

# Fighting Terror... ....Finding Peace

# Bagram Bullet

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Photo by Capt. James H. Cunningham

Staff Sgt. Michael Smith, EC-130H Compass Call crew chief, 41st Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron, performs a pre-flight inspection of cargo compartment hydraulic reservoirs for leaks and serviceability before a combat sortie.

## Bagram Compass Call mission surpasses 3,000-hour milestone

by Capt. James H. Cunningham  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

Another milestone has been reached in Operation Enduring Freedom as the 41st Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron and their EC-130H Compass Call's recently surpassed more than 3,000 combat flying hours during the last 18 months at Bagram.

To put the achievement in perspective, the squadron's aircraft have sent out electronic signals during that time that have covered

an area the size of Texas 28 times.

"It's an unbelievable accomplishment. Our planes here fly twice as much as they do back home," said Tech. Sgt. Carla West, 41st EECS production superintendent. "We're very busy here."

In the past year, the squadron has flown more than 420 combat sorties and supported more than 1,570 requests for air support of Coalition forces.

— See 'Milestone', Page 3

### Good To Know

- ❑ **Meal hours** — The Thanksgiving Day meals at the base dining facilities are today from 1300L (0830Z) to 1800L (1330Z) and from 1900L (1430Z) to 2100L (1630Z).
- ❑ **Services events** — The 455th Expeditionary Services Squadron has the following events planned for today in the recreation tent: Scavenger Hunt, 1400L (0930Z); Iron Eagle Competition, 1600L (1130Z); and MRE toss, 1700L (1230Z). For more information on these or other Services events, call 231-4360 or visit the 455th ESVS staff in Tent 720.
- ❑ **Thanksgiving service** — Bagram's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service begins today at 1800L (1330Z) in the Enduring Faith Chapel.

### 3-Day Forecast

#### Friday

P.M. showers  
Mostly cloudy  
H 57/L 33



#### Saturday

Possible rain,  
snow mix  
H 52/L 37



#### Sunday

A.M. showers  
Cloudy  
H 54/L 34



Source: 455th EOG Weather



## Thanks for your continued hard work, dedication

by **Brig. Gen. Bruce Burda**  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing  
commander

Thanksgiving Day greetings to all of our Airmen and Sailors!

As we celebrate a wonderful national tradition at the end of November in a land very far removed from the United States, we have many reasons to be thankful.

I am thankful for a wonderful, supportive family, and for being safe and healthy while surrounded by so many people who have to struggle for daily survival.

I give thanks for being part of a great military team, who is making a huge difference here in Afghanistan.

Your support for combat operations and other activities spanning a wide spectrum of missions are all having a huge impact on the success of OEF.

Moreover, your efforts are directly and indirectly helping the people of Afghanistan continue their progress toward a better government and more fruitful personal lives.

Today, we will be blessed with special food at our DFACs. It is a great tradition and one of the ways we celebrate our good fortune.

The pilgrims were truly blessed in the new world and despite the hardships, realized their good fortune and paused to come together at a similar feast to give thanks.

As we gather for our meals and other special activities, please join me in pausing and thanking those who have gone before us.

They have allowed us to prosper and overcome so many obstacles over the generations.

We know there are people all over the world who are suffer-

ing...from wars, famines, cruel leaders, natural disasters, etc.

Our hearts reach out to them, and we should take pride in knowing we are helping many of them from here.

So, let's find time on this special day to reflect on our blessings and to remember our loved ones back home. We are serving here partly to make their lives better and more secure too.

However, we will have our fellow deployed friends here to make this a special day...watch out for your Wingmen and make sure everyone is doing OK.

Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication. You continue to execute our mission in superb fashion...with style, class and enthusiasm.

On this holiday weekend, I offer you best wishes and my gratitude for jobs well done!

Happy Thanksgiving!

## CJTF 76/CC: We're all one team this Thanksgiving holiday

by **Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya**  
Combined Joint Task Force 76 commander

Thanksgiving is a time for families to pause and enjoy a day of rest, relaxation and fellowship.

As our families and friends gather back in Italy, North Carolina, Germany or elsewhere, they will be giving thanks for the many blessings in their lives.

One of those blessings will be going out to you, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, DoD civilians and contractors deployed here to Afghanistan.

As this day provides the opportunity to show our gratitude for the blessings we as Americans enjoy in our free and prosperous nation, what are you thankful for?

Take a moment to reflect on your time spent in Afghanistan fighting in the War on Terrorism for the betterment of another country, a country who has never felt the reaches of freedom as we have.

Let's continue our endeavor with the same dedication and determination we started with in providing a better tomorrow for the people of Afghanistan while enriching our own personal lives with the satisfaction of knowing we have touched lives here and will not be forgotten for that.

Thanks you for serving our great country.

From the command of CJTF-76, we wish all of you and your loved ones a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

One team.



