

Bagram News Express



START RIGHT, FINISH STRONG

VOL. 4 ISSUE 15, APRIL 23, 2010

“Welcome to the Fight”



U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Mike Hostage III, U.S. Air Forces Central Command commander, presides over the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing change of command ceremony in which Col. Jack Briggs II assumes command at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, April 23, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

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

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Airmen welcomed their new commander during a formal change of command ceremony here, April 23, 2010.

Col. Jack L. Briggs II, previously assigned as the Director of Inspections for the Office of United States Air Force Inspector General, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., assumed command from Brig. Gen. Steven L. Kwast.

“Jack, welcome to the fight,” said Lt. Gen. Mike Hostage III, U.S. Air Forces Central Command com-

mander and officiating officer. “I know you understand the 455th Wing’s importance to the mission here in Afghanistan. This wing is a fearsome weapon for victory and I will offer you my full support as you wield it. You are the right per-

See Command, Next

Command, Cont.

son for the job. Lead these Airmen well.”

Colonel Briggs said, “I take on the challenge of this command to advance the mission, focus on the welfare of those I lead, and be a good steward for the resources you provide me. Sir, you and those I work with will get my very best every day.”

General Kwast expressed his confidence in Colonel Briggs by saying, “I hand this mantle of leadership and this deep pride of being your commander and your servant, I hand it to a man of great strength and courage. Colonel Briggs will take you to the next level.”

Colonel Briggs explained the 455th’s mission is to use air power and more importantly the power of Airmen to bring victory and stability to this fight.

“We are here at a remarkable time in the history of Afghanistan, the region and our own nation,” he said. “You have been selected to be here to make a difference on the

way to victory. You are the key to success and I have high expectations for your continued performance.

“Each of you is critical to our overall success and I will hold you to the high standards you have already set,” he added. “The chal-

lenges are great, but so are you. The victory we must achieve means we need everyone’s best.”

General Kwast’s next assignment is Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs for Europe, NATO and Russia, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, DC.



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Steven Kwast and Col. Jack Briggs II salute Lt. Gen. Mike Hostage III, U.S. Air Forces Central Command commander, during the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing change of command ceremony April 23, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)



Members of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing prepare for the change of command ceremony in front of a C-130 aircraft at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, April 23, 2010. In the ceremony, Col. Jack L. Briggs II took command of one of the busiest wings in Afghanistan from Brig. Gen. Steven L. Kwast. Lt. Gen. Mike Hostage III, U.S. Air Forces Central Command commander, presided. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Staff Sgt. Richard Williams)

Meet Col. Jack L. Briggs II

455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander

Team Bagram:

Thank you for the wonderful welcome I have received over the past few days. I am excited about the future and look forward to our time working and living together. As the Wing Commander, I feel you deserve to know what I believe are important things in my life. There are always lots of questions about the new guy so here it is, as plain as I can make it.

I believe in the truth. The truth is the only thing I can use. If things are going well, the truth is pretty easy. When times are tough, personally or professionally, it is harder but even more critical. If you tell me the truth, I will do everything I can to do the right thing. If you don't, I can't be sure what I do is best for all involved.

I believe in respect for one another. In our diverse community we rely on each other for strength, assistance and joy. We show respect by working with each other as we are and not as we would wish others to be.

We all bring different strengths to the table. I am strong in command skills but weak in patience. I know this about myself and try to learn from those around me (my family, my friends, my co-workers) and I have improved over the years.

Put others before yourself and build on the spirit of being a wingman. I show respect for those around me by trying to understand

their point of view before I make a decision. Sometimes that seems like I am trying to know other people's business but my responsibilities mean I better know or I can't help.

I will treat your issues with confidence and dignity.

I believe in my God and my family. They are the constants in my life. Assignments, locations and possessions come and go. I try to remain true to my spiritual principles as sources of inspiration and advice.

I live and breathe for my family. They have stuck by me through the good times and bad and I owe them my very best every day. I fall short, but I try hard.

