

Bagram News Express



Fighting Terror, Building Peace

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AFCENT commander, command chief visit Airmen in Afghanistan



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse



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Above: Maj. Oscar Betancourt, 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron commander, shows Lt. Gen. Gary North, USAFCENT commander, plans for upcoming CE projects here Sept. 25.

Left: Capt. Melissa Buzbee, 455th Expeditionary Medical Group, looks at quilts delivered by Chief Master Sgt. Scott Dearduff, U.S. Air Forces Central command chief master sergeant, and Lt. Gen. Gary North, USAFCENT commander, here Sept. 25.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez

Lt. Gen. Gary North, U.S. Air Forces Central commander, shares a laugh with 1st Lt. Kierra Kaaoush, 209th Afghan Regional Security Integration Command - North, at Camp Spann near Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, Sept. 26. Lieutenant Kaaoush's mother, a retired chief master sergeant, had asked the general to check on her daughter during his visit.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse

Chief Master Sgt. Scott Dearduff, U.S. Air Forces Central command chief master sergeant, talks to the Airmen of the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron here Sept. 25. Chief Dearduff concluded his speech and the day of touring by reciting the Airman's Creed with the group.

Afghanistan AFSA chapter honors POW/MIA

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

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — While Americans throughout the U.S. observed National Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Day Sept. 19, Airmen halfway around the world at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan held their own recognition ceremony.

The POW/MIA recognition ceremony was put on by the Air Force Sergeants Association Expeditionary Chapter 1657. Just a week prior to the ceremony this chapter became the second expeditionary chapter, and the first in Afghanistan.

With more than 134,000 members and 200 chapters worldwide AFSA is a federally chartered organization dedicated to improving benefits and quality of life for enlisted Airmen and their families.

“It’s a private organization ran by us, for us,” explained Senior



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez

Airmen salute while the flag is lowered during a POW/MIA recognition ceremony sponsored by the Air Force Sergeants Association at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Sept. 19. AFSA Expeditionary Chapter 1657 is the second chapter to be established in a deployed location.

Master Sgt. Melissa PerMar, the newly elected president for the expeditionary chapter. “AFSA reaches out to each Airman.”

PerMar was instrumental in formation of the chapter here.

“When I first got here I noticed the Top 3, Network 5/6, (Airman’s Committee of Excellence, and I thought ‘what about AFSA,’ she said “We do the same thing as any other chapter - solicit ways to make a difference. We want to make things better for those who follow us.”

As a new organization, AFSA Expeditionary Chapter 1657 is looking to support the local Afghan

community and wounded warriors in addition to fellow Airmen. The POW/MIA recognition ceremony was its first official event.

“This is something AFSA sponsors world-wide,” explained PerMar. “Since we just became official we had a week to put something together and Master Sgt. Denise Cournoyer did a fantastic job putting it all together.”

“It was an honor to do this downrange,” she added. “Seeing the Airmen make their own formation for the ceremony gave me goose bumps. It made me realize this is the right thing to do.”

To the Airmen in attendance, PerMar said they should be proud to be part of the first AFSA sponsored POW/MIA Recognition Day in Afghanistan, as well as the first event for the new expeditionary chapter.



Tech. Sgt. Joshua Tidwell, 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, and members of the flag-folding detail, pause during a moment of silence to honor U.S. servicemembers who have gone missing in action.

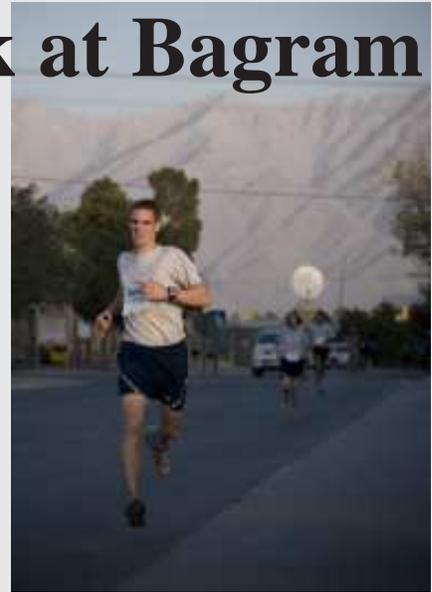
Air Force Marathon 5k at Bagram



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse

Above: Runners begin the 5 kilometer run here Sept. 20, 2008. The run allowed deployed coalition members to be a part the 32nd Annual Air Force Marathon.

Right: Capt. Aaron Croft, 33rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron pilot, sprints the final stretch of the Air Force Marathon 5K Run here Sept. 20, 2008.



The 2008 AF Climate Survey launches Oct. 1

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)

— Have you ever wished you could tell your leaders what you think? That power will soon be at your fingertips with the launching of the 2008 Air Force Climate Survey Oct. 1-8. During that time, individual e-mail invitations will be sent out Air Force-wide that will include a survey link and easy-to-follow instructions.

