

Bagram News Express



START RIGHT, FINISH STRONG

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Flying a lifeline with the silent heroes of Aeromedical Evacuation



U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, transport wounded Afghan National Army soldiers and U.S. Military personnel during a medical evacuation in a C-130 over Afghanistan, March 26, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Tech. Sgt. Jeremy K. Cross)

By: Staff Sgt. Richard Williams
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Effective medical care in a combat zone can be a challenge. Remote locations and unsafe driving conditions can become almost

overwhelming difficulties when trying to get patients from a field hospital at one of the forward operating locations in Afghanistan to the medical care they need.

The 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight takes the challenges of Afghanistan and ensures those who need

the care get where they need to go.

“Aeromedical evacuation is the movement of patients injured and sick, combat and noncombat related from the area of responsibility to a higher echelon of care.”

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MEDEVAC, Cont.



said Maj. Richard Foote, 455th EAEF, flight nurse. “Whether it is from Camp Bastion to Kandahar Airfield or from Bagram to Landstuhl Regional Medical Facility, Germany we try to get our most serious patients from here to home in 72 hours.”

Maj. John Jordan, 455th EAEF, medical crew director added, “When we say patients, they are not just U.S. service-members; we provide care for coalition military and local and foreign nationals as well.”

Major Foote, deployed from the 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., said, it doesn’t matter if friend of foe are loaded onto their aircraft, when the AE team receives

them, they become patients and top level care is provided to all.

Major Jordan, also deployed from the 908th EAS, took time to explain the evacuation process, which has many moving parts on the ground to ensure maximum efficiency when aircrews take off. A flight surgeon validates a patient in an automated system, which means the patient needs to move from point A to point B. Once the patient is approved for travel, the AE operations team receives notification of the movement.

Major Jordan, Auburn, Ala., native added, “The AEOT builds a package with all of the information on our mission. This package assists us in creating the mission plan of equipment and teams needed for a successful flight.” Which he added can change at a moment’s notice.

Once the medical crew director gets the call from the AEOT, he contacts the on-call crew who has one hour to report for pre flight

preparations, which could include a standard AE crew, a critical care team or even a plus up in crew based upon patient numbers, said Tech. Sgt. Kim Price, 455th EAEF, flight medical technician.

“We show up, preflight our equipment, get our intelligence and crew briefings, load our truck, and head to the aircraft to prepare it for the mission,” she added.

With equipment loaded and mission objectives set, the AE crew departs the airfield on a C-130 aircraft heading to forward operating locations to bring patients from a lower level of care to a higher level of care, explained Major Foote.

The standard AE crew is a five person team however, this can change from mission to mission depending upon the number of patients to be received and their needs, explained Major Jordan. He also said the mission can change and often does in flight and the

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U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kim Price, 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, checks the condition of a wounded Afghan National Army soldier during an aeromedical evacuation flight from Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, March 26, 2010. Sergeant Price is deployed from Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and is a native of Pittsburgh, Pa. (U.S. Air Force photos by/ Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

MEDEVAC, Cont.

medical crew director (MCD) and the flight nurse must constantly evaluate the situation and sometimes adjust patient loads and crew requirements based on the medical needs of the patients.

After the crews land and begin the patient transfer process, the medical technicians ensure the proper equipment is coordinated for patients and everything is working properly, explained Sergeant Price. "Typically there are three technicians on the aircraft to assist the flight nurse and the MCD with patient care."

There are challenges with completing the AE in the joint service/coalition medical environment explained Major Jordan. "When we are dealing with coalition forces

some of the medical equipment and procedures are not standardized and that can cause some difficulties at times but we haven't had any issues so far."

"Sometimes there can also be a language barrier to overcome," added Sergeant Price. She pointed out although this can sometimes make care difficult, the bottom line is the AE crews are equal opportunity care givers so everyone gets the same top class care.

The importance of their mission cannot be stressed enough, added Major Jordan, who pointed out the team he worked with were all members of the Air Force Reserves and only Major Foote is an actual AE nurse in his civilian job.

"We all deployed because we want to help people," added Sergeant Price, who works at a mental health clinic when she is not per-

forming AE missions for the Air Force. "We chose our job because we love what we do. I just re-enlisted here because I want to continue what I am doing."

"Most people think we are the typical one weekend a month and two week a year Airman," added Major Jordan, who is an Air Reserve technician when not deployed.

