

WINGS OF DESTINY

MAGAZINE **OIF 05-07**

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 101ST COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE



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From the Editor...



Hello, Screaming Eagles!

Here we are already at the February edition of *Wings of Destiny* Magazine. The magazine starts with a visit to the brigade from Vice Chief of Staff GEN Richard Cody in which he re-enlisted numerous Soldiers and visited his sons in 1st Battalion, Tyler and Clint.

Among the big news in 5th Battalion, CW3 Merle Goodall was named this year's winner of the Military Suggestion of the Year. His idea to improve a piece of navigational equipment earned him \$5,000, and looks to save the Army much, much more than that in the

future. In 6th Battalion, we take a look at an Air Assault extraction mission, then go on patrol with the Soldiers of the 96th Aviation Support Battalion. The magazine ends with a trip to the Cav, where Kiowa pilots were recently awarded Combat Aviation Badges and fuelers respond quickly to keep the Kiowas in the fight.

The mission of *Wings of Destiny* magazine is to cover the brigade as a whole. These stories have also been sent out to newspapers and magazines throughout Tennessee and more than 20 publications throughout the country.

Below you will see the contact information for myself and SFC Antony Joseph, the brigade's Public Affairs Officer in the event you have any questions, suggestions, or story ideas. Enjoy the magazine, Air Assault!

SGT Ryan Matson

Wings of Destiny editor/brigade military journalist

WINGS OF DESTINY MAGAZINE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 101ST AVIATION BRIGADE

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All editorial content of *Wings of Destiny* is prepared, edited provided and approved by the 101st CAB and 101st Airborne Division Public Affairs Office .

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NEWS

Vice Chief of Staff GEN Cody visits Speicher

Story and photos by SGT Ryan Matson

101st Combat Aviation Brigade



Generally speaking...

GEN Richard A. Cody (center), Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army, makes a point during a meeting of key leaders of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade and 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Feb. 13 at Forward Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, IRAQ -- General Richard A. Cody, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, made a two-day visit to Forward Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, where he re-enlisted more than 100 Soldiers in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and also spent some time with his sons, both of whom are pilots with a unit he once commanded. The visit was part of a visit that included stops throughout Iraq.

Cody arrived at Speicher the afternoon of Feb. 13. He first visited the Third Brigade Combat Team Rakkasans, where he re-enlisted 100 Soldiers. In fact, re-enlisting Soldiers was one of the main points of Cody's visit, Cody said in an interview with FOX News via a satellite feed from Iraq. The interview included his sons, Clint and Tyler.

"I've re-enlisted over 100 Soldiers today, in combat, and gave out several awards

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including about 50 Combat Action Badges, and I will tell you the Soldiers every place I go said they are proud of what they're doing, proud of their units, and well led," he said. "Every Soldier tells me they are in the best-equipped Army they've ever been in. They feel great about their training. They feel great about the American people's support, and they believe, and I believe, that they're winning here and they also very speak very highly about the Iraqi forces that they're now teamed with."



Can you hear me now?

CPT Clint Cody, 1st Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, puts in earpiece for an interview with his father GEN Richard A. Cody, the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Feb. 13 with FOX News.

Cody said the re-enlistments prove to him that the Army is as strong as ever, despite what might be sometimes said in media reports.

"I've listened to it, and as you know, I've had 34 years in uniform," Cody said. "I was in an Army that was somewhat broken coming out of the Vietnam War. This is the first time we've taken this all-volunteer Army – Active, Guard and Reserve – into a protracted war, and a very, very important war. I will tell you this is not a broken Army. This Army has the best leaders I've ever seen, much better than I was when I was a commander in combat...we've got some of the greatest Soldiers I've ever seen put on this uniform, and they are stretched but they are far from being broken."

"I wish America could see these troops, these young men and women, reenlisting for six years, knowing full well they'll probably come back for another combat tour," he said. "They know they're making a difference and quite frankly, in the spirit of the American Soldier they understand how important this war is and how important their service is. It tells me that this Army is always going to be strong."

A special stop during the visit came when Cody visited the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade.

Cody's sons are both captains serving with 1st Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, an Apache attack helicopter battalion. During the first Gulf War, Cody, then a lieutenant colonel, commanded 1st Battalion, the battalion his sons now fly in. In fact Cody fired the first shot of the Gulf War as commander of 1st Battalion, taking out a radar tower with a hellfire missile fired from the Apache helicopter "Rigormortis," a helicopter he has been known to fly when visiting the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell. Cody later went on to command the entire 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, as well as the 101st Airborne Division.

