



Fighting Terror... ...Building Peace

Bagram Bullet

Vol. 2, No. 21 Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan June 23, 2006

Herculean effort

A C-130 Hercules from the Texas Air National Guard takes off from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 14. The 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron consists of Air National Guard units and two active-duty squadrons. The expeditionary unit flies airlift and airdrop missions from here in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. David Kurle

C-130 aircrew evacuates girl on Father's Day

by Master Sgt.
Orville F. Desjarlais Jr.
455th Air Expeditionary Wing

When Maj. Wayne Vaughn looked down at the injured 12-year-old girl clinging to life on a litter loaded in his C-130 Hercules, he thought, "How can they do this? How can they try and kill a little girl?"

Taliban extremists had bombed a girls school in Herat in eastern Afghanistan on June 18, killing four and injuring 11.

The girl had a broken back and collarbone, head injuries and was in critical condition.

Major Vaughn, a navigator,

immediately thought about his three daughters at home. When he returned from the mission, he planned to call them because it was Father's Day.

For the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron aircrew, all from an Air National Guard unit in Fort Worth, Texas, the day started much like every other day, with orders to fly distinguished visitors, soldiers, supplies and equipment around Afghanistan.

During the last leg of the mission, after loading half a dozen passengers, they cranked up their four engines and began to roll across the ramp when the control tower squawked a mes-

sage over the radio.

The air traffic controller asked if the crew could wait five minutes for an emergency medical evacuation.

Try as they might, the aircrew couldn't reach any higher authorities to get authorization to fly the mission. They were also pressing the limit on the amount of time they were authorized to fly that day.

When they learned it was a 12-year-old patient, they looked at each other and knew what they had to do. The aircraft commander, Maj. Tim Gibbons, made the final call.

The father of two boys, ages

12 and 9, said, "Let's do it."

"We were going to do it no matter what, even if we got in trouble," Major Gibbons said. "We were tired, but we weren't exhausted. The (International Security Assistance Force) told us we were her last chance."

ISAF is a NATO organization whose goal is to help Afghanistan reach a self-sustaining peace and security.

For the C-130 aircrew, the ISAF involvement meant more communication problems.

"In the back of the plane, we had Americans, Italians, Span-

"SAVE," continued, Page 3



INSIDE:

The Provincial Reconstruction Team explained -- the wheres, whys and whats.
Pages 4-6



Members of 755th help Army, people of Afghanistan

“ Although the Airmen are doing things they never thought they’d be doing in a combat environment, they are gaining a tremendous amount of experience and contributing directly to ground combat operations. ”

by Col. Douglas Hine
755th Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander

The 755th Expeditionary Mission Support Group was activated January 19 to provide command and control of airmen assigned to U.S. Army units conducting “in lieu of” and “request for forces” duty.

The 755th currently has more than 700 Airmen performing these duties at 19 locations throughout Afghanistan. Almost every Air Force specialty code is represented with the majority of these Airmen performing duties outside the scope of their normal job descriptions. The 755th executes its mission through 17 subordinate units.

The first type of tasking is in-lieu-of duty. This type of relationship is specifically designed to replace a unit of another service, which in Afghanistan is U.S. Army, with an Air Force unit or capability. The civil engineer Prime BEEF team is a good example. This team replaced an Army engineering detachment to perform the duties of CE base support for Bagram and outlying forward operating bases.

Other in-lieu-of assignments include military police duty; a deployable crash-fire-rescue team; explosive ordnance disposal activities both here and at Kandahar, and a facilities engineering team. Additionally, there are Airmen serving at seven Provincial Reconstruction Teams.

The PRTs perform security, governmental interfacing with the provincial governors and lead the reconstruction efforts in their assigned provinces. From wells to schools to hydro-electric projects, Airmen, along with their Army and civilian counterparts, are re-building Afghanistan. Finally, Airmen assigned in-lieu-of duties report directly to an Army chain of command and receive their assigned duties from them.

Another reason Airmen are assigned to the 755th is to perform request-for-forces duties.

These account of the bulk of the group’s mission.

