



# New wing Web site takes over function of Bagram Bullet

by 455th AEW public affairs

As this week's flag on the front page of the Bagram Bullet states, this is the last edition of the Bagram Bullet.

The 455 Air Expeditionary Wing public affairs office has decided to bring you the same news, features and commentaries via a new public Web site.

Rest assured, our internal and external audiences will get the same news and feature stories, just in a different package. Since the Bullet was never a paper product, the PA office feels the Web is a more efficient way to get your stories out to the world.

Since the Internet offers the benefit of almost instant publication, we can turn weekly delivery into daily delivery of newly-written stories.

With a Web site, we are not constrained by space or time. In the coming weeks you will see the site continually expand and evolve, so if you have a suggestion please let us know.

We are all about meeting the needs of our audience. Just keep in mind that we cannot conduct official Air Force business on a public Web site.

Because this is a public Web site, it will be accessible to anyone with an Internet connection, so feel free to send the address, [www.bagram.afnews.af.mil](http://www.bagram.afnews.af.mil), to family and friends back home. This will be a good way to keep our supporters on the home front informed about what we're doing here in Afghanistan.

The site is live and ready for your use. There are three sections that people deployed to Bagram may find the most useful.

In the news section, you have access to every story we've written since the start of the AEF 1 and 2 rotation. In photos, you



may download any of the more than 200 photos we have stored on the site. If you're looking for a fact sheet, specific information about the 455th AEW or our aircraft, visit the library section where those products are available. You can even find archived editions of the Bagram Bullet stored in the library.

We hope you find this delivery system easier to access than the electronic version of the Bagram Bullet, which exists now. We encourage you

to check the site often and even make it your home page whenever you access the Internet.

Once again, the address for the new, 455th AEW Web site is: [www.bagram.afnews.af.mil](http://www.bagram.afnews.af.mil)

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**INSIDE:** *Traveling with the PRT across the Afghan frontier for four days*  
See feature on Pages 3-6





# Insurgents attempt to delay Afghanistan road progress

By Capt. Joe Campbell  
Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team

**PANJSHIR PROVINCE, Afghanistan** — Despite the best efforts of extremists who destroyed \$200,000 worth of heavy construction equipment earmarked for reconstruction projects, the future for residents here remains bright.

Suspected members of the Taliban hijacked the driver of an 18-wheeler July 10. He was transporting a bulldozer and front end loader for use on road construction projects throughout the Panjshir Valley.

The driver was forced to divert the truckload of equipment off the Herat - Kandahar Road into the desert near the city of Chakau, where the cargo was destroyed. Although he feared for his life, the driver escaped unharmed.

"I was stopped by several Taliban members who forced me to drive off the road until I couldn't travel any farther," he said. "Then they fired multiple rockets at the equipment and both machines were completely burned."

The dozer and loader were part of a \$470,000 equipment package funded by the Commander's Emergency Response Program, or CERP, for the Panjshir government's use. Eagle AA Corporation of Kandahar was hired to procure and ship the equipment.

When notified of the equipment destruction, Panjshir Governor Haji Bahlol reflected on his military past and commented what a senseless act this was.

"When I was a commander with the Mujahideen, we destroyed many military vehicles, but we never destroyed construction equipment," he said. "There is no purpose to that."

The equipment was primarily for the provincial government to build and maintain small roads and paths to link villages to the main roads being constructed. The Taliban destroyed equipment that would have let Afghans build and maintain their own infra-



Courtesy photo

**Suspected Taliban extremists hijacked the driver of an 18-wheeler near the city of Chakau on July 10. The destroyed equipment would have allowed Afghans to build and maintain their own infrastructure.**

structure.

"I was in the Abdara Valley on Thursday and saw villagers crushing rock with a pick and hauling it by wheel barrel to build a road; their lives would be a lot easier with that bulldozer," said Air Force Lt. Col. Neal Kringel, Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team commander.

The U.S. Agency for International Development is funding 47 kilometers of road extending from the center of the province south to connect the valley to Charikar and Kabul. This segment of the road cost \$16 million and construction began in June 2005. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of December.

Governor Bahlol said the new roads tie in closely to his goals for an improved outlook for Panjshir residents. Education and agriculture are his number one and two priorities, respectively, and the much improved road helps make each possible.

"Education and agriculture are keys to helping people improve their livelihood," said Governor Bahlol. "The paved road makes it easier for students to get to school,

and it will open new markets for our agricultural goods."

