

Bagram A-10s strike cave



File photo by Maj. David Kurle

Raid foils activity linked to attacks

BAGRAMAIRFIELD, Afghanistan – During a successful air strike May 8, Coalition aircraft killed four enemy extremists and destroyed a truck and cave complex in the Bermel District of Paktika Province. Coalition Forces suspect other insurgents may possibly be buried in the rubble.

Prior to the strike, a joint

combat team of Afghan National Army and U.S. ground forces observed individuals loading a truck near the cave and determined the personnel were moving rockets from a cave complex.

The unit assessed the activity was linked to recent rocket attacks on a Coalition fire base nearby.

A request was made for air support to attack the com-

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Active-duty, Reserve units take over A-10 flying mission

BAGRAMAIRFIELD, Afghanistan – A mix of active-duty and Reserve units started landing their A-10 Thunderbolt IIs May 13 to take part in Air Expeditionary Force 1 and 2.

The 81st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron here is composed of the 81st Fighter Squadron from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany — the lead unit — and the 303rd Fighter Squadron from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., an Air Force Reserve unit.

It's the third time the 81st FS has deployed here and the second time it's deployed with a Reserve unit.

"We have a lot of experience with OEF and OIF," said Lt. Col. Keith McBride, the 81st EFS commander. "The 303rd also brings with it a lot of combat experience."

The 303rd is part of the 442nd Fighter Wing, which deployed here in 2002 when maintenance operations were conducted out of two tents, according to Chief Master Sgt. Steve Brazeal, the aircraft maintenance unit chief.

"We've got actual buildings to work out of," Chief Brazeal said. "In my opinion, it's a huge improvement over the past few years in that we have a full-up facility to work out of."

The A-10s fly daily missions in support of military operations throughout the country.

A majority of the sorties are in support of Army ground operations through a mixture of close air support, reconnaissance, and pre-planned operations.



Photo by Maj. David Kurle

Lt. Col. Stephen Chappel, an A-10 pilot here, performs a walk-around inspection.

INSIDE:

455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander greets incoming Camp Cunningham Airmen



Camp Cunningham's



Top View Enduring Lessons

By Brig. Gen. Christopher D. Miller

455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander & Air Component coordination Element director

As most of us begin settling into our jobs and “homes” for AEF 1/2, Bagram and the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing it’s worth thinking about why we’re here and who we are.

First of all, we’re *Americans*. We are here because our nation and our Air Force called each of us to be a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. As I said two weeks ago during the Wing’s change of command, we are not here to avenge the heinous acts of 9/11. We are not here to dominate or exploit the people of Afghanistan; we are not here to destroy.

Rather, we are here to build the conditions for Enduring Freedom: freedom from totalitarian rule for the Afghani people, freedom from extremist terror, freedom from the fear of terror spreading to the shores of America because we did not stop it here. We deal with and employ violence effectively as an integral part of our mission — but we do it with restraint so that our children and Afghan children will not have to live in fear of a ruthless enemy. In everything we do, we represent ourselves and our nation.

We should be proud and we should be good.

Secondly, we’re *Airmen* in the United States Air Force — active, Guard, Reserve — augmented by our civilian and contract teammates. There is no other Air Force that equals ours, in equipment, training, resources or people — and it’s ours to improve or ours to lose. Whether we are performing an Air Force mission or a mission normally done by someone in a sister service, we should be proud of our heritage as Airmen and of the unique skills we bring to the joint battle in Afghanistan. We can and must be open-minded, and leverage the unique strengths of the active, Reserve, Guard and civilian parts of our force to make a flexible, adaptable and seasoned force that can accomplish every assigned mission.

We’re *expeditionary* Airmen. I know it’s hokey, but sometimes the Webster’s dictionary definition hits home: “expeditionary” means “sent on military service abroad” or “relating to a journey or excursion taken for a specific purpose.” We are doing just that — a long way from the friends, family and comforts of home; in a land where we do not speak the language, to help a people very few of us know personally. As our Secretary of the Air Force wrote just last week, we

are in a business where “service before self” is the norm. Our expedition is Enduring Freedom and it’s time for us to serve in an expeditionary context. Let’s do it with class.

