

# Bagram News Express



START RIGHT, FINISH STRONG

VOL. 4 ISSUE 14, APRIL 16, 2010

## 455th AEW Airmen contribute to Operation Care humanitarian aid



**U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Charissa Williams, 755th Air Expeditionary Group, gives stuffed animals to local children during an Operation Care mission at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Sergeant Williams is deployed from Misawa Air Base, Japan, and a San Antonio, Texas native. (U.S. Air Force photo by/Staff Sgt. Richard Williams)**

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

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Members of the 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron recently adjusted office space to hold more than 1,100 pounds of humanitarian aid sent here.

The donation, 38 boxes of shoes, was

facilitated by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ronald Knight, 455th EAPS, an air transportation operations center data records technician.

A reservist from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., Sergeant Knight said when he was here in November, he received an e-mail sent out by Brig. Gen. Steven Kwast, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, commander.

“General Kwast put the word out that hospital personnel had noticed a lot of children coming in with no shoes,” said Sergeant Knight, a Marblehead, Mass. resident. “This really tweaked something with me because I am a father and when you see children with nothing I think

**See Care, Next**

## Care, Cont.

most people want to do something.”

Sergeant Knight decided he wanted to help, so he sent an e-mail to his wife, who works for the Marblehead Public School system, and three other friends. Initially these individuals coordinated the efforts of two schools to ship 20 boxes of shoes to Sergeant Knight in January 2010.

At the same time, four other schools in his home community were collecting additional shoes to be sent for donation to communities around Afghanistan.

“When I got the first shipment in January, we gave 10 boxes to the local hospitals at Bagram and sent 10 boxes out to Herat to an orphanage,” he explained. “When the second shipment came in, I learned about Operation Care through the chaplain’s office.”

Sergeant Knight got in contact with



Members of the 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron load a pallet with more than 1,100 pounds of shoes donated by the Marblehead, Mass. Public School System for use by Operation Care, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Terry Owens, Task Force 30th Medical Command, deployed from Heidelberg, Germany, to find out if Operation Care could use the shoes.

Colonel Owens, who is the president of Operation Care and a Hampton, Va. native, was more than happy to accept the items.

“Operation Care is a non-profit all-volunteer organization started at Bagram in

2002,” said Colonel Owens.

“It was started by civilians and coalition forces to act as a bridge between the counterinsurgency operations and civil affairs action by providing humanitarian aid to local communities and to assist servicemembers who are located in

**See Care, Next**



An Afghan child stops to pose for a picture while waiting to receive a stuffed animal during a recent Operation Care humanitarian mission at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Operation Care is an all volunteer nonprofit organization made up of servicemembers and civilians, whose mission is to provide humanitarian assistance to local civilians in remote areas of Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Staff Sgt. Richard Williams)

## Care, Cont.

some of the far reaching forward operating bases,” she added.

When the Operation Care team receives items, they send them to anyone who requests support. The provincial reconstruction teams, agricultural reconstruction teams and other coalition forces are able to take them out to the villages and help, said Sergeant Knight.

Colonel Owens explained the importance of these donations, “It is something the insurgency cannot provide the people of Afghanistan. They may bestow fear and aggression, but they can’t give the people what they need, the basic things like shoes, clothes and school supplies for all of the new schools we have been building.”

“These types of things help,” explained Sergeant Knight. “I was deployed to Kandahar last year and saw children with no shoes and I didn’t know how to help.”

He added 30 percent of the shoes had never been worn, and that the total group effort from his hometown was amazing, “If it is my hometown’s little way to help efforts in Afghanistan then that is what they are doing.”

“The support is pretty exciting for me and back home they are proud to have helped,” he added. Sergeant Knight also said that it wasn’t just his effort; 455th EAPS gave him a place to store the boxes until they could be taken to the Operation Care storage area and they also helped move them.



**U.S. Army Lt. Col. Terry Owens, 30th Medical Command and Operation Care president, and U.S. Air Force Capt. Jason Williams, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces, discuss item distribution with a village elder and an interpreter. Colonel Owens is deployed from Heidelberg, Germany and a Hampton, Va. native. Captain Williams is deployed from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and is an Asheboro, N.C. native.**

Colonel Owens lauded the efforts of the selfless citizens of Marblehead who provided the donations and ensured the efforts of Operation Care could continue to assist the local population. “It is difficult sometimes when you have a non-profit that helps servicemembers and the local population. We operate under the banner of an equal opportunity provider and ensure we take care of everyone who needs what we have.”