The director of the Panjshir PRT called the road project the single largest agent of change in Panjshir.

"Economically, local Afghans are emphatically optimistic about the commercial links this road will provide," said Mr. Fletcher Burton. "Politically, it helps demonstrate the coalition's commitment to reconstruction in Afghanistan. Socially, it helps expose the Panjshir people to other cultures."

The disruption of progress by the insurgents will not stop the reconstruction, development and economic growth of the province or improved livelihood of its residents.

"The Coalition and our Afghan partners build and the Taliban destroys," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, Combined Joint Task Force 76 commander.

"But, we will prevail because the Coalition remains vigilant and committed to its mission of helping the government of Afghanistan rebuild and defeat the insurgency," he said.

**Bagram Bulletin**  
Editorial Staff, Disclaimer

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# Road trip with the PRT

## Travel like gypsies for good of country

by Master Sgt.  
Orville F. Desjarlais Jr.  
455<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing  
public affairs

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** – Taking a road trip with the Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team is a test of endurance.

It's a test I passed – be it a little smellier, a lot tired and very enlightened.

The reason they roam the countryside is to battle Taliban extremists by helping build bridges, roads and schools. To do that, they must hit the road for days on end. Recently, I went with them.

### Getting equipped

The key to a successful road trip with a PRT is all in the preparation, for yourself and the team. Think like a Boy Scout going on an expedition, except you'll be camping in a war zone, then prepare accordingly.

Wearing body armor and a Kevlar helmet, I dragged a big canvas bag filled with a sleeping bag and clothes, a backpack full of camera gear, an M-16 and a 9 mm pistol to the designated meeting spot to load up the vehicles. I was one of the first to arrive.

When I got there, the SUV I was to ride in bulged with medical supplies.

One of the missions of a PRT is to

**“TRIP” continued on Page 4**

**Winding their way through a mountain pass, members of the Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team make their way to a remote Afghan village.**





Republic of Korea engineer Capt. Jae-ho Han inspects an Afghan bridge under construction. While a project is underway, the PRT will intermittently visit it.

#### “TRIP” continued on Page 4

give meds to remote village clinics. After some rearranging, I somehow crammed all my stuff in the vehicle, then I felt bad when I noticed everybody else showed up with the bare minimum. Unlike me, most of them didn't have a spare uniform, a pillow, workout gear with running shoes, sweats, a spare Air Force ball cap, three packets of pens and enough moist wipes to clean a herd of mud-loving elephants.

I blamed my use of the big bag on the large, green sleeping bag it contained. Everybody else had the lightweight, super-small sleeping bags that a person can almost tuck away in a cargo pocket.

For the team, preparation means getting the vehicles in tip-top shape. You don't want a vehicle to sputter out or get a flat in the middle of a war zone. They also create a detailed campaign with maps, estimated times of arrivals and lengths of stays.

The PRT plans for its immediate endeavors the way they are helping the Parwan Province prepare for progression. They look toward the future.

Building roads and bridges closes the gap to provide better security, economic sta-

bility and good governance, according to Maj. Don Johnson, the PRT's team leader for the Parwan Province.

Major Johnson said he takes pride in his mission with rebuilding a nation, which starts with building a good foundation.

#### Suitcase in your mind

It's fine and dandy to have your sleeping bag packed and an extra pair of drawers, the more difficult preparation occurs in your mind.

It helped me to visualize my mind's-eye suitcase. First, I got rid off all the useless baggage. That left me with 99.99 percent of useable space in my mind. When I did get a thought, it would echo around my head like a scream off canyon walls. The only gray matter left remaining controlled my motor skills, like blinking and salivating.

*It helped me to visualize my mind's-eye suitcase. First, I got rid off all the useless baggage. That left me with 99.99 percent of useable space in my mind.*

For some reason, fear of the unknown is always the most difficult for me to discard. It gnaws at the brain like a cancer. And, like cancer, if you diagnose it early, it can be manageable. In a war zone, it's wise to be a little afraid, to be cautious, but you can't function properly if you're paralyzed with fear.

Every member of the PRT goes through rigorous Army training that improves their combat skills.

They learn the intricacies of each weapon they use.

They carry their weapons like women carry purses.

Weapons become a part of them. They also learn to work as a team in a combat zone. Each member plays a part.

