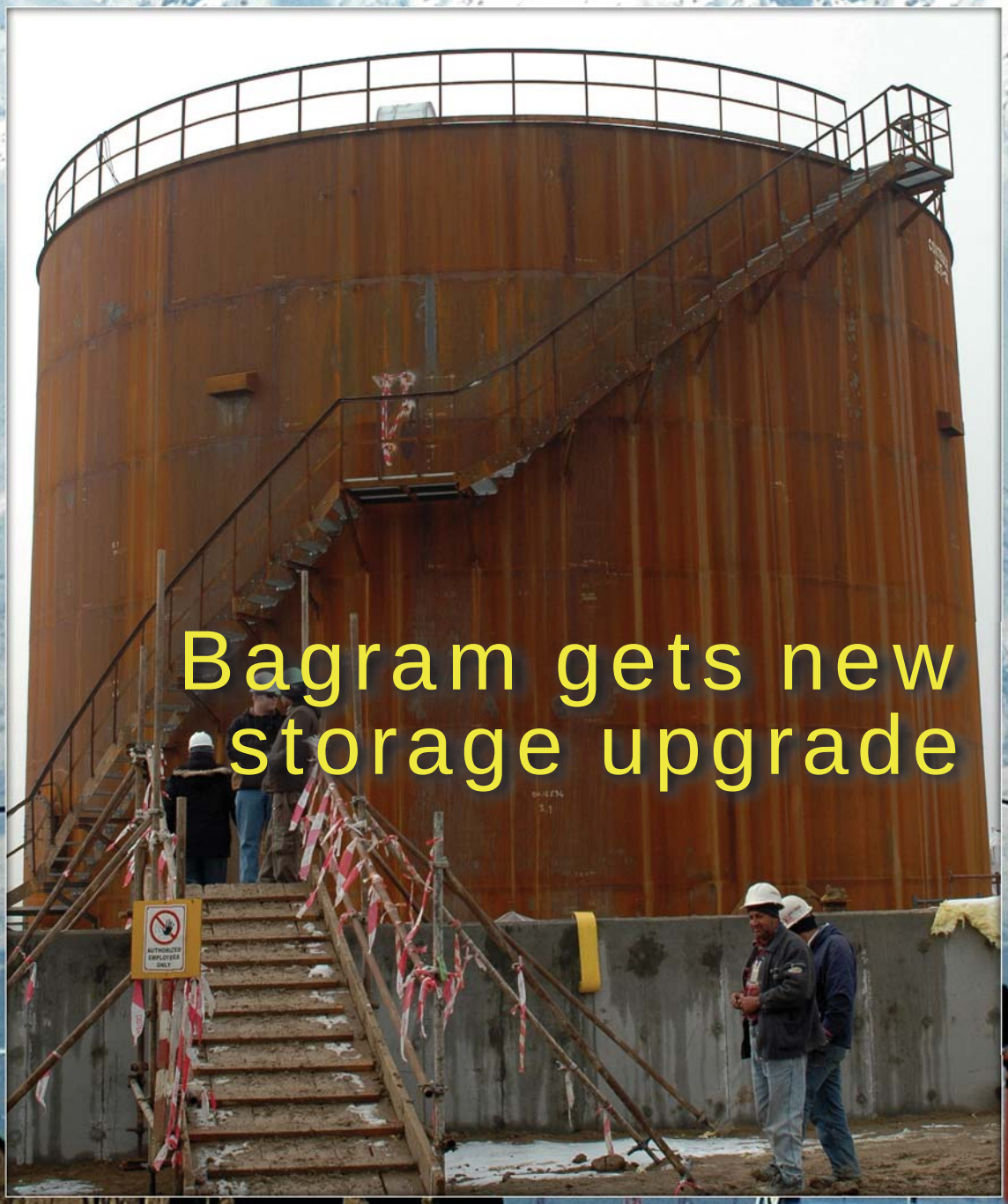
The Freedom BUILDER MAGAZINE

February 2009



Bagram gets new storage upgrade

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers®
Afghanistan Engineer District

The Freedom Builder Magazine

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Articles or photographic submissions are welcome and should arrive in PAO by the 15th of each month preceding publication. They can be mailed to the below address or they can be e-mailed. If electronically submitted, all stories should be in Word document format and all photographs should be high resolution and include photo caption information.

All photographs appearing herein are by the Afghanistan Engineer District Public Affairs Office unless otherwise accredited.

The mission of The Freedom Builder is to support the Commander's Internal Communication Program for the Afghanistan Engineer District. It also serves as the Commander's primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies, operations, technical developments, and command philosophy to the Afghanistan Engineer District.

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Cover Image:

Photo insert shows a newly installed fuel storage tank at Bagram. The background image shows the majestic mountains that surround Bagram. See story page 10. (Photos and illustration by Brenda L. Beasley)

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Postcards from Afghanistan

The Public Affairs Office is expanding AED's Internal Communications Program with "Postcards from Afghanistan."

The postcards will appear on AED's Internet Site in PDF format and a copy will be sent to your home District Public Affairs Office.

The postcards consist of a 3 to 4 paragraph write up along with 2 to 3 photos with a photo caption describing what is happening in each photo. The write-up is similar to a personal note from you to your family and friends, that focuses on a specific project or event, or that provides an overview of your total experience here in Afghanistan.

The Public Affairs Office will provide help needed to write these.

If you would like to be featured on one of these postcards, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 540-662-6578 or come visit us in the basement of the Azadi House, room 7, or e-mail Brenda.L.Beasley@usace.army.mil.

Thanks in advance for helping AED's Internal Communications Program.

From the Commander ...