“It is fascinating to me that people back home would take time to go through their closets or go

to the store to help people that they don’t even know,” said Sergeant Knight. “It gives you a good feeling and it gives them a good feeling, and that is important because this is going to hopefully help a lot of people.”

Personnel are encouraged to collect donations; however, only authorized organizations can distribute to local citizens. For more information about Operation Care, visit the Web site, [www.operation-care.net](http://www.operation-care.net) for contact information and donation guidelines.



**(Left) A village resident greets U.S. Staff Sgt. Ndeye Silla, 577th Expeditionary Prime Beef Squadron, during an Operation Care humanitarian aid mission at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Sergeant Silla is deployed from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas and is a native of Dakar, Senegal. (Right) U.S. military members donate humanitarian aid to local residents during a recent Operation Care humanitarian aid mission at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photos by/ Staff Sgt. Richard Williams)**

# The Facts About Identity Theft

By: Tech. Sgt. Joshua Watkins, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Legal Office

**What affects 25 million people and is worth more than 50 billion dollars annually?**

## IDENTITY THEFT

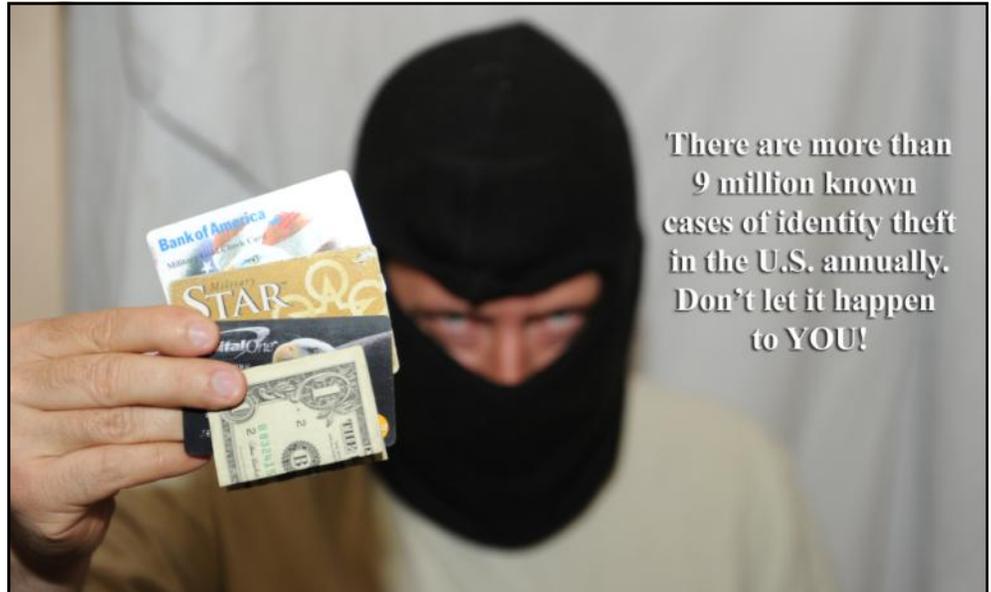
Since arriving at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, I have heard of military members having problems with identity theft. There are numerous ways for someone to steal your identity and use it rather quickly and unnoticeably for days.

We are extremely susceptible to this as deployed military members. Most members cannot get to a computer each day to check their bank and credit card balances and may have thousands of dollars in unauthorized charges before they even realize it. The base has many vendors that will accept credit or debit cards; however, using one may not be a good idea. An otherwise reputable business may still have an employee who may take advantage of your temporary stay in the country to his own financial benefit.

The easiest solution here is to avoid using a credit or debit card. Pay with cash or the Eagle Cash card if accessing or carrying cash is not convenient or feasible for you. The Eagle Cash card is taken at most places here and it differs from a Debit card because it is loaded with an amount of your choice and only contains that amount, so any loss that may occur would be limited. This article covers just the basics of identity theft. For further information, contact the legal office at 431-3251.

## What is identity theft?

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personally identifying information, like your name, Social Security number, or credit card number, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes. The FTC estimates that as many as 9 million Americans have



There are more than 9 million known cases of identity theft in the U.S. annually. Don't let it happen to YOU!

their identities stolen each year with more than 25 million known cases. The crime takes many forms. Identity thieves may rent an apartment, obtain a credit card, or establish a telephone account in your name. You may not find out about the theft until you review your credit report or a credit card statement and notice charges you didn't make—or until you're contacted by a debt collector or denied a loan.

Identity theft is serious. While some identity theft victims can resolve their problems quickly, others spend hundreds of dollars and many days repairing damage to their good name and credit record.

