

# Bagram News Express



START RIGHT, FINISH STRONG

VOL. 5 ISSUE 19, MAY 21, 2010

## ‘Defenders’ neutralize threat to Bagram Airfield



U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron line up for guard mount at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, May 21, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Master Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

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

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Members of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron with assistance from U.S. Army and Marine Corps personnel proved their combat power May 19, 2010, repelling an early morning

attack here.

The attack began with indirect fire which caused no significant damage, said Lt. Col. James Lowe, 455th ESFS commander.

Indirect fire or IDF is the use of rocket propelled grenades, mortars or other explosive devices to engage an area.

“We started receiving small arms fire and our perimeter security

teams identified movements at several points along the perimeter fence,” he said.

Once the Airmen gained positive identification on enemy positions, they engaged the enemy to neutralize any threats on the installation, he added.

**See ESFS, Next**

## ESFS, Cont.

Colonel Lowe, deployed from U.S. Air Forces Central Command staff, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., said the base was attacked from several positions as small teams of enemy combatants began to throw grenades, launch rocket propelled grenades and continued small arms fire towards the perimeter.

"I had just got on post in my tower," recalled Airman 1st Class Garrett Zeising, 455th ESFS. Once his changeover was complete, he assumed post and began a visual scan of the area.

Airman Zeising, deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, explained he had been in his tower on the south side of the airfield for about five minutes when he heard an explosion. "When I heard the explosion it was a small one and I thought it was an IDF attack."

He stepped onto the catwalk of his tower and began to scan the area to look for a point of origin but did not see the initial explosion. As he proceeded back into his tower to grab his radio, Airman Zeising noticed some suspicious personnel.

"Two individuals were walking along the perimeter in (Army combat uniforms)," he said. "As they were walking, one raised a rifle and began firing."

Once he saw the individuals firing, Airman Zeising proceeded out to engage them and noticed two more individuals in the distance. "Once I started engaging, they moved to a covered position out of sight. I ran inside, grabbed my radio and when I was trying to call in, they reappeared and began to shoot randomly and throw grenades."

As Airman Zeising, a Logan, Iowa native, engaged the enemy, a support element of 455th ESFS personnel and Army quick reaction force moved to his position in support. He neutralized two enemy combatants and when the other units arrived, the other enemy combatants were eliminated.

On the western perimeter another



**U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Patrick Valentine, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, watches over his sector from a guard tower at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, May 21, 2010. Airman Valentine is deployed from Yokota Air Base, Japan, and is from Fresno, Calif. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Master Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)**

enemy team was trying to breach security, said Colonel Lowe, a Caldwell, Kan., native. "They engaged our towers trying to pin our Airmen down while other individuals tried to come over the barriers."

"We received two indirect fire attacks and I felt my tower shake a little bit," said Airman 1st Class Keegan Donnelly, 455th ESFS. "We then heard another area of the base was taking small arms fire and were told to do what we needed to do to neutralize any threats."

Airman Donnelly, who was located on the western perimeter of the airfield, began to scan the area around his tower and noticed two individuals behind barriers outside his location.

"I noticed the individuals about 50 meters off one of our other towers and I called it in," said Airman Donnelly, deployed from Luke AFB, Ariz. "One of our mounted patrols comes across the radio and says two Marines are going to walk along the inside of the wire and do a sweep."

Seconds after the radio transmission is passed to Airman Donnelly,

the Marines came under fire. The Albany, N.Y. native's tower came under fire as well as the area around his position. "I immediately dropped to a knee and began to return fire," said Airman Donnelly.

As Airman Donnelly and other servicemembers in the area were engaging enemy combatants, Joint Terminal Attack Controllers called in Army helicopters to engage enemy positions along the perimeter as well.

In the end, the joint defense effort, led by the 455th ESFS 'Defenders,' eliminated more than 16 enemy combatants with minimal injuries to U.S. forces, said Colonel Lowe.

As the initial attacks on the perimeter began, many off-duty ESFS members began to gather, said Chief Master Sgt. Allen Graves. "The response was exceptional. Initially, we pushed around 20 Defenders to areas along the perimeter. All told, we sent more than 90 off-duty Airmen out to support our Airmen in the towers and

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## ESFS, Cont.

on patrol.”

