

455th Air Expeditionary Wing receives new leadership

The 455th Air Expeditionary Wing welcomed a new commander during a change of command ceremony here Monday.

Brig. Gen. Christopher D. Miller replaced Brig. Gen. Bruce E. Burda, who will return to Hurlburt Field, Fla., and retire.

Before taking command here, General Miller headed the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

He graduated from the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., as a distinguished graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in international relations and history in 1980.

The general later earned a Master of Philosophy degree in international relations from Oxford University, England, and a Master of Arts degree in national security and strategic studies from the College of Naval Command and

Staff, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.

General Miller's military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with an oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Combat Readiness Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

He is a command pilot with more than 2,600 flight-hours in the B-1B Lancer, B-2 Spirit, T-37 Tweet and T-38 Talon.

General Miller also assumed responsibility as the Combined Joint Task Force 76 Air Component Coordination Element director. *(Courtesy of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs)*



Photo by Maj. David M. Kurle
Lt. Gen. Gary L. North hands the guidon to Brig. Gen. Christopher D. Miller as he takes command of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing. General North is the 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander.

POL troops accomplish million-gallon mark

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente
Editor

A mobile distribution operator assigned to the 455th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Petroleum, Oil and Lubrication element issued his one-millionth gallon of fuel to an A-10

Thunderbolt II at 2:30 p.m. May 4.

In 104 days, Airman Jay C. Pickle issued an average of 1,595 gallons per aircraft.

"The ELRS has produced great results in every flight, yet one of the crowning achievements has to be pumping more than one million

gallons of fuel, by truck, to all types of aircraft," said Lt. Col. Richard A. Peterson, 455th ELRS commander. "These Airmen are dedicated, highly trained and proficient at what they do.

— See 'Million gallons,' Page 4



Camp Cunningham's



Top View

Family preparation important to successful deployment

By Lt. Col. Allen D. Hansen

41st Expeditionary Electronic Control Squadron

“Daddy, Mommy – when will you be home?” If you have been deployed for more than three weeks, you have probably had that question posed to you by one of your children. As we reflect on the past few years and gaze into our crystal balls on the next few years of the Global War on Terrorism, the answer to that question may not be as cut-and-dried as we think. Sure, almost everyone in the military is on some kind of rotational schedule: The Air Force has 120-day air and space expeditionary force rotations; the Navy is used to six-month cruises; and the Army has a 365-boots-on-the-ground policy, but when will we all be home... for good?

A lesson from the past is one can't get rich betting on being able to predict when we will be completely withdrawn from Iraq and Afghanistan. Remember President Clinton's prediction that we'll be home from the Balkans by Christmas, and the banner that read “Mission Accomplished” when President Bush made that historic landing on the aircraft carrier? We weren't all home by Christmas, and the mission in Iraq is nowhere near accomplished.

The lesson we should all take away from this is we have seen a shift in our paradigm. We all need to recognize this and make the necessary adjustments to the changes that are already upon us and, more importantly, those yet to come. We need to prepare ourselves to ensure the U.S. military is ready to accept the challenges that lie ahead. These preparations come in many different forms and require us to change in ways we never thought necessary just a few short years ago.

These changes apply to everyone who wears the uniform. Guard and Reserve Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have been on extended active duty for more than four years now. Whole battalions that had never left home except to participate in war games now find themselves pulling combat duty thousands of miles away from home.

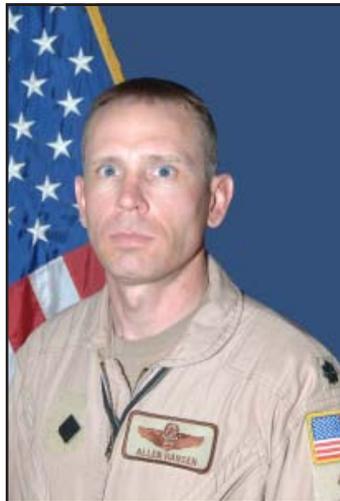
Low-density, high-demand assets are on continuous deployments because there isn't anyone to relieve them. At the unit level, a lot of things have to change.

Speaking of units, what about the family unit? Are they prepared to deal with the deployments and absences that will inevitably take place as we fight the Global War on Terror? Every servicemember owes it to their spouse and family to prepare them for when the time comes to answer the call. We spend countless hours preparing ourselves, with briefings, last-minute training and additional training required to deploy into a combat zone. Do we spend any time preparing our family? We all get that briefing about what the family support center, the legal office, the chaplain, this office, that center, and the blah, blah, blah, can provide

to us when deployed. We usually stop listening somewhere in the first third of the briefing, because we know this stuff and have better things to do with our time. What about your family? Do they know this stuff? Do they know where to go if they need support? Do they know how to get in touch with you in case of an emergency? Have they been properly prepared for the long deployment, sometimes with little contact, and little knowledge of where you are and what you are doing? We're usually pretty good at preparing ourselves for deployments, but less so with our families. With this new paradigm, there will be more frequent and longer deployments for us all. We should ensure our families are taken care of back home while we are taking care of the bad guys deployed.