We’re *professionals*. Professionalism isn’t a rank or a component — it’s a state of mind. It’s what makes us study so we know our jobs, what makes us take the extra second to look sharp, act sharp and look out for a fellow Airman. It’s what lets a pilot make a split-second decision, correctly, to expend or withhold a lethal weapon; what makes a Security Forces member on the gate challenge someone who doesn’t look quite right; it’s what helps us obey the many parts of General Order No. 1 when we might wish it weren’t in effect. Professionalism doesn’t mean we can’t gripe — that’s an ancient privilege — but it means when we gripe, we also act to make it better. You may have heard that “every Airman is a sensor,” capable of finding problems, enemy action and the like. That’s true—but

it’s also true that every Airman’s a leader, capable of independent action to solve problems they confront. That’s what makes an Airman an Airman: professionalism and good judgment.

Finally, we’re *survivors*. Every one of us was sent here ready to deploy, with good equipment, some of the world’s best training and the brains that God gave us. If we use all of that stuff correctly, it’s nearly certain that we’ll return to our families intact. But there are a tremendous number of challenges in this expeditionary environment, and many potential hazards you need to consider every day. This is a combat zone and the danger is real even if it is not always

apparent here on Bagram Airfield.

I strongly recommend you think in terms of Operational Risk Management *every day* — it works! There’s plenty of risk here at Bagram, and it needs to be managed. How? Think ACT: **A**ssess the environment – **C**onsider the risk – **T**ake action to mitigate the risk. You can apply the concept to walking to the DFAC (wearing a reflective belt mitigates the risk of becoming a hood ornament); to paying attention to grounding rules on a very dark flightline in a dusty, dry environment; to smoking *away* from your very dry plywood B-hut; to OPSEC when you are describing your job on a line that could be monitored by an enemy; to landing on a blacked-out LZ; to wearing body armor when going anywhere outside the wire. I could go on — but you get my point. It’s very simple: **A**ssess your environment – **C**onsider the risk you will take – then **T**ake action to mitigate the risk to you and your wingmen.

I am privileged to serve with each of you, and look forward to all of our team becoming better acquainted as we work proudly together as expeditionary Airmen, committed to doing our part to accomplish America’s mission of Enduring Freedom.



Brig. Gen. Christopher Miller, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander

Bagram Bullet
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CENTAF releases OEF updates

SOUTHWESTASIA — U.S. Central Command Air Forces officials released the airpower summary from May 13 to May 17.

May 13: In Afghanistan, Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt IIs provided close-air support to Coalition troops in contact with enemy forces near Oruzgan.

Air Force C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster IIIs provided intra-theater heavy airlift support, helping sustain operations throughout Afghanistan, Iraq and the Horn of Africa. They flew 150 airlift sorties, delivered 270 tons of cargo and transported 3,400 passengers.

May 14: A-10s provided close air support to Coalition troops in contact with enemy forces in the vicinity of Orgun-E.

Air Force C-130s and C-17s provided intra-theater heavy airlift support. Approximately 160 airlift sorties were flown; almost 520 tons of cargo were

delivered, and close to 2,340 passengers were transported.

May 15: United States Air Force A-10s and Predator aircraft identified and struck a group of enemy extremists meeting in the vicinity of Oruzgan. In two separate attacks, the aircraft fired Hellfire missiles, Paveway II munitions and cannon rounds killing at least four of the extremists.

The enemy killed were responsible for launching numerous attacks against civilians and the Afghan National Army.

Air Force C-130s and C-17s provided intra-theater heavy airlift support. Approximately 160 airlift sorties were flown, almost 680 tons of cargo were delivered, and close to 4,200 passengers were transported.

May 16: A United States Air Force AC-130 and four A-10s also provided close air support to Coalition troops in contact with enemy forces in the vicinities of Bagram and Kandahar.

Air Force C-130s and C-17s provided intra-theater heavy airlift support. Approximately 170 airlift sorties were flown, almost 250 tons of cargo were delivered, and close to 3,100 passengers were transported. This included 6 thousand pounds of humanitarian aid air-dropped in Southeast Afghanistan as well as 18 thousand pounds of troop resupply air-dropped in East Afghanistan.

May 17: A United States Air Force B-1B and four A-10s struck Taliban extremists in the vicinity of Kandahar.

In two separate attacks, the B-1B and A-10s fired Paveway II munitions and general-purpose 500-pound bombs, killing 18 Taliban extremists and allowing ground forces to capture 26.

United States Air Force C-130s and C-17s provided intra-theater heavy airlift support. Approximately 150 airlift sorties were flown; almost 210 tons of cargo were delivered, and close to 3,250 passengers were transported.