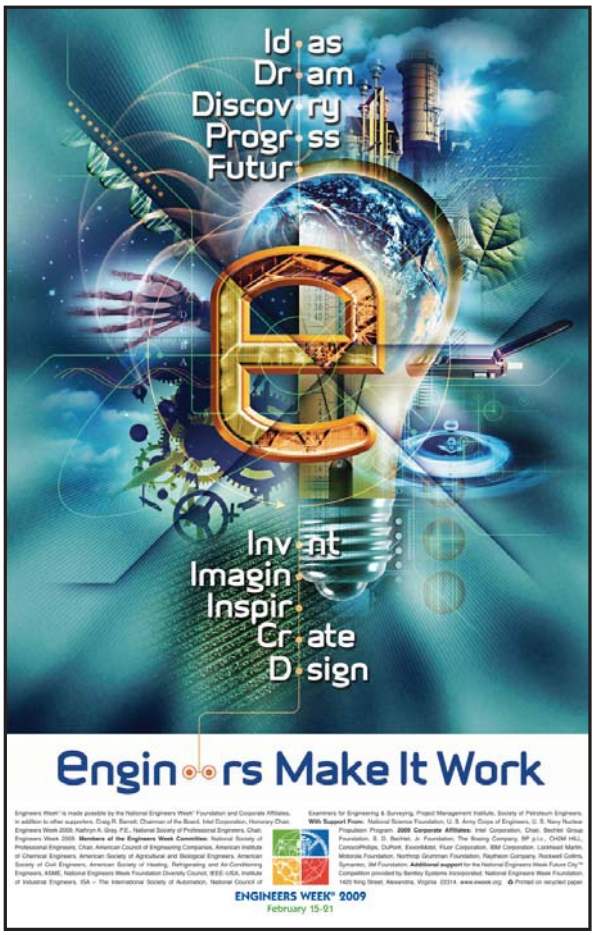
As we embark upon February and winter construction challenges, we also celebrate National Engineers Week from Feb 21-25. Now many of you might be thinking that this doesn't apply to me because I am not an engineer. However, let's take a few moments and truly define an "engineer."

Defining an engineer

To me, an engineer is a problem solver which equates to each member of the Afghanistan Engineer District. AED is comprised of incredibly innovative problem solvers. For example, if an individual has a lack of storage space in their room or office they find ways to solve that problem, whether by having newly designed furniture to accommodate more storage, or utilizing another employees work or residence space while they're on TDY or on Rest and Relaxation, those are problems solved by innovation and creative thinking. Creativity has its rewards, explore the possibilities, and make a world of difference! This slogan is the centerpiece of the national campaign for "Engineer Your Life" part of the National Engineers Week celebration.

Celebrating engineer careers

The National Engineers Week Foundation is a group comprised of professional societies, major corporations, schools and government agencies dedicated to ensuring that a diverse and well-educated future engineering work force is developed by increasing the understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers.



Col. Thomas E. O'Donovan

National Engineers Week also raises public understanding and appreciation of engineers' contributions to society.

Events associated with Engineers Week include Design Squad, National Engineers Week Future City Competition, Cyberchase, DiscoverE, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, Global Marathon For, By and About Women in Engineering, Engineer Your Life, Discover Engineering Family Day, New Faces of Engineering, Engineers Week, Sightseers Guide to Engineering, and Discover Engineering. These events cover a wide range of age groups to increase awareness, and promote engineering careers.

Engineers without borders

You're making a difference in Afghanistan! Much of our mission and execution could be compared to the mission and execution of "Engineers Without Borders." This organization was established to mobilize volunteer engineers and engineering students to design and implement projects that bring sustainable, long-term benefits to impoverished communities around the globe. Their endeavors include year-round water supply for villages. The group designs and constructs wastewater, sanitation, energy and shelter systems in developing communities. Their goal is to utilize local labor contributions and

education on operations and maintenance of these systems with the end-state goal to have the local communities owning and operating these facilities. This partnership involves the implementation of sustainable engineering projects, while involving and training internationally responsible engineers and engineering students.

Their mission is to partner with developing communities to improve their quality of life through the implementation of environmentally sustainable, equitable and economical engineering projects. In the process of developing these communities, individuals in that geographical area increase their skills, knowledge, abilities and dimensions of experience.

Quality at AED

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through its Afghanistan Engineer District provides quality, responsive engineering and construction services to a variety of customers in Afghanistan. As a member of AED, you perform a crucial role in the international efforts to facilitate establishing a secure and stable environment in Afghanistan while promoting reconstruction and infrastructure development.

Some of the projects are funded by the Commander's Emergency Relief Program and include projects such as water management studies, alternative power initiatives, and construction of national and provincial roads and micro-hydro power stations. Road projects are critical for two primary reasons. First, they provide improved access for coalition, Afghan National Army and Afghan police forces to ensure security throughout the country. Second, they improve access for Afghan people to participate in governance, education, health, trade and other development projects.

Building relationships

In addition, the Afghanistan and Tajikistan governments partnered for the construction of a 673-meter weathering steel girder bridge. The Tajikistan Bridge supports two lanes of commercial traffic plus pedestrian and cart traffic. This bridge provided direct access for commercial trade for a landlocked country.

AED is committed to building human capacity associated with the infrastructure sectors in Afghanistan.

Capacity building

In May 2008, the AED Capacity Development Program was designed and implemented by Leslie Wright, Chief of Capacity Development at AED. To date, we are cooperating with higher learning institutions (National Military Academy Afghanistan and Kabul University) through the implementation of programs that allow civil engineering students to apply theory taught in a classroom setting to real world practice that includes on-the-job training programs, internship programs, guest lectures, etc. AED has provided technical support to NMAA and KU faculty and lab technicians on an as needed basis. Also, we are in the process establishing collaborative relationships with Afghan led engineering related associations to further ensure sustainment of our efforts.

Contracting challenges

Local contractor development is critical to our nation's building efforts. With this in mind, we have and will continue to facilitate Contractor Development Open House Conferences. The objective of these conferences is to assist local Afghan firms with understanding our contracting polices and procedures, and to provide a better understanding of how to write winning proposals based on the capacity of the respective firm. These programs tie directly into the intensions and goals of National Engineers Week that promote interest and awareness of engineering careers.

