



Bagram Brief

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Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan

NDI safeguards aerial arsenal



Senior Airman Hugo Garcia, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Non-Destructive Inspection lab Journeyman, uses a black light to see if magnetic particles have attached to any cracks on an A-10 wheel bolt, Jan. 21, 2013. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chris Willis)

By Senior Airman Chris Willis
455th AEW Public Affairs

The 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Non-Destructive Inspection Lab uses high-tech equipment to see things that are invisible to the naked eye and aid in preventative maintenance to ensure aircraft stay flying over Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Three preventative maintenance tests are constantly used by the NDI team here: x-ray examinations, magnetic particle inspection and oil analyses.

Using the same chemical process used for consumer camera film, the NDI lab develops their own x-ray prints in a dark room located at their shop. The prints are sections of the aircraft components to focus the search for any possible cracks or open spaces.

“Most cracks in the aircraft are not visible with the naked eye,” said Staff Sgt. D’Shawn A. Jemmott, 455th EMXS NDI noncommissioned officer in charge. “With the x-ray, we are able to see beneath the surface of these aircraft parts to find the defects.”

Pouring tiny fluorescent magnetic particles over the suspected damaged parts prepares them for metal inspection. The part is then magnetized and glows

under a black light allowing for cracks and other defects to be detected.

“Several aircraft parts are ferrous, meaning they contain iron, and can be magnetized,” said Senior Airman Hugo Garcia, 455th EMXS NDI Journeyman. “These porous metals react better to this method of inspection.”

Oil analysis is performed during routine preventive maintenance to provide accurate information on lubricant and machine conditions. By using a spectrometric machine, the NDI lab can tell the aircraft maintainers exactly which engine component is wearing out.

“Our oil analysis can detect if and when a plane is failing due to different metals breaking down in the engine,” said Jemmott. “We then alert the aircraft maintainers to fix it or change it out.”

Bagram’s NDI lab works shifts performing hourly phase inspections, which consist of about 30 inspections a piece and analyzing more than 920 oil samples a month.

By confirming the structural integrity of the aircraft parts that can be corrected or reused and not just replacing them, the lab saves time and money.

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

Tip from the Top

By Brig. Gen. Joseph T. Guastella, Jr.
455th AEW Commander

Foreign culture is something we spend a lot of time thinking about while deployed.

Whether we’re talking about our sister services or local nationals, we have to understand and overcome differences between our cultures if we want to be successful. What we don’t often reflect on is our own culture, and how it affects us.

Airmen in the U.S. Air Force share a culture that shapes how we work, live and relax together. Our interactions and expectations build our culture, but from time to time, we need to step back and look at ourselves from others’ perspective. Are we upholding our core values? Does the way we treat each other reflect the dignity and respect each Airman deserves? Does our culture reflect what we want it to about us?

The incidents at BMT have made it obvious that if we don’t take the time to do this self-reflection, sometimes we can get off-track and create an environment that doesn’t reflect our values. Our Chief of Staff’s recent call for inspections of work environments for inappropriate and unprofessional materials offered us a starting point for this kind of self-reflection.

I don’t think a lot of Airmen are out to sexually harass or assault their wingmen, but we need to take a deep look inside ourselves and our shops to make sure we’re not creating a culture that enables those with bad intentions to act on them. Let’s take General Welsh’s first step and continue down the road to make sure all of our Airmen are coming to work in a safe and respectful environment.

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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. Barrett Curlis, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Group NCO in charge of physical security. Curlis leads personnel in hardening the base perimeter to deter attacks as well as conducts missions in the local area. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. David Dobrydney)

Events & Announcements

NSI Exercises

During the month of February the Wing Information Assurance Office (WIAO) will be conducting Network Security Incident exercises throughout the wing. These exercises are designed to enhance user awareness and training in alignment with DoD Instruction 8500.2. All members of the wing are advised to consult their unit Information Assurance Officer on local incident response procedures. Some situations to prepare for are malicious logic detection, finding of classified media, classified messaging spillage, phishing attempts, and rogue USB devices. It is important to disconnect a workstation and report suspicious activity as soon as they are detected.

