

April 14, 2008

Freedom AFGHANISTAN Watch



Malaria Season is April-December
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Afghan Medics



Malaria



Homecooked

Defense Digest

News from the DoD

Bell, Bartley lead All-Army men in Armed Forces Basketball Championships

Story and photo by Tim Hipps
FMWRC Public Affairs

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – Sgt. Ron Bartley had 40 points and eight rebounds to lead the All-Army men’s team to a 95-93 overtime victory over All-Air Force in the 2008 Armed Forces Men’s Basketball Championships.

Bartley shot 12-of-23 from the field, including 8-of-16 on 3-pointers, and had four assists and three steals in the Soldiers’ best performance of the double-round-robin tournament played March 21-27 at Blue Mountain Sports Arena.

2nd Lt. Matt Bell scored 21 points and Spc. Brett Thomas of Fort Huachuca, Ariz., added 10 points for All-Army. Warrant Officer Aaron Stuart of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, had eight points and a team-high 14 rebounds.

Bell, 23, a four-year starter for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., was named to the Armed Forces All-Tournament team after averaging 23.8 points, 4.3 rebounds and 2.6 assists for All-Army (2-4), which finished fourth in the tournament against squads from the Air Force (5-1), Navy (3-3) and Marine Corps (2-4).

Bartley’s hot hand kept the Soldiers in the first half of their second meeting with Air Force.

“That’s the man, right there,” Bartley said of Bell. “Last game he had about 40, so I knew they were going to key on him. Coach let us have a spread offense and let the guards do their thing. I got a little hot and caught on fire and rolled with that.”

Bartley’s 3-pointer from the corner, his fifth of the first half, gave Army a 36-29 lead and the Soldiers led 40-31 at halftime.

“In the first half, I was missing everything,” Bell said. “Ron just got hot. He had his breakout game. We rode him the entire first half and a lot of the second half, too. He was hitting unbelievable shots.

“I just tried to keep my head in it and when I got an open shot, I was going to try to knock it down, but he controlled the tempo of the game and put us on a huge run to get the lead in the first half.”

Bartley made another 3-pointer to open the second half. His eighth and final 3-pointer gave Army a 58-46 lead with 13:43 remaining.



Sgt. Ron Bartley of Fort Carson, Colo., drives past Senior Airman Ollie Bradley of Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., during All-Army’s 95-93 overtime victory over All-Air Force in the Armed Forces Men’s Basketball Championship Tournament March 26 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. Bartley had 40 points on 12-of-23 shooting, including 8-of-16 on 3-pointers to lead the Soldiers to their most impressive victory of the tourney. He was named to the All-Armed Forces Team that will represent the United States in the 2008 Conseil International du Sport Militaire World Championship Tournament April 14-22 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

“When I got tired, Matt picked it up, and that was it,” said Bartley, 31, of Fort Carson, Colo.

From there, Bell made three 3-pointers and three free throws as Army tried to thwart Air Force’s final run. But the Airmen would not go away and the Soldiers missed 10 free throws in the final 2 minutes.

After Staff Sgt. Bernard James of Beale Air Force Base, Calif., made a layup that knotted the score at 87 with 10 seconds left, Bell missed a 3-point attempt as the horn sounded ending regulation.

Thomas scored three points in overtime and 2nd Lt. Marshall Jackson of Fort Benning, Ga., made a free throw with 17 seconds left that sealed the victory.

“Yeah, we almost lost it there at the end of regulation, but that says a lot about our team,” Bell said. “We missed a ton of free throws and they tied the game up and forced it into overtime. We could have just folded, especially against Air Force, who had a better record. But our guys picked it up in overtime and we were able to pull it out.”

Bell, Bartley and 2nd Lt. Robert Moore of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, were named to the 2008 All-Armed Forces Team that will compete in the 2008 Conseil International du Sport Militaire World Championship Tournament April 14-22 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Moore, who did not play in Army’s overtime victory over Air Force, averaged 12.6 points and 6.4 rebounds during the Armed Forces tournament.

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Visit the CJTF-101 Web site at
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Freedom Watch is a weekly publication of
Combined Joint Task Force-101 and
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Freedom Watch, a Department of Defense
publication, is published each Monday by
the American Forces Network – Afghani-
stan Print Section, Bldg. 415, Room 205 at
Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Printed circula-
tion is 5,000 copies per week.

