

Bagram News Express



START RIGHT, FINISH STRONG

VOL. 5 ISSUE 18, MAY 14, 2010

755th Air Expeditionary Group Squadrons celebrate one year with JET Airmen



Airmen assigned to the 855th Air Expeditionary Squadron take time to pose with some Afghan children during a “Quilts for Kids,” humanitarian mission in Regional Command East, Afghanistan. The 855th AES has more than 850 joint expeditionary tasked Airmen who work with local provincial reconstruction, agricultural development and mentoring teams throughout eastern Afghanistan. (Courtesy photo)

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

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—May 5, 2010 was a landmark day for the 755th Air Expeditionary Group. This day marked the

one year anniversary of the creation of four air expeditionary squadrons whose purpose is to support joint expeditionary tasked and individual augmentee Airmen.

Airmen assigned to the 655th, 755th, 855th and 955th AES are deployed to more than 120 forward operating locations in Afghanistan

in support of provincial reconstruction teams, embedded training teams and agricultural development teams with a mission to teach the people of Afghanistan necessary skills to sustain and build

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their country, said Col. James Meersman, 755th AEG commander.

The squadrons provide administrative support for the more than 2,000 JET/IA Airmen scattered across Afghanistan's austere landscape who support U.S. Army and International Security Assistance Forces, said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph Rodriguez, 755th AES commander. "Our Airmen ensure specific tactical-level missions are fully supported with the right Airmen in the right place, with the right skill sets, on time, every time."

"We consider our JET/IA Airmen the elite," said Colonel Rodriguez, deployed from Langley Air Force Base, Va., and a Winter Park, Fla., native. "They have been called upon to augment our sister services because of their unique skills, capabilities and training."

The Airmen assigned to these squadrons are placed in non-typical environments, explained Air Force Lt. Col. Melinda Morgan, 655th AES commander. "While traveling the Afghanistan countryside assessing the health, welfare and morale of every Airman, we have seen first-hand how they have been able to integrate their training, tactical skills, mental abilities and determination to produce whatever task they are given."

Colonel Morgan, deployed from



(Back Left) Lt. Col. Joe Rodriguez, 755th Air Expeditionary Squadron commander, and (middle front) Master Sgt. Mike Moore, 755th AES first sergeant stand with local contract security and 755th AES Airmen assigned to the ISAF Military Police on a show of presence visit to Forward Operating Base Lindsey near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. (Courtesy photo)

the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., added that Airmen have the unique ability to integrate into any culture and serve alongside any service to include the Afghan National Security Forces.

Since their creation in 2009, the four squadrons, who report to the 755th AEG here, have faced many challenges explained Colonel Rodriguez, whose 755th AES controls

Airmen in Regional Commands South and West from Kandahar Airfield. "We started in the back corner of a closet. We expanded our operations center to a fully contained office in 12 months."

One of the most important things, Colonel Rodriguez explained, is the

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U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Patrick Seiler, a joint expeditionary tasked Airman assigned to the 955th Air Expeditionary Squadron, installs a crew-served weapon during preparation for a three-day convoy through Regional Command East. Sergeant Seiler is a resource manager/convoy driver assigned to the Combined Joint Task Force 82 Regional Support Team East, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan and deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. He is a Brooklyn, N.Y., native. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Staff Sgt. Richard Williams)

AEG, Cont.

relationship the squadron has built with the units who have tactical control of the JET/IA Airmen. “The improved infrastructure along with the relationships we have built have ensured uninterrupted support of our combat Airmen.”

Accountability and assurance that Airmen are getting what they need can be a daunting task, explained Lt. Col. Joseph Hall, 855th AES commander, Whiteman AFB, Mo. and a native of Cranberry Lake, N.J. “The biggest struggles we face are maintaining accountability of so many Airmen with such a small staff. The Airmen are constantly being re-missioned to adapt to the changing face of the fight in Afghanistan.”

One of the keys to ensuring Airmen have the resources they need to accomplish the mission is having an “eyes on” approach, said Colonel Morgan. She and her fellow squadron commanders have adopted an aggressive forward operating base hop plan allowing them to travel to

forward operating locations and assess the needs and welfare of their Airmen on a more personal level to give them a better understanding of how they live and work.

“We alleviate the tactical commanders from Air Force-specific responsibilities like discipline, performance reports, tracking and administrative accountability, individual training and equipment and redeployment of our Airmen,” said Colonel Meersman, deployed from Defense Logistics Agency, Ft. Belvoir, Va. This has helped foster a strong working relationship with the mission commanders on the ground.

