

A-10 Thunderbolt IIs arrive to support ground forces

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente
Editor

Members of 355th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron are here to conduct and support close air support missions for the U.S. and coalition ground forces throughout Afghanistan.

Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, deployed more than 240 Airmen beginning Jan. 13 to support more than a dozen A-10 Thunderbolt IIs here.

The maintainers generate A-10s around the clock in order to meet the twenty-four-hour operational requirements. Once airborne, the pilots provide support to the ground forces through visual lookout, communications and firepower, said Lt. Col. Quentin Rideout, 355th EFS commander.

“Visual lookout is providing the ground forces with a ‘bird’s eye view’ of the battlefield,” said Colonel Rideout. “Communications is the ability to give those forces ‘real-time’ information on what you see, and firepower is the ability to engage and destroy enemy forces when necessary,” said Colonel Rideout.

“There is a real need for close air support in Afghanistan,” he said. “Operations are conducted in very austere terrain, which means most ‘fire fights’ occur when opposing forces are within one kilometer of our troops on the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente
Senior Airman Christopher R. Hidalgo, right, turns the Gau-8/A system on an A-10 Thunderbolt II while Senior Airman Calvin S. Holford, left, loads 36 dummy rounds to ensure the system works correctly. The Airmen are aircraft armament systems journeymen in the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

ground. That being said, this is where the A-10 belongs... it’s what we live for.”

“Though we are not here to train, the very nature of the operation provides literally the best CAS training in the world,” he said.

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C-130s deliver

By Staff Sgt. Melissa Koskovich
U.S. Central Command Air Force
Forward - Public Affairs

The sounds of cargo aircraft echo through the Afghan hillside. Families huddle against their makeshift homes, watching air-dropped bundles glide to the ground.

These deliveries contain blankets, firewood, medical supplies and food — a gesture of compassion and a foundation to build on.

Since October 2004, the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, with support from the air mobility division at the Combined Air Operation Center in Southwest Asia, has planned and executed missions, airdropping more than 2.1 million pounds of humanitarian aid throughout Afghanistan.

“These airdrops play an important part in the effort to stabilize Afghanistan,” said Lt. Col. Benjamin N. Bellis, a 774th EAS pilot deployed here from the Wyoming Air National Guard.

“This type of airpower demonstrates to the Afghan people that the United States and our coalition allies are not only designed for combat but also for humanitarian purpose,” he said. “The local people will remember our forces providing them with food and firewood during

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Camp Cunningham's



Top View

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen join together to complete mission

By Col. Paul T. Johnson
455th Operations Group commander

As we all settle into life in and around Bagram Airfield, I would like to elaborate on the role the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group plays within our wing. The operations group has come a long way since 2002 when the first four A-10s landed here after launching from Kuwait to fly sorties in support of Operation Anaconda. Since that operation, there's been a constant presence of Air Force aircraft here. While our A-10s have been present from the beginning, we've steadily added different types of aircraft to ensure we accomplish the missions assigned. With that in mind, here's a quick rundown of the units within the group.

For those unfamiliar with Bagram and our missions here, you might be surprised to find a Navy squadron present on the ramp. Cmdr. Chuck Winter, VAQ-133 commands the "Wizards," based out of Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Wash. They fly the EA-6B Prowler Electronic Attack aircraft.

Members of the 41st Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron perform a similar mission with their EC-130. Although

only a portion of a full squadron, they consistently maintain astounding mission capability rates. Lt. Col. Pat Keenan, 41st EECS commander, leads the unit deployed from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

The senior residents on the ramp here are the A-10s. Currently the rotation is being manned by the 355th Fighter Squadron, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska., under the command of Lt. Col. Quentin Rideout. The A-10s are here to provide around-the-clock

Close Air Support to U.S. and Coalition ground forces.