I believe in our partnership with our Afghan hosts and the joint warfighters. This is a critical time in both our nation's histories and we must do your best to help protect the Afghan people, build security and governance, and our own bilateral relations. Our brave hosts have sacrificed much for the future they know is best for their nation.

As friends and guests here in Afghanistan and members of the joint team, I expect us to live up to our best reputation as a people and a military service. Sometimes things will happen. We will work together in open honest dialogue between partners and friends to fix problems and change circumstances to prevent further issues.

I believe in the United States Air Force and United States of America. We are a service and a nation at war. That requires sacrifice and your being here is a testament to that fact.

My combat experience has convinced me we are doing the right thing in our efforts to combat terror and protect the idea that everyone has the right to choose their way of life.

As a service we are experiencing extremely challenging times for people and resources. We cannot look at anything we do as the only way to do it anymore.

I've experienced amazing transformation in our Air Force in 24 years. I miss some things and I'm glad we've gotten rid of others. Today, you can have a direct impact on what we can and will do to effectively scale our work to our resources.

We are the most dominant Air Force in the world because of the power of you minds. Use that power to cut waste and redirect efforts to value added actions to win the fight.

There you have it. Not complicated but these are my beliefs to the core of who I am. I want to get to know you too. Don't hesitate to tell me about yourself and your beliefs. Our open dialogue will create an environment at Bagram where we will strive for victory while bringing meaning to our lives.



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AFCENT Band Reserve Generation rocks Bagram Airfield



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jack Bowers, Airman 1st Class Jill Diem, Master Sgt. Aaron Miles, Airman 1st Class Darren King (left to right), and Tech. Sgt. David Vittetoe (back) perform at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, April 18, 2010. These Airmen are members of the Air Forces Central Band, Reserve Generation, and perform throughout the U.S. Central Command theater. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

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

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—The sounds of music filled the air as members of the U.S. Air Forces Central Command Band, ‘Reserve Generation,’ stopped in as part of a two-month tour of the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility April 15-20, 2010.

Bagram Airfield was one of the last stops for the band, deployed from Robins Air Force Base, Ga., whose members play a mix of rock ‘n roll, pop and country, and even

some requests said Tech. Sgt. David Vittetoe, Reserve Generation drummer.

“We have been traveling around playing for deployed Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and civilians,” said Sergeant Vittetoe. “We are just hoping to give them a few minutes to forget where they are and just enjoy themselves; that is our ultimate goal.”

Airman 1st Class Jill Diem, vocalist, said this is her first deployment, and it has been an eye opening one. “You get to see what the troops are doing first hand and provide some morale opportunities

and put a smile on their faces, and that has been a very rewarding experience.”

Reserve Generation played at a variety of squadron functions to include lunch at the dining facility and an open show at the Bagram Morale, Welfare and Recreation Clamshell. The highlight for Senior Airman Josh Byrd, guitarist, came when the band played an all acoustic set at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital. “Bringing a smile to those people’s faces for what they

See Band, Next

Band, Cont.

do was just an honor and a privilege,” he said.

Airman Byrd explained since the inception of the Air Force Band in 1941, the bandmen have been traveling anywhere troops deploy to boost morale and give people a chance to relax and enjoy a little taste of home through music, a tradition he is proud to be a part of.

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Luft, 455th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron, enjoyed the band at several locations and said he really appreciated Reserve Generation taking the time to travel throughout the AOR to boost morale for his fellow servicemembers. “I think they are great and it’s nice that they play a variety of music so everyone can get a little taste of something they like.”

Sergeant Luft, deployed from Misawa Air Base, Japan, said it was great having them here because it is something out of the norm of the every day mission. It gives people a chance to decompress from the stress of being in a combat zone.



