
Bagram News Express



Fighting Terror, Building Peace

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Airpower: More than bombs on target

By Col. Thomas Huizenga
755 Air Expeditionary Group
commander

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Right now, outside my tent as I write this, yet another close air support mission is thundering into the sky. And right now, there is likely an Air Force JTAC ready in the field to employ that Airpower in the fight against the insurgents here in Afghanistan.

But as impressive as that classic use of Airpower is, that is by no means the only measure of our Airmen's involvement in this counter-insurgency fight.

Everyday Airmen are deeply involved in this joint fight against extremism and terrorism. Countering an insurgency requires every tool of national power; and yes, that includes the force of combined arms.

Airpower is vital to that striking force. Airpower, however, comes to the fight in many forms. As those CAS sorties fly, there are Airmen busting their tails maintaining the aircraft. There are Airmen working the extraordinary challenges of supplying those hungry aircraft in a difficult environment. And there are Airmen securing this air base

against a complex threat from smart and dangerous adversaries. These things, too, are Airpower.

The Air Force contribution extends far beyond the base. From the Global Mobility provided by our airlift forces, to the worldwide communication and navigation network maintained by our comm and space specialists, to UAV operators running Predator sorties from half a world away, Airpower is an indispensable part of the joint fight.

And it doesn't stop there.

Every Airman who supports deployed Airmen, and their families back home, is enabling the fight, and bringing Airpower to bear.

Airmen are also filling very non-traditional roles in this war, providing key capabilities and skills to the Joint force. Whether serving in joint organizations, or often in Army formations, Airmen are taking their skills into the "In Lieu Of" or ILO field.

Sometimes as teams, frequently as individuals, these ILO Airmen supply valuable

"Airpower comes to the fight in many forms."

expertise in support of our sister services. Lengthy pre-deployment training, longer deployments, and austere forward bases are the norm for these warriors. While this may not look like Airpower, the spirit and talents of the ILO Airmen show Airpower at its finest.

Beyond their technical skill, Airmen demonstrate their flexibility and dedication to duty every day. Airmen also go one step beyond: the Airpower culture that produced them has taught them to look for the one thing that isn't getting done, and then find a better way of doing it. ILO Airmen show without a doubt that our people are the greatest form of Airpower, and their contribution to the joint fight is immense.

Some folks may glance at the struggle for Afghanistan and falsely conclude that Airpower is but a small part of the equation. Although the numbers of Airmen and aircraft in country may be small, the impact of that Airpower is huge and global in scope. Airmen can, and should, be proud of their contribution to this fight. The Air Force and our joint partners are making a positive difference in this country together.

Airman gives all for families

By Capt. Toni Tones

455 Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Most people couldn't imagine doing the job of Senior Airman Sekina Moye. Before this deployment... she couldn't either.

Airman Moye, a services journeyman assigned to the 755th Air Expeditionary Group, is filling a six-month in-lieu-of tasking with Bagram's Mortuary Affairs. She is the only Air Force member of the five-person Army team who processes the remains of U.S. and coalition fallen heroes.

"I was scared... I had never done this aspect of services," said Airman Moye, who works at the fitness center at her home station of Ramstein Air Base, Germany. "This is my first deployment and I came alone without any team members. But once I got here, the Army made me comfortable and part of the family."

Less than three weeks on the ground, Airman Moye processed her first fallen hero.

"These heroes give the ultimate sacrifice for their country," said Airman Moye. "I take pride in my job from start to finish. We spend hours making sure the draping of the flag (on the transfer case) is perfect for their journey home to their family. It's all about the families."

Airman Moye has briefed high-level visitors from the Under Secretary of the Army to the Army G-4 on the mortuary process, history, and the new flag drape "tuck" procedure which was developed here and being implemented theater wide.

"Airman Moye is a great asset to the team," said Army Staff Sgt. Jimmy Arthur, Bagram Mortuary Affairs NCO-in-charge. "I couldn't have asked for a better Airman... she's met every challenge head on, her dedication is off the charts and she never fails at the mission."

The nature and sensitivity of the job requires not only Airman Moye, but the entire team to be perfectionists.

"We can't afford to have flaws in our daily duties," said

Sergeant Arthur. "If we falter or fail, the family suffers the ultimate consequence. I tell my team we don't work for the government; we work for the family."