A stronger tomorrow

We will continue to provide valuable engineering and construction services to support the development and execution of U.S. and international efforts to establish a secure and stable environment in Afghanistan.

BUILDING STRONG℠
Essayons!

Safety Bits

By Dave Stanton, Safety Manager

Why wear seatbelts? Besides being mandatory for all passengers, they save lives. If your local national shooters are reluctant to buckle up, don't move the vehicle until they do. The photo is of one of AED's land cruisers that swerved to avoid hitting a child on a road and ended up rolling over into a ditch. The driver is okay.

A few years ago in Iraq, the Corps had a vehicle roll-over where two civilians were buckled up and the two shooters were not. Both of the shooters were knocked unconscious as a result of the roll-over. The civilians were now without force protection and they soon came under fire from local bad guys. They were fortunate that another Corps vehicle pulled along side and they were able to make an escape, literally throwing the two shooters into the back of the other vehicle. It was discovered later that one of the shooters had been killed in the roll-over accident.

Driving safely when using cell phone/digital device

By Maj. Gen. Don T. Riley, Deputy Commanding General, USACE

Commanders and Leaders,

Many of us make New Year's resolutions to change "bad" habits or improve ourselves. One resolution we all should make is to stop using hand-held cell phones/digital devices (Blackberries) while driving - while on duty and also on personal time. Using a cell phone/digital device to talk or to "text message" while driving is a proven hazard. Cell phone use is one of the most common driver distractions, and it isn't a minor distraction - studies have shown that motorists who talk on handheld or hands-free cellular phones are as impaired as drunk drivers. Driver inattention is the leading factor in 80 percent of vehicle crashes according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The USACE Safety Manual and Army Regulations prohibit hand-held cell phone/digital device use while driving on duty and also while driving personal vehicles on a USACE facility or Army installation. Operators of USACE/government motor vehicles and operators of contractor motor vehicles being used on USACE projects may only use cellular telephones with hands-free devices while the vehicle is in motion. Prior to using a hand-held cellular phone or digital device, drivers need to find a safe place to bring their vehicle to a stop. Text messaging is strictly prohibited while operating motor vehicles. This requirement does NOT preclude passengers from using cell phones/digital devices while the vehicle is in motion.

Many states have prohibitions on cell phone use/text messaging while driving. For a listing of all state prohibitions on cell phone use while driving, as well as useful driving safety information, please visit the Governor's Highway Safety Administration web page at: http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone_laws.html; or visit the Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center website for more safe driving information and training at https://crc.army.mil/drivertrainingtoolbox/.

Leader engagement is key to our safety success. Let's make 2009 our safest year yet! Thanks for your leadership.

Painted rocks marking possible landmine sites are seen in and around Bagram. They're painted red for danger and white for safe. Rocks painted both colors tell you which side of the rock to stay on.

"Demining" way saves lives

By Brenda L. Beasley

Employees in Afghanistan Engineer District's Bagram Area Office are receiving valuable demining safety training. They are learning why it's important to "*stay on the tracks*" when moving in and around Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan.

Bagram Airfield is a militarized airport and housing complex located next to the ancient city of Bagram, southeast of Charikar in the Parwan province of Afghanistan that has been riddled with landmines, according to historical accounts. During the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s the Soviet military sowed hundreds of thousands of mines throughout the country, especially around Bagram to protect their strategic air base. Afghan rebels battling the Soviets also scattered mines in and around Bagram. Further mine-laying was done by the communist regime of Najibullah, during localized fighting between Mujahideen groups. And, even more mines were laid by the Taliban and the Northern Alliance during their years of fighting.

All of these defending forces laid landmines to protect their main supply routes (particularly the road north from Kabul to the old Soviet border), their airfields, military posts around key towns, and the actual front lines. The geography of the conflict meant that different factions have frequently mined the same areas at different times.

Red triangular signs have been placed in and around Bagram by Coalition Forces to inform people where not to tread.

Although Coalition Forces and nongovernment organizations are working extensively to clear the landmines, danger still lurks everywhere in this area that was home to over 20 years of deadly fighting. Experts estimate that 11 percent of the country is still full of live mines.

One of the tragic legacies from this fighting is the millions of people who have been maimed or killed by landmines. To help protect Corps of Engineers employees and contractors working in and around Bagram, BAO Officer in Charge Lt. Col. Fredric E. Kaehler pushes demining safety awareness. "Never assume an area is mine free," he said. "And, don't go where there aren't clearly established tracks."

Particular things to notice around the work area are disturbed surfaces, dead animals with blast injuries, round, regularly spaced potholes or craters, containers or boxes in the vicinity, mine accessories, and markings such as stacked rocks placed by locals and triangular danger signs placed by coalition forces. If something appears to be an Unexploded Ordnance, "Don't move it or touch it," said Kaehler. "Mark it with a visible object to warn others, record the location and report it accordingly."

They're usually found in the vicinity of all berms (main one and old ones); around wells; around shade trees; around bottlenecks; at the edges of cleared roads and tracks; near abandoned defensive positions; ahead of old and new defensive lines; around any old battlefield; and around natural defensive positions.

In his Mine Awareness presentation, Kaehler stresses the Do's and the Don'ts to stay safe.

When at construction sites where there is digging or excavating by power equipment in areas that are known to have possible buried UXOs, precautions must be in place beforehand to ensure the safety of all personnel, according to Rocky A. Nelson, a construction representative in the BAO.

Digging should only proceed after the area has been certified by the Mine Action Center. However,

Do's

- Avoid mines, UXOs, and battlefield debris;
- Stay on tracks or on well-marked road;
- If encountered, only get close enough to see what it is, mark near the vicinity, then record and report;
- When in a convoy, keep at least 50 meters between vehicles;
- Observe local movement and activity;
- Speak to locals;
- Ensure all members of a patrol can render assistance; and
- Carry first aid kit; ensure it's complete.