Typical taskings include medical support, religious support teams, embedded training teams with the Afghanistan National Army, aero-medical evacuation, contracting, communications, military working dog teams, aircraft refueling support, weather, intelligence support, combat stress teams and even AFN broadcasting.

One of the most unique request-for-forces duties has to be working on an ETT. These Airmen are assigned to mentor the ANA on logistics support. From an ANA one-star general who commands their Logistics Command down to a forward-support supply team hauling food and water to an ANA infantry unit, members of the 755th are out on the battlefield mentoring daily.

Because of their exposure working



Col. Douglas Hine

File photo

“outside the wire.” several ETTs have seen combat action.

All members assigned to the 755th undergo additional training stateside prior to their deployment. The U.S. Army teaches these courses, which emphasize improving individual soldier skills including weapons, convoy, radio communications and combat-lifesaving skills. The courses range from three-week combat skills training courses at Fort Carson, Colo., and Fort Sill, Okla., to the two-and-a-half month PRT course at the Fort Bragg, N.C.

The 755th has a very unique mission supporting the Army throughout Afghanistan. Although the Airmen are doing things they never thought they’d be doing in a combat environment, they are gaining a tremendous amount of experience and contributing directly to ground combat operations. They are expanding their professional knowledge and will be able to bring valuable lessons back to their home stations.

Bagram Bulletin
Editorial Staff, Disclaimer

Brig. Gen. Christopher D. Miller..... Commander, 455th AEW
Maj. Dave Kurle Chief, Public Affairs
Master Sgt. Orville F. Desjarlais Jr. Editor, NCOIC



This newspaper is an authorized publication for Airmen and Sailors deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Contents of the Bagram Bulletin are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs office.



Brief Bullets

Tops in Blue to perform July 1

The Tops in Blue will perform in the Bagram MWR Clam Shell at 1930L July 1.

Reserve, Guard meeting set

U.S. Central Command Air Forces Air Reserve Component advisors are having one-hour town hall meeting for all Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members on Bagram in the Camp Cunningham recreation tent.

Meeting times are as follows:

Today, June 23

1230Z/1700L

Saturday, June 24

0330Z/0800L

0830Z/1300L

1230Z/1700L

Services June events

All events begin at 1900L, unless otherwise noted.

Today

Bingo

Saturday

Texas Hold'em

Sunday

Pizza & movie

Monday

Volleyball, 1800L

Tuesday

Ping Pong

Wednesday

Texas Hold'em

Thursday

Dominoes

Meet NFL players June 29

Come out and meet and greet the National Football League gridiron greats at 1200L, June 29, at the Camp Cunningham Recreation Center. People can meet Washington Redskins linebacker Robert McCune, Chicago Bears defensive back Chris Harris and Baltimore Ravens tight end Daniel Wilcox.



U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. David Kurle

Feeding the hog

Tech. Sgt. Roderic Ventresca, left, and Staff Sgt. Mitch Rice, load 30 mm bullets into an A-10 Thunderbolt II here June 14. The sergeants are deployed here from the 442nd Fighter Wing, based at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. The Thunderbolt II's 30mm GAU-8/A Gatling gun can fire almost 70 rounds per second and can defeat an array of ground targets to include tanks.

ENDURING FAITH CHAPEL

Weekly services:

Muslim

Fridays 1700L (1230Z)

Jewish

Fridays 1930L (1500Z)

Seventh Day Adventist

Saturdays 0930L (0500Z)

Roman Catholic

Saturdays 1945L (1515Z)

Sundays 1000L (0530Z)

Weekdays 1130L (0700Z)

Liturgical Protestant with

Communion

Sundays 0830L (0400Z)

Contemporary Protestant

Sundays 1200L (0730Z)

Latter Day Saints

Sundays 1300L (0830Z)

Church of Christ

Sundays 1400L (0930Z)

Korean Protestant

Sundays 1545L (1115Z)

Gospel Protestant

Sundays 1730L (1300Z)

Traditional Protestant

Sundays 2000L (1530Z)

KBR Protestant Service

Sundays 2130L (1700Z)

“SAVE,” continued from Page 1

iards and Albanians,” Major Gibbons said, “and only the Italian doctor could speak English.”