### Bagram Bulletin Editorial Staff, Disclaimer

Brig. Gen. Bruce Burda ..... Commander, 455th AEW  
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Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald ..... Editor/NCOIC, Public Affairs

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Photo by Capt. James H. Cunningham

**Senior Airman Adam Davis, aerospace ground equipment mechanic, 41st Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron, inspects EC-130H Compass Call engine intakes and exhausts for cracks and debris damage before a combat sortie.**

## Milestone From Page 1

"We know what we do contributes to the mission and we know it's effective. That's why we've been requested so much," said Staff Sgt. Jason Reigart, airborne maintenance technician, who's flown more than 80 combat missions. "What we do is go out and save lives."

EC-130Hs essentially provide an electronic umbrella around ground forces, allowing friendly forces freedom to do their job, while denying the enemy the ability to use many of their technological assets.

"Compass Call is truly an unsung hero in our nation's Global War on Terrorism," said Col. Wally Scales, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group commander. "Although we don't know how many lives they have saved, an untold number of families back home will celebrate the holidays with their returning military sons, daughters, husbands and wives. That is an amazing accomplishment!"

The squadron was able to accomplish such milestones, in large part, by sustaining a 90 percent mission-capable rate and has had only had to abort one mission in the last year because of a maintenance-related issue.

"This is a big story for us. It makes us feel good to know that we're working on these planes that

are doing the mission," said Staff Sgt. Michael Smith, EC-130 crew chief. "I know that I'm having a direct impact on ground forces; we're making things better for them while they're doing their job."

The success is credited to teamwork, an opinion that permeates the squadron.

"We work with the operators to make the missions happen," Sergeant West said. "Many different career fields work together to get the job done. That's essential."

"It's a pleasure and honor to come out and watch these guys do what they do," said Capt. Joseph Schmidt, 41st EECS maintenance officer. "Leading is easy when you've got a good team."

For now, the squadron isn't resting on its laurels. The next mission is just a day away.

"We're not really thinking about the numbers," said Sergeant Reigart. "Maybe when we get home and get a break, we can reflect on our accomplishments."

The squadron has been continuously deployed here from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., since March of 2004. In that time, traditions have formed that embody the spirit of the squadron and almost transcend the accomplishments.

"Our maintainers stand out here in a line at parade rest when the planes take off," Sergeant West said. "No one told them to do that. It's just a pride thing."

## Combined patrol engages enemy

A combined security patrol of Afghan National Army and Coalition soldiers located and attacked enemy forces Sunday northwest of Deh Rawood, military officials reported.

The combined patrol called in close-air support, which engaged enemy positions.

"The enemy cannot withstand or defeat Afghan and U.S. firepower," said Brig. Gen. James G. Champion, Combined Joint Task Force 76 deputy commanding general for operations.

"These combined coalition patrols continue to build the experience, capability and confidence of the Afghan national security forces," the general continued. "They lead the fight against the enemies of their nation and will not rest until Afghanistan is free from those who advocate attacks against innocent civilians, freely elected officials and Islamic clerics."

In addition, three U.S. Air Force intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft flew missions in support of operations in Afghanistan. *(Courtesy of the American Forces Press Service)*



Photos by Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald

### *Protecting, serving*

(Above) Senior Airman Alex Cohen, right, and Senior Airman Anthony Nuno, 451st Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, provide overwatch protection along the perimeter of Kandahar Airfield. (Right) Airman 1st Class Christopher West, 451st ESFS, cleans his M-4 rifle. The 451st Air Expeditionary Group is a tenant unit of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing.



## 455th AEW's Top Performer — NCO Category

### Job title

Explosive ordnance disposal team chief

### Deployed unit

455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

### Home station

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

### Home town

Phoenix, Ariz.

**What have you enjoyed most about your time here?** I like the



**Staff Sgt.  
David Fulkerson**

opportunities I've received to use most of the training I've received through the years.

**How do you feel about making history here in Afghanistan as part of the ongoing Global War on Terrorism?** I'm excited and happy to be here.

**What advice would you give to your fellow NCOs for a successful Air Force career?**

Never turn down a chance to get involved in an operation or training opportunity.



[americasupportsyou.mil](http://americasupportsyou.mil)

## Americans send messages of support, thanks

Hi all: I am in eighth grade, and 13 years old. Really, I am writing this to tell all of you who are fighting for our country that you are heroes in my mind.

Anybody who is willing to risk their lives for others is truly amazing. Thank you.

I hope that once this is all over, all of you will go home to your families and be happy.

You are making a huge difference in my future.

**Alyssa, Sonora, Calif.**

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your efforts to keep America free! I, personally, appreciate all that you are doing!

I know that many others do, as well. Keep up the good work. God bless you and your families! Hope you all get to come home soon!

Hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving! You are all giving me something to be thankful for!

