

Since the activation of the "Eagle Strike" battalion, the unit has been involved in numerous deployments to JRTC, NTC, Ocean Venture, and also Honduras in support of Joint Task Force Bravo.

As the Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August of 1990, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) was given the order to deploy troops in support of "Operation Desert Shield". Although very young in its development, 9-101st was selected to command and experience its first rendezvous with destiny. Task Force 9-101 was the first unit to deploy to Southwest Asia. The Task Force consisted of 625 Personnel, 30 - UH-60A, 3 - UH-60V, 2 - UH-60A C&C, 2 EH-60A, 15 - CH-47D, 5 - UH-1h helicopters and 66 vehicles.

During Desert Shield from 20 August 1990 - 16 January 1991, the unit accumulated a total of 2166.5 flight hours. During "Desert Storm", from 17 January - 15 March 1991, TF 9-101 flew a total of 1506.6 hours, of which 1490.5 were combat.

Initial deployment and pre-combat operations were flown in support of

Presidential Visit

Congressional Visit

News Media and Protocol

CINC, GEN Norman Schwarzkopf

ARCENT

XVIII Airborne Corps

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

24th Infantry Division (Mechanized)

VII Corps

1st Cavalry Division

Events of significance of TF 9-101 while deployed to Southwest Asia are:

First Air Assault aviation unit to deploy to Saudi Arabia.

First Air Assault aviation unit to become operational in country.

First to deploy to northern Saudi Arabia in support of defensive operations.

First to deploy to northwest Saudi Arabia in posture for offensive operations.

First Air Assault unit to cross the Line of Departure in support of enemy prisoner extraction.

First Air Assault aviation unit into:

King Fahd International Airport

LAB Oasis

FOB Syifa

Hafar Al Batin

Iraq

Flying over 3673 hours, to include combat, without incident while deployed to Southwest Asia.

As Operation Restore/Continued Hope was ongoing in the country of Somalia, the 9-101st AVN REGT was called upon to answer the call of the nation. On 23 July 1993, "Team Courage" was assembled to support ongoing operations of American forces already deployed to Somalia. "Team Courage" departed Fort Campbell on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1993 to a place which they would not soon forget.

During their tour in Somalia, "Team Courage" encountered some austere battlefield conditions. No one had predicted that US forces would encounter such a threatening environment. Up to this point everything had been going very well except for some minor encounters with Somali gunmen.

Not even a month had gone by since "Team Courage" arrived in country, when they were marred with tragedy. On 2 September 1993, while on a night reconnaissance mission, a unit Blackhawk came under fire by Somali gunmen. PFC Jason Ammons, who was a door gunner for that mission, received several injuries caused by small arms fire. This was the start of what came to be a very difficult situation for days to come.

On 25 September 1993, while assigned as cover ship for a sniper mission, the crew of another Blackhawk was shot down by a rocket propelled grenade over the city of Mogadishu. The two pilots, CW2 Dale Schrader and CW2 Perry Allman, survived the crash. Although having suffered injuries and burns from the crash, they managed to escape and evade Somali gunmen and make it to safety. The rest of the crew was not as lucky and perished in the explosion. PFC Matt Anderson and SGT Eugene Williams (door gunners), along with the passengers on that mission, made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for what freedom stands for. The rest of "Team Courage" and their loved ones back home will never forget their bravery and sacrifice.

From this moment on, the optempo simply increased more and more each day. On one particular day the crews from "Team Courage" Flew a total of an exhausting 29 missions. One of these particular missions was one flown by CW2 Curt SW2 Ragan, SGT Hakola, and SPC Goodale. The crew was launched as Platoon from the 10th mountain Division came under heavy fire and was pinned down somewhere in Northern Mogadishu. The Aircrew managed to arrive just in time to provide them with enough cover to allow them to evade the enemy and reach safety unharmed. The Aircrew all were awarded the Air Medal with "V" device for valor as they put themselves in harms way to achieve the safety of the ground troops.

On 3 October 1994, while the "Rangers" were engaged in a firefight and several 160th SOA were shot down, "Team Courage" provided support by transporting the wounded from Pakistani Stadium to the 46th MED hospital for treatment.

Later during the same month, CW2 Ben Johnson, LT Riedel, CPL Grace, and SPC Houchin were the crew to achieve the rescue and return to safety 3 Marine soldiers who had hit a command detonated mine. After others had tried and failed, this crew went in and recovered two soldiers inside the vehicle and though very difficult, also managed to free the driver who had both legs pinned under the vehicle.

As the unit comes to the end of its fifth year of dedicated and courageous history, "Eagle Strike" awaits its next "Rendezvous with Destiny".