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VETERANS

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LZ BLACKHAWK UP



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Francis Macale secures a landing zone as his transportation, a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, flies away near the Koh Band district of Kapisa province, Afghanistan, Sept. 14, 2009. Macale is a squad leader assigned to the Kapisa Provincial Reconstruction Team.

U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Darrick B. Lee

Awaiting Sunrise



U.S. Army soldiers wait in the early morning for two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to pick them and bring them to a nearby town to conduct a patrol in Taji, Iraq, Sept. 18, 2009. The soldiers are assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division's Company F, 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski.

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REFLECTIONS IN OIL



U.S. Navy Sailors and Marines scrub jet and helicopter oil from the hangar bay of the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman in the Atlantic Ocean, Sept. 19, 2009.

USN photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Kilho Park

SAND SLAM



U.S. Marines take part in the Marine Corps martial arts program on Camp Dwyer in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Sept. 18, 2009. The Marines are assigned to HQ's Company, Regimental Combat Team 3, which is deployed to conduct counterinsurgency operations with Afghan security forces in southern Afghanistan.

USMC photo by Sgt. Pete Thibodeau

DEEP FREEZE



At the South Pole Station Antarctica, a U.S. Air Force flight engineer waits for passengers before heading north to McMurdo Station, Sept. 25, 2009. The engineer is assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing, which supports the National Science Foundation's work in Antarctica with Operation Deep Freeze. New York Air National Guard photo



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