As an outsider looking in, I felt the con-

“TRIP” continued on Page 5



### “TRIP” continued on Page 4

fidence they exuded. This, in turn, allayed any fears I had about traveling outside the wire. I felt protected and safe with them.

Despite not having received the same intense training as other members of the PRT, they still accepted me into their fold — well, not exactly accepted — more like tolerated and coddled. In their eyes, I was probably just a guy who could apparently only blink and slobber and take pictures of them as they slept (which I did).

As a benchwarmer on the team, I was allowed to make mistakes, like giving pens to children the minute we stopped, which created a mosquito-like swarm of children around us. I tried not to breathe them in.

For some unknown reason, the children of Afghanistan ask for pens, which I feel is educationally encouraging and the reason why I crammed three packages of pens in my bag. I just had to learn when to give them out.

### Afghanistan is like Montana

Driving across Afghanistan reminded me of traveling through my home state of Montana — if Montana were at war.

The rugged terrain, the streams, the valleys, the beauty — it’s all here in Afghanistan.

What it could really use, though, are good roads and bridges, which are primary PRT initiatives.

The dirt roads in the remote regions of Afghanistan are really just wide goat trails carved in the sides of mountain cliffs, winding their way through canyons.

Like goats, vehicles and colorful jingle trucks butt heads as they try to pass each other on the single-lane roadways.

During one such moment, while the convoy waited for a truck to pass, I took pictures of an Afghan farmer leading his loaded-down mule past my window. For a couple seconds, while we looked at one another, he pointed to his mouth with his index finger. I

had just finished eating a candy bar, so I thought I had smeared chocolate on the side of my mouth, so I wiped that side of my mouth. I appreciated how thoughtful the farmer was to point that out.

I had apparently wiped the wrong side of my mouth, because a second later he pointed again to his mouth. So I wiped the other side of my mouth just as we pulled away.

A little later down the road, a young boy gave us the thumps-up sign and brought his thumb to his mouth. The PRT members said it was the Afghan roadside signal for asking for water. They said when an Afghan points to his mouth that means he wants food. That’s when I realized I had never smeared chocolate on my face. The farmer alongside the road was simply hungry.

As we caravanned deeper into Afghanistan, the narrow dirt roads grew bumpier and

“TRIP” continued on Page 6



**Afghanistan or Montana? This winding road leads to one of the many villages the Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team visit, on average, once every six weeks.**



The team inspects another bridge project. From left, Capt. Byung-wook Moon, Capt. Jae-ho Han, Maj. Don Johnson and Capt. Dave Burns. The two Republic of Korea captains are engineers, while Captain Johnson is a PRT team leader and Captain Burns is a PRT medic.

#### “TRIP” continued on Page 5

the potholes deeper. PRT members wear Kevlar helmets for two reasons: protection in battle and to keep from getting knocked unconscious by hitting their heads on SUV roofs.

Getting jostled about in a bullet-proof jacket and helmet all day also wears a person out. In the near future, it is the PRT’s goal to improve Afghanistan’s roads, bridges and infrastructure, like electricity and water.

In the future, Afghans won’t need four-wheel drives to get to the next town, or the store, or wear hardhats to keep from getting knocked-out.

### Travel like gypsies

The PRT team travels like a band of gypsies, going from town to town, staying where they can. One night, we stayed in a district center, on another night we slept under the stars on top of a building still under construction.

There are no bathrooms or showers. There are Afghan “toshknobs,” or restrooms, and moist wipes for cleaning. Both take time getting used to.

During the four-day convoy, the team stopped at villages with military precision. The team’s doctor, Air Force Capt. Dave Burns, evaluated a town’s clinic while team members unloaded medical supplies. At the same time, security forces team member Staff Sgt. Michael Myers met with the chief of police while the team chief, Army Capt. Don Johnson, talked with the local mayor. During that same time, two South Korean engineers inspected a construction site.

As per PRT standards, a province’s governor is the lead agent for all re-construction projects. The team helps fund projects and checks the quality of a contractor’s work during the actual building phase of construction. The contractor hires local villagers to do

much of the construction, which adds a sense of pride and ownership of the facility.

During the one-year tour PRT members are deployed in Afghanistan, they’ll visit a particular village on average about eight times. On the road about five times a week, they return to remote villages about every six weeks.

