



Always Flying

Sustaining the Fight

March 2015

1100TH THEATER AVIATION SUSTAINMENT MAINTENANCE GROUP

TASK FORCE 16

Commander's Update

Col. Brian Connelly



There's light at the end of the tunnel, but Task Force Retriever is as busy as ever. Operation Enduring Freedom has officially ended—yet we continue our work in Afghanistan under the banner of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. From Kuwait we support the burgeoning Operation Inherent Resolve mission in Iraq, and we're even providing aviation sustainment guidance and expertise to

Task Force Sinai in Egypt. We're some busy Retrievers!

The hours out here are long and conditions are tough. Living quarters are sparse, and the weather is brutal. Yet, to my surprise and immense pride, fully a quarter of this Task Force volunteered to extend their deployment to assist the 1108th TASMG (our replacements) in continuing the Theater Aviation Maintenance Program mission in theater. Now, due to occupational specialty needs and "boots on ground" restrictions, we couldn't approve or justify all those requests, but that there were so many volunteers speaks volumes as to the dedication Task Force Retriever Soldiers have to fulfilling the mission. I know even more Retrievers would have liked to extend, but getting "permission" from loved ones back home isn't quite so easy!

At the end of March and beginning of April timeframe we'll be conducting our Relief in Place with the 1108th TASMG from Gulfport, Mississippi. And in mid-April we'll culminate with a Transfer of Authority ceremony hosted by the Deputy Commanding General of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) . There's a lot to do, and not much time left to do it. We're driving forward and keeping our heads in the game until the very end. And at the end of these long days, when we call, email, or Skype with loved ones back home we will say with great satisfaction "we'll be home next month!"



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Always Flying!
Retriever 6



Left to right: We're No. 1! 1100th TASMG wins 1st Place in the spiritual fitness formation run during Living Army Values week. Col. Brian Connelly shows off a Guardian of the TASMG coin, with Chief Warrant Officer 5 Sam Thomas and Command Sgt. Maj. Nilsa Cruz.

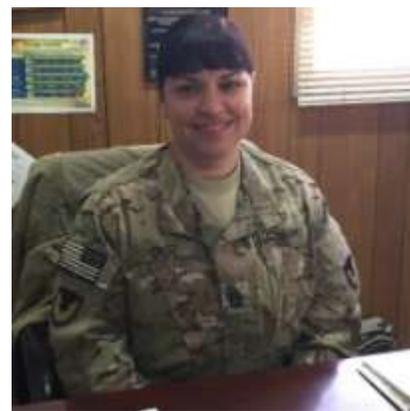
Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Nilsa M. Cruz

Task Force Retriever Families and Friends,

Greetings once again from Kuwait! March is here, and that means that we are going home next month. For those of you who are counting down, we are approaching our arrival to Fort Hood, and each passing day is another day closer to our much anticipated reunion.

Coming home from a deployment brings joy and excitement, and may also bring some challenges. So here are some tips that will help the return and reunion go smoothly.



- **Communicate details of your return plan.** Keep your spouse or family members updated on any changes to the schedule.
- **Understand that it is normal to feel out of sync at first.** If you are married, you may feel out of sync with your spouse as both of you have grown and changed during the separation. This can also be true of close friendships and relationships with family members and children.



Command Sgt. Maj. Nilsa Cruz and Sgt. Vardly St. Preux at the Safety Stand Down.

- **Spend time talking with each other.** Sometimes it is easier to reconnect with your loved ones if you talk while doing something else together, like taking a walk or working out.
- **Ease back into intimacy.** If you are married or in a relationship, ease back in slowly. It is not easy to regain physical and emotional closeness after stressful situations or long separation.
- **Be patient with yourself and your family.** Fatigue, confusion, and worry can lead to short tempers.
- **Tell family members that you are proud of them.** Focus on the positive changes you see at home, and let your family know you appreciate them.
- **Expect your children to test the rules.** If you have children, be prepared for them to test you now that you are back. Set aside time with your spouse or the children's other caregivers to come up with an approach you agree on.
- **Make time in your schedule for family activities.** Include one-on-one time with each of your children.
- **Watch your spending.** It is tempting to celebrate your return with dinners out or special gifts, but it is important to stay within your means.
- **Know when to seek help.** If you, your spouse, or other family members are feeling signs of stress, physical or emotional, it is important to seek expert help -- the earlier the better. Contact your FRG team, any installation's family service center, the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-905-4675 Eastern or 1-866-496-8838 Pacific, or Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647.



Command Sgt. Maj. Nilsa Cruz looks on as Col. Brian Connelly wishes Spc. Mervin Allen safe travels.

Last but not least, I want to thank all of the family members and friends for their support with their thoughts and prayers to keep each one of us safe. Take care and see you soon.



Military OneSource

1-800-342-9641
www.militaryonesource.mil

Maryland Family Readiness Group
Allyson Hash
Allyson.s.hash.ctr@mail.mil
410-612-4120

Command Sgt. Maj. Nilsa Cruz

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Company Commander

Cpt. Marshall Stevens



1100th TASMG Soldiers,
Families and Friends,

This month the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter, visited troops at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait to discuss the campaign against ISIL and to say thanks.

“What you do here in Kuwait is critical to the campaign against ISIL, and I know the weight of effort here in Kuwait, but I also want to recognize the nearly 10,000 Americans throughout the region, not just here in Kuwait, but all of you for your role in this critical campaign. It's critical for the region, it's critical for our nation's security, it's critical for the world,” said Defense Secretary Carter.

I share the Secretary's sentiment that the sacrifices made by our Soldiers and Families are commendable and vital to global stability.

