

Commander returns home to retire

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente
Editor

The 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander and Air Component Coordination Element director will say good bye after spending nearly a year here during a change of command ceremony Monday.

After serving 30 years in the Air Force, Brig. Gen. Bruce E. Burda will return to Hurlburt Field, Fla., to retire.

Since he assumed command May 15, 2005, General Burda said the improvements here are too numerous to count.

“Through the combined efforts of the entire wing, I believe we have improved most of the wing processes and much of the airfield,” General Burda said.

Mission planning and air tasking order execution have continued to improve due to better interaction with the Combined Air Operations Center in Southwest Asia, he said.

“We have a C-130 squadron now, as a result of the Karshi-Khanabad, Uzbekistan,

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente

Col. John R. Buckingham congratulates Brig. Gen. Bruce E. Burda on the completion of his final flight in a C-130 Hercules. General Burda is the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander and Air Component Coordination director and Colonel Buckingham is the 455th AEW vice commander. General Burda will return home to retire after the change of command ceremony Monday.

Airmen to take over provisional reconstruction teams

By Maj. Eric S. Elliott
Public Affairs Officer

The Air Force will take over six provisional reconstruction teams throughout eastern Afghanistan later this month.

The teams, each consisting of about 80 members, will relieve Army-led PRTs and serve in their different provinces for about a year.

“The PRTs have a threefold mission,” said Col. Douglas J. Hine, 755th Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander. “They’re going into different provinces to assist in building and stabilizing the economy, to promote security and to help legitimize the central Afghan government. The bottom line is that the teams are going into some very isolated and potentially dangerous areas to help Afghanistan become a more secure and self-sufficient country.”

In remote parts of the country, PRTs will often be the only representatives of the United States military, government and people who many Afghans will ever see said Colonel Hine. While the teams will live in secure encampments, they will spend much of their time outside of the wire dealing directly with Afghan officials and civilians, and coordinating efforts with other American government and international aid agencies.

— See ‘Reconstruction,’ Page 6



Camp Cunningham's



Top View

Air Force works with Army to provide medical care to patients

By Lt. Col. Joe Solis Jr.

455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

The phone rings at the Aeromedical Evacuation Operations Team. The 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Command Post calls to give the team a "10 minutes out" call on an incoming aeromedical evacuation flight. They indicate "AE onboard with seven patients, requesting a frontline ambulance from the Army's 14th Combat Support Hospital at Camp Lacey. "Copy that" is the AE reply, and off they go to recover another AE mission.

A few minutes later, the AEOT receives another call, this time from the Theater Tasking group. "How many crews do you have left?" Is your critical care air transportation team available? The word goes out at the AEOT "Looks like another short-fuse tasking is on its way." So begins the start of another AE mission while simultaneously working to recover the inbound mission coming back here.

Busy day? Actually, just another interesting day, as is typical for many of us here. Who are we, and why do you want to know about us in the AE community? Maybe it's because you know or have heard of someone who was hurt or wounded, and what they recall was being flown out of the theatre into Germany or to the states.

We are members of the 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight. Our AE operations structure is comprised of an AEOT, four AE crews and a CCATT.

Seamless, our Airmen and experts are here from units throughout the United States and Japan. They're from the Guard, Reserve and Active Duty. Our crews are from units in Japan, North Carolina and the Mississippi Air Guard. The CCATT is an Active Duty team from Biloxi, Miss.

Other AEOT members are from Virginia - Active Duty, and from Guard units in California, Wyoming, Delaware and Oklahoma. We're also represented by Reserve units from Florida and Texas.

Since we're very lean, we have to be efficient and smooth running. When missions are tasked or ready to be recovered, the whole process becomes one smooth orchestrated concert, so when the crews are alerted, the snowball begins rolling down hill, and though gaining speed and momentum, the team is in control.

Incredible! The current 455th AE crews have had more missions in the first four months of 2006 than have the previous crews over any incremental six-month period in 2005.

Not only have our unit members worked long hours and done more with less, they have set the standard and the pace for excellence.

