

774th EAS delivers

By Maj. Eric Elliott
 Public Affairs chief

On any given day, the C-130 Hercules aircraft and crews from the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron may fly multiple missions from here delivering passengers, equipment and the proverbial bullets and beans to locations throughout the region.

“Our mission is to provide an airlift train throughout the theater,” said Lt. Col. Ken McDaniel, the 774th EAS commander.

Besides passengers and mission-essential cargo, the Airmen also deliver mail for the troops and do tactical air drops of humanitarian goods, the colonel said.

“Our C-130s can do their mission in all weather day or night,” he said. “Our aircraft are equipped with the Adverse Weather Delivery System, which means we can fly and

— See ‘Humanitarian relief’, Page 4



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente

Airmen tack on stripes

Staff Sgt. Dan Bellis and Airman 1st Class Jeffrey St. Sauveur help Airman Kellie Jo Nelson tack on her Senior Airman stripes during the February promotion ceremony held in the Phase Hangar Tuesday. Sergeant Bellis and Airmen Nelson and St. Sauveur are from American Forces Network, Afghanistan. See page 3 for all of Bagram Air Field’s February promotees.

Security forces support fly-away missions

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente
 Editor

Airmen here have been supporting aircrews with missions in the region since early December.

The Fly-Away Security Team consists of more than 70 Airmen of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron who are trained to provide security for transport aircraft.

Members of the FST are responsible for the security of the aircraft, distinguished visitors and personnel in custody, said Master Sgt. Rodney B. Floyd, 455th ESFS Fly-Away Security program manager. Additionally, FST personnel provide

security for resources, such as aircraft, in austere locations that do not meet security requirements.

In two months time, the 455th ESFS has assisted the 774th EAS with more than 30 missions, Sergeant Floyd said. Each mission requires at least two FST members.

“While conducting the security portion of these missions, we also conduct airfield assessments... for future missions,” he said.

Airfield assessments are conducted to gather intelligence for future missions in the area.

The team members here receive more than 17 specialized training sessions some of which — See ‘Fly-away missions’, Page 4

3-Day Forecast



Today

Partly cloudy
 H 40/L 28



Saturday

Partly cloudy
 H 38/L 26



Sunday

Partly cloudy
 H 38/L 26

Camp Cunningham's



Top View

Airmen work together to make a difference for Afghanistan

By Brig. Gen. Bruce E. Burda

455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander and
Air Component Coordination Element commander

Since most Air and Space Expeditionary Force 9/10 deployers have arrived, I wanted to write a few words to welcome you to Bagram and to describe our mission here.

In simple terms, our reason for being here is to support Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan and the Combined Joint Task Force-76 operations to fight terrorism and help build a more stable government for a secure and prosperous Afghanistan. We do this in several ways.

Most obviously, we conduct safe and effective A-10, EA-6B and EC/C-130 operations, meaning high-quality maintenance, safe and rapid refueling, and proficient aircrew knowledge, decision making and executing the mission. Rapid and safe munitions storage and loading is critical. Having accurate intelligence and weather information is also essential.

To give you an idea of the scope of the mission, during the last rotation, our A-10s flew more than 6,000 combat hours firing 21,000 30 mm cannon rounds and supporting American and coalition ground forces in more than 130 engagements. Likewise, our C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft have flown more than 340 air-land missions and almost 80 airdrop missions providing food and supplies to military forces and civilian populations.

As a contribution to joint operations, we support timely transient aircraft, passenger and cargo movement

on the airfield. We need healthy vehicles, good communications support and energetic professionals. This is a huge task. Since September, the wing has supported more than 2,600 airlift missions moving almost 40,000 tons of cargo and 50,000 passengers, both military and civilian, into and out of the war zone.

We also support all the Airmen assigned to the region, both in the large concentrations like at Bagram and Kabul,

Afghanistan, and the hundreds of Airmen scattered in smaller groups throughout the region. This requires first-class mission support, and communications as well as facilities where our people can live and work.

Add security forces for force protection and services support for fitness, laundry, adequate lodging and good morale building initiatives and you quickly see how everyone here is important.

Each of you is vital to the overall success of our missions. Let's all commit to doing our part...working hard, making good decisions, maintaining a positive attitude and remaining vigilant and being ever mindful of safety and force protection threats.

Like those before us, we must leave our section or unit better than when we arrived. On an individual basis, let's also leave – personally and professionally – better than when we arrived here. We can do that by working hard one day at a time.

I continue to be excited to be here and am sure proud to serve with you. Together, we will make a difference for Afghanistan and the United States.



