

BAGRAM NEWS EXPRESS

START RIGHT, FINISH STRONG

VOL. 4 ISSUE 1, JANUARY 2, 2010

USAFCENT Command Chief Visits Bagram



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—U.S. Air Forces Central Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Villella looks through a spotting scope. Chief Villella toured the work areas of Airmen during his trip to Bagram Airfield Dec. 28-30 2009. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt Jeromy Cross)

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The 455th Air Expeditionary Wing welcomed the newest U.S. Air Force Central Command Chief for his immersion tour of Afghanistan operations Dec. 28 to 30, 2009.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Villella, who replaced Chief Master Sgt. Scott Dearduff Dec. 9, 2009, came to Bagram to gain perspective on the mission and understand how USAFCENT can improve in theatre operations.

The job of a command chief master sergeant is

one of observation, evaluation and understanding the enlisted force and what it takes to accomplish the mission in the most seamless manner possible and ensure that the tools are in place to make this happen, said Chief Villella.

Chief Villella's first impression of the Airmen assigned to USAFCENT is one of amazement.

"The Airmen are awesome with a capital 'A'. It is both officer and enlisted; I have seen great mo-

See Chief, next page

Chief

tivation and great work being done by all.”

Upon arriving at Bagram, Chief Vilella said it was like landing on an ant hill because of the constant movement of personnel and cargo moving in and out of the area. “Bagram is a hub for everything that comes in and out of Afghanistan. We are breaking cargo movement records monthly and moving troops in and out seamlessly and that is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of our people.”

Communication also plays a vital role in mission success said Chief Vilella. “We must have communication to make sure everything moves the way it is supposed to.”

Chief Vilella’s view is that we need to listen from the top of the chain as well as the bottom. “It is important to listen to your Airmen. If the most junior ranking has an idea to streamline or improve a process we should listen.”

The key is not only to listen to Airmen on mission-related issues, but also to get to know the Airmen.

Chief Vilella challenged the first level supervisors to lead, follow, inspire and care about the Airmen assigned to them.

“It is critical for first line supervisors get to know the people who work for them because they are responsible for those individuals on and off duty,” he said. “We are in a hostile environment with a loaded weapon and here is the last place that we need to have issues.”

Chief Vilella said one of most important things is for first supervisors to allow their Airmen to grow, not just as Airmen but as servicemembers.

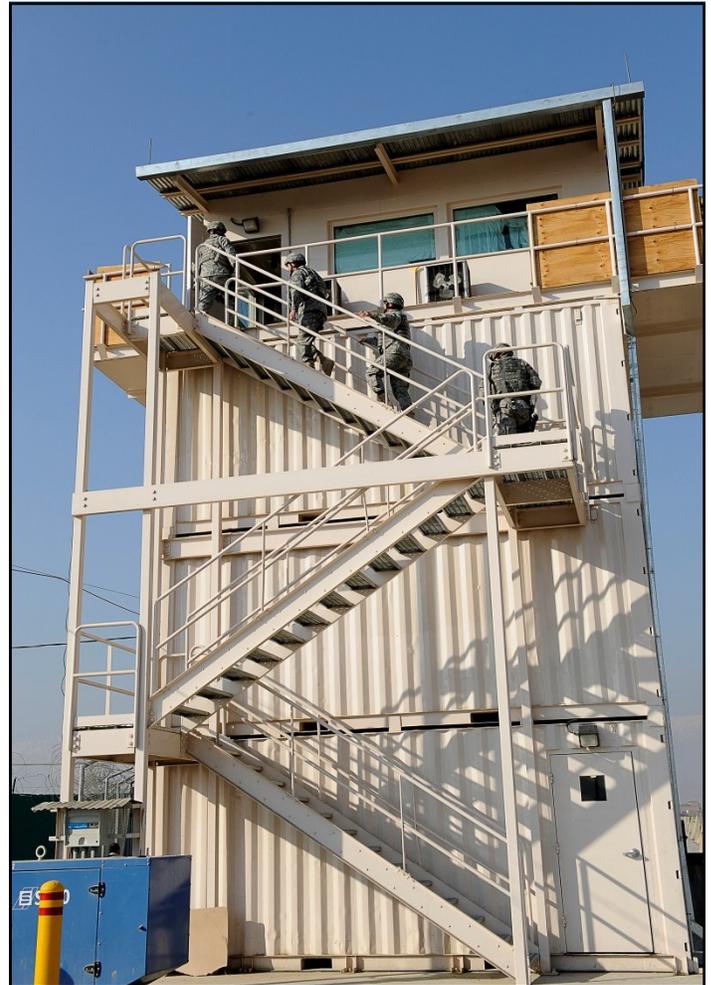
“There are a variety of opportunities here to help Airmen learn about their sister services, grow as individuals and to share the Air Force mission with others as well,” he said. “You may volunteer at the hospital to help a comrade-in-arms who needs assistance and understand what we all go through whether you are inside or outside the wire.”

