



Wings of Destiny

OEF XII - XIII



March 2013

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Public Affairs Staff

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Task Force Eagle Assault: CPT Jackie Chang

Task Force Shadow: SPC Frank Lovejoy

HHC, Task Force Destiny: SPC Michael Newell

Task Force Dragon: SGT Armando Avila

Task Force Iron Warrior: CW2 Ellen Smith



Destiny-6

COL Paul Bontrager



Message From the Pilot in Command



Above, COL Paul Bontrager, Commander, Task Force Destiny poses with the command team behind a replica of the historic sign that proclaims “If you want it done, ask the 101,” at TF Destiny headquarters Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 29, 2013. The original sign was hung at the entrance to the division base camp in Viet Nam. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)

Hello again wonderful Families, Soldiers, and friends of Task Force Destiny. As the warm weather approaches our redeployment is closer on the horizon, which increases our anticipation of coming home. The performance of our Soldiers, both deployed and on the Rear-Detachment, and the support of our Family and friends remains unbelievably high and humbling to behold. While we certainly look forward to our homecoming, experience tells us that a word of caution is prudent.

As the initial euphoria of our homecoming wanes, please stay on the lookout for Family and work situations that increase stress and try our patience—these are only natural and to be expected as we transition home. We have many unit, Fort Campbell, and community resources standing at the ready and at our disposal. Please do not hesitate to use these resources or to make your needs known so we can be there to give our Families the best chance to weather tough times.

One of the proven ways to overcome redeployment issues is to hold transition events where we gather to reminisce, share, and bring the deployed team together with the Families who held everything together at home. Our primary redeployment event is a Welcome Home Formal, scheduled for July 18, at the Opryland Gaylord Hotel in Nashville. Please consider joining the Destiny Brigade at this gala affair. We will provide bus service from Fort Campbell, as well as have rooms discounted and child care services available at the hotel to meet everyone's needs. As much of our leadership transitions from the brigade the week following our formal, I look forward to the opportunity to thank each of you for your service and dedication.

Thank you again for all that you do on the behalf of Destiny Brigade and our Families. It remains my highest honor to serve alongside each one of you.



Destiny-7

CSM Harold Plattenberg



Leading From the Front



CSM Harold Plattenberg participates in the HHC, TF Destiny cornhole tournament held at task force headquarters at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 28, 2013. The cornhole tournament was held to bring everyone together for a some fun outside of the office. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)

As we reflect upon the past 7 months we look at the accomplishments that we have endured. The Families and Soldiers of Task Force Destiny continue to do remarkable things daily and we must recognize their efforts. This is monumental as we begin to close out operations in areas throughout Afghanistan. We can only wait in anticipation for the welcome home ceremony that awaits all of us as we step off of our planes on Fort Campbell in the coming months.

As we approach the departure from Afghanistan we need to continue to keep each family member of the Wings of Destiny in our prayers and thoughts, this includes the members that have become vital members of our extended family here. A strong support network is a very key part in us finishing strong. Staying focused at the mission at hand will be the number-one focus for us as it should be for the family members also. We are doing extremely well over here as we continue to thrive off of the support that you provide.

I am extremely proud to tell each of you that your Soldiers make me proud to say that I am their CSM. Their efforts are making a difference in a part of the world that relies on them in providing them a chance of a better way of life. We will see each and every one of soon as we close out this chapter in our latest Rendezvous with Destiny.



Destiny-65

CW5 Robert Purdy



Message From the Cockpit



Above, CW5 Robert Purdy, TF Destiny Command Chief Warrant Officer, congratulates PFC Kevin Clifton during an end-of-tour awards ceremony at brigade headquarters, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 31, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)

Destiny Soldiers and Families,

We are almost there, leaning at the tape of finishing yet another challenging deployment supporting the Nation. The hard work done day and night by the soldiers of Task Force Destiny has been nothing short of outstanding earning everyone a well deserved break. The foundations of every successful mission here in Afghanistan begin with the support of our families and surrounding Fort Campbell communities. Success in a combat zone is sustained via lifelines that span ocean and mountain from home to B-Hut. In short, we can't do it without friends and family. Leave forms are being filled out, vacation plans are being

made, and excitement is building towards the day when we rejoin our loved ones.

