

ASG Newsletter



AREA SUPPORT GROUP – AFGHANISTAN

September 2018

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Drivers with revoked privileges can take a driver safety course offered by the Provost Marshal's Office to regain their privileges and recover their impounded vehicle. The course will be offered every two weeks beginning Sept. 15. Call 318-481-4021 / 4620.

The ASG Newsletter is published monthly and distributed through SIPR. This is **YOUR** newsletter. Let us know what you want to see in it. E-mail story ideas and feedback to adriane.c.elliott.civ@mail.mil or call DSN 481-6673.



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Proper IDF response could save your life

ASG-A Public Affairs

If you've been on Bagram Airfield for more than a few days, chances are you've heard the booming Giant Voice signaling incoming indirect fire (IDF).

IDFs—rocket propelled grenades, mortars or other explosive devices—remain a serious threat to the thousands of men and women who live and work on the largest U.S. military base in Afghanistan.

"Not taking the IDF threat seriously could result in injuries and even death," said Kevin Hall, the physical security officer for

the Area Support Group-Afghanistan (ASG-A).

Hall explained that while the vast majority of incidents on the heavily fortified base are failed attacks, IDF casualties have occurred, and "they can happen again."

"If you don't do it for yourself, do it for your loved ones."

IDFs have no guidance system. They are simply pointed toward an area and fired with the intent of disrupting operations and damaging equipment and personnel.

Members of the 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment at Bagram work around the clock to perform the highly sophisticated counter-rocket artillery and mortar

(C-RAM) systems mission to detect and destroy IDFS before they hit their targets.

"Some people think once a C-RAM engages an IDF, they are safe. But when an IDF is struck, it sends razor sharp shrapnel flying everywhere. It is literally falling from the sky," explained Hall, who said he's seen falling shrapnel cut through metal buildings like butter. "You can imagine how easily that could slice through the human body."

To minimize the risk of injury from IDF attacks, all personnel are required to follow the following procedures:

1. Drop to the ground, face down with hands covering the back of the head.

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Town Hall topics include flight delays

455th ELRS

Whether you're redeploying or going on R&R, delayed flights at the PAX Terminal can seriously disrupt travel plans.

To help avoid this and other frustrations, mobility LNOs and unit travel reps are urged to attend a monthly PAX Terminal/Mobility LNO Town Hall.

Hosted by the 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, the town halls are slated the second Thursday of every month at 1530 in the MWR Coalition Theater.

The next town hall is scheduled Sept. 13.

"There are actually instances in which flights are delayed because travelers are bringing baggage larger than what CENTCOM regulation allows," said Installation Deployment Officer Air Force 1Lt Rahal Belkalai. "The solution to this problem is just one of several topics we'll discuss at the town hall."

Other topics include an increase in show time availa-



Some totes are larger than the CENTCOM Reg allows, resulting in delay flights.

bility for travelers from all services and U.S. Customs integration efforts to reduce passenger processing wait times.

For more information, contact Belkalai at 455ELRS.LogPlans2@bgab.af.mil or fcen.af.mil or DSN 318-447-6487.



MWR, USO and various units offer daily activities that range from card tournaments and sports to music and dance lessons.

'Staying busy is the best advice I can give...'

Wish your deployment would fly by? Stay busy!

ASG-A Public Affairs

Deployments are never easy. But there are several things you can do to make the time go by more quickly.

"Staying busy is the best advice I can give to deployed personnel," said Thomas Luft, ASG-A Contracting Specialist and retired Army officer.

Luft has left friends and loved ones behind to deploy at seven locations during his 21 years of active-duty service and several times as a Department of the Army civilian employee.

"Staying busy keeps one engaged and focused on local matters rather than missing friends and family at home," said Luft. "It can be the difference between a long, difficult deployment and a memorable, positive experience that seems to rush by."

To help personnel stay busy, the USO, MWR and units offer a host of daily activities. But while there are many activities to choose from, ASG-A MWR Officer Don Baumgartner admits it is more difficult to find out what's available in

a restrictive deployed environment.

"We obviously don't want to send out information that our adversaries can get ahold of and know when and where large groups of people are gathering," he explained.