An often unnoticed, yet critical, member of the team is our Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. Lt. Col. David Sullivan, EAES commander, leads the group from the Wyoming Air National Guard. If a wounded or seriously ill servicemember requires a medical evacuation

out of the region, the professionals of our EAES will care for him throughout the journey. We all hope we don't need them but if we do, we're thankful they are part of our team. As a part of ongoing evaluations of manning requirements in Central Air Force's region, the EAES will downsize somewhat in the next couple of months. However, the

number of crews and their capability will not diminish in any way.

The newest member of the 455th EOG is the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. Lt. Col. Ken McDaniel, 774th EAS commander, and his squadron have traveled a long road to get here. Previously we had C-130s based in Uzbekistan who then subsequently moved to Manas, Kyrgyzstan. In early January 2005, the 774th was officially activated here as a part of the operations group.

They're comprised of members of several different ANG squadrons; what we sometimes call a rainbow unit. Bringing aircraft and people from several different units for a rotation presents unique challenges for both operations and maintenance, but the 774th is making it look easy.

That's a thumbnail sketch of our operations group. I would like you to walk away remembering three things. First, this isn't just an Air Force show. We can't get the job done here without our Navy brethren, and they do it very, very well. Second, this is truly a total force operation.

Beyond the ANG makeup of the 774th there are Reservists and Guardsmen serving throughout the wing. Finally, the 455th EOG is a support organization. There are Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and our Coalition partners who work and live in harm's way and in amazingly isolated locations. It's the exceptional privilege of the 455th EOG's to provide maximum support to them any way we can.



Colonel Johnson

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First sergeant reminds Airmen to remember their wingmen

By Master Sgt. William C. Hall
774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron
first sergeant

First sergeants - some say we are everywhere; some say we are not. One thing for sure is we are busy tending to the needs of our people and their mission.

Currently, there are seven first sergeants and one command chief who are each responsible for the safety, well being and military discipline for more than two hundred members of this air operation at Bagram Airfield.

What does this mean to and for you? First, it's vital that as first sergeants, we provide you with the basic needs you deserve -- adequate housing, meal availability throughout the 24-hour work day, MWR activities and a host of other niceties, which make life better at Bagram. While some may perceive adequate housing as other than what we currently have, it wasn't long ago when Bagram housing meant tents and lots of them, so as our mission presses forward so does our progress in making Bagram a better place to live.

Secondly, we've all heard of taking care of your wing man. Well,

if this environment doesn't dictate that, I don't know of any that do. For you seasoned veterans, the responsibility is on you to set the tone and example for your younger troops. Don't just be a supervisor; be that person who listens to your troops' concerns and acts on their behalf. You too were a first-term Airman at one time. Look back to your first deployment.

Remember all the uncertainties and apprehension you had? Your troops need and deserve your wisdom and experience to help get them through these times, both ordinary and troubled. For you newcomers to this arena, ask, offer help, lean forward and learn all you can because with it will come personal and professional growth.

Finally, military discipline. It's absolutely the foundation we build everything else up from. From personal grooming standards, to the way we interact with each other. Don't operate at the upper end of the envelope and risk compromising your integrity and military bearing. Do respect yourself and your environment because you are a professional operator in a very difficult situation. You're not in this alone, but you are a vital piece of this puzzle. As first sergeants say... "Everyone counts."

Dinning facility hours

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Midnight
0530 to 0900L	1130 to 1330L	1630 to 2100L	2330 to 0100L

DCUs and Air Force physical training uniforms are mandatory when dinning at any of the facilities on Bagram Airfield. No bags, purses or backpacks are allowed in any of the dinning facilities.

Brief Bullets

IG complaints

Col. John R. Buckingham, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander, was recently appointed as the Inspector General local liaison.

Personnel wishing to file an IG complaint may do so at any level without the fear of reprisal.

Airmen wishing to contact the IG liaison may call 231-4037. For guidance on proper filing procedures and policy, members should refer to Air Force Instruction, *Inspector General Complaints Resolution*, 90-301.

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. Two briefings are scheduled for shift workers to attend 0700L and 1630L Tuesday in the Rec Tent.

Bingo night

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

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.