After receiving the call from the command post that the aircraft is 10 minutes out, the AEOT inturn calls the Patient Administration Division and lets them know that a FLA is needed. Now the ambulance crews begin their preparation for the incoming patients. The PAD is part of the Army's 14th CSH who provides definitive surgical intervention and stabilization.

Fortunately, we coordinate another successful phase of a Joint-partnership to bring the wounded warrior safely to the 14th CSH.

The 10 minutes are up already, and after the wheels touch down, and the aircraft parks, the recovery team and ambulance crew meet at the aircraft. Systematically, all the crews begin to take the patients from the aircraft to the ambulance. Afterward, the recovery team and the AE crew remove the 800 pounds of medical equipment from the aircraft.

Our AE missions can succeed only when we continue to work as a team. Without the people who supply our crews and calibrate our equipment to keep it running efficiently, we would undoubtedly not be at our best. Hats off to our conscientious logistician and biomedical equipment technician.

In AE, we work with one thought in mind, to keep our patient's well-being foremost.

After some crew rest, it's back into Bravo alert, and yes, ready for the next tasking or phone call.



Colonel Solis

Bagram Bullet Editorial Staff, Disclaimer

- Brig. Gen. Bruce Burda Commander, 455th AEW
- Maj. Eric Elliott Chief, Public Affairs
- Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente Editor/NCOIC, Public Affairs



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Congrats to 455th AEW's newest promotees

Promoted to airman 1st class:



Kevin Boyle

Promoted to senior airman:



Chad D. Cook
Jorge A. Caballeromelchor
Eric A. Hood
James Horner

Promoted to staff sergeant:



Kenneth G. Hiller
Marc E. Melvin
Anthony G. Plyer
Lashawndrea M. Price

Promoted to technical sergeant:



Charles T. Hardy
Gianni C. Hollomon
David M. Kolnes
Anthony Mosher

Promoted to master sergeant:



Michelle M. Vanderbunt
Brian Gilmore

Promoted to senior master sergeant:



Dwayne E. Brown

Promoted to major:



Madison Morris

Brief Bullets

Services calendar

Events are hosted by Services every night at 1900L in the Rec Tent. For more information, or to make a suggestion, contact Tech. Sgt. Hallett at 231-4360. This week's events are as follows:

- Today: Bingo
- Saturday: Texas Hold'em
- Sunday: Horseshoes
- Tuesday: Spades
- Wednesday: Texas Hold'em
- Thursday: Darts

MTA meeting

The next Middle Tier Association meeting is scheduled for 0900L Wednesday in Rec Tent. The Middle Tier Association is for staff and technical sergeants who want to be involved in morale functions here.

ACE meeting

The next Airmen Committed to Excellence meeting is scheduled for 1500L today at the Oasis.

April's Top Performers



Senior Airman Rachel J. Crawford
Staff Sgt. David G. Tingle
Master Sgt. Daniel E. Hawkins
Capt. Michael J. Gibbs
Mr. John W. Sones



455th AEW Outstanding Contributors of the Month



Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Strnad
Airman Jeremy S. Bernard



Comm tip of the week

MAPPING THE NETWORK DRIVE for NIPR:

- Right-click on "My Computer", Select "Map Network Drive"
- In the drop-down box select the letter "S"
- Type in \\BGRMA7NAFSDRIVE\SDRIVE press "Enter"
- Ensure the "Reconnect at logon" box is checked
- Click Finish

General Burda reflects on last year in Air Force

Highlights year-long improvements, joint effort of Airmen, Sailors

Retirement

From Page 1

closure back in August of 2005," the general said. "The number of in lieu of and request for forces Airmen in country has increased significantly, and as a result, we have added the 755th Expeditionary Mission Support Group to provide command and control over them."

With spending almost a year here, the wing commander has not only seen dramatic changes to wing's organization, but to the airfield as well.

"There have been dozens of small improvements and large development projects here, all adding to our effectiveness and safe mission accomplishment," he said. "Concrete and spall repair to the active runway, continued progress of the new runway under construction and the new passenger terminal are just a few examples of the many changes I have seen."