To get a comprehensive list of the hundreds of activities planned throughout the year, Baumgartner suggests the following:

1. Get on the Bagram Global Address List (GAL) on SIPR

"Your S6 should be able to assist with this," he said. "There are regular 'BAF-All' emails sent out with MWR calendars and fliers, but these emails are kept on the high side for force protection."

2. The monthly MWR Town Hall

"This is an opportunity for units to send MWR reps to a monthly meeting at which consolidated calendars (Army MWR, the 455th EFSS and USO) are presented and discussed. The town hall is held in the Coalition Recreation Center Theater, Bldg. 24038, on the first Thursday of every month at 1000 hours."

3. Word of mouth

"If you hear about a great event or opportunity, be sure to tell your friends."

Activities taking place monthly range from music and dance lessons to card tournaments, board games and exercise classes.

Some highlights for September include:

Sept. 10 - Tug-o-War Tournament - 1700 - Soccer field behind Dragon Gym

Sept. 16 - Air Force Marathon - 0430 - MWR Clamshell

Sept. 17 - Chess Tourney - 1930 - Coalition Rec

Sept. 22 - Block Party - 2030 - MWR Clamshell

Sept. 21-23 - Volleyball Tournament - 1630 - MWR Clamshell

Sept. 24 - NFL Bench Press Competition - 1600 - Coalition Gym

Sept. 25, 26, 28 - Brooklyn Nets-sponsored 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament - Times TBD - MWR Clamshell **Sept. 26** - Ping Pong Tourney - 1900 - MWR Clamshell

Sept. 28 - Bagram Physique Showcase - 1830 - MWR

Sept. 29 - Cosmic Bingo - 1900 - MWR Clamshell

NFL teams seeking shout-outs to air during games

The following NFL teams have requested shout-outs from U.S. troops to be aired in stadium on the Jumbotron throughout the season: Carolina Panthers, Pittsburgh Steelers, San Diego



Chargers, Tennessee Titans, Philadelphia Eagles, San Francisco 49ers, Arizona Cardinals, Oakland Raiders, Seattle Seahawks, Los Angeles Rams, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Washington Redskins, Minnesota Vikings, New England Patriots,

New Orleans Saints, New York Jets, Dallas Cowboys, Chicago Bears, Jacksonville Jaguars, Kansas City Chiefs and The Miami Dolphins.

If interested in recording a shout-out, email adriane.c.elliott@mail.mil or call DSN 481-6673.

EXAMPLE:

Hello, we are from Areas Support Group-Afghanistan in Bagram and we want to say hello to our Families and friends back home in Washington; we miss you and GO HAWKS!!!

Careless posts provide enemy with intel

Story and photo by
Army Sgt. Daniel Cole
Army News Service

One of the foundations of effective force protection is to always keep the bad guys guessing. Letting them know where you are and what you're doing is never a good idea.

These days, with smart technology in nearly everyone's pockets and social interaction keeping the global information highways buzzing, guarding your actions can be tricky.

Geotagging and "location-based social networking" are two technological and social interaction challenges that specifically worry Army and anti-terrorism experts.

Geotagging embeds geographic information into a photo or document's metadata that can be used to determine exactly where on Earth the photo was snapped or the document created.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

These location tools are embedded in many electronic devices, like smartphones, tablets and personal computers. "Checking in" on Facebook is one example of a common application.

"By providing these bits of information when uploading geotagged photos or 'checking in,' we give our adversaries another piece of the puzzle to help them piece together the overall



Location metadata could be attached to the photos and text messages you send, giving our adversaries another piece of the puzzle to help them piece together the overall picture.

picture and give them the advantage," explained Jessica Bittle, an Army force protection specialist. "By limiting the available information, we try to

remove that digital bulls-eye." Experts in the social media division of the Army's Office of the Chief of Public Affairs call the metadata added to photos -- and videos, documents and text messages -- "the equivalent

of adding a 10-digit grid coordinate to everything you post on the Internet."