In accordance with DoD Instruction
5120.4, this DoD newspaper is an authorized
publication for members of the U.S. military
overseas.

Contents of the *Freedom Watch* are not
necessarily the official view of, or endorsed
by, the U.S. government or the Department
of Defense.

Deadline for submissions is noon local
each Friday. All submissions are subject to
editing by the AFN-A Print Section. We can
be reached at DSN 318-431-3338.

COVER: Mosquitoes and sand flies
can cause serious health hazards imp-
eding mission readiness status of
troops. Preventive Medicine troops
work every day to monitor populations
of these insects. (U.S. Army photo by
Spc. Charles Bateman)

BACK COVER: Soldiers from the
324th Physiological Operations Compa-
ny, 14th Physiological Operations Bat-
talion, Joint Physiological Task Force
hand out flags and stickers to the peo-
ple of Naray, Konar Province, Afghani-
stan on Feb. 11. The handouts are given
in hopes of fostering stronger relations
between the Afghanistan people and Co-
alition Forces. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc.
Derek Niccolson)

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Aid in the air: Afghan medics learn to treat patients during MEDEVAC flights

Story and photos by
Spc. George Welcome
101st CAB Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan-- Helping to train and prepare the Afghan national Army to one day protect their nation on their own is a big part of the mission for Coalition forces, equally as important as finding and destroying insurgents.

Soldiers of Task Force Eagle Assault are doing their part to ensure that the Afghan service will have well trained medical personnel to tend their wounded during missions and medical evacuations. A three week medical training program was instituted to teach Afghan medics how to treat wounded during a medical evacuation flight.

“This program started with Task Force Corsair (82nd Airborne Division) and Capt. Gary Means who was their flight surgeon,” said Capt. Brock Benedict, flight surgeon for TF Eagle Assault. “Through an agreement with the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and TF Corsair, they got a program up and running where essentially the Afghan National Army Air Corps will train medics during ground phase training in Kabul. Cmdr. Joey Swartz (ANA commander) hand selects the medic who is at the top of his class to come down here to be integrated into our medevac platforms.”

Although the program does not provide the Afghan medics with official certification, the experience they gain by performing medical tasks with a flight company, prepares them for what they might face as flight medics.

“CSTCA’s whole goal was to focus on Afghans helping Afghans, to help this country run on its own,” Benedict said. “They are training the Afghan people to do lots of different things, whether it’s the police force, the military force or this piece, being the medical force. So, when they come here, the whole goal of the operation is to help them stand up their own medevac system.”

The three week program is not designed to teach the medics basic medical



Afghan medic Hyattullah checks to see that an oxygen tank is working properly as part of a pre-flight inspection of all medical equipment.

skills, but to teach them what happens in route during a medical evacuation flight.

“I think this training program is really where the rubber meets the road,” said Capt. Mark Jones, detachment commander, Company C, 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade. “We actually have Afghan flight medics here training with us so they can take their skills back to their own units. Basically every time we get a mission they fly with us, and when we get a mission that involves ANA or ANP, they actually get to treat the casualty.”

For many of the Afghan medics, the training in Kandahar is their first time in a helicopter. A portion of the training is dedicated to getting them used to loading patients on board and treating them in flight conditions.

“I would say that, so far, there is not

much nervousness in getting them adjusted to the helicopter,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew Doolen, flight medic and program trainer. “There is a little bit of the deer in the headlight look in getting them used to the aircraft, as with any flight medic at first, but they calm down and they get right to business treating the patients.”

The first Afghan medic to complete the three week training course since TF Eagle Assault took control of the program was a soldier named Hyattullah. The task force is currently training their third medic.

“This is the kind of program that we are glad to participate in,” said Jones. “I really feel like this is the reason we are here. Yes, we are here to do our jobs and save lives, but we are also here to train the ANA and get them prepared to do these things themselves so at some point we can go home.”

Afghanistan graduates first police trauma assistance personnel

Story and photos by Marine Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino
CSTC-A Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan-- The first 24 graduates of the U.S. Navy hospital corpsmen taught Trauma Assistance Personnel course at the Afghan National Police Central Training Center here earned their diplomas April 3.

Three Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan Navy corpsmen from the ANP Medical Embedded Training Team in Kabul taught the eight-week course at the Kabul CTC. The course provides the ANP with its first personnel certified in basic first aid and medical care skills. According to course instructors, the training is essential for the ANP.