The 1100th TASMG continued its retrograde and aviation maintenance efforts with another month of stellar results. To date, our retrograde teams in Afghanistan and Kuwait have redistributed over \$156 million of equipment. At our Camp Buehring detachment, our UH-60 phase team turned out a Blackhawk phase in 15 days. This was an exceptional feat that gained applause not only for the speed but for the quality performance of the phase. Excellent work, continue your diligence and let's finish this deployment strong.

CPT Marshall J. Stevens

Semper Volans!



TASMG Soldiers get together at Mijana Restaurant in Fahaheel, Kuwait to say good-bye to Soldiers returning to the U.S.

First Sergeant

1st Sgt. David White

1100th Family,



It has been another great month with even more accomplishments made by the TASMG Soldiers. I am so proud of our (your) Soldiers. The 1100th TASMG has been awarded

the “The U.S. Army Safety Excellence Streamer” given to us by Major General Darrell K. Williams, Commander, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater).

The award reads:

“The 1100th TASMG experienced zero Class A or B accidents within a one year period. Your dedicated commitment and attention to detail were indicative of the resolve to make safety a command imperative. This record reflects great credit upon 1100th TASMG, the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), U.S. Army Central and the United States Army.”

That means we are doing great things while deployed and when at home. Our Soldiers have made safety a priority! This helps ensure a safe return to all of our loved ones. Again, I am very proud of our Soldiers.

More good news: Sgt. Paulette Smith and Sgt. Billie Arrant are currently attending the Warrior Leader Course (WLC) and are scheduled to graduate on 10 March. Cpl. Damion Rasberry and Spc. Daneaa Natt are scheduled to attend the next WLC class starting on 14 March.

As I have said before, none of our accomplishments would be possible without the love and support of all of our family, loved ones and friends. Again, I want to thank the FRG and all of the organizations that continue to support us with gifts, cards and kind words. Thank you!

God Bless,
Top



1st Sgt. David White awards Certificates of Appreciation to Soldiers who participated in last month's Mass Casualty Exercise.

Task Force 16 – Detachment 1



Left to right: Spc. Henry Dedrick and Spc. Danea Natt wait for a flight at Ali Al-Salem. Sgt. Blessing Enosin stops by for a chat. Sgt. Cipriano Rodriguez finishes some paperwork before the end of the duty day.



Left to right: Sgt. Joseph Henry recycles. Sgt. 1st Class Larry Hudler is on his way to a meeting. The Safety Council gets ready to plan additional training for TASMG Soldiers.



Left to right: Sgt. 1st Class Brian Hall checks in with Staff Sgt. Adrienne Toliver. Spc. Shawn Reed catches up on his homework. Spc. Benjamin Wentz and Spc. Demitrius Jenkins discuss finance issues.



Left to right: Sgt. Christopher Cox goes to check on the bus. Spc. Mark Stevenson re-images a computer. Sgt. Joshua Jackson is ready to go home.



Left to right: Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Olsh gives Spc. Shawn Reed some advice. Staff Sgt. Lelia McLean and Staff Sgt. Tonia Matthews are all smiles. Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Plummer and Sgt. 1st Class Brian Hall watch a safety demonstration.

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Lonny Wortham

The Seven Army Values



It is common knowledge Joseph Stalin prohibited his guards from entering his private bed chambers on the pain of death. One day, in a test of their resilience, Stalin decided to scream as if in great agony. When the loyal guards came to their master's aid they were duly



executed for failing to follow orders. When Stalin did actually endure a paralyzing seizure, while alone in his bedroom, none of his guards dared to come to his aid, in

fear of reprisal. He was later found semi-conscious on the floor of the room. He died within a week.

When people use fear and intimidation in their relationships, people are never sure how to approach you and maintain an effective healthy relationship. When Stalin needed help the most, he had people around him that feared him but were not loyal to him. With loyalty there is a commitment no matter what but fear hinders loyalty and creates an atmosphere of blind obedience.

Nurture loyalty by treating others the same way you would like to be treated: By respecting the opinions of others and by developing trust through open, honest communication.



The old Russian army had a tradition that when a sentinel had been posted, he could be relieved or withdrawn only by the officer who had posted him, or by the Czar himself. During the First World War there was the story of a Russian soldier who was posted as a sentinel in a dangerous position. The officer who posted this sentinel was killed in battle, and the soldier refused to leave his post until an order came from the Czar himself.

This soldier understood what it meant to do his duty. He didn't just dot the I's and cross the T's; he chose to fulfill his moral and legal obligation to his commander. He didn't look for loop holes or short cuts. We have a duty to fulfill as Soldiers in the U.S. Army. It is both a moral and legal obligation. It affects how we do our jobs, how we treat each other and how we respond to those in authority.

When we fully embrace this value, sexual assaults will decrease and UCMJ violations will be the exception not the norm. The reality is when we learn to live with integrity and character the need for rules decreases. When we fully embrace our duty to God, family, and country it will radically transform the way we live our lives.

Many great men and women are buried in the floor of the Westminster Abbey in London. Visitors



walk over their tombs without hesitation...all but one. There is one tomb that no one walks over. Even the Queen at her Coronation walked around it. It is the tomb of Britain's Unknown Soldier. If an unknown soldier deserves such respect, should we not have greater respect for those we love, live with, and work with.

Of all the Army Values, *respect* is one of the most difficult and challenging to both understand and implement. There is an old adage which says, "respect given is respect earned." Unfortunately there are many in the military who don't agree with that saying. A military leader can demand respect from subordinates regardless of their own personal character and behavior however, this type of hypocrisy will only fuel ill will and dissension in a unit.