"As an AE team we are required to fly three to four times a month and on the average, with training requirements we spend about 14 days a year not performing this mission in some form," he said.

Major Foote summed the Aeromedical evacuation mission up when he said, "We take people home who have been injured serving their country and get them home to their family."



U.S. Air Force Maj. Richard Foote (left) and Tech. Sgt. Chris Hines, 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, give medication to a wounded U.S. servicemember in a C-130 over Afghanistan, March 26, 2010. Major Foote is deployed from Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and is from Mobile, Ala. Sergeant Hines is deployed from Maxwell AFB, Ala., and is from McClellan, Fla. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

WATER FLIES DURING 455TH EMDG/TF MED-E COMBAT DINING-IN

Story and Photos by: Staff Sgt. Richard Williams 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Donovan Tauriello, 455th Expeditionary Medical Group/Task Force Medical East, first sergeant, toasts the mess after completing his run through the obstacle course and trip to the grog bowl during the 455th EMDG/TF MED-E first ever combat dining-in here, March 31, 2010. Sergeant Tauriello is deployed from MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., and is a native of Columbus, Ga.

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—More than 200 Airmen and Soldiers participated in an Air Force tradition during the first ever 455th Expeditionary Medical Group/Task Force Medical East Combat dining-in here, March 31, 2010.

The combat dining-in was designed to bring a sense of camaraderie and give members something to do outside of work, said Maj. Timothy McDowell, 455th EMDG/TF MED-E, chief of pharmacy op-

erations and one of the event organizers. “We just wanted to give people a stress reliever and be able to relax and have a good time.”

The event is pretty simple, Major McDowell, deployed from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., explained, it started with the “gathering of the mess,” when everyone came in and took a seat. Next the official party came in, the colors were posted, and “rules of the mess” were explained. Violators of the official rules of the mess would then be

sent to the grog, a nonalcoholic liquid concoction with items that correlate to the theme of the event. Grog ingredients included everything from ice cream to apple juice.

Col. Joseph Chozinski, 455th EMDG/TF MED-E, commander, and president of the mess opened the dining-in with the traditional toasts and once the rules were explained, no one was safe from a

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trip to the grog including the president himself.

“I have attended three or four dinings-in in my career and this is by far the best,” said Colonel Chozinski, deployed from Luke AFB, Ariz. “It has been one of the wildest and craziest, but it has been the most fun.”

Colonel Chozinski added that in a job where all of the horrors of war are realized daily, his team needs events like these to come together as a group, socialize and just enjoy each other’s company outside the stresses of the work environment.

The event organizers added a combat theme to the tradition: Anyone who was called out by a point of order as violators of the rules of the mess had to complete an obstacle course to get to the grog bowl and drink from the bowl to pay for their violations. As the rule breakers navigated the obstacle course, a water balloon and water gun barrage met them to impede their progress.

“It is a lot of fun,” said Airman 1st Class Jamie O’Donnell, 455th EMDG/TF MED-E, optometry tech-

