



Bagram Brief

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Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan

Defend the base: fear the Reapers!



Senior Airman Sean O'Keefe, 755th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, prepares his weapon prior to an early morning mission "outside the wire" with Reaper Team 1 Jan. 1, 2013. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chris Willis)

By Staff Sgt. David Dobrydney
455th AEW Public Affairs

Every day, they are out there. Every day, the Airmen of the 755th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Reaper teams venture forth to seek out threats, respond to attacks or escort base leaders to visits with local officials.

"Our mission is to defend the base," said Senior Master Sgt. Edward Tillman, 755th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron superintendent, who oversees multiple Reaper teams which are continuously moving through the Bagram Base Security Zone.

"We conduct operations 365 days a year between all our teams," said Master Sgt. Grant Holder, Reaper 1 squad leader. "There's always going to be a team outside the wire."

An important facet of the Reaper mission is working with the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police, said Tillman.

"We're doing joint patrols with the ANA and ANP, letting locals know these guys are going to be taking the lead," he said.

Working the day shift, Reaper 1 squad primarily works security for key leader engagements in the more than 90 villages around the base.

"We're giving them a stable environment to progress with their economic development ... providing them that security so they can live their daily lives," said Holder, deployed here from Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

A recent mission for Reaper 1 involved escorting a commander to a meeting with a provincial governor in a nearby village. The Airmen were at the Reaper compound before sunrise, preparing their Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles while Holder receives their operational order for the mission.

Once the operational order drops, the Reaper Airmen attend their mission brief, listening intently as their routes, objectives and any threats are discussed. Afterward, there is another flurry of activity as they armor up, perform final checks and pile into their vehicles.

Visit www.bagram.afcent.af.mil to read more.

Hail from the Chief



By Chief Master Sgt. Steven Bohannon
455th AEW Command Chief

Support the Fight, Defend the Base, and WIN! The 455th Air Expeditionary Wing brings superior combat capability to the battlespace and it's all because of you, our Airmen! The truly exceptional work that each and every one of you does for our Air Force, nation, joint, coalition and Afghan partners does not go unnoticed.

Regardless of your AFSC, whether you're active duty, Reserve, Guard, civilian or contractor; each of you is a critical member of this world-class team. We are a wing built of warriors, capable of expertly projecting combat power well beyond the boundaries of Bagram Airfield. Whether your contributions culminate in putting lethal airpower overhead, providing the best care available for our wounded warriors, assembling dismounted foot patrols securing local villages or any of a myriad of other mission sets, you are part of a tradition of excellence. Literally, thousands upon thousands of people count on the security you provide them. You're the best I've ever seen.

As we begin this year, you can expect to see big changes in the force structure in Afghanistan. As U.S. forces continue to transition the lead to the Afghans and we begin the glideslope towards force reductions, you will still be expected to provide the same level of world-class capability our partners have grown accustomed to. 2013 will be a challenging year, but I have no doubt that together we will tackle those challenges head-on and WIN! As a Command Chief, I can't think of a place that I'd rather serve from or Airman-Warriors that I'd rather serve with. I'm so proud to have been afforded the honor to be a part of this team!

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WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Chief Master Sgt. Steve Bohannon, Command Chief Master Sergeant of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, presents the "Warrior of the Week" award to Staff Sgt. Dana Hildebrand, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing ground safety manager, Jan. 8, 2013.

Hildebrand completed three annual unit safety inspections and conducted 15 no-notice inspections in addition to multiple additional duties and volunteer work. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. David Dobrydney)

Events & Announcements

Uniform Wear -- Afghan Scarves

In accordance with the 9-AETF Supplement to USAFCENTI 36-2903 and the local 455 AEW Supplement, Afghan desert scarves (shemaghs) are only authorized for wear with OCPs during sand/dust storms to protect the face and neck. The shemagh desert scarf is not authorized for wear as cold weather gear with OCPs.

The SURGE in concert

Rock band the SURGE will give a concert at 8:30 p.m. January 17 at the Enduring Faith Chapel.

Martin Luther King Jr. Fun Run

There will be a 5K Fun Run January 21, starting at 6 a.m. at the 5/6 Tent in Camp Cunningham. Sign-ups are being taken at the Rock Fitness Center. For more information contact Capt. Aubrie Jones.

Seeking Norwich graduates

The Combined Forces Air Component Commander is looking for Norwich graduates who commissioned in the Air Force. Interested parties will need to fill out a brief questionnaire. To participate please contact the Public Affairs office at 447-6687.

Write home event

The Sexual Assault Prevention Office will host a pre-Valentine's Day party January 20 in the 5/6 tent from noon to 4 p.m. There will be food, movies and crafts to mail home to family. All supplies will be provided, just bring a pair of scissors. Contact Capt. Herring at 481-7272 or 455AEW.SARC@bgab.afcent.af.mil to reserve a spot or for more information.

Revised evaluation AFI

The Air Force has published a new Officer & Enlisted Evaluations instruction, AFI 36-

2406, effective January 2. All evaluations with a close out date of January 2 or after are subject to the revised AFI. The new AFI can be downloaded at http://static.publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a1/publication/afi36-2406/afi36-2406.pdf. Contact your home station MPS or the PERSCO office at 447-6636 for further information.

Questions wanted

Do you or your family have questions about Bagram or the AOR? How to send a care package? How to donate supplies to the local population? E-mail your questions to the Public Affairs office inbox and they will be added to a new Frequently Asked Questions sections to the Bagram Airfield website.

OEF Crisis Hotline

Navigating through life's challenges can be tough. It's no secret; at some point in our lives, we all need a little help. U.S. Forces-Afghanistan has stood up an OEF Crisis Hotline for deployed service members. The Hotline can be accessed by dialing 1-1-1 from a NIPR DSN phone or from a Roshan phone by dialing 070-113-2000, wait for tone and then dial 1-1-1.

Hardship withdrawal rules relaxed

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board has made temporary changes to the Thrift Savings Plan hardship withdrawal rules to help victims of Hurricane Sandy. The TSP will treat any Financial Hardship In-Service Withdrawal Request (Form TSP-76) received until January 25 as qualifying for a hardship withdrawal if the participant writes "Hurricane Sandy" at the top of the form and checks the block on the form for personal casualty. For more information, go to <https://www.tsp.gov/whatsnew/plan/planNews.shtml>.

Safety First

Courtesy of 455th AEW Safety Office
Slips, trips and falls: Walk like a penguin

Winter holidays are no time to find yourself nursing broken limbs and sprained ankles! If you find yourself attempting to navigate slippery sidewalks or uneven gravel, remember to walk like a penguin!

No matter how well the snow and ice are removed from sidewalks, parking lots and surrounding streets, people will invariably encounter some slippery surfaces when walking outdoors in the winter. Many cold-weather injuries are the result of falls on ice-covered streets and sidewalks.

Walking on snow or ice is especially treacherous. Getting around in icy conditions calls for planning, caution and a little common sense.

USAF Chaplain Corps Agents of Hope

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Weston Walker
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Chaplain

"You'd never believe what Airman Snuffy said . . ."

You'll never hear a chaplain say these words. We keep secrets. No commander or military court can order a chaplain to reveal what was said in confidence. Nothing is too big or bad for a chaplain to hear and keep in confidence.

Need a safe place to talk about work, relationships, or life? Write 455AEW.HC@bgab.afcent.af.mil or call 447-6677 to find your unit chaplain or chaplain assistant.