This third value is so important but it does not and cannot stand on its own; it involves trust, honesty, and commitment; then and only then can respect become the glue which holds every kind of relationship together. A leader who wants respect must always give respect. In order for a military unit to fully realize the value of respect, leaders must embrace their role by leading from the front and modeling for the soldiers around them. "What does respect look like?" When respect becomes the primary principle which guides our decision making and choices more people will experience the hope and success that comes when we place value and worth on the people around us.



The Dalai Lama XIV once said "Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them." Take a moment to consider the meaning of "selfless service." *Selfless* means concerned more with the needs and wishes of others than with one's own and *service* means the action of doing work or good for others.



Selfless service is a Soldier's responsibility to put the needs of other Soldiers above their own by doing what is best for that person. Much of the military life requires managing one's own

career: APFTs, military life requires managing one's own career: APFTs, military schools, and preparing for promotion boards. In today's culture it is easy to find oneself taking care of our own career and overlooking the needs of the Soldiers around us.

It doesn't take that much to look out for the people around you but you must make some specific choices: Be willing to find out what the people around you need; Take time to consider the role you can and should play to assist them; Develop a plan in concert with the person in need and implement it. Selfless Service is a choice and if we make that choice life will be better for everyone.



With regard to basic grammar honor is both a noun and a verb. As a noun *honor* is indicative of thoughts of high respect and esteem about someone or something. As a verb *honor* is conveyed to someone or something that has worth and value.

Honor takes on two specific forms: the way we approach others and the way we conduct ourselves. In the first case honoring others requires a clear understanding of honor: high respect, esteem, distinction, and recognition. These attributes should be conveyed to those who distinguish themselves through meritorious acts, those who display excellent character, and those who are senior to us. This can be difficult because once a person determines that someone doesn't deserve honor they are very reluctant to convey it.

The politician and Essayist, Joseph Addison described honor this way, "Better to die ten thousand deaths, Than wound my honor." Addison truly understood what it meant to be a man of honor and his quote challenges each and every one of us to live our lives with the same type of commitment.

As an Army Value, integrity is important because it speaks to the consistency of actions, values, methods, principles, and morals.



Since Soldiers carry weapons, make life and death decisions, and have the power and responsibility over the lives of other soldiers, integrity should not be seen as optional but necessary. The person who has integrity recognizes the importance of taking care of the small things properly. Take a moment to consider how something small can affect something big.

Scientists now say that a series of slits, not a giant gash, sank the Titanic. The opulent, 900-foot cruise ship sank in 1912 on its first voyage. Fifteen hundred people died in the worst maritime disaster of the time. The most widely held theory was that the ship hit an iceberg, which opened a huge gash in the side of the liner. But an international team of divers and scientists recently used sound waves to probe the wreckage. Their discovery? The damage was surprisingly small. Instead of the huge gash, they found six narrow slits across the six watertight holds.

Small damage, invisible to most, can sink not only a great ship but a great reputation. Living with integrity will keep you from sinking when facing difficulty or adversity. When living your life in front of others you are like the Titanic sailing on the open sea. Above the water you look great and sound great but it is those hidden areas under the water where we are most vulnerable: our relationships, finances, and career.

Becoming a person of integrity takes intentionality, discipline, and courage.

The final Army Value is *personal courage*. Doing what is right takes strength and courage without which, most people simply 'go with the flow'. May these quotes inspire each of us to embody courage at a deeper level.



Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth. Do the right thing because it is right. These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity. **W. Clement Stone**

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. **Winston Churchill**

Have no fear of moving into the unknown. Simply step out fearlessly knowing that I am with you, therefore no harm can befall you; all is very, very well. Do this in complete faith and confidence. **Pope John Paul II**

Detachment 2: Afghanistan

Cpt. Michael Bertsch, Detachment Commander

1100th TASMG Family, Friends and Supporters,

We are rolling into our last full month in country and are experiencing the bitter cold and snow just like those of you who live on the east coast, but spring is just around the corner. We hope all of our families are staying warm, staying safe, and most importantly, staying positive as we near the end of the deployment.



This past month the Soldiers of DET 2 focused on continuing the retrograde efforts in Kandahar and Bagram, while expanding operations within the area of operations.. A small retrograde team, spearheaded by 1st Lt. Ashley Meister traveled to a remote location, where they inventoried and prepared over 4,315 lines of bench stock and Prescribed Load List items for movement to Bagram, where it will be further classified and retrograded out of theater.



DET 2 Soldiers wish a fair well to the TAMP FOB representatives.

This month Soldiers of DET 2 identified and processed more than \$16.2 million worth of Class IX aviation parts, tools, and equipment in BAF and KAF, adding to a total value of \$244 million of items identified in Afghanistan to date. The demand for the skillsets of Technical Inspectors assigned to DET 2 continues to increase, as they carefully inspected over 500 aviation components to determine their airworthiness. The Logisticians and maintenance personnel continued to tirelessly sort, inventory, palletize and ship aviation components out of theater



Sgt. 1st Class Heather Lussier, Staff Sgt. Van Nguyen, and Sgt. Jason Lawrence teach a class at the Forward Issue Turn-in Point.

where the items can be utilized to support other operations throughout the CENTCOM AOR. The aircrews in DET 2 continued to support combat aviation operations of the 82nd CAB, logging over 50 hours of flight time. As we draw closer to the end of our time here, our retrograde mission continues to grow. We are actively preparing for the arrival of our counterparts as we transition the mission to the 1108th for the continued aviation retrograde mission throughout Afghanistan.

In addition to the retrograde mission, we expanded our mission by providing Soldiers and contractors at the Forward Issue and Turn-In Points (FITIP) at Kandahar and Jalalabad Airfields, academic instruction, focusing on the proper handling, packaging, cleaning, and shipping of costly aviation components. The academic instruction was provided by two of our subject matter experts, Sgt. 1st Class Heather Lussier and Sgt. Jason Lawrence.



