

Bagram News Express



Fighting Terror, Building Peace

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Pilot surpasses 3,000 hours in A-10 Thunderbolt

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Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — The list of single-seat fighter pilots who have flown 3,000 hours in one particular aircraft is short. On Nov. 21, a new name was added to that list when Lt. Col. David Dressel, flew his 3,000th hour in an A-10 Thunderbolt II while flying a close air support mission over Afghanistan.

Colonel Dressel, a native of Watertown, Minn., began flying in 1991. The A-10 was his number one choice coming out of pilot training.

“When I was a senior in high school I was placed in a Minnesota mentor program where you go to school half time and work with an industry half time,” he said. “I was interested in aviation and was placed with a company that designed bullets for the military. I was put on a design team that built 30 mm shells for the A-10. I said this is awesome. The only plane that carried the 30 mm cannon was the A-10 - that’s what lead me down that road.”

From his first sortie in the A-10 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., 18 years ago, to flying

combat sorties in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Colonel Dressel has come a long way.

“Y o u r e m e m b e r w h e r e y o u w e r e w h e n y o u h i t 1,000, and when you hit 2,000 hours,” he said. “To hit 3,000 hours in a combat sortie was really special.”

Colonel Dressel, deployed with the 75th Fighter Squadron from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., is no stranger to combat. He has deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He said there is no other place he would rather be than deployed.

“Our job is to support the guys on the ground,” he said. “Unlike other aircraft, that’s our main focus - providing close air support to guys on the ground, slugging it out day after day, 24/7.

“Back home you rate your success on how well you performed,” he continued. “Here,



Lt. Col. David Dressel, a pilot with the 75th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, poses in front of an A-10 Thunderbolt II at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. Colonel Dressel, a native of Watertown, Minn., has flown more than 3,000 hours in the A-10 and is on track to reach 500 combat hours during his current deployment.

you rate your success on how well the ground guys do. Our success comes down to whether or not the ground commander was able to accomplish his mission.”

Despite his accomplishments, this veteran pilot tips his hat to the new pilots he works with.

“It was seven years before I shot in combat,” he said. “When I came in, we were a nation at peace, now we are in a conflict. Anyone who signed up after 9/11 knew they were going to deploy and see combat. My hat’s off to them.”

Next for Colonel Dressel is passing 500 combat hours in the A-10 - something he is on track to accomplish during this deployment.

Wing recognizes promotees, award winners

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Members of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing honored the wing's newest promotees, top performers and outstanding contributor during the monthly recognition ceremony here Dec. 1.

The December promotees were:

To Airman 1st Class

Jeremiah Bicher
Cameron Biddix
John Sinclair

To Senior Airman

Taylor Caesar Jr.
Jerry Lee Christopher II
Benjamin Gibson
Keith Grote, Richard Jones
Emily Kleinknecht

Daniel Leon
Joshua J. Daly
Sean Malone

Lisa Maskey
Rebecca Smith
Kristen Schmeltzer.

To Staff Sergeant

Cordell Blair
Elan Goldstein
Daniel March

Michael McClellan

To Technical Sergeant

Brett Brockway
Michael Brooks
Susan Brooks

Brandon Jacobson
To Master Sergeant

Christopher Bartley
Racelo Capili
Sean Edwards
Michael Gangl
Alex Negron
Bryan Proctor

To Senior Master Sergeant

Daniel Litteer

To First Lieutenant

Eric Chan
Joel Hansen

To Captain

Michelle Bottoms

To Major

Christopher Carmichael
Tameesha Coatney
Elizabeth Pullin

To Lieutenant Colonel

Eric Leshinsky
Kevin Wright

The Wing also recognized its best of the best for outstanding contributor outside the wing and the Top Performers in the Airman, NCO, Senior NCO, Company Grade Officer and civilian categories for November. The winners in their respective category were:

Outstanding Contributor

Senior Airman Joseph Haines
1st Expeditionary RED HORSE

Group

Airman of the Month

Senior Airman Jeffery Hunt
455th Expeditionary Medical
Group

NCO of the Month

Staff Sgt. Shelton Jamison
455th Expeditionary Mission
Support Group

Senior NCO of the Month

Master Sgt. Rodney Vanleuven
755th Air Expeditionary Group

CGO of the Month

Capt. Eric Fleming
455th Expeditionary Operations
Group

Civilian of the Month

Mr. Joshua Nowell
455th Expeditionary
Maintenance Group

Finally, the wing recognized its "Start Right, Finish Strong" honorees. This category recognizes Airmen who have best exemplified the wing's motto. The honorees were:

Airman 1st Class Shahayla
Colson, 455th EOG

Senior Airman Katie Hamm,
755th AEG

Chief Petty Officer Ronald
James, 455th EOG

Maj. Kenneth Heutmaker, 455th
EMXG

New Qatar Immigration Rules

Effective immediately, all military members traveling through Al Udeid, to include R&R personnel, are required to have a copy of their CED orders with them. The immigrations office will not keep the copy, they are just requiring to see them. Members will be immediately deported if they do not have a copy of their orders on them. For more information, or for questions, contact your local PERSCO office.

Marriage and Family Workshop: REUNION AND REINTEGRATION

Camp Cunningham Town Hall
– Dec 6 and 20 (Sat), 0900-1000
– Dec 7 and 21 (Sun), 2100-2200

First Deployment? Numerous Deployments?

Want a smooth transition back into family and work?

Do you know what your expectations are?
Your families'? Your coworkers'?

Understanding that reunion and reintegration is a process and not an event can make the difference between a great homecoming and hurt feelings.

This workshop will introduce the skills needed to make a happy and successful reunion.

Instructor: Ch, Capt Brian J Nierman
For more info or to RSVP: brian.j.nierman@afghan.swa.army.mil



News Briefs

A.C.E. MEETINGS

Airmen Committed To Excellence meets Fridays at 1700L/1230Z in front of Town Hall. Meetings are open to all Airmen in the rank of E-1 to E-4.

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 Airmen in the rank of E-5 and E-6.

AFSA MEETINGS

Air Force Sergeants Association Expeditionary Chapter 1657 holds meetings bi-weekly on Saturdays, with alternating times. The next

meetings are Dec. 6 at 0800 and Dec. 20 at 1700.

NEWCOMERS INPROCESSING

All Air Force members are required to inprocess with PERSCO. The inprocessing will start your combat pay entitlements. If you have been in the AOR for at least 30 days and you are not receiving combat pay, please stop by Finance located in the tower on Camp Cunningham. If you know for a fact that you did not inprocess with PERSCO, then please visit PERSCO located in the Pax terminal. Call PERSCO 431-2070 with any questions.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Are your immunizations up to date? Active duty members are

required to stay current on all immunizations during their deployment. Report to your nearest medical treatment facility to check your status and get vaccinated. For questions, contact TF Med Public Health.

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 info call 431-4409.