## How do thieves steal an identity?

Skilled identity thieves may use a variety of methods to get hold of your information, including:

**Dumpster Diving:** They rummage through trash looking for bills or other paper with your personal information on it.

**Skimming:** They steal credit/debit card numbers by using a special storage device when processing your card.

**Phishing:** They pretend to be financial institutions or companies and send spam or pop-up messages

to get you to reveal your personal information.

## Changing Your Address:

They divert your billing statements to another location by completing a change of address form.

## Old-Fashioned Stealing:

They steal wallets and purses; mail, including bank and credit card statements; pre-approved credit offers; and new checks or tax information. They steal personnel records, or bribe employees who have access.

**Pretexting:** They use false pretenses to obtain your personal information from financial institutions, telephone companies, and other sources.

Thieves use all these methods to take your identity. There are vast avenues for them to use your identity rapidly, especially the internet. Your credit cards, address, and name can all be used to purchase things over the internet. Stolen identities can be used to buy large items such as motorcycles, cars; even lines of credit can be opened in your name. It starts with a social security number, then an ID,

**See Theft, Next**

## Theft, Cont.

and then they start to apply for credit cards. It is really that simple and can be done within a number of hours. Thieves obviously can distribute your info to other people only compounding the problem, and now you are fighting to stop the onslaught of a full credit attack.

### What should you do if your identity is stolen?

Filing a police report, canceling compromised credit card account numbers, checking your credit reports, notifying creditors, and disputing any unauthorized transactions are some of the steps you must take immediately to restore your good name.

Hopefully this has opened your eyes to the fact that identity theft is real, it is out there and it affects millions of people. Also, remember that if you are going to use your debit card somewhere always keep it in view because it only takes a second for them to gain the information from the magnetic strip on the back of your debit card.

**Learn more about identity theft at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).**



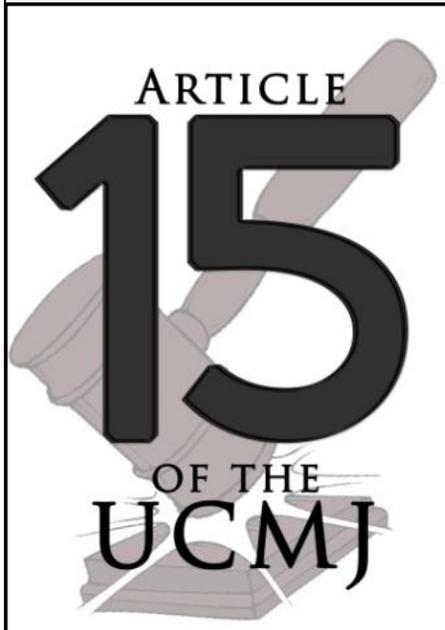
**"Report ALL suspicious activity! Good installation defense occurs when everyone works together to ensure the safety and security of our war fighters. You are a sentry and force protection is your business!"**

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

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

## MILITARY JUSTICE REPORT: MARCH 2010

By: 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Legal Office



### Non-Judicial Punishment

A staff sergeant from 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron who lost his weapon received a suspended reduction to the rank of senior airman and a reprimand.

A staff sergeant from 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron who negligently discharged his weapon received a reduction in rank to senior airman and forfeited \$1,196 of pay.

A senior airman from the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron who lost his weapon forfeited \$850 of pay.

A senior airman from 817th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron who lost his weapon received a suspended reduction to the grade of airman 1st Class and a suspended forfeiture of \$1,011 of pay.

An airman 1st class from 455th

Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron who lost his weapon received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman, forfeited \$350 pay per month for two months, and was reprimanded.

An airman 1st class from 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron who was found sleeping on post received a reduction to the rank of airman, a suspended forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for two months, and a reprimand.

An airman 1st class from 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron who committed battery by striking another member with his fist received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman, forfeiture of \$225 pay, fourteen days extra duty, and a reprimand.

An airman 1st class from 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron who lost his weapon received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman and a reprimand.

An airman from 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron who lost his weapon received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman basic 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 offense(s).

# History Spotlight: The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

By: Tech. Sgt. Scott Gaitley, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Historian



Mujahidin convene outside a Soviet garrison, preparing to launch a mortar attack. (Courtesy Photo)

## Dec. 1979 — Feb. 1989

The Soviet Union moved quickly to take advantage of the April 1978 rebellion in Afghanistan. In December 1978, Moscow signed a new mutual treaty of friendship and collaboration with Afghanistan, and the Soviet military assistance program increased drastically. The regime's continued existence was reliant upon Soviet military equipment and advisers as the uprising spread and the Afghan army disintegrated.