Previous deployments have involved General Burda rotating through with other air and space expeditionary force deployers, but this year-long stay has given him the opportunity to see three AEF teams cycle through.

"It's been interesting," he said. "I have really enjoyed this team in 2006. They have made my last four months on Active Duty a real pleasure."

"We have had an even larger 'total force' contribution throughout the wing this

rotation," the general said. "Along with our Sailors in VAQ-133, we truly have a joint team with members from all aspects of the Air Force from units around the world."

Compared to when he was a company grade officer, General Burda said the Airmen today are more savvy and mature.

"We have pushed down a lot more responsibility to lower levels over the years, and our Airmen have really stepped up and met the challenge," he said. "Our Airmen and Sailors, are truly expeditionary and so far, have been ready to deploy anywhere in the world to get the job done. They are focused and looking to improve themselves, which improves the Air Force and better prepares Airmen for future challenges."

General Burda will reunite with his wife, Stacy, and take a little time off before out processing and returning to northern California to spend some time with the rest of his family before starting a new civilian career.

"Anytime I change duty stations, I have always enjoyed and missed both our Airmen and civilian force who serve," he said. "I think retirement will be the same way. I will miss the people in the Air Force who work hard and have given Stacy and me such wonderful memories. I wish every one in AEF nine and 10 have a safe return home and much continued success in the Air Force."



455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs courtesy photo
Brig. Gen. Bruce E. Burda speaks at his change of command ceremony assuming command of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing nearly one year ago. General Burda will be retiring after the change of command ceremony Monday on the flightline.

Working with General Burda

"Whenever you volunteer for a 120-day rotation, you do so because you want to contribute, because you care," said Col. John Buckingham, 455th AEW vice commander. "Having General Burda as my boss made the new transition extremely easy. He is a man who genuinely cares about not only the mission but also the people. I could not have asked for a better boss and have thoroughly enjoyed my time working for him. I believe all of us have helped finish the boss's career on a high note. God speed sir!"

Air Force takes over PRTs in Afghanistan

Reconstruction

From Page 1

Each team is made up of about 30 Airmen, drawn from more than 20 Air Force specialty codes and from bases around the world, an Army civil affairs team and an Army infantry platoon to provide security.

The teams' Airmen include specialists in fields like civil engineering, contracting, intelligence and medicine who have specific roles in rebuilding the country, said the colonel. These are augmented by Airmen in combat support positions, ranging from services to mechanics, who are vital to any unit operating in the field.

However, many of the jobs will not fall neatly into a typical Air Force structure.

"Airmen will be expected to do things that are well outside of their normal jobs as well as the Air Force's core competencies," Colonel Hine said. "We have public affairs officers filling information operations positions and security forces personnel augmenting civil affairs specialists. All Airmen will be required to do things like cook and provide perimeter security. It will be a completely new experience for all involved."

Air Force Lt. Col. David Naisbitt, the Jalalabad PRT commander, said this was also a great opportunity for the Air Force to participate and contribute to a joint operation.

"The development of these teams shows that the U.S. military has a unified commitment to the reconstruction of the Government of Afghanistan," he said. "It shows that we can come together as a single unit to help rebuild this nation."

Before coming to Afghanistan, PRT members completed several months' extensive training conducted by the Army at Fort Bragg, N.C. Curriculum included country briefings and classes on Afghan culture, weapons training, land navigation, combat skills, first aid, information operations, drivers' training and courses on the PRT mission.

"This wasn't like any Air Force training we'd ever had," said Colonel Naisbitt. "It helped us come together and bind as a team. It's still early in our deployment, but we all understand the importance of what we're doing here."

In addition to the six Air Force PRTs, there are six Navy and nine NATO-commanded teams in northern and western Afghanistan. New Zealand and Canada each also run a team in central and southern regions of the country.

DCU disposal

Air Force desert camouflaged uniforms and other uniform items are not to be thrown away. To properly dispose of unserviceable uniform items, take them to the burn pit.