Airman 1st Class Jill Diem, vocalist, U.S. Air Forces Central Band Reserve Generation, serenades Senior Airman Luis Murillo, 455th Expeditionary Force Civil Engineers Squadron Force Protection Flight. Airman Murillo is deployed from Kadena Air Base, Japan. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Staff Sgt. Richard Williams)

She added, “No matter where we go, everybody loves Sweet Home Alabama by Lynyrd Skynyrd.”

Airman Diem said the band has really enjoyed their time playing for a wide spectrum of audiences on their tour and each location

has been enjoyable and memorable.

“We have sung for local nationals, civilians, ambassadors, princes, astronauts and the troops and it has been really amazing.”



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Aaron Miles, Airman 1st Class Darren King (left to right), and Tech. Sgt. David Vittetoe (back), members of the Air Forces Central Expeditionary Band, Reserve Generation, perform at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, April 18, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

History Spotlight: The Taliban in Afghanistan

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

In response to the chaos and the lack of *Pashtun* representation in the Kabul government, a movement of former *mujahidin* arose. Countless numbers of Taliban had been educated in *madrassas*, a radical version of Islam in Pakistan, and were largely from rural *Pashtun* backgrounds. The name "*Talib*" itself means pupil. This faction committed itself to eliminating the warlords, bestowing order, and imposing Islam throughout the country. In 1994, it developed sufficient power to capture the city of Kandahar from a local warlord and then proceeded to enhance its control throughout Afghanistan, occupying Kabul in September 1996. By the end of 1998, the Taliban occupied nearly 90 percent of the country, restraining the opposition mostly to a small Tajik corner in the northeast and the Panjshir valley.

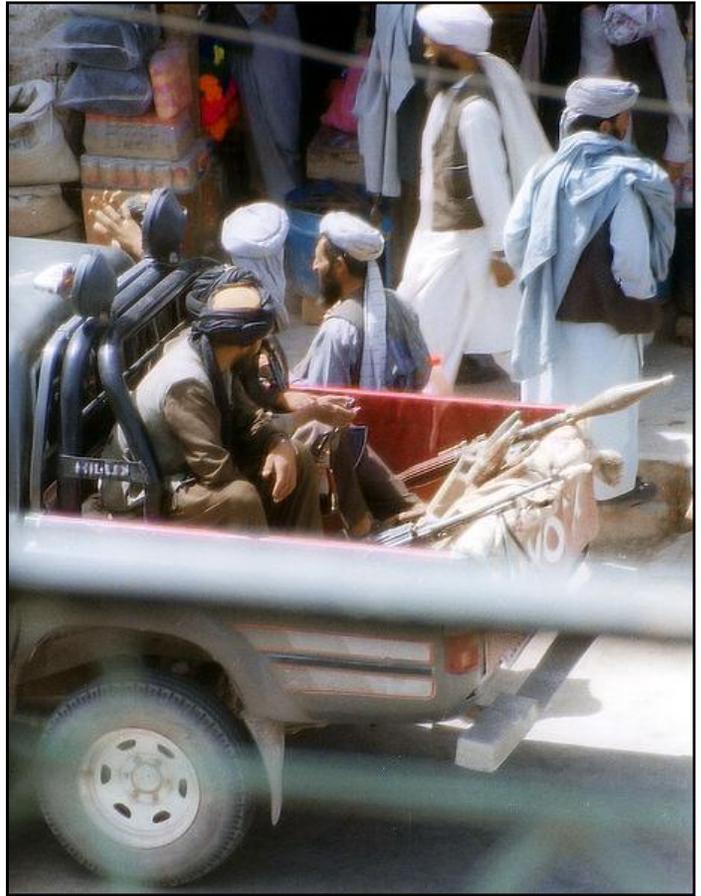
The Taliban sought to enforce their extreme version of Islam on the entire country, committing considerable human rights violations, primarily directed against women and young girls, in the process. Women were prohibited from working outside the home and pursuing an education, were not to leave their homes without an accompanying male relative, and were forced to wear a traditional body-covering garment called the *burka*. The Taliban committed severe atrocities against the minority populations, particularly the *Shi'a Hazara* ethnic group, and killed noncombatants in several well-documented instances. In 2001, as part of a crusade against relics of Afghanistan's pre-Islamic past, the Taliban destroyed two large statues of the Buddha outside of the city of *Bamiyan* and announced destruction of all pre-Islamic statues in Afghanistan, including the remaining property of the Kabul Museum.