“This is an opportunity for Airmen across the Air Force to have a voice,” said Col. Daniel Badger Jr., commander of the Air Force Manpower Agency, whose organization is responsible for administering the survey. “By voluntarily completing this survey, you can help our leaders identify what is going well and what needs improving.”

The 2008 Air Force Climate Survey, which will run from Oct. 1 to Nov. 26, is designed to assess the opinions and perceptions of the Air Force’s active-duty members, Reserve, Guard and civilian personnel (appropriated and nonappropriated) on a wide range of topics. These topics include job characteristics, trust (both in senior leadership and in immediate supervisor), support for deployment, resources, recognition, general satisfaction, and unit performance and unit characteristics.

The 2008 survey is the sixth Air Force-wide survey conducted since 1997; however, this year’s

version has been streamlined and will include 50 percent fewer questions. The survey will also be customized to accommodate major command-specific questions, and will include comment questions so people can express their opinions on issues they feel strongly about.

“This survey should only take about 15 to 20 minutes to complete instead of the 45 to 55 minutes it took to finish the previous surveys,” said Dorathy Felberg, of AFMA’s Air Force Survey Office. “We’ve had great support in the past and again we’re looking for maximum participation.”

Once the data is gathered, the results will be briefed to the secretary of the Air Force and Air Force chief of staff, and then released to the Air Force’s unit leaders sometime in early 2009. Technical upgrades to the Air Force Survey System for 2008 will allow commanders to access their reports earlier than in previous years, enabling them to start making improvements immediately.

“Through the survey, people can voice their concerns on issues that directly affect them and their units’ mission, with a view on improving the Air Force mission worldwide.” Colonel Badger said. “Look for your personal invitation coming to your inbox Oct. 1-8.”

Services Info

- ◆ First Run Movies: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at 1000L and 1500L.
- ◆ Capoeira/Brazilian Martial Arts: Sunday from 2000L to 2200L and Tuesday from 1630L to 1830L.
- ◆ Abs Workout: Monday through Friday at 1215L.
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Reggae Night: Wednesday from 2000L to 2300L.
- ◆ Spades: Thursday at 1800L.
- ◆ Blackjack: Thursday at 2100L.
- ◆ Bingo: Friday at 1900L.
- ◆ Hip Hop/R&B Night: Friday at 2030L.

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 - simply fill out, sign and return the Hometown News Release form to Public Affairs and PA will market these events to local media. Some examples of events include: award of Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, arrival for deployment, completion of deployment, etc. For more information, call public affairs at 431-3260.

News Briefs

NATO MEDALS

As AEF 3/4 comes to a close, most, if not all, military personnel should have received a NATO Medal for their tour of duty here at Bagram. If you have not received your medal by the time you depart Bagram, please utilize the email address/phone number below to check on the status. The medal submission process can take up to 90 days for approval and distribution back to the PERSCO team. The new PERSCO Team POC's for the NATO Medal will be Staff Sgt. Amethia Dandy and Tech. Sgt. Richard Jones. To follow-up on the status of your medal, you can reach them at DSN 318-431-4409 or 455emsg.persco@afghan.swa.army.mil

RESTRICTED AREA ESCORT TRAINING

If you are a holder of an Air Force Restricted Area Badge that has an open area with a number in it and or a letter E you are asked to attend a training session in order to receive an escort official competency card. Training classes are being held Monday through Friday each week throughout September and October from 0800 to 0900 at the Enduring

Faith Chapel Annex. All personnel departing Bagram by Oct. 31 are exempt from the class. Beginning Nov. 1 ESFS Restricted Area Entry Controllers will be checking for your Escort Certification/Competency Card, which is provided to escorts after training. If you have not attended the class by then, your flight line escort privileges will be revoked until you get the required training and card. Questions can be directed to Pass and ID at 431-2232.

COMBAT PUSH EXTENDED HOURS

Combat Push times are Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Camp Cunningham Rec Tent from 0900L/0430Z to 1000L/0530Z and from 2230L/1800Z to 2330L/1900Z. Services, Comm and PERSCO will be available to sign outprocessing checklists. Personnel must complete their Post Deployment Health Questionnaire online and pick up their medical records at Flight Medicine/Public Health before coming to Combat Push. For more information call 431-4409.

EAGLECASH

All deployed personnel (military, civilian and contractors) utilizing Air Force finance office services within

the USCENTCOM AOR are required to have an EagleCash Stored Value Card and highly encouraged to use it. Additionally, the Bagram Finance Office has set-up a full-service EagleCash Card Center at the Friday Bagram Bazaar for your use and convenience. The Center has an EagleCash kiosk and a cashier to sign-up new card applicants and to exchange a check for uploaded EagleCash funds. Please sign-up for your EagleCash Card today.

COMBAT O

Combat Orientation is Thursday at 0930Z/1400L 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 two week of their arrival. Accountability is tracked and will be forwarded to the 1st Sergeants at the end of the Week.

BATTERY DISPOSAL

Used batteries of any type should be turned in to supply for proper disposal -- do not throw them away in the trash. Expired batteries can be used by the enemy as part of explosive devices.