Customs prohibited items

- Switchblade
- Concealed knife
- Ammunition
- Non-military weapons
- Animals living, dead or parts
- Insects
- Fresh fruits
- Vegetables
- Human body parts
- Eggs
- Plant food
- Untanned skins or hides
- Tatami mats
- Live plants
- Camel saddles
- Soil or earth
- Sand***



- Green or bamboo sugar
- Alcohol beverages
- Cuban cigars
- Artifacts
- Classified material**
- Counterfeit currency
- Gambling devices
- Controlled substances
- Treasonable or seditious items
- Drug paraphernalia
- Pornographic material
- Destructive devices
- Corrosive liquids



***Sand that is in a sealed container and marked as bleached is allowed

**Not stored correctly or without proper courier

Things to know before going home

TSA provides information on carry-on and checked baggage

Prohibited items are weapons, explosives, incendiaries, and include items that are seemingly harmless but may be used as weapons – the so-called “dual use” items. Passengers may not bring these items to or through security checkpoints without authorization.

If passengers bring a prohibited item to the checkpoint, they may be criminally or civilly prosecuted, or at the least, asked to dispose of the item. A transportation security officer or law enforcement officer will make this determination, depending on what the item is and the circumstances. Bringing a prohibited item to a security checkpoint – even accidentally – is illegal.

Prohibited items may be detained for use in an investigation and, if necessary, as evidence in a criminal or civil prosecution. If permitted by the TSO or law enforcement officer, passengers may be allowed to: consult with the airlines for possible assistance in placing the prohibited item in checked baggage; withdraw with the item from the screening checkpoint at that time; make other arrangements for the item, such as taking it to the car or mailing it; or, voluntarily abandon the item. Items that are voluntarily abandoned or confiscated by a law enforcement officer cannot be recovered and will not be returned to you. Property claims for these items will also be denied by TSA.

The following outlines items that are permitted and items that are prohibited in carry-on or checked baggage. Passengers should note that some items are allowed checked baggage, but not carry-on. Also pay careful attention to the “Notes” included at the bottom of each section

– they contain important information about restrictions and exceptions.

The prohibited and permitted items chart is not intended to be all-inclusive and is updated as necessary. To ensure everyone’s security, the TSO may determine that an item not on the prohibited items chart is prohibited. In addition, the TSO may also determine that an item

on the permitted chart is dangerous and therefore may not be brought through the security checkpoint.

For updates and for more information, call our Consumer Response Center toll-free at 1-866-289-9673 or E-mail TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov. (Courtesy of the Transportation Security Administration)

The following items may be checked or carried on:

Cigar cutters
Corkscrews
Cuticle cutters
Eyeglass repair tools including screwdrivers
Eyelash curlers
Knitting and crochet needles
Plastic or round bladed butter knives
Nail clippers
Nail files
Safety razors
Disposable razors
Plastic or metal Scissors with blunt tips
Toy weapons if not realistic replicas
Tweezers
Umbrellas
Walking canes
Camcorders
Camera equipment
Laptop computers
Mobile phones
Pagers
Personal data assistants

The following items may be checked, but not carried on:

Knives
Metal scissors with pointed tips and blades four inches or longer
Box cutters
Ice axes
Ice picks
Meat cleavers
Razor-type blades
Sabers
Swords

Baseball bats
Bows and arrows
Cricket bats
Golf clubs
Hockey sticks
Lacrosse sticks
Pool cues
Ski poles
Spear guns
BB guns
Compressed air guns
Firearms
Parts of guns and firearms
Pellet guns
Realistic replicas of firearms
Starter pistols
Axes
Hatchets
Cattle prods
Crowbars
Billy clubs
Black jacks
Brass knuckles
Kubatons
Martial arts weapons
Night sticks
Nunchakus
Shocking devices
Throwing stars

The following items are not allowed:

Flare guns
Gun lights
Gun powder
Blasting caps
Dynamite
Fireworks
Flares
Hand grenades
Plastic explosives
Realistic replicas of explosives