### One village at a time

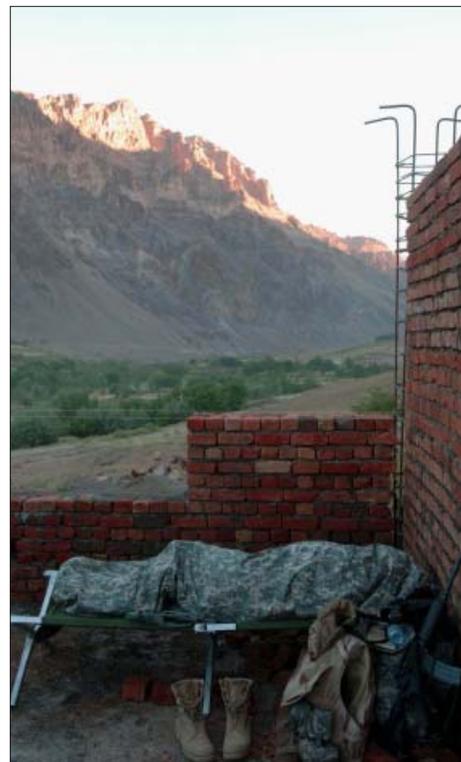
In this part of the country, the PRT is always welcomed with open arms and smiles.

It’s a feeling of friendship and cooperation they’d like to extend throughout the country. PRT team members, both American and Republic of Korean, Army and Air Force, know that one small project in one remote village isn’t going to change a nation overnight.

However, it’s like the anecdote about the young child, walking along the beach among thousands of starfish that had washed ashore with the tide. The child stopped every several yards to throw a starfish back into the ocean.

Another child, a bit older than the first, stopped and asked, “Why bother? You can’t save them all. Do you think it’ll really matter?”

And the younger child, tossing another starfish back into the waves replied, “It will matter to THIS one.”



I took pictures of PRT members as they slept, like this guy.



A farmer leads his mule past my window. Later, I figured out he was hungry.



# We're halfway there, folks!

by **Col. Ann Smith**  
455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron

**BAGRAMAIRFIELD, Afghanistan** — Like many, I'm halfway through my tour at Bagram! I can't wait to get home, see my husband and cats and have beer and brats on the back patio.

When I reflect on my time at Bagram so far, I realize I've learned a lot. This halfway point is the perfect time for all of us to review what we've learned, what we've accomplished and what's left to do.

First off, we've learned how to work as a team. We have people from the Reserve, the Air National Guard, active duty and civilians from 105 different bases and units who have come together here to fight terror and forge a lasting peace for Afghanistan.

I'm confident we will all go back to our respective bases with a very positive impression of the Air Force total force integration. Nothing illustrates this better than a story I heard on the flight line recently.

An active-duty pro. super. mentioned he had 18 years of A-10 experience; the crew chief replied that he'd been on that particular A-10 aircraft for 18 years. The pro. super. had a broad background having worked many different jobs in many different locations, but the crew chief working in the Reserve had that special-

ized skill of knowing his aircraft in great detail. The diversity of our backgrounds has made us a stronger team.

As a total force team we've accomplished a lot. In fact, most of you have been so hard at work that you haven't heard of all the good things our team has done.

And it doesn't matter if you work on the flight line flying, fixing or unloading aircraft, or if you work in services, the mail room or the Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team, we as a team have had a significant impact on the war on terror and building peace in Afghanistan.

Every week, we support more than 700 take-offs and landings on Bagram.

We process, load and unload more than 2,800 passengers and over 1,770 short tons of cargo.

Our A-10s dropped more munitions the first two weeks of our rotation than the entire previous rotation — and the pace has not slowed.

Our C-130s do it all — they do air-land, air-evac and air-drop missions in addition to the numerous movements of distinguished visitors.

In fact, they airdropped potato chips, sodas and other goodies to combat troops in the field July 4.

Our provincial reconstruction teams are heroes visiting local villages, teaching basic skills, and building schools and bridges to help improve the living condi-

tions and the lives of the people of Afghanistan.

Since we're at the halfway point, take time during your day to contemplate the things you've accomplished at Bagram. But don't stop there. Think of the goals you set before you arrived.

Have you started your exercise plan? Have you learned German? Did you finish your career development courses?

Whatever goals you planned to accomplish, assess where you are in accomplishing them. Make the course corrections required to complete them or start working on some new goals.