He added, “The tactical commanders always want more Airmen to further their missions, but we are limited in numbers, so every Airman has to count and be productive on the battlefield.”

“They (JET Airmen) endure weeks of difficult combat skills training to ensure they are prepared for the dynamic environment of frontline combat working for people who don’t fully understand

the Air Force culture, but know they cannot live without the abilities the Airmen bring to the fight,” said Colonel Rodriguez. “We ensure these Airmen are never forgotten and have a straight line back to ‘Big Blue’ to handle their personal affairs, freeing their mind to concentrate on their tasks.”

Colonel Rodriguez said he has had the opportunity to meet some of the most highly motivated individuals who exemplify the Air Force core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do on his travels throughout the 755th AEG’s area of responsibility.

“Our Airmen are honored to have been selected to take part in such an important mission at a very critical time in our nation’s history,” he added. “They represent the next greatest generation; one that will take the lessons our forefathers earned through blood, sweat and tears and forge a new path for others to follow. By their actions today, they will leave behind a better, more prosperous world for tomorrow.”



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Patrick Seiler (left), A joint expeditionary tasked Airman assigned to the 955th Air Expeditionary Squadron, discusses convoy safety procedures with Chief Master Sgt. Terrell Thomas, 955th AES superintendent, prior to a three-day convoy to forward operating bases in Regional Command East. Sergeant Seiler is deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Staff Sgt. Richard Williams)

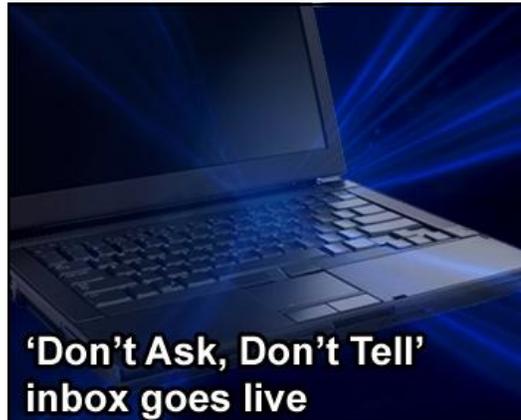
'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' online inbox goes live

Courtesy American Forces Press Service

A new online inbox that enables servicemembers and their families to comment anonymously about the impact of a possible repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law has gone live.

The inbox will enable servicemembers and families to offer their thoughts about how a repeal of the law that prohibits gays and lesbians from openly serving in the military might affect military readiness, military effectiveness and unit cohesion, recruiting and retention, and family readiness, a defense official said.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates created an intradepartmental, interservice working group to conduct a fair, objective, comprehensive and dispassionate review of these issues, the official said. The online inbox is one method the group will use to systematically engage with the force



and their families.

A non-Defense Department contractor will monitor comments made through the inbox and eliminate any identifiable information inadvertently submitted to ensure anonymity, the official said.

The inbox is posted at <http://www.defense.gov/dadt>. Respondents must possess an official Common Access Card to provide input.

Combat Stress Clinic here to assist servicemembers

Courtesy Bagram Airfield Combat Stress Clinic

455th Expeditionary Medical Group/Task Force Medical East Combat Stress teams are located throughout RC-East, ready to assist servicemembers managing stressors of deployment.

Whether the stress challenges are the rigors of combat, worries regarding home front concerns, or persisting difficulties with sleep, our teams are here to help.

Any servicemembers experiencing thoughts of suicide should seek assistance immediately by alerting their chain of command, a chaplain, or coming directly to a Combat Stress Control clinic.

We have a range of services available to help individuals in distress, including classes such as effective sleep, anger management, and tobacco cessation, as well as individual counseling and medication consultation.

The Freedom Restoration Center is an option for service members in need of short term (3-5 days) in-residence support and resiliency education.

CSC Teams can also consult with commanders regarding addressing behavioral health needs, conducting education regarding self-aid/buddy care for suicide prevention, and developing performance enhancement strategies for units as a whole.

We strongly encourage seeking individual or unit consultation while problems are small.

For further information contact TF Med-East/CSC Det. 1 at Bagram, 431-4639, your local CSC Team.