Chief Graves, a Newport, Maine native, said they didn't even have time to recall anyone. “The Airmen know what their responsibility was and showed up with the ‘Put me in coach’ and ‘Where do you need me’ mentality.”

“Our Airmen executed the defense of the base with speed and discipline. They led the fight, working together with our sister services and coalition forces to ensure the security of the airfield,” said Col. Jack Briggs II, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander.

Colonel Lowe praised the performance of his Airmen, “Exceptional,” he said. “I would call it monumental. They met and defeated a large and well-equipped enemy, who were bound and determined to kill as many coalition personnel as possible. My Defenders served nobly and valiantly. They leapt into the fray and fought with vigor and courage.”

“I didn't expect to see what I saw,” said Airman Donnelly. “I am proud of everything we did. We have trained for these situations and



**Remnants of a fire fight can still be seen on a cement barrier at the southern perimeter of Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, May 21, 2010. Members of the 455th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron, U.S. Army quick reaction forces, and U.S. Marines repelled the attack May 19, 2010. According to U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. James Lowe, 455th ESFS commander, this was the first attack on a U.S. Air Force defended airfield in 40 years. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Master Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)**

when the time came it all just kicked in and I did what I had to do.”

Colonel Briggs said, “I could not be more proud of our Airmen. I am

lucky to be serving alongside our outstanding Airmen who accomplish extraordinary things every day, especially our Defenders.”



# Air Force JTACs support joint combat missions

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

FOB ORGUN-E, Afghanistan (10MAY2010)— U.S. Air Force Joint Terminal Attack Controllers assigned to the 817th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron were called into action when their unit came under attack during joint operations near the Afghanistan and Pakistan border, May 12-15.

The mission was a near-border operation to remove any potential enemy threats from a named area of interest, said U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Daniel Garner, 817th EASOS, JTAC.

On May 12, Garner and Airman 1st Class Corey Hughes, a Tactical Air Control Party radio operator, maintainer and driver, also assigned to the 817th EASOS, entered their forward operating location as enlisted air liaisons for ground forces. They established an observation point that would give them a clear view of the area and allow them to observe any enemy positions.

“When we control (air) assets in a close air support role, it is getting their eyes on the friendly positions first so they know where the friendlies are and if there are any enemy positions out there I want to pass that on to them as well,” said Garner, deployed from 19th Air Support Operations Squadron, Fort Campbell, Ky. By relaying that type of information to aircraft overhead, enemy forces can potentially be neutralized and the potential for any civilian casualties can be reduced, he added.

While on patrol May 13 with Soldiers from A Company, 1st Battalion 187th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Rakkasan, the unit was attacked by enemy mortar, heavy machine guns, rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire, said Garner.



**(Left) Airman 1st Class Corey Hughes, a terminal air control party Airman, and Senior Airman Daniel Garner, a joint tactical attack control Airman, both assigned to the 817th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron, stop for a picture after returning from a recent mission. Both Airmen are deployed from the 19th ASOS, Ft. Campbell, Ky. (Courtesy Photo)**

“We came under fire and Airman Hughes got on the joint air request net and called in for close air support,” said Airman Garner, a Mt. Gilead, N.C. native. “While we were taking fire, we were also returning fire.”

“It was pretty wild,” said Hughes, a Costa Mesa, Calif. native. “Honestly, my adrenaline was pretty high when we were getting shot at, but then my training kicked in and I got the sat (communication) set up and got on the radio to get us some air support.”

After Hughes coordinated for the inbound aircraft, he began returning fire at enemy positions and assisting Garner in directing the air traffic in the skies over the battlefield and assisting anyone who needed it.

As Garner began to receive radio transmissions from two inbound F-15E Strike Eagles, Hughes at-

tended to Soldiers who had been wounded. Hughes also provided covering fire for Garner and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Richard Healey, of Newton, Iowa, a forward observer with the 1-187th.

With mortars landing very close to their position, Garner maintained contact with aircraft, and Hughes began moving the wounded to a casualty collection point where he coordinated an aeromedical evacuation.

