

Bagram Airman wins singing competition

By Senior Airman Susan Tracy
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- This is the first year of "Operation Rising Star" in Afghanistan according to Army Sergeant 1st Class Marvin Williams, the host and coordinator of the show. Operation Rising Star is a joint American Idol-type singing competition. Much like the original show, contestants sing weekly, receive feedback from a panel of judges and then at the end of the show the audience votes for their favorite singer.

The winner of the competition was Staff Sgt. Kenny Dansby, a supply Airman from the 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Support Squadron deployed from McDill Air Force Base, Fla. The Stockton, Calif. native had impressed the audience from his very first song, "I'll Make Love to You" originally by Boyz2Men in the impromptu concert hall here at Bagram.

When asked how long he has been singing, Sergeant Dansby laughingly said that according to his mother he was "singing before he could talk." His favorite performance was in 2007 at a South Korean-American Friendship Festival in front of a crowd of more than 2,500, because he felt "it was a blessing to be able to use a natural talent as a representative of the Air Force."

During the course of the singing competition, Sergeant Dansby showed a wide range of vocal stylings. The week he was the most concerned about was when he had to perform a country song, because his preferred style is R&B. He sang Rascal Flatt's "Bless the Broken Road," and while the judges commented that he seemed a little nervous, he made it to the next round.

For the finale each contestant sang a song chosen for them by a judge, and also one that they



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Staff Sgt. Kenny Dansby, a supply Airman from the 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Support Squadron sings to an audience member during Operation Rising Star, recently. ORS is a joint American Idol-type singing competition and this was the first year it was held in Afghanistan. Sergeant Dansby, a Stockton, Calif., native deployed from MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., performed R. Kelly's "Bump and Grind" and Train's "Drops of Jupiter" during the finale here, winning over the audience, the judges and \$500. (U.S. Army photo/Sgt. Maurice Luckett)

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SINGING

chose for themselves. His judge, Staff Sgt. Rachael Garneau, an Armed Forces Network radio DJ chose Train's "Drops of Jupiter" for his first song, which had most of the 300 plus audience singing along with him. Sergeant Garneau complimented his performance, saying that she "couldn't stop smiling the whole time." The song Sergeant Dansby chose was R. Kelly's "Bump and Grind," where he danced up and down the aisles singing directly to audience members. He chose that song because he has "performed it many times before, and the crowd always loves it."

When he found out he won, Sergeant Dansby smiled and shook many hands, commenting that it was exciting as an Airman to win an Army-sponsored competition. He said that throughout the competition, he would "look out into a crowd before I went out and I do see a lot of Army Combat Uniforms, but at the same time I've been making it through and it's kind of cool that the Soldiers are supporting someone that is in the Air Force." Army Spc. Jennifer Lee, who placed 4th in the singing competition, said "It's no surprise that Kenny won. When he came out singing 'Bump and Grind' we [the other contestants] knew it was all over. He had it in the bag."

Preventative maintenance check



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Tech. Sgt. Marco Hoffman, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Material Handling Equipment Shop from the 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, checks for cracks on the engine during an inspection. The 455th ELRS is responsible for fuels, vehicle maintenance, logistics planning, passenger terminal operations and air terminal operations. Sergeant Hoffman is deployed from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., and hails from Cincinnati, Ohio. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Felicia Juenke)

Air Force updates guidance for wear of PTU

By Brad Jessmer, Air Force Uniform Office Public Affairs



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Air Force officials recently updated guidance for wear of the physical training uniform and the improved PTU. These changes, issued by Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton, deputy chief of staff for Manpower and Personnel, are effective immediately. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. John Jung)

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio -- Air Force officials have updated guidance for wear of the physical training uniform, replacing previous guidance published in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*.

According to a message released from Air Force A1 and signed by Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, deputy chief of staff for Manpower and Personnel, effective immediately, individual items making up the PTU and improved PTU are considered uniform items.

Air Force officials said this means strict attention must be given to every item of the PTU, just as with items on the Airman Battle Uniform or service dress uniform. However, individual items of the PTU may still be worn with conservative civilian attire during personal PT or when off-duty.

Wear of the PTU is mandatory during physical fitness assessments and while participating in organized PT events, as designated by the commander. Unit commanders will determine the PTU configuration.

