

BAGRAM NEWS EXPRESS

START RIGHT, FINISH STRONG | VOL. 4 ISSUE 3, JANUARY 15, 2010

Moving the goods



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan--U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Keith Cloninger (ground) and Tech. Sgt. Mark Forman, 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron, use a 25K Loader to offload a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected-All Terrain Vehicle at Bagram Airfield, Jan. 7, 2010. Cloninger is a Reservist from Homestead, Fla. Forman is stationed at Lackland Air Force Base and is from San Antonio, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

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

The organization and shipment of cargo and personnel is essential to maximizing the airlift capability that is vital to supporting the war-fighter on the ground and the people of Afghanistan. No one here takes this commitment more seriously than the Airmen of the 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron.

Whether it is the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All Terrain Vehicle (M-ATV), a single piece of mail from a loved one at home or airlift to destinations in or out of country, the 455th AEW "Port Dawgs" ensures everything going to and from the Afghanistan area of operations gets where it needs to go.

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"I always joke with everyone and say 'if it isn't nailed down, my guys will move it,'" said Master Sgt. Joshua Tidwell, 455th EAPS, operations superintendent.

In December, the 455th EAPS set a single day record of 936 short tons (1,872,000 pounds) of cargo and more than 2,000 passengers moved through Bagram. The team also set a monthly record of 20,556 short tons (41,112,000 pounds) of cargo and more than 42,000 passengers.

"Successfully executing a constantly changing flying schedule while managing this massive workload in an austere, combat environment takes a total team effort of disciplined professionals," said Lt. Col. Daniel Krall, 455th EAPS commander. "It has been extraordinary to witness the true professionals of the aerial port in action as they skillfully orchestrate this dynamic and complex operation."

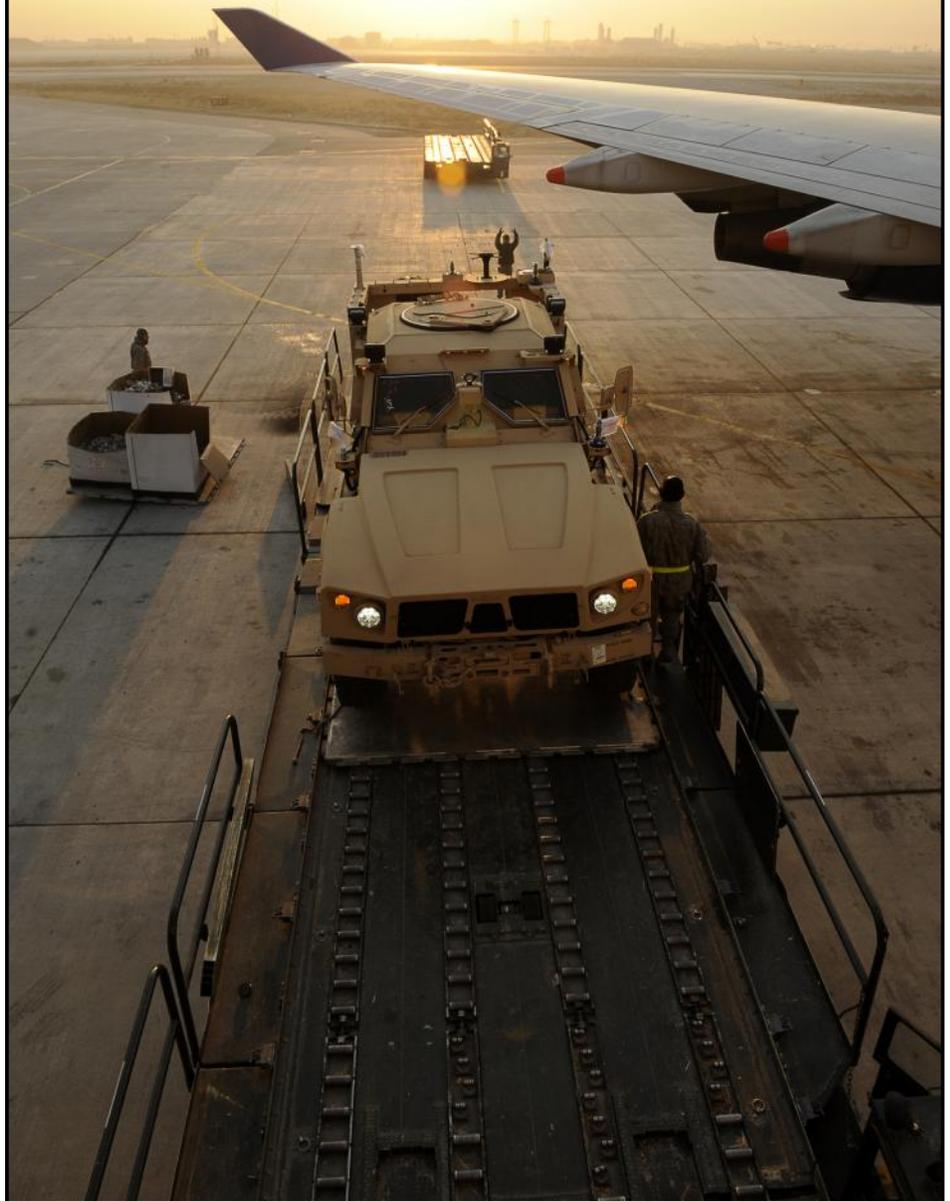
The porters had an incredible departure reliability rate of 99 percent ensuring equipment and personnel were getting to the locations they needed in a safe, efficient manner.

