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# Bagram News Express



*Fighting Terror, Building Peace*

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## Jointness: The way of the future

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**By Maj. Eric Rivera**

455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

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**BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan** You may have noticed within the last few years, the focus on jointness at both the international and the armed forces level.

Why such a push to combine forces that are different in every way imaginable — culture, processes, philosophies and numerous other areas?

What possible good can come from two parties that have different ways of doing business? Why can't the Air Force or the Army just do their own thing? Two words can sum this up quickly: force multiplier.

Every member of the coalition and our armed forces bring a unique skill set to the table and another way of how to tackle a certain problem offering a viable solution. In today's environment of terrorism on an international scale, the old way of doing business simply will not work.

Long gone are the days of various departments working in silos producing a product or offering a solution without sharing ideas and thoughts to ensure compatibility. In the business world companies do not survive and go out of business because they don't adapt and change to the environment around them.

I use that same analogy in our current state of affairs.

Our enemy is adapting to the environment and fighting on every front, at every level in order to achieve their objectives. They are utilizing every asset at their disposal, in effect creating a multinational league of terrorism on a scale the world has never seen before. We as defenders of freedom must adapt and use every resource necessary to counter these threats.

What is your part in the big picture?

We truly are a multinational, multibranch force here at Bagram, every armed forces branch is represented, and there is a strong presence of NATO forces as well as other forces who are offering their skill set to "make a difference."

How can you as an Airman, Sailor, Marine or Soldier ensure you are capitalizing on these unique skill sets brought together in this melting pot called Bagram? This is a rhetorical question and hopefully you are finding out that what you bring to the table coupled with what your co-workers bring to the table can be most effective if you combine forces and offer the best product to bring "The Hurt" to the enemy.

I believe this philosophy worked in the past. There is a country founded over 230 years ago that had equal challenges such as diverse cultures, processes, and philosophies. This nation understood there is strength in numbers and as a new nation "United We Stand Divided We Fall."



**BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan**  
— Maintenance crews stand by during the pre-flight preparation for an EC-130H Compass Call here on July 15, 2008. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)



**BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan** — The sun sets on an EC-130H Compass Call here on July 15, 2008. The EC-130H is a heavily modified version of the C-130 Hercules airframe designed to perform electronic countermeasure missions. Among other things, the system disrupts enemy command and control communications and limits adversary coordination essential for enemy force management. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)

# The “power” of a power of attorney

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**By Master Sgt. Donte Anderson**  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Legal Office

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**BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan** -- You are diligently working, when you receive an e-mail from your spouse. You are about to finally close on your dream home, but your signature is required and the mortgage company needs a power of attorney in order to seal the deal. You think to yourself, “No problem, I will just run over to the legal office, get a General Power of Attorney and continue on with my day.”

However, in many cases a General Power of Attorney is not the answer to your problem. Here’s why A General Power of Attorney is such a broad document that many companies, banks and other agencies will not accept it. These companies will only accept a Special Power of Attorney that allows someone to perform a specific act in your name.

Additionally, you should not even consider granting powers of attorney unless you trust the person to whom you are giving the power to. There are two ways to render a Power of Attorney invalid once it has been issued one, you retrieve the original and any copies and destroy them, or two, you could draft a memorandum revoking the power of attorney, but it is ineffective if it is not honored.

Some people may believe that those AFN commercials are a bit silly, but they contain a very important message and that is to make sure that you

are fully aware of what you are doing when it comes to powers of attorney. For instance, giving a General Power of Attorney to your roommate may not be the wisest decision; particularly since he or she can basically do anything that you could do (i.e. buy a new car, open new credit accounts, sell your Playstation 3 and keep the profits, etc.). In order to prevent things such as this from occurring, it is our recommendation that the General Power of Attorney be used sparingly.

A Special Power of Attorney is ideal in most situations, because it limits the range of actions that the person using it can take. For example, you can give a Special Power of Attorney for the purposes of registering a vehicle, for medical issues involving children, and for selling/purchasing a home. You must know the differences between the two and ensure that you only give these documents to someone you trust.