One team, one fight is a concept that Chief Vilella believes in and thinks is imperative to the ongoing mission.

“The bottom line is that I want our Airmen to give a 110 percent effort to the mission and understand that we are all vital links in the chain that gets that mission accomplished,” he said. “There are many Airmen that do not get the credit they deserve; dining facility Airman who feeds the pilot who flies the mission to protect the soldiers on the ground who are comfortable because the civil en-

gineer built them a tent. We all make a difference.”

Chief Vilella gives one vital piece of advice that was shared with him, “Don’t count the days, make the days count!”



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—U.S. Air Forces Central Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Vilella climbs a guard tower. Chief Vilella toured the work areas of Airmen during his trip to Bagram Airfield, Dec. 30, 2009. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Tech. Sgt. Jeremy K. Cross)

**STORY IDEAS
STARTING A NEW MISSION
MEDIA QUESTIONS**



**Contact your
455th Public Affairs Office
@ DSN 431-2371
or email @**

455aew.publicaffairs@bagb.afcent.af.mil



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—U.S. Air Forces Central Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Vilella talks with Air Force Staff Sgt. Cameron Freeman, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Security Forces Squadron. Chief Vilella toured the work areas of Airmen during his trip to Bagram Airfield, Dec. 30, 2009. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Liz Spradley, 755th Air Expeditionary Group, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, explains some of EOD's equipment to AFCENT Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Vilella during his tour Dec. 29, 2009. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)



Get your Bagram news fix online

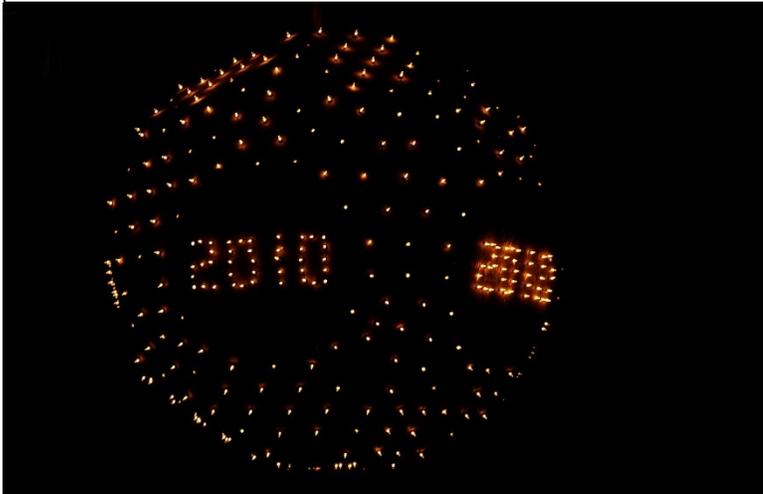
V I S I T

www.bagram.afcent.af.mil



Bagram Airmen ring in the new year

By Staff Sgt. Richard Williams, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Airmen at Bagram Airfield celebrate the New Year by lowering a 6-foot-in-diameter ball, Jan. 1, 2010, built by the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—It wasn't quite Times Square but the cold of the night didn't deter the men and women of Bagram Airfield from saying goodbye to 2009 and welcoming in 2010.