"It truly takes a Total Force effort with the current deployment strain on the air transportation career field," said Chief Master Sgt. William Jackson, 455th EAPS chief enlisted manager.

"With almost 85 percent of the squadron being Reservists and Guardsmen, our personnel are completely seamless from their active duty counterparts," he said. "We are truly proud of them and their hard work and dedication in 'moving mountains' each and every day."

"I am really proud of the job we are doing here and the milestones that have been accomplished during my time here so far," said Tech. Sgt. Daniel Varley, 455th EAPS load planner. "I am a reservist and it is nice to get out here,

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan--U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron, unload Mine Resistant Ambush Protected-All Terrain Vehicles at Bagram Airfield, Jan. 13, 2010. The M-ATV is the latest combat vehicle used by U.S. combat forces. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)



'get dirty,' apply all of the training from home station, and see it pay off."

"The job that our Airmen have been doing here is amazing," said Tidwell. "They got here in September and hit the ground and haven't looked back."

Tidwell, deployed from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., said that not only has the process improved but the workload has been accomplished with one third the personnel of a nor-

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mal port like Dover AFB, Del.

“During the holidays, the post office had a 160,000 pound back log of mail that needed to get out,” said Tidwell. “We coordinated with coalition and commercial aircraft to try to ensure all of the packages got where they needed to go. Our short take off and landing team, which is a 10-man crew, set a single day record on Dec. 26, moving more than 51,000 pounds of mail.”

“I have worked at some of the busiest aerial ports in the world, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Charleston AFB, S.C, Incirlik AB, Turkey, and Balad AB, Iraq and now I am here at Bagram Airfield and



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan--From Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 2009, the Airmen of the 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron moved more than 67 thousand short tons of cargo through Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

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BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan--U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron release the straps on Mine Resistant Ambush Protected-All Terrain Vehicles being offloaded at Bagram Airfield, Jan. 7, 2010. The M-ATV is the latest combat vehicle used by U.S. combat forces. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

EAPS

through rivals any of those locations,” said Varley.

Varley, deployed from the 74th Aerial Port Squadron, Lackland AFB, Texas, said that not only the work but planning has been a big key to the success of the squadron.

“On this rotation I am a load planner,” said Varley. “I look at everything as if it were a big puzzle. I have to take size, shape and weight into consideration with every aircraft and ensure the pieces fit and priority requirements are met and guarantee that the aircraft can take off and land safely.”

Requirements and space are not only issues when trying to upload an aircraft with personnel and cargo but sometimes there are difficulties downloading an aircraft as well. Downloading is something Tidwell says this rotation has perfected.

“We have reduced the time it takes to offload our aircraft in half,” he explained. “We get

aircraft in here as large as a 747 and our inbound cargo personnel have reduced the time it takes to offload items like the M-ATV. It took four and a half hours to offload five M-ATVs at the beginning of the rotation and now their personal best is 41 minutes.”

“We have reduced the time cargo sits in our storage yard as well,” said Varley. The average wait time once cargo landed at Bagram averaged seven days; in four months, the cargo sit time was reduced to an average of three days.

Varley, who recently volunteered to extend his tour at Bagram for a second consecutive rotation, stressed the importance of people and equipment getting to where it needs to go in a timely manner.

“The bottom line is what we are doing is extremely important here,” said Varley. “Everything that gets where it needs to go here is airlifted. It makes me proud because we keep people off the highways, minimizes risk, and I know we are supporting the smallest forward operating bases, so I get to give them a little slice of home. The 455th EAPS prides ourselves on doing it faster than everyone else.”