“Just being able to put on a proper (wound) dressing is going to increase the probability of (saving policemen’s lives) tenfold,” said course instructor Petty Officer 1st Class Ed W. Scheinert, an Oxnard, Calif., native deployed to Afghanistan from Naval Station North Island, Calif.

The METT sailors said they modeled the course after the



Students with the Afghan National Police Trauma Assistance Personnel course treat a fellow policeman’s simulated wounds during the inaugural course at the ANP Central Training Center in Kabul, Afghanistan.



Lt. Cmdr. Andrew M. Carter, a nurse with the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan Command Surgeon’s Office, instructs students with the Afghan National Police Trauma Assistance Personnel course in proper intravenous injection procedures during the inaugural course at the ANP Central Training Center in Kabul, Afghanistan.

combat medic course taught to Afghan National Army soldiers, because ANP are just as likely as ANA soldiers to have contact with enemy fighters.

TAP Class 001 students learned to apply bandages and tourniquets and to correctly give intravenous injections, said Scheinert. They each successfully gave another student an IV injection.

Students said they benefited from the lectures and practical application.

Ahmad Fawad, one of two policemen to share the honor graduate title, said he leaves with confidence that he will be able to help his fellow police in medical emergencies.

Chief Petty Officer Manuel A. Rodriguez, a course instructor originally from Carolina, Puerto Rico, and deployed to Afghanistan from the Sewells Point Branch Medical Clinic, Norfolk, Va., said he plans to recommend six graduates to become future course instructors.

The TAP students graduated at a shared ceremony with ANP in other courses at the CTC then held a follow-up ceremony in their classroom. Each TAP graduate received a certificate, a TAP patch to wear on his uniform and a medical kit.

“That badge that you’re wearing not only makes you a better (policeman), but (shows) you have the skills to help your fellow police,” said Senior Chief Petty Officer Martin V. Aquino, senior enlisted advisor with the CSTC-A Command Surgeon’s office.

Scheinert said future classes will include ANP, Afghan National Civil Order Police and Afghan Border Police. TAP Class 002 is scheduled to begin April 12.

Oldest United States Air Force-Europe A-10 still performing close air support

By Air Force Capt. Toni Tones

455 Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

For 17 consecutive years the Air Force has been conducting combat operations, flying its aircraft about five times the peacetime rate while forgoing any significant recapitalization.

This includes an A-10A Warthog, deployed here from the 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, which holds the honor of being the most enduring aircraft in the United States Air Forces in Europe's fleet.

Despite being more than 25 years old, Aircraft V281 continues to perform its close air combat support mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, keeping U.S. and coalition forces safe.

"The aircraft is holding up very well...it's built to take a beating," said Senior Airman Ryan Conversi, 81st Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit dedicated crew chief. "Age is an issue, but we learn something new all the time about how to keep them flying...matter of fact the aircraft's phase hours went from 400 to 500 hours...that's quite a bit of flying."

Aircraft V281 rolled off the production line in July 1982 and was sent directly to RAF Bentwaters, England. The aircraft was assigned to Europe since day one and is the flagship for the 81st Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem.

"The A-10 is very maintenance friendly," added Airman Conversi, describing the aircraft's design. "Its easy access cuts time for maintenance and functional checks and con-

tributes to our high mission capability rate."

The squadron is currently undergoing the Precision Engagement upgrade to enhance the avionics and precision weapon delivery capability of the A-10. Squadron leadership expects delivery of the first precision-model aircraft in Germany during May-June 2008 timeframe. Project completion will take approximately two years.

"The A-10 was specifically designed for close air support for ground forces and is a force multiplier in combat operations," said Lt. Col Timothy Hogan, 81st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander. "In terms of technological advancement, the advantages the pilots will gain from this weapons upgrade will mean leaps and bounds.

"There will be no physical differences except for the digital control panel and a combined stick and throttle. But what's important to note is the upgraded aircraft will have JDAM compatibility."

The Joint Direct Attack Munition is a guidance tail kit that converts existing unguided free-fall bombs into accurate, adverse weather "smart" munitions. JDAM enables multiple weapons to be directed against single or multiple targets on a single pass.

While the upgrades will prolong the Warthog's life, keeping the aging aircraft flying rests on the backs of the young Airmen who maintain them.

"In my five years of service, this is the only aircraft that I've worked on," said Airman Conversi. "And I'd like to keep it that way."



