



101st Combat Aviation Brigade

DESTINY Family,

Happy New Year from the DESTINY Rear Detachment! This time of year continues to highlight the sacrifice and dedication not only of our Soldiers, but of our amazing Families who maintain resilient households back home. We continue to be so proud of the incredible accomplishments that are achieved daily, both in Afghanistan and at home, and remain fully committed to support each of our Soldiers and their Families to ensure the mission gets accomplished.

The holiday season has brought a flurry of activities back here at Fort Campbell. Our Family Readiness Groups have worked tirelessly to provide world class support for our Families. Each Battalion/Squadron hosted activities to celebrate the Christmas season and, as you will see in photos throughout this newsletter, everyone had a great time. We were lucky to have Santa visit each of our little DESTINY troopers during these celebrations, as well. Our Families also had a great time preparing stockings and Christmas care packages that we hope everyone enjoyed. Our Soldiers, Families, and communities also remain dedicated to continued mutual support through many of our initiatives such as the Walk to Afghanistan, Strong Bond Retreats, the Spouse Master Resiliency Training Program, and Community Outreach with our local schools. We are in awe of the strength of our Families and their ability to get so much accomplished.

The Soldiers of our rear detachment continue to work and train hard to support the TF DESTINY Mission. We stand prepared for future deployment through continued training of individual readiness, medical, and MOS specific tasks. The Brigade recently completed a Division Command Inspection and Unit Maintained Equipment Inspection and the results were outstanding. Several of our Soldiers were personally recognized for setting the standard that will be used as a model throughout the Division. Additionally, we are leveraging our time at Fort Campbell to enhance our Soldiers' development through professional schools and realistic training events.

In closing, every Soldier and Family member at home is committed to the Brigade's ongoing mission. We are fully engaged to ensure our team remains resilient during this time of separation. We will continue to maximize every available resource to provide world class support to our Soldiers and their Families so the mission gets accomplished to the Wings of Destiny standard. Thank you for your selfless service and we look forward to each Soldier reuniting with their loved ones in the future.

Wings of Destiny!
LTC Bernard J. Harrington
SGM Jon A. Martin
Mrs. Kelly Bontrager



1-101 No Mercy

We hope that you have received the stockings that the FRG worked hard at stuffing and sending your way and are able to enjoy them. The FRGs requests that you send pictures of receiving the stockings as well as any holiday activities you may hold. The stockings are a small token of the appreciation we have for your hard work. We would also like to share with you some of the events going on at home.

We had several spouses honored as Volunteers of the Month for the months of November and December. Tara Burney from Delta Company and Hillary Weilbacher from Charlie Company were honored by BG Lewis in a ceremony at McAuliffe Hall on 15 November. Mary Vanko from HHC and Kelly Givens from Bravo Company have been identified as Volunteers of the Month of December and will be honored in January. Congratulations to all the volunteers and it is their hard work and dedication that enable us to support you to the best of our ability. Great job ladies! Families are still walking and adding miles to the Walk to Afghanistan project. Twenty seven Family members of the Healy Family participated in a 5K in Chicago in support of our No Mercy soldiers.

On Sunday, December 16th the FRG held a Christmas Party at the Family Readiness Center (FRC). There was a great turn out and the kids even got to enjoy a "rendezvous with Santa." It was a great event filled with Christmas spirit and stories of you all. We also collected three boxes full of food, clothes and toys for the local homeless population which we donated the next day.

As we head into the holidays we take pause to recognize the hardship you're enduring and wish you a safe holiday season.

The rear detachment continues to work hard for our Soldiers return. We are busy working at improving our facilities and training our Soldiers to be ready to integrate into your formations upon re-deployment. Until next time, Expect No Mercy!

SFC Wright & CPT Nick Young
Rear Detachment Command Team

Lorry Ryan
FRG Advisor

Elke Sampson
FRSA



101st Combat Aviation Brigade

1-101 No Mercy



OUTSTANDING “NO MERCY” VOLUNTEERS



HOLIDAY FUN



2-17 CAV Saber



Greetings Soldiers, Families and friends of 2-17 CAV and Task Force Saber.

Wow, can you believe that we are a little more than half way through the deployment! Time sure does fly when you stay busy.

On December 8th we had our annual Breakfast with Santa. A special thanks to Kristen Lancaster and the rest of Families that helped make this event fun for everyone. Children wrote letters to Santa, watched the movie "Happy Feet" and made a few ornaments to take home. A lot of great tasting food was had by all. The day came to a close when the last child was able to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

January 22nd we will hold our first FRG Movie night. We will watch the movie "Horton Hears a Who" and eat popcorn.