If you wish to prepare a power of attorney, you will need to provide the legal office with the name and address of the individual you are appointing as your attorney-in-fact. However, some powers of attorney require more information. For instance, if you are buying or selling a home, you need to provide a physical description of the property (i.e. subdivision, lot number, etc). Additionally, if you wish to execute a power of attorney involving a vehicle, the Vehicle Identification Number will need to be provided.

The legal office prepares powers of attorney on a walk-in basis, Monday through Saturday from 0830-1730L. For more information, please contact the Bagram Legal Office at 431-3251.

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# News Briefs

## **LEAVE AND LIBERTY POLICY CHANGE**

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act made significant changes to the Air Force Leave Program. The changes are summarized below:

-- Annual leave accrual temporarily (until Dec. 31, 2010) increased from 60 days to 75. The DFAS system cannot be modified to prevent the initial loss of leave balances over 60 days. DFAS will identify all members affected and begin manual restoration on Oct. 1, 2008. No action is required by the servicemember. Up to 15 days of lost leave will be restored by Dec. 1, 2008.

-- Special leave accrual retention limits increased. SLA earned in combat zones may now be kept for four fiscal years. SLA earned in support of operations may now be kept for two fiscal years. The increased retention limit for SLA earned in combat zones applies only to SLA accumulated between Oct. 1, 2008 and Dec. 31 2010.

-- An additional one-time SLA sell back is authorized for enlisted servicemembers. Enlisted servicemembers may sell back up to 30 days of SLA. Any leave sold under this provision counts towards the limit of 60 days maximum leave sell back for a servicemember's entire career.

-- Authorized Special Rest and Recuperation (SR&R) absence increased. Non-chargeable leave and round-trip transportation at Government expense is increased from 15 to 20 days. Applies to personnel completing an overseas duty tour extension longer than 12 months.

## **ENLISTED COMMISSIONING OPPORTUNITIES**

There will be an informational briefing on enlisted commissioning opportunities at 1700L/1230Z on 22 July at the Camp Cunningham Town Hall. Appointments will also be available. For more information, contact Lt. Col. Les Ball at 431-4027.

## **MWR CLAMSHELL ACTIVITIES**

Due to the observance of the Freedom Fest 2008 Revival, sponsored by the Chapel Community of Bagram, all regularly scheduled events that take place in the MWR Clamshell are cancelled until 2200L/1730Z on July 20.

## **TOBACCO CESSATION**

A six week, six session tobacco cessation program will begin 23 July at 1530L/1100Z at Task Force MED. The program is open to all U.S. Military, DoD civilians, and Coalition Forces. For more information, contact Dr. Reynold D'Lima and Maj.

Van Orden at 481-6887.

## **FIRE ALARM ACTIVATIONS IN RLBs**

When the fire alarm is activated in the RLBs please contact the Fire Department at 911. All residents must evacuate the facility until the Fire Department determines that it is safe to re-enter. The rally point for personnel in these facilities is around the Route 5/6. Keep the street in front of the RLBs clear for the emergency response vehicles and their operations.

## **COMBAT O**

Combat Orientation is Thursday at 0900Z/1330L at the Enduring Freedom Chapel. This is a mandatory briefing for all Air Force personnel assigned to Bagram Air Field. Newcomers must attend the briefing within a week of their arrival. Accountability is tracked and will be forwarded to the 1st Sergeants at the end of the Week.

## **COMBAT PUSH**

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.

## **ATTENTION ALL JUNIOR NCOS**

The Bagram AF Route 5/6 meets Thursdays at 1800L/1330Z at Camp Cunningham's Town Hall. The meetings are open to all staff sergeant selects, staff sergeants and tech sergeants. Contact Tech Sgt. Scott Snedeker, 431-4404 or Staff Sgt. Tamesha Cobb, 431-4404 for more information.

## **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.

## **CONSERVE OUR RESOURCES**

Turn off Chigo (AC) units when not in your living area for an extended period of time. Turn off lights when not in use. Doing so will help conserve the amount of energy that we consume from our BAF power plant. Also, minimize the use of water during your daily operations. Three minute combat showers are in effect.