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# Bagram News Express

*Fighting Terror, Building Peace*

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## Mission: Deployed to serve

**By Col. Barry Mines**  
455 Expeditionary Mission  
Support Group commander

**BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan** -- As I reflect over the first eight months of my deployment to Bagram, I'm flooded with memories of the people who have passed through during that period. I have seen several rotations come and go, picking up where their predecessors left off and continuing to improve their work areas, their living conditions, and the efficiency in their processes.

I have also seen many distinguished visitors, including high ranking general officers, members of Congress, former Olympic athletes, music stars, and television personalities. They visited us because they care about our military and our way of life, and they want to honor us and thank us for our service.

It can be difficult for those who are not closely connected to military service to understand why we follow a career path that requires us to perform under extreme conditions, endure frequent hardships, and face long separations from family and friends.

A deployment provides ample time to reflect on the question of why you serve in the military. Are you truly serving? Are you making

a difference in the mission? Are you ensuring continued success by growing your replacement? Are you playing well with your coworkers and fellow service members? We are deployed to serve, not to be served.

It is all too easy to let our focus slip from why we serve when faced with a myriad of daily problems and tasks. During a morale call to my wife, I gave in to whining about something here at Bagram. She responded that I needed to put on my "big boy underpants" and deal with it (which was very sound advice.) All of us occasionally need to be reminded of why we are here. Every airman at Bagram AB has a meaningful and purposeful job. If there was no need for your service, you would not be here. Each individual brings their own unique skills to their military service.

We all have key jobs to perform, whether flying the jets, making airdrops, maintaining the aircraft, fueling aircraft, billeting our personnel, or ordering and tracking aircraft parts. There are so many jobs required for our wing to function properly, and all demand a dedication to service.

Every service member at Bagram AB makes a difference. Many have remarked that those who served in World War II were the greatest generation. Let us strive to serve

in a manner which will allow history to look as kindly upon our generation.

As I draw closer to the end of my tour, I recognize there are things I will miss about Bagram and the people I have worked with during this deployment. A current country music song by Trace Adkins advises "You're going to miss this... these are some good times, and you may not know it now, but you're going to miss this." More than one person has commented that they will definitely miss the free all-you-can-eat buffet every day, with Baskin-Robbins ice cream at night, and surf and turf on Fridays.

After your deployment is over and done, I'm sure you will reminisce on many of the times you enjoyed with the people here at Bagram. You can look back and pass on your own war stories to your friends and family. You can describe living in a wood B-hut, define a Chigo unit (small heating and air conditioner unit), and explain that a Cadillac is not a car, but the top of the line in expeditionary shower and latrine living. Only those who have deployed can truly appreciate those terms. A unique appreciation for the classic film, "Groundhog Day," as well as the urge to take malaria

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pills on a regular basis, are traits that will also mark you as one who deployed to serve.

You may also remember how you improved personally during your rotation. How you worked on your career development course (CDC), progressed in your professional military education (PME), took a college course, lost weight, or got in shape. I know I will remember the various folks who

joined me to run the perimeter road, and how they improved their times and set a new personal distance records. I thought it was fun, but some may not have experienced the same level of e n j o y m e n t .

Take care of the mission, take care of yourself, and take care of your coworkers. Remember, you deployed to serve, not to be served. Thank you for your service.

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## News Briefs

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### BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Camp Cunningham's Chapel staff offers two bible study classes at Town Hall. "The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here for?" is Monday at 1100L/0630Z. "The 360 Degree Leader: Developing Your Influence from Anywhere in the Organization" is Saturday at 0930L/0500Z and 1830L/1400Z. For more information, call 481-6111 or 6677.

### MUSIC NIGHTS

Stop by the Camp Cunningham Recreation Tent to listen to your favorite genre of music...there's something for everyone. R&B Music Night is Friday at 2100L/1630Z. Country Music Night is Sunday at 1800L/1330Z. Salsa Night is Monday at 2030L/1600Z.

### LAUNDRY CLAIMS

If you have lost or damaged laundry you may be wondering what to do. The first thing is to take inventory. If something is damaged or missing contact Staff Sgt Peter Wong at 455 EMSS/SVS as soon as possible. SSgt Wong is the Camp Cunningham Key Liaison between the laundry facility and KBR. KBR has 14 days to locate your missing items, if after 14 days they do not locate your goods, KBR is liable for your lost items. Liability will not exceed AAFES pricing, regardless of name brand. KBR is not liable for any loss or damage due to your own negligence. This

includes, but is not limited to loss due to improper categorization, damage due to your items bleeding onto each other. Any "special" non-military items such as Under Armour or Thorlo brand clothing should be listed separately.

### COMBAT PUSH TIMES

Combat Push times are Mondays and Fridays in the new Camp Cunningham Rec Tent at 0900L/0430Z. Persco, Comm, LRS, and Services will be available to sign outprocessing checklists. Personnel will still be required to have Medical and Security Forces sign their checklists prior to attendance. For more information or to sign up NET three days before departing, call 431-4409.