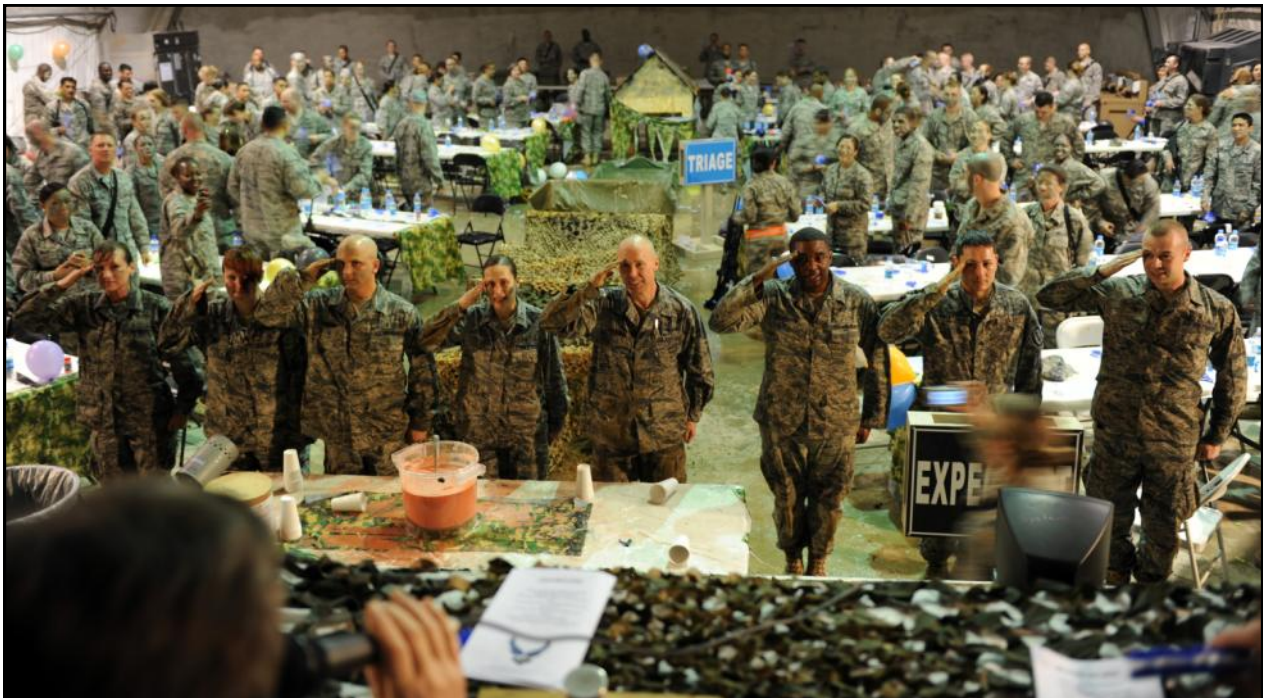


Maj. Timothy McDowell, 455th Expeditionary Medical Group/Task Force Medical East, chief of pharmacy operations, receives his camouflage war paint from Senior Airman Danielle Acosta, 455th EMDG/TF MED-E, contingency aeromedical staging facility technician. More than 200 servicemembers were in attendance. Major McDowell is deployed from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb, and a native of Omaha, Neb. Airman Acosta is deployed from Travis AFB, Calif., and is a native of Tracy, Calif.

nician. “It is definitely what I was expecting.”

Airman O’Donnell, deployed from Langley AFB, Va., was pleased to see her chain of command take such an active role in the festivi-

ties. “It was nice to see the colonel and the chiefs get out there and see everyone’s participation and for us to all to be able to come together and have a good time in this deployed location.”



Col. Joseph Chozinski (center), 455th Expeditionary Medical Group/Task Force Medical East, commander, leads a salute to the head table after his team completed the obstacle course during the first ever 455th EMDG/TF MED-E combat dining-in. Colonel Chozinski is deployed from Luke AFB, Ariz.

**The White House
Office of the Press Secretary**

For Immediate Release

April 01, 2010

Presidential Proclamation - National Sexual Assault Awareness Month
A PROCLAMATION

Every day, women, men, and children across America suffer the pain and trauma of sexual assault. From verbal harassment and intimidation to molestation and rape, this crime occurs far too frequently, goes unreported far too often, and leaves long-lasting physical and emotional scars. During National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves not only to lifting the veil of secrecy and shame surrounding sexual violence, but also to raising awareness, expanding support for victims, and strengthening our response.

Sexual violence is an affront to our national conscience, one which we cannot ignore. It disproportionately affects women -- an estimated one in six American women will experience an attempted or completed rape at some point in her life. Too many men and boys are also affected.

These facts are deeply troubling, and yet, sexual violence affects Americans of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances. Alarming rates of sexual violence occur among young women attending college, and frequently, alcohol or drugs are used to incapacitate the victim. Among people with disabilities, isolation may lead to repeated assaults and an inability to seek and locate help. Native American women are more than twice as likely to be sexually assaulted compared with the general population. As a Nation, we share the responsibility for protecting each other from sexual assault, supporting victims when it does occur, and bringing perpetrators to justice.

We can lead this charge by confronting and changing insensitive attitudes wherever they persist. Survivors too often suffer in silence because they fear further injury, are unwilling to experience further humiliation, or lack faith in the criminal justice system. This feeling of isolation, often compounded with suicidal feelings, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, only exacerbate victims' sense of hopelessness. No one should face this trauma alone, and as families, friends, and mentors, we can empower victims to seek the assistance they need.