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan--U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron push a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected-All Terrain Vehicle out of an aircraft at Bagram Airfield, Jan. 7, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

455th AEW Warrior of the Week



Tech. Sgt. Staci L. Schouest, 455th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron noncommissioned officer-in-charge of current operations, is this week's Warrior of the Week. Schouest manages situation reports for eight fixed wing flying squadrons and two support squadrons. She also consolidates flying schedules for all 455th Air Expeditionary Wing fixed wing flying squadrons and two combat search and rescue helicopter squadrons. She tracks all squadron inbound personnel and arranges travel for all out-bound personnel.

Whether performing her duties, tracking the AEW flight hours, working to arrange travel for re-deploying Airmen or mentoring younger Airmen, Schouest engages all tasks head on with an enthusiastic attitude and does not stop until the task is complete. Schouest has gone above and beyond by learning tasks outside her primary career field, then using this knowledge to mentor Airmen in her charge, helping them to succeed. Schouest is the perfect example of the Air Forces Core Values and is highly deserving of this honor. Schouest is deployed from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.



94.1 FM
Afghanistan

afnbagram@gmail.com
Request Line 431-3339

Commander's "Real Talk" assists with information flow at Bagram

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

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—455th Air Expeditionary Wing leadership here has created a new avenue to answer questions from Airmen at Bagram Airfield, the Commander's Real Talk Line.

What is this line, and why was it created? The answer is simple: to ensure information for Airmen flows from the top to the bottom, said Chief Master Sgt. Jeffery Cui, 455th AEW Command Chief.

"The main purpose for the line's creation is to allow anyone assigned to the wing the ability to ask wing leadership questions, get rumor clarification or resolve any issues that the Airmen here may have that they are unable to answer at their level or don't know where to look," said Chief Cui.

"We would like Airmen to not only use it to squash rumors, but also to find out information, not only on topics that affect them at Bagram Airfield but questions about Afghanistan as a whole," said Maj. Langdon Root, 455th AEW commander's executive officer.

Chief Cui says the line is a non-attribution line so all questions are welcome within a reasonable scope and cautions that Airmen should use their chain of command to answer questions first.

"As a young Airman, my supervisor always asked me to search for the answers to my questions first," Chief Cui said. "This way I would have an idea of where information was located and maybe I would run across information that would help me in the future."

If the answers are unknown to immediate supervision, that is the perfect time to use the line, said Major Root.

"The one thing that people need to remember is that although this is a non-attribution line, Airmen need to use common sense because inappropriate questions or comments will be channeled to your commander or first sergeant."

"The questions are received and passed to the proper subject matter experts," said Chief Cui. "It may seem like I am providing all the answers, but chiefs, commander and first sergeants will be answering the questions and if we have to go to the top, we will to get the correct answers."

Airmen may access the Real Talk Blog on the Bagram portal page under the Tools tab on the left column in the center of the page.

Some of the topics already on the page are 455th AEW Airmen's eligibility for the NATO Medal and the rules set forth on Combat Zone Tax Exemption and Hostile Fire Pay, said Chief Cui.

"The bottom line is that we want to help people get the information they need," he added.



**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



What is History?

By: Mr. Douglas Beckstead
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Historian

Over the past four months, I have tried to share some of the exciting history of Afghanistan and the Air Force with you. We've looked at more than two thousand years of history right here at Bagram beginning with Alexander the Great, the establishment and evolution of Afghanistan, the Soviet Invasion, and even the Taliban.

We've looked at amazing stories of survival by Airmen; we've examined the role and evolution of the Air Force's First Sergeants, and even had a laugh or two in learning about just who in the world is "Kilroy."

In my last article, I'm going to deal with our history. That is, the history Airmen of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing are making today – or at least over the past four months.

One of the hardest things for people to realize and understand is that history is not just something that their grandfather did. Or something that you read about in a book.

History is what we do every minute of every day. I once had a student in a seminar ask, "Where do you draw the line at historical research?" After pondering the question, my response was, "Ten minutes ago – if you made a mistake and corrected it within ten minutes we'll give you a 'do-over.' If not, it's history."

In two deployments now I have heard commanders refer to what we are doing in the Global War on Terrorism as being on par with, or potentially even greater than, what was accomplished during World War II.

Now that is a pretty big concept to grasp, even for an historian. Over the last four months, the Airmen of the 455 AEW have accomplished some amazing things. And looking at those accomplishments leaves one shaking their head in amazement.

Every day we each have a job to do and we see what gets done whether it's fixing broken computers, getting supplies in and out of Camp Cunningham, making sure that everyone has a bunk to sleep in, or loading bombs and fuel onto aircraft. But, have you ever pondered just how each of those days adds up?

The operations side of the house has been nothing short of impressive.