Complete with a replica 2010 ball created by the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron and free hot chocolate and cider from the 455th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron, Airmen were treated to a DJ, a year in review photo presentation and a ball drop at midnight to give everyone a little slice of home.

"I always say that the best compliment we can get is for someone to come up to us at one of these events and say, 'I forgot where I was for an hour, a minute or a day,'" said Travis Luethe, Recreation and Marketing Director, 455th EFSS. "All we can do is to try to bring them a little slice of reality of being home even if it is for just a few minutes."

Senior Airman Emily Williams, 455th Expedi-

tionary Security Forces Squadron, deployed from the 6th SFS, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. says it is important for the morale of her fellow Airmen at a time when everyone is so far from home.

"I think the event is great. I may be a little tired tomorrow at work but it is worth it because it is fun," said Williams. "I think events like this are extremely important because you are away from friends and family that you miss. It is awesome to come out here and have the comraderie."

With the success of events like these in support of all servicemembers, Luethe, a four year veteran of these events, says they would not be possible without the selfless support of all the agencies on the airfield. "I can't thank the 455th ECES guys enough for building the ball and the crane provided by the 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group."

Luethe said, "We are in a very fluid environment here; things are always changing and we just want to put on an enjoyable event that gives everyone a little slice of home."



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Airmen at Bagram Airfield celebrate the New Year by lowering a 6-foot-in-diameter ball, Jan. 1, 2010, built by the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

MC-12 arrives, heralds activation of 4th ERS



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—An MC-12W takes off Dec. 29, 2009. This is the first mission of the newly activated 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

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

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- The Air Force's new MC-12 aircraft arrived Dec. 27, 2009, to Bagram Airfield. Tail number 090623 was the first of an undisclosed number of aircraft for the new 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron here.

Following the MC-12's arrival, the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron was activated to carry out MC-12 operations in the Afghan theater of operations.

Col. Patrick McKenzie, the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group commander, presided over the brief ceremony attended by approximately one hundred Airmen and Soldiers.

"The MC-12 is much more than just a fleet of aircraft, its pilots and maintainers. It also consists of equipment and personnel that collect and broadcast full-motion video and signals intelligence, as well as crews that process, exploit and disseminate the information," Colonel McKenzie said. "In addition, the MC-12 encompasses a host of communications experts that support and maintain the added capability that the aircraft brings to the warfighter."

Taking the reins of the 4th ERS was Lt. Col. Douglas Lee, deployed from Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., and a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala.

"As a boy growing up in the Air Force, I could only imagine this day and for this opportunity to come along

[serving] in combat is why we raise our right hand to begin with," he said. "Knowledge is power and that is what we provide. This knowledge will help protect Afghans, provide security and protect Coalition lives. All of these things directly contribute to the combined effort that secures the battlespace and helps the Afghan people to defeat the insurgency."

As the demand for Air Force ISR increases, the MC-12 is positioned to meet that demand.

The first of its kind for the Air Force in Afghanistan, the MC-12 provides real-time ISR in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The aircraft bring another capability to Operation Enduring Freedom because the MC-12 is not just an aircraft, but a complete collection, processing, analysis and dissemination system of Airmen committed to securing Afghanistan and protecting Afghan and Coalition lives.

Eighteen months ago, 'Project Liberty' was on the drawing board. Today, the aircraft and its crews and maintainers supporting the 4th ERS are operational and ready to go at Bagram Airfield.

"We are not the first to provide ISR, but we hope to enhance the joint effort through synergy with our sister services," said Colonel Lee.

See MC-12, next page



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Col. Patrick McKenzie, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Operations Group Commander, presents the unit guidon to Lt. Col. Douglas Lee at the activation of the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron Dec. 27, 2009. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

MC-12

Overall, the MC-12 will augment information gathered by other ISR assets already operating in Afghanistan and complement existing capability. The platform will enhance how Air Force ISR complements the total intelligence 'picture' in the respective commander's scheme of maneuver in the battlespace.