Clint and Tyler already have five combat tours as Apache pilots between them. Cody says he is proud his sons have been able to follow in his footsteps.

"I am absolutely proud of these two great captains, just as I am proud of all of these American Soldiers that are over here serving," Cody said. "My days of being in the field are somewhat over, you see me in the halls of the Pentagon. Just like any father, I worry

about them. But I know they're in a great outfit. Their battalion commander, LTC Doug Gabram, was a company commander for me during the first Gulf War. I also know they're with great Soldiers and great warrant officers, so though I worry about them, I know they're well led and with five combat tours between them, they're experienced."

Following the television interview, Cody spoke with key leaders from throughout the 101st Airborne Division and 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, and entertained their questions as well.

Cody wrapped up his visit the morning of Feb. 14 with another re-enlistment ceremony in which he re-enlisted 33 more Soldiers, 23 of whom were from his old unit, the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade. The 101st Combat Aviation Brigade had the first two units in the 101st Airborne Division to meet re-enlistment quotas. 1st Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade was the first, followed by 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment.

After re-enlisting the Soldiers, Cody took some time to speak and joke with each one and allow them a chance to get a photo and give them a coin. One Soldier told him he was re-enlisting as an air conditioning repairman.

"You are going to have a lot of friends here in a few months," Cody told the Soldier. Before the ceremony, he joked to the crowd, "Do they know that when the Vice Chief re-enlists them, they re-enlist for an automatic six years, no matter what it says on their contract?"

Following the final re-enlistment ceremony, Cody toured the division headquarters and spent some final time with his sons in the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade area before departing.



Taking the oath

GEN Richard A. Cody (right), Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army, reads a group of 33 re-enlistees (including 22 from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade) their oath of re-enlistment during a ceremony the morning of Feb. 14 at Forward Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

NEWS

Aviation Soldier makes Military Suggestion of the Year

Story and photos by SGT Ryan Matson
101st Combat Aviation Brigade



The idea worth \$5,000

CW3 Merle Goodall (above), a Blackhawk pilot from 5th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, holds a horizontal situation indicator, the piece of avionics equipment he suggested an improvement to, winning him the 2005 Military Suggestion of the Year.

A small knob which costs about \$5 to purchase, had once cost the Army several thousands of dollars when it broke, until an observant warrant officer saw a solution and made a suggestion, earning him \$5,000.

CW3 Merle Goodall, a Blackhawk pilot with the Company C "Phantoms," 5th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, made a common-sense solution to a problem he noticed on a piece of avionics equipment he uses every day. The suggestion was named the Military Suggestion of the Year Jan. 19.

"It's a very simple idea, really," Goodall said. "And I was very surprised when I found out I won."

Goodall said he actually came up with this year's Military Suggestion of the Year about five years ago while at Fort Campbell. Goodall said he was doing some pre-flight checks on equipment inside his UH-60 Blackhawk when one of the knobs on his horizontal situation indicator, or HSI, a navigation device, fell off. The knob is held on the indicator by a special screw that tightens it down against a piece which sticks out of the front face of the indicator. The screw requires a special Allen-wrench-like tool to be tightened. When the screw strips out, the knob becomes loose on the piece sticking off the indicator face, and eventually will fall off, rendering the indicator useless.

Without the knob and no replacement knobs, Goodall said the standard procedure in the maintenance manual was to remove the entire indicator and send it back to the manufacturer for repairs.

The indicator runs about \$34,000 for the complete instrument. When an indicator is turned in to be repaired or replaced, the Army receives a turn-in credit of about \$22,000, meaning around \$12,000 is lost each time an indicator must be replaced.

"To take this thing out and put in a new one cost the Army about \$12,000, that's what it amounts to," Goodall said, acknowledging that the figure did not include the cost of labor as well.

Then, Goodall did some personal investigating, and found the problem was more common than he had suspected.

"It happened to me twice in one year," Goodall recalled. "Then I started asking around DynaCorps at the time and found out that it had happened a few other times in our battalion alone."

So Goodall took action. He went to the Fort Campbell office of the Army Suggestion Program and filled out a DA Form 1045, the form which allows a Soldier to make a suggestion about something they notice as a problem with equipment in the Army.