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — An Airman stands watch over the airfield in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Courtesy Photo)

During the last four months of 2009, the various aircraft that call Bagram Airfield "home" flew nearly 8,400 sorties. Those comprised more than 21,400 flight hours. In other words, if only one aircraft flew 24 hours a day, seven days a week, it would be in the air for almost three years, non-stop. So, condense that down into what the Wing accomplished in just four months and you'll begin to get the picture.

Our aircraft supported nearly 3,000 joint terminal air requests. That is more than 25 per day. And, our fighters brought support, relief and hopefully peace-of-mind to almost 850 calls for troops in contact with enemy forces.

It's not just all about fighters and dropping bombs. That's the glitzy stuff.

What about getting the goods to the folks on the ground to carry on the fight? Our heavy lift aircraft performed almost 150 airdrops, including setting a new record for the total weight dropped in one week by the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

See History, Next

History

But the records don't stop there, the 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron also set a new record for the amount of cargo moved through the port in one week. Overall, they moved more than 13,750 tons (that's over 27.5 million pounds) of cargo. And it wasn't just "stuff" they moved either. They were also responsible for moving nearly 50,000 people in, out and around the area of operation.

Not to be forgotten, the 455 Expeditionary Aerial Evacuation Flight carried out more than 200 evacuation flights taking personnel to medical facilities where they could receive state-of-the-art care. On those, they carried almost 2,200 wounded warriors.

These are just some of the things that go into recording the history of what we, as an Air Force, and as a coalition partner, have accomplished during the last four months of 2009.

Just imagine what the totals are so far for the entire nine years that Operation Enduring Freedom has been underway. And you, each and every one of you—no matter if your job involves putting fuel into an F-15E, turning wrenches, standing watch in a guard tower or guarding an entry control point, sorting mail, even changing bed pans—has had a part in the history that we have made every day here at Bagram Airfield.



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Airmen assigned to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing are dedicated to the Air Force's core values of integrity, service before self, and excellence in all they do. (Courtesy Photo)

We have had a chance to work under some amazing commanders at the wing, group and squadron levels. They've taken the best, and given them the tools to do their jobs and to become even better.

And this, my fellow Airmen, is how history will remember what we have done here. You carry on the proud traditions of the military that your grandfathers and fathers (and yes, your grandmothers and mothers too) brought forth. You are part of this great story of the world that we call history.

It's been great being a part of it all with you. I've enjoyed every minute of it.



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 area of responsibility 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, 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



Special Court-Martial Proceedings

A Special Court-Martial was held at Camp Cunningham on 12 January 2010 for violation of Article 112a of the UCMJ. Airman First Class Eric M. Thompson was found guilty of two wrongful uses of a controlled substance (hashish) while posted as a sentinel. The military judge sentenced Airman First Class Thompson to 3 months confinement, reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$964 pay per month for 6 months and a reprimand.

In Celebration of
Martin Luther King Day
 Camp Cunningham Presents



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 SPOKEN WORD, COMEDY, SONG, RAP, POETRY

SATURDAY, 16 JAN
1900 HRS
VULTURES NEST
Camp Cunningham




TO REGISTER CALL: JSL 420
OR EMAIL: travis.j@the.c.c.tl@brab.af.mil

Looking for something to do?



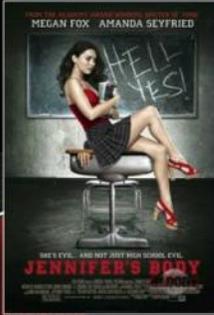
WEDNESDAY
0800 & 1930

George CLOONEY Meryl STREEP
 DID THE LIFE FANTASTIC
FANTASTIC MR. FOX
 BASED ON THE NOVEL BY THE AUTHOR OF "CHICKEN LIPS" AND "THE TALENTED MR. RYAN"



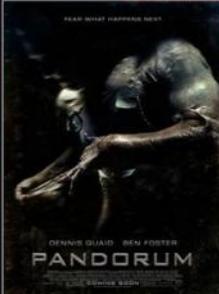
THURSDAY
0800 & 1930

THE ORIGINAL FROM THE NOVEL BY STEPHEN KING
THIS IS IT
 LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE
 BY MICHAEL BAY



FRIDAY
0800 & 1930

MEGAN FOX AMANDA SEYFRIED
 SHE'S HOT HE'S HOT SHE'S HOT
JENNIFER'S BODY
 SHE'S HOT... AND NOT JUST BECAUSE SHE'S HOT.



SATURDAY
0800 & 1930

FEAR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
 DENNIS QUILLAD BEN FORSTER
PANDORUM



SUNDAY
0800 & 1600

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

**Vulture's Nest
 Movie Nights**

Jan 13 Through Jan 17

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

Break the Cycle:

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep
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Volunteer

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep
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 sleep work **Contact your First Sergeant for more details.**