New PME & CDC Testing Hours

Smacktown (Bldg. 35695a): 9 a.m. Friday
West Side (main BX area): 9 a.m. Monday; 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday
East Side (CAS Ramp/Bldg. 35516): 3 p.m. Monday; 3 p.m. Friday

Only members with a restricted area badge with area 7 access may use the East Side testing location. Please submit requests at least 48 hours in advance. For more information, e-mail 455efss.tcotestingoffice@bgab.afcent.af.mil or call 447-6797.

MILPDS Migration Rank Changes

The MILPDS Migration is scheduled to take place March 4-27. Individuals who are projected to promote before the MILPDS migrations will update in MILPDS as scheduled. However, Airmen (E-2 to E-4) promotions projected for 4-27 March will be on hold and will update as soon as MILPDS is available. Other changes will take place on the following schedule:

February 15 - March and April promotion increments will be sent to MILPDS.

February 16 - MPS will receive March increment rosters for staff through chief master sergeant. MPS will receive April increment rosters for staff, technical, master and chief master sergeants. Senior master sergeant increments will be sent on February 28, after the release. MPS will receive 13E5 promo-

tion products.

February 28 - MPS will receive April increment rosters for senior master sergeant only. Airmen (E-2 to E-4) April projected promotions will update in MILPDS. MPS will receive April Airmen (E-2 to E-4) promotion rosters. Contact home station MPS for any questions/concerns on promotions during March 4-27.

Dining Facility Changes

In accordance with reductions directed theatre-wide by U.S. Forces - Afghanistan, food service operations will be terminated at the BBQ RSOI on North Disney Road and BBQ DFIP on Camp Sabula Harrison with an effective date of March 1. Speciality, soup and sandwich bar operations at other DFACs will change as follows:

1. Limiting all specialty bar operations to the lunch meal only at all DFACs.
2. Soup and sandwich bar operations will cease at all DFACs except Dragon and Grady.
3. All DFACs will adhere to the 21-day CONOPS menu, unless directed otherwise.

Enlisted Voluntary Force Management

The Limited Active Duty Service Commitment (LADSC) Waiver Program allows Airmen in selected AFSCs to request retirement or separation prior to completing specified ADSCs or service obligations. In addition, Airmen in non-critical coverage AFSCs may request a waiver of up to two years on a current enlistment contract (four or six year contract) to facilitate separation or retirement. The retirement effective date will be 1 Sep 13 and the separation effective date will be 29 Sep 13. Members applying for retirement under the LADSC Waiver Program must have at least 20 years Total Active Federal Military Service (TAFMS) as of the requested retirement date. Effective 4 Feb 13 through 1 Aug 13, members may apply for a retirement date that is No Earlier Than (NET) 1 May 13 and to be effective no later than 1 Sep 13 or Airmen may apply for separation with a date NET 29 Apr 13 and no later than 29 Sep 13. For more information contact home station MPS.

Fight the Flu

By 1st Lt. Ryan McGaughey

455th Expeditionary Medical Group

What happens when you get the flu? You could experience a cough, fever, exhaustion, vomiting and possibly even be quarantined. Here are some tips to help prevent the flu:

1. Wash your hands with warm water and soap for 30 seconds before and after you eat a meal or go to the restroom. Using hand sanitizer helps prevent the flu, but it doesn't replace hand washing.
 2. If you start to feel symptoms, go to the hospital to be evaluated.
 3. Cover your cough, and wipe down commonly used items like a phone with a sanitizing wipe.
- Don't let the flu beat you; the mission can't afford to have you out of the fight.

Bagram History

By Jeff Meyer

455th Air Expeditionary Wing Historian

The history of the Russian Control Tower begins around 1976 when the Soviet Union began their modifications to the existing Bagram Airport to become a key Soviet airbase during the Cold War.

When coalition forces infiltrated Afghanistan in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, CIA and Special Operations forces utilized the tower as an observation post to observe and target Taliban activity around Bagram.

Later in 2002, a restoration and preservation of the tower's interior was completed. The Russian Control Tower remains the center of Camp Cunningham, however since February 2008, it is no longer used for its original intended purpose.