



CJTH helps build Afghan nursing foundation

By Tech. Sgt. John Jung
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- The Craig Joint Theater Hospital here recently played a historic role in the new foundation of Afghan nursing.

Malika Faqiri and Laila Farahi, two female Afghan National Army soldiers, attended a special two-week mentorship program here at the CJTH to work alongside U.S. doctors and nurses to hone their medical skills and get first-hand experience with trauma-based care. The two soldiers were the first women to attend the special program.

The mentorship program was the final step in a year-long, trauma-based program whose goal is to produce the first formally-trained nurses in Afghanistan. The year-long nursing program is the result of collaborative efforts between Task Force Medical East, here at the CJTH, and the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and Afghan National Security Forces, both located in Kabul. At the completion of a year's worth of training the students are equivalent to licensed professional or licensed vocational nurses.

After graduating from the program, the nurses return to Kabul's Afghan Military Na-



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Malika Faqiri (left) and Laila Farahi (right), two female Afghan National Army soldiers, help with an Afghan woman here. The two nurses attended a special two-week mentorship program here at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital to work alongside U.S. doctors and nurses to hone their medical skills and get first-hand experience with trauma-based care. The two soldiers were the first women to attend the special program. (Courtesy photo)

tional Hospital and are then sent throughout the country to lead ANA medical care and serve as mentors to their peers.

"The nursing program is an answer to a nursing shortage that is happening within Afghan National Security Forces," said Lt. Col. Vivian Harris, CSTC-A chief nurse, who is deployed from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. "The total focus is on nursing and the goal is to produce nurses at the end of one year that are able to take care of trauma patients wherever

they are working," continued the Dallas native.

Western medical care and procedures are very different from what Ms. Faqiri and Farahi are used to they said through Najla Momand, an Army contractor, who serves as a translator and nursing instructor for the two women. Ms. Faqiri and Ms. Farahi concentrated on 36 core skills,

**See NURSING,
next page**

NURSING

including first-hand care of patients, administering medication and learning best treatment practices for trauma patients.

Getting Ms. Faqiri and Ms. Farahi to the CJTH to learn trauma care was no easy task according to Ms. Momand, who has been working for the Army for two years.

"Afghan culture does not allow women to leave their home-village unaccompanied by a close male relative," she said. "I was luckily able to broker a deal with the village elders to let them come here to learn because of my good working relationship with the village in the past."

Cultural and personal boundaries were tested and sometimes fell during the two week mentorship program.

"We treat anyone who is brought in due to combat," said 1st Lt. Nicole Pries, Intensive Care Ward nurse, deployed from the David Grant Medical Center, Travis AFB, Calif. "Sometimes it's a local villager, sometimes it's an enemy fighter."

"The ANA nurses were a really big help with us. A lot of times when we [Americans] come here there is a big cultural barrier between the patients and us," said the San Antonio native. "It's frustrating not speaking their language but still having to get across to them what we need to do to take care of them. However, once the ANA nurses come in, they have a cultural bond with them and they know how to talk to them and they make a connection."

Connections were even made



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Laila Farahi (left), a female Afghan National Army soldier, bandages a patient's leg. She attended a program here at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital working alongside U.S. doctors and nurses obtain first-hand experience with trauma-based care. (Courtesy photo)

with the enemy.

Ms. Faquiri's husband was killed by the Taliban years ago but she did not hesitate to help an enemy fighter who was being treated at the CJTH. The enemy fighter stopped thrashing around and spitting at the doctors and nurses administering to him, when she spoke to him in his own language. She was compassionate and caring despite the fact he was the enemy, according to the CJTH hospital staff.

Through the translator, she told us that she wasn't afraid of the enemy and was proud of her role in the ANA. "Malika wore the ANA title like a badge of honor. She's very proud to be in the army," said Ms. Momand.

"Nursing is not just from textbooks. It takes compassion, excellent patient care and a heart for whoever you're treating, even if they don't like you," said Lieutenant Pries. It's been a humbling experience working with the ANA nurses and being

a part of this milestone in their training."

Ms. Farahi said thorough Ms. Momand, "I'm very excited to have learned new nursing skills and look forward to using these skills. My hope is to take back the medical knowledge I have learned here [at the CJTH] to my people."

"It is a historic time in Afghanistan for building the medical infrastructure so that Afghans can care for their own people," said U.S. Army Capt. Mark Ebeling, director of the two-week medical mentorship program. Captain Ebeling is deployed from Fort Snelling, Minn. "I'm very honored that I'm here at this time," said the Windom, Minn. native. I think we've taught them well and impressed upon the students what a monumental responsibility they have in front of them -- the responsibility of training others and forging the future of Afghan nursing and health care for the future."