At the Federal, State, local, and tribal level, we must work to provide necessary resources to victims of every circumstance, including medical attention, mental health services, relocation and housing assistance, and advocacy during legal proceedings. Under Vice President Biden's leadership, the 2005 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act included the Sexual Assault Services Program, the first-ever funding stream dedicated solely to providing direct services to victims of sexual assault. To further combat sexual violence, my 2011 Budget doubles funding for this program. Through the Justice Department and the Centers for Disease Control, we are funding prevention and awareness campaigns as well as grants for campus services to address sexual assault on college campuses. The Justice Department has also increased funding and resources to combat violence against Native American women.

As we continue to confront this crime, let us reaffirm this month our dedication to take action in our communities and stop abuse before it starts. Together, we can increase awareness about sexual violence, decrease its frequency, punish offenders, help victims, and heal lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2010 as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to reach out to victims, learn more about this crime, and speak out against it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

History Spotlight: The Second Anglo-Afghan War

By: Tech. Sgt. Scott Gaitley, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Historian

(1878 – 1880)

The disaster of the First Anglo-Afghan War continued to disturb the British for decades, and the 70 years following the defeat of 1842 were a period of amazing indecision in British policy toward Afghanistan. Many British officials believed that the Indus River formed the natural border of India and that Afghanistan should be maintained as a buffer state between the British and Russian empires.

Sher Ali had established control in Kabul in 1868, and found the British ready to provide funds and military arms in support of his regime. From this position, relations between the Afghan ruler and the British steadily deteriorated over the next 10 years. Regardless of the good feeling between Sher Ali and the British in 1869, the perceptions formed from the First Anglo-Afghan War made it impossible for Sher Ali to allow a British envoy in Kabul, and misunderstanding influenced the chain of events that led to the Second Anglo-Afghan War.



**Sher Ali of Afghanistan 1869.
(Courtesy Photo)**



(Center) Mohammad Yaqub Khan with Britain's Sir Pierre Cavagnari on May 26, 1879, when the Treaty of Gandamak was signed. (Courtesy Photo)

Sher Ali rejected a second British demand for a British mission in Kabul, arguing that if he agreed the Russians might demand the same right. The Afghan ruler had received menacing letters from the Russians, but the British offered little in return for the concessions they demanded. Sher Ali, still sensitive to the possible reaction of posting British officers in Kabul or Herat, continued to refuse a British mission.

In the summer of 1878, Russia sent an unwelcome diplomatic mission to Kabul, escalating events that led to the Second Anglo-Afghan War. Sher Ali attempted to keep the Russian mission out, but was unsuccessful. The Russian envoys arrived in Kabul on July 22, 1878, and then on August 14 the British insisted that Sher Ali accept a British mission.

After no reply was received, the British dispatched a small military force that was denied consent to cross the Khyber Pass. The British delivered an ultimatum to Sher Ali, demanding an explanation of his actions. The Afghan response was viewed by the British as unsatisfactory, and on November 21, 1878, British troops entered Afghanistan. Sher Ali, having turned

in desperation to the Russians, received no assistance from them. Appointing his son, Yaqub, as his replacement, Sher Ali returned to Mazare Sharif, where he died in February 1879.

With British forces occupying much of the country, Yaqub signed the Treaty of Gandamak in May 1879, preventing the British invasion of the remainder of Afghanistan. However this agreement entitled British control of Afghan foreign affairs, British representatives in Kabul and other locations, expansion of British control to the Khyber and Michni passes, and the cessation of various frontier areas to the British. In return, Afghanistan would receive annual financial support, and a vague pledge of assistance in case of foreign aggression.

Despite the success of the military endeavor, by March 1880 it became apparent that defeating the Afghan tribes did not mean controlling them. Although British policymakers had briefly thought it simple to dismember Afghanistan a few months earlier, they now feared they were heading for the same disasters that happened to their predecessors at the time of the First Anglo-Afghan War.

NEWS BRIEFS

IMMUNIZATIONS: Are your immunizations up to date? Active-duty members are required to stay current on all immunizations during their deployment. Report to your nearest medical treatment facility to check your status and get vaccinated. For questions, contact Task Force Medical Public Health, 431-4426.