Post exchange hours

0900 to 2100L
(0430 to 1630Z)

American Forces Network radio stations

105.7 FM 103.1 FM 107.3 FM

Eielson deploys Airmen

Thunderbolts

From Page 1

“We are honored to be here and fired-up over the opportunity to serve in this capacity,” the 355th EFS

commander said.

With less than a month on the ground, 455th EAMXS Airmen are maintaining the aircraft that are flying an average of 350 flying hours per

week, said Capt. Margaret A. Donnelly, 455th EAMXS Aircraft Maintenance Unit officer in charge.

Colonel Rideout expects the squadron to fly more than 6,000

flying hours while here serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

This is the second deployment for the 355th EFS commander and more than one third of his squadron.

Weasels provide humanitarian relief to local nationals

Airdrops

From Page 1

the winter months. This will strengthen their support for a free and democratic Afghanistan.”

With temperatures dropping to minus 14 degrees during the winter and areas like Kabul getting up to 25 inches of snow, many Afghans desperately need this help.

About 150 servicemembers are assigned to the squadron, which operates around the clock executing, on average, four humanitarian airdrops per week. More than 300 airdrops have been completed in the last 18 months.

The locations where humanitarian supplies are needed are identified by the Afghan National Army and coordinated by the division staff.

The division staff said there’s been a steady increase in the number of requests since the missions have started.

“There are a lot of people in Afghanistan who need our help,” said Capt. Timothy Ryan, division airdrop planner.

The missions are part of coalition efforts to support the government of Afghanistan in its efforts to provide for its citizens.

“Flying over the terrain, and seeing what it’s like there — how cold it is and how little the people have — it’s good to know that our capabilities can also be used to help people,” said



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente

First Lt. Cortnie Echterling, 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron C-130 pilot, deployed from the Missouri Air National Guard, performs an oil cooler flap function check during preflight on a C-130.

Capt. Benjamin Cameron, deputy chief of AMD tactics.

“The C-130 airdrops are an excellent example of coalition forces working together to benefit the Afghans,” said Col. Tim Grams, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group deputy commander. “The Afghans can’t see the complex logistical challenges involved with getting them

assistance, but that’s not important as long as they see that many of the world’s democratic governments are working together to ensure they have the opportunity for a better life and a more open government.”

According to White House reports, six million people in Afghanistan and 1.5 million Afghan refugees depend on international relief programs.

Flight doctor reminds Airmen to hydrate

Editor's note: The Medical Flight will provide weekly updates on the health situation here.

Two viruses are floating around the base. One is a particularly un-fun bug, which is giving some Airmen 24 hours of nausea and vomiting. This is self limiting and rarely lasts more than 24 hours.

There's medication the medical clinic can provide for the nausea, but it makes most people very sleepy. Airmen cannot drive or work on this medication.

Staying hydrated, with small

amounts of water frequently throughout the day, is the best method of keeping hydrated. Gatorade is ok but not really necessary. Airmen need to avoid caffeine and fruit juices as these tend to stimulate gastric motility and make things worse.



The other virus is a respiratory virus causing a mildly productive cough. All the other associated findings occur include feeling tired, low grade fever and loss of appetite.

Some people may encounter a sore throat. The medical clinic can issue decongestants and medication to reduce the fever.

The most important thing to remember with this is to try and avoid giving it to everyone else in their work center. Wash hands frequently, and avoid coughing or sneezing near other people.

Remaining hydrated is important with this one too as it keep the phlegm loose and easy to clear. This will keep the cold from developing into a sinus infection, ear infection or bronchitis.

If problems persist, or Airmen have concerns about an illness, they should be seen by the flight doctor at the medical clinic located next to the Morale Hut. *(Courtesy of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Flight Medicine)*



Photo by Col. George R. Skuodas

Runway repair

Above: Members of the 455th Civil Engineer Squadron Horizontal Repair patch portions of the runway Feb. 2.

Right: Col. George R. Skuodas, 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander, mixes up Pavemend 15.0, which is used to fill cut-out portions of poor runway.