It may be too late for you to properly prepare your family for your current deployment, but history

tells us the next one is just around the corner. You can ensure they are better prepared for that next one. At the very least, we should all sit down and explain that the frequency and duration of deployments we have experienced in the recent past will more than likely become the norm in the near future. If we all take a little extra time preparing our families for deployments – like we prepare ourselves – maybe we would hear fewer questions like “Mommy, Daddy – when will you be home?”



Colonel Hansen

Bagram Bulletin Editorial Staff, Disclaimer

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Things to know before going home

Air Force mandates virtual outprocessing

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — All Airmen undergoing permanent change-of-station moves, retirements or separations are now required to use the Virtual Outprocessing application available through the Virtual Military Personnel Flight.

Airmen can enter the vMPF by logging onto the Air Force Personnel Center's secure Web site where they can view their vOP checklist from the individual actions menu.

The vOP checklist will include requirements based on the Airman's unit and other associated base agencies, such as the transportation

management office, finance, medical clinic and Tricare. The checklist also will include the timeframe required for clearing actions at each location. Bases currently not using the vOP system will be required to transition to it no later than May 30.

The online process also will eliminate paper checklists and most in-person outprocessing requirements.

For more information, Airmen should contact their base military personnel flight. (*Courtesy of the Air Force Personnel Center*)

Star Cards help reduce cost

Every time troops use bank-issued cards at their exchange, it costs the military community millions of dollars that could be directed to Morale, Welfare and Recreation efforts.

Last year, bank-issued card processing expenses at Army & Air Force Exchange Service facilities jumped 17.53 percent, ultimately sapping more than \$65 million from the Exchange and, in turn, critical MWR programs in 2005. Since 2001, AAFES and its customers have paid more than \$246 million to the owners and stockholders of issuing banks, resulting in lost revenues for the Exchange and MWR programs.

"Traditionally, two-thirds of AAFES earnings are paid to MWR, while the other one-third is returned to the military community in the form of improvements, such as technology investments or capital expenditures to enhance the shopping experience," said AAFES' Chief Financial Officer Mike Howard. "With 100 percent of AAFES earnings going back to authorized customers in one way or another, something as seemingly

insignificant as credit card processing fees can quickly add up to a quality of life issue."

One way military families can help reduce costs and ultimately strengthen their Exchange benefit is to take advantage of the Exchanges' exclusive Military STAR® Card. Unlike bank cards, profits generated from the Military STAR® Card are shared with military communities through contributions to the military service's MWR funds. These funds reduce the tax burden of all U.S. citizens, and are used to build libraries, child care centers, gymnasiums, bowling alleys and recreational facilities for service members and their families around the world.

The Military STAR® Card is accepted at AAFES, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Exchange activities, as well as the Exchange Catalog and the Exchange Online store at www.aafes.com.

For more information on the Military STAR® Card, visit www.aafes.com and click on the Military STAR® Card icon. (*Courtesy of Army and Air Force Exchange Service*)

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
Tuesday: Ping-Pong
Wednesday: Texas Hold'em
Thursday: Dominoes

MTA meeting

The next Middle Tier Association meeting is scheduled for 1800L Wednesday in Town Hall. 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.

Line badges

Individuals who are redeploying need to turn in restricted area badges to the Security Forces Pass and Identification.

A drop box is available for convenience.

Combat Push

In order to ease the out-processing process, there will be a Combat Push scheduled at 0730L+++ every Sunday and Wednesday in the Rec Tent until further notice. Those who cannot make this meeting will have to out-process on their own.

American Forces Network radio stations

107.3 FM 105.7 FM 103.1 FM

Airmen pump millionth gallon into aircraft

Million gallons

From Page 1

“To have three Airmen reach the ‘million gallon club’ is fantastic and kudos to the entire POL team for pumping more than 7 million gallons of fuel safely,” he said. “When the commander for the Army medivac unit comes to me and says he wants the Air Force to refuel his helo’s because we’re faster and safer, I know we are on point and doing a great job in POL.”

Since the POL element arrived in January, they have issued more than 7,300,000 gallons of fuel to aircraft assigned or transiting through here.

“The hard work and dedication to meet mission requirements is reflected with reaching the pinnacle of issuing more than a million gallons of aviation fuel here,” said Master Sgt. Charles E. Egri, 455th ELRS POL manager.

“We maintain an average response time of seven minutes from receipt of call to arriving to at the aircraft,” said Staff Sgt. Russell P. Ogden, 455th ELRS POL operations noncommissioned officer in charge.