Airman 1st Class Sean Story, 81st Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, inspects the rudder of the oldest A-10 in United States Air Force-Europe at Bagram Air Field April 9. Story is deployed from the 81st Aircraft Maintenance Unit, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester)

Over one million gallons and counting

By Tech. Sgt. James Law
455th AEW Public Affairs

The previous record here for transferring one million gallons of fuel from a fuel truck to an aircraft was 73 days. But an Airman deployed to Bagram Air Field from the 3rd Logistics Readiness Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, recently raised the bar and reached this milestone in a record-setting 64 days.

“It is incredible,” said Senior Airman Rickey Easter, 455th Expeditionary LRS fuels distribution operator. “When I first got here, I wanted to make some sort of mark, at least for myself.”

To put this accomplishment into perspective, Easter explained it took almost a year for him to deliver one million gallons of fuel at Elmendorf.

“Every flight chief, every supervisor wants 30 Airmen like Rickey working for them,” said Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hudson, 455th ELRS Resource Control Center noncommissioned officer-in-charge. “He set a goal as soon as he got here to pump one million gallons, and he met it, just quicker than he expected.”

Airman humbly expressed his appreciation for his coworkers who helped him reach his goal.

“This could have easily been any one of my peers,” said Airman Easter. “I think it’s more a flight award, milestone.”

Easter explained that everyone worked hard and no one purposely stepped aside or gave up deliveries to allow him to reach his goal, but they were instrumental by being very supportive and keeping him motivated.

Although this is Easter’s first deployment, this is not the first time his performance has received the attention of his supervisors and leadership.

Prior to deploying, Easter was promoted to senior airman six

months early. Since being deployed, he has earned the Pumper of the Month three consecutive months. This award is given to the Airman who pumps the most fuel throughout a month.

Additionally, he was recognized as a Weekly Star Performer within his squadron, and presented a commander’s coin by Brig. Gen. Mike Holmes,

455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander. Easter was also selected to meet Vice President Dick Cheney during his recent visit here.

Whether he’s setting a new milestone or providing fuel to wing and transiting aircraft, this Airman continues to provide expeditionary combat support for Operation Enduring Freedom.



Senior Airman Rickey Easter, 455th Expeditionary Logistic Readiness Squadron, pulls the hose from a fuel truck while preparing to refuel a jet on the flightline here April 2. Airman Easter, who is deployed from the 3rd Logistic Readiness Squadron, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, shattered the previous record for transferring one million gallons of fuel from a truck to an aircraft by nine days. The previous record was 73 days, but Airman Easter did it in 64 days. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester)

Fight Malaria - Take

What is malaria?

Malaria is an illness caused by a parasite carried by *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Malaria can be fatal if not promptly treated. Some types of malaria can remain dormant in your liver and then cause you to become ill months or even years later. You can use permethrin treated uniforms and bed nets, skin repellent (DEET), and anti-malarial medications to prevent malaria.

What are the symptoms of malaria?

Symptoms can vary, but generally include:

- ▶ fever
- ▶ shivering chills
- ▶ sweats
- ▶ headache
- ▶ muscle aches
- ▶ exhaustion

Symptoms may continue for weeks or months, with recurring episodes of fever and chills. Seek care immediately if you experience any of these symptoms and have been in an area where malaria is present.

Maximize your protection

Permethrin on Uniform + DEET on Exposed Skin + Properly Worn Uniform + Permethrin Treated Bed Net + Anti-malarial Medication = Maximum Protection

Dosing schedules and medications may differ from this poster. Contact your healthcare provider for more information.

<http://usachppm.apgea.army.mil>

CP-066-0507
Photo Courtesy: CDC Public Health Image Library



FACT: Permethrin and DEET are safe and effective.

Take Your Medication

Why do the anti-malarial medications affect me?