Don'ts

- Do not touch!
- Do not assume an area is mine-free unless its truly cleared and verified;
- Do not assume all mine laying was accomplished using the same method;
- Do not disturb or throw anything;
- Do not look for or touch ammo, mines or UXOs;
- Do not touch suspicious items; beware of booby traps;
- Do not continue driving if you have limited visibility or you've lost the track! Reverse on your own tracks back to larger tracks; and
- Never run into an incident; follow vehicle tracks to the vehicle or clear a lane to the casualty. Record all information about the mine/UXO.

At the conclusion of their Jan. 16 meeting, Lt. Col. Fredric Kaehler (center) lights the candles on the cake as BAO employees prepare to celebrate January birthdays.

BAO employees pose for a group shot.

certification by the MAC only extends six inches below the surface grade. "Since most excavations are below that distance," said Nelson, "proper awareness will increase safety."

Bombings in Bagram have little effect on anti-personnel mines, because they are designed not to respond to shock wave pressure. Instead, they are calibrated to explode only when stepped on. "The blast radius of ordnance is usually up and out," said Nelson.

For additional blast protection, dump trucks can be placed at the rear of the trench next to the excavator. Standoff distance should be at least 50 feet from the excavator on the surface. Personnel in the trench may need to evacuate further, such as 100 feet minimum, and have egress ladders nearby. A contractor safety officer should be on site while digging is ongoing and a proper first aid kit readily available. "Remember at all times," said Nelson, "we are in a war zone."

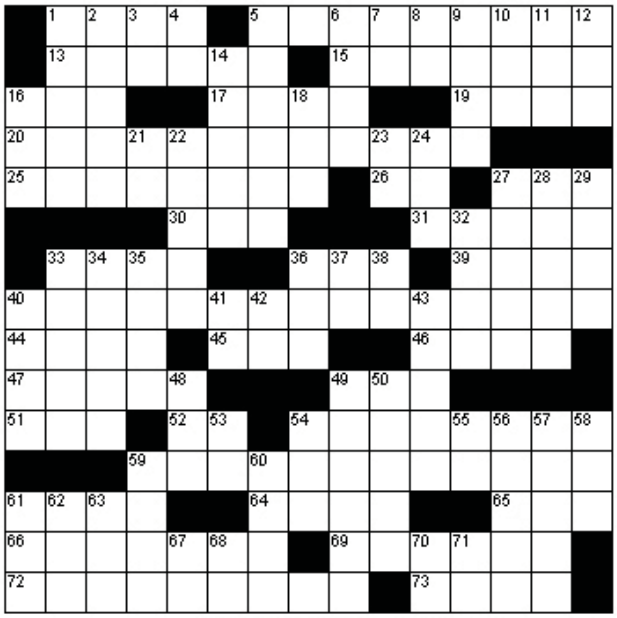
When trenching has proceeded below grade, an above grade spotter can be used to help the excavator operator locate and identify encountered metal objects, said Nelson. If the spotter needs proper Personal Protective Equipment, such as a blast suit, one can be obtained from the MAC.

When an unknown metal object or possible UXO is encountered, the contractor must immediately stop all construction activities in the area, evacuate personnel in the vicinity, and block access to the area surrounding the possible explosive. Then the Corps of Engineers, the MAC, and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal must be notified so that necessary steps can be taken to clear the area.

With every mine that is lifted, another step is taken in making Afghanistan a safer place. The MAC ensures its mission is done with safety and precision, from contracting to caring, according to a U.S. Central Command article. They work by the motto, "Demining is a dangerous job. Where once you cautiously followed and stepped in my footsteps, you can now have the confidence to lead and make your own." But until then, Kaehler says, "stay on the tracks!"

(Editor's note: This article references the Mine Action Center. They handle demining issues for Bagram Airfield only. For any other demining issues in country, please contact AED's Safety Officer Dave Stanton at 540-665-3471 or cell +93 (0)79 803 5830.)

Test your knowledge of Black History Month



Crossword Compiler Software © A. Lewis 1999

Across

1. Author Haley of "Roots" (1976)
5. Black History Month is celebrated in February to mark the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (b.1809 - d.1865) and ___ Douglass (b.1817 - d.1895) who was an activist who campaigned to end slavery and was a co-founder and editor of the "North Star" newspaper
13. Shark Sucker
15. This talented and glamorous star opened the doors for other African-American actresses in Hollywood, such as Halle who won the Best Actress Golden Globe Award for portraying her in a biographical television movie
16. Controversial Coat
17. Monastery Superior, in France
19. Exploited
20. Harriet Tubman, for one: She led more than 300 slaves to freedom (See #25A for a related clue)
25. Pre-Civil War organized system that was used for helping fugitive slaves escape to Canada: Underground ___
26. Negative reply
27. Music store items, commonly
30. Ms. Jillian
31. Sports tally
33. Not Nice
36. Seize Suddenly
39. Roman Road
40. In the 1970s, this South Bronx DJ pioneered the Hip-Hop style that dominates music today
44. He directed "Twelfth Night" (1996): Trevor ___
45. Take a chair
46. Wander
47. Star football running back and Super Bowl MVP (in 1993): Emmitt ___
49. Shoshonean
51. Shoe width Size
52. Speech Stopper
54. Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Lena Horne, Jesse Jackson and Maya Angelou are among those who have been honored with this Medal which has been awarded annually by the NAACP since 1915
59. He founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association, in 1914
61. Bread spread
64. Famed tennis Champion: Arthur ___
65. The Jackson 5 hit
66. Legendary boxer Muhammad's former name
69. World light-heavyweight champion (from 1952 to 1962): ___ Moore (b.1913 - d.1998)
72. "Cosby", e.g.
73. Superstar Cosby