Also, loadmasters Master Sgt. Justin Vogel and Staff Sgt. Justin Bell had to reconfigure the aircraft so it could handle the litter.

The 90-minute flight to Kabul was un-

eventful. When they landed, an ambulance whisked the little girl away.

When the aircrew returned here, they made Father’s Day calls home.

“It was good to call home and realize that my children are not in the same world as the kids here,” Major Gibbons said, “but missions like that make these deployments worth it.”



The ABCs of PRT

by Master Sgt. Orville F. Desjarlais Jr.
455th Air Expeditionary Wing

The Provincial Reconstruction Teams' efforts in Afghanistan are so successful Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice used them as a template to inaugurate the first U.S.-led PRT in Iraq in November.

While addressing the Senate Committee of Foreign Relations last fall, Secretary Rice said, "To execute our strategy we will restructure a portion of the U.S. mission in Iraq. Learning from successful precedents used in Afghanistan, we will deploy Provincial Reconstruction Teams in key parts of the country."

The coalition effort to secure and rebuild a post-Taliban Afghanistan has been the PRT's mission from the start.

A mix of civilian, U.S. military and coalition members compose the teams that try to promote conditions for self-sufficiency, enduring prosperity and a secure, stable environment.

Quick look back

The PRTs are an off-shoot of "Coalition Humanitarian Liaison Cells" created by the Army in Operation Enduring Freedom in early 2002. Soldiers manned small outposts "outside the wire," dubbed "Chicklets."

These teams assessed humanitarian needs, implemented small reconstruction projects and established relations with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and nongovernmental organizations already in the field.

Late in 2002, the United States expanded the program by creating the first PRTs. This time, force protection and representatives of U.S. government civilian agencies joined the teams.

The first P

RT took hold in Gardez in January 2003, quickly followed by PRTs in Bamain, Kondo, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kandahar and Herat.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul issued a general set of parameters that established the PRT objectives, which are being followed to this day.

"PRT," continued, Page 5



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson

Saeed, a trade school instructor, explains the components of an electrical box to Afghan students studying to become electricians at the Qalat Provincial Reconstruction Team Trade School.

Airmen in Qalat teach skills to Afghan villagers

By Master Sgt. Orville F. Desjarlais Jr.
455th Air Expeditionary Wing

QALAT, Afghanistan — Saeed graduated from a Qalat Provincial Reconstruction Team trade school eight months ago after months of learning carpentry and plumbing skills.

Recently, the PRT trade school's mission of teaching life skills to the people of Afghanistan compelled Saeed to return to the school, not as a student, but as a teacher.

Afghanistan National Army soldier Sgt. Abdulrawof is at the PRT learning life-saving emergency medical care because of his nation's lack of nurses and physicians.

"I'm training others so they can work for their country, to help serve their country," Saeed said.

After 25 years of war, the people of Afghanistan have had little chance to get an education. The Qalat PRT recognized this need and began offering courses in life skills that can help re-build the village of Qalat and spur economic growth. In May, 141 students graduated from the trade school.

"We're mentoring Afghans so they

can increase Afghan business," said Lt. Col. Kevin McLaughlin, the Qalat PRT commander.

Today, the courses have expanded to include basic computer operations, Afghan rug weaving, automobile mechanics, welding, carpentry, plumbing, construction, electrical installation, emergency medical technician, nursing and an agricultural extension program.

Graduates earn a certificate of completion, a basic tool set to begin their new occupations and instructional materials they can use to get a job or start a business.

Afghans and coalition forces teach the classes that range from 15 to 35 students. The goal is to have all the classes taught by Afghans. To assist, the Airmen act as mentors. When there are no Afghans available to teach a course, Airmen become instructors.

"We're giving them the skills they need," said Qalat PRT instructor Staff Sgt. Michael Ball, an emergency medical technician deployed from Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

"QALAT," continued, Page 5



“PRT,” continued from Page 5

The principles include: extending the authority of the Afghan central government, improving security and promoting reconstruction.

Going international

The first PRTs stationed themselves in hot spots where no relief organizations dared tread. Their presence was designed to deter insurgents and criminals who had been active in the areas.