Parasites from infected mosquito

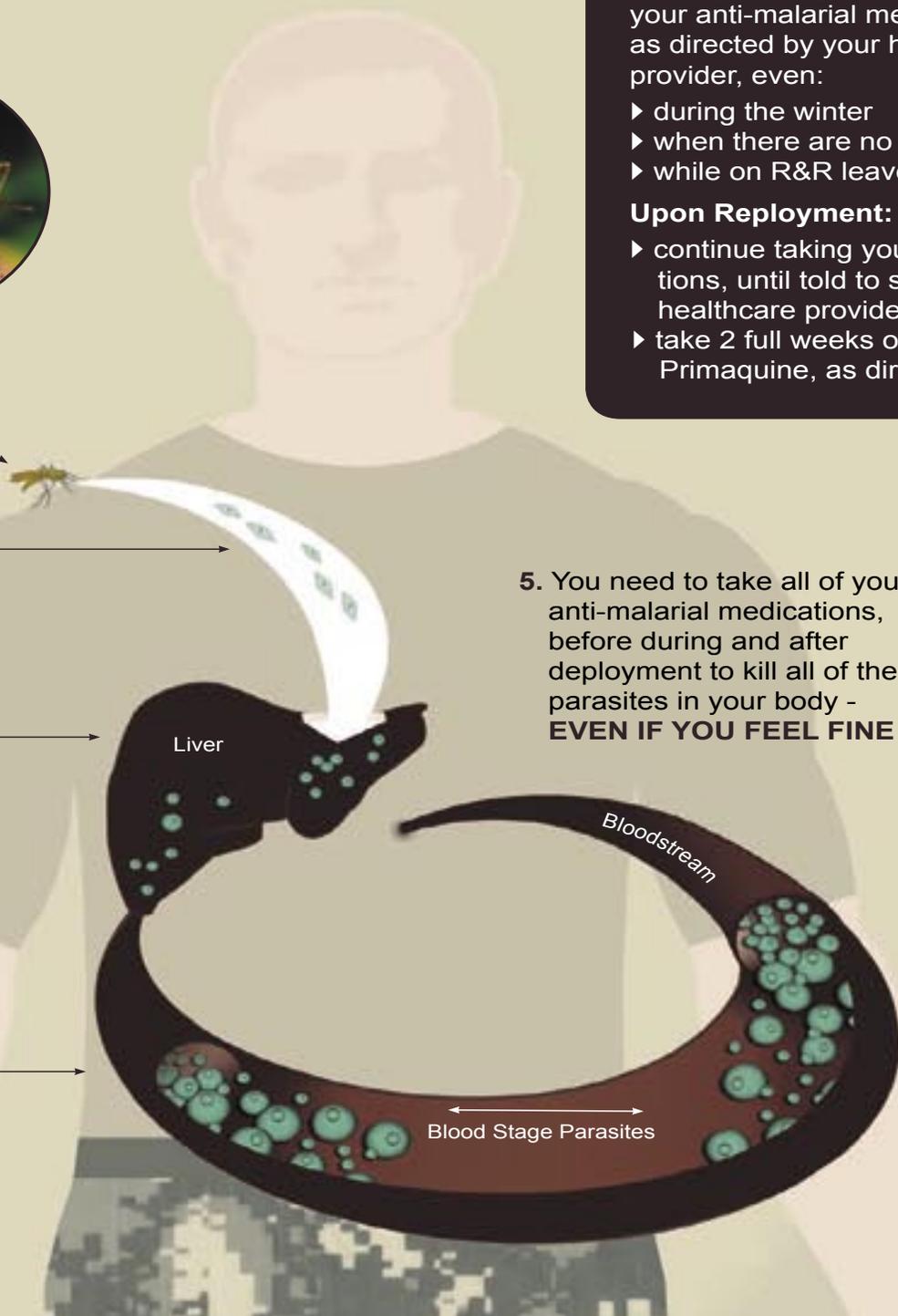
Malaria parasites travel to your liver

You will not feel sick when the malaria parasites are in your liver,

BUT unless you kill these parasites by finishing all your primaquine after you return home you will still be infected and you may get sick months or years later

When the malaria parasites leave your liver and enter the bloodstream you may feel ill, Doxycycline and Mefloquine will kill parasites in your bloodstream,

BUT if you don't take primaquine you will likely get sick



During Deployment, take your anti-malarial medications as directed by your healthcare provider, even:

- ▶ during the winter
- ▶ when there are no mosquitoes
- ▶ while on R&R leave

Upon Reemployment:

- ▶ continue taking your medications, until told to stop by your healthcare provider
- ▶ take 2 full weeks of Primaquine, as directed

5. You need to take all of your anti-malarial medications, before during and after deployment to kill all of the parasites in your body - **EVEN IF YOU FEEL FINE**

FACT: You can safely consume alcohol (in moderation) while taking antimalarial medications, including Primaquine.