Garner directed aircraft to fly over the battle space in a show of force. He then coordinated with Sergeant Healey, who was in contact with an artillery unit and preparing to fire at enemy mortar locations.

“While Airman Hughes was calling in to get CAS, Sergeant Healey was helping me get grid map locations,” said Garner. “He was also

**See JTAC, Next**

## JTAC, Cont.

giving me updates on artillery firing directions so I could redirect air assets out of the area.”

Sergeant Healey, who was a trained Combat Life Saver, began applying bandages and assisting Airman Hughes with the injured soldiers, said Garner.

“Some of the wounded were near my [satellite communication] station,” explained Hughes. “I went back and forth to try to check on them and give them water and help them out the best I could.”

Once MEDEVAC was en route the casualties needed to be moved to the landing zone, said Hughes.

“Everyone started laying down cover fire and I looked at one of the injured Soldiers and said, ‘This is going to hurt,’ and he looked at me and said, ‘Alright,’ so I picked him up and fireman-carried him to the helicopter,”

As Airman Hughes placed the wounded Soldier in the helicopter, he said the Soldier looked at him and said, “I will never forget this man, I will never forget this.” He added, “Luckily none of us got hit trying to get them out.”

“When the MEDEVAC helicopters

arrived, I helped load some of the wounded and pulled security so no one else would become a casualty,” said Hughes.

The troops in contact situation lasted maybe 30 minutes, but it felt like hours, said Hughes.

“Honestly, when you are getting shot at it seems like time is going by really slow,” he said.

Once the casualties were safely evacuated and the fire had ceased, Airmen Garner and Hughes continued on the mission, neutralizing three additional areas of interest and two objective areas.

The training the JTACs and RO-MADS go through prepares them well for dealing with these types of kinetic situations. Almost all JTACs are assigned to Army units so they are familiar with procedures for artillery and MEDEVAC, said Garner.

Sergeant Healey agrees. “Working with the JTACs has its challenges. I have to ensure they clear the air space before I give the ‘go ahead’ for any artillery,” he said.

Another important aspect is both services being able to share battle space information to ensure whatever munitions or aircraft they are calling in does not have a negative

effect, added Sergeant Healey.

Following a mission, Garner said he always looks at ways he could have done things a little bit better to improve for the next mission, and Airman Hughes and Sergeant Healey agree.

“It is a total team effort when we get out there,” said Garner. “Not just with your JTAC team, but with your Army counterparts as well. We all did what we were supposed to do.”

Garner, who was the senior JTAC on the mission, lauded Hughes’ actions saying, “He did what he was supposed to do. He did an excellent job getting people to the MEDEVAC site and that day I think he showed his true colors.”

Reflecting on the day’s events, Hughes felt things went the way they were supposed to go. “Airman Garner and I did our job very fluidly and the Army did their job neutralizing the enemy.”

“They [the Army] are always joking with us about the Air Force but they appreciate what we do,” said Hughes.

“It feels good that the Air Force can bring something to the fight on the ground and in the air,” 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**



# *The Enlisted Perspective*

*By CMSAF James A. Roy*

May 14, 2010

## **Building partner nation capacity is critical**

Last week, 370 senior enlisted leaders from around the world gathered to talk about the issues affecting the U.S. Air Force. Among those were representatives from 18 partner nations.

There was a two-fold benefit to having our international partners attend. For our partner nations, it reinforced their view that we are here to work with them. Second, it allowed us to learn from the unique perspectives they bring to the table.

Having the partner nations at the conference was critical to its success. Our Airmen operate in an increasingly joint and coalition atmosphere, so having those partnerships is crucial to the Air Force's mission of "fly, fight and win."

Across the globe, enlisted Airmen are building those relationships. In Canada, we've built a professional military education partnership. For years, we have had Canadian students and instructors at our Air Force Senior NCO Academy; we also have an instructor at the Canadian equivalent school. We've furthered that partnership by enrolling our first Airman into the Advanced Leadership Qualification Course that is scheduled to graduate in June.

We're also working closely with our South American partners. I saw this recently while touring the Inter-American Air Forces Academy (IAAFA) at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. IAAFA provides technical and military education training in Spanish for more than 600 students annually. These students come from 21 Latin America and Caribbean countries' military forces and governmental agencies.