A-10s thunder in

An A-10 Thunderbolt II, flown by pilot, Maj. Mark Ernewein, 442nd Fighter Wing, from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., arrives here May 13. The 442nd FW and the 52nd Fighter Wing, from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, will conduct close air support and other air-to-ground operations in support of OEF in Afghanistan.



Photo by Maj. David Kurle

-- "Strike," from Page 1

plex. U.S. Air Force A-10 fighter aircraft and a Predator unmanned aerial vehicle, assigned to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Afghanistan, were directed to engage the cave complex.

The A-10 and Predator expended precision-guided munitions against the target, effectively sealing the cave from future use.

"The immediate response by these aircraft demonstrates the effectiveness of our combined air support for joint operations in theater," said Royal Air Force,

Air Commodore Mark Swan, director of the Combined Air Operations Center.

"Our message is very clear to those who attack innocent civilians and Coalition forces: you have a choice," Commodore Swan said. "If you continue your terrorist activities, we will find you, we can track you, and we will take all appropriate actions to stop you."

A patrol sent to investigate the cave received small arms fire from one enemy combatant.

Coalition forces returned fire and captured the enemy combatant.

The patrol discovered two trucks near the cave. Inside the trucks, buried under gravel, were two 107mm rockets. Both vehicles were destroyed.

"This was a very successful joint combat operation with Afghan and Coalition forces as we continue to search out enemies and eliminate their capability to attack our forces," said Lt. Col Paul Fitzpatrick, Combined Joint Task Force - 76 spokesman.

"We believe these insurgents and this cache are linked to recent rocket attacks in Barmel," said Fitzpatrick. "The crude use of rockets by insur-

gents often causes damage and injuries to innocent civilians like the April rocket attacks in Assadabad that killed seven children at a school and in Kabul that injured a guard at Radio Television Afghanistan.

"Destroying this cache protects the lives of Afghans as well as Coalition forces," he said.

Coalition officials emphasized the strike is an example of the effective coordination between the Afghan and Pakistan armies being conducted along the border region to disrupt their common enemy.

Changes of command



Col. Tony Johnson, right, accepts command of the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group from Brig. Gen. Chris Miller, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, May 13. Colonel Johnson is an Air Force reservist deployed from the 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. He will oversee a deployed A-10 squadron, C-130 squadron, an aeromedical evacuation squadron and other operational units.



U.S. Air Force photos by Maj. David Kurle, 455 AEW/PA

Col. Ann M. Smith takes the 455 Expeditionary Maintenance Group guidon from Col. John Buckingham, 455 Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander, Tuesday as she takes command of the group in the A-10 maintenance tent. Colonel Smith replaced Lt. Col. Andrew Bouck.

Cable television, Internet being installed in B-Huts

Army and Air Force Exchange Service concession employees are installing cable and internet service to B-Hut residents.

The installers began stringing up cable lines earlier this week to the security forces huts and will continue throughout Camp Cunningham.

"It's a quality-of-life issue," said Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Welton, 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group chief enlisted manager and camp mayor.

"The Internet may be somewhat limited, but you'll still be able to e-mail family and friends back home from inside your hut here," the chief said.

Cable channels include ESPN, Star Sports, the History Channel, Discovery, Fox News, Animal Planet and more – 50 in all.

The cost for Internet service is \$35, \$25 for cable or \$50 for both.

For more information, visit the concessionaire in the BX complex.





U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Orville F. Desjarlais Jr.

A bugler plays Taps during the closing moments of a memorial ceremony held here May 13.

455th ESFS memorial ceremony remembers 18 fallen comrades

Members of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron paid tribute May 13 to 18 Air Force security forces Airmen who were killed in a helicopter crash.

On May 13, 1975, 51 security forces members joined in the rescue operation

for the USS Mayaguez.

At 9,000 feet, a helicopter carrying the Airmen over flew an area near the Thai-Loation border and disappeared from radar. All on board were killed, one of the darkest days in security forces history.

Brief Bullets

Photographers needed

Public Affairs is looking for photographers to volunteer to photograph unit functions.

Training will be provided, as will the chance to take pictures of things unavailable to most. Volunteers will earn a letter of appreciation at the end of AEF 1 and 2.

If interested, call PA at 231-3260.

