one inspection at a time, said Ishida.

There are different sections of a Blackhawk phase maintenance inspection: propeller and rotor, avionics, hydraulics, airframe and power train.

“We had to split the shifts

as best we could, spreading the experience around,” said Ishida.

In a time of need, D Co. gained assistance from other companies within the task force.

A Co. supplied them with more crew chiefs, and the medical evacuation company also provided some assistance, making an additional four to five on the job, said Ishida.

Soldiers who are not helicopter maintainers found a way to help out with the phases as well.

Soldiers from E Co. also assisted with the dual PMIs by supplying A Co. with door-gunners to free up some crew chiefs, said Kline.

The task force pulled together to accomplish the commander’s

goal and provide for their mission.

It really was a team effort by the whole task force who freed up our time by alleviating extra duties, said Ishida.

Because a PMI is so crucial to the safety of our Soldiers and our overall mission here, it requires a great deal of attention.

During a PMI, we inspect, repair and replace any necessary parts, said Spc. Carl Hendrick, day shift team leader, D Co, TF Eagle Assault.

A PMI consists of different phases and is broken down into different sections.

They begin with a pre-phase inspection, which consists of a pre-flight to test the vibrations

and power of the aircraft, said Hendrick.

Then the aircraft is cleaned and torn down for an inspection.

A PMI-1 inspection focuses mostly on the flight controls, avionics and electronics, said Hendrick. While during a PMI-2, everything is removed from the aircraft down to the frame and inspected.

After a thorough inspection, they are able to identify what needs to be repaired or replaced.

“We repair anything that we can,” said Hendrick. “If it cannot be repaired, then we have to replace it.”

The aircraft undergoing the PMI-2 was so battered, the maintainers had more work on their hands than normal.

“We broke this one down so much further than usual,” said Sgt.



Spc. Jerimi Kulkay, D Co., Task Force Eagle Assault, Blackhawk maintainer, removes the struts from the aircraft during a PMI-2.

Christopher Boucher, hydraulics repairer, D Co., TF Eagle Assault. “We basically rebuilt it.”

On the PMI-2 aircraft, they ran into a problem which caused the aircraft to be down for a few more days.

A section of the exterior surface on the aircraft needed to

be repaired which could only be worked on by qualified engineers.

“We had to fly specialized personnel up,” said Ishida. “That delayed the maintenance process about five days.”

The PMI-2 took 27 days to complete, which normally takes between 20 to 25 days.

The PMI-1 started 13 days after the start of the PMI-2.

The PMI-1 was done in 20 days, but is normally scheduled for 12 to 15 days, said Ishida.

After the inspection, the aircraft were taken on a post-phase maintenance test flight to check all the functions, said Hendrick.

To complete the dual PMIs, the Soldiers of D Co. worked two 12 hour shifts per day and conducted changeover briefs between shifts to inform the Soldier who was taking over where they had left off.

“It really was a great sense of pride for the task force that we could pull this off,” said Ishida.

After accomplishing this tremendous task of completing two PMIs simultaneously, the Blackhawk maintainers of TF Eagle Assault have gained the confidence of their command and allow the air assault missions to continue flying without interruption.



**Spc. Alexander Spaulding, D Co., TF Eagle Assault, Blackhawk maintainer, removes a drag beam, a part connecting the strut to the aircraft.**

# Special Delivery

Story and graphics by  
Spc. Tracy R. Weeden, TF Destiny  
public affairs noncommissioned officer



Photo by Capt. Orlando Varela, TF Eagle Assault

**TF Eagle Assault delivers food, beverages and morale to Navy SEALs at a combat outpost in Afghanistan May 11.**

**T**he AH-64 Apache and UH-60 Blackhawk pilots and crew chiefs of Task Force Eagle Assault are flying day and night in support of U.S. and coalition forces in Southern Afghanistan.