455th AEW HISTORIAN PAGE

By Doug Beckstead
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Historian

He's led the way or participated in every combat, training and occupation since WWII.

He was the first in and always the last out.

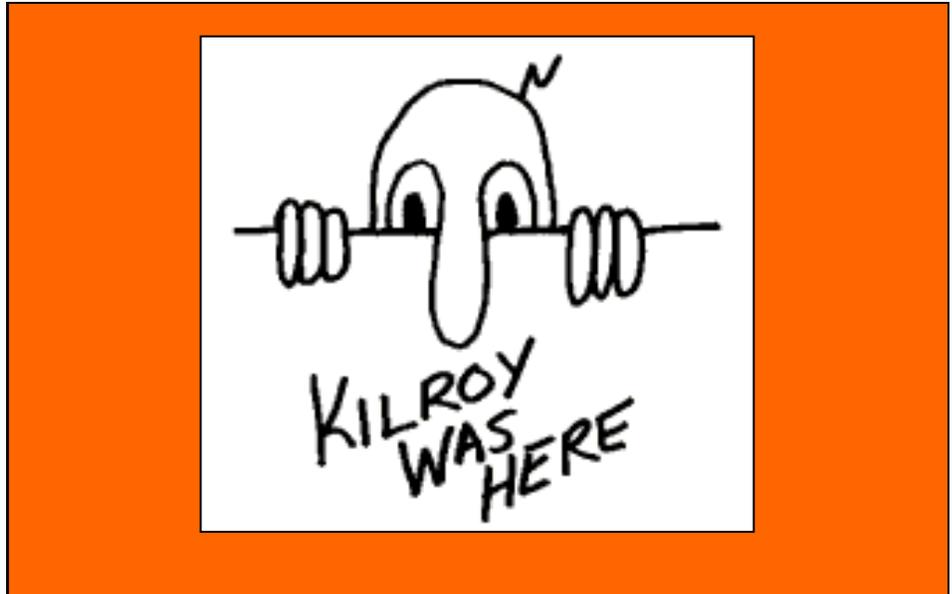
Some consider him the "Super GI."

Who is he?

According to the most plausible legend about where Kilroy comes from, he was the invention of a Boston shipyard inspector named James J. Kilroy. He was tasked with inspecting the rivets that held the new ships together. After passing those in a specific area, he would scrawl "Kilroy Was Here" across bulkheads (That's the area above a door for you non-Navy types) indicating what areas of the new ships he had inspected.

Later, when troops being transported in those ships saw the cryptic message with the famous big nose looking over the fence they began wondering just who was Kilroy and how did he get there first?

It soon became almost a game among GIs, eventually spreading to non-military personnel, to put the little guy all over the place. He's been spotted on Mt. Everest, the underside of the Arc d' Triumphe in



Paris, and even scrawled in the dust on the surface of the moon.

In preparation for the Potsdam Conference (16 July - 2 August 1945), where US President Harry S. Truman, Soviet Premier Josef Stalin and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, along with other world leaders, met to discuss the shape of post-WWII Germany, a new outhouse was built just for the three dignitaries' use. According to legend, Stalin was the first to make use of the facilities. He supposedly emerged from the new structure and speaking in Russian, asked his aide, "Who is Kilroy?"

After the war (that's WWII for you youngsters), the Transit Company of America held a competition to try and learn the

identity of the real "Kilroy." Forty men entered with their versions of how they started the inscriptions. The only one who offered real proof to support his claim was James Kilroy who brought forth company officials and some of the riveters from the shipyard to bolster his claim.

The prize was a genuine trolley car which made a wonderful Christmas present for his nine children who used it as a playhouse in their front yard.

As the 455 AEW Historian, I would be very interested in knowing where people have come across Kilroy here at Bagram -- preferably those inscriptions that were in place prior to your reading this article.