And while personal goals are very important, remember why we're here and the mission we're here to accomplish. We're not training now, we're at war — we're saving the lives of our coalition forces and forging a peace for the people of Afghanistan.

Lt. Gen. Eikenberry, commander of the Combined Forces Command — Afghanistan, said during a visit last week that the 9-11 terrorist plot originated 100 miles from Bagram. He went on to thank us for our service because of our work and the work of those who went before us.

There has not been another terrorist attack on the United States. What an awesome accomplishment! Take pride in your service and get excited about the great things we will accomplish in the second half of our rotation.

## Help available here for sexual assault victims

by **Maj. Caryn Kirkpatrick**  
455<sup>th</sup> AEW sexual assault response coordinator

Sexual assault is the most under-reported crime in our society, including in the military. An estimated 83 percent of assaults go unreported.

In a deployed environment that number is believed to be even higher for several reasons:

- Deployed victims are in a different chain of command
- The victim may not know who to trust
- Victims may fear loss of control over information
- The stigma attached to sexual assault — fear of being reduced in the eyes of a commander and coworkers
- Fear of disciplinary action, re-victimization, affecting operational missions, being sent home early or having to stay longer at a deployed location
- Assaultants have easier access to weapons

It is the Department of Defense's and Air Force's first priority to protect victims; treat them with dignity and respect; and ensure they receive the medical treatment, care and counseling they deserve.

Under the DOD's confidentiality policy, sexual assault victims are offered two reporting options — restricted and unrestricted.

Victims of sexual assault can report the crime to a sexual assault response coordinator, victim advocates, healthcare providers or chaplains to ensure they receive medical care, treatment and counseling without notifying command or law enforcement officials. This is restricted reporting.

This allows victims some personal space and time and increased control over the release and management of their personal information, while empowering them to seek relevant information and support to make informed decisions about participating in a criminal investigation.



# Bagram's Best



## Amn. Johnathan Heath

Amn. Johnathan Heath is a third-country national escort for the 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron.

He ensures work sites are secured, maintains accountability and controls national workers on the airfield.

While on duty, Airman Heath noticed a large fuel leak. He notified authorities and evacuated the area ensuring the safety of 40 workers. After the incident was contained, officials determined the faulty line leaked more than 100 gallons of fuel. His situational awareness and quick actions were appreciated by his chain of command.

Airman Heath is deployed from Pope Air Force Base, N.C. His hometown is Clifton Forge, Va.



## Tech. Sgt. Steven Copeland

Tech. Sgt. Steven Copeland is the NCO in charge of a six-person airfield maintenance and repair team for the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron.

Sergeant Copeland coordinates daily with the Bagram airfield management team for runway closures and repairs.

He initiated a pavement maintenance timetable, which allowed for pavement maintenance down time while assuring critical flying operations. CE has logged more than 1,000 hours of repair time on Bagram's 35-year-old runway, resulting in the use of just under \$85,000 of material.

Sergeant Copeland is deployed from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. His hometown is Byrdstown, Tenn.

### "SARC" continued from Page 7

The restricted reporting option is recommended for victims who wish to confidentially disclose the crime, receive medical treatment and counseling without triggering an official investigation. Under this option, the victim must report the assault to a sexual assault response coordinator, the Veterans Administration, a health-care provider or chaplain.

Restricted reporting does come with some limitations. Should the victim switch to an unrestricted report the assailant remains unpunished and capable of assault-

ing others, victims cannot receive a military protective order, they may continue to have contact with their assailant and evidence from the crime scene will be lost and the official investigation will likely encounter significant obstacles.

Additionally, the victim cannot discuss the assault with anyone without imposing an obligation to report the crime. Victims are ineligible to invoke the collateral misconduct provision of the DOD's sexual assault policy in the event their chain of command learns they were engaged in some form of misconduct at the time of the assault.

The unrestricted reporting option is recommended for victims who desire medical treatment, counseling and an official investigation of the crime. When selecting unrestricted reporting, members should use current reporting channels, like the chain of command, law enforcement or a report to a sexual assault response coordinator. Another option is to request healthcare providers to notify law enforcement. Details regarding the incident will be limited to only those personnel who have a legitimate need to know.

For more information, call me at 231-2245.



# Brief Bullets

## Have a replacement yet?

Do you have a replacement yet? Have you sent them any information about Bagram Airfield?