Down

1. Island resort in the Netherlands Antilles
2. Poet, Playwright, Novelist and Essayist: Amiri Baraka (formerly known as ___ Jones) wrote "Blues People: Negro Music in White America" (1963) and "The Motion of History and Other Plays" (1978)
3. En predecessor
4. Tic-Tac-Toe letters
5. Fifties singer who sang "Turn Me Loose"
6. Adam and Eve's Garden
7. Carry out
8. TV show starring Eriq La Salle
9. Defeat Disastrously
10. Delivery Room exclamation: "___ a girl!"
11. Cuban revolutionary leader Guevara
12. English dramatist who wrote "The Spanish Tragedy" (c.1586): Thomas ___ (b.1558 - d.1594)
14. Squeal
16. Distant
18. Shape, slangily
21. Popular Hip-Hop artist: ___ Cool J
22. Heard in the Tennis circuit: "___ 23rd in the World, right now!"
23. Fashionable
24. Ship's distress Signal
27. Plant Pot Product: Terra ___
28. "I have a ___ that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood." - Martin Luther King Jr.
29. Antitoxins
32. "Hello!" or "Goodbye!"
33. Kweisi ___: NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) leader
34. He was a star running back and became the first African-American football player to win the Heisman Trophy (in 1961): ___ Davis (b.1939 - d.1963)
35. Fats Domino smash hit: "___ That a Shame"
36. In 1831, he led 60 followers in the Southampton Insurrection, a slave revolt, which was the most serious in American history. He managed to live in freedom for six weeks until he was caught and hanged: ___ Turner (b.1800 - d.1831)
37. Choice on a Radio
38. Famed Blues guitarist King
40. It'll encompass "exp"
41. Every bit ___...
42. __-Coastal: The Atlantic and Pacific sides
43. Sports Stadium
48. Chinese Communist leader: ___ Guefeng
49. NFL Players Association executive director: Gene ___
50. Woods of Golf
53. Mrs. opposite
54. "Pense" prefix
55. U.K.: ___. Brit.
56. Help
57. James Dean, for one
58. Large U.S. city
59. To the highest degree
60. Wallet Wads
61. "Alas!"
62. Medieval French tale
63. "East" in Montréal
67. Hosp. nutrient device
68. Not them
70. Type of radio
71. ___-Fi

(Answers on page 17. Source: The Infoplease Crossword Puzzle by Kelly Ann Buchanan at http://www.infoplease.com/.)

Bagram gets new storage upgrade

By Brenda L. Beasley

A multi-million dollar construction project is underway by the Afghanistan Engineer District at Bagram Airfield to improve the current bulk fuels storage system and supply facilities. It includes constructing multiple storage tanks, pumping facilities and facility control systems through an overall phased program while portions of the fuels system is in use by Bagram Airfield.

"Right now, the fuel is stored in bladders above ground," said Dan T. McPherson, the resident engineer at AED's Bagram Area Office and the chief of Hydropower Operations with the Tulsa District. "This new system will ensure that the fuel is properly off loaded and uploaded, and runs through the proper filtering facility for aircraft."

Bagram Airfield is a militarized airport and housing complex located next to the ancient city of Bagram, southeast of Charikar in the Parwan province of Afghanistan that was once home to a strategic air base during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. It has multiple large hangars, a new control tower, and numerous support buildings and personnel quarters. There are more than 32 acres of ramp space and numerous aircraft dispersal areas, with a total of over 110 revetments.

The airfield itself is situated high up in the mountains. Bagram experiences a wide range of temperatures, anywhere from below freezing during the winter months to 120 degrees Fahrenheit over the summer months. Due to the elevation, orientation to the surrounding mountains, and snow storms, commercial aircraft have difficulty landing older aircraft and often rely on very experienced crews to land there.

The new bulk fuel storage system is being constructed through a series of eight

An Afghan worker operates the drilling equipment at a bulk fuels storage site.

Outdated existing fuel bladder system at Bagram is being replaced with a newer, more modern system that will provide proper handling and treatment of fuel.

A containment area site gets prepared for the placement of a fuel storage tank at Bagram.

phases and is expected to be completed by 2012. Initial planning begin in 2006 with a Tanker Truck Off-load Facility Complex and has evolved as the airfield missions and operational dynamics have changed and grown.

"I've had the opportunity to see this project go from paper to construction," said Michael E. Curtis, a construction representative at AED's BAO. "I was with the military and saw the customer side during the planning phase." As an Army major, Curtis served as a sub-area petroleum officer for the Bagram Logistics Command from August 2006 to July 2007 while attached to the 475th Quarter Master

An Afghan worker grinds a section of the fuel pipeline.

Checking on contractor safety procedures at the fuel sties is part of a normal day for Construction Representative Michael E. Curtis.

Discussing newly installed pump house equipment with the contractor is just a daily part of Construction Representative Rocky A. Nelson's day as he ensures contract specifications are being followed.

Group from Farrel, Penn.

The current fuel system of bladders is a tactical system that is not designed to be permanent. The bladders have to be replaced every three years and a steel tank is more cost effective. "With a more modern facility, we'll be able to off load fuel faster to the war fighter," said Curtis, who's been overseeing construction of the TTOF and the South Fuel Farm since October 2007.

Although this winter has been mild, the wet weather conditions slow down construction, Curtis said. Having to get materials from truck convoys, since Afghanistan is a landlocked country, is also another obstacle when considering these complex construction endeavors.

Weather and materials are not the only obstacles that affect progress in Bagram.

An Afghan work cleans the tank at the bottom in preparation for leak testing.

Construction phases and schedules move so quickly that you have to stay on top of contractor operations constantly to ensure that all aspects of the contract are being met.

"The biggest challenge here is that we're in a war zone and construction is very high speed," said Rocky A. Nelson, a construction representative with AED's BAO who oversees construction at the TTOF and the filtering facility. "My learning curve has two speeds … fast and faster."