General Burda

**Bagram Bullet
Editorial Staff, Disclaimer**

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455th Air Expeditionary Wing celebrates promotions, top performers

Promoted to airman 1st class:



Michael J. Duran
Tyler J. Wright

Promoted to senior airman:



Nicholas J. Dwyer
Kellie J. Nelson
Michael A. Pardue
Justin R. Rowe
Shauna L. Sloan

Promoted to staff sergeant:



Craig R. Ames
Shawn T. Warwick

Promoted to technical sergeant:



David M. Lange

Promoted to master sergeant:



Rodney B. Floyd

Promoted to chief master sergeant:



Charles B. Lunsford

Promoted to major:



Eric S. Elliott

Promoted to lieutenant colonel:



Rick T. Petit

January's Top Performers



Capt. Matt Baugh
Senior Master Sgt. Sanders Louvierre
Tech. Sgt. Chad Watts
Airman 1st Class Bobby McCrary
455th AEW Outstanding Contributor of the Month
Staff Sgt. Jason Foster

Brief Bullets

Mandatory Briefing

All Air Force personnel are required to attend the Combat Orientation briefing within seven days of their arrival at Bagram Airfield. Briefings are held 1300L Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Rec Tent.

Bingo night

Services hosts bingo night 1900L Fridays in the Rec Tent. For more information, call 231-4360.

Running Club

E-mail weekly updates to the centurion point of contact. Individuals will receive a certificate indicating the total of miles completed each month during the 455th Mission Support Group commander's call. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Bartels at 231-3039.

Super Bowl pregame

Join the Airman Committed to Excellence in a Super Bowl Sunday Pregame Madden Tournament 12 00L until Super bowl kickoff. Participants must sign up by today. Prizes will be given out for first, second and third places.

Lyrical Lounge

Services hosts the Lyrical Lounge 1900L Sundays in the Rec Tent. Airmen are welcome to come and listen to others or sing karaoke themselves.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Rick Stiles at 231-4360.

Laundry service

KBR offers a free laundry service Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This is limited to 20 items including the bag. Personnel should take bags and complete DA Form 2886 to the Services tent by 1000L. For more information, call 231-4360.

American Forces Network
radio stations

103.1 FM

105.7 FM

107.3 FM

Squadron supports ground troops day, night

Humanitarian relief

From Page 1

drop supplies where others can't." The crews are also trained to fly in the dark with night vision goggles.

The typical air-drop mission is more than just a few seconds over the drop zone explained the colonel. An average air-drop day will run anywhere from 8-12 hours. It begins with at least 2 hours of briefings before even going to the aircraft and also requires coordinating the drop with the customers on the ground and working with specialists to assess the threat environment select the drop area and determine the best route of flight. Some flights even require fighter escort because of the threat.

"These missions require significant planning and preparation," the colonel said. "We have to be able to place the supplies when and where the troops on the ground expect them."

Since the beginning of the year, squadron Airmen have flown almost 4,000

passengers, more than 1,000 tons of cargo, 350 sorties and 110 missions. This includes several missions delivering medical supplies, blankets, heaters, firewood and food to help Afghans in remote regions of the country get through the winter.

"Every mission is unique — from landing on dirt strips to providing humanitarian relief," Colonel McDaniel said. "The most rewarding has to be delivering folks to a port of call to return to their families and loved ones. It's also great doing humanitarian relief flights."

One noteworthy aspect of the 774th EAS is that it is made up almost exclusively of aircraft and Airmen from the Air National Guard.

Right now, the squadron has aircraft from six states and people from eight ANG units and is integrated into a predominantly active-duty wing, said the colonel who hails from the Missouri ANG.

"I would have to say this joint-force concept is great for the guard," Colonel

McDaniel said. "The main reason is that we've learned to work together to get the mission done. Not only that, but the Guard is a family no matter what state we're from; we truly work as one unit. For most of us, this is a second job. But I can say that we truly love this hobby of ours."

"It has been a wonderful experience working alongside the active-duty and other guard units," said 1st Lt. Cortnie Echterling, a C-130 pilot deployed here from the Missouri ANG and, in her civilian life, a flight trainer. "We use our respective strengths and assets to get the job done, and everyone seems to have an acknowledged respect for one another."

"I feel privileged to be able to serve my country in the way Operation Enduring Freedom has enabled me to do," said Lieutenant Echterling. "Flying the C-130 is the best job in the world, and it is one of the most rewarding experiences that I will take with me. This is what we train for, and the memories and events we share with our fellow service members can never be replaced."

455th provides aircrew security

Fly-away missions

From Page 1

are unique to FST members, Sergeant Floyd said. Survival Evasion Recovery Escape, High Risk Capture and Understanding of Emergency Ground Egress are just a few of the courses required before being part of the team.

Two members are always ready to depart at a moment's notice, the Fly-away Security Program manager said. From time to time, a team may have to stay over night in a location protecting the aircraft to ensure it remains secure for the return home or the following mission.