If PTU/IPTU items are worn during personal PT, the following is required:

- During periods of low light, reflective belts and armbands are required when wearing the optional running shorts. Reflective accessories are optional when wearing the standard PTU, which already includes reflective material.
- Footwear is to remain conservative. No bright colors or excessive ornamentation is to be worn.
- Socks must be white, but small trademark logos are acceptable.
- The PTU jacket must be zipped at least halfway between the waistband and collar. Sleeves will end within 1 inch off the wrist.
- The PTU running pants waistband will rest at or within 2 inches of the natural waistline. Both pant legs will extend below the ankles and will be zipped to within 1 inch of the bottom.

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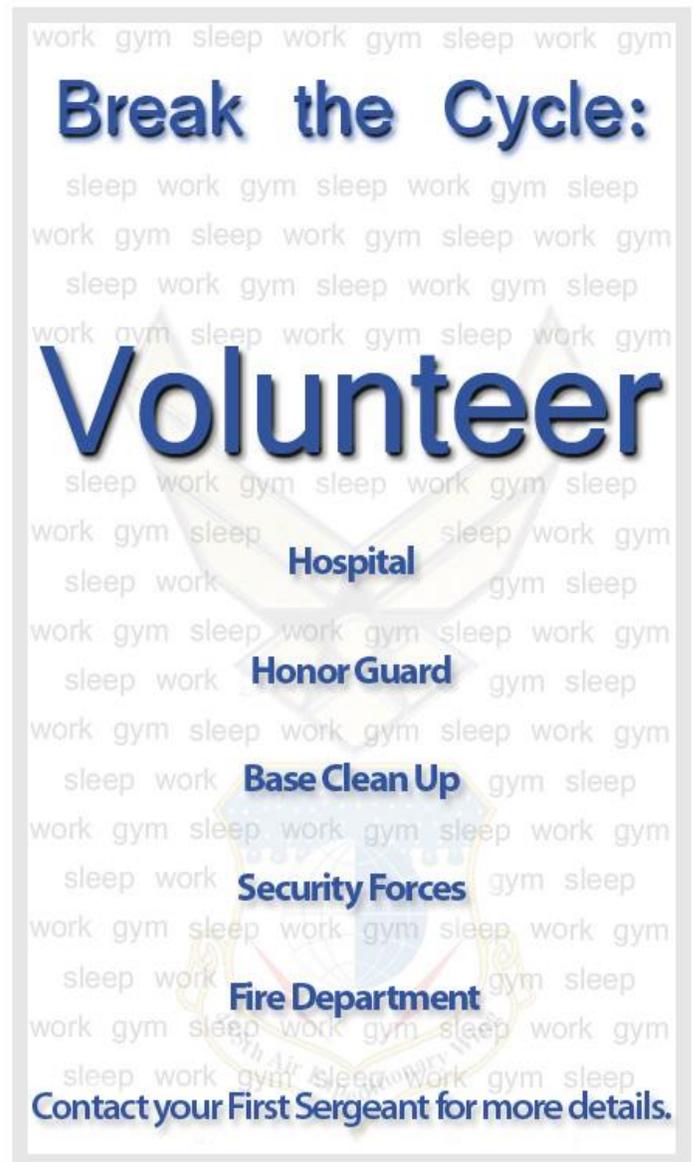
PT UNIFORM

- Both the PTU shorts and running shorts will rest at or within 2 inches of the natural waistline-
- The short sleeve PTU shirt will be tucked into shorts or running pants at all times. Do not remove or cut sleeves.
- The optional IPTU sweatshirt will extend no lower than 6 inches below the natural waistline. Do not push up, remove or cut sleeves.
- Undergarments must be appropriate and worn with all uniform combinations.
- Short or full-length spandex may be worn under both the PTU and IPTU, but colors must only consist of black or dark blue.
- Headgear may be authorized by commanders, but may only consist of either a solid black or dark blue baseball cap with the Air Force symbol or "U.S. Air Force" logos. Headgear is to be worn outdoors only.
- Bandanas are not authorized unless due to a medical waiver condition.
- Cold weather accessories may be worn outdoors only.
- The knit watch cap will be plain solid black, dark blue or sage green without any logos.
- Gloves will be plain solid black or dark blue without any logos.
- Scarves and earmuffs will be solid black or dark blue, and may wrap around either the top or rear of the head.
- Green or black fleece is not authorized with the PTU/IPTU.
- The IPTU running suit top or bottom may not be mixed with the current PTU running suit top or bottom.
- The lining of the PTU/IPTU shorts may be removed, but no other uniform alterations are authorized.
- Headphones are authorized inside fitness centers or designated running areas, unless prohibited by the commander.
- Personal grooming and appearance standards apply during physical fitness activities with one exception: Long female hair will be secured but may have loose ends.

