

Bagram News Express

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Unique 'thank you' comes to Bagram Airfield

By Senior Airman Felicia Juenke, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Members of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron hang a 480 ft. and two inch banner, from Md., to boost morale of the troops, here recently. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Felicia Juenke)

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Hundreds of 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Airmen here, responsible for base security and defense, received an unusual thank you from America -- a 480 foot banner full of thank you notes from Americans throughout the Eastern-seaboard.

George and Shirley Jackson of American Corner, Md, the banner-project organizers, have organized banner creation efforts for the past 15 years by having members of different communities sign it and write notes of thanks. They make banners for American and Coalition servicemembers serving in harm's way around the world.

The Airmen here, vigilantly protecting the base

on a daily basis, hung the banner recently at the base's entry control point where thousands of local Afghans, Coalition servicemembers and Americans will be able to view the notes. This point was chosen for the amount of traffic in any given hour.

"Two years ago my Cardiologist told me to stop doing the scrolls," said George Jackson. "The Cardiologist told me that lifting 20 pounds could cause me to have sudden death. "I will not stop doing scrolls for our troops," he said.

Even though Mr. Jackson has health problems he sends banners to support U.S. and Coalition Forces all over the world.

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BANNER

Upon receiving an e-mail of thanks from the base about the banner, Mr. Jackson said, "Your e-mail informing me that you have received the scroll was the best heart medicine for me, not the doctor's orders."

The banner was hung in such a visible location to show all the Airmen that we are loved and supported even across oceans, and that we are not alone in our struggles, we have our families and friends to help us through these times.

When asked, the 455th Expeditionary Security

Forces Squadron had many different ways of expressing how they felt about being able to hang the banner.

"It makes us feel that what we are doing here is important and that we are appreciated for doing the mission," said Airman 1st Class Evan List who is deployed Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

While many of the Airmen gathered felt the same way Airman List did, Tech. Sgt. Jerrod Klein, a noncommissioned officer deployed from MacDill AFB, Fla. and native of Taylor, Mich. expanded on the comments saying "We really appreciate the support and the patriotism; it should be bottled up and sent around America."



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Members of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron hang a 480 feet and two inch banner, from Md., to boost morale of the troops, here recently. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Felicia Juenke)

Explosion injures two Airmen

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Two Airmen were injured in a landmine explosion about 12:30 p.m. Aug. 2, 2009 off base near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

The Airmen were transported to the Craig Joint Theater Hospital here. The members are assigned to the 755th Air Expeditionary Group, which reports to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing here.

Airpower delivers 'critical' ammunition to Afghanistan National Army soldiers



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Army Specialist Joshua Vazquez, 612th Port Master Detachment, helps Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Gaines, 165th Airlift Wing, Georgia Air National Guard, move a pallet onto a C-130 Hercules cargo bay. The duo were loading the Hercules for an airdrop mission. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. John Jung)

**By Capt. David Faggard
455th Air Expeditionary
Wing Public Affairs**

Editor's Note: The location, date and time were intentionally left out of this story for security concerns.

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Nothing ever goes by the book, but this is a classic example of Airpower supporting ground forces--

primarily the Afghanistan National Army-- with Close Air Support and air-drop capabilities.

The day could be like any other day, but the calls came in -- Coalition forces, engaged with the enemy on the ground, were running low on ammunition and needed a re-supply.

Like a swarm of bees overhead looking

to sting, U.S. Army AH-64 Apache helicopters, deployed from the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade of the 101st Airborne from Ft. Campbell, Ky. and U.S. Air Force A-10 Warthogs deployed from Moody AFB, Ga. weren't going to let anything happen to their allies fighting on the ground.

Captain Matthew Clementz, one of the

Apache gunship pilots that day with Task Force Attack said that between his Apaches and the A-10 Warthogs, they cleared the way of insurgents for the airdrop and that there was "good interaction with each other."