Spc. Francis Chenui masters his skill on the forklift.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families, friends, and community organizations for their unconditional support throughout this deployment. Your generosity and dedication to our organization has been remarkable and we are extremely thankful for your kind letters, comforting care packages, encouraging words, and prayers. The next few weeks will be hectic, but it is important that we fight complacency, remain mission focused, and end the mission the way we started it, like professionals.

Task Force 16 – Detachment 2



Sgt. 1st Class Heather Lussier, Sgt. Jason Lawrence and Cpt. Michael Bertsch at Jalalabad Airfield.



Spc. Brandon Moore receives a Valentine's Day care package at Bagram Airfield.



Staff Sgt. Willie Johnson loves his big green tractor.



Cpt. Michael Bertsch receives a care package from home.



Staff Sgt. Van Nguyen, 1st Lt. Ashley Meister, Staff Sgt. Willie Johnson and Spc. Francis Chenui work inside a connex.



Bagram Soldiers receive Valentine's Day cards.



Sgt. Jason Lawrence receives an AAM. ⁸

Relationship Enrichment Soldier Training

by Staff Sgt. Ramona Robles

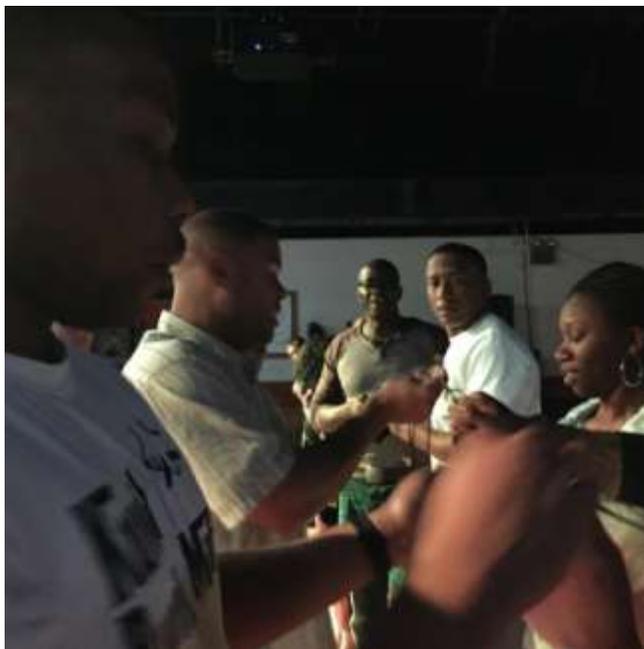


Ch. Leo Mora and Ch. Lonny Wortham teach important concepts for better relationships at the REST program.

Camp As-Sayliyah, QATAR—Soldiers from 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), including ten Soldiers from the 1100th TASMG got an opportunity to travel to Qatar for spiritual resiliency training. The program, Relationship Enrichment Soldier Training (REST), was taught by Ch. Lonny Wortham and Ch. Leo Mora. “The purpose of this program is to help soldiers focus on building healthy relationships,” said Ch. Wortham.

Over the two day period, Soldiers discussed topics such as emotional intelligence, negative emotions and forgiveness. Sgt. Blessing Enosin was glad of the opportunity to attend the two-day retreat, and said he learned a great deal from the course. “The concepts were eye-opening,” said Enosin. “I didn’t really know about emotional intelligence before this class. Now I have a better understanding on how to address my wife and my family.”

“Relationships are skill-based,” said Ch. Wortham. “Anything you learn can be learned and unlearned. The REST program will provide the foundation for the skills you need to forge better relationships.” Dealing with negative emotions can be difficult and many of us do not express ourselves well. Many of our difficulties in relationships come from past pain, lack of skill, cultural barriers and individual issues. The course allowed students the opportunity to share their personal experiences, which Sgt. Joseph Henry found beneficial. “The experiences my classmates shared serve as lessons learned for the rest of us. The benefit is better relationships with our friends, family and peers.”



Ch. Lonny Wortham demonstrates how healthy relationships keep us better connected.



In addition to the classes, attendees spent time relaxing in a stress-free environment. As-Sayliyah offered Soldiers bowling, miniature golf and a well-equipped gym. In the evening, chaplains stationed at As-Sayliyah took the Soldiers off-post to the

local souk and a high-end mall. “It was good to be in a relaxing environment so we could take time to focus on how we perceive relationships and how we interact with other human beings,” said Henry.

“Some of these topics were very important, very powerful. Two days wasn’t enough time,” Enosin said. Ch. Wortham agreed with that statement. “Two days is simply not enough time to retrain the mind how to appropriately convey negative emotions. You will not learn all you need to know about forgiveness in a two-day period. The REST program is a catalyst for further action.” Ch. Wortham encourages Soldiers to seek further assistance, and suggests reaching out to a counselor, a pastor or other mentor. “Even a good book can go a long way to becoming aware that we should work on ourselves and our relationships.”



Sgt. Blessing Enosin, Private 1st Class Brandon Sweeney, Sgt. Colin York, Staff Sgt. Ramona Robles, Sgt. Joshua Jackson, Spc. Henry Dedrick, Ch. Lonny Wortham, Sgt. Cipriano Rodriguez, Spc. Daneaa Natt and Sgt. Cody Kaufman in Qatar.