The Blackhawk pilots and crew chiefs of A Company, TF Eagle Assault, fly into hostile and non-hostile territories in order to deliver food, water, ammunition and supplies to aid ground forces in the fight against the insurgency. They also insert necessary ground forces to protect and secure areas.

A major responsibility of TF Eagle Assault is to support the ground forces through emergency resupplies, troop insertions and aerial security, said Lt. Col. John Kline, TF Eagle Assault commander and Blackhawk pilot.

Apaches escort the Blackhawks into hostile or dangerous territory to protect them from potential threats, secure a landing zone and assist ground forces with additional protection.

“We escort the utility aircraft and make sure the landing zone is secure,” said Chief Warrant Officer

2 Tomas Castro, C Company, TF Eagle Assault, Apache pilot. “Once they are on the ground, we provide overwatch to make sure that there is no enemy activity.”

TF Eagle Assault banded together to deliver a variety of food to raise morale for a group of Navy SEALs who were living off of packaged Meals Ready to Eat and water at a combat outpost in Afghanistan during the daylight hours of May 11.

“We feel very fortunate to be where we are with the amenities that have been afforded to us here,”

said Maj. Charles Rambo, TF Eagle Assault operations officer. “We took the opportunity to go beyond our combat support and reach out to these guys who aren’t living as well as we are.”

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, along with E Company Soldiers assisted in gathering an assortment of food and beverages.

They collected boxes of snacks, sodas, ice cream, energy drinks, Gatorade and foods such as steak and potatoes, said Spc. Dusty Lyles, HHC, TF Eagle Assault flight operations specialist,

Two Blackhawks were filled with food and beverages to deliver to the SEALs.

“We waved them over to the aircraft once we landed,” said Spc.

Jacob Knapp, A Co., TF Eagle Assault senior crew chief.

The SEALs didn’t know what to expect, they were only notified of the landing.

Once the doors were opened, the SEALs threw their fists into the air with excitement and screamed ‘yes,’ said Kline, who was flying this mission.

This was the first morale fight of their tour, and the ground forces were not expecting it at all.

They worked very quickly to download their goodies from the aircraft, said Knapp.

After the completion of their mission, the commander of TF Eagle Assault received an e-mail from those SEALs thanking them for their time, effort and the risk

they took to deliver the food. “It was way beyond anything I would have expected.”

Many SEALs in their area of operations wear the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) patch.

“Because we have developed such a good relationship with them through our support, when they do operations with us, they want to wear our patch,” said Rambo.

During another mission, TF Eagle Assault supplied a different group of ground forces in Afghanistan with a much needed resupply known as “speedballs,” which include bags of munitions, food and water.

The ground forces needed a combat resupply because they were in five or six different



Photo by Capt. Orlando Varela, TF Eagle Assault

Navy SEALs receiving the delivery make several runs to unload all the supplies from Task Force Eagle Assault.



Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

**Spc. Zachary Quinn, A Company, TF Eagle Assault crew chief, unloads ‘speedballs’ of munitions, food and water in Afghanistan for ground forces June 7.**

engagements that day, so they were pretty low on supplies, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Plotts, Blackhawk pilot, A Co., TF Eagle Assault. The ‘speedballs’ mainly consisted of munitions, but did contain a couple of cases of MREs and water.”

These ground forces were under heavy attack all day by rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire when TF Eagle

Assault assumed the dangerous mission to help them.

“They know they can count on us when they need something,” said Rambo.

This mission was essential to the ground forces because without the resupply from TF Eagle Assault, they would not have been able to fight the enemy as effectively.

“In addition to ‘speedballs,’

we also put extra Soldiers on the aircraft to unload them at the LZ (landing zone),” said Rambo. “So that we didn’t endanger them by having them compromise their fighting position.”

The Apaches played a key role in this mission because it was such a dangerous area.

The Apache pilots communicated with the ground forces who told them where they believed the enemies position to be, said Castro. They secured those areas and provided over watch.

The pilots of TF Eagle Assault are proud to answer the call of duty when their brothers in arms need them, no matter what the conditions are.