“We, as a flight, have also issued more than 14,000 gallons of liquid oxygen since we’ve been here.”

Airman 1st Class Austin M. Ecker and Airman 1st Class Brandy Leonard, 455th ELRS POL mobile distribution operators, also achieved the one-million-gallon mark in the past week.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente

Airman 1st Class Jay C. Pickle mobile distribution operator, pulls out a fuel hose to fill an A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft. Airman Pickle is a mobile distribution operator assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant element. He was the first to reach the one-million-gallon mark.



Photo by Maj. David M. Kurle

Leadership changes

As Master Sgt. James C. Biggerstaff, 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group first sergeant, looks on, Brig. Gen. Bruce E. Burda, former 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, hands the 455th EMSG guidon to Col. Gary M. Costello during a change of command ceremony held here Monday. Colonel Costello is deployed here from the 103rd Fighter Wing, Bradley Air National Guard Base, Conn.

PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT

Services hosts pizza and movie night featuring *Final Destination 3*. Rated R, cast includes Mary Elizabeth Winstead and Ryan Merriman.

When a high school student fails to stop the fated roller coaster ride that she predicted would cause the deaths of several of her friends, she teams with a schoolmate, in a race against time to prevent the Grim Reaper from revisiting the survivors of the first tragedy.



Combat Orientation

Airmen who recently arrived here are required to attend Combat Orientation. The orientation is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. local Wednesdays and Fridays, during the month of May, in the Rec Tent.

Information will be provided on uniform guidance, organizations, legal information and other important information while deployed here.

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

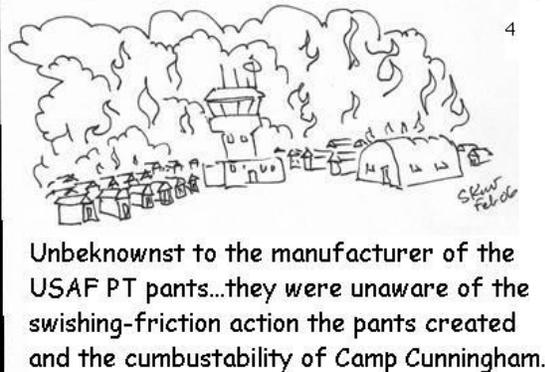
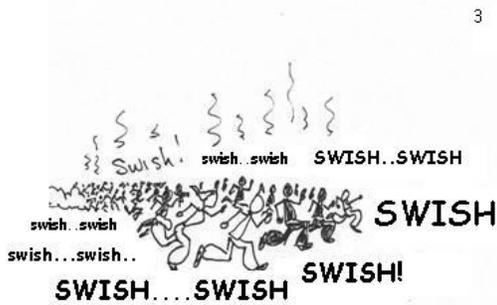
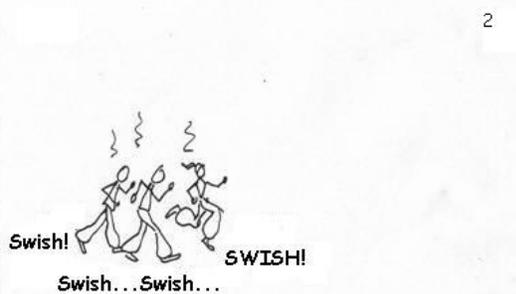
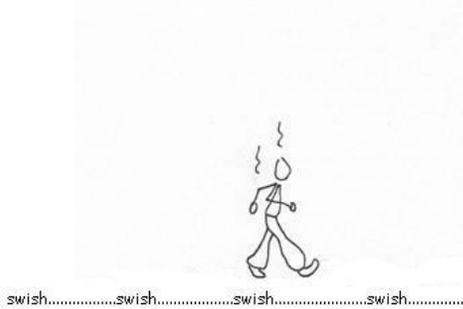
2330 to 0100L

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

Operational inspection

KABUL, Afghanistan - Tech. Sgt. Steven R. Halloway inspects a water pump pressure regulator on a Zil131 fire truck, which was refurbished through contracts coordinated by Sergeant Halloway and other Air Corps embedded training team mentors assigned to the 755th Expeditionary Mission Support Group. Sergeant Halloway is a vehicle maintenance craftsman deployed from Kadena Air Base, Japan. Insert: A refurbished Zil 131 is parked in the compound of the Afghanistan National Army Air Corps. Embedded Training Teams are mentoring ANA soldiers with procedures in basics of paperwork to building a supply of running vehicles and safety inspections.

USO seeks volunteers

Those interested in volunteering to work at the United Service Organization should stop by the USO and ask for Mike.

As the air and space expeditionary force nine and 10 folks leave, he will need assistance in many different areas to include making and serving coffee, cleaning up, staining, painting, sitting behind the counter and answering questions, assisting those passing through, or just talking with those who need an ear to bend.