Her string of accolades, certificates, awards and coins are just a small indication of the difference this Airman has made with the unit.

"People are often surprised that an Airman is here," added Sergeant Arthur. "The work she's done here has given her invaluable knowledge on an aspect of this field that many won't get to experience... now she can train others on what she's learned."

What she's learned has impacted the way she views herself and her future.

"Compared to where I was five months ago, I've come a long way," said Airman Moye. "I was scared, but now I know I can do this and anything else brought my way. The experiences have been life changing. I'm a better Airman because I've made a difference for the families of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice."

Camp Mayor News

HOOKS IN RLBS

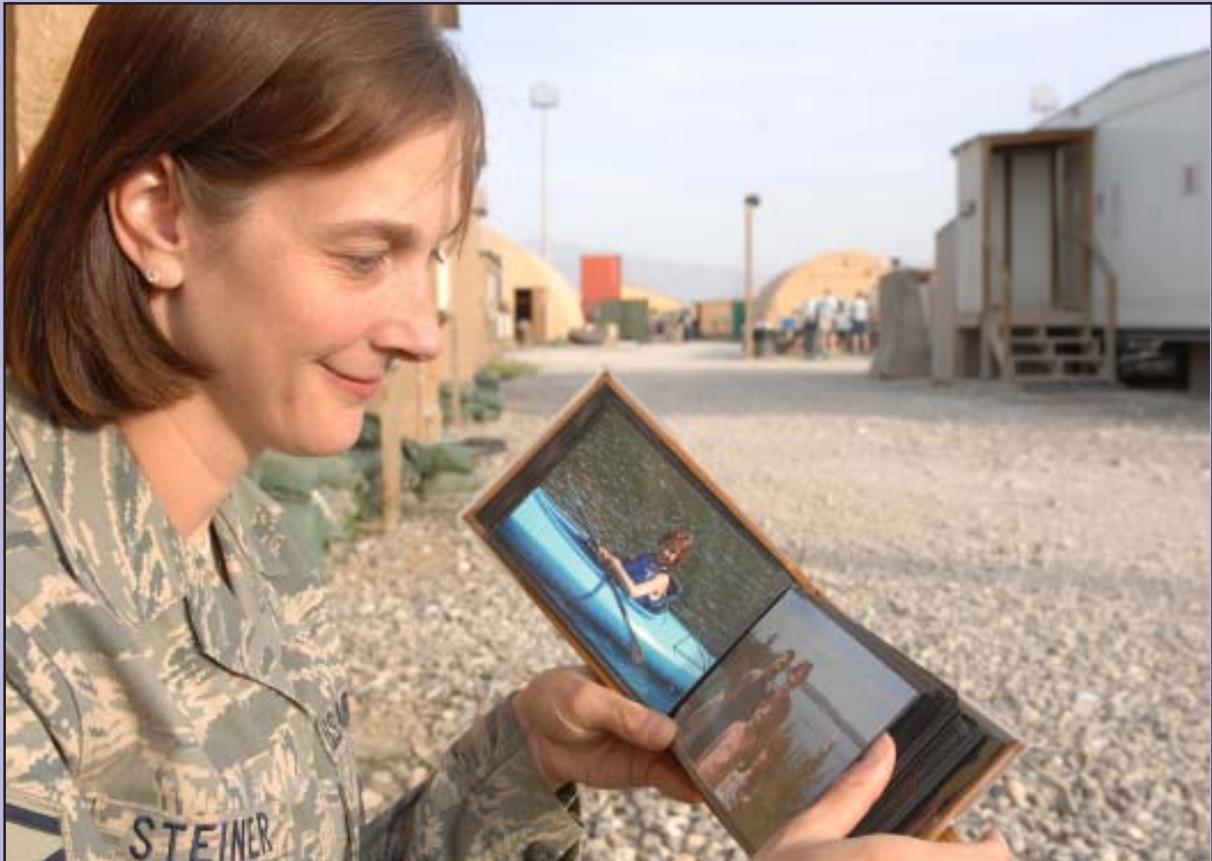
The Local Contractor will be installing hooks in the RLB Showers & latrines areas to support the residents. Please be advised, they should be used for shaving kits, towels or clothes. They won't support the weight of your weapon or your bags more than 10 pounds.