By October 1979, relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union were on edge as Hafizullah Amin refused to accept Soviet guidance on how to soothe and unite his government. Faced with a deteriorating state of affairs, on Dec. 24,

1979, large numbers of Soviet airborne forces and thousands of Soviet troops began to land in Kabul under the disguise of a field exercise. On Dec. 26, these assault forces killed Hafizullah Amin and appointed Babrak Karmal, an exiled leader of the Parcham faction, to Prime Minister. Massive Soviet ground forces invaded from the north on Dec. 27.

The Soviets initially expected to be in Afghanistan for just a few months, but events soon spiraled out of their control. The invasion not only attracted worldwide disapproval, but as the resistance called a *jihad* against the godless Russians, Afghanistan became an inspiration for a worldwide Islamist movement. The Americans feared

that the Cold War was expanding towards the Arabian Sea and guaranteed clandestine military aid to fight the Soviets.

Following the Soviet incursion, the Karmal regime, backed by a force that grew to nearly 120,000 Soviet troops, was incapable of enforcing its influence outside of Kabul. Approximately 80 percent of the countryside, counting parts of Herat and Kandahar, evaded government control. A vast majority of Afghans opposed the communist regime. Afghan freedom fighters (*mujahidin*) made it unattainable for the communists to sustain a system of local government outside

**See Invasion, Next**

## Invasion, Cont.

major urban centers. In 1984, the *mujahidin* began getting considerable support in the form of weapons and instruction from the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and other international powers.

Moderate *mujahidin* groups were shelved in favor of the most radical Islamists like *Hekmatyar*. Pakistani policy hoped for a functional Pashtun government in Kabul to quell disputes over the historically unstable Durand Line, and through *Hekmatyar* the Pakistani Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) crushed all efforts to merge the resistance. Publicized by Islamabad and Washington as the most effective mujahidin leader, Hezb-e Islami spent more time terrorizing the refugee camps and killing Afghan rivals than Russians. Pakistan also inspired foreign fighters to rally and support the fight. Roughly 30,000 radicals from across the Muslim world were trained at arms, with financial support and Islamic guidance from Saudi Arabia. Known as the 'Arab-Afghans' they were deeply racist and viewed Afghanistan as a key location for staging a worldwide Islamic revolution. Osama Bin Laden came to Afghanistan at this time, and his co-militants would go on to take their experience to Algeria, Chechnya, Kashmir and beyond.

In May 1985, the seven principal Peshawar-based guerrilla organizations created a coalition to orchestrate their political and military operations against the Soviet invaders. Late in 1985, the *mujahidin* were active in the region of Kabul, initiating rocket attacks and

directing operations against the communist government. The botched Soviet Union attempt to win over any Afghan collaborators or to reconstruct a workable Afghan army, forced it to accept an increased responsibility for fighting the resistance and for civilian administration.

In the field, the regular *mujahidin* fought on heroically. The countryside was ideal for hit-and-run ambushes, and the Red Army gradually found that it had little influence beyond the range of its weapons. A scorched earth policy simply drove the resistance on.

Scores of the Afghan army deserted and in 1986, the arrival of Stinger missiles from the United States set the Russians back considerably, as helicopters and planes were shot down from the skies. The new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, began searching for a way out of this situation.



He encouraged Afghan-Soviet reconciliation through Kabul's new leader, Mohammed Najibullah, and when that failed announced a withdrawal. Gambling on the survival of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan government, Russian troops were pulled out until the last tank crossed the Amu Darya River in February 1989.

The decade-long war had cost the Soviets more than 15,000 men and a significant contribution to the collapse of the USSR. More than 1.5 million Afghans had died, and four times that many had fled the country.



**Abandoned vehicles from the Soviet occupation in Afghanistan rest in graveyards inside Afghan National Army base, Camp Shaheen, which was the sight of an old Soviet Forward Operating Base. Tanks, rocket firing trucks, and other artillery litter the outskirts of the camp. (U.S. Air Force Photos by/ Master Sgt. Christopher DeWitt)**

# SARC FAQs

## **QUESTION:**

*What is the definition of a sexual assault "victim"?*

## **ANSWER:**

*A victim is a person who alleges direct physical, emotional, or pecuniary harm as a result of the commission of a sexual assault or other crime of interpersonal violence.*

## **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](mailto:455aew.sarc@bgab.afcent.af.mil)

## **PROPER WEAR OF ABU PATROL CAP**



AFI 36 - 2903, DRESS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL, Table 2.2.  
Men's Battle Dress Uniform. page 56

Headgear (BDU Cap) Mandatory - ABU rules apply because it is the same style hat

Squarely on the head with no hair protruding in front of the cap; when not being worn, may be stowed in either of the lower cargo pockets on the trousers.