The second biggest challenge is the language barrier. Most of the labor force is made of up local nationals who speak Dari or Pashto. The middle level on-site managers are made up of about five different nationalities. "The language barrier has not stopped us from mentoring them and their work force in trade, craft and construction technique standards," said Nelson. "Nor has it stopped us from learning from them."

Of course, working near unexploded ordnances is no picnic, said Nelson. Safety is a number one concern. Accidents can happen no matter how much risk assessment is done. A 250-pound bomb and a 107-millimeter rocket from past conflicts have been uncovered since construction began.

Afghanistan is close to the heart of Nelson. Ever since visiting in 1974, he has made a commitment to volunteer and help rebuild the country. He's been overseeing Corps of Engineers construction projects in Afghanistan since 2007.

The transfer of knowledge from one employee to another employee as people redeploy back to the United States is another challenge. "Our folks have done a good job of mentoring each other and mentoring the Afghan people," said McPherson.

The continued success of the bulk fuels storage system construction is a direct result of the Bagram Area Office's good work harmony. It's also important to the war fighters. "Fuel is needed to fly missions," said McPherson. "Not only will this new system be more modern and cost effective, it'll also be almost 100 percent underground."

NCO responsibility changes at AED

Sgt. Maj. Jon E. Beaulieu (left) accepts the Corps of Engineers flag from Afghanistan Engineer District Commander Col. Thomas E. O'Donovan (center) at a Change of Responsibilities Ceremony Jan. 4 at Qalaa Compound, Kabul, Afghanistan. Command Sgt. Maj. Gary W. Winkleblack (right) relinquished Non-Commissioned Officer responsibility as the AED Command Sergeant Major to Beaulieu.

Photo by Bruce Huffman

NMAA holds ribbon cutting

By Bruce Huffman

A crowd of Afghan Soldiers and their American mentors gathered with members of the Afghanistan Engineer District and representatives from the FCEC Construction Company for a ribbon cutting ceremony held Jan. 15 to celebrate the completion of two warehouses at the National Military Academy of Afghanistan in Kabul. AED's Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Bryan L. Pratt and NMAA's Commandant Brig. Gen. Sherif Yaktali cut the ribbon during the ceremony.

The 70-meter by 20-meter warehouses have drive-through doors on each end and are connected by an asphalt road. Their smooth concrete floors are slab on grade, and can support up to seven metric tons allowing large trucks to enter and exit the facilities with supplies. Each warehouse has a three meter high stem wall that supports a K-Span roof, chain link fencing for storage bays and is temperature controlled with an HVAC system.

The NMAA is the Afghan equivalent to West Point, and one of the warehouses was even used for the inaugural graduation ceremony

One of the two finished K-spans that will be used as a warehouse for the NMAA and where a ribbon cutting ceremony was held Thursday, Jan. 15. This K-span was also used for the inaugural graduation for the NMAA.

Kabul Area Officer in Charge Maj. Leigh B. Ford delivers a speech on the overview of the project construction to the NMAA generals, contractors, mentors for the Academy, instructors and various guests at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

L to R: Hugo Betzwieser, AED construction representative; Jesoor Rahmani, AED Local National quality assurance representative; Col. Mahammad Kazem, NMAA Chief of Staff; NMAA engineering assistant; Maj. Gen. Mohammad Sharif Yaftali, NMAA Commander; Lt. Col. Bryan L. Pratt, AED Deputy Commander; Sgt. 1st Class Herbert, NMAA Support Team Facilities Mentor; Col. Hamdullah Yousafzai, NMAA Dean/Deputy Commander; and Lt. Col. Dave Jones, Senior Mentor/Team Chief, NMAA Support Team.

L to R: Ford; Pratt; and Andy Adams, AED chief of Engineering and Construction; Ray Tatro, AED deputy of Programs and Project Management; and Toryalai Alami, AED LN project manager have tea and cake with the general in his office which is traditional after an important ceremony.

of the NMAA cadets the following week. "It has been said that an Army marches on its stomach," said Pratt. "Most people don't think about it, but facilities like these are vital to the logistical support and overall success of the Afghan National Army."

Currently there are about 80,000 ANA troops with a goal to expand to 134,000. The Corps of Engineers has already built nine ANA Garrisons and has five Garrisons and four Kandaks under construction.

Maj. Leigh B. Ford, Kabul Area Officer in Charge, says it's more than building structures, it's building a relationship with the people.

"I came over here to learn a little bit about the Afghan culture, to get to work with the Afghans, and to partner with the Corps and the Afghans," said Ford. "Being in engineering, we build things and Afghanistan needs a lot of reconstruction. So while we're here building relationships with the Afghan people, we're also building engineers. We're helping them so that they can start building their own country one day. And one day we hope that they can do it all themselves."

Power and Water Conference

Photo coverage by Jack Pagano

(L to R) Afghanistan Engineer District Commander Col. Thomas E. O'Donovan; Combined Joint Task Force-101 Brig. Gen. John Nicholson, deputy commanding general, Regional Command-South; and CJTF-101 Brig. Gen. James C. McConville, deputy commanding general, Regional Command-East discuss water issues prior to the start of the conference.

Over 90 people attended the second theater-wide Power and Water Conference held Jan. 21 at the Qalaa House Compound in Kabul, Afghanistan. Attendees included representatives from the Afghan government, donor communities and project implementing partners, such as contractors, non-government organizations, and U.S. government agencies.

Shojaudin Ziaie, deputy minister of water for the Ministry of Energy and Water, speaks about collaboration between the Ministry and the Provincial Reconstruction Teams to improve sustainability of water related infrastructure projects.

Jelle Beekma, the team leader for the Kunduz River Basin Project and representative of the European Commission speaks about the local governance of water allocations and the implementation of the Afghan water law.