Get your Bagram news fix online

VISIT

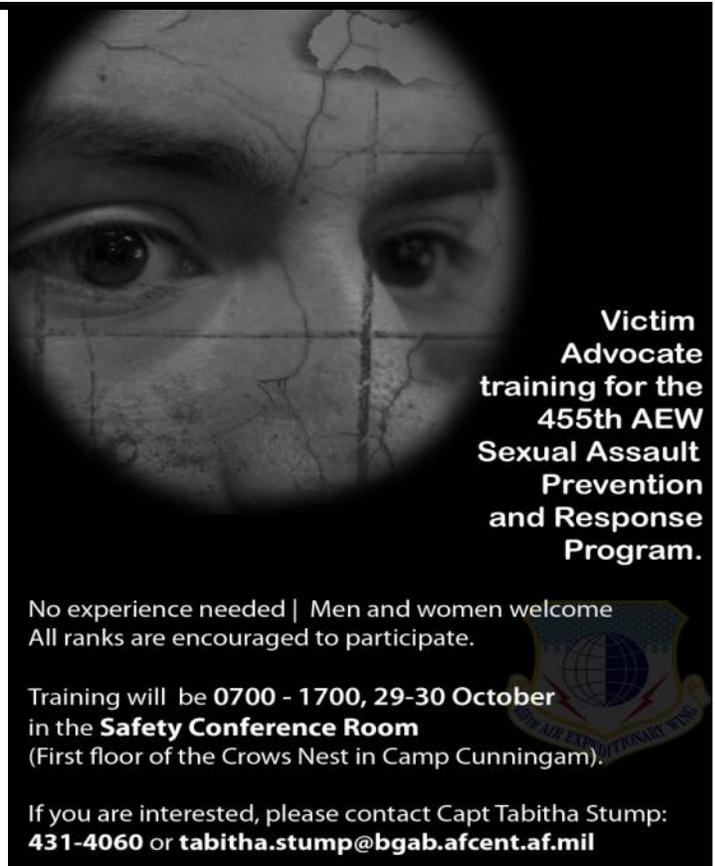
www.bagram.afcent.af.mil

NEWS BRIEFS

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.

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

COMBAT O: Combat Orientation is Wednesday at 0100Z/0530L at the MWR Clamshell (Near the Four Corners). Uniform is Air Force PT uniform. 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.



Victim Advocate training for the 455th AEW Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program.

No experience needed | Men and women welcome
All ranks are encouraged to participate.

Training will be 0700 - 1700, 29-30 October
in the **Safety Conference Room**
(First floor of the Crows Nest in Camp Cunningham).

If you are interested, please contact Capt Tabitha Stump:
431-4060 or tabitha.stump@bgab.afcent.af.mil



Operation Rising Star

Come Support your Favorite Singer
Monday - 1800 at the **MWR Clamshell** on **Disney**
Grand Finale
26 Oct:
Singers Choice from Previous Rounds
Results Show
28 Oct:

Air Force Equal Opportunity

"Zero Tolerance"



Slurs
Discrimination
Sexual Harassment
Disparaging Comments
Race, Sex, Religious Jokes
E-mailing, Texting Offensive Material
Favoritism on "Protected" Basis
Derogatory Displays
Graffiti

ACCOUNTABILITY **LEADERSHIP** **WINGMAN** **PROFESSIONALISM**

Support Diversity
EO is Everyone's Business



COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN-OVERSEAS

2009

*MAKE A WORLD
OF DIFFERENCE*

Your choice. Your opportunity.

Starts 5 October 2009
Contact Your Unit Representative

455 AEW Staff - Capt. Tabitha Stump

Maintenance Group - TSgt. Chauncy Minnick

EAMXS - MSgt. Dave Porath

EMXS - TSgt. Gerardo Sierra

Mission Support Group - Capt. Adam Liddle

ECS - MSgt. John Messer

ELRS - SMSgt. John Edwards

EFSS - SSgt. Carl Daniel

ECES - MSgt. James Lindsay

ESFS - MSgt. Jay Curtis

EAPS - MSgt. Joshua Tidwell

Medical Group - Lt. Melissa Rountree

EMDOS - SSgt. Chris Hemsgesberg

EMDSS - SMSgt. Julie Lyn

OPS Group - Maj. Michael James

455 EOSS - 2 Lt. Alesandra Krauss

33 ERQS - SrA Mike Price

41 EECS - MSgt. Mark Jones

774 EAS - SSgt. Jerome Roberts

455 EAEF - MSgt. Cliff Smith

335 EFS (F-15) - Capt. David Nierenberg

79 EFS (F-16CJ) - Capt. Bryan Finkel

755 AEG - SrA Frances Castillo/Capt. Bursick

577 EPBS - A1C Matthew Gilder

755 AES - TSgt. Janna Kuh

504 EASOG - Capt. Jacob Chisolm

www.cfccoverseas.org



ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

FOX NFL SUNDAY LIGHTS, CAMERA AND GRIDIRON ACTION

Mark November 8th on your calendar with giant X's and O's because the Emmy Award-winning team from America's most-watched NFL pregame show will be here. Curt Menefee, Terry Bradshaw, Howie Long, Jimmy Johnson, Michael Strahan and Jay Glazer will be on base to broadcast Fox NFL Sunday to millions of viewers worldwide.



ARMED
FORCES
ENTERTAINMENT®



COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU.
Subscribe to *Cadence*, our quarterly e-magazine at armedforcesentertainment.com.