“There’s no better job on the planet,” said Plotts. “We live to do air assaults. Give us a mission, whether it’s four hours or four days out, and we’ll get a plan to get it done.”

No matter what the mission is, they know they are directly contributing assistance. Without the air support from TF Eagle Assault, it would be difficult to get these isolated ground forces the ammo they need to fuel to fight.

# Adopting a troop of **WARRIORS**

Story, photos and graphics by

Spc. Tracy R. Weeden, TF Destiny  
public affairs noncommissioned officer

**F**ORWARD OPERATING BASE WOLVERINE, Afghanistan – The Banshees, a detachment from Task Force Saber, joined Task Force Eagle Assault here early June to assist with the mission here.

“We needed the reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft to keep the roads open to allow the population and people of Afghanistan to travel freely,” said Lt. Col. John Kline, TF Eagle Assault commander.

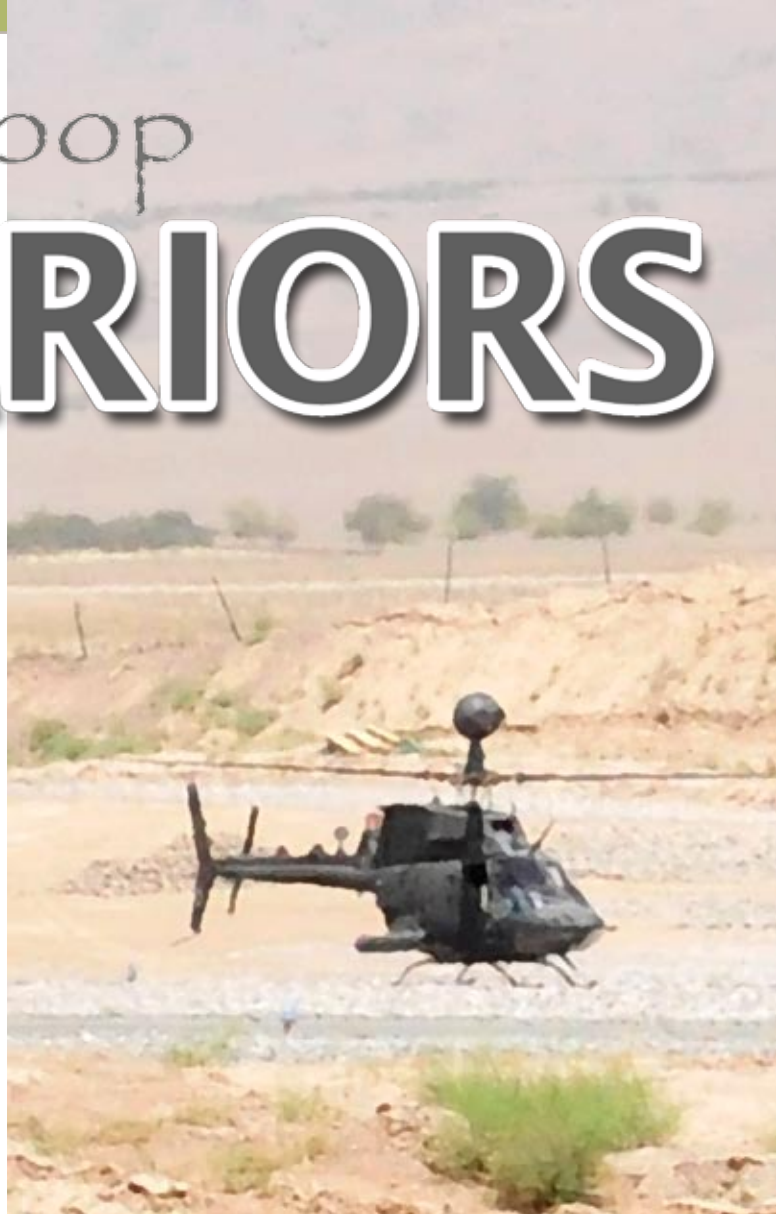
The main mission of the Banshees, OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter pilots and maintainers, is to provide security for the forward operating base, ground forces and the main transportation route in Zabul province.