Freedom doesn't come without a price, and you all are paying that price.

**Tonya McMichael, Jacksonville, Fla.**

I just want to say thank you for protecting me and my freedom I say the pledge of allegiance everyday and try not to take for granted the things you're fighting for.

I support you and I support America. I salute people I see dressed in uniform to let them know they do make a difference.

I can't thank you enough for all your sacrifices and bravery. Thank you from my whole heart and come home safe and come home proud!!

**Cassie Williams, Phoenix, Ariz.**

First of all, thank you to everyone who has defended and is now defending us, our land, our families, and our freedom.

I've been reading messages from our great military and I wish that I could hug each and every one of you.

But one thing is for sure tonight when I tuck my 10 year old son into bed; tonight we will say a special prayer for you all.

Come home safe and soon. You are our heroes and I do appreciate the sacrifices you and your families have made for us all.

**Jami Simpkins, Franklin County, Va.**

Dear troops, Thank you for your bravery and dedication. I have a lot of respect for your courage and am grateful for what you are doing.

Whenever you feel discouraged, just think of all the people back home that are supporting you, and the great thing you are doing for the people back home.

I know I speak for many when I thank you for your patriotism and selflessness, and wish you good luck and a safe trip home.



**Leslie, Monroe, N.C.**

Dear servicemen and women, thank you for standing up for all the people who can't stand up for themselves, especially the children. I appreciate that you are helping to fight for basic rights so these children can grow up in a better place.

God bless you with strength, courage, health, and success. May He grant you peaceful, restful sleep and satisfaction from a job well done.

**Miss Samson, Pullman, Wash.**

Hi Troops, I'm a Canadian girl, but I still very much appreciate all you hard work. I am very close with people in the U.S., so fight good, fight hard.

We're all so proud of you, all over the world; maybe I'm not from the U.S. but I still appreciate your work greatly.

**Maggie Gillis, New Glasgow**

Without our military we could not enjoy freedom. We must always have men and women that are ready to serve our nation by accepting the call to duty. Keep up the good work and know we are praying for you and your families.

We pray daily for your safe return and that others may enjoy the freedom that we are so accustomed to having. Freedom is a God-given right that everyone on earth should have.

Thank you for serving and sacrificing your time, effort and lives to keep us safe.

**Russell Mudry, Zelenople, Pa.**



# Bagram Bob

Buying gifts for our loves ones can sometimes be a challenge. In this week's column, we'll look at how to make your dollars go farther in the process.

**Q** **uestion:** The holiday shopping season is around the corner but I can't take advantage of all the sales. Do you know of any online sales where I can get some shopping done?

**A** **nswer:** There are many great deals out there on the Internet, you just have to know where to look and how to find them.

Something I normally do when shopping online is to search for promotional or coupon codes.

To do this, go to your favorite search engine and search for the store or



product you are going to purchase and type in the words "coupon code" in your search.

If and when you find a code, enter it in during the checkout process and you will see the savings.

Just recently, this saved one of my friends around \$750 on the purchase on her new laptop.

If this or other topics brings questions to your mind that you'd like to see addressed, drop an e-mail to [baf-455aew-pa@baf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:baf-455aew-pa@baf.afgn.army.mil). In the subject line of the e-mail, type in "Bagram Bob."

You can also visit the 455th AEW/PA office in Tent 719.

# ENDURING FAITH CHAPEL

**WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES**

- Gospel**  
Sundays ..... 1730L (1300Z)
- Jewish**  
Fridays ..... 1900L (1430Z)
- Korean Protestant**  
Sundays ..... 1545L (1115Z)
- Latter Day Saints**  
Sundays ..... 1300L (0830Z)
- Liturgical Protestant**  
Sundays ..... 0830L (0400Z)
- Muslim**  
Fridays ..... 1800L (1330Z)
- Seventh Day Adventist**  
Saturdays ..... 0930L (0500Z)
- Protestant**  
Sundays ..... 1130L (0700Z)
- Roman Catholic**  
Saturdays ..... 1945L (1515Z)



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Visit the chapel offices, located near the Dragon DFAC, or call 231-4755.

- Sundays ..... 1000L (0530Z)
- OTHER SERVICES, MEETINGS**
- Catholic Mass**  
Weekdays ..... 1130L (0700Z)
- Chapel Cleanup**  
Saturdays ..... 1100L (0630Z)
- Gospel Bible Study**  
Thursdays ..... 1900L (1430Z)
- Noon Day Prayer**  
Weekdays ..... 1215L (0745Z)
- Promise Keepers Men's Fellowship/Bible Study**  
(conference room on first floor of base operations)  
Wednesdays ..... 1900L (1430Z)
- "Friends of Bill" (AA meeting)**  
(Inner Strength Café, the chapel at Camp Lacey)  
Saturdays ..... 1930L (1500Z)