Check out the Sponsor Kit on the NIPR S Drive: S:\SHARED FILES\Sponsor Kit

You'll find helpful information out there to make your replacements transition as smooth as possible.

You will find things such as:

- BAF deployment guide
- Legal information
- Uniform standards
- Ballistic eyewear program
- AOR entitlements
- Savings Deposit Program
- NIPR, SIPR agreements

If you are unable to access this information, please call 231-4359.

## Dead lift contest

A dead lift contest is set for 1800L Aug. 13 in the Camp Cunningham weight room.

The weigh-in will take place at noon, Aug. 13. If interested, sign up in the services office.

Gift cards will be presented to the winners of each weight class.

The overall winner will be presented an additional gift card.

The overall winner will be determined by the individual who dead lifts the most weight over their body weight.

### Weight classes:

Male	Female
125-below	130-below -Light
126-148	131-150- Middle
149-165	151-above- Heavy
166-181	
182-198	
199-220	
221-above	

## Bagram's Best program

Continuing the success of the *Bagram Bulletin's* "Bagram's Best," the new wing Web site will feature the best people Bagram has to offer.

This section highlights Airmen doing good things around Bagram, be it on or off duty. Anyone can nominate one of "Bagram's Best," but the nominee's first sergeant and commander must concur before the person will be published on the Web site.

If you know somebody deserving this type of recognition, visit your first sergeant, or call Public Affairs at 231-3260.

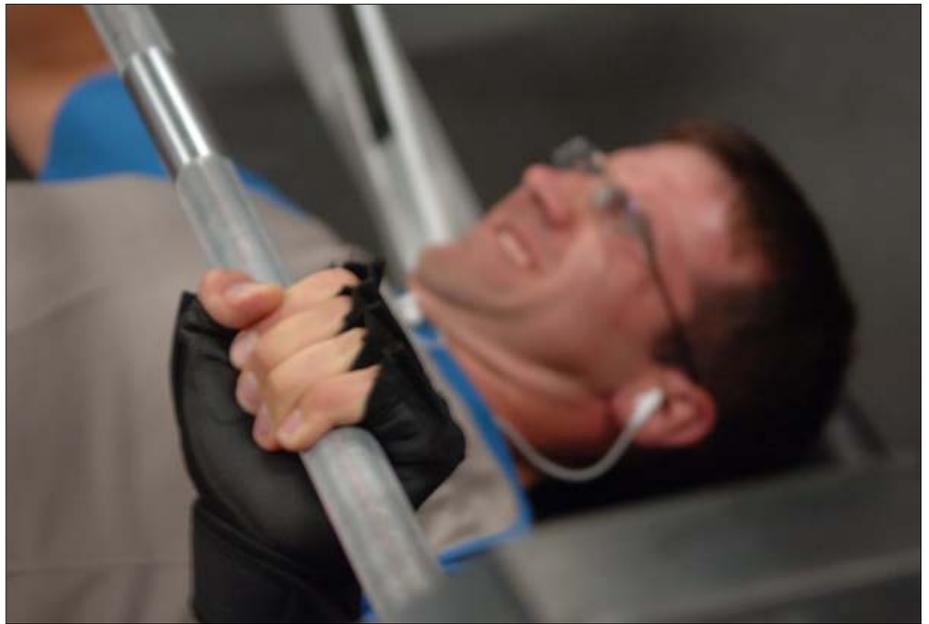


Photo by Master Sgt. Orville F. Desjarlais Jr.

Ryan Gordon competes in a bench-press competition on Camp Cunningham. Marcus Crawford was the overall winner.

# 24 compete in competition

Twenty-four athletes competed in another bench press competition here July 22. Winners are as follows:

Darryl Sanders	300 pounds.
Marcus Crawford	350 pounds.

Crawford, who pressed 350 pounds, was the overall winner. He weighed in at 201 pounds and pressed 149 pounds over his body weight.

All winners received gift cards from the Bagram Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

Name	Weight lifted
Nina Lawson	60 pounds
Erika Asbury	110 pounds.
Ryan Carrico	195 pounds.
Joshua Summers	290 pounds.
Joquin Almaguer	275 pounds.

# 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)

**FINAL FRAME**

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



**Top:** A western Parwan farmer separates wheat from chaff.

**Left:** Afghan men visit while waiting for their governor to cut the ribbon across a bridge. The Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team helped improve a road and build a two-way bridge there.