“We came out here to assist TF Eagle Assault in providing freedom of maneuver for the ground force commanders throughout this area of operations,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joshua McCann, Kiowa pilot, TF Eagle Assault. “We allow him to flex his force on the battlefield.”

Freedom of maneuver allows the ground forces movement throughout the area without interference from the insurgency.

The threat to the main supply route here is very strong, limiting the maneuver of friendly forces, said McCann. This threat not only affects coalition and Afghan forces, but also the local population, which is why it is so important to secure.

“We look for any insurgents trying to influence traffic along the route, either through ambushes or IEDs,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Thompson, Kiowa pilot, Task Force Eagle Assault.



Part of their mission here is to help the local population become more self-reliant and to strengthen their government and economy.

“It’s very important for the local economy here to keep that route open and have the people of this province feel safe,” said Thompson.

TF Eagle Assault provides security for ground forces in Zabul province.

“When protecting ground forces, we supply a cordon of the area, as well as early warning and detection for anything entering or leaving the town,” said Thompson.

The OH-58s are also equipped with heavy weaponry to engage threats and protect troops on the battlefield.

The Kiowa carries a heavy machine gun and rockets.





**OH-58 Kiowa Warrior pilots suit up for a mission June 10 at Forward Operating Base Wolverine.**

Advantages of the Kiowa are providing more flight time per maintenance hour and different recon capabilities than the Apache, said Thompson.

The aircraft allows the pilot maximum maneuverability and varies surveillance techniques.

“We can fly low and look out our doors,” said Thompson.

It is also equipped with a Mast Mounted Sight, allowing the pilot to scan the battlefield day or night in order to aid the fight.

The Kiowa is a low-maintenance aircraft which prevents it from being grounded



Staff Sgt. Guillermo Rodriguez, Banshee Troop, TF Eagle Assault platoon sergeant inspects a Kiowa before a test flight.

for long.

The Kiowa has a progressive phase maintenance. Their maintenance abilities allow the mechanics to do all their inspections within a 40 hour time frame without downing the aircraft for more than eight hours at a time, said Staff Sgt. Guillermo Rodriguez, Banshee Troop element platoon sergeant, TF Eagle Assault.

The Banshees are going to contribute greatly to the fight here, providing security and protection to the ground forces and population. With their capabilities to stay in the sky and gather information, they will also provide great security for the FOB.

Right: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Tucker looks out the door of a Kiowa as he leaves Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan for a mission June 10.





## D-DAY 1<sup>st</sup> Rendezvous with Destiny

Story and graphics by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden with contributions by 2nd Lt. William Poling

**D**uring the late hours of June 5 into June 6, 1944, members of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, were the first Soldiers to be dropped into Normandy, France at the start of the now famous D-Day invasion during World War II.

The 506th are the predecessors to the Army's elite Pathfinder

Company of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade.

A small group of men from the 506th eventually gained the nickname of the "Filthy Thirteen."

These men knowingly volunteered for the most dangerous part of an already dangerous mission.

Despite the presence of enemy

*Above: Historic photos of the "Filthy Thirteen," Screaming Eagle Paratroopers, preparing to jump into Normandy June 5, 1944. Photos courtesy of U.S. Army Signal Corp. Below: Pfc. Kyle Gray (left) and Pfc. Michael Beard (right) re-enact the most famous historic "Filthy Thirteen" photograph June 6, on the 66th anniversary of D-Day during a commemoration and patching ceremony at Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan.*



Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden



Left: Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Deuel, F Company, Task Force Eagle Assault acting first sergeant has his face painted for the company photograph.