Aerosols other than personal care or toiletries in limited quantities
Gasoline
Gas torches
Lighter fluid
Lighters
Strike-anywhere matches**
Turpentine and paint thinner
Realistic replicas of incendiaries
Chlorines for pools
Compressed gas cylinders
Liquid bleach
Spill able batteries

* All lighters are prohibited as carry-on items. Lighters without fuel are permitted in checked baggage. Lighters with fuel are prohibited in checked baggage, unless they adhere to the Department of Transportation exemption, which allows up to two fueled lighters if properly enclosed in a DOT approved case. If passengers are uncertain as to whether their lighter is prohibited, they are asked to refrain from bringing it to the airport.

** Up to four books of safety, non-strike anywhere, matches are permitted as carry-on items, but all matches are prohibited in checked baggage.

ENDURING FAITH CHAPEL

Weekly services:

Muslim

Fridays 1800L (1330Z)

Jewish

Fridays 1900L (1430Z)

Seventh Day Adventist

Saturdays 0930L (0500Z)

Roman Catholic

Saturdays 1945L (1515Z)

Liturgical Protestant

Sundays 0830L (0400Z)

Protestant

Sundays 1130L (0700Z)

Latter Day Saints

Sundays 1300L (0830Z)



Church of Christ

Sundays 1400L (0930Z)

Korean Protestant

Sundays 1545L (1115Z)

Gospel

Sundays 1730L (1300Z)

DFAC hours

Breakfast

0530 to 0900L

Lunch

1130 to 1330L

Dinner

1630 to 2100L

Midnight

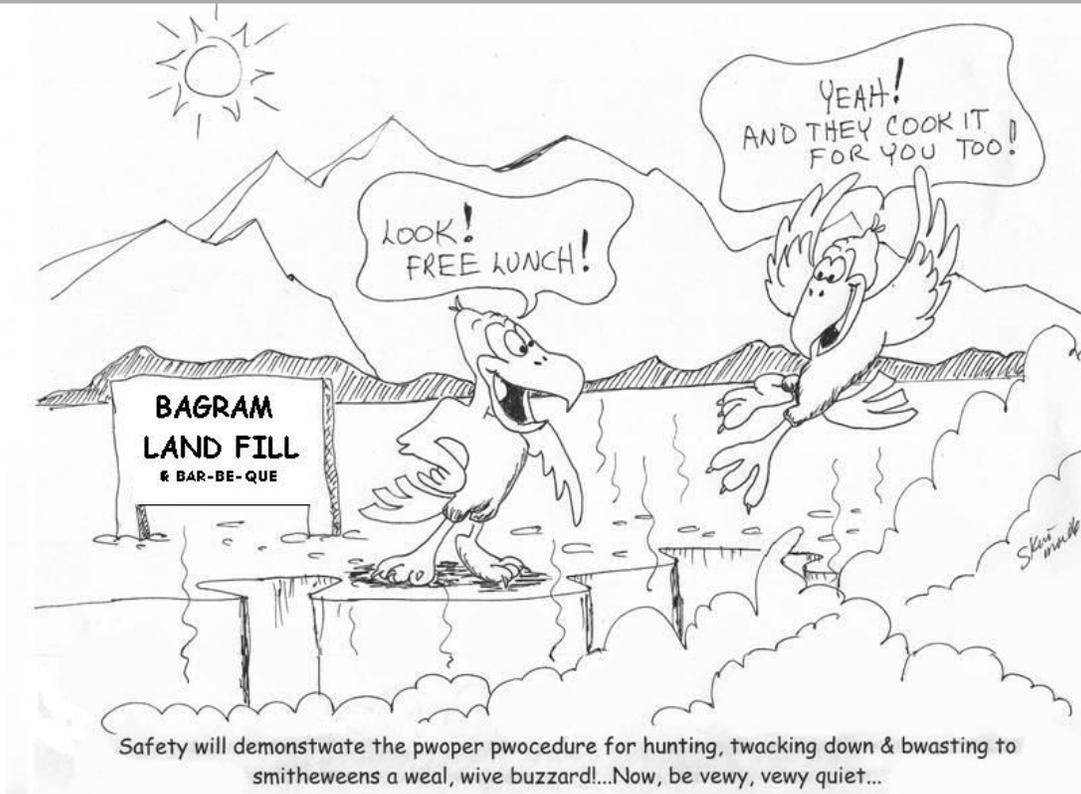
2330 to 0100L

DCUs and Air Force physical training uniforms are mandatory when dining at any of the facilities here.