"It has been a great experience for security forces members to get time in the air with the C-130

Hercules crews, see different locations and scenic landscapes in the AOR, and to know we are contributing to the over all war on terrorism by transporting much needed supplies and troops to forward operating bases," Sergeant Floyd said.

Sergeant Floyd's first experience as an FST was from Manas, Kyrgyzstan.

"I tagged along as an extra FST," Sergeant Floyd said. "We landed... on a very desolate, dirt runway strip in Afghanistan."

"It was wild facing the uncertain and unknown," he said. "We had to ensure no harm made its way to the aircraft and aircrew as they unloaded supplies to servicemembers on the ground."

Safety ABC's

Attitude safety means staying alert and focused on the job at hand, taking safety guidelines and practices seriously, never horsing around on the job and not letting emotions like anger and frustration get in the way of job performance.

Behavior is key. Following established safety guidelines and procedures, refusing to take "shortcuts," using personal protective equipment, asking questions when you need more information about the task at hand - all of these are safe behaviors.

Control surroundings from becoming potential hazards by keeping them clean and orderly.
(Courtesy of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Safety Office)

Bagram's Best



TECH. SGT. KEVIN D. COOK

Sergeant Cook, left, is deployed here as a flight chief under the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. He is deployed from the 49th Security Forces Squadron, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

His goal while serving in the Air Force is to progress in rank and complete a bachelor's degree in education.

SENIOR AIRMAN KENNETH J. PARADIS

Airman Paradis, right, is deployed here as a structural journeyman under the 755th Expeditionary Mission Support Group. He is deployed from the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan. Airman Paradis calls Plainville, Conn., home.

His goal while serving in the Air Force is to "be promoted to staff sergeant and complete a degree in physiology."



Combined forces dispose of UXOs

By Staff Sgt. Dan Bellis

American Forces Network, Afghanistan

Explosive ordnance disposal troops love to blow stuff up. Some say that's what they live for – that, and not getting blown up in the process. One of their main functions here is to blow up, or dispose of unexploded ordnance left over from the many wars, which have ravaged Afghanistan.

“We tend to find a lot of UXOs on... and off the base,” said Tech. Sgt. Dustin J. Prowell, 755th Expeditionary Mission Support Group Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight noncommissioned officer in charge. “Unfortunately, we don't get a choice in where UXOs are found, so the [process of disposing of them] tends to wreak havoc... Maybe we have to block traffic, [evacuate] buildings... things of that nature to make sure that everybody is safe.”

Sergeant Prowell said though EOD Airmen have the capability to do so, they don't like to detonate things on base. Luckily, there is a range 13 kilometers away. That's where things “go boom.”

Saturday, EOD joined forces with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Polish military to destroy about 3,000 items including mines, bombs and unserviceable Air Force ammunition. It was a routine operation. However, the amount of firearms and munitions EOD blew up was unusual. The current EOD flight is “cleaning house” for the next rotation, so they're not overwhelmed upon arrival.

On the way to the range, the Airmen drove the load in a blinding snowstorm at a painstakingly slow pace of no more than 25 mph. Then in a joint effort, the Army, Air Force



Photos by Senior Airman Anthony Plyler
Combined forces' explosive ordnance disposal experts prepare to dipose of 3,000 mines, bombs and unserviceable ammunition Saturday at the East River Ridge here.

and Polish servicemembers unloaded the firearms, mines and munitions into a large hole. With the help of 30 cases of C-4 plastic explosive and some remote detonators, the EOD troops did what they do best, they disposed of the explosive ordnance.

Sergeant Prowell, like a good EOD troop, seemed pleased with the whole affair.

“They're paying us to blow stuff up,” he said. “That's always a good thing.”



The 755th Expeditionary Mission Support Group Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight work along side Army and Polish military EOD specialists to prepare unexploded ordnance for disposal in a 12-foot deep hole at the East River Range Saturday.

www.americasupportsyou.mil

Americans send messages of support, thanks

There are simply not enough words in the English language to say thank you sufficiently for your courage and commitment to our country. I thank God Almighty for each of you and pray that you may return home safely after your work is done. You are making a difference in this world—one for the good of mankind and for the good of our nation. May the good Lord Jesus Christ keep each of you in His Divine Care! Thank you!!!

**Linda Adkins,
Wayne, W.Va.**

We continue to pray for all your safe returns. Being an American is one thing we should be very thankful for today. Keep up the good work and remember that we are all so very proud of you all, and will always have you in our thoughts!

**Tammy, Rolling
Fork, Miss.**

Thank you for fighting for our Country. You are very brave. Happy Valentines Day!!! All of you are in my thoughts and prayers.

**Jordan Nesbitt,
Livonia, N.Y.**

We are so proud of the troops, all I can say is thanks. God Bless you all.

**Steve Pierce,
Beckville**



Plausible Denial

By Jurgi