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HERK DROP

In classic fashion, a workhorse of modern warfare was ready to assist. Lumbering over enemy terrain, the C-130 Hercules and crew assigned to the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron here had the ammunition destined for the Afghans fighting for their lives on the ground.

At the helm of the 25-year-old-airplane

was Capt. D.J. Spisso deployed from Georgia's 165th Airlift Wing and he knew this mission would be different.

The success of the mission rested in the hands of an aircrew blended of active-duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen from various units from the U.S., to include Schenectady, N.Y.; Savannah, Ga.; Little Rock, Ark.; Saint

Joseph's, Mo. and Mansfield, Ohio.

"This was a complete team effort," Capt. Spisso said. "It was difficult terrain, communications were scarce and we made it; it was a good drop."

And making the drop right on target is important when the good guys are in need according to Capt. Spisso, a pilot whom is employed by the civilian airline Airtran when not in an Air Force uniform.

"It's something you feel good about - helping Coalition partners in need," he said. "Coalition members coming together for a common good," the Citadel graduate said. We're willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done."

And fortunately for the Afghan soldiers fighting the enemy, the Air Force's commitment to Total Force and joint operations paid off and the 'Herk-drivers' hit their mark.



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - A 60K loader moves pallets towards a C-130 Hercules. The pallets were being loaded onto the Hercules for an airdrop mission. The Hercules and the 60K loader are both workhorses here at Bagram Airfield. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. John Jung)

SAFETY RECALL: Kinley bottled water with lot number M140609 has been deemed not fit for human consumption. This lot number is the only lot number that has been condemned. All other bottled water of this brand can be consumed. If you have any questions contact WO1 Johnson, Base Operations Food Service, 431-3194, elliott.johnson@afghan.swa.army.mil or CW2 Arnold, 431-4429.

NEWS BRIEFS



NATO MEDALS: The NATO Medal typically takes approximately 90 days upon arrival for approval and distribution back to PERSCO. PERSCO has a spreadsheet posted to the SIPR public drive which you can view to see the status of your medal. If you notice any errors, call PERSCO at 431-2070/4409 or email 455EMSG.PERSCO@afghan.swa.army.mil

GOING TDY: All Air Force members are required to in and out-process through PERSCO for TDYs, Emergency Leave or R&R Leave/Pass. The PAX terminal will not manifest you until they have documentation stamped from PERSCO. All personnel assigned to the 455th are required to complete the AOR Travel Authorization Memo for any type of TDY. Please direct questions to PERSCO, 431-4409/2070.

COMBAT O: Combat Orientation is Wednesday at 0830Z/1300L at the Enduring Faith Chapel. This is a mandatory briefing for all Air Force personnel assigned to Bagram Airfield. Accountability is tracked and will be forwarded to the first sergeants.

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, visit Finance in the crow's nest tower on Camp Cunningham. If you know for a fact that you did not inprocess with PERSCO, please visit PERSCO located in Bldg. 700 near the pas-

senger terminal. Call 431-2070/4409 for more information.

MEO CONTACT INFO: The Camp Cunningham Military Equal Opportunity Office at Bldg. 726 can be reached by calling 481-6226 or call the Air Force Discrimination Hotline at 1-888-231-4058.

EAGLE CASH: All deployed personnel (military, civilian and contractors) using Air Force finance office services within the USCENTCOM AOR are required to have an EagleCash Stored Value Card and highly encouraged to use it.

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 Task Force Medical Public Health, 431-4426.

PAPERLESS HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASE: Just arrived here at Bagram? Got promoted? Hit a milestone in your career? Tell your family and friends at home by sending a paperless Hometown News Release available on the Bagram Air Field public Web site at this link: <https://hnforms.dmasa.dma.mil/>





Bagram Airfield Air Force PT Uniform Standards...



Shirt must fit properly.



Shirt must be tucked in.



Wear shorts at the waist.



Do not roll up your shorts.



Wear white socks not black socks.



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