While writing this article for our last newsletter while deployed, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every Soldier of Task Force Destiny for the commitment they have shown during our time holding the line. In addition to that, my personal thanks go to our loved ones who maintain the home front. It is our families who pay the bills, get the washing machine fixed, help with homework, and perform all the other vital tasks of life while we chase our dreams in the profession of arms. These thanks cannot be overstated or given enough. Stay the course, Destiny....We're almost home. D65



Destiny Chaplain

CH (MAJ) Billy Graham



Count Your Blessings



The Resurrection

As I am writing this, we are heading into Holy Week for both Jews and Christians. Jews will celebrate Passover and Christians, Easter or the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a Christian, The Resurrection creates in me the hope of the resurrection that is to come with the promise of Christ's return. It also reminds me with the annual celebration of the promise of new life in the here and now. Those who put their trust in Jesus are promised in the scriptures, "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly." (John 10:10 NASB)

Considering the pending redeployment brings to mind a couple ways to apply these realities in my life. One has to do with the promise of the resurrection sometime in the future. Beyond the hope this brings in the everyday struggles of living in this world, I also find comfort in the reality that this deployment will come to an end for Task Force Destiny and we will come home. This hope is in the forefront of all our minds. But there is a second reality that has to be in balance with the first, which is in the fact that we are not home yet. This requires the Soldier to continue to have the focus required to stay safe and execute their mission with the utmost care and passion. It also means that

Families have to continue caring for the tasks of holding down the fort back home. The Rear-D will continue the amazing care and support in which they have excelled. I encourage each of us to do as so many coaches have demanded of their players when heading into the fourth quarter: "Now is the time where the hard work and discipline pays off, now is the time when we bring home the victory." Destiny Family: now is the time for the final press to the end, now is the time to grab hold of the hope that is within you until we enjoy that glorious reunion.

I would be remiss if I did not include one other possibility of applying the truths of this scripture as it relates to the reunion yet to come. Redeployments can be a grand opportunity for new beginnings. We all have developed routines and habits during our separation, some healthy and some not so healthy. Now is an opportunity to build together a new life with our Families and loved ones encouraging and strong habits that create healthy lifestyles and appropriate relationship skills. This is a great time to establish qualities of life that we all have talked about and longed for. If you are in need of assistance to sort this out and define what this may look like in your situation, the Destiny Chaplains are available. May each of you enjoy the abundant life now and look forward with eager anticipation to the resurrection or redeployment that is to come.



Task Force No Mercy



Above, Soldiers from E Company, 1st Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force No Mercy, prepare to pack equipment with the Air Force at the passenger terminal terminal of FOB Salerno, Afghanistan on March 14, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by SPC RossMichael Noffsinger, TF No Mercy UPAR)

Providing multi-functional aviation support continues to be the pinnacle focus of Task Force No Mercy as the Soldiers prepare to draw down in preparation for the redeployment to home-front.

Various events have taken place which have helped maintain the morale and *Espirit de Corps* throughout the task force. The past months brought many promotions, reenlistment, and awards presentations for many of the Soldiers. On Salerno, the Soldiers also participated in “Warrior Challenge”, a 5k fun run and walk event in which the troopers received recognition and numerous prizes as a token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication to maintaining a high level of fitness despite their demanding work load.

As No Mercy approaches the remaining weeks of the deployment, the command emphasis begins to shift to Family reintegration readiness. In a few weeks No Mercy will execute their End of Tour Awards Ceremony to recognize all Soldiers for the sacrifice and dedication they’ve committed towards the deployment in support of OEF 12-13.

Task Force No Mercy will be replaced by Task Force Tiger Shark, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade from Fort Drum, NY.

Task Force No Mercy



Above, Soldiers of TF No Mercy receive their end-of-tour awards at a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, March 29, 2013. End-of-tour awards ceremonies are held to recognize the collective effort of a unit and to reward Soldiers for a successful mission. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Rossmichael, Noffsinger, TF No Mercy UPAR)

Below, Soldiers from Task Force No Mercy participated in Operation Mud Run on Forward Operating Base Salerno, March 24th, 2013. Operation Mud Run tested the strength and endurance of those that participated. Maintaining physical fitness during a deployment ensures that Soldiers are ready for the demands of combats and helps to reduce stress.





Task Force Eagle Assault



© Rob Lyon



Above, Soldiers from B Company, 1st Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade Stand in formation ready for a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan. (Photo by CW2 Rob Lyon, C Co., 5-101 CAB, UH-60 pilot)

Left, Female aviators from across Task Force Eagle Assault gather to pose for a group shot in honor of women's history month in front of task force headquarters at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan, March 16, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)

After a long seven months, the time has come for Task Force Eagle Assault to gather the troops and start heading back to the U.S.A. As an aviation battalion, we have been preparing for our return home by staying current with everything from Aerial Gunnery Range qualifications and Fast Rope Insertion and Extraction System (FRIES) training, to final inventories of all mission-essential equipment and school submission paperwork for when we return to Fort Campbell. Though the clock is ticking down until our time comes to return home to our love ones, we are focused on completing the mission and handing off a good product to the Knighthawks of the 10th Mountain Division. Task Force Eagle Assault is dedicated to a job well done, true to Duty, Honor, and Country, leaving with courage, and returning with loyalty and honor to the Red, White, and Blue.