Detachment 3: Camp Buehring

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Luke Anderson

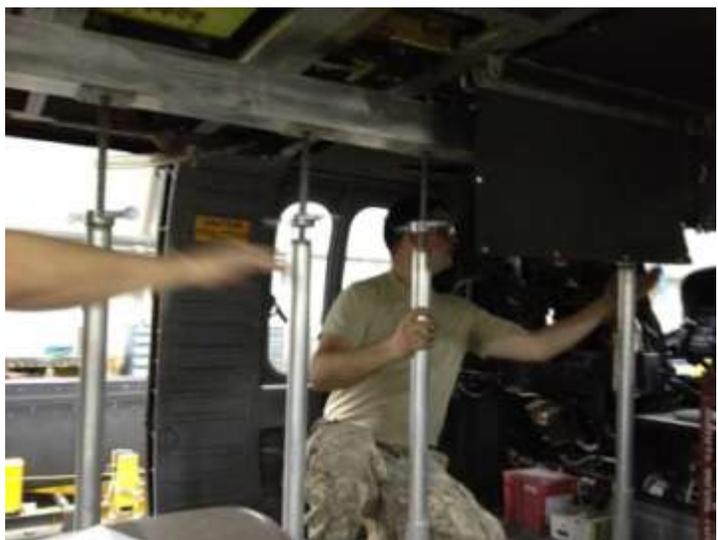
As we anticipate our replacements' arrival, our workload here has not subsided. If anything, Detachment 3 is getting busier as we come to a close. All of our Soldiers continue to perform well. They are keeping their heads in the game as they perform the last structural repairs of our tour.



Everything is all good according to Sgt. Michael Anderson.



Spc. Nikkia Brown tries out the pilot's seat at Udairi Airfield, Kuwait.



Sgt. Jeff Holter removes shoring from an aircraft at Udairi Airfield.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Westervelt at Camp Arifjan for the Safety Stand Down.



DET 3 Soldiers attend the Safety Stand Down brief at Camp Arifjan.

While the workload is heavy for DET 3, we still make time to take breaks and take advantage of the Kuwaiti culture. Recently, we went to the Avenues Mall, the largest in the country, and the Souk Market, an open air market where local street vendors and Soldiers haggle over prices. It was a great experience, and the Soldiers of DET 3 appreciate the time away, eating new foods and experiencing a different way of life.

Everyone at DET 3 is anxiously awaiting the return back to their families and friends in the States. While the experience has been one that the Soldiers can take with them throughout their military career, everyone is ready to get back home. The Soldiers of DET 3 have done an outstanding job supporting the maintenance of the 34th CAB and all aircraft assigned. They never relented when challenges presented themselves. The true professionals that are the Soldiers of Detachment 3 embody the foundations of what it is to be a noncommissioned officer: Be, Know Do. And they do it well.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Westervelt, Staff Sgt. David Angle and Sgt. Eric Suchy take a break from maintenance.

Soldier Spotlight: Spc. Monique Conley

Interview by 1st Lt. Ashley Meister



Spc. Monique Conley holds a 92A (Logistics Specialist) MOS and is currently stationed at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. She calls Baltimore, MD her home and will have been in the Army for two years in April.

What position do you currently hold at Bagram Airfield? Please explain your daily duties and responsibilities.

I am currently the Logistics Lead for our Retrograde Operations in BAF. I perform majority of the logistics functions or supply duties, including maintaining and managing hand receipts, issuing requests and turning in documentation. I also track all our inbound and outbound retrograde parts and equipment returning to the supply chain.

You have been living at Bagram for many months now, what is something you look forward to after you get off of work?

Usually, I spend my evenings doing physical training, however when I'm not in the gym I spend my down time on myself. This includes calling home, reading a book, or simply relaxing and enjoying my personal space.

This having been your first deployment, would you say deployment life is what you expected prior to coming here?

This being my first deployment I knew the obvious: I'll be working, however I didn't have any set expectations. Despite the stories I've heard, I began this deployment with an open mind. As for the food...I have no comments!

What family members are you missing the most back at home? Do you have a shout out you would like to give them?

Anyone who has taken the time to speak to me knows I am a mother; more than anything I miss my little boy. Mommy loves you, Khalil!

Overall, what has been your favorite part about this deployment?

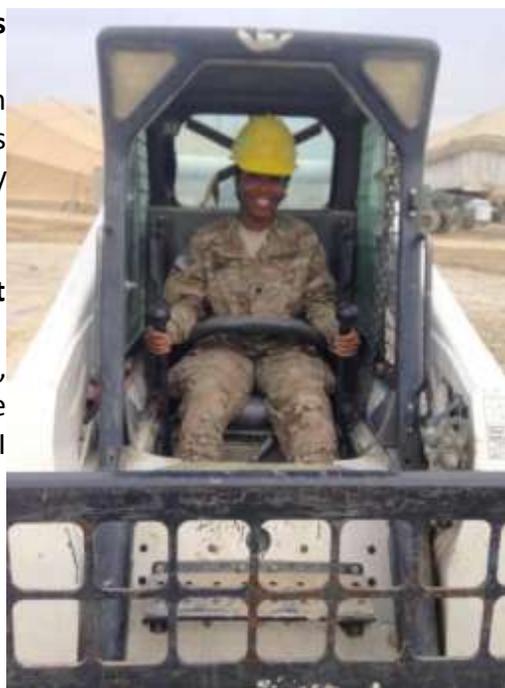
My favorite part of this deployment would have to be the comradery I've experienced. I have met several individuals that I can see myself staying in touch with upon my return home.

How have you enjoyed deploying with an Aviation unit? Have you learned a lot about the aviation community and what they serve to do?

1100th TASMG is my first unit, so I don't have much to compare to. Nonetheless, I've learned so much about aviation within this brief period of time. I wouldn't say I am a subject matter expert, but I will say I have a lot more knowledge than I did my first drill day.

Do you have anything else you'd like to add?

During this deployment I had the pleasure of crossing paths with some awesome leaders. As I mentioned earlier, I am barely two years into this organization and I've already learned so much. I sincerely thank those leaders that helped mold me personally and professionally.