Airmen demonstrate capabilities in major accident response exercise

By Tech. Sgt. James Law
455th AEW Public Affairs

On March 11, Airmen and civilians from multiple base agencies participated in Bagram's first major accident response exercise.

"The purpose of this exercise was to demonstrate we have the equipment, training and capability to rapidly respond to an aircraft crash, minimizing runway closures in the middle of a warzone," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Hall, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Crash Team chief and exercise coordinator.

The exercise began with a command post base-wide notification of an in-flight emergency for an A-10A Warthog. The emergency was all three landing gears on the aircraft were inoperable and would not lower.

Fire trucks and other emergency vehicles expediently made their way to the Gulf Hammerhead, a large parking area at one end of the flightline, where an A-10 was parked. This was the pre-coordinated location the Warthog had simulated skid to a rest, dislodging all its munitions during the landing and trapping the pilot inside.

Once on scene, the firefighters jumped into action positioning their vehicles and pulling out ladders, hoses and other equipment needed in the event of a real accident. They used this equipment to simulate extinguishing a fire, removing the pilot and making the area safe for the crash

team to perform their mission.

The crash team went to work attaching lifting brackets to the aircraft, dragging out ropes and positioning a 50-ton crane to raise a lifting harness out of the back of the crash team's response truck. The team used the ropes to guide the large cables on the harness as it was lowered into position to fasten to the lifting brackets. With the harness connected, the exercise was complete.

"It was amazing how everybody came together to set this up and demonstrate how our procedures work," said Air Force Lt. Col. Ray Shankles, 455th EMXS commander.

"Maintaining and honing the skills necessary to rapidly and successfully recover crashed or damaged aircraft while minimizing additional damage is vital to our ability to restore airfield operations in minimal time while conserving valuable combat resources," said Air Force Col. Jon Sutterfield, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group commander. "Exercises such as this MARE are critical to ensuring our readiness to successfully execute operations at any given moment, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Sutterfield stated the MARE is the product of almost four months of intensive planning, training and cross-agency coordination.

The A-10 MARE is the first of two exercises scheduled to occur. The second exercise will involve Bagram's other deployed fighter, the F-15E Strike Eagle.



455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Crash Team Airmen attach a lifting harness to an A-10 Warthog. The Airmen were participating in the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing's first major accident response exercise here. The A-10 MARE is the first of two scheduled exercises to occur at Bagram Airfield. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester)

Heroes from the home front

By Air Force Capt. Toni Tones
455th AEW Public Affairs

From home-baked goods to dog tags to microwavable entrees, the Airmen of the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron AMMO Flight have received care packages from all over the world from loved ones, or Heroes from the Home Front.

The flight is primarily comprised of Airmen deployed from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., and Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

“We’ve been bombarded with goodies from our loved ones, and you can bet they will not go to waste,” said Senior Master Sgt. Keith Bollinger, 455 EMXS/AMMO chief of munitions. “There’s rarely a day that we don’t have some type of package come in from ‘our’ heroes at home. We even had a very popular coffee vendor from Greensboro (N.C.) donate more than 20 bags of coffee to the troops here.”

Air Force Staff Sgt. Randy Wilhide’s hero is his mother, Deborah Wilhide. Mrs. Wilhide, a cashier at Central York Middle School in York, Pa., sent six boxes of goodies which included microwavable entrees, lip-balm, tuna, and potato chips collected by the school. But the hit of the care package were the chocolate-covered pretzels.

“These aren’t just any chocolate-covered pretzels; these are made by a local candy store in my hometown,” said Wilhide, a munitions plans and

programs manager deployed from 4th Equipment Maintenance Squadron at Seymour Johnson AFB. “Everyone loved them! There were probably four or five dozen and they only lasted from 9 to 11 a.m. So we requested some more and got three more boxes. Thanks mom, you’re the greatest.”

Senior Airman Jessica Calhoun, a munitions controller crew chief deployed from the 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron at Spangdahlem AB, has received a box of cookies each month of the unit’s deployment from her grandmother, Flora Glenn of Chesterfield, Ill.

“She typically sends a variety of cookies from chocolate chip, oatmeal, peanut butter kisses, snicker doodles and fudge,” said Calhoun. “They only last about 30 minutes, so the night shift doesn’t get any. There may be another box coming soon and they may have a chance to eat some, but I doubt it.”

Susi Kuhn, wife of Air Force Master Sgt. Dennis Kuhn, a munitions nightshift production chief also deployed from Spangdahlem AB, has sent 86 boxes of homemade baked pastries, German candies and chocolates packed in individual boxes.