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



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Celebrating Nurses Week

By: Col. Karen M. Kinne, 455th Expeditionary Medical Group/Task Force Medical East, Chief Nurse
Photos By: Master Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs



U.S. Air Force Maj. Cheryl Lockhart (left), Lt. Col. Chad Faulds and 1st Lt. Erica Horan, 455th Expeditionary Medical Group/Task Force Medical East, prepare medical equipment for a patient after surgery at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, May 5, 2010. Major Lockhart is deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and is from Buffalo, N.Y. Colonel Faulds is deployed from the Wisconsin Air National Guard, and is from Racine, Wis. Lieutenant Horan is deployed from Travis AFB, Calif., and is from North Easton, Mass.

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Nursing at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital, is definitely a snapshot of the total nursing force. We have Active Duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve nurses and medical technicians from all services. The professionalism, dedication and commitment to the mission are a constant for each member. Of course, there are challenges being in any branch of service, but the commitment of each person to service before self comes every day and more with each de-

ployment. Each medic makes the personal and family sacrifices that come along with their deployment. Medics all come together as one team with one fight.

The nurses and medical technicians assigned to the 455 Expeditionary Medical Group/Task Force Medical East provide the highest level of medical capability to our wounded service members, coalition and Afghan national security forces. The clinical capabilities and competencies of our medics are definitely a result of the many

training opportunities. In addition to our mission at home, there are state-of-the-art training platforms utilized. Today, the use of simulation training labs with complex critical care patient scenarios and high tech mannequins create realistic critical care training opportunities. Additionally, there are clinical rotations to civilian trauma centers used to augment hands on intensive care and emergency

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Nurse, Cont.

training. Every day at home there is always an emphasis on how to meet the operational needs of the AF for our upcoming deployment cycle.

The emergency room, operating room, intensive care unit and ward are focused on battle and non-battle injuries and keep a busy pace. These are highly trained and certified experts in current trauma protocols and high technology procedures, but they keep a caring touch on each individual patient. The outpatient clinics focus on restoring the health of the servicemembers to return them to duty. The nursing personnel in the Contingency Air Staging Facility are dedicated to transporting wounded U.S. and coalition members to the higher level of care as quickly as possible. They collaborate with Aeromedical Evacuation and Critical Care Air Transport Teams to promote the highest quality of care in transport.

There are nurses assigned to Joint



U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Erica Horan, 455th Expeditionary Medical Group/Task Force Medical East, provides medical assistance for a patient in recovery after surgery with assistance from medical personnel at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, May 5, 2010. Lieutenant Horan is deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and is from North Easton, Mass.

Trauma Theater Team and a Joint Combat Casualty Research team. These teams assist in process improvements and evidence-based practice projects to improve

combat care in real time. The fostering and facilitation of research in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility happens because of these teams. A Womens Health Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Anesthetists are only some of the advanced nursing roles present in Bagram.

There is a National Nursing shortage in the U.S., but I am proud to say that the U.S. Air Force has developed a very robust program to stay on top of the issues. The AF has been out front and has recognized the need to promote career opportunities. The leadership has been able to add bonus and incentive specialty pay along with educational degree advancements, certifications and quality of life initiatives.

The 2010 theme for National Nurses Week is "Caring today for a healthy tomorrow." Although this is a week to highlight the nursing profession, I must say it is a privilege and honor for me to have this opportunity to be assigned as 455th EMDG Chief Nurse and lead nursing services to get the job done.



U.S. Air Force Capt. Christine Cardoza, 455th Expeditionary Medical Group/Task Force Medical East, provides medical care for a patient after surgery. Captain Cardoza is deployed from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and is from Dayton, Ohio. International Nurses week is celebrated around the world ever May 6-12. This week is celebrated to remember all of the valuable contributions nurses make to society. In January 1974, the decision was made to celebrate the day on May 12 as it is the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, who is widely considered the founder of modern nursing.

455TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

Tech. Sgt Sean Wakeman, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Safety Office



He added the safety job is important because he and his team find and investigate safety deficiencies with regards to aircraft operation here. This helps with mishap prevention and keep combat assets in the fight.

Sergeant Wakeman's command section nominated him because he is a "superior performer," whose tenacity investigating 41 aviation related mishaps ensured safe 24-hour operations on the airfield. He is the fleet manager for all 455th AEW/SEF rolling assets. As the flightline drivers training program manager, Sergeant Wakeman trains and conducts flightline driving familiarizations for all wing staff agency personnel. His tireless efforts supporting the airfield Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard program has helped reduced aircraft bird strikes by 50 percent since 2008. Sergeant Wakeman was also selected as an usher for the recent 455th AEW change of command.

