
Bagram News Express

Fighting Terror, Building Peace

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Airman breaks Bagram fuel record

By Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – In the three months since the current AEF rotation arrived, the 31-member POL shop has pumped nearly 14 million gallons of fuel. Most of the operators have pumped an average of 700,000 gallons each. Only two have surpassed the million-gallon mark - one doing it in record time.

Senior Airman Ramon Negrón, deployed from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., recently pumped one million gallons of fuel in 61 days, breaking the previous Bagram record by three days.

As a fuels distribution operator in the 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron here, Airman Negrón is responsible for refueling all U.S. Air Force aircraft assigned to Bagram, as well as transient aircraft.

“I feel that the mission we have here is very important in the rebuilding of this country, and I personally support it,” said the San Juan, Puerto Rico, native.



BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Senior Airman Ramon Negrón, 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels distribution operator, prepares for a refueling run here July 27, 2008. Earlier this month, Airman Negrón broke the record for million gallons pumped, doing it in just 61 days. Airman Negrón is deployed from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., but calls San Juan, Puerto Rico, home. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez)

The long hours and busy tempo is not a major challenge for this first time deployer.

“The most challenging thing about pumping fuel here

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New government travel cards to arrive

**Courtesy of the Defense
Travel Management Office**

All government travel cardholders will receive new cards during the summer of 2008. DoD's current Government Travel Charge Card contract with Bank of America is ending this year. Citi® was awarded the contract as the new GTCC provider and will continue to support the mission needs of

over 1.2 million DoD travel cardholders.

As the Travel Card Program transitions from one vendor to another, all government travel cardholders will receive new cards beginning in August 2008.

Current cards expire on Nov. 29 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

New GTCCs issued by Citi® will be ready for use on Nov. 30 at

12:00 a.m. EST.

Cardholders are advised to confirm their mailing addresses on file with Bank of America® as new travel cards will be mailed to that address. Cards that are sent to an incorrect address will be returned to Citi®. If you do not receive a new travel card by Oct. 31 please notify your APC.

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is being away from my family,” he said.

The soft-spoken Airman did not set out to break any records - he was just doing his job. After a month and a half of pumping fuel, his supervisor approached him and told him that the record was within reach. On July 8, making his 533rd fuel run in two months, Airman Negron hit the million gallons mark and broke the base record.

“All my coworkers congratulated me. They were really happy for me,” he said. “Ideally, we would like for everyone to pump one million (gallons) or even more, however, not many people hit this milestone.”

His supervisor, Tech. Sgt. John Lineaweaver, said he wasn’t surprised when Airman Negron broke the record.

“He is always first to volunteer when a refueling request is called in,” said Sergeant Haynes. “This

award highlights the high level of performance he always gives.”

Now that he holds the record, Airman Negron said he plans on taking time to go to school and finish his degree. If his record is broken, he won’t be upset.

“This is a team fight and if someone breaks my record I will be as happy as they were for me,” he said. “I would really encourage anyone to attempt it, but always making sure they do it safely.”

GTCC from Page 1

Verify receipt of your new travel card immediately by phone or online, to ensure that you will be able to use it on Nov. 30. Contact information for verification will be printed on a sticker affixed to the new card. As part of the receipt verification process, you must agree to the Terms & Conditions in order to use your new card.

If you will be traveling during the cutover (Nov. 29-30), charge all official travel expenses up to, and including, Nov. 29 on your current GTCC. Travel expenses incurred from 12:00 a.m. EST on Nov. 30 should be charged to the new GTCC issued by Citi®.

Pay all outstanding, undisputed charges on your Bank of America® GTCC before Nov. 29. If you currently have a credit balance, call the phone number on the back of the card to request a statement. After the cutover, Bank of America will continue to accept and receive payments for charges previously made on its cards.

Bagram Airmen reminded to finish strong

By Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez

455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

As Air and Space Expeditionary Force Rotation Three and Four winds down Airmen here were reminded to “finish strong.”

The Finish Strong briefing is targeted toward Airmen within six weeks of redeploying. During these last few weeks of a deployment disciplinary and mishap rates historically rise. The briefing is part of a series of reminders that aims to combat that.

“The ultimate goal of these briefings is a smooth transition process...prevention of incidents and preservation of combat assets — both people and equipment — so we can support the coalition ground forces and Operation Enduring Freedom,” said Lt. Col. Dave Allen, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing chief of safety.

According to Colonel Allen, four factors contribute to the rise in mishaps - complacency, overconfidence, distractions and taking shortcuts. Mishaps typically include minor injuries and damage to equipment, however anything could happen.

“I ask you to keep focused. We still have a lot that needs to get done,” Brig. Gen. Mike Holmes, 455th AEW commander, told Airmen during the briefing. “Go forth and finish strong. Finish strong so that the new group can start right.”

News Briefs

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 and from 2330L/1900Z to 0030L/2000Z. 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.

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 Senior Airman Cherie Randall at 455 EMSS/SVS as soon as possible. Airman Randall 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.

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 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.

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. Also, minimize the use of water during your daily operations. Three minute combat showers are in effect.

Services Info

- ◆ First Run Movies: Sunday at 1700L, Wednesday at 1330L, and Saturday at 1600L.
- ◆ Mixed Martia Arts/Jujitsu: Sunday from 1300L to 1430L, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1000L to 1130L.
- ◆ Abs Workout: Monday through Friday from 1200L to 1230L.
- ◆ Capoeira/Brazilian Martial Arts: Sunday from 2000L to 2200L and Tuesday from 1630L to 1830L.
- ◆ Foosball: Monday at 1800L and Thursday at 1900L.
- ◆ Salsa: Monday from 2030L to 2230L.
- ◆ Texas Hold'em: Tuesday at 1900L, Thursday at 1330L, and Saturday at 1330L and 1900L.
- ◆ Dominoes: Tuesday at 2100L and Thursday at 1330L.
- ◆ Reggae Night: Wednesday from 2000L to 2300L.
- ◆ Spades: Thursday at 1800L.
- ◆ Blackjack: thursday at 2100L.
- ◆ Bingo: Friday at 1900L.