“She does this because she wants to support me and the troops who are here away from their families,” said Kuhn. “Some of her local German friends and my mom helped her bake the goodies so Airmen and Soldiers could enjoy them.”

“She overwhelms us with stuff every two weeks,” added Calhoun.

The first time Air Force Master Sgt. Gary Roush’s wife, Michelle, sent a small batch of homemade chocolate chip cookies, our young Airmen asked for more, said Bollinger. Each time she sends a batch, it gets bigger and bigger; she even sent the night shift their own.

“Nothing is more heart warming than a family member taking the time to bake cookies for people she doesn’t even know,” said Bollinger. “She’s doing this to bring a bit of home to the front line...pretty awesome.”

Food wasn’t all the Airmen received, although it was the bulk of it.

Ginger Huff, wife of Air Force Master Sgt. Kevin Huff, a munitions dayshift production chief deployed from Seymour Johnson AFB, had 258 dog tags made--half for Air Force and half for Army--that read ‘My Mom / Dad served in Afghanistan 2008.’

“This was a huge hit in the among both branches of service,” said Huff. “It was something for the kids whose parents had to leave them for up to 15 months (for our fellow Army AMMO troops). My daughter, Baylee, has one and never takes it off.”

Whether it was sending some home-baked cookies or providing the children left behind a token that their parents are thinking of them, these Airmen are thankful for their Heroes from the Home Front.



Eagle Cash comes to remote troops in Afghanistan

By Sgt. 1st Class N. Maxfield

The Joint Logistics Command is working closely with U.S. Army Finance Command to bring EagleCash kiosks to remote forward operating bases throughout Regional Command-East.

The 28th Financial Management Company, the 502nd Human Resources Company and the 101st Financial Management Support Operations Office crafted an agreement that allows postal clerks at outlying FOBs such as Orgun-E, Ghazni and Herat to maintain the machines and manage the transactions at Eagle Cash kiosks.

According to Army Maj. Noah Cloud, the Financial Management Support Operations officer with the Joint Logistics Command, one of the most immediate benefits of having Eagle Cash cards at FOBs is servicemembers will be able to use Eagle Cash for mailing packages.

“There are not enough finance Soldiers in Afghanistan to have finance offices at each and every FOB,” Cloud explained. “Finance Soldiers are limited to visiting some of the most remote FOBs once a month. Giving Soldiers access to Eagle-Cash 24/7 allows them to access their funds without finance support.”

Financial security, as well as convenience, is one of the reasons EagleCash was created by the Department of Defense. The EagleCash program allows cardholders to use an Eagle Cash kiosk to load funds from their personal checking accounts onto their Eagle Cash card and use it like a debit card.

Unlike using a debit card linked to a checking account, personal account information and other sensitive information is not revealed to vendors. Additionally, there are no ATM fees associated with the kiosks.

According to Juan A. De Jesus, E-Commerce director and EagleCash program manager with the U.S. Army Finance Command, the Army partnered with the U.S. Treasury to create the EagleCash program for several reasons. The Army wanted to increase financial flexibility for Service members, reduce transportation costs for managing U.S. currency overseas and reduce counterfeiting of U.S. currency. In addition, it’s mission is to reduce the amount of U.S. currency outside of U.S. Treasury control, improve and simplify internal controls at Army Finance offices, and speed up how quickly the U.S. Postal System and the Army and Air Force Exchange



Spc. Brent Lord, 28th Financial Management Company information management officer, teaches Army Pfc. Brandon Donnelly and Spc. Rashede Marson, 502nd Human Resources Company postal clerks, how to operate and maintain an EagleCash kiosk at an outlying forward operating base in Afghanistan.

Service receive funds from financial transactions.

EagleCash cards benefit Soldiers whether or not they have a large number of point of sale machines on their home FOBs, Cloud said.

“As some of these FOBs grow and gain stores and shops, then point of sale devices can be installed and Eagle Cash can be used at these locations,” Cloud explained. “Soldiers often rotate to larger FOBs where EagleCash is used.

“If a Soldier is rotating into a larger FOB for only a few hours, why spend time in line to cash a check when you can go straight to the Post Exchange, upload funds onto an Eagle Cash card and then use it to purchase items that are needed,” said Cloud. “It just makes too much sense for them not to get EagleCash cards.”