Services Events

Events are hosted by Services every night at 1900L in the Rec Tent. For more information, or to make a suggestion, contact Master Sgt. Chuck Downs or Tech. Sgt. Monty Willis at 231-4360. This week's events are as follows:

Today: Bingo

Saturday: Texas Hold'em

Sunday: Horseshoes 1800L

Tuesday: Spades

Wednesday: Texas Hold'em

Thursday: Darts

Line badges

Individuals who are redeploying need to turn in restricted area badges to the Security Forces Pass and Identification.

A drop box is available for convenience.

Travel pay pointers

Airmen deployed for more than 30 days may submit an accrual travel voucher for reimbursement for major expenses related to travel for the deployment. The Accrual Travel Voucher Request Form can be accessed on the Virtual MPF Web site at:

<https://ww3.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vmpf/ATVoucher/Pages/Intro.asp>

In addition, Bank of American offers a Web site where Airmen can make payments on their Government Travel Card. In order to complete the process, users will need their Government Travel Card account number and security code and their bank's routing number and account number. The Web site is: www.myeasypayment.com/enter.aspx

DOD announces increase in foreign language pay

Maximum pay raises from \$300 to \$1,000 per month for qualified people

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Department of Defense announced May 10 an increase, effective June 1, in Foreign Language Proficiency Pay, or FLPP, for servicemembers who qualify.

The fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act authorizes the secretary of defense to increase FLPP pay from a maximum of \$300 per month to a maximum of \$1,000 per month for qualified active-duty members and offers a \$6,000 per year bonus for qualified Guard and Reserve members.

Enhancing the FLPP program is a critical facet of the overall defense language transformation initiative. The program aims to:

- * Encourage people with a language capability to identify themselves in order to employ the language skills existing in the force.

- * Encourage more people to study a language. The Defense Language Program must stimulate the acquisition of language skills and be able to maintain language skills of strategic importance to the department.

- * Encourage people to increase their language proficiency to create a cadre of language professionals operating at an advanced level of proficiency.

- * Increase the capability in languages of strategic need to the department.

- * The enhanced program will emphasize languages needed to support the war on terrorism, the recommendations of the Quadrennial Defense Review and those of strategic importance to DOD.



U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Orville F. Desjarlais Jr.

To destinations unknown

Travelers board a C-17 Globemaster for destinations unknown Sunday. Bagram is the gateway to other bases and posts throughout Afghanistan.

Statistics show command's fitness program needs to improve

by **Lt. Col. Tim Bennett**
Air Force Reserve Command
Public Health

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) — Since the new fitness program began in 2004, Air Force Reserve Command's performance has stumbled.

In 2003, 76 percent of unit reservists took the fitness test. Most of them — 98.9 percent — passed.

Now, two years later, 68 percent of the reservists tested. But, this time 7 percent of them finished with a marginal score and 12 percent of them performed poorly. AFRC's failure rate in this category was six times higher than the rate

for active-duty Airmen.

In 2005 individual mobilization augmentees performed slightly better than unit reservists. Four percent of the IMAs were marginal. Six percent were classified as poor.

Today, their performances are part of the AFRC statistics since they are under the administrative control of the Readiness Management Group.

People who failed the 3-mile walk assessment under the previous fitness program simply took it again a few months later and generally passed.

However, with more stringent force-wide fitness standards in place, AFRC officials recognized that this approach to fitness testing wasn't good enough

anymore. They needed a comprehensive education and intervention program to help reservists improve their overall fitness scores.

As a result, a Healthy Living Program for Reservists program was developed.

A brochure highlights the fitness program requirements and provides Web resources.

Totally Web-based, the new Healthy Living Program for Reservists will be posted on the Air Force portal under the Air Force Fitness Management System.

Health and wellness centers on active-duty bases offer a wealth of assistance.

ENDURING FAITH CHAPEL

Weekly services:

- Muslim**
Fridays 1800L (1330Z)
- Jewish**
Fridays 1900L (1430Z)
- Seventh Day Adventist**
Saturdays 0930L (0500Z)
- Roman Catholic**
Saturdays 1945L (1515Z)
- Liturgical Protestant**
Sundays 0830L (0400Z)
- Protestant**
Sundays 1130L (0700Z)
- Latter Day Saints**
Sundays 1300L (0830Z)



- Church of Christ**
Sundays 1400L (0930Z)
- Korean Protestant**
Sundays 1545L (1115Z)
- Gospel**
Sundays 1730L (1300Z)

DFAC hours

Breakfast	Lunch
0530 to 0900L	1130 to 1330L
Dinner	Midnight
1630 to 2100L	2330 to 0100L

DCUs and Air Force physical training uniforms are mandatory when dining at any of the facilities here.

