

Bagram News Express

Fighting Terror, Building Peace

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Teamwork key to mission success

By Brig. Gen. Mike Holmes
455 Air Expeditionary Wing
commander

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan—Airmen. Men and women of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing. This opportunity to work with you is truly a dream come true for me. Your exploits in the skies, on the flight lines and bases, and across the mountains and plains of Afghanistan are writing a new page in Air Force history.

You are, literally, my heroes. You have earned your place along side great Airmen of the past through your sweat and sacrifice, and future generations will be talking about you and your successes. It is an honor, and a thrill, to serve with all of you on this great team.

Unfortunately, the world won't give us much time to dwell on our past successes. Great teams can never stand still. If we aren't working together every day to make the team better, the team is probably getting worse.

If we're going to continue to set the standard for employing expeditionary air power, we'll need the best efforts of everybody on this Total Force team—military and

civilian, active duty and reserve component.

Only a team can safely maintain and sustain our aging aircraft in this difficult expeditionary environment. Only a team can employ these aircraft to rapidly find, fix, and defeat our enemies—and sustain our teammates. Only a team can run this airfield, take care of our people and provide the essential support that makes sustained expeditionary operations possible. Only a team can provide our Airmen with the skills and determination needed to fill the many joint, combined, and in-lieu-of positions they hold today. Only a team can keep us healthy and well in this difficult environment a long way from home.

We can't predict which teammates will provide the key to our problems...so we'll have to make sure we respect and take care of **all** of our teammates...each and every one. We'll have to work to develop the technical and leadership skills of each of our Airmen. We'll have to work to make sure no Airman has to put up with discrimination or abuse. We'll have to work to ensure no one notices as we transition expeditionary Airmen in and out. And we can't afford to lose our



Brig. Gen. Mike Holmes

teammates to needless accident, illness, or suicide. Every teammate counts. Only a team effort can make us successful, and only the camaraderie and spirit of a team can make our jobs rewarding and fun.

None of this is easy. Nothing really worth doing ever is. We have come here to the ends of the earth and found ourselves at the center of the universe. There is no place on earth more important right now to the future of our countries. What we do here now as part of this team will matter for decades to come...to the whole world.

We're an air expeditionary wing that fights as part of a joint and combined team. That's our job, and you do it very well. I want to thank you and your families for the sacrifices and service that make this team the world's best. I'm proud and thrilled to serve here with you.

CSAF mandates SERE

Members must complete NLT June 30

The Air Force Chief of Staff is broadening the scope of Air Force survival, evasion, resistance, and escape (SERE) training to better prepare Airmen for the challenges they face on the modern battlefield.

Active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve military personnel must complete SERE 100 by using computer based training no later than June 30, 2008. This will satisfy the requirement for Department of Defense Level B SERE training.

Personnel should allocate approximately four hours to complete the SERE 100 CBT. Due to the urgency of this readiness requirement, CBT will be used to get the world wide force trained. However, when possible, commanders will use local SERE specialists to teach or augment the CBT. Currency for SERE 100 training is once every 20 months to align the requirement with individual AEF training cycles.

Personnel who have previously completed DoD level C or higher SERE training are exempt from this requirement. Level C SERE training is fulfilled by the attendance of the S-V80-A Combat Survival Course (or equivalent) at Fairchild AFB, Wash.

SERE 100 is available via the Advanced Distributed Learning System (ADLS) at <https://golearn.csd.disa.mil>. The course is organized within the mobility and readiness section of ADLS. Access to ADLS is also possible through the Air Force Portal.

News Briefs

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.

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Did you know...

- On Nov. 9, 1950, Corporal Harry LaVene of the 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, serving as gunner, scored the first B-29 victory over a jet by downing a MiG-15.
- On Oct. 10, 1950, an H-5 crew administered plasma to an injured pilot in flight—a first. Operating everything from helicopters to amphibious planes to even its own mini-Navy, the exploits of the 3d Air Rescue Squadron made it the most decorated unit of the Korean War.
- During the years between 1956 and 1964, several other requirements led to the certification of enlisted EWOs. In all, 132 enlisted personnel were qualified and assigned duties as B-52 EWOs.
- On Feb. 2, 1962, a C-123 on a training flight for Operation Ranch Hand crashed in South Vietnam, probably the result of ground fire or sabotage. Staff Sgt. Milo B. Coghill, the aircraft's flight engineer, became the first Air Force enlisted member to die in South Vietnam as a result of this crash.
- In December 1972, B-52 tail gunner Staff Sgt. Samuel Turner shot down an enemy MiG, the first of only two confirmed shoot downs by enlisted Airmen during the war—both victories from gunners belonging to the 307th Strategic Wing at U-Tapao, Thailand.
(Courtesy of Senior Master Sergeant Sue Wilburn, 455 EMXS)

Hold it...



BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan - Staff Sgt. Stephen Bryant (left) and Senior Airman Michael Foss, 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, seal cracks on the flightline. Sergeant Bryant is deployed from the 314th Civil Engineer Squadron, Little Rock Air Force Base Ark., and Airman Foss is deployed from the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt Demetrius Lester)

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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 or Airman 1st Class Rayyuri Powell at 431-4359 for more information.

ATTENTION ALL JUNIOR NCOS

The Bagram AF Route 5/6 meets Thursdays at 1330Z/1800L at Camp Cunningham's Town Hall. The meetings are open to all staff sergeant selects, staff sergeants and tech sergeants. Contact Tech Sgt. Joseph Krause, 431-4408 for more information.

BAGRAM AIRFIELD FLIGHTLINE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron reminds all service members that the Bagram Airfield flightline is a "controlled area" and all personnel require either specific inclusion on a certified entry authorization list (EAL), a restricted area badge issued by the 455 ESFS Pass & Registration section, or an authorized escort. Additionally,

personnel driving vehicles onto the flight line must have both a restricted area badge and an authenticated AF Form 483 (Flightline Driving Competency Card) on their person to enter. For additional questions or concerns, please contact Air Force Security Forces operations at 481-6018.

NEWS BRIEF SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO

455aewpa@swa.army.mil WITH THE SUBJECT LINE "NEWS BRIEFS" AND INCLUDE POC INFORMATION. FOR THE LATEST WING INFORMATION, VISIT <http://www.bagram.afnews.af.mil/>