NEWCOMERS INPROCESSING: All Air Force members are required to inprocess with PERSCO. The inprocessing will start your combat pay entitlements. If you have been in the area of responsibility for at least 30 days and you are not receiving combat pay, visit Finance in the crow's nest tower on Camp Cunningham. If you know for a fact that you did not inprocess with PERSCO, visit PERSCO located in Bldg. 700 near the passenger terminal. Call 431-2070/4409 for more information.

COMBAT O: Combat Orientation is every Friday at 0100Z/0530L at the MWR Clamshell. Uniform is Air Force PT uniform for fitness assessment. This is a mandatory briefing for all Air Force personnel assigned to Bagram Airfield. Accountability is tracked and will be forwarded to the first sergeants.

BAF MAIL INSTRUCTIONS:

BAF residents, ensure individuals sending mail have your most current contact information. This alleviates any delays in receiving your mail. Below is the contact information required for individuals to receive mail.

NAME - (Eg. Jane Doe; no rank)

UNIT - (Eg. 455 ECS/SCXK)

Bagram Airfield or BAF

APO AE 09354

AFGHANISTAN HISTORY CLASS:

The weekly Afghanistan History course has changed class time and date from Monday's 1900-2000 to Tuesday's 1900-2000 in the Town Hall on Camp Cunningham. For more information contact the 455th AEW Wing Historian's office at 481-6053.

455th AEW Tip of the Week

COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Sunglasses — To prevent loss or damage, sunglasses may be secured by a dark colored strap and worn loose around the neck when not in use. Sunglasses will not be worn between 5:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. local time. Due to the elevation at Bagram and the brightness of the sun's rays here, use of sunglasses is highly encouraged when outdoors during daylight hours.

455th AEW Safety tip of the week

FOOTWEAR

Sandals and shower shoes may be worn to and from shower/latrine facilities ONLY. Regardless of climatic conditions, only athletic shoes (NO BOOTS) will be worn while performing physical training in the fitness center. Shoe may be removed on exercise mat but, if removed, socks must be worn. If you have questions, please contact the Safety Office at 431-4743.

455th AEW Financial Tip of the Week

ENTITLEMENTS

Family Separation Allowance — FSA is \$250/month and is prorated. If you filed it at home station finance before you left, the entitlement should appear 30 days after your departure on your pay record. If you have not yet filed for it or if you did and it was not processed by your home station, you have two options: 1. You can bring a copy of your orders to the finance office at Bagram 30 days after your departure from home and file for it. 2. You can wait until you get back to home station finance and file for it when you complete your travel voucher and receive the lump sum for the timeframe you were deployed. FSA is only payable to members who lived with their dependent or joint spouse prior to deployment. If you are mil-to-mil and both deployed to the same base, you will not receive FSA unless you are separated from your children.

455th AEW Policies and Procedures

Flightline Photography — Personnel on Bagram Airfield are not authorized to take still photography or video imagery on the airfield flightline unless authorized by the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs office and 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. Images must be used for official use only. Violators of this policy will be detained and possibly taken into custody. Call 455th AEW/PA at 431-2371 for more information.



THE VULTURE'S NEST ON CAMP CUNNINGHAM PRESENTS

WORLD MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP



WORLD LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP



PLUS WELTERWEIGHT BOUT



UFC 112

INVINCIBLE

AFN|xtra : Sat 4/10/2010 2130

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Break the Cycle:

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Volunteer

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Security Forces

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Fire Department

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sleep work Contact your First Sergeant for more details.

Contact your First Sergeant for more details.

Looking for something to do?

Bagram Route 5/6 Design Contest

The winner's design will be immortalized via the Bagram Route 5/6 coins/t-shirts. You will be rewarded with a free coin & t-shirt of your own design along with a \$25 AAFES gift certificate.

Design expectations:

- Please use design concepts from this website: www.challengecoinsrus.com feel free to specify exactly what you want ordered (i.e. edge cut, epoxy dome, etc.)
- We'd like a two sided design; this allows us to use Side 1 on the front of a coin/t-shirt and Side 2 on the back
- Please incorporate the Route 5/6 theme, but also other aspects of BAF, like current air frames, vehicles, U.S. and Afghan colors, NATO, etc. (stop by shack to see prev. design)
- All designs must be submitted by April 15th via email or in person to a member of the council or 5/6 shack. The winning design will be selected at the next 5/6 meeting on 16 April @1400hrs

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