Below: Pfc. Wilton Bryan, F Co., TF Eagle Assault Pathfinder receives his combat patch from his team leader, Sgt. Aaron Mudd June 6 at Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan during a combat patching and D-Day remembrance ceremony.

soldiers in France, these men were more afraid of catching head lice than getting killed during the operation. So just before boarding their planes for the jump into Normandy, they shaved the sides of their heads and adopted the Mohawk haircut.

Additionally, the Soldiers applied “war paint” to their faces using the paint straight off of the invasion stripes freshly painted on the sides of the C-47 airplane they were to jump from.

An Army Signal Corps photographer happened to be taking photographs of the invasion preparations and caught the Pathfinders with their Mohawks in the midst of their face painting. The subsequent photos became historic images and have since held a place in the heritage of the 101st Airborne Division and the U.S. Army.

For the 66th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom X-XI, the Pathfinders of F Company, Task Force Eagle Assault at Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan paid special tribute to those original World War II





F Co., TF Eagle Assault Pathfinders posing for a company photograph below a hovering AH-64 Apache helicopter at Forward Operating Base, Afghanistan June 6 with their Mohawk haircuts and painted faces.

Pathfinders of the 101st Airborne Division by giving each other Mohawk haircuts and painting their faces much like their forerunners had.

As a tribute to those brave Soldiers, the company took a group photograph with their modern aircraft and presented their new Pathfinders with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) combat patch. Finally, they recreated an image where two of the Filthy Thirteen were applying face paint to each other, one of the most historic of those D-Day photos.

“We wanted to commemorate all of these guys generally, the role the original Pathfinders played in D-Day specifically and the special heritage they passed down to us,” said 2nd Lt. William C. Poling, Pathfinder Company executive officer. “As I was trying to come up with various ideas for

a D-Day commemoration, I read a news item about the passing of Jack Agnew, and it suddenly became obvious to me what we should do.”

The Pathfinders are going to frame the pictures they shot in commemoration of the original Pathfinders and send them to Jack Agnew’s surviving wife and daughter.

Agnew was one of the original and most famous of the ‘Filthy Thirteen’ who was caught in the famous photograph taken D-Day which hangs in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) conference room today.

“It was a no-brainer,” said Poling. “We had to recreate the Mohawk look and get a company photo taken. Our commemoration became all the more poignant with Mr. Agnew’s passing.”

There are currently three Pathfinder companies in the

Army today. The other Pathfinder companies were originated from long-range reconnaissance surveillance units and turned into Pathfinder companies. The 101st Combat Aviation Brigade Pathfinder Company is the only one of those companies that can trace its lineage directly back to those Pathfinders of World War II.

“Everyone in this company, from the newest private to all the senior leaders, has a connection to this history,” said Poling. “It really meant a lot to our Pathfinders to do this for our forefathers. This company is alone in that it has an impressive heritage that is unique to us as a company. It’s one that we can actually trace, which makes it all the more powerful.”

Back during that fateful June day in 1944, the Pathfinders’ mission going into Normandy was to deny German forces the ability to move against their main defense

position by destroying all the bridges below the Douve Canal in the village of Carentan. They would then seize and secure the main bridge in the town. All of this was critical to the entire D-Day invasion because it constituted the main line of transportation leading into and out of the strategically important Cherbourg Peninsula.

Once opened to allied forces, it would provide ease of access to the deeper interior of France and the lands beyond, including Germany itself.

The Pathfinders were assigned the mission to secure vital roads and bridges behind enemy lines for the allied forces coming ashore. They knowingly volunteered for this mission in order to be among the first to get at the Germans guarding Hitler's "Fortress Europe."

They were also the last to leave their positions once their job was done because they had to hold those vital points until additional landing forces had made it out of their beachheads. The enduring Pathfinder motto was born: "First In! Last Out!"

"The 101st had its first rendezvous with destiny D-Day," said Poling. "The Pathfinders played an incredibly important part in that rendezvous."

This was such a dangerous parachute operation that they anticipated losing half of their men during the operation.