No bags, purses or backpacks are allowed in any of the dining facilities.

Plausible Denial

By Jurgi



Just where is Ms Laden?

Camp Cunningham residents who have rights to the shared drive can access other Plausible Denial cartoons at S:/SHARED FILES/PLAUSIBLE DENIAL.

SFS practices urban combat

Story and photos by Maj. David Kurle
Public Affairs officer

Deployed Airmen, distributing humanitarian supplies, are taken hostage by enemy forces while visiting an Afghan village. It's now up to the accompanying squad of security forces to rescue the Airmen and eliminate the bad guys.

This is the scenario members of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron were exercising here May 9, in the Army's Military Operations in Urban Terrain facility.

The facility is a custom-made training facility, designed to resemble a typical Afghan village, complete with buildings made from mud. Inside is a collection of high-tech cameras, video recorders, speakers and mannequins that move on swivels to simulate terrorists hiding inside the structure.

Security forces move through the structure, shooting special rounds called ultimate training munitions, which mark the target with colored powder. The whole facility is run from a computerized control room by a Soldier, who is an expert in this type of warfare.

"Every single camera can record for training purposes and provides immediate feedback," said Tech. Sgt. Edward Nin, 455th ESFS training non-commissioned officer in charge, deployed from Beale Air Force Base, Calif. "The most important thing about training is giving the troops accurate and immediate feedback."

"This career field is not just sitting in shacks guarding gates any more," said Tech. Sgt. Robert Taverna, the squadron's patrol leader and an Air Force reservist deployed here from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. "Before Sept. 11, we basically had specialized units that would go to a bare-bones base and provide security. Now, the whole security forces career field is doing that."

Part of Sergeant Taverna's job is to train security forces Airmen here in the fine art of urban combat utilizing the MOUT. All of the security forces have been through the urban combat training, but not in a facility that resembled an Afghan village.

"You can't get anything like this in the States," said Staff Sgt. Jack D. Humphrey, 455th ESFS member, and a deployed reservist from McGuire AFB, N.J. "This is exactly how it is outside (the wire)."

The security forces run the exercises in teams of four to five, making their tactical approaches and entrances to each building, with team members supporting one another, wary for an attack from any possible direction, including above or below them. There are a number of trap doors on the floor of the facility.

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Hicks led his squad of Senior Airman Charles J. Coles, Senior Airman Victor A. Morales and Airman 1st Class Erika L. Asbury, all deployed here from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., through all three sections of the MOUT



Senior Airman Victor Morales (foreground) and Senior Airman Charles Coles, from the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, cautiously check a stairwell for simulated enemy forces during Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training here May 9.

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Above-left, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Hicks (left), coordinates the tactical movement of Airman 1st Class Erika Asbury (middle) and Senior Airman Victor Morales through the Military Operations in Urban Terrain training facility here May 9. The facility is a mock Afghan village and trains Soldiers and Airmen deployed here how to deal with enemy forces at close quarters. All three Airmen are members of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron based here.

Above-right, Senior Airman Charles Coles (foreground), 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, covers a roof-top from the ground with an M-4 rifle.

Below, Airman 1st Class Erika Asbury, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, takes aim with an M-4 rifle during Military Operations in Urban Terrain training at a U.S. Army training facility here, May 9.



Training builds teamwork

-- "Training," from, Page 8

facility while security forces instructors observed, offered advice and pointed out what the team did right.

The key elements of this type of warfare is coordinating the movement of the team, communication between squad members, teamwork and trust in each other, according to Sergeant Hicks.

"Trust is the big factor because we're relying on every member to watch each others' backs," he said. "Communication is also key because someone may see something and they need to let each team member know about a possible threat."

Sergeant Hicks' team all agreed that stairways are an especially critical part of clearing any building.

Any time they are firing from an elevated position, the enemy has the advantage because they have more cover than us, the targets, Airman Coles said.

Even though the security forces Airmen here hope they never have to put this training to use, the possibility that they might have to is very real as they travel outside the wire accompanying other Airmen in missions off the base.

The MOUT facility is an invaluable training aid to prepare security forces for any eventuality, according to Sergeant Nin.

"Even though they've gone through the war training center, they haven't done it together because everyone's from eight different bases," he said. "They need this training together to operate and flow as a team."