

Bagram News Express

Fighting Terror, Building Peace

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CC bids Wing farewell

To the men and women of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing: it has been an honor and a privilege to have served with each of you.

This wing has been tasked with a daunting mission – to work as part of a coalition to bring stability through security, governance, and reconstruction to Afghanistan. What you and your predecessors have been able to accomplish in the last year is nothing short of phenomenal. You have strived and surpassed my expectations with the outstanding accomplishments you perform daily.

Our fighter aircrew have flown more than 10,000 combat sorties (more than 23,000 hours) and expended more than 1,000 tons and 200,000 rounds. Our tactical airlift crews delivered more than 16,000 tons of cargo, executed more than 400 airdrops, transported 43,000 passengers, and air evacuated more than 1,800 patients. None of this would be possible without the maintenance professionals who produce incredible results despite the adverse operating environment and logistical challenges they face.

Our mission support Airmen have provided critical command and control for combat sorties



Brig. Gen. James Hyatt shakes hands with members of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing during his Fini Flight March 6. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester)

through the Joint Radio Relay program, and delivered nearly 40 million gallons of fuel supporting thousands of operational missions. Security forces personnel completed more than 800 C-130 fly away security missions throughout the theater, while Services improved Airman quality of life through numerous morale events and the wing's movement into new living quarters.

Our medical personnel continue to do the impossible treating nearly 30,000 outpatients, 1,500 inpatients, and more than 250 military working dogs through nearly 2,000 surgeries,

30,000-plus pharmacy prescriptions, 50,000 lab tests and more than 18,000 radiology procedures.

More than 1,250 Airmen are working directly with the Army in different capacities to include supporting six Provincial Reconstruction Teams who facilitate governance, construction and humanitarian projects in 12 provinces. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams have made the Afghans lives safer by disposing of 15,000 pounds of explosives.

The wing also stood up the
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first MQ-9 Reaper Expeditionary Attack Squadron, bringing a new capability to the joint force commander in the theater. The squadron executed more than 100 sorties, flying more than 900 combat support hours to provide time sensitive air coverage to troops in contact with the enemy.

Though there are many challenges ahead of us, you have brought this wing to a whole new level. I leave on March 10th with an abundance of pride, and confident in the skilled leadership of Brig Gen Mike Holmes and the abilities of the men and women of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing to continue "Fighting Terror and Building Peace" for

the people of Afghanistan.

You have often heard me say, "Leadership is a contact sport," I ask you to continue the great work you are doing touching not only the lives of our Airmen throughout Afghanistan, but also the lives of the Afghan people.

You have been asked to sacrifice a lot – to be away from your family and friends, and to go into harm's way. Thanks for all you do in serving our great Nation and the United States Air Force. I am honored and humbled to have served with each and every one of you. Continue to remain vigilant and God speed!

-- Brig Gen James W. Hyatt

455 AEW Kudos

Congratulations to the Wing's newest lieutenant colonel selects:

Shawn W. Mann, 455 EMSS
Matthew D Robinson, CMO
John P. Baker, 455 ECES



Congratulations to two of Delaware's Air National Guard 2007 Airmen of the Year currently deployed to Bagram:

NCO of the Year: **Technical Sergeant Jayson W. Maykut** is assigned to the 166th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron as an aerospace maintenance specialist. He has been a member of the Delaware Air National Guard for four-and-a-half years, and was a prior member of the U.S. Air Force for six years. While in the Air Force, he served overseas for 11 months in support of Operations Northern and Southern Watch in Southwest Asia. After the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks he served in support of the Combat Air Patrol missions over the Washington, D.C. area. He recently served four months in Antarctica in support of Operation Deep Freeze.

Airman of the Year: **Senior Airman Christian S. Leamy** is assigned to the 142nd Airlift Squadron as an aircrew life support specialist. He has been a member of the Delaware Air National Guard for three-and-a-half years. For the past year Sgt. Leamy has attended Wilmington College with a major in Behavioral Sciences. He serves as a volunteer big brother in the Big Brother/Big Sister program of Wilmington, Delaware. Since 2006 Airman Leamy has completed two missions to Afghanistan.

Did you know...

- Esther Blake was the "first woman in the Air Force." She enlisted on the first minute of the first hour of the first day regular Air Force duty was authorized for women July 8, 1948.
- For 15 months during the Berlin Airlift, the 2.2 million inhabitants of the Western sectors of Berlin were sustained by air power alone as the operation flew in 2.33 million tons of supplies on 277,569 flights, of all the enlisted functions during the airlift, perhaps the most critical to the success of the airlift was maintenance.
- On June 29, B-26 gunner Staff Sergeant Nyle S. Mickley shot down a North Korean YaK-3, the first such victory recorded during the war.

(Courtesy of Senior Master Sergeant Sue Wilburn, 455 EMXS)

News Briefs

HARDSHIP DUTY/SAVE PAY UPDATE

There have been changes on how Hardship Duty/Save Pay is processed. Request for this entitlement may still be made; however, AI Udeid will hold all requests until the systems are updated. 455 Air Expeditionary Wing Finance Office will send an update as soon as details are available.

ACE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Airmen Committed to Excellence is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Party March 17 at 1600L/1130Z at the Camp Cunningham Recreation Tent. There will be food, fun and prizes. Come out and support ACE.

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Camp Cunningham's Chapel staff is offering two new 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 in the new Camp Cunningham Rec Tent from 0800L/0330Z to 0930L/0500Z and Fridays from 1230L/0800Z to 1400L/0930Z. Comm, Supply, Ammo 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 or email helen.carson@afghan.swa.army.mil.

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. Stephen DeWeese, 431-3212 or Tech Sgt. Charles Heywood, 431-2820 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.

HOMETOWN NEWS

Airmen who are deploying or redeploying can "get the word out" about notable events related to their service via the Hometown News Program. The process is easy - individuals simply fill out, sign and return the Hometown News Release (available on the Bagram Air Base website, <http://www.bagram.afnews.af.mil>, under "Other Links") to Public Affairs (paper copy or scanned electronic copy) and PA will take care of the rest by marketing these events to their local media. Some examples of events include: award of Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, arrival for deployment, completion of deployment, etc. For more information, contact public affairs at 455aewpa@swa.army.mil.

DEPLOYMENT RESOURCES

Resources for newly-deployed personnel can be found on the Combat Stress Control section of the Task Force Med home page at <http://bgrma0afgn03/sites/BAF%20ALL/Hospital%20Services/default.aspx>. For more information, contact SGT James Yeiser at 431-4423 or james.j.yeiser@afghan.swa.army.mil.

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>