



Bagram Brief

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Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan

Joint force does bloody good job



Tech. Sgt. Terrence Raybon and Tech. Sgt. Camelin Riley, 455th Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron laboratory technicians, review and inventory donor blood at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 24, 2013. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chris Willis)

By Staff Sgt. David Dobrydney
455th AEW Public Affairs

It's the source of life.

The U.S. Army 432nd Blood Service Detachment is responsible for providing blood and blood products throughout Afghanistan.

While the 432nd BSD receives blood from stateside, other products must be replenished through donations from deployed personnel.

Blood platelets, for example, are what give blood the ability to clot and stop bleeding. They are unique in that they do not have to be matched to a patient's specific blood type in order to be effective.

"There is definitely a demand in-theater," said Army Sgt. Tahera Parker, 432nd BSD laboratory technician. "Most of our traumas here ... are people who have lost a lot of blood. They don't have the ability to keep that blood from continuing to spill out."

Because they only have a shelf life of seven days, Parker added that platelets are the only product drawn here on a daily basis, with at least two donors each day.

When a donor gives platelets, their

whole blood is drawn out into an apheresis machine, which separates out the platelets from the plasma red blood cells before returning the latter two substances to the donor's body.

Once the platelets are collected, they need to be checked for any possible contamination before they can be administered to a patient.

That's where the 455th Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron laboratory comes in.

The lab takes a sample from the donation and runs it through a microbiological analyzer to ensure no harmful bacteria is present. Then the platelets are stored in an agitator, which keeps the donation in constant motion to prevent coagulation, until they are needed for a patient. The whole process from donation to administration can be done in as little as 24 hours.

"It's kind of gross, but cool at the same time," said Tech. Sgt. Terrence Raybon, 455th EMDSS lab technician, as he held a bag of platelets before returning it to the agitator.

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

Hail from the Chief

By Chief Master Sgt.
Steven Bohannon

455th AEW Command Chief

Disciplined, professional maintenance -- that's what our 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group Airmen do every single day to keep our warbirds in the skies above Afghanistan. It's a huge part of our continued success in this fight.

Disciplined, professional maintenance is everybody's responsibility even if you don't work on a jet. The one thing that we all have in common as Airmen is that we're maintainers of the Human Weapon System. The human weapon system, our most important weapon system, is each of us—Airmen.

In order to keep our aircraft in peak working performance, they receive daily, periodic and critical depot-level maintenance. Our human weapon systems, our Airmen, are no different. Airmen also require daily and periodic maintenance actions and it's our job, whether you are a commander, supervisor, first sergeant or a wingman, to ensure that they get the maintenance that they need, preventative and restorative, to keep the human weapon system at its peak operating condition.

As a maintainer of the human weapon system, your tools include empathy, active engagement, commitment and follow-through. Use your tools to determine how you can help strengthen the Airmen on your team. Ask questions. Find out how they're doing. Share your experiences with them and, in some cases, refer them to others such as the chaplain, first sergeant or other base agencies for more specialized, "depot-level" maintenance. As a highly effective combat team, we need all of our team mates in top condition. As a deployed Air Force family, we must look out for one another and help each other along. After all, that's what families do.

If, in maintaining your weapon system, you need to phone for help, the OEF Crisis Hotline can be reached by dialing 111 from a DSN or VOIP line.

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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 Airman 1st Class Delcarmen Knighten, 455th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron sustainment technician, on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 23, 2013. Knighten works with the Personnel Support for Contingency Operations team to keep accountability of Airmen assigned to the 455th AEW. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. David Dobrydney)

Events & Announcements

December award winners

Congratulations to the 455th AEW monthly award winners for December:

Airman of the Month - Airman 1st Class Wesley Krueger, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group

NCO of the Month - Staff Sgt. Daniel Wright, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group

Senior NCO of the Month - Master Sgt. Jose Pena-Rojas, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Group

CGO of the Month - Capt. Jon Baum, 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group

Civilian of the Month - Edward S. Timberman, 455th EMXG

Team of the Month - Expeditionary Detachment 2405 Tactical Security Element Team, AFOSI

Contributor of the Month - Spc. Matthew Maness, 455th Expeditionary Medical Group

Air Force Assistance Fund

The Air Force Assistance Fund kicks off February 4. The AFAF campaign raises funds for the AF Village, AF Aid Society, AF Enlisted Village and the LeMay Foundation. Donations will be made through your home station. Contact Master Sgt. Cassandra Bushyeager at DSN 447-6622 for more information or for your home station IPO contact.

Phishing attempt: Follow-on assignment

There is a known phishing attempt for personal information related to the cancellation of follow-on assignments. Do not respond to this type of e-mail and do not provide Personally Identifiable Information. Phishing is typically carried out by e-mail spoofing and it

often directs users to enter details at a fake website. All official AF-generated notifications from vMPF will end with a @us.af.mil nomenclature. An official vMPF automated assignment notification (to include modifications and cancellations) will reflect the following address: "System Generated Email [Do Not Reply] [palcompsys@us.af.mil]." If Airmen receive assignment notifications, modifications or cancellations from a "@gmail.com," "@yahoo.com," "@netzero.com," or any other domain other than a "@us.af.mil" e-mail address, it needs to be treated as spam or fraudulent. All Airmen receiving such emails need to advise the AF Relocation Operations office at [afpc.prpreloworkflow@randolph.af.mil](mailto:prpreloworkflow@randolph.af.mil).

SGLI coverage updates

Airmen are reminded of the upcoming MilPDS R12 migration and ensure their Military Personnel Section takes actions necessary to process SGLI coverage updates. Please note FSGLI, VGLI and TSGLI are not affected because they do not require MilPDS updates. All SGLI updates must be accomplished by February 16. Updating SGLI coverage early prevents disruption of SGLI premiums deducted from monthly pay. During the migration, in lieu of updating MilPDS, the MPS will hold and track all SGLI coverage changes with a copy of the SGLV 8286. The MPS will immediately forward the original SGLV 8286 to ARMS. After the migration, the MPS will update the "held" transactions in MilPDS and operations will return to normal. The MilPDS R12 migration is currently scheduled for March 4-27. Contact the Air Force Personnel Center at DSN 665-3505 for more information.

Comm Quips

By Staff Sgt. Guang Yu

455th ECS Information Assurance

The CCRI is a Command Cyber Readiness Inspection, a compliance inspection for the base network. The network posture will be evaluated based on DoD standards. Everything from physical security to internal boundary defense will be graded. During March 11-14, the Defense Intelligence Service Agency inspection team will be at Bagram AF to inspect work centers for network security violations. A tip for users would be to ensure proper labeling for disc media and ensure proper classification markings. Contact your unit Information Assurance Officer for more information on keeping your areas inspection ready!

Money Matters

From Staff Sgt. Heather Lippert

455th Air Expeditionary Wing Finance

Going on R&R leave?

Here is what you need to know about your entitlements. Your entitlements will stop, due to you leaving the AOR. To restarted your entitlements, you will need:

- AF Form 988 stamped by PER-SCO showing you in processed with them
- The date you leave the AOR
- The date you returned to the AOR

Send this information to your servicing finance office at 455aew_fm@bgab.afcent.af.mil. All forms must be readable for processing. It may take up to two pay periods for your entitlements to update.