Other events scheduled for the next few months are the ½ Way Home dinning in on February 8th at the Family Resource Center (FRC). This promises to be a great event for the Families throughout the BDE. In April, Families can participate in the final-Walk to Afghanistan event which will be a Mud Run. More information on these events will follow in the days/weeks to come.

Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!



2-17 CAV Saber continued

2-17 CAV Saber continued

2-17 CAV Saber continued





Families and Friends,

We are so excited that we have four months down and only five months to go. Although we know no one is more excited than all of you.

We wanted to give you a quick update of what has been taking place back here since you have departed.

In celebrating Veterans' Day, we were privileged to have Mr. Bruce Nesmith, Lancer Veteran, speak about the history of Army Aviation, Vietnam, and the Eagle Assault Battalion.



On November 8th, we held our second Task Force Eagle Assault FRG meeting. We were very fortunate to have guest speaker, Danny Greene Installation Emergency Manager for Fort Campbell. Mr Greene explained why it is so important to prepare for bad weather and why Families should have a Family Emergency Action plan and emergency kit that should be able to sustain your Family for 72hrs.



The Families were very busy in the past month making and stuffing stockings for you all in Afghanistan. We hope you enjoy and remember your loved ones missing you here at home.



(5-101 Blanket/Throw) (TF EA Blanket/Throw)



(Pendants)

Quick reminder we still have the ongoing Fundraisers for the Blanket/Throw and pendants/necklace. The 5-101 and/or TF Eagle Assault Blanket/Throw are a great way to commemorate your time with Eagle Assault.

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For the month of November, our Walk to Afghanistan total battalion miles were 24,028.17 and for the month of December our total miles were 26,291.01. Awesome job everyone! Please ask all of your Family members, friends, co-workers, or even your hometowns, to support our Soldiers by staying fit. Keep up the great walking and let's keep increasing our mileage.

Congratulations to Ashley Friedrich for receiving the 101st Division Rear D FRG Deployment Coin for all her hard work recording and reporting mileage for our WTA program. She also developed a BN WTA tracking board which we display proudly at every BN FRG meeting.



Rear Detachment has continued to support Eagle Assault's community outreach program in your absence by sending 14 Soldiers each Friday to Hazelwood Elementary, spending time in both 1st and 2nd grade classrooms.



On December 14th Task Force Eagle Assault Families joined together for the Eagle Assault Holiday Party. Santa and two of his elves stopped by to visit and over 75 children sat on Santa's lap to tell him what they wanted for Christmas. The Face painting, cookie station, cupcake eating and ugly Holiday sweater contest, and cake walk were all a huge success. Thank you to all who came out for our Eagle Assault Holiday party. We collected 300 items for the Grace Ministry food pantry.



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6-101 Shadow



Shadow Rear Detachment



Seasons greeting to all the Soldiers, families, and friends of 6-101st GSAB and TF Shadow!!

We would like to wish all the Soldiers and families of the Shadow organization a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Battalion Rear Detachment Commander and First Sergeant, CPT Megan Young and 1SG Jack Essig. It has been an honor to serve with such a stellar organization over the last six months. It's been to honor to be associated with each of you during this deployment.

We are writing to update everyone on what the Rear Detachment Soldiers and FRG teams have been up to. Most recently, we participated in the 6th Battalion Christmas Party which was a major hit with all the families of the Shadow of the Eagle, especially the children when Santa made his entrance with his trusty Elf. All the kids were able to sit on Jolly Saint Nick's lap and give him their magical wishes. Everyone brought a dish for all to enjoy!

Rear Detachment just completed a very successful Command Inspection Program. There were many Soldiers that went above and beyond their realm of expertise for our organization to be successful. Many Soldiers were tasked to develop programs from its infancy and as their command team, we couldn't be more proud of their efforts. CW2 Loeffelholz, SGT Jager, SPC Scott and SPC Cagle were all recognized for their personal contribution.

6-101 Shadow continued

The Soldiers of the Shadow battalion continue to make the relationship we have with Barkley Elementary School the standard for other battalions to emulate through the Strategic Outreach Program. We had numerous Soldiers volunteer to serve the students Holiday lunch for their Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations. Barkley Elementary was given a fresh coat of paint due to the selfless efforts of our Soldiers volunteering many hours each day and giving up their lunch time to complete the task before the school's suspense.

It is important for us as a Rear Detachment that you know that we are here to support the mission in Afghanistan as well as to support each family of Task Force Shadow. If there is anything we can assist you with let us know and we will do all that we can.