No bags, purses or backpacks are allowed in any of the dining facilities.

Plausible Denial

By Jurgi



Camp Cunningham residents who have rights to the shared drive can access other Plausible Denial cartoons at S:/SHARED FILES/PLAUSIBLE DENIAL.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente

Lieutenant Dan visits

While visiting Camp Cunningham residents Monday, Gary Sinise autographs the new operations desk in the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron while Capt. Michael J. Gibbs holds the Plexiglas. Mr. Sinise is part of the USO tour visiting servicemembers deployed to Southwest Asia. Captain Gibbs is the 455th ESFS operations officer.

MTA MOVIE NIGHT

The Middle Tier Association hosts Movie Night 1900L Mondays at the MTA Snack Shack. Monday's movie will be *When a Stranger Calls*. Rated PG-13. While babysitting, a high school student is terrorized by a stranger who calls asking her, "have you checked the children lately?" The police eventually notify her that the calls are coming from inside of the house.



Bagram's Best

CAPT. MICHAEL J. GIBBS

Captain Gibbs, right, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron operations officer. He is deployed from the 514th Security Forces Squadron, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

He is also a full time New York City Street Narcotics Unit Enforcement police officer. He hopes to continue his civilian and military education and provide more opportunities for members of the 455th ESFS to advance and excel. The captain also hopes to command a security forces squadron.

The reservist recently won company grade officer of the month for the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing.



STAFF SGT. DAVID G. TINGLE

Sergeant Tingle, left, is deployed here as a force protection and escort program manager for the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. He is deployed here from the 514th Security Forces Squadron, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

The Edison, N.J., native hopes to continue to make rank, and become a team leader on future deployments and mentor younger Airmen. He believes there are always ways to improve. Sergeant Tingle was

the noncommissioned officer of the month. After his tour here, the reservist will return to his job as a civilian police officer in Edison.



AEF 9 AND 10 BUG-OUT BASH

Thanks to all for making the bash such a huge success. Luckily, we had a beautiful day, but it was the dozens of volunteers who made it happen. To all who cooked, cleaned, kept score, monitored, organized, participated and otherwise made everything a success...THANK YOU!! A special thanks to Master Sgt. James C. Biggerstaff, 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group first sergeant, and Tech. Sgt. Edward Nin, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron training noncommissioned officer in charge, unit safety representative and information management officer who led the team and kept it all together. It was a marvelous way to finish up our deployment. Best wishes to all, and thanks again!

- Brig. Gen. Bruce E. Burda
455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander,
Air Component Coordination Element director



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente



Ping pong

1st place

Master Sgt. Harry G. Law
455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group

2nd place

Tech. Sgt. Mark Patrick
455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

3rd place

Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth G. Graham
455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group

Tug of war winners

1st place - 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

2nd place - 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group

3rd place - 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron

Dominoes

1st place - 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

2nd place - 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

3rd place - 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Horseshoes

1st place - 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron

2nd place - 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group /
455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

3rd place - 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron

Laundry cart race

1st place - 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group/
774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron

2nd place - 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron

3rd place - 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron





Water balloon toss

1st place - 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron

2nd place - 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

3rd place - 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Amazing race

1st place - 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

2nd place - 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron

3rd place - 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Burlap bag race

1st place - 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group

2nd place - 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

3rd place - 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron

Volleyball

1st place - 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group

2nd place - 455th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron

3rd place - 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron

Spades

1st place - 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

2nd place - 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

3rd place - 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron / 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron

Commander's award goes to....

455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