Lastly, if you could take one thing out of this experience that you have either learned about yourself or that has made you into a better person, what would that be?

One thing I took of this experience is how humble it has made me. Personally, it is mind-blowing to observe the locals so in sync with their higher power and appreciative of the simple things we take for granted. This deployment has been a humbling experience for me; I doubt I'll ever have another ungrateful moment.

Section Focus: S3

By 1st Lt. Ashley Meister

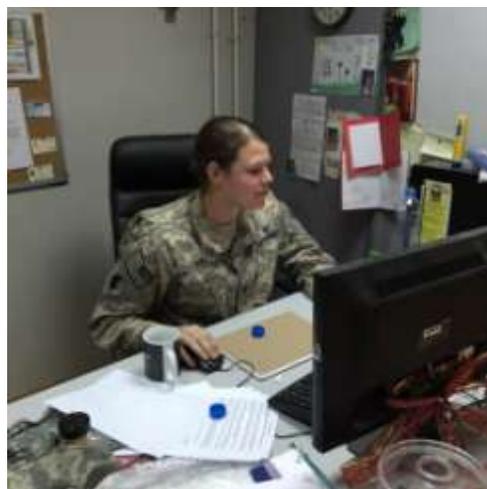


Maj. Christian Hall discusses re-deployment.

The S3 shop is the central hub of an organization. S3 is responsible for mission planning, training, operations and movement. "S3 can be described as 'jack-of-all-trades,'" says Maj. Christian Hall, officer-in-charge. "We're pretty much masters of the universe. It is not possible to get the job done without S3." With 16 years in the Army, Hall has deployed four times. Each deployment has its own unique set of challenges. "For me, the exposure to depot maintenance and sustainment activities has been invaluable."

With the deployment 90% complete, S3 is now focused on redeployment and synchronizing the transition of the 1100th and 1108th. Hall must coordinate with Fort Hood, the demobilization site, and prepare them for the arrival of the 1100th. "It is not simply a matter of Soldiers showing up. There is training, equipment turn-in, and ensuring our Soldiers are taken care of medically." Hall urges Soldiers not to worry about redeployment process. S3 has refined and supervised the TASMG redeployment/demobilization activities. "Soldiers and families should focus on their reintegration plan. Once that is complete, makes plans for vacation. The goal should be quality time between Soldiers and families."

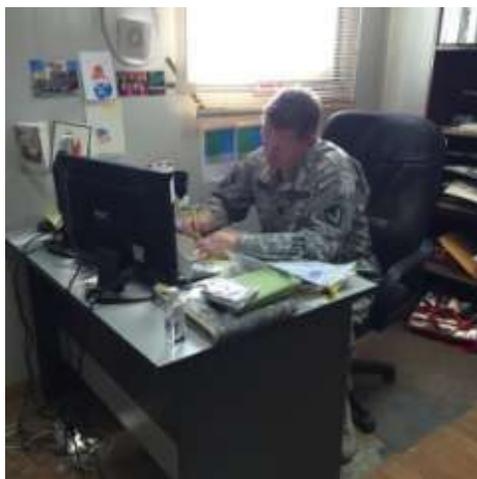
Sgt. Maj. Thomas Suraci has served in the Maryland National Guard for 24 years, following four years on Active Duty. As the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of S3, he is responsible for all training and readiness of the battalion. "For redeployment, there are quite a few timelines. Training doesn't stop just because we're coming home." Training can include the APFT, weapons qualifications, and annual requirements. Suraci states his position can be both challenging and rewarding. A short suspense from higher headquarters can be difficult because it takes time to coordinate transportation and resources. "On the other hand, it is rewarding because I know everything we do has a direct result on the combat power of the aviation brigades we support."



Sgt. Amanda King reviews TASMG's order of merit list before sending it up to higher headquarters.

Sgt. Amanda King is a 15P, or aviation operations specialist. Her many tasks include managing orders and coordinating requirements for the Warrior Leader Course (WLC) order of merit list. "We will have Soldiers attending WLC all the way up until the day we depart theater," says King. She attends a bi-weekly training and exercise meeting to discuss the importance of a complete WLC packet, which includes APFT scores, height/weight records and Structured Self-Development certifications. If even one item is missing from the packet, the Soldier could lose the opportunity to attend WLC, the first of the NCO education system (NCOES) schools. "A National Guard Soldier doesn't want to miss this chance. It is so much easier to get into WLC here in theater," says King.

King is also the travel manager for the unit, responsible for submitting out of country travel packets for any Soldier moving around within the area of operations. "On my first deployment I was responsible for Soldiers outside the unit; this time my focus is on Soldiers organic to the TASMG."



Sgt. Maj. Thomas Suraci is focused on the unit's redeployment plan.



Staff Sgt. Ramona Robles has nine years of service and two deployments.

Staff Sgt. Ramona Robles is technically S2, but this shop traditionally falls under S3. As a 35F, all-source intelligence analyst, Robles mostly works outside of her MOS on this deployment. Instead of intel work, she is the unit security manager, responsible for security clearances, sensitive item access and classified information.

The challenge in her position is that Soldiers are spread out across three different locations, each with its own set of requirements. What exacerbates the situation is that a Soldier's security issue must be worked through the home state. "We get through it, but it's easier when you already have an established relationship."

Robles assists S3 wherever she can. She is responsible for the Commander's Update Brief and assists with unit personnel movement. For redeployment purposes, she will assist S1 with the Transfer of Authority ceremony.