Later, when the area became safer, coalition-run International Security Assistance Forces would take over. Another byproduct of security will be the return of international relief organizations, many of whom left in 2005 because of deadly attacks on volunteers.

Air Force involvement

The Air Force became involved this year when the Army asked for help in the way of in-lieu-of assignments. This meant Airmen would assist with the Army mission, much like helping with convoy duties in Iraq.

For the Air Force, PRT involvement falls on the 755th Expeditionary Mission Support Group stationed here.

755th Airmen are involved with seven of the 13 coalition PRTs scattered throughout Afghanistan.

“From wells to schools to hydro-electric projects, Airmen along with their Army and civilian counterparts are rebuilding Afghanistan,” said Col. Douglas Hine, the 755th’s commander.

The PRTs perform security, governmental interfacing with the provincial governors, and lead the reconstruction efforts in their assigned province. The teams cater their programs to fit the needs of the community they’re in.

For instance, if the big-ticket item for a province is a school, the PRT will work with local contractors to help build a school.

If a road is needed to increase commerce between villages, the PRT will get involved.

It’s anyone’s guess how long the PRT mission will continue in Afghanistan.

A near-term goal is to transfer all PRT functions to the ISAF, to make it truly an international mission. But until then, the Air Force will continue to help where it can.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson

A local Afghan student practices inserting an intravenous needle into a mannequin’s arm during class at the Qalat Provincial Reconstruction Team Trade School. The course is eight weeks long and teaches students medical and driving skills.

“QALAT,” continued from Page 4

Sergeant Ball teaches emergency medical care to ANA soldiers.

“These ANA medics come into contact with the Taliban just about every night,” Sergeant Ball said. “They need the skills to take care of their own wounded. It’s critically important for them to have these skills.”

A student of Sergeant Ball, Sergeant Abdulrawof, said, “It’s important for us to learn these skills for the local people. We have few doctors, and now we can help

our people if we need to.”

The Qalat PRT offers more than just life-skills training, they also promote good governance and facilitate re-construction and economic growth by working with the governor on local projects.

One way to do that is to build roads to increase trade between villages and countries.

“It’s all dirt roads and goat trails. It’s mountainous and difficult to get around,” the colonel said. “We also want to build

“QALAT,” continued, Page 6



“QALAT,” continued from Page 5

roads so (the local people) can get to hospitals.”

Other projects include bridges, roads, police stations and schools.

Not an easy road

As of May, the PRT has safely ventured 284 times where danger lurks outside the wire.

“It hasn’t been a walk in the park,” Sergeant Ball said. “There are Taliban out there who harass us. It’s a challenge, but I enjoy it.”

Recently, that harassment came in the way of an attack. Earlier this month, extremists launched a mortar at the PRT compound, carving a U-shaped hole at the top of an inside wall. But that didn’t deter them from their mission.

“I enjoy and believe in the mission we’re doing here,” Sergeant Ball said. “I think we’re giving the people of Afghanistan the skills they

need to rebuild their country.”

The Qalat PRT’s duties will eventually be turned over to the International

Security Assistance Forces. When that happens, Romanian forces are scheduled to lead the team.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson

Afghan students walk to class on the campus of the Qalat Provincial Reconstruction Team's Trade School. The school teaches local Afghans valuable skills that can be used to get jobs and help re-build their country.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson

Young Afghan children weave a rug at the Qalat Provincial Reconstruction Team's Trade School. One of the many courses taught in the trade school is rug weaving. It takes students about two months to weave a rug.



Agriculture day in province plants seeds of hope for farmers

by Air Force Capt. Joe Campbell
Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction
Team Public Affairs

PANJSHIR PROVINCE, Afghanistan

— The future for residents here is full of hope since the governor established education and agriculture as his number one and two priorities respectively.

Following the success of an Education Day March 6, an Agriculture Day event here drew more than 75 people June 13 to discuss the future of agriculture province-wide.

“Education and agriculture are keys to helping people improve their livelihood,” Governor Bahlol said. “Improving our agricultural practices demonstrates that we will not be bought by a few dollars and we will continue our commitment to not growing opium-producing crops. At the same time we can improve people’s livelihoods.”