BDU caps required for all deployments, field training, mobility exercises and recalls.

Hat may not be pushed, rolled, folded or tucked in. (e.g.; Ranger Fold) Plain without design.

AFCENTI 36-2903; DRESS AND APPEARANCE OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL DEPLOYED TO USCENTCOM AOR

3.1.2. ABU caps will not be rolled, tucked or otherwise formed (Ranger Roll and other adjustments are not authorized). Caps will be worn in their natural form.

# 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 is cancelled for April 23, due to change of command ceremony.** Combat Orientation is every Friday at 0100Z/0530L 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.

## **BAF MAIL INSTRUCTIONS:**

BAF residents, ensure individuals sending mail have your most current contact information. This alleviates any delays in receiving your mail. Below is the contact information required for individuals to receive mail.

**NAME - (Eg. Jane Doe; no rank)**

**UNIT - (Eg. 455 ECS/SCXK)**

**Bagram Airfield or BAF**

**APO AE 09354**

## **AFGHANISTAN HISTORY CLASS:**

The weekly Afghanistan History course is held Tuesday's 1900-2000 in the Town Hall on Camp Cunningham. For more information contact the 455th AEW Wing Historian's office at 481-6053.

## **455th AEW Tip of the Week**

### **COMMUNITY STANDARDS**

**Sunglasses** — To prevent loss or damage, sunglasses may be secured by a dark colored strap and worn loose around the neck when not in use. Sunglasses will not be worn between 5:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. local time. Due to the elevation at Bagram and the brightness of the sun's rays here, use of sunglasses is highly encouraged when outdoors during daylight hours.

## **455th AEW Safety tip of the week**

### **DRIVING ON BAF**

With the exception of those military vehicles not equipped with restraint systems, all occupants of vehicles are required to utilize an authorized safety restraint system. The use of a cell phone is prohibited while operating a vehicle, gator, or bicycle. Headphones or earphones will not be worn when operating any motor-driven vehicle or bicycle. If you have questions, contact the Safety Office at 431-4743

## **455th AEW Financial Tip of the Week**

**SDP (Savings Deposit Program)** - was established to provide members of the uniformed services serving in combat zones the opportunity to build up their financial savings. Member needs to be in the area of responsibility for at least 30 consecutive days in order to participate in the program. Deposits can be made by allotment, check or Eagle Cash Card. Copy of orders, current leave and earning statement and ID card are required to make a deposit. Deposits may not be less than \$5 and must be in multiples of \$5. You can only deposit the amount of paychecks you have accrued in the AOR. Amounts up to \$10,000 may be deposited, earning 10 percent interest per annum (2.5 percent quarterly). Interest will continue to accrue on the account up to 90 days after departure from the combat zone. You can track/withdraw your SDP via myPay.

## **455th AEW Policies and Procedures**

**Flightline Photography** — Personnel on Bagram Airfield are not authorized to take still photography or video imagery on the airfield flightline unless authorized by the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs office and 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. Images must be used for official use only. Violators of this policy will be detained and possibly taken into custody. Call 455th AEW/PA at 431-2371 for more information.



**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



**94.1 FM AFGHANISTAN**

THE US AIR FORCES  
CENTRAL EXPEDITIONARY BAND  
PRESENTS:

**RESERVE  
GENERATION**



POC: Vultures Nest  
481-6216

**Schedule and Times for April 2010 on BAF**

- 15<sup>th</sup> 1900 - USO
- 16<sup>th</sup> 1930 - Dragon DFAC
- 17<sup>th</sup> 1900 - Eastside CE Compound
- 18<sup>th</sup> 1230 - Dragon DFAC, 18<sup>th</sup> 1800 - Med Evac
- 19<sup>th</sup> 1900 - MWR Clamshell
- 20<sup>th</sup> 1700 - Eastside Fire Department Clamshell

PHOTOGRAPHY AND POSTER DESIGN BY GARY CUTBELL, BAFB, CA

# Looking for something to do?

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

**Break the Cycle:**

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**Volunteer**

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Contact your First Sergeant for more details.

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Starting this Tuesday and every Tuesday evening in April. Class is from 1900-2000 in Vultures Nest Movie Room (Camp Cunningham)

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For more information contact: Ch Youstra or TSgt Beach at 481-6677 or 079-872-5059 or stop by the Air Force Chapel Offices located across from the Rock Gym