"Shadow of the Eagle"

Megan E. Young
CPT, AV
Commanding

Jack J. Essig
1SG, USA
First Sergeant



FRG Advisor

Greeting Shadow families,

Yikes! Did I just hear sleigh bells and I still have shopping to do! Christmas is such a joyful season, so why do I feel so stressed? Are you with me? Well, as I think about this I realize that I put too much emphasis on the material things. This season, should not be about "things", it should be about love, peace, joy, family, friends, and the ones I love. And although I am not able to be with all the ones I love, my heart is always with them.

So, I will do my best to reduce my stress by putting down my credit card (Joel is smiling now), and try to remember the important things. Are you still with me, or did I lose you at "putting down my credit card"? My wish for you and your loved ones is for your hearts to be filled with love, peace, and joy, not just for the season, but always!

Merry Christmas and have a wonderful New Year!

TTFN, Sue

6-101 AVN BN FRG Advisor

6-101 Shadow continued

Oh yeah, don't forget to sign up for the Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, classes start January 16th. Our halfway home party will be on February the 8th, and it sounds like it will be a blast.

FRSA



Hello, my name is Dennis Robinson; I am the 6-101 AVN Family Readiness Support Assistant. Please feel free to contact me at dennis.robinson.civ@mail.mil or (931) 472-5918 if you have any questions or concerns. I will be here to assist and point you in the right direction. Our goal is to help families become more self-sufficient and resilient.

Happy Holidays and Have a Happy New Year!!!



6-101 Shadow continued

6-101 Shadow continued



96th ASB Task Force Troubleshooters

Dear Troubleshooters,

It has been a very productive month for the Rear Detachment. We have just completed the CIP inspection and we received a great report from the Division Inspectors. We had, arguably, the best results throughout the Brigade. In addition to our great scores, SFC Geary and CW2 Rivera helped other Battalions in the Brigade receive passing scores in their respective areas.

We also completed our first M4 Qualification Range. LT Carmichael and LT Brown ran a range for strictly the 96th and it was a great success. We are continuing to ensure that the soldiers who will fall back into the companies, upon the forward elements return, will be trained and fit to fight.

This training also includes sending as many soldiers to Air Assault School as we can. SSG Novakowski was our first graduate as rear detachment this past month. We have six that will be trying their hand at the school next month, with dozens more who will go before the return of the unit.

Training will be our secondary focus, behind the effort to aid the return of the unit in the upcoming months, but it will not be trailing by much. We are continuing to get soldiers into as many classes as we can so that more unit training can be conducted during the next train up cycle.

Please know that you all our in our thoughts every day and that we are very proud of what you are doing. We will continue to support you in any way we can and look for every opportunity to do so.

CPT Michael Anderson



Seasons Greetings Troubleshooters,

Hopefully by now all of you have received the lovely care packages that the FRGs worked really hard on getting out to you. It is just another example of the awesome support and care the company FRGs provide to the soldiers. I know that you share my sentiments in giving a big thank you to everyone involved in making it all happen by donating items and helping to pack up all of those goodies.

Although you are far from home, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your spirits be renewed in 2013. Stay safe!

Teresa Bahoque

HHC BDE Hellcats

HELLKITTENS

The Hellcat family grew by four over the last couple months as SPCs Ford, Franklin, and Morreale all welcomed adorable new additions into their family. SPC Franklin introduced Xavier Lee to the world on September 29th, and SPC Morreale brought both Orlando and Gabriel into the world on November 28th. SPC Ford was also blessed with a bouncing baby boy to complete the Y chromosome sweep, but he prefers to remain unnamed at this time so as not to be overwhelmed by celebrity and endorsement offers like the eTrade baby.



HELLCAT PROFILE: SUPPLY RUN

Since arriving to the unit SPC Eva Gari has set the standard for the HHC Supply room in both word and deed. Acting as the supply NCOIC, a position usually filled by a seasoned NCO, she has brought a wealth of knowledge and motivation that makes it clear she is more than ready to attend WLC in January. Managing a team of three privates fresh out of AIT while being thrown directly into a full scale CIP inspection she managed to send her Soldiers to much needed training classes, overhaul the property book, develop a new rear detachment supply SOP, and institute a comprehensive ARIMS system in order to ensure a Sustain for her section.

SPC also leads her Soldiers by embodying the Soldier 24/7 concept, pushing herself to achieve greater personal goals on her own time. Last month she completed the Hard Rock Café Nashville ½ marathon in her IBA on Veteran's Day weekend.

Reminding people that it was more than just a party holiday, SPC Gari honored fellow Soldiers past and present, fallen and fighting.