The plane flying the Pathfinders to their destination began to receive anti-aircraft fire and was sprayed all over by small arms fire. As the plane began losing altitude approximately 100 miles from their planned drop zone, the Pathfinders decided to



**F Co., TF Eagle Assault Pathfinders kick up dust as they walk from their company building, where they shaved their Mohawk haircuts and painted each other's faces, to the flight line where they are conducting the combat patching and 66th anniversary D-Day remembrance ceremony.**

jump.

Proving to be a wise decision, as 19 of the 20 Pathfinders on board got out before the plane exploded.

The Pathfinders landed about eight miles from the bridge they were ordered to secure, but were spread out over miles due to complications from the jump. Every Soldier was on his own for several hours in enemy territory.

"It was a hell of a feeling to be by myself in the middle of a foreign land surrounded by enemy soldiers," wrote one of the original Pathfinders, Jake McNiece, in his book "The Filthy Thirteen." "I was beginning to think they had cancelled the entire invasion and I was the only American down there."

The Germans had flooded the fields surrounding the bridges causing a rough landing for the Pathfinders and all the Paratroopers who subsequently followed them in. Many men who landed in the flooded fields

with their gear ended up drowning before they could fire a shot.

The surviving Pathfinders managed to get themselves together and move to their objective. They guarded the bridge surrounded by enemy forces for five days with no food or water.

"Thinking back on these men and what they did specifically in World War II, plus the Pathfinders' continued heroism in Vietnam, Iraq and now Afghanistan, I want to do what I can to keep the reputation of the Pathfinder Company alive," said Staff Sgt. Mario J. Espinoza, F Co., TF Eagle Assault squad leader.

Historically, the World War II Pathfinders never managed to gain much rank. They were a rambunctious and wild bunch, always getting in various forms of trouble usually involving drinking and fighting, said Poling.

Though the 506th was a rowdy group, they were brave and courageous men volunteering to be the first ones in the fight. They no longer wanted to fight their own

men, but wanted to fight the Germans, explained Poling, and the fastest way to fight Germans was to get in first.

Last year some of the current Screaming Eagle Pathfinders took a trip to Holland to meet up with a group of the original Pathfinders who actually experienced D-Day.

“They think what we do today is hard,” said Sgt. Shawn Burns, Pathfinder Co. radio transmitter operator. “But compared to what they did, we have it easy.”

They enjoyed telling their war stories to the current generation of 101st Pathfinders.

“Each one told stories from their own perspective,” said Burns. “The story I remember the most was about one of them dropping into the moat of the

oldest castle in Holland, climbing out and then going back in to retrieve his gear.

On the 66th anniversary of D-Day, it felt natural for the Pathfinders of TF Eagle Assault to pay tribute to the original Pathfinders of the 101st Airborne Division by doing something outrageous and meaningful.

Although they are retired now and many, like Mr. Agnew, are passing away, the original Pathfinders are still in the fight through the memories and traditions passed down to their unit descendants. With commemorations like these and the constant honoring of their legacy, the Pathfinders of today assure the spirit of “First In! Last Out!” lives on in the 101st Airborne Division.

**Information for this article was gathered from the book *The Filthy Thirteen* by Richard Killblane and Jake McNiece**



The Pathfinders pose for another company photo in front of two helicopters, an AH-64 Apache and UH-60 Blackhawk with their Mohawk haircuts and war paint in commemoration of the Pathfinders who jumped into Normandy the night prior to D-Day.

# STAY FLYING *On The* WINGS OF DESTINY

Graphics by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden

**Below: Staff Sgt. Soloman Stevenson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF Destiny food service specialist, reenlists in front of the flag pole at brigade headquarters in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan June 28.**



**Left: Spc. Antravese Smith, D Company, Task Force Eagle Assault unit supply sergeant, reenlists on a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter June 4. She has been in the Army for six years and has reenlisted for an additional six years.**

Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden



Photo by Spc. Tracy R. Weeden



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sadie Bleistein

**Left: Spc. Michael Childress, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., TF Destiny command driver, reenlists on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter June 25.**

## Bonus Extension and Retraining (BEAR) Program

Provided by Master Sgt. Michael Brown, TF Destiny career counselor.