From the mid-1990s, the Taliban

provided sanctuary to Osama bin Laden, a Saudi national who had fought with them against the Soviets, and provided a base for his and other terrorist organizations. Bin Laden provided both financial and political support to the Taliban. Bin Laden and his al Qaeda group were charged with the bombing of the U.S. Embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam in 1998. Bin Laden and al Qaeda are believed to be responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist acts in the United States, among other crimes.

In September 2001, agents working on behalf of the Taliban and thought to be associated with bin Laden's al Qaeda group assassinated Northern Alliance Defense Minister and chief military commander Ahmed Shah Masood, a hero of the Afghan resistance against the Soviets and the Taliban's principal military opponent. Following the Taliban's constant refusal to expel bin Laden and his group and end its support for international terrorism, the U.S. and its coalition allies began a campaign on Oct. 7, 2001, targeting terrorist facilities and assorted Taliban military and political resources within Afghanistan.

Under pressure from U.S. air power and anti-Taliban ground forces, the Taliban disintegrated rapidly, and Kabul fell on Nov. 13,



Taliban in Herat, 2001 (Courtesy Photo)

2001. Sponsored by the UN, Afghan factions opposed to the Taliban met in Bonn, Germany in early December and agreed to restore stability and governance to Afghanistan by creating an interim government and establishing procedures to move toward an enduring government. Under the Bonn Agreement, an Afghan Interim Authority was formed and took office in Kabul on Dec. 22, 2001, with Hamid Karzai as Chairman. The Interim Authority held authority for approximately six months while preparing for a nationwide *Loya Jirga* (Grand Council) in mid-June 2002, that determined the structure of a Transitional Authority.

See Taliban, Next

Taliban, Cont.

The Transitional Authority, headed by President Hamid Karzai, renamed the government as the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan (TISA). One of the TISA's primary achievements was the drafting of a constitution which was ratified by a Constitutional *Loya Jirga* on Jan. 4, 2004.

Afghanistan identifies itself as an "Islamic Republic." The new national constitution adopted on Jan. 4, 2004 led the way for nationwide presidential and parliamentary elections. Afghanistan held its first national democratic Presidential elections on Oct. 9, 2004. Hamid Karzai was announced as the official winner on Nov. 3, 2004. On Dec. 7, 2004, he was inaugurated as the first democratically elected President in Afghanistan's history.

With anti-terrorist coalition support, the government's ability to secure Afghanistan's borders to preserve internal order is growing. The government continues to work directly with coalition forces in eliminating remnants of al Qaeda and the Taliban. The nucleus of an Afghan National Army is being trained, as are Afghan National Police, Afghan National Security Forces, and Afghan Border Patrol personnel.



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

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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

COMMENTARY: WHY WE TUCK IN OUR PT SHIRTS

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffery Cui, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, command chief

During my almost six months as the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Command Chief, I have been required to address violations of various standards a lot more than I would have imagined and definitely a lot more than I want to.

I understand the dynamics which magnify standards infractions in a deployed environment a lot more than at home station (i.e. wearing uniforms 24/7; a large population in a confined area, additional guidance, longer work hours, just to name a few), but they are not excuses for failing to follow and enforce them. On the contrary, in a deployed combat zone it is more important to follow standards and established procedures because of the nature of our life and death missions, the overcrowded conditions and the less than optimal infrastructure.

I'll use dress and appearance standards as an example because it is the easiest and most violated in the area of responsibility.