KBR CHIGO (AC) CLEANING

KBR will be performing cleaning on Chigo units (AC Units) throughout the B-Hut area for the next two weeks. Cleaning takes approximately 20-30 minutes per unit.

SERVICE/REPAIR CALLS

Please contact the KBR Customer Service desk if your facility needs maintenance or repair. Calls should be considered Emergency or Urgent if possible. Call KBR at 431-4644.



BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Master Sgt. Georgiana Steiner, 455th Expeditionary Logistic Readiness Squadron, looks through a family photo album here. Sergeant Steiner is deployed from the 58th Aerial Port Squadron, Westover Air reserve base, Mass., where she is a crew chief in the air terminal operations center. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt Demetrius Lester)

News Briefs

COMBAT PUSH TIMES

Combat Push times are Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Camp Cunningham Rec Tent from 0900L/0430Z to 1000L/0530Z. Services, Comm and PERSCO will be available to sign outprocessing checklists. Personnel must complete your Post Deployment Health Questionnaire on-line and pick up your medical records at Flight Medicine/Public Health before coming to Combat Push. For more information call 431-4409.

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Camp Cunningham's Chapel staff is offering 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.

PRT engineers 'outside wire'

By Capt. Jillian Torango

Provincial Reconstruction Team Panjshir

PANJSHIR, Afghanistan -- As part of a Provincial Reconstruction Team, it is common to go "outside the wire" to do work. While some may only leave the base once a week, the engineers are out there every day conducting site assessments, quality control missions, and preparing the province to respond to natural disasters.

On Tuesday, the engineers inspect a handful of construction projects in the mountainous district of Khenj. First they went to the construction site of the new Khenj District's Justice Center. This \$220,000 building is expected to be complete in January 2009 and furthers one of the key tenets of the PRT mission: governance. Within minutes after meeting with contactors, the meeting became something more.

The PRT engineers were informed there would be a ceremony to set the first stones of the foundation, and the District's Chief Justice, Mohammad Yousef Qata, wanted them to participate. Capts. Jason M. Aftanas and Kenneth McGinnis, PRT Panjshir, represented Coalition forces in the ceremony. Each captain took his turn and laid a stone beside that of the chief justice. Then, in traditional Afghan custom, they were offered candies to drop into the foundation.

The ceremony was an unexpected surprise for the captains.

"We've never been asked to participate in an event such as this," said Captain McGinnis, an engineer deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, N.D. "Even though we have only been working in the valley for just over a month, they were excited to have us represent the PRT. It makes me feel really good to know the people of the district wanted us to be a part of this celebration."

A moment later, the event was over, and the captains switched back into engineer mode and checked the next project on the day's schedule: the foundation for a schoolbook repository.

After an initial look at the foundation, the captains stopped to talk with the project's contractor and

engineers. They discussed everything from the thickness of the concrete slab to the logistics of getting the proposed modular buildings up the switchback dirt road with an eight percent grade.

After getting all of the information they needed from this site, they were in their 4-wheel-drive vehicle and off-roading to their third stop of the day, the Pukh High School project.

The minute the team exited their vehicle, the project's contractor was there to greet them. Pukh High School is a two-story, 16-room, reinforced concrete structure that will soon accommodate up to 3,000 students.

While the contract mandates the use of a standard design from the Afghan Ministry of Education, several modifications have been added to improve the quality of construction.

Captain McGinnis highlighted the contractor's use of electrical conduit and junction boxes that are not common in most Afghan construction.

Another unique feature of the school is the standing metal seam roof.

"We see a lot of concrete, mud, and corrugated metal roofs on the schools in Panjshir but this roof system is a first for Panjshir," said Captain Aftanas, whose home station is Andersen Air Force Base, Guam

The engineers used a system to ensure they maximize their time on site. Captain McGinnis started looking at the electrical work, circuit boxes and conduit, while Aftanas checked the finished work for the floors, walls, and carpentry for anything that didn't seem right.

After their inspection of the main building, they moved on to survey the tashnob (bathroom), under construction next door. They checked everything from the walls and floors to the handicap ramp that led to the front door.

"You might not think that having appropriate handicap-accessible ramps here would be all that important," Captain Aftanas said, "but every little improvement makes a difference."

Once the engineers were satisfied with what they saw there, they headed back to their vehicles for a Meal-Ready-To-Eat lunch.