Photo by Master Sgt. James C. Biggerstaff

Bagram's Best



TECH. SGT. MARK D. MCDANIEL

Sergeant McDaniel, left, is deployed here as an electronic warfare specialist under the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit. He is deployed from the 139th Airlift Wing, St. Joseph, Mo.

As a third year medical student at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, he calls Derby, Kansas, home.

After graduation he “aspires to practice trauma surgery as well as become an Air Force flight surgeon.

SENIOR AIRMAN JARED L. WILLIAMSON

Airman Williamson, right, is deployed here as a communications technician with the 4th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron from the 4th ASOS, Mannheim Army Installation, Germany. His home town is Kingwood, Texas.

While serving in the Air Force, he hopes to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and earn distinguish graduate at Airman Leadership School in April.”



455th EMSS: 28 Airmen support 1,500

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente
Editor

While working in the office or relaxing during down time, there's always some support being provided to the Airmen at Camp Cunningham. Whether it's typing on the computer to write this very story, or entertaining one's self in the Rec Tent by listening to karaoke on Lyrical Night or yelling out "bingo" when someone's covered the board, there's always some support.



Photos by Maj. Eric S. Elliott

Staff Sgt. Terrence Williams, 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron lodging assistant noncommissioned officer in charge, tosses one of 382 laundry bags to be washed. Camp Cunningham residents are the largest group of laundry service users on Bagram.

The support is provided by the 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron — 28 men and women deployed here from bases across the globe; they provide support to more than 1,500 Airmen assigned on Camp Cunningham daily.

The 455th EMSS consists of Personnel Support for Contingency Operations, Services, Manpower, Communications and Communication Systems.

Some of the first few people Airmen meet when they arrived first at Bagram are part of PERSCO team. In January alone, PERSCO processed more than 2,000 Airmen in and out of the base, said Master Sgt. Dwayne E. Brown 455th EMSS PERSCO team chief.

PERSCO

"The number one mission for PERSCO is strength accountability and casualty reporting," said Sergeant Brown. "Additionally, we are able to provide limited personnel support to commanders and deployed members."

For the next 120 day, the four-man PERSCO team from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., can assist Airmen here with reenlistments, extensions and retraining requests. PERSCO can also update dream sheets and Servicemen Group Life Insurance.

"The Air Force Personnel Center Virtual Military Personnel Flight Web site also contains a wealth of personal information people can access 24 hours a day," said Sergeant Brown.

Once the newly arrived turned in all the appropriate paperwork to the PERSCO team, the next stop most individuals made was to Services to find out where they would be sleeping.

Services

Six Airmen made the long difficult haul from F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., to Bagram. With diversions through Virginia, and parts of Southwest Asia, the Service's flight made it to Bagram and have been busy with improving Camp Cunningham since they first arrived.

Services not only provides beddown operations for personnel in- and out-processing Camp Cunningham, but they are also the individuals who host the recreational activities for the camp populace, said Master Sgt. Richard D. Stiles, 455th EMSS Services flight superintendent.

"This is the first time I have been deployed to a base where the Army has the lead," said Sergeant Stiles.

"Requisitioning items is more of a detailed process than compared to my last deployment where we worked strictly through the Air Force contracting."

"To obtain Morale, Welfare and Recreation items such as movies, video games and fitness equipment, Services



Tech. Sgt. Sherri Rodden, 455th EMSS lead client support administrator and Camp Cunningham postal chief, assists a Help Desk customer filling out a NIPRnet request form.

must have all requests approved by Central Air Force Command, said Sergeant Stiles. Then the flight coordinates with Army Contracting to see if funds are available to purchase the items. When funds aren't available through Army Contracting, Services tries alternate methods to provide for Airmen here.

On the other end of the Services spectrum is laundry and linen. Services runs a laundry service program that services more than 1,000 laundry bags weekly, said the Services superintendent.

The flight works more than 500 man hours a week to provide Airmen with recreational events, linen services, and maintain lodging for Camp Cunningham residents, said Sergeant Stiles.