With a unique mission to execute, members of the 4th ERS are eager to "look for trouble," as their squadron motto states, but hope to see it first so U.S. and Coalition ground forces can avoid it.



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Lt. Col. Douglas Lee, Commander of the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, receives his first salute from his squadron members Dec. 27, 2009. The first Air Force MC-12 arrived today and marked the first day for the new squadron. The MC-12's primary mission is to provide intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or ISR, support directly to ground forces.



Airmen welcomed the first Air Force MC-12 to be based in Afghanistan, Dec. 27, 2009. The aircraft brings another capability to Operation Enduring Freedom because the MC-12 is not just an aircraft, but a complete collection, processing, analysis and dissemination system of Airmen committed to securing Afghanistan and protecting Afghan and Coalition lives. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Felicia Juenke)

REDEPLOYMENT SALE!!

WHO: Selling – Military Only / Buying – Everyone

WHAT: Redeployment Sale

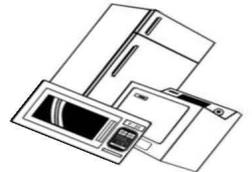
WHEN: Saturday, 9 JAN 10, 1000-1700L

WHERE: MWR **Clamshell** at 4-Corners

WHY: Best way to sell items you don't want to take home with you!

****UNITS:** To get more info or a registration form, email CPT Brown at elizabeth.brown1@afghan.swa.army.mil

For bigger items, please bring an item description and photo to the Clamshell to place on your table!!



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 every Friday 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

Capt. Jose Milan

DSN: 318-431-4060

455aew.sarc@bgab.afcent.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



Must wash their hands
before returning to work...

T3CHNO N1GHT

CLUB CLAMSH3LL

3V3RY TU3SDAY
IN JANUARY
2030 – 2330L

F3ATUR1NG
DJ L1T3 M1K3
D3FQ0N 6

POCs
SPC ADAM LYON - TF MAKE A WAY
&
SPC JUSTIN GEER - TF LONESTAR



Only LIVE televised games are posted.

Sunday				3-Jan	
	New England Patriots	at	Houston Texans	2230L	
	Pittsburgh Steelers	at	Miami Dolphins	2230L	
	New York Giants	at	Minnesota Vikings	2230L	
Monday				4-Jan	
	Kansas City Chiefs	at	Denver Broncos	0130L	
	Philadelphia Eagles	at	Dallas Cowboys	0130L	
	Baltimore Ravens	at	Oakland Raiders	0130L	
	Cincinnati Bengals	at	New York Jets	0545L	

*Games shown will be based on highest demand at kickoff.

Smoking is allowed:

- In your room
- Between the huts
- In a GOV
- None of the above

Smoking is **ONLY** authorized in designated areas.

By order of the Wing Commander



ARTICLE 15 OF THE UCMJ

Bagram Military Justice
28 November – 31 December 2009

Courts-Martial

A Special court-martial will convene at 0830 hrs on 12 January 2010, at the old control tower on Camp Cunningham. IAW RCM 806, courts-martial are open to the public.

Non-Judicial Punishment

A Staff Sergeant from 455 EAMXS who signed a false official statement received a suspended

reduction to the rank of Senior Airman, and a reprimand

A Senior Airman from 455 EAMXS who failed to maintain control of his weapon received a suspended reduction to the rank of Airman First Class, and a reprimand.

A Senior Airman from 19 EWXS who was found sleeping on duty received a reduction to the grade of Airman with reduction below Airman First Class suspended, and a reprimand.

An Airman First Class from 455 ESFS who was found sleeping on post received a reduction to the rank of Airman, and a reprimand.

An Airman from 455 ESFS who failed to maintain control of his weapon received a forfeiture of \$500 x 2, and a reprimand.

NOTE: Punishments may vary from Airman to Airman. When deciding on an appropriate level of punishment, commanders take into consideration the member's oral and written presentation, the member's duty performance and past history of misconduct, the need for good order and discipline, and the nature and circumstances of the offenses.



94.1 FM Afghanistan

afnbagram@gmail.com
Request Line 431-3339