"I suggested on the form that the Army starts carrying replacement knobs in the Army inventory," Goodall explained. "They should issue them a National Stock Number that the crew chiefs could look up and actually get to order. I also asked them to issue a change to the Dash 23 manual, which is the Blackhawk maintenance manual authorizing the crew chiefs to actually replace the knobs and put them on. It seemed simple enough."

The suggestion bounced around various departments of the Army while they looked into the equipment and determined if Goodall's suggestion, as simple as it was, was indeed feasible. He checked in with Fort Campbell Army Suggestion Program manager Gail Linkous from time to time and she informed him where the suggestion was currently at in the process.

Meanwhile, Goodall kept his suggestions coming. Every once and a while, he would come across something that he saw that could be fixed or improved, usually something very simple. For example, before his unit left for a training rotation in the field a few years ago, Goodall suggested a canvas cover be made for an expensive new laser

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copier the company had just acquired. The canvas cover was made by the canvas shop at Fort Campbell and Goodall's unit's copier was the only one that still functioned following the NTC rotation. He said that his suggestion for the canvas was adopted as a Fort Campbell policy, for which he received \$100. He said it could not be adopted Army wide because not every unit in the Army uses the same model copier.

Goodall said he sees good ideas every day, and feels that more Soldiers need to know about the Army Suggestion Program.

"The point is, I see Soldiers who have great ideas everyday, but they just aren't officially adopted," Goodall said. "I see crew chiefs who have something rigged up because it makes something easier, and it's a great idea. That's why I think it's important that people know about this program."

The Army Suggestion Program is open to suggestions from Soldiers and civilians with the goal of encouraging personnel to improve present

policy, practices, and regulatory constraints which do not facilitate quality management, Linkous said. She said it is designed to improve morale by providing an opportunity for soldiers and civilians to voluntarily take part in the improvement of management within the Government. Other branches of the military have similar programs.

Linkous, who has been the Army Suggestion Program Manager at Fort Campbell since November, 2004, said that every post in the Army has an Army Suggestion Program office. She said the Army Suggestion Program was integrated with a similar program known as the Model Installation Program back in 1987 and was once known as the Army Ideas for Excellence program. No matter what the title, the program's focus has always been improving the way the Army does things, which Linkous said benefits everyone involved.

"It is a way for soldiers and employees to submit their good ideas, be recognized and receive cash money for adopted suggestions," Linkous said. "I think it boosts morale when people feel they play a part in making things better and receive recognition for their ideas. The cash doesn't hurt either; it's like icing on the cake."

She said the annual Military Suggestion of the Year winner is chosen based on the amount of savings to the Government, and their prizes are based on that amount.

The Fort Campbell Army Suggestion program offices is located in the Plans Analysis and Integration Officer (PAIO), Bldg 234 Oklahoma Avenue (a white, two story building

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The idea worth \$5,000

A closeup of the knob on the horizontal situation indicator, the piece of equipment which won CW3 Merle Goodall, a 5th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade pilot, \$5,000.

beside Bank of America, across from the Education Center on Bastogne Avenue). The phone number is (270) 798-3713.

Besides Goodall, Fort Campbell has had winners in 1999 and 2000. Goodall said he doesn't remember how he found out about the Suggestion Program but he said he is happy he met the "nice, helpful ladies who work there."

"I only found out about her office just on a whim; I heard somebody talking about it," Goodall admitted.

It turns out that whim will save the Army an unforeseeable amount of money, and was worth \$5,000 to Goodall as well.

How You Can Make A Suggestion

Linkous detailed the process by which interested Soldiers can make a suggestion to the Army Suggestion Program.

She said a Soldier can make a suggestion online by simply going to the Army Suggestion Program website <https://armysuggestions.army.mil>. She said Soldiers must use their AKO username and password in order to access the website. From there, Linkous said the process is self-explanatory.

A Soldier may also submit a manual submission, Linkous said.

"They will need to complete a DA Form 1045 (Army Ideas for Excellence Program (AIEP) Proposal) and return it to the Plans Analysis and Integration Office (PAIO) building," she said.

Linkous said the suggestion must include an explanation of the current situation and a description of the proposed solution. In addition, she said the suggestion should describe and quantify the benefits to the Army or government (cost savings, morale, safety, other). Any drawings that would be beneficial for the evaluator to adequately evaluate the suggestion should also be included, she said.