Awards, Promotions and Recognition

Awards

- Bronze Star Medal – Maj. David Magness
- Meritorious Service Medal – 1st Sgt. David White
- Army Commendation Medal – Spc. Mervin Allen
- Army Commendation Medal – Spc. Marcus McGee
- Army Achievement Medal – Sgt. Jason Lawrence
- Army Achievement Medal – Spc. Thomas Albert
- Army Achievement Medal – Spc. Charles Brauning
- Army Achievement Medal – Spc. Karl Fujimoto
- 82d Commander’s Coin – Staff Sgt. Van Nguyen
- 82d Commander’s Coin – Spc. Gregory Hobbs



Spc. Karl Fujimoto is awarded the Army Achievement Medal.



Spc. Mervin Allen receives the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, and several other awards for his service in Afghanistan and Kuwait.



Soldiers in Kandahar after receiving their 82d CAB awards.



Soldiers who participated in February’s Mass Casualty Exercise were awarded Certificates of Appreciation.



1st Sgt. David White is awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his service as First Sergeant during the deployment.

Promotions

Teneka King - Sergeant



Staff Sgt. Lelia McLean pins the rank of sergeant on Teneka King.

Safety Awards

1st Lt. Ryan Jack
 Sgt. Maj. Thomas Suraci
 Sgt. 1st Class Brian Hall
 Sgt. 1st Class Larry Hudler
 Staff Sgt. Jonathan DeLong
 Staff Sgt. Tonia Matthews
 Staff Sgt. Adrienne Toliver
 Sgt. Fred Balanza
 Sgt. Blessing Enosin

Sgt. Joseph Henry
 Sgt. Joshua Jackson
 Sgt. Paulette Smith
 Spc. Henry Dedrick
 Spc. Demetrious Jenkins
 Spc. Marcus McGee
 Spc. Benjamin Wentz
 Spc. Shawn Reed
 PV2 Chaunce Eskridge



Spc. Marcus McGee receives an Army Commendation Medal from Ch. (Cpt.) Christopher Gueydan, for his service with the Camp Arifjan Pentecostal Choir and Ministry Team.



Col. Brian Connelly awards Maj. David Magness with a Bronze Star.



Staff Sgt. Van Nguyen received an excellence coin from the 82d Combat Aviation Brigade Commander.

Course Completion

Command Sgt. Maj. Nilsa Cruz – COMPTIA Advanced Security Practitioner (80 hours)
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Stahecki – Interconnecting CISCO Networking Devices, Part I (80 hours)
 Spc. Mark Stevenson – COMPTIA A+ (80 hours)
 Sgt. Billie Arrant – Warrior Leader Course
 Sgt. Paulette Smith – Warrior Leader Course



Sgt. Billie Arrant and Sgt. Paulette Smith, graduates of Warrior Leader Course.



Command Sgt. Maj. Nilsa Cruz, Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Stahecki and Spc. Mark Stevenson receive certificates for completing their 80 hour courses at ARCENT Signal University.

Safety Officer

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Delong

Safety Awards

I would just like to say thank you to all of our Soldiers with 1100th TASMG who participated in the February Mass Casualty Exercise. Your enthusiasm and noble efforts in playing your roles has vibrated the strings of how prepared the Army is during an Emergency Management event. Seventeen of our Soldiers in the 1100th TASMG deservedly were awarded safety impact awards and certificates for their participation in the exercise.



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Delong awards PV2 Chaunce Eskridge with a Safety Award for her participation in last month's Mass Casualty Exercise.

Safety Stand Down

As it gets closer to our redeployment we need to focus on being ready for our return home. Excitement and complacency play hand-in-hand. Though we are all excited to be with our loved ones there is still an element of our mission that is

incomplete, handing the mission over and focusing on what we need to do to get home safely. At our Safety Stand Down we covered topics such as motorcycle safety, fire prevention, and gun safety which are amongst the highest of the Army's fatal accidents. All Soldiers need to use the buddy system and look out for each other as we head home.

Motorcycle Safety

Whether you are ready to buy your first bike or you already have one, the key is to be familiar with how to ride it and what to look out for while you are on the road. Each military base hosts resident courses on beginner and intermediate motorcycle licensed riders. By going to these courses Soldiers can learn more than if they are learning as they go. These courses will make you aware of hazards, how to develop controls for safe riding and become a better rider. Please do not put your life in someone else's hands, make sure you are in control while on the road.

Black Ice Safety

For our loved ones at home, winter driving can be a dangerous task. Even though you are a good driver on snow and ice it does not mean the car next to you is. If you can justify not going to the store or going into work during a storm, you have completely alleviated that risk of getting into an accident. Plan your trips before the storms come or once you know the roads have been cleared. On roads where black ice is a concern (shaded areas during the day or driving at night) take it slow and give plenty of space between you and the car in front of you.

We all want our families to be safe and that is why we are over here. We all have a piece to contribute to the safety of our families and fellow Soldiers.



TASMG Soldiers attend a class on fire extinguisher use.



Cpl. Damion Rasberry properly extinguishes a fire during the Safety Stand Down.



A Camp Arifjan firefighter brings over a fire extinguisher for TASMG Soldiers to inspect.



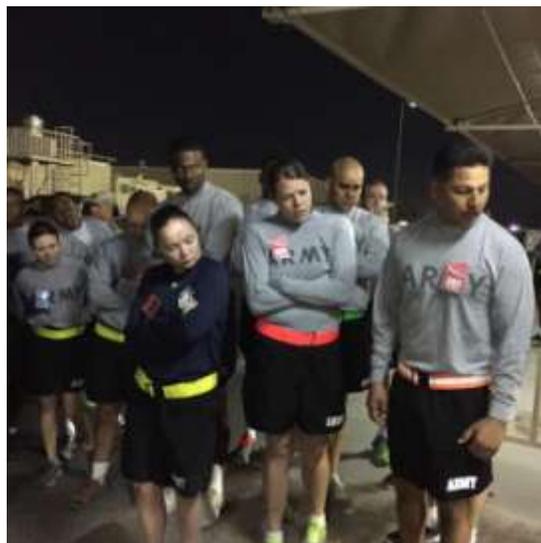
Staff Sgt. Lelia McLean performs a check of a fire extinguisher to ensure it has not expired.