A major challenge to the machine fielding effort was the fact that Eagle Cash machines automatically download their transactions to the Federal Bank of Boston via Defense Switching Network phone lines at least once a day, Cloud said.

“The biggest obstacle has been establishing (Defense Switched Network) lines in the post offices,” Cloud explained. “Without these established (phone) lines, the postal Soldiers have to manually upload files and send them via the Internet. This is an extra step these postal Soldiers are willing to do to serve the servicemembers at their FOBs.”

The EagleCash program is well established and Eagle Cash card holders can use their cards in other theaters of operation and while travelling in and out of Afghanistan; such as while travelling home for mid-tour leave, De Jesus said.

According to De Jesus, EagleCash is accepted at locations in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Egypt, Germany, Honduras, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

For information about the Eagle Cash program, visit the Eagle Cash Web site at <http://www.fms.treas.gov/eaglecash>.



Army cooks provide a taste of home during deployments

Story and photo by
Army Capt. Kenya V. Saenz
Task Force Pacemaker Public Affairs

Army cooks from Task Force Pacemaker are providing their own unique touch and a taste of home with each hot meal they serve to Soldiers throughout Regional Command-East, Afghanistan.

The Task Force Pacemaker Headquarters Support Company cooks, deployed from Fort Lewis, Wash., work throughout RC-East, often in remote areas for extended durations. Not only providing meals to forward operating bases where there is no other support, they serve Soldiers homemade-style meals here.

“Our cooks use the Army-standard recipes as a guide, but as soon as a new cook learns those standards, we show them how to customize the recipe, and this is what makes it a traditional homemade taste,” said Army Staff Sgt. Melanie Scott, lead cook at FOB Sharana’s Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration dining facility. “Our weekly BBQ’s are the most loved meals by the Soldiers.”

Scott, a Grosse Ile, Mich. native, has a staff of eight military cooks and 16 Afghans, who work

on midnight and day shifts.

“Transportation has been a challenge, getting supplies to these remote locations,” said Scott.

“KBR and other contractors do not support these locations for security reasons.

“Army cooks are more than capable and prepared for these kinds

previous experience as a chef.

“I love feeding Soldiers,” said Maximova, a Cleveland, Ohio native. “The biggest challenge is the lack of products available in the theater of operations. We have to improvise with food, for example we have to use one type of stew beef and use it for six different

varieties. I love being an Army cook.”

Army Maj. James DeLapp, a Barrington, Ill., native and TF Pacemaker executive officer said, “the dining facilities run by our Army cooks rival that of the contracted dining facilities.”

“The cooks take more time in preparing the food and adding their personal touches,” said DeLapp. “Soldiers and civilians walk across

the FOB to enjoy their meals and wait in line when they would not have to at other contracted dining facilities.”

The Pacemaker cooks established dining facilities at new FOBs throughout Afghanistan such as FOB Logar, Combat Outpost Herrera, FOB Kushmond and Khyr Kot Castle.

These Army cooks continue to provide more than just the essential food rations needed for survival, they also provide a taste of home during deployment.



Army Pvt. Christopher Henderson, Task Force Pacemaker, deployed from Fort Lewis, Wash., prepares hot-wings lunch at the Reception, Staging, Onward Movements and Integration Dining Facility at Forward Operating Base Sharana March 4.

of missions,” Scott said. “During the winter and in the rainy season, it is especially hard for supplies to get to these areas.”

Pvt. Christopher Henderson, a Beech Grove, Ind. native, studied the culinary arts before joining the Army.

“I like to know that someone enjoys the food I prepare,” said Henderson, a cook of two years. “Those compliments make my day.”

Spc. Michele Maximova, a 70th Engineers cook attached to Task Force Pacemaker, has 13 years of

Photos From the Field



Humvees kick up dust traveling through a mine field near Gadaykhel, Kohe Safi District, Parwan Province, Afghanistan, March 12. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman James Bolinger)



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Army Gen. Dan McNeill, International Security Assistance Force commander, Zabul Governor Delbar Jan Arman, and Canadian Maj. Gen. Marc Lessard, Regional Command-South commander, discuss security, education and narcotics concerns March 31 during a meeting in Zabul province. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Jean Duggan)



Firefighters participate in major accident response exercise at Bagram Airfield, March 11. The MARE was the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing's first of two exercises to take place. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester)



April 14, 2008

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