Feedback on the suggestion submitted will be provided to the suggestor within 30 days of the submission.

NEWS

For 6th Battalion Pilots, Crew Chief, nothing beats an Air Assault

Story and photos by SGT Ryan Matson
101st Combat Aviation Brigade



Green Acres

A CH-47D Chinook helicopter from 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, flies over the Iraqi landscape on an Air Assault extraction mission near Sammara, Iraq, Feb. 17.

SAMARRA, IRAQ - The six 350-pound rotor blades sliced through the Iraqi winter air, producing the distinctive thunderous thud of the CH-47D Chinook cargo helicopter. The helicopter slowly touched down, back wheels first and then the nose, before coming to a rest on its section of the flight line on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq. For the crew of five Soldiers from 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, it is the end of a 12-plus hour workday, and another successful Air Assault mission Feb. 17.

In the wee hours of the morning, the Soldiers, flying in one of the Chinooks on the mission, had inserted teams of American Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team and Iraqi Army to capture or kill a suspected insurgent financier in the Samarra area. Several hours later, in the daylight, after the area was secure, the Chinooks swept back down and picked up the Soldiers, who were not able to capture the suspected financier on this mission, but returned with some valuable information for future missions. The 101st Airborne Division, which 6th Battalion, 101st CAB is a part of, is the only Air Assault division in the Army, and the Air Assault is the division's signature mission.

For the crew of Aviation Soldiers from Company B, 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade on board the Chinook, flying an Air Assault mission is often the



Maintainer

SPC Brian Hackney, a CH-47D crew chief with 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, conducts some post-flight checks after landing back at Contingency Operating Base Speicher following an Air Assault extraction mission Feb. 17.

highpoint of flying in Iraq.

"I like the Air Assaults. It's just fun, it's just a rush," SPC Brian Hackney, 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation, said. "It's a rush being in the action, getting those guys in, getting them out - just doing what we do. I love it."



Looking the big bird over

CW2 Bobby Sattazahn, 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, a Chinook helicopter pilot, conducts some post-flight checks after landing back at Contingency Operating Base Speicher following an Air Assault extraction mission Feb. 17 in Iraq.

Hackney is a crew chief on the Chinook. He works together with a second crew chief, a flight engineer, co-pilot and a pilot to make the missions happen. While the pilots flew the troops in, the two crew chiefs and flight engineer acted as the eyes and ears of the aircraft, scanning the areas the pilots can't see out of the cockpit windshield, and protecting the Chinook and its passengers with M 240H machine guns mounted on the side doors and rear ramp of the helicopter. Hackney said he typically mans the rear gun, where he can view the Iraqi countryside for miles around from a couple hundred feet in the air. He scans for enemy activity on the ground, for aircraft in the sky entering the immediate airspace, and any other things that could interfere with the flight of the massive helicopter, which weighs more than 30,000 pounds with fuel and a crew.

When he isn't flying in the Chinook, Hackney, the other crew chief and flight engineer, are out maintaining it, or conducting pre or post flight inspections. This often means long days, day in and day out for the crew, but Hackney said that doesn't bother him at all.



Climbing aboard

Iraqi Army Soldiers board a 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade CH-47D Chinook helicopter to be extracted from an area near Samarra, Iraq, on a Feb. 17 Air Assault mission.

“This is my aircraft – I keep it up, keep it flying, keep it clean, as much as I can. That aircraft reflects who I am,” Hackney said. “The helicopter itself just has me, the crew chief and a flight engineer – we’re pretty much the maintainers of it. The pilots rotate in and out.”

One of these pilots is CW2 Bobby Sattazahn, who served as the co-pilot on the Air Assault. As with Hackney, he said it is his favorite type of mission to fly.

“I love the look on the Soldiers faces when they’re all excited on an Air Assault mission,” Sattazahn said. “The adrenaline rush is there. Just being able to contribute and be a combat multiplier is what it’s all about.”

Sattazahn, who is from Manheim, Pa., has been a Chinook pilot since May 2004, but has been in the Army since 1990, having worked in the psychological operations branch prior to that. Like most Chinook pilots, he said he is in love with the aircraft he flies. The Chinook is an older aircraft, having been in use since the Vietnam era, but Sattazahn said it still holds up against any of the more modern models.