AED Water Resources Program Manager Kathryn Carpenter receives a certificate of appreciation from Brig. Gen. McConville on behalf of Combined Join Task Force-101 for her role in planning and coordinating the Power and Water Conference in support of the Afghanistan reconstruction mission.

Employees gather to watch inauguration

Photo coverage by Jack Pagano

All eyes at AED's dining facility were watching history: the swearing in of the 44th President of the United States Barack H. Obama Jan. 20. Grilled hotdogs and chips were served to help celebrate the occasion. Banners, streamers and flags showcased the DFAC's patriotic spirit.

Photo by Jack Pagano

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Cadets receive OJT

Afghan Cadets are receiving interactive on-the-job training from the Afghanistan Engineer District construction and engineering team members, as well as project and program managers, Feb. 1-5 in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Through a Cadet Training Program coordinated by AED Capacity Development Program Manager Leslie J. Wright, the Cadets from the National Military Academy Afghanistan are being exposed to interactive training activities, which will give them the opportunity to apply engineering related theory that's taught in a classroom setting to real world practice in the areas of operations and maintenance, construction, engineering and project management.

Solution of puzzle on page 9

	1 A	2 L	3 E	4 X		5 F	R	6 E	7 D	8 E	9 R	10 I	11 C	12 K
	13 R	E	M	O	14 R	A		15 D	O	R	O	T	H	Y
16 F	U	R			17 A	B	18 B	E			19 U	S	E	D
20 A	B	O	21 L	22 I	T	I	O	N	23 I	24 S	T			
25 R	A	I	L	R	O	A	D		26 N	O		27 C	28 D	29 S
				30 A	N	N				31 S	32 C	O	R	E
	33 M	34 E	35 A	N			36 N	37 A	38 B		39 I	T	E	R
40 A	F	R	I	K	41 A	42 B	A	M	B	43 A	A	T	A	A
44 N	U	N	N		45 S	I	T			46 R	O	A	M	
47 S	M	I	T	48 H				49 U	50 T	E				
51 E	E	E		52 U	53 M		54 S	P	I	N	55 G	56 A	57 R	58 N
			59 M	A	R	60 C	U	S	G	A	R	V	E	Y
61 O	62 L	63 E	O			64 A	S	H	E			65 A	B	C
66 C	A	S	S	67 I	68 U	S		69 A	R	70 C	71 H	I	E	
72 H	I	T	T	V	S	H	O	W		73 B	I	L	L	

News briefs

Restored leave

By Pamela Kelly-Farley

If you were deployed on pay period ending Jan. 3, your use or lose leave will be restored. In order for the leave to be restored it must actually forfeit, this will occur on PPE Jan 17. We will restore the leave effective Jan. 18 so that it will be included on the Leave and Earning Statement for PPE Jan. 31.

AED five year anniversary commemoration title and cover contest

By Michelle Thrift

In the upcoming months AED will have its five year anniversary of being a district. To commemorate the event we will be publishing a history magazine and having several events in locations throughout AED's area of responsibility to celebrate this occasion. A small team has been assembled for the initial planning and coordination, however we still need volunteers to oversee specific events. These include a POC for the AED history trivia Game and the Recognition of Service from Local Nationals that have been with AED for several years.

Title & Cover Contest: The anniversary magazine needs both a cover and a title. The Corporate Team will select winners according to the following guidelines:

Submissions must be digital, may be by an individual or by a team of up to 3 people, must be original work, and or idea. Can be separate entry for the title and the cover or can be combined (however the Corporate Team may select pieces or portions of the submissions for the final product).

Submittals are due no later than Feb. 6 at 5:30 p.m. Kabul, Afghanistan time.

Winners will receive appropriate recognition.

For more information contact Michelle Thrift at 540-665-3475 or cell +93 (0)79-981-4694.

Last minute IM requests

Recently IM has had an influx of requests for personal drive transfers and last minute e-mail archive requests for persons redeploying or moving between sites. Because of limited bandwidth over the satellite links, this requires pre-planning in advance of the change.

Users should back up or request their P:\ drive to be copied to recordable media (CD/DVD) at least five days prior to departure from their duty location.

Users should back up or request their Outlook e-mail to be archived to a local PST file at least five days prior to departure from their duty location. This will assist in properly informing the system administrators to move a user's account to the correct location. Mailboxes on the servers need to be reduced to less than 50 Mb in order to move them over the satellite links.

Access to the District S:\ drive is not permitted to personnel downrange due to timing and bandwidth issues. Please refer any questions to the IM Help Desk.

Cristal brand bottled water – Coliform

By Dave Stanton

We have received word that some lots of Cristal brand bottled water have tested positive for exceeding the total coliform limits.

If you have any Cristal brand water in your workplace or in your room with the following lot numbers (stamped on the blue label of the bottle) do not drink it and pour it down the drain. If you have large quantities of the affected water (pallets), contact your supply POC about turning it in and getting replacement water.

Lot: P 19/12/08 7:04
E 19/12/09 SPU

Lot: P 19/12/08 08:19
E 18/12/09 SPV

Lot P 18/12/08 1853
E 17/12/09

A fact sheet on coliform bacteria can be found at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Publications/331-181_11-29-07.pdf.

Tuberculosis Testing

By 1st Lt. Israel M. RIOS

I write this in hopes of lightening your thoughts and concerns with recent PPD Test (Purified protein derivative, in other words, TB shot) resulting positive for some personnel here at Qalaa House. Since the first testing was positive, the automatic second step was taken, a chest X-ray. All of which were negative. I spoke with the Doctor at Camp

Phoenix, (Lt. Col. Durham). He stated since the chest X-ray was negative, there would be no reason for further testing. However, he asked if they were in route through their command, perhaps they could get another X-ray done there for further evaluation. I agree with him 100 percent. But I knew that there would be personnel here at Qalaa House that would disagree. So I decided to ask the doctor the question that would probably be asked by these individuals; 1) Do we need to test all personnel? NO was his answer as well as, we will test them when outbound. 2) Are they going to spread the TB? NO was his answer, as well as, we (meaning personnel at the medical facility) will probably all test positive for TB. He states, we might be carriers or just exposed to TB. Once again, I agree with him 100 percent.