Tech. Sgt. Sean Wakeman is this week's 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Warrior of the Week. He is the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of flight safety for the 455th AEW Safety Flight.

Deployed from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Sergeant Wakeman handles investigations for all controlled movement violations and bird and wildlife strike hazards on the airfield. He also conducts spot inspections to ensure flightline operations are per-

formed in the safest, most efficient manner. Sergeant Wakeman also assists the flight safety officer-in-charge with airfield reports, aircrew safety briefings and conducts trend analysis duties for all flightline operations. "I am completely humbled for even being submitted, said Sergeant Wakeman, a Holland, Mich., native. "It is an honor to be selected out of the other hard working individuals here at the Bagram Airfield.



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NEWS BRIEFS

MALARIA MEDICATIONS: Malaria medication is required year-round in Afghanistan. Report to your nearest medical treatment facility if you did not receive malaria medication from your home base. For questions, contact Public Health, 431-4426.

NEWCOMERS INPROCESSING: All Air Force members are required to in-process with PERSCO. The in-processing 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 in process 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 1245Z/0515L 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.

NEW BAF MAIL ZIP CODE:

BAF residents, ensure individuals sending mail have your most current contact information. May 5, 2010, Camp Cunningham was issued a new zip code. Ensuring proper postal codes are used 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 09352

CITIZENSHIP FOR MILITARY MEMBERS:

If you are a deployed member of the U.S. Armed Forces and interested in becoming a U.S. citizen, you may be eligible to apply for citizenship under a special provision in the Immigration and Nationality Act. The Combined Joint Task Force 82 legal client service office can assist and conduct naturalization ceremonies on Bagram Airfield in May and November of each year. For any questions or assistance contact the CJTF- 82 legal

455th AEW Safety tip of the week

FOOTWEAR

Sandals and shower shoes may be worn to and from shower/latrine facilities only. Regardless of climatic conditions, only athletic shoes (no boots) will be worn while performing physical training in the fitness center. Shoes may be removed on exercise mats but, if removed, socks must be worn. If you have questions, please 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 AOR 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 \$5.00 and must be in multiples of \$5.00. 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 up to 90 days after departure from the combat zone. After that 90 days, interest will stop accruing. 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.



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Afghanistan
afnbagram@gmail.com
Request Line 431-3339



The Eagle Eyes program is an Air Force anti-terrorism initiative that enlists the eyes and ears of Air Force members and citizens in the war on terror. Eagle Eyes teaches people about the typical activities terrorists engage in to plan their attacks. Armed with this information, anyone can recognize elements of potential terror planning when they see it. You are encouraged to learn the categories of suspicious behavior and stay attuned to your surroundings.



- **Surveillance** – Recording or monitoring of activities
- **Elicitation** – People or organizations attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities or people.
- **Tests of Security** – Any attempts to measure reaction time to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.
- **Acquiring Supplies** – Purchasing or stealing military sensitive equipment (ACOGS, NVGs, AN-PEQ 15), weapons, ammunition, uniforms, passes or badges or any other controlled items.
- **Suspicious Persons** - People who do not belong in the workplace or base.
- **Dry Run** – Putting people into positions and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act.
- **Deploying Assets** – People and supplies getting into position to commit the act.

All Bagram personnel (military and civilian) are vulnerable to exploitation. The Eagle Eyes program relies on everyone to report suspicious activity they observe. If you notice any suspicious activity with an immediate threat, report the incident to the Provost Marshall's office or Security Forces. If the incident is just suspicious, please call AFOSI at 481-8469.

Come Celebrate
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
LIGHTING
 THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

22 MAY 2010
AT 1800HRS
IN THE CLAMSHELL

1830HRS: ETHNIC ISLAND CUISINES

1900HRS: LIVE PERFORMANCES FROM THE ISLANDS OF
 FIJI, GUAM, HAWAII, NEW ZEALAND, PHILIPPINES, SAMOA AND TAHITI




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.

Asian Pacific Volleyball Fundraiser
14-16 May 2010



ISLAND STYLE TOURNAMENT

Where: Volleyball Court by Clamshell
 \$20 per Team
 Double Elimination
 Team Registration: 13 May 2010 1800-2100 @ the Volleyball Court
 P.O.C: TSgt Bernadette Ross & SSG Andronico "DJ" Recasas
 Email: bernadette.f.ross@afghan.swa.army.mil
 C: 079-732-9781
andronico.recasas@afghan.swa.army.mil
 C: 079-839-7587