The Panjshir PRT had four objectives to accomplish when they planned the Ag Day seminar: be responsive to the governor’s priorities, continue the record of cooperation excellence with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, gather non-government organizations looking for developmental projects, and introduce the team’s agriculture expert from the United States Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Mike Gangwer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture representative for Panjshir, Parwan and Kapisa provinces, has high hopes for Panjshir after his first visit and hopes to apply lessons learned here to the other two regions.

“I bring no money to the provinces, only my ability as a scientist to provide technical oversight and to get some projects started with help from locals and (non-governmental organizations),” Dr. Gangwer said.

Dr. Gangwer’s primary assignment is to make assessments and recommendations in the area of soil fertility. In addition to several other initiatives, he intends to help the local government attain a soil fertility baseline test kit to monitor conditions even after he leaves.

“An emphasis on responsible irrigation practices and a shift toward fruit



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

Dr. Mike Gangwer, U.S. Department of Agriculture representative for the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team, and Mr. Habibullah, the Panjshir Provincial Director of Agriculture, examine the suitability of soil in a fruit orchard June 12.

production — a high value crop — should enable higher incomes for farmers and with a much improved road being built, new markets for produce should be opened up,” Dr. Gangwer said .

Plans for training programs at the multi-purpose district centers that are being constructed are now underway, said Mr. Noor Akbari, a subject matter specialist for community development. “The centers

will be a place where people go for training and where they can gather to discuss lessons learned.”

Other topics of the day included drip and trickle irrigation, more extensive use of terrace farming, a shift in thinking from using flat land for home location and less desirable ground for farming, and moving from artificial fertilizers to manure and natural legumes for crops.



U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. David Kurle

Staff Sgt. Thomas McMahon drags a litter on which lays Tech. Sgt. Robert Taverna, a simulated wounded Airman, during a security forces combat lifesaver exercise here June 15. It's the job of the squad to take litters to awaiting ambulances. Both men are in the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Security forces Airmen here train for missions beyond the scope of their traditional roles. Thanks to the U.S. Army, they now have training that may save someone's life.

Airmen from the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron completed a 40-hour combat lifesaving course.

The Airmen learned basic skills needed to stabilize patients, including intravenous infusions, chest decompressions using a needle, relaying instructions for a medical evacuation, establishing and maintaining an airway, and stopping bleeding, said Army Staff Sgt. Edres Rhone, a combat medic with the 14th Combat Support Hospital.

"It's a three-day course. Then on the fourth day we have combat training so these guys can put together everything we've taught them," Sergeant Rhone said.

The combat training consisted of security forces Airmen and Sailors clearing buildings in a mock Afghan village, fighting "enemy forces" and then treating one of their own for simulated combat injuries.

"There's nothing like coming out here and actually training and beefing up your proficiency levels," said Tech. Sgt. Edward

By Maj. David Kurle
455 AEW public affairs

Security forces learn to save lives

Nin, the 455th ESFS NCO in charge of training, deployed here from Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

"We need to learn these procedures to maximize the survival for that wounded individual," Sergeant Nin said.

"I've had first aid and CPR training, but never anything as detailed as this," said Tech. Sgt. Robert Taverna, a reservist deployed here from McGuire AFB, N.J. "A lot of times you don't know how much you've

actually retained or how much you've learned until you're put in that situation."

Sergeant Taverna is used to being the first person at the scene of an injury. In his civilian job he is a New York City police officer.

"Here, it's the same thing," he said. "We have to be the ones to get someone to a medic or a hospital."

In Operation Enduring Freedom, Airmen often find themselves working alongside Soldiers and Sailors, so conducting the combat lifesaver training in a joint environment just made sense, Sergeant Nin said.

"We're actually fighting together, so why not train together?" he said. "Right now, we're looking for synergy between the different branches of the services."

For Sergeant Rhone, training Airmen and Sailors how to save lives in combat makes it easier for him and his fellow combat medics to save the life of someone wounded in combat.

"With more combat lifesavers out there, we're actually increasing the chances for the warfighters," he said. "This training raises a patient's chances of actually surviving (after) being wounded in combat."