Do you want to change your military occupational specialty? Would you like to change your MOS and receive a bonus after training? The Bonus Extension and Retraining Program may be your answer.

The purpose of the BEAR program is to fill vacancies

in critical shortage skills. Soldiers in the rank of PFC-SFC serving in a balanced or over strength MOS may participate in the BEAR Program. Upon approval of application for the requested MOS, Soldiers are extended for training. After graduation from the MOS course, the Soldier must reenlist within 90 days and will then receive the bonus for the MOS for which they were retrained.

MOSs currently in the BEAR Program are as follows.

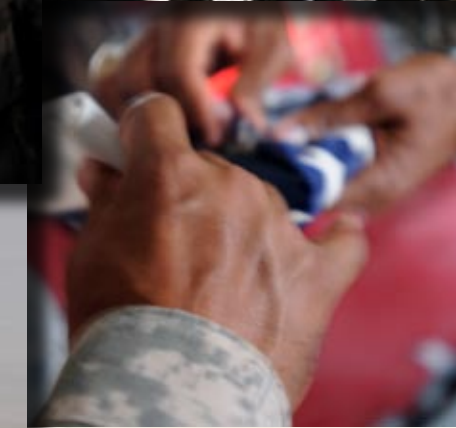



PMOS/TITLE

RANK RESTRICTIONS

09L INTERPRETOR/TRANSLATOR	SGT THRU SSG
15E UNMANNED AIRCRAFT REPAIRER	PFC THRU SPC NON(P)
15J OH-58D SYSTEMS REPAIRER	PFC THRU SPC
15W UAV OPERATOR	PFC THRU SPC
18B SF WEAPONS SERGEANT	SPC THRU SFC
18C SF ENGINEER SERGEANT	SPC THRU SFC
18D SF MED SERGEANT	SPC THRU SFC
18E SF COMMO SERGEANT	SPC THRU SFC
18F SF ASST OP/INTEL SERGEANT	SFC ONLY
21D DIVER	SPC NON(P) ONLY
21P PRIME POWER PRODUCTION	SPC THRU SGT NON(P)
21Y GEOSPATIAL ENGINEER	PFC THRU SPC NON(P)
25E ELECTROMAGNETIC SPEC MNGR	SSG NON(P) ONLY
25L CABLE INSTALL/MAINT (ASI J2 ONLY)	PFC THRU SSG(PMOS 25L ONLY)
25S SATCOM SYS OP-MNT	PFC THRU SPC NON(P)
31E INTERN RESETTLEMENT SPEC	PFC THRU SPC NON(P)
35L COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AGENT	SPC THRU SSG
35N SIGINT ANALYST	SPC NON(P) ONLY
35P CRYPTO LINGUIST with AD/CM/JN/PF/PU/RU	PFC THRU SSG
37F PSYOP SPECIALIST	SGT THRU SSG
38B CIVIL AFFAIRS SPECIALIST	SSG ONLY
46Q PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST	SGT THRU SSG
46R BROADCAST JOURNALIST	SGT NON(P)
68W HEALTH CARE SPECIALIST (SQI "F" ONLY)	SGT NON(P) ONLY (PMOS 68W ONLY)
ALL GENERAL SUP AVN LOCATIONS	
68W HEALTH CARE SPECIALIST (ASI "W1" ONLY)	PFC THRU SSG (PMOS 68W w/"P" ONLY)
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND	
89D EOD SPC	PFC THRU SGT (LESS THAN 2Y TIG) NON(P)







*STAFF SGT. DAVID SENFT,  
TASK FORCE DESTINY UH-  
60 BLACKHAWK DOOR  
GUNNER SURVEYS THE  
GROUND DURING A FLIGHT  
IN AFGHANISTAN MAY 27.*

Photo by Staff Sgt. Sadie Bleistein