Task Force Eagle Assault



Above, Soldiers from TF Eagle Assault aid station conduct a communications exercise at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan. The participants are blindfolded and their partners walk them through the process of administering an IV. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)

Below, Soldiers from F Co., TF Eagle Assault, Pathfinders fast rope to the ground out of a hovering UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter during FRIES Master training at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan. F Co., 5-101st is one of three original Pathfinder companies in the Army and trace their roots back to WWII. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)





Task Force Shadow



Above, SFC Christopher Williams, automations NCOIC and JEC President announces the start of the TF Shadow Talent Show and recognizes JEC Soldiers for their hard work in preparation for the event.

Below right, CSM Galu Satele, TF Shadow takes a moment to chat with CW5 John Nikolao, HHB, 101st Airborne Div. Black Hawk pilot. CSM Satele and CW5 Nikolao share the same hometown of Pago Pago Vailloa, American Samoa. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)

The Junior Enlisted Council of Task Force Shadow hosted a talent show on 16 March 2013. This was an opportunity for everyone to show off musical talents and have some fun. The day started with a Barbeque and continued until 1900 despite a little rain with karaoke, dancing and live music. Throughout the deployment the JEC has sponsored events which has helped to maintain high levels of morale and participation.

Task Force Shadow commander Lt. Col Joel Aoki even participated in the event playing with the band The Trunk Monkeys. Aoki himself could see the positive effects events like the talent show have on the Task Force allowing people to come together and create something positive.

“Whether playing in a band, dancing, singing, building the gazebo, working the audio, arranging the food, or cheering for your fellow teammates, we all got the opportunity to do something for the task force.” said Aoki. “There is something so incredibly powerful about a group of American Soldiers who enjoy sharing time with one another while deployed.”



Task Force Shadow



Above, Soldiers from C Co., 6-101st CAB, Shadow Dustoff and B Co., 96th ASB, Big Ugly pose with an HH-60 medevac Black Hawk helicopter just before departing for Fort Campbell, Ky. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)

Below, Soldiers dance during the TF Shadow Talent Show put on by the Junior Enlisted Council at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 16, 2013. The JEC puts on events for the professional development, esprit de corps.





HHC, 101 CAB



Above, COL Paul Bontrager, Commander, Task Force Destiny poses with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF Destiny at HHC's cornhole tournament to share some wisdom about Operation Spring Clean Josephine and share a good time over a few games. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)

Below left, Soldiers from HHC, TF Destiny play cornhole in a tournament at brigade headquarters March (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)

Below right, CPT James Myers, HHC TF Destiny legal officer and PFC Kevin Clifton brigade paralegal, won the HHC, TF Destiny cornhole tournament and pose with the winners' plaque at brigade headquarters at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 30, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)



HHC, 101 CAB



Above left, CPT John Gaffney, HHC, TF Destiny, Center For Army Lessons Learned LNO swabs his cheek at a bone-marrow-compatibility drive conducted by the Department of Defense Marrow Donor Center at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 30, 2013. (U.S. Army Photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)

Above Right and below left, Soldiers from HHC, TF Destiny play cornhole in a tournament at brigade headquarters March 28, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)

Below right, SSG Aaron Akers, HHC, Task Force Destiny Fire Support NCO gets baptized as a Catholic during Easter vigil Mass at Bagram Airfield Afghanistan, March 30, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)



Left, Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, brigade intelligence section, realign a satellite antenna on the roof of the brigade headquarters building at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 14, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)

Left, SFC Paul Goeman, HHC, 101st CAB operation NCO stands with a relit candle after being baptized in the Catholic religion at Easter Vigil mass at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 30, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Duncan Brennan, TF Destiny Public Affairs)





Task Force Dragon



TF Dragon stands next to TF Saber during the TOA Ceremony which took place 25 February 2013.

Greetings from FOB Fenty! Task Force Dragon has arrived in full force and ready to take on our mission of providing multifunctional aviation support to Regional Command- East.

Our Task Force is stationed out of Fort Bliss, Texas and is comprised of Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade. We are also augmented by seasoned combat veterans from A/1-104 Pennsylvania Army National Guard, C/2-149 MEDEVAC, and B/6-101 GSAB. Our journey began with the movement of personnel through Manas, Kyrgyzstan, into five different locations throughout Afghanistan. Over the past two months we have been busy integrating into the Task Force Destiny Family.