In Africa, two senior master sergeants recently traveled to Ghana to visit the Air Force Recruit Training School. This was U.S. Air Forces in Europe's third visit to the country to build upon the growing relationship between 17th Air Force, the air component to U.S. Africa Command, and Ghana's Air Force.

Seventeenth Air Force is also actively involved in U.S. Africa Command's Theater Security Cooperation, or TSC. They are working to help our African partners develop security capacity and enhance professional capabilities of their armed forces. Military analysis has determined that small traveling teams are the most effective way to engage with our partner nations to help them achieve their goals. More information about TSC is available on the Air Force Portal.

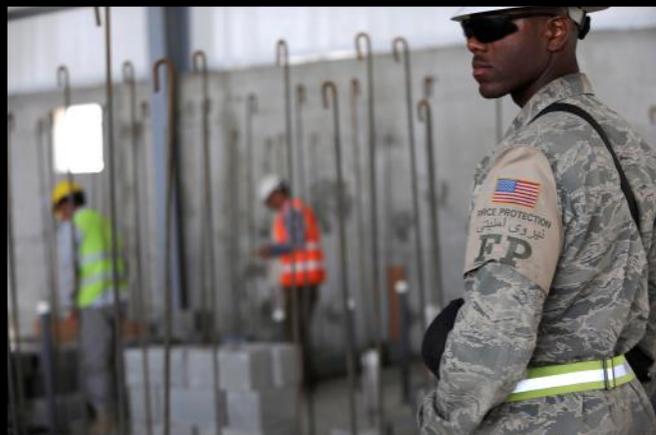
Building partner nation capacity is critical to our continued success as a service, department and nation.



*James A. Roy*  
James A. Roy  
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

# Protecting the Airfield

Photo Story By: Master Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Cameron Mosley, 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, receives his work assignment for the day. He then reports for duty at various locations around Bagram Airfield. As a force protection escort, Airman Mosley's primary duty is to monitor and safeguard all local and third country nationals working on various construction projects around Bagram Airfield. "We don't know who is coming into this flightline or what they are capable of," said Airman Mosley, deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany. "By making sure we keep our workers accounted for we maximize our area security." Airman Mosley is a South Haven, Mich., native.



# 455TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Master Sgt. Christopher Owens, 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight



replied, "It gives me great pride about the job my team does here." Sergeant Owens said, "It gives me great pride to be able to support both coalition forces and the local nationals to get them to the best medical care possible." "Seeing the faces of the locals we are helping and hopefully changing preconceived notions that the locals may have about us (coalition forces) is one of the key things we try to do on our aeromedical missions. Helping our wounded warriors is especially important to me and the job we do."

Sergeant Owens' supervision nominated him for this honor because they said Sergeant Owens excels in orchestrating on-time mission departures.

He is an experienced crew member, who has been a mentor for other enlisted personnel. AE crews and CASF personnel continuously comment on his positive attitude and his knowledge and ability to get the mission completed without delay. He has, in addition to his normal duties, flown six combat missions, safely transporting more than 50 casualties.

Master Sgt. Christopher Owens is this week's 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Warrior of the Week. He is noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the aeromedical evacuation operations team for the 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight.

A reservist deployed from the 315th AES, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., Sergeant Owens manages AE stage operations and supervises launch and

recovery of AE missions here. He also acts as the liaison with aircraft commanders, AE crews, the contingency aeromedical staging facility and all ground support agencies to ensure fast efficient movement of injured personnel who require medical movement. Sergeant Owens also flies on AE missions as a medical technician.

When asked how he felt about being selected, the Richmond, Va. native



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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.

## **BAF MAIL:**

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 client service office at 481-8540.

## **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.



**94.1 FM  
Afghanistan**

**afnbagram@gmail.com  
Request Line 431-3339**

# SARC FAQs

## **QUESTION:**

***What rights does the offender or accused have?  
Does the offender have the right to refuse testing?***

## **ANSWER:**

***Alleged offenders are afforded all legal rights contained in the Constitution and they are detailed in the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Once an alleged offender is formally charged with sexual assault, they do not have the right to refuse to participate in evidence collection.***

## 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



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.