The dangers, the experts say, are that these location-revealing functions allow potential bad guys to watch your movements and uncover patterns in your behavior; reveal the exact locations of places, such as your home or office, where you will be (or not be); and help enemies

to determine potential targets and classified locations.

VULNERABLE TARGET

We face an array of adversaries that take a vested interest in learning about individuals affiliated with our military in hopes of finding that vulnerable target," added Bittle.

The social media and security experts encourage people to disable this feature on their devices, or to review security settings so personal online information is not too informative.

DISABLE GEOTAGGING

Of equal concern to the security experts is location-based social networking, which has spawned a growing number of applications to satisfy users' desires to let people know where they are. Several social media sites even offer rewards or invite businesses or other organizations to offer incentives to users who "check in" at various locations. Anti-terrorism officials add a reminder that

Want to avoid giving away location? Disable the GPS function on your smartphone. For instructions, visit: <http://goo.gl/IAmsY>

Army Social Media experts call the metadata added to photos, videos, & text messages - "the equivalent of adding a 10-digit grid coordinate to everything you post on the Internet."

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Area Support Group-Afghanistan (ASG-A)

The Area Support Group-Afghanistan (ASG-A) is headquartered at Bagram Airfield and enables readiness by providing expeditionary installation capabilities and services to select locations throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area (CJOA)-Afghanistan.

Our mission here is critical to the Warfighter and we take pride in providing standardized and effective services, facilities and infrastructure in support of NATO Resolute Support's Train, Advise and Assist Mission.

Two-minute wait allows shrapnel to fall to ground

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Lying in this position for two minutes allows time for shrapnel to fall to the ground. Hall said this one of the major mistakes people make.

"They hit the ground initially, but get up too early. Stay put for two minutes and let the shrapnel fly over."

2. After two minutes, move quickly to the closest bunker or hardened building.

"If you're in barracks or other shelter that is not hardened, don your body armor

if possible and seek shelter in a bunker," said Hall.

3. Wait for the All Clear.

Another common misconception is that you are safe immediately after an IDF at-

"When an IDF is struck, it sends razor sharp shrapnel flying everywhere. (I've seen falling shrapnel cut through metal like butter.) You can imagine how easily that could slice through the human body."

tack. "Multiple attacks may follow the first," said Hall. "Stay under cover until you hear the All Clear. I know it can seem like a long wait, but while you're waiting for the All Clear, hazards are being assessed and mitigated for your protection.

4. Report yourself safe. Call your unit control center or chain of command to let them know you are safe. "If you don't report yourself safe, your chain of command will dispatch personnel to look for you."

Hall urges personnel to follow these procedures every time they react to an IDF, "every time just like it was the first time."

He said deployment complacency and the frequency of attacks can desensitize people to the danger of attacks.

"But don't let up. And if you don't do it for yourself, do it for your loved ones. They want you to return home whole and healthy."

AUDIBLE TONE	ALERT TYPE	ACTIONS
WAVES ALERT	IDF IMMINENT IN YOUR SECTOR	Take cover or lie prone on the ground !
AIR RAID SIREN	IDF IMPACT ON BAF	Take cover /Don IBA if available
BUGLE CALL	GROUND ATTACK	Take cover/Don IBA/FPCON Delta
EUROPEAN SIREN	MASCAL	Provide First Aid/Clear transport routes
YELPING TONE	CBRN ATTACK IMMINENT/SUSPECTED	Take cover/MOPP 4/Don IBA
STEADY TONE	DISASTER/FIRE/HAZ MAT INCIDENT	Follow Giant Voice instructions
• Immediate direction will follow each audible tone		

Disable geotagging on your smart phone under 'Settings'

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users should never discuss military or government information while using social media sites.

To disable geotagging on most smart phones check the general settings and look for a "location" tab and select the appropriate settings. A quick internet search will turn up step-by-step instructions for disabling these features for specific sites and devices.

For more on geotagging and location-based social networking, visit <http://goo.gl/wqKwZ>.

DID YOU KNOW ?

80% of terrorist research is collected through open source material

66% of adult Facebook users don't know about or how to use privacy controls

15% of Americans have never checked their social media privacy or security settings

Source: Army.mil