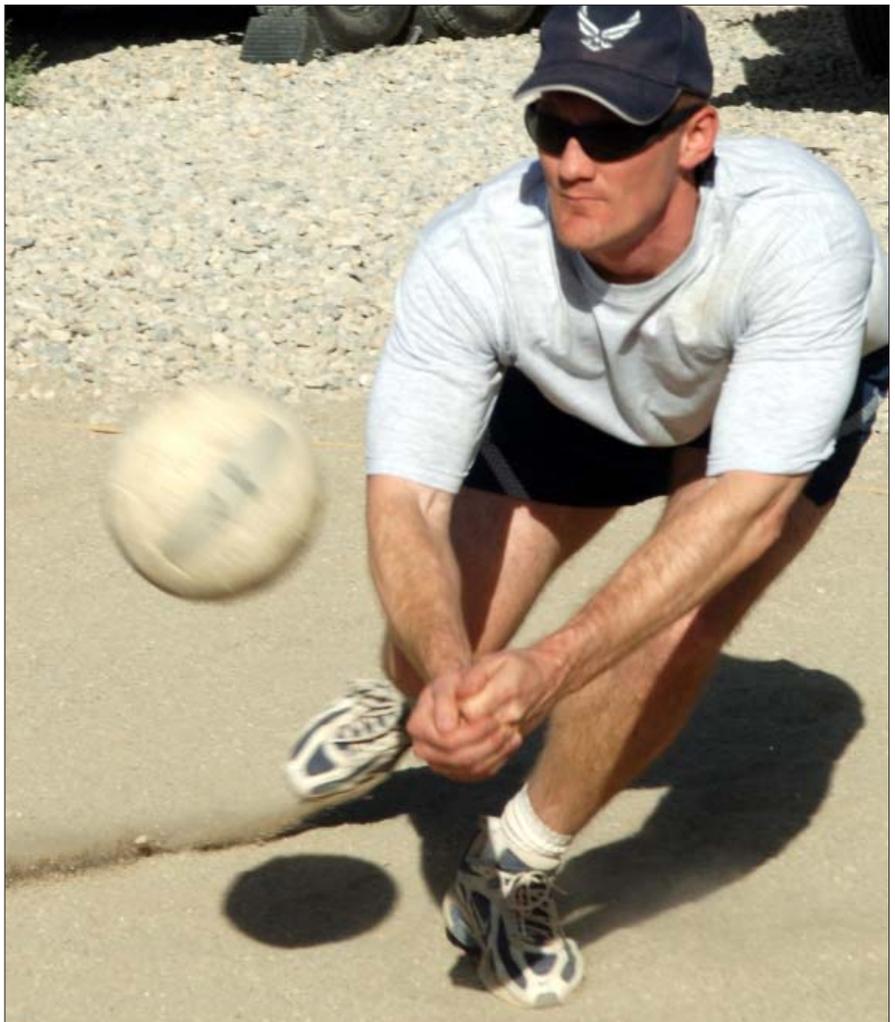


Hawaiian fun in Afghanistan

(Clockwise from right) Staff Sgt. Shakira Ramos, left, Combined Joint Task Force 76, and Maj. Beverly Thornberg and Staff Sgt. Julie DePriest, 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, mix non-alcoholic margaritas for the Camp Cunningham luau June 17.

Master Sgt. Dana Seeley, 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, digs for a volleyball during the tournament where his team finished second — the Air Force Office of Special Investigations placed first.

Senior Master Sgt. Adam Marks, 455th EAES, tosses a horseshoe during the luau tournament. His team, the Aerovac Attack, placed first.



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



U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson

A C-130 Hercules from the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron takes off from here during an early morning sunrise June 10. The squadron flies multiple missions a day providing airlift and air drops to troops in theater.



Tech. Sgt. Ken Bishop checks the left side of the aircraft during descent into forward operating base Salerno, Afghanistan, June 10. Sergeant Bishop is a loadmaster in the 774th EAS.

Images of Hercules



Soldiers catch a ride from a C-130 Hercules headed to forward operating base Salerno, Afghanistan, June 10. The 774th EAS here is the only U.S. C-130 squadron in Afghanistan.