### ATTENTION ALL AIRMEN

The Bagram Airmen Committed to Excellence, or ACE, meet Wednesday at 1700L/1230Z at Camp Cunningham's Town Hall. The meetings provide Airmen an outlet to voice concerns. Contact Senior Airman Vanna Johnson at [vanna.b.johnson@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:vanna.b.johnson@afghan.swa.army.mil) or Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rayyuri Powell at 431-4359 for more information.

### NEWS BRIEF SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO

[455aewpa@swa.army.mil](mailto:455aewpa@swa.army.mil) WITH THE SUBJECT LINE "NEWS BRIEFS" AND INCLUDE POC INFORMATION.

## Useful info...

Cold Weather Season officially ended March 31.

Items of clothing no longer authorized include: watch/stocking caps, parkas, black fleece liners, scarves and insulated/thermal boots.

Although polypro undergarments fall under this category, military members may still wear these items, as needed.

Please take all trash bags from B-Huts, RLBs, Work Centers, etc. to the dumpster at the entrance of Camp Cunningham.

Please smoke at the benches located North of the Recreation Center. Four butt cans were placed at the location for that purpose.

Update: The sitting area in front of the Learning Research Center is not a smoking area. Also, this public area must be clear for non-smokers use.

The C-Wire around part of the camp is used to prevent personnel traffic through a major construction area. Please do not try to cross it as a short cut to the dining facility.



# *Airey: 1st Chief Master Sergeant of Air Force*

**Chief Master Sgt. Warren Wofford**

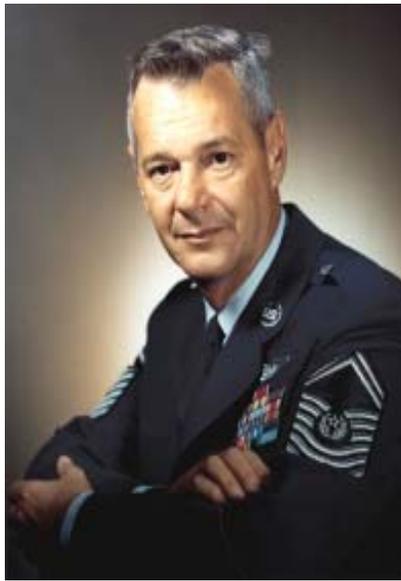
455 EMSG Superintendent

Chief Master Sgt. Paul W. Airey became the first chief master sergeant of the Air Force April 3, 1967.

Forty-one years ago, the office of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force was established and Paul Airey became our first. To learn more about the position, reference AFI 36-2109, but here's the essence of the position's importance for the enlisted corps:

- The office of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force represents the highest level of enlisted leadership, and provides the direction for the enlisted corps and represents their interests to the American public and all levels of government.
- The CMSAF is the senior enlisted member in the Air Force.
- The Chief of Staff, USAF, will select a chief master sergeant to perform duties as the CMSAF. Tenure is determined by the Chief of Staff, but will normally not exceed 4 years.
- "Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force" is a distinctive rank and the proper term of address is "Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force" or "Chief".

The CMSAF serves as the personal advisor to the Air Force Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, proper utilization, and progress of the enlisted force.



## **CMSAF Chevron**

The idea of creating a CMSAF position surfaced in the Air Force as early as 1964. However, purposeful action did not come until 1966 when Congressman Mendel Rivers introduced a bill that would mandate each of the services to appoint a SNCO.

Although the Rivers bill never passed, Air Force Chief of Staff General John P. McConnell announced the newly created position of CMSAF Oct. 24, 1966. In April 1967, Chief Airey became the first to wear the unique insignia with the wreath around the star.

## **CMSAF Paul Wesley Airey**

Paul Wesley Airey enlisted in the Army Air Forces as a radio operator on Nov. 16, 1942. By the height of WWII, he was serving as an aerial gunner aboard B-24 bombers. While in Europe, Airey and his crew were shot down over Ploetsi, captured

and held prisoner by the German army July 1944-May 1945.

During the Korean conflict, he was awarded the Legion of Merit for creating a means of constructing equipment from salvaged parts that improved corrosion control of sensitive radio and radar components.

Following the war, Airey took the job of first sergeant, a position he later believed to be one of the most important in the Air Force. He subsequently served as first sergeant for six squadrons at four bases over the next 12 years before being appointed to the highest non-commissioned officer position.

Upon assuming his new responsibilities, CMSAF Airey began tackling the problem of personnel retention. The first-term reenlistment rate was the lowest it had been in 12 years but Airey did not attribute the great decline to the unpopularity of the war in Vietnam. He felt it was the consequence of "poor pay, numerous remote assignments, good civilian employment opportunities, and an inequitable promotion system."

He formed a subcommittee to investigate the services' enlisted promotion systems and helped produce the Weighted Airman Promotion System (WAPS). WAPS was adopted in 1970 eliminating local enlisted promotion boards and equalizing promotion opportunities across career fields.

*(Sources: AFI 36-2109 and AFPAM 36-2241)*