"After we finish polishing our programs, the schedule should smooth out, and the services we provide to Camp Cunningham will blossom into bigger and better things for the populace," said Sergeant Stiles.

Comm's Help Desk

Another member of the 455th EMSS is the Communications flight. The comm Focal Point includes the Help Desk, computer technical support, telephone operations and postal operations.

Like at any base, computer users will have problems. The five individuals who provide support to all of Camp Cunningham remain busy day in and day out.

"Our folks are working up to 16 hours a day, or longer, to meet the initial demands of our computer users," said Staff Sgt. Jouron Richardson, 455th EMSS lead computer technician.

With the unique setting of Camp Cunningham being a tenant unit, the network used here is maintained through the Army, he said.

"This causes much frustration with our customers as they expect the same level of service they receive at home," said Sergeant Richardson.

The network capability is limited on many levels, which is sometimes hard for customers, said Sergeant Richardson. There are only a limited

number of IP addresses that allow the computers to access the network for e-mail and Internet, and the telephone lines are maxed out.

"Most folks appreciate and understand this is not home station and work with us, and we appreciate their support," he said.

Post Office

As if computers aren't enough, the flight provides camp residents with mail service. Seventy-five percent of all mail delivered to Bagram Airfield belongs to the residents of Camp Cunningham, said Tech. Sgt. Sherri Rodden, 455th EMSS lead client support administrator and Camp Cunningham postal chief. The camp receives an average of 500 packages a week.

Communications Systems

Comm also supports 500 land mobile radios, 30 tactical radios, the public address system and DSN cellular phones on Camp Cunningham. It also provide joint radio relay system support to five sites throughout Afghanistan.

"Although there is another personal wireless communications system office on Bagram, we not only support Air Force equipment, but we also support the Navy, Army and Department of Defense contractors," said Staff Sgt. Kevin R. Ryan, PWCS NCOIC.

Manpower

While Manpower is far from being the largest office, it remains busy providing Camp Cunningham with enough people to keep the planes in the air.

Master Sgt. Victor L. Digesti, 455th EMSS Manpower chief, is responsible for requests required to provide the proper manning in each work center and ensure deployed unit manning documents are reviewed to ensure replacements are identified for those already in-place.

While the 455th EMSS is providing around-the-clock support in services, communications and

manpower, there are some ways, which will assist the 28 men and women do their job to the fullest.

- All commanders should keep Manpower involved in their squadrons so needs are identified and filled. This includes changes needed to specific positions or requests for any additional personnel. If requested, Manpower can also provide squadrons with products to help manage personnel.

- Airmen are asked to pay close attention to linen exchange instructions. Ensure there are less than 20 items in a laundry bag and the bundle number and name are visible on the sheet when tied to the bag.

- All personnel need to in-and out-process through Services. This is critical to helping keep the base locator exact and ensuring bed space accountability is accurate. Most importantly, Services needs to exactly where each person sleeps to be able to locate them if an emergency arises.

- Feedback is key to Services providing the programs and activities Airmen want.

- Airmen need to be courteous to others by cleaning up after themselves when working out and using the phones and computers in the Morale Hut.



Tech Sgt. Gregory J. Hallett, 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron Nonappropriated Funds accountant and assistant recreation director checks in returned movies used by Camp Cunningham customers.

Plausible Denial

By Jurgi



Just your old stick in the mud!

--REFLECT ON THIS--



--BE VISIBLE-- --BE SAFE--

**ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL IN UNIFORM
ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR REFLECTIVE BELTS
DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS
AND REDUCED VISIBILITY**



SOURCE: AFOSH STD 91-501 14.6.10.2. PERSONNEL EXPOSED TO A TRAFFIC ENVIRONMENT OR FLIGHTLINE OPERATIONS DURING HOURS OF DARKNESS OR PERIODS OF REDUCED VISIBILITY WILL BE PROVIDED AND USE REFLECTIVE ACCESSORIES OR WILL USE ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING WITH SEWN-ON REFLECTIVE TAPE...