“I think the Chinook is very important to the mission, because we are a key ingredient to our maneuverability, not just on Air Assaults but in the overall mission,” he said. “The capabilities of our aircraft are tremendous, whether it’s sling-loading HMMWVs, or it might be carrying rockets (conducting resupply) to help re-arm the Kiowas and Apache helicopters – we can put almost anything inside this thing. We can even put a HMMWV on the inside and carry one underneath.”

While both Soldiers agreed that the Air Assault missions are a favorite to fly, Sattazahn said that the unit’s primary mission is battlefield circulation, meaning transporting Soldiers from one place to another throughout Iraq. The Chinooks fly a mission known ***WINGS OF DESTINY MAGAZINE * 101ST AVIATION BRIGADE * 13***

as the Eagle Express, where they take people to the various U.S. military locations in the country. For this, the Chinook, which is designed to transport up to 44 troops, is the ideal aircraft for the mission. In fact, Sattazahn said the spaciousness of the aircraft is another thing he enjoys about Chinooks.

“When it’s time to deploy with your aircraft the amount of space inside enables us to bring everything we could possibly need,” Sattazahn said. “The other airframes have to use Conexes (metal container) to haul all their equipment. When we go to the field, there’s that old joke that if you smell a barbecue in the field, it’s probably the Chinook unit, because we have room for the grill!!”

“Our motto is, there’s always room for one more. When we fly around at night, we pick up a lot of passengers who are space available.”

Both Soldiers said they miss their families and are eager to return home. Sattazahn and his wife have six children, four boys and two girls. While they are here, though, the Soldiers are getting an aerial view of a changing Iraq.

“It’s great, we fly at day fly at night – we get to see the people on the ground and everybody’s waving, all that kind of stuff,” Hackney said.

Flying the Iraqi Army on missions is also a good experience, he added.

“It’s just great to see that the Iraqis out there helping us and being a part of it all,” he said. “I know there are some bad ones out there, but there are probably twice as many good ones.”



Looking out my backdoor

SPC Brian Hackney watches over his Chinook and the aircraft flying behind him as he man's the 240H machine gun while flying on an Air Assault extraction mission near Samarra, Iraq, Feb. 17.

NEWS

96th ASB...On patrol

Story and photos by SGT Ryan Matson
101st Combat Aviation Brigade



On the lookout

SSG Daniel Smalls, an 88M (truck driver) with Company A, 96th Aviation Support Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, listens to a radio message about activity in his area as he commands a patrol around Forward Operating Base Speicher Jan. 23.

TIKRIT -- Just as a policeman might patrol a city street in a neighborhood, Company A, 96th Aviation Support Battalion performs a 24-hour patrol, through the desert.

The company, which consists of support Military Occupational Specialties (jobs) such as truck drivers, scouts, supply and fuelers, was tasked in early December to patrol the area immediately outside Forward Operating Base Speicher for suspicious or potentially

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dangerous activity. Company A splits the patrol with Company E, 5th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, which is also made up of support MOSs.

“We took the mission over from 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division who had been doing the mission since August,” said 1LT Sam Hartman, Company A, 96th Aviation Support Battalion. “We received MOU training in Kuwait and then mission specific training during the relief in place (RIP).”

The Soldiers said that only one thing remains constant about the patrol – that every day will be different.

“Every day is something different – you never know what you’ll find,” SFC Tim Carswell, an 88M (truck driver) from Morganton, North Carolina, said.

“We had absolutely no clue we’d be doing anything like this when we came over here, but I definitely like it.”

One such day took place when Carswell and his partner on patrol, SSG Daniel Smalls, also an 88M, were radioed to try to find the area where a mortar was believed to have just impacted. As they got close to the spot they thought might be the impact area, they did not find any signs of a mortar explosion, but Smalls did spot something else instead. He found some objects that looked a lot like tennis ball containers sticking out of the sand. The objects turned out to be 120mm rocket fuses.

“We kind of evacuated the area real quick and got in touch with the Explosive Ordnance Device team,” Carswell said.

“They were called in, we met them at the gate, escorted them out there, put a couple pounds of C-4 on it and blew it up. They had to dig it all up first though, we originally thought it was half a dozen, that’s all that were uncovered and it turned out to be 279.”

Smalls said that finding weapons is not an uncommon occurrence.

“Ninety percent of the time when we respond to a call to look for something else, that’s when we’ll find them,” he said. “When we go out and intentionally look for them, we never find them.”