For more information, contact Chief Master Sgt. Raymond W. Welton or stop by the USO and ask for Mike.

Bagram's Best



**SEAMAN
JEREMY S. BERNARD**



Seaman Bernard is an aviation electrician's mate assigned to the Electronic Attack Squadron VAQ-133. He is deployed from Whidbley Island, Wash.

The Kelso, Wash., native hopes to qualify as an enlisted aviation warfare specialist and be promoted to a third class petty officer.

He was one of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing's contributors of the month.



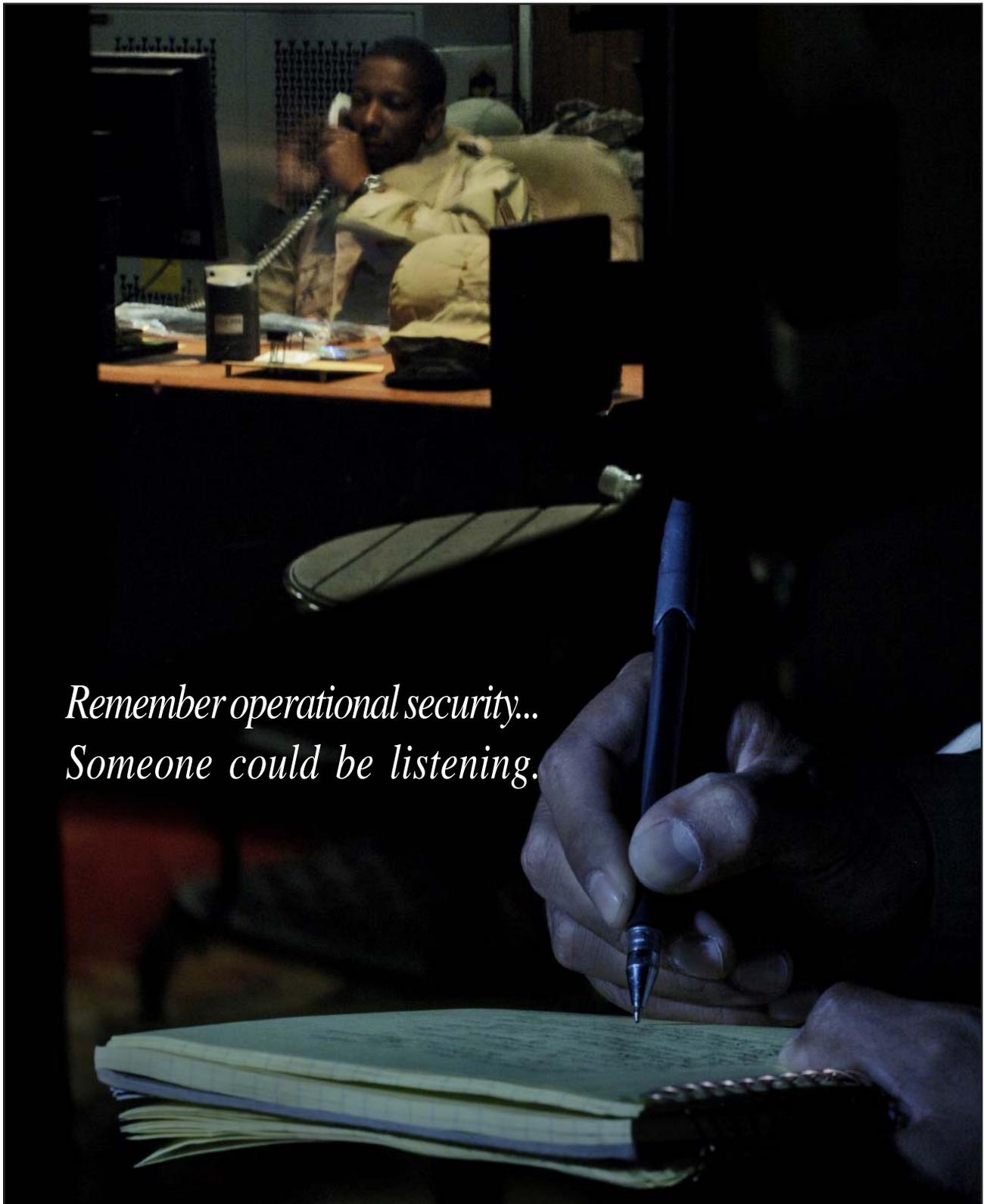
**STAFF SGT.
MATTHEW A. STRNAD**



Sergeant Strnad is assigned to the 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group as the electrical section noncommissioned officer in charge. He is deployed here from the 819th Red Horse Squadron, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont.

The staff sergeant hopes to complete his Community College of the Air Force degree within one year.

The Garfield Heights, Ohio, native was one of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing's contributors of the month.



*Remember operational security...
Someone could be listening.*