

## U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army

contact: paoci@eur.army.mil  
phone: 49-6221-57-5815 / DSN 370-5815  
fax: 49-6221-57-6376 / DSN 370-6376



RELEASE #2007-09-14-03

Sept. 14, 2007

### SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE XII HONOR 9-11 VICTIMS BY DONNING COMBAT PATCH ON SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF ATTACKS

By **Sgt. Brandon Little**

12th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office

**LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Balad, Iraq** -- The Soldiers of Task Force XII, led by V Corps' 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, honored the memory of those killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks by donning their combat patches in a ceremony



SGT BRANDON LITTLE

Col. Timothy J. Edens, commander of V Corps' 12th Aviation Brigade and Task Force XII, places the brigade's "Griffin" patch on Maj Warren Whitmire's right shoulder, signifying Whitmire's combat service with the unit, during a ceremony on Logistics Support Area Anaconda in Balad, Iraq Sept. 11.

conducted here on the sixth anniversary of the attacks.

"Today is the anniversary of the day terrorist hijacked four planes and murdered thousands of Americans in the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and passengers on Flight 93. And that's the reason why we're here," said Col.

Timothy J. Edens, commander of the brigade and Task Force XII.

The ceremony allowed task force Soldiers to officially wear the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade's "Griffin" patch on their right shoulders as a symbol of serving in combat with the task force.

During the ceremony, Edens placed the patch on the right shoulder of Task Force XII Command Sgt. Maj. H. Lee Kennedy and the commanders of each battalion. Those battalion commanders in turn placed the patch on the right shoulder of each of their Soldiers.

The shoulder sleeve insignia, or combat patch, has been worn by Soldiers since World War II for their participation in combat operations.

“You answered the nation’s call, just as the Soldiers of World War II did, when you put on the uniform and prioritized the needs of the country above your own,” Edens said. “The only difference is that none of you were drafted.”

“We are part of a tradition of great honor,” the colonel added. “We get to join the legion of Soldiers in our history who have earned the right to wear a patch on their right shoulder.”

This deployment is the first for many Soldiers throughout the task force.

“It’s exciting and scary at the same time,” said Spc. Nichole Twedt, a human resources specialist for the 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation. “It’s hard to be away from home, but it makes you appreciate the small things back home that you take for granted.”

Although Twedt and other Soldiers of Task Force XII come from widely scattered locations in the world, a bond has been formed between them that will last for many years to come.

“I feel proud about what I am doing, and I feel that I am making a difference,” she said. “I would like the chance to do it again.”

“Even if some of these Soldiers never deploy again, as long as they wear the uniform, others will know the role they played in defending freedom against those who wished to destroy it,” said Edens.

“This patch means more than just ‘I was here,’” he said. “So wear it proudly.”



[www.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.hqusareur.army.mil)