The patrol has uncovered anti-aircraft rounds and other weapons which could have been used to harm American Soldiers. The patrol usually consists of three up-armored vehicles, each packing a .50 cal machine gun. Carswell and Smalls, who have both acted as patrol commanders, said the mission varies from day to day based on



Smooth action

A Soldier from Company A, 96th Aviation Support Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, applies some Cleaning, Lubricating and Protection oil to the chamber of his .50 caliber machine gun prior to a roving patrol around Forward Operating Base Speicher Jan 23.

intelligence released in a daily meeting. One day the patrol may be asked to watch a certain area, such as Main Supply Route Tampa, which has been known to receive Improvised Explosive Device attacks, or another to continuously patrol around the perimeter of the FOB. Either way, Carswell said something different will take place. He laughed when asked if he had ever had a boring day on patrol.

“Never had one of those yet,” he said.



Holey Land

A Soldier from Company A, 96th Aviation Support Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, looks into a depression in the area where his patrol recently found anti-aircraft weapons.

Smalls agreed.

“One day we found 11 anti-aircraft rounds,” he said. “It was a simple mission – we went to check out a suspicious house. We pulled up, set up a perimeter, got out, checked the Area of Operations. We did what we were trained to do, made sure that the area where we parked where the Soldiers were going to be at immediately was going to be safe.”

Smalls said the mission has been scaled back slightly in recent months – at one point the Soldiers might actually search or raid suspicious houses, or enforce the curfew at night. Now he said the majority of the patrol is responding to an area, possibly one spotted by a guard on duty at an Observation Point, where something suspicious had

been observed and to get a close-up look at it, reporting to higher headquarters for the next course of action.

“Our job also consists of looking into anything that looks a little different, a little off, like a farmer working in the same area for many hours without relocating,” he said.

Smalls is no stranger to being on patrol. Though he has worked as an 88M since 1999, the Tacoma, Washington, native had been a prior service Air Force Security Police Airman, a prison guard and a police officer in Aiken, South Carolina prior to enlisting into the Army. While on patrol, he is constantly vigilant, monitoring the radio and observing the area around him, and writing down grid coordinates where the terrain changes or a prominent feature such as a dump or a suspicious area might be. He and his team of Soldiers have learned the area around the FOB as well as anyone.

The patrol is not the only mission that the support Soldiers from Company A have been involved in, Carswell explained. He said in the past they also have run convoys out from FOB Anaconda to McKenzie .

“That was pretty hair-raising stuff, we got hit by a couple IEDs and got in a couple firefights there,” he said.

“Then we went from that to this patrol and then started doing convoy security. It was challenging at first learning the different Tactics Techniques and Procedures that were involved in the job titles, but we all adapted.”

The Soldiers have proven they can adapt to any mission asked of them, regardless of their MOS, and perform it well. Who ever thought being a truck driver could be so exciting?



SFC Timothy Carswell, an 88M (truck driver) from Morgantown, N.C., stands in a hole with the 279 120mm rocket fuses his team found while on a roving patrol around Forward Operating Base Speicher.

NEWS

CABS for the CAV

2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment Soldiers awarded Combat Action Badges

Story by 2nd Lt. Robert Szymanski and SGT Ryan Matson
101st Combat Aviation Brigade



Recipients

Twelve Aviators from 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, were awarded Combat Action Badges (CABs) Jan. 30th by 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment Commander LTC Louis A. Vogler and 101st Combat Aviation Brigade Commander COL Warren E. Phipps, Jr. in a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Iraq. They are (front row, from left to right): CW2 Samuel J. Puentes, CW3 Dennis Hill, Capt. Daniel M. Kane, Capt. John E. Steen, (all Troop B, 2-17 Cav), CW3 Matthew Harris, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, CW4 Allen Godfrey, Troop B, 2-17 Cav., and Maj. William Taylor, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2-17 Cav. (Second row, from left to right): CW2 Aaron R. Thomas, CW2 Robert L. Minton, CW2 Roger E. Strassler, (all of Troop C, 2-17 Cav), CW2 Dan Carbone, CW2 Israel Bailey, and CW2 Scott Ross, (all of Troop B, 2-17 Cav.)

KIRKUK, IRAQ -- Twelve Aviators from 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, were awarded Combat Action Badges (CABs) Jan. 30th by 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment Commander Lt. Col. Louis A. Vogler and 101st Combat Aviation Brigade Commander Col. Warren E. Phipps, Jr, in a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Iraq.