Living Army Values Week

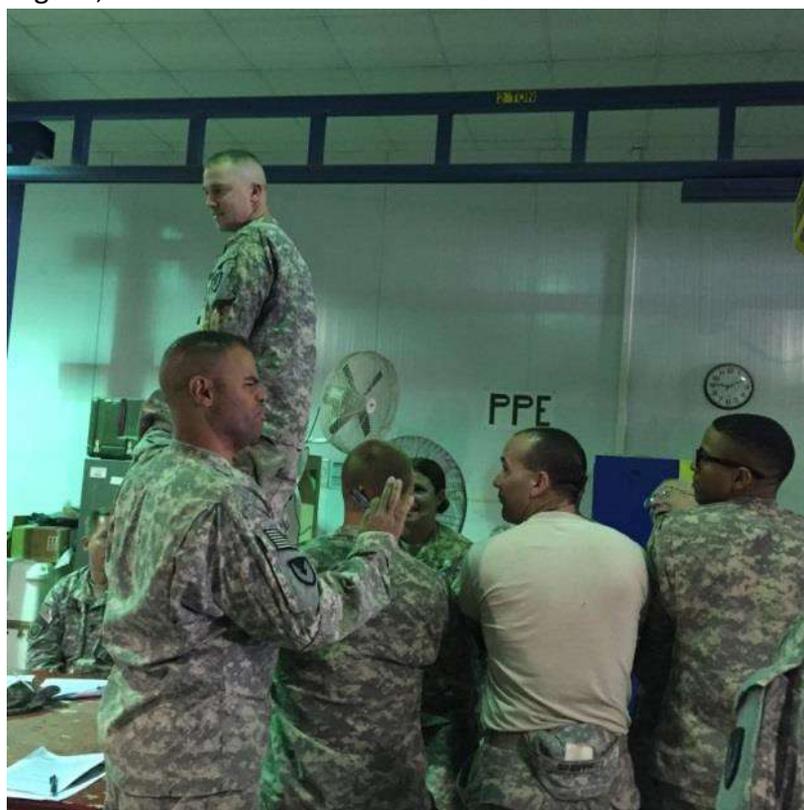


Living Army Values (LAV) week is a spiritual fitness initiative designed to reinforce the seven Army Values. Ch. (Col.) Raymond Robison of 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) hosted several events to mark the occasion.

1st Lt. Ryan Jack, Staff Sgt. George Harrod, Sgt. Amanda King, Sgt. Cipriano Rodriguez, Spc. Henry Dedrick and Spc. Benjamin Wentz competed in the first event, a 2-mile race. All of the Soldiers turned in excellent times, but no one could top Sgt. Markevous Humphreys of 3d Sustainment Brigade, who turned in an overall time of 10:56.



Soldiers listen to instructions ahead of the 2-mile race.



Ch. Lonny Wortham assists Sgt. Christopher Cox and other TASMG Soldiers in an exercise designed to exemplify teamwork.

The next event was the spiritual fitness 5K formation run. Each unit was evaluated based on motivation and morale during the run. TASMG took the top honor in that event, winning first place for displaying exceptional esprit de corps.

TASMG also competed in the LAV Week Leadership Bowl. Spc. Benjamin Wentz, Sgt. Blessing Enosin, Sgt. Joseph Henry, Staff Sgt. Ramona Robles, Staff Sgt. Norman Nakai, Sgt. Fred Balanza and team captain PV2 Chaunce Eskridge gave it their best shot during the Bowl, but could not overcome teams from 3d Sustainment Brigade and 13th Sustainment Command (Theater).

During the TASMG event, Ch. Lonny Wortham broke the unit into groups of five and had each group work through a series of scenarios involving the Army Values. At the end of the session, Ch. Wortham focused on teamwork to better espouse the values. Soldiers got an opportunity to test their level of trust within the unit.

In addition to these events, there was also a prayer breakfast and guest speaker Mike Domirtz of the Date Safe Project.



The TASMG formation.



Sgt. Amanda King, Cpt. John Reinhart, Cpt. Marshall Stevens and Sgt. Elias Wagner discuss integrity, one of the seven Army Values.



Morale, Welfare and Recreation



DET 1 and DET 3 Soldiers get an opportunity to relax and catch up with one another during a TASMG cookout. Sgt. Joshua Jackson and Sgt. Blessing Enosin worked the grill, while others enjoyed a friendly game of softball.



Congratulations to Sgt. Elias Wagner and his wife Shekinah Wagner. Baby Elias Christopher Wagner II was born 21 January, weighing 3 lbs, 4 ounces. Mother and baby are doing just fine. Welcome to the TASMG family, Elias Jr.



TASMG Soldiers at Mijana Restaurant.

We want your photos!

Please submit a photo to:
ASHLEY.E.MEISTER.MIL@MAIL.MIL
SHELBY.R.ROBLES.MIL@MAIL.MIL

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[HHD 1100th Theater Aviation Sustainment](#)



Birthdays

- Sgt. Fred Balanza – 3 March
- Sgt. Maj. Thomas Suraci – 8 March
- Chief Warrant Officer 5 Sam Thomas – 14 March
- Master Sgt. William Fowler – 17 March
- Spc. Benjamin Wentz – 19 March
- Spc. Roberto Adams – 26 March