- Proper military customs and courtesies to honor the flag during reveille and retreat will apply. Saluting due to rank is not required when wearing the PTU.
- The few exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of commanders for accessions, professional military education or academic training when unit distinction is required, such as identifying instructors from students. Temporary adjustments may also be authorized when safety is a concern or in a deployed location.

Any long-term exceptions to this policy must be submitted through the respective major command to Headquarters Air Force A1 for approval.

Any questions regarding this policy should be addressed through the proper chain of command.



455th AEW HISTORIAN PAGE

By Doug Beckstead
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Historian

Imagine what it takes to support the approximately 20,000 troops at Bagram today. Imagine the logistics it takes to move them from place to place, to house them and even just to feed them. What about communications from commanders to troops as well as communications back home to family and friends. Now, imagine what it would be like to be in command of an army of 20,000 troops without any of that support.

That is what faced Alexander the Great when he was here on the Shomali Plains at Bagram in 329-328 BC. That's 2300 years ago!

Alexander took the throne of Macedonia (in northern Greece) upon the death of his father in 336 BC. He had a very strong personality that drove him to be the best and the most powerful ruler at the time. In fact, on his father's side he descended from Heracles, on his mother's from Achilles. At his mother's insistence he believed he was actually a descendant of Greek gods, no less than Zeus himself.

In 334 BC, Alexander took his Macedonian army of roughly 30,000 troops wearing sandals and armed with javelins and bronze shields and headed east through Turkey, then south along the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea through what we know now as Syria, Lebanon and Israel. From there, he went west through Egypt conquering all the lands through which they passed.

The army retraced its route going northeast through Jordan, Iraq and crossed into Iran



Alexander the Great, from a mosaic depicting the Battle of Issus

where it took a circuitous route through the deserts chasing the Persian king Darius before finally overpowering his army and killing him.

In 329 BC, his army entered the lands of the Pashtun people that we now call Afghanistan.

In 328, the army came north through Kabul continuing north through the Shomali Plains where Bagram Airfield now sits. Just to the northwest of Bagram, near Charikar, he founded one of a dozen cities he established along his route. He named it Alexander-in-the-Caucasus mistakenly thinking that the Hindu Kush Mountains were an extension of the Caucasus Mountains of Macedonia. Several centuries later the city fell into ruins and was lost to antiquity.

In 1963, French archeologists found the remains of a city in northern Afghanistan they believed to be Alexander's ancient city of Alexander-on-the-Oxus. It contained extensive Greek architecture, coins and other artifacts. Unfortunately

for all of humanity, after the Taliban came to power, in 2000, they bulldozed the city's ancient remains destroying everything in their quest to purge Afghanistan of its non-Islamic past.

Alexander branched out from Bagram with part of his army going to the north and east toward China and part going southeast into the northern reaches of India before eventually returning west to Iraq where he died at Babylon.

Next time you are outside early in the morning and look at the snow capped mountains that surround Bagram, just imagine what it must have been like when his army of 20,000 camped here. It is interesting to ponder if any of his men walk among us. Now that's history.

Then, take a look at what you have accomplished in your life keeping in mind that Alexander the Great had conquered the known world, from Greece to North Africa to India to China, and all by the time he was 29 years old.

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 0130Z/0600L at the MWR Clamshell. Uniform is Air Force PT uniform for fitness assessment. 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.

Did You Know:

1 in 33 men and 1 in 6 women

will be sexually assaulted

in their *lifetime*?

Every 150 *seconds* someone is assaulted somewhere in America?

80% of victims *know* their assailant?

Always take a Wingman

If you are interested in becoming a Victim Advocate, contact Captain Tabitha Stump
DSN: 318-431-4060
tabitha.stump@bgab.centaf.af.mil



All personnel not in an authorized military uniform (duty or PT) are required to display IDs or BAF badges at all times. All military or civilian personnel are obligated to challenge others not properly displaying badges. People not in possession of proper identification shall be turned over to the PMO. Get involved, strengthen our security, and keep our war fighters safe!

455 AEW AT/FP Office: 431-4207
Capt. Sprute - Antiterrorism Officer
MSgt. Holtzmann - Antiterrorism Superintendent

Force Protection is *your* business - *everyone* is a sensor