The Combat Action Badge is awarded to non-Infantry Soldiers who engaged, or were engaged by, enemy forces. All 12 of the Soldiers who received the CABs Jan. 30 are OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilots. They came into enemy contact through a variety of circumstances while serving in Iraq, including engaging a group of terrorists fled to a building after being caught attacking an infantry convoy near Ad Dulyah and receiving small arms fire while protecting a civilian contractor convoy.

The Combat Action Badge is a relatively new award. It was approved for creation May 2, 2005, by Army Chief of Staff Peter Schoomaker in recognition of the fact that Soldiers in non-combat arms Military Occupational Specialties are engaging in combat on the modern battlefield. The first badges were awarded June 29, 2005. Prior to the addition of the CAB, Soldiers received the Combat Infantryman's Badge, which is now awarded exclusively to Infantry Soldiers.

So far, 36 other CABs have been approved to be awarded to pilots and Soldiers of 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment in the future.

"I was just doing my job, supporting the guys on the ground," Chief Warrant Officer Two Perry Bowden, one of the pilots in 2-17 Cavalry who will receive the CAB, said.



Pinned

CW4 Allen Godfrey, Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, is awarded the Combat Action Badge from Col. Warren Phipps, Jr., 101st Combat Aviation Brigade commander during a ceremony Jan. 30th at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Iraq. Thirty six other 2-17 Cav Soldiers have already been approved CABs.

NEWS

Pumped Up

Fueling, armament Soldiers help 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment Kiowa helicopters get to fight quickly in Iraq

Story and photos by SGT Ryan Matson
101st Combat Aviation Brigade



Running to the pumps

Soldiers from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade run out to fuel and arm an incoming Kiowa Warrior helicopter at the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment Sabre Forward Arming and Refueling Point on Forward Operating Base Warrior by Kirkuk, Iraq.

KIRKUK, IRAQ - One of the most important parts of aviation missions in Iraq which is often overlooked is the role of the Soldiers who refuel and arm helicopters at the Forward Armament and Refueling Point.

As any 92F, or fueler, will tell you, "the aircraft isn't going anywhere without gas." At Sabre Forward Arming and Refueling Point, pilots tell the armament specialists what ammunition they need for the upcoming mission, and the armament team hastily, but carefully, loads that ammunition.

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“The goal is to get the aircraft in and out within three minutes,” 1LT Tony Pankuk, the Officer in Charge of 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment’s Sabre FARP on Forward Operating Base Warrior near Kirkuk, Iraq, said. “We act like every aircraft coming in is in the middle of a firefight, regardless of the situation.”

Soldiers are on hand in the building along the FARP and run out to meet there helicopters with the fuel, rockets and .50 cal ammo in tow.



Grab a rocket

SPC Chris Howell, an armament specialist with the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, prepares to load a rocket into the pod of a Kiowa Warrior helicopter at Sabre FARP on FOB Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq.

Pankuk’s FARP is a busy place. He said that the Soldiers at the FARP refuel between 25 and 40 aircraft (mostly the squadron’s OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters), each day, and have already pumped more than 750,000 gallons of fuel since arriving in Iraq in September. The fuel point also has fuel trucks that can come out to aircraft. Refueling operations run 24-hours a day, Pankuk said. He said typically every two to three hours another set of aircraft will be arriving, all day and night long, and sometimes it can be much busier than that.

SGT Joshua Moeller, 96th Aviation Support Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, is one of the 15Js, or OH-58D Scout Helicopter armament repairman, who works on the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment FARP at FOB Warrior. He said a 15J will work both at a FARP, as well as on a flight line.

“Our job is two-fold. We work both on the Forward Armament Refueling Point (FARP) as well as on the flight lines. On the FARP, we hot refuel, and re-arm aircraft, so that they can get in and out of the fight, turn around get their fuel, get their armament, go back out and do the job,” Moeller said.

“On the flight line, we also do all the repairs that have to do with anything electrical and avionics, all the armament subsystems, to make sure they function

properly at all times.”

Moeller said he enjoys working on the FARP, because responding quickly to refuel aircraft is a rush.

“I like the FARP the most, because you’re there under the turning rotor blades, it’s intense - you get an adrenaline rush,” Moeller said. “You’re running back and forth to make sure the fuel gets in and the armament and the aircraft get back into the fight. It’s definitely the most exciting part of the job.”