This is the norm for any medical facility back in the states. Even I as a nurse, if tested positive on a PPD Test, would get the same treatment as above. Furthermore, I would be allowed to go back to work as a nurse and be tested the following year per hospital policy. If and only if I was to develop signs and symptoms of TB, then would be placed on antibiotics.

Tuberculosis is a disease that attacks the lungs when "ACTIVE." It is estimated that one third of the world's population is infected with TB. Majority of the cases are asymptomatic and considered a latent infection.

Tuberculosis is spread through the air when the "ACTIVE TB" (not latent) infected person coughs, sneeze. The droplet can remain suspensed in the air. Therefore, another person can inhale the droplet. However, many factors are involved, such as time, before that droplet will infect another person.

The signs and symptoms of tuberculosis are chronic cough, blood-tinged sputum, fever, night sweats, and weight loss.

Folks, please do not fall prey to ill advice and allow fear to overcome you for all is well at Qalaa House.

New 2008 EM 385-1-1 available

By Dave Stanton

The long-awaited, long-anticipated USACE Safety and Health Requirements Manual, EM 385-1-1, 2008 is now available on-line at this link: http://www.usace.army.mil/CESO/Pages/EM385-1-1,2008NEW!.aspx. Contracting Division will publicize throughout their stovepipe to now include in contracting actions/solicitations.

Our new HQs internet websites have been posted. This is the link to our CESO site: http://www.usace.army.mil/CESO/Pages/Home.aspx. On this site there are numerous tools to help fill out your safety and health program. As time passes, it will also contain a link to any interim changes to the 2008 safety manual, any global interpretations and/or questions that have been asked about the EM. There is a training link that contains good links to other resources that may help with your program as well; Forms for required Activity Hazard Analyses and Position Hazard Analyses are available; Directions to follow when submitting requests for variances, interpretations and/or waivers to the EM 385-1-1; accident recordkeeping tools and other much-used links are on this site

For contractors, only contract solicitations issued on or after Jan. 13 will fall under the new manual. Current contracts follow the current 2003 version.

Hard copies have been ordered for AED and we can expect them in a couple months. It can also be downloaded from the following link: http://www.usace.army.mil/CESO/Pages/Home.aspx.

There are major changes, to include fall protection and a slide show outlining these changes will be coming from headquarters soon.

Recommend you also pass this onto your contractors for their awareness so they can modify future proposals as necessary. For example, contractor site safety personnel under the current 2003 version are only required to have completed the 10 hour OSHA class. Here is what the new version requires:

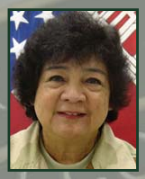
01.A.17.b. The SSHO(s), as a minimum, must have completed the 30-hour OSHA Construction Safety Class or as an equivalent, 30 hours of formal construction safety and health training covering the subjects of the OSHA 30-hour course (see Appendix A, paragraph 4.b) applicable to the work to be performed and given by qualified instructors. The SSHO is also required to have five years of construction industry safety experience or three years if he possesses a Certified Safety Professional or safety and health degree.

Moving in

William Hatchett

Douglas Jensen

Carl Allen


Joyce Jackson

Josette Pullen

Michael Wolford

Henry Sim

Lt. Col. Jonathan Willingham

Lester Mastio

Mervin Wolfe

Richard Pecoraro

Fernando Sosa-Reyes

Staff Sgt. David Phariss

Spc. Dean Baumer

Ronald Gatlin

Steven Geppeet

Eman Sundquist

Steven Alderete

James Bodron

Sydney Smith

Hoang Huynh

William Lemer

Shawn Murphy

Michael Pearson

Michael Pierce

Ramon Sundquist

Patricia Lora

Stanley Clark

Scott Davis

Maung Myat

Photos unavailable at press time: Pamela Kelly-Farley, Frederic Brunhoff, Terry Thomas, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Lauver, Samuel Schlachter, Master Sgt. Larry Bilton, Roger Wilson, Richard Winegardner, Woodie Hemmingway, Booby Lingerfelt, Richard Mahaffey, Richard Klepfer, Frank Chui, Peter Kho, Frank Albert, Kabuchi Anderson, Gerry Boyle, Sandra Higgins, Patrick O'Donnell, Joel Giblin, Tracy Lynch, Amy Matthews, Michael Redemann, Master Sgt. Rocky McKenzie, Capt. Stacy Goodman, and Terrance Guagliano.

Moving out

Russell Fischer
Richard Rieger
Robert Williams
Glen Tauscher
Lt. Col. Leonard Manning
Maj. Floyd Patrick
Silvia Belinaux
Kevin Sanchez
Danielle Brooks
Michael Burke
Larry Cole
Janet Cote
Jay Kim
Mike Kozlowski
Stella LeJeune
Deborah McAtee
Marty Plisch
David Purdy
Robert Smith
Michael Stearns
Lt. Col. Kurt Floyd
Staff Sgt. Jesse McKee
Staff Sgt. Carl Segan
Jeffrey Ward
Sgt. 1st Class Isaac Afwerke
Tommy Jacobs
Ray Rowe
Jamal Fakhouri
Chief Warrant Officer Steven Morrow
Maj. Bryan Ramey
Staff Sgt. Beau Jonhnson
Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Winkleblack
Joseph Faustina
Irby Tucker
Beverly Willis
Michael Butler
Jeffrey Wheeler
Jessica Reath
Capt. Terry Rhines
Eric Aubrey
Ted Campbell
David Eagle
Alfred Faustino
Linda Doherty-Guenther
Diedrie Hurd
Christopher Keiser
Sherry Masters
William Mullery
Daniel Murphy
Michael Peterson
Karen Vance