We appreciate all the support Task Force Destiny has provided in making us a part of the team. We conducted a successful transfer of authority ceremony with Task Force Saber and a patch ceremony for all of our Soldiers. The next few months will be a true test of all the hard work and training Task Force Dragon conducted prior to deployment. The Iron Soldiers of Task Force Dragon are honored and proud to represent 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, and El Paso, Texas during their tour of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. First to Strike!

TF Dragon



Above left, LTC Glen E. Heape and CSM Michael S. McGee uncasing the TF Colors during the TOA Ceremony 25 February 2013

Above, The flag of 1-501st Aviation, Task Force Dragon flies over the Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan flight line March 26, 2013.

Below, LTC Glen E. Heape patches CSM Michael S. McGee and CW5 Scott H. Turvey, TF CWOB, during the patch ceremony 8 March 2013.





Task Force Iron Warrior



MASAR E SHARIF, Afghanistan - Soldiers of 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Ready, stand in formation for the Transfer of Authority ceremony. Task Force Iron Warriors assumed command of aviation operations in Regional Command North 1 March 2013. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Mark Pontzer, Task Force Iron Warriors Historian)

Regional Command North Aviation Task Forces Combine – Task Force Iron Warriors Emerge

By U.S. Army CW2 Ellaen Smith

BALKH PROVINCE, Afghanistan (March 25, 2013) – In February, Task Force Shadow Warriors, 1-104th ARB, PAARNG, relocated to Camp Marmal, Masar-e-Sharif to begin a battle hand over from outgoing Task Force Ready, 12th CAB. Task Force Shadow Warriors expanded to incorporate elements of Task Force Iron Knights of the 2- 501st AVN BN, 1AD, to assume aviation operations under one consolidated command in RC-N. On 1 March, Task Force Shadow Warriors conducted their second Transfer of Authority since arrival in theater in December 2012 and emerged as Task Force Iron Warriors, reinforcing the consolidation of Shadow Warriors and Iron Knights. The new task force name not only embraces the unification of the Shadow Warriors and Iron Knights, but pays homage to the 28th Infantry Division's legacy as the "Iron Division", so named by General John Pershing for the ferocity and tenacity with which its Soldiers fought during World War II.

Nearly one month after the TOA, Task Force Iron Warriors has melded and is conducting combat aviation operations supporting ground troops in not only RC-N, but RC-E, as well. The Iron Warriors have elements at Camp Marmal, FOB Kunduz, Camp Spann, FOB Shank, FOB Salerno, FOB Fenty and Bagram Air Field.



Celebrate Your Destiny



**When:
18 July 2013**

**Where:
Gaylord Opryland in Nashville
Tickets go on sale 5 April**

**Cost:
E-7 and Above: \$40
E-6 and Below: \$30**

**See Your Unit Representative for
information and tickets**

ASU's or Black Tie/Evening Gown

Child Care Available On Premises

**For Questions Contact :
CelebrateYourDestiny@gmail.com**

**Block Rooms at Gaylord Opryland \$107
1-800-429-5673**

DATE: 9 April 2013



TIMES: 9:00am—11:00am or
6:00pm—8:00pm

101 CAB

Reintegration Brief

Operation Home Sweet Home
Your Soldier is coming home, now what?

*Will my Soldier be the same? Am I the same?
How do I help my children adjust to Daddy/
Mommy being home?*

Learn the answers to these questions and more, by attending the reintegration briefing on April 9th.

Contact your FRSA to reserve your
Childcare slot by April 1st

Children **MUST** be registered with
CYSS in order to receive **FREE** child care.

- * Expectations and Fantasies
- * How does this affect your finances?
- * Combat—Related Stress Reactions (CRSC)
- * Reintegration Schedule

These are just some the questions
that will be covered.

When: 9 April 2013

Morning Brief: 0900—1100

Evening Brief: 1800—2000

Location: Joe Swing Recreation Facility, 1500 Spillway Court (inside Gate 1 down the street side of the pool)

KOS child care is available

1. Morning childcare is at the FRC
2. Evening childcare is at the CDC#2



Homecoming Information



Welcome Home Ceremony
Information:

<http://www.campbell.army.mil/campbell/directorates/DPTMS/Pages/flights.aspx>

Wings of Destiny FRSA
Contact Information:

<http://www.campbell.army.mil/units/101st/101CAB/Pages/FRSA.aspx>