Moeller, from Corona, Calif., works with a team of four other 15Js on his shift – SPC Philip Miller of Tooele, Utah, SPC Chris Howell of Palm Bay, Fla., and SPC Chad Nguyen of Traveler’s Rest, S.C.

While it may not appear to be the most glamorous job in the world, Moeller said he knows the job of the fuelers and armament Soldiers is extremely important.

“I love my job because you can see the benefits as to what’s happening on the battlefield firsthand,” he said. “Even though I may not be flying in the air with the aircraft, I’m affecting the mission. I can still see the affect we’re having on the battlefield.”



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST EVER FOB SPEICHER ... **MARATHON AND 1/2 MARATHON**

FOB SPEICHER WILL HOLD IT'S 1ST EVER MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON SATURDAY, 29 APR 06. THE START TIME AND ROUTE WILL BE RELEASED CLOSER TO THE RACE DATE, AS WILL REGISTRATION INFORMATION. FOR MORE RACE INFO AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE, CONTACT CPT JANET TYE AT JANET.TYE@US.ARMY.MIL OR 1LT LATASHA FLOYD AT LATASHA.FLOYD@US.ARMY.MIL. TO START TRAINING NOW, CONTACT SGT RYAN MATSON AT RYAN.C.MATSON@US.ARMY.MIL

Got an announcement to publicize in Wings of Destiny? E-mail to ryan.c.matson@us.army.mil or call VOIP on Speicher 673-3112

Take Advantage Of... **FREE THEME PARK ADMISSION**

St. Louis, Mo. (Jan. 3, 2006) - A tribute program that provided free admission to Anheuser-Busch theme parks to more than 900,000 members of U.S. and coalition armed forces and their families has been extended through 2006. Anheuser-Busch launched "Here's to the Heroes" in February 2005 to acknowledge the service of military men and women and the sacrifices made by their families.

"It is gratifying to all of us at Anheuser-Busch that so many members of our armed forces took advantage of this program and honored us with a visit," said Keith M. Kasen, chairman and president of Busch Entertainment Corporation, the family entertainment division of Anheuser-Busch. "This is a difficult time for our men and women in uniform and we are honored to give them something back."

Here's to the Heroes provides a single day's free admission to any one SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA for the service member and as many as three of his or her direct dependents. Any active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service member or National Guardsman is entitled to free admission under the program. He or she need only register, either online at www.herosalute.com or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. Also included in the offer are members of foreign military forces serving in the coalitions in Iraq or Afghanistan or attached to American units in the U.S. for training.

"This is one small way we can acknowledge and thank the soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and Coast Guardsmen whose service helps to preserve the freedom and safety of every American," Kasen said. "It's important to all of us at Anheuser-Busch that we show our gratitude to the men and women of our armed forces and their families for the sacrifices they make on our behalf."

Here's to the Heroes is the fourth tribute to military personnel offered by Anheuser-Busch since Yellow Ribbon Summer welcomed service members home from the Gulf War in 1991. More than 3 million people have visited Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks free under these programs. Anheuser-Busch has supported the military for more than 150 years, and in 2005 launched the Here's to the Heroes Tour, which allowed everyday Americans to record video messages of support and thanks for the men and women of the U.S. military. The Heroes Tour traveled more than 29,000 miles to towns and events across America from April through December, collecting messages from more than 11,000 Americans. Working with the America Supports You program, the messages were aired on American Forces Radio and Television Service on U.S. military bases in more than 177 countries and on 150 bases in the United States throughout 2005.

Three Anheuser-Busch parks - SeaWorld Orlando, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and SeaWorld San Diego - operate year round. The company's remaining parks are seasonal, with varying opening dates this spring. Each park's operating schedule is available online.

Inactive, standby and retired reserve members, military retirees, U.S. Merchant Marine and civilian Department of Defense workers are ineligible for the program.

Anheuser-Busch operates nine U.S. theme parks: Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and Busch Gardens Williamsburg; SeaWorld Orlando, SeaWorld San Diego and SeaWorld San Antonio; Discovery Cove in Orlando; Sesame Place near Philadelphia; Water Country USA in Williamsburg and Adventure Island in Tampa. Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks play host to more than 20 million guests each year.

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PARTING SHOTS



Taking care of the Kiowa

Crew chiefs from 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, wash and maintain Kiowa helicopters at Forward Operating Base Warrior by Kirkuk, Iraq.

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