Is it the end of the world if you don't have your PT shirt tucked in or you're wearing black socks versus white? No, but the Air Force has established a specific way to wear our uniforms for a variety of reasons (purpose of a "uniform" is to be the same, military image, safety, etc.). We are all taught in basic training, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, U.S. Air Force Academy or other initial training the importance of wearing our uniforms properly, but for some reason once we migrate into the "real" Air Force some people no

longer believe it is important and they take a "no big deal" attitude about it. Not to mention people sometimes get hostile, dismissive or disrespectful when they are politely corrected on an infraction. I am one of many who believe not wearing the uniform properly or failing to follow established standards/procedures is a symptom of a lack of discipline and leadership that can easily slip into the work center or duty performance. Why is that important? Besides the obvious that discipline is one of the foundations of any military, I'll give you a few recent examples.

1) we have had more than a few lost/misplaced weapons which could've landed in the hands of one of the 5,000 local nationals who come onto base each day; 2) we've had several negligent discharges to include one where an Airman was seriously wounded; and 3) we've had at least one incident where hung munitions was declared by an aircraft but in reality it was not properly "armed" so the pilot was not able to drop his weapons when he needed to. In each of these cases an established standard or procedure was not followed by one or more Airmen. If we were to peel back the onion on each of these incidents and the Airmen involved, what are the chances that they a) had a habit pattern of following all standards/procedures and just had a bad day or b) only follow some standards/procedures and it finally caught up to them? If I were a betting man I'd say more of these scenarios were in category "b" than "a"

because success and winning are a habit pattern which requires discipline. Is it easy to "know the rules and follow the rules?" I'll tell you from personal experience "no" because there are countless standards/rules, they are always evolving, and there isn't a single location to find them all. But ignorance of a rule or standard is not an excuse, especially for dress and appearance standards because they are common to the masses. A little bit of research, asking questions or buddy checks can prevent infractions and arm you with the knowledge to be successful. If you take that approach to everything from getting dressed to your duties at work you will form good habits and be on your way to a successive career.

If you look at our successful military leaders and people who are role models in any profession you'll find people who are disciplined, knowledgeable, lead by example, that learned to do things the right way and are consistent in their actions and decisions. I am asking for your help in making the 455th AEW better by revitalizing your self-discipline and the discipline in others by following and enforcing standards/procedures in all areas. If we all take care of ourselves, our people and our work centers, the entire mission will run smoother, more efficient and the incidents/accidents will decrease. So tuck in your PT shirt, ask people to tuck in theirs; if someone asks you to tuck in yours, thank them for helping you!



94.1 FM
Afghanistan
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Request Line 431-3339

TATTOOS are not to exceed over 1/4 of the exposed body part. Excessive tattoos are required to be removed upon notification of the commander. If you have a tattoo in question seek guidance from your chain of command.



YOU CAN'T RUN FROM THE RULES

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: 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

WALKING/RUNNING ON BAF

If you are considering jogging on BAF here are some reminders: You can only run at night on the sidewalk of Disney, running at night outdoors anywhere else is not authorized. Running on the perimeter road is highly discouraged but allowed. If you do, run against traffic and you cannot wear headphones. Running on "The Race Track," around Camp Warrior is also discouraged but once again run against traffic. If you have questions, contact the Safety Office at 431-4743.

455th AEW Financial Tip of the Week

Family Separation Allowance- FSA is \$250/month and is prorated. If you filed it at home station finance before you left, the entitlement should appear 30 days after your departure on your pay record. If you have not yet filed for it or if you did and it was not processed by your home station, you have two options: 1. You can bring a copy of your orders to the finance office at Bagram 30 days after your departure from home and file for it. 2. You can wait until you get back to home station finance and file for it when you complete your travel voucher and receive the lump sum for the timeframe you were deployed. FSA is only payable to members who lived with their dependent or joint spouse prior to deployment. If you are mil-to-mil and both deployed to the same base, you will not receive FSA unless you are separated from your children.

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.

