

ASG-A Newsletter

AREA SUPPORT GROUP – AFGHANISTAN

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 NOVEMBER 2018

NEWS YOU CAN USE

■ Lost your ID card? Follow these steps:

1. Provide the PMO a counseling statement detailing the loss and signed by immediate officer in CoC (military) or immediate supervisor (Civilian).
2. Have supervisor/first line leader accompany you to PMO.
3. PMO will provide approval for new ID.
4. Wait 48 hours before reporting loss to PMO. Lost ID cards are usually turned in within 48 hours. Found ID cards can be turned in to the 24-hour MP desk.

■ Don't miss the Armed Forces Entertainment-hosted pro beach volleyball in November. Details are in the MWR calendar on SIPR. Not on the distro? Email don.f.baumgartner.naf@mail.mil.

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401st Festivity

401st Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan bid farewell to the 20th Detachment, with an award ceremony and Org Day at Bagram Airfield Oct. 5. Battalion Executive Officer Maj. Ronald Haro, a logistics officer, is caught off guard during the Org Day's Civilian versus Soldier water balloon fight. For more photos from around BAF, see Page 7.

DHI upgrade to boost service

By ADRIANE ELLIOT
ASG-A Public Affairs

DHI customers can expect increased speed and signal quality starting in early November, according to Alex Bermudez, DHI Telecom Group's chief information officer.

Bermudez said recently up-

graded hardware and software in Afghanistan will significantly increase upload and download speeds. He said the changes will also introduce automated roaming so users don't have to sign in to multiple Wifi's manually as they move around the base.



**READ Q&A
ON PAGE 7
FOR MORE
DETAILS**

24-Hour DHI Customer Service:
Local +93-79-710-1366
Toll Free 1-855-362-7701

Holiday mailing deadlines approach

By JON MICHEAL CONNOR
USFOR-A Public Affairs

Bagram Airfield postal officials urge personnel to pay attention to mailing deadlines if they want their holiday mail to arrive on time this year.

For U.S. personnel deployed to Afghanistan:

Nov. 6 is the deadline to meet a Dec. 25 delivery to the United States using one of the least expensive mailing methods—USPS Retail Ground.

Dec. 4 is the deadline for

First Class letters and cards, and Priority mail.

Nov. 27 is the deadline for Space Available, the least expensive way to send mail.

Personnel at FOBs that use mail rodeos are encouraged to confirm their rodeo dates with their chain of command.

For personnel at Fenty (Jalalabad Airfield):

Dec. 11 is the date for First Class letters and cards and Priority mail

Nov. 27 is the date for

Space Available mail.

These dates do not take into account the time needed for customs clearance. Mailers should allocate extra transit days for delivery outside major cities.

Personnel should inform friends and Family not to use "Afghanistan" in the APO mailing address because the mail may end up in the Afghan mail stream.

For more information, call DSN 481-0515.

Commentary

Lessons learned: Keep your Family safe during deployment

By DOUGLAS M. RULE
Army News Service

The following appeared on Pikes Peak Parent blog site:
*"From (name taken out)'s blog post:
4 more days til he is gone...girls are handling it well, better then I thought. I haven't decided if I should bring them to say goodbye...I think it'll be hard on all involved...we are keeping them out of school Thursday and having a whole day, but maybe Friday they should go to school instead of watching him get on bus and leave."*

Seems innocent enough, right?

But it's not, when it comes to operations security.

Now in fairness, perhaps nobody took the time to talk to this wife about everything she should or shouldn't do when it comes to talking about her Soldier's deployment.

Good news first. The spouse has taken corrective action and is now aware of what might have been wrong.

She has been an Army spouse for some time and thought that operations security meant that she didn't give an actual time and date of deployment. She didn't consider that personal security and protection from identity theft are part of the whole program nor considered the consequences. She, like many others, is stressed from the upcoming deployment and was looking to support from a group of online friends.

But she and others need to consider this.

I now know that this spouse (even have her name) will be without a husband for probably at least the next year, probably longer.

I now know how to find the spouse's address because one Web site directed me to another, and for \$1.95 I can gather such information and even a little more - her age is even listed without having to pay the fee.

I now know that this Soldier and his wife also have at least



Army News Service photo

two children, who are girls.

I now know that this Soldier (and probably his unit) left March 5 during the school day.

I now know this spouse has misgivings about the deployment. She is probably staying at home alone. She probably wasn't home sometime during the day on March 5.

I did this all in five minutes and with nothing else besides the blog, which happened to show up as a link on the Colorado Springs FreshInk site for Fort Carson, and using internet tools available to anyone out there.

The spouse was under the illusion that the blog site she was on was "members only," which it supposedly is, but the person manning FreshInk linked to the blog without permission of the

SEE YOUR ONLINE, PAGE 11

ASG Newsletter

AREA SUPPORT GROUP - AFGHANISTAN

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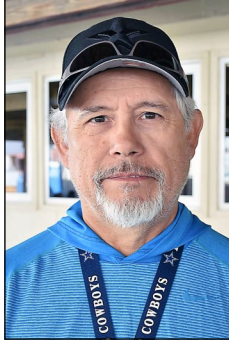
Man on the Street

Name your favorite fall activity in the U.S.



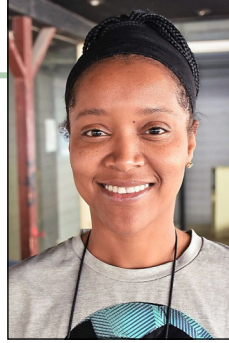
AF Senior Master Sgt. Scott Schweighauser

Going to the pumpkin patch and eating warm apple cinnamon donuts.



DOD Contractor Jose Acuna

In San Antonio, it's fall on the calendar, not in the weather, so I take in the sun and go bike riding.



DOD Civilian Latrina Coleman

Everything centers around NFL football. I'm a big Saints fan; we get together a lot, wear our jerseys and watch games.



Army Chaplain (Maj.) Jonathan McPherson

Watching football and jumping in the leaf piles with my children



DOD Contractor Daryl Blakemore

Prepping for Thanksgiving. We do it big and we start early in Texas.

Albania/Kosovo wins Fall 2018 Bagram World Cup



FAN RESPECT

Albanian and Kosovar fans bow to the Albania/Kosovo 2 team after a 4-3 victory against Bosnia 2 during the Fall 2018 Bagram World Cup at Bagram Airfield Oct. 19.

Photo by Don Baumgartner

THE LEGAL LEDGER



Buying a redeployment vehicle? Beware of common dealer frauds

Cooler weather is here, and the holidays are just around the corner. For many of us, the thoughts of home and redeployment are beginning to fill our minds.

Though we all continue to keep our collective eyes on the ball and feet on the gas, it's hard not to think about the promise of home and how to spend all that extra deployment pay that's burning a hole in the pocket.

To some, the "deployment gift" could look like a tricked out Ford Raptor F-150.

The allure of that beautiful machine rolling up in the parking lot is enough to make a Soldier head to the nearest dealership as soon as the welcome home ceremony has wrapped up.

But it is important to think before you act because there are predatory dealers just itching to make an acquaintance.

Below are a few of the most common, predatory car-buying frauds.

They are illegal and you can remedy them, but not without time, headache and legal fees:

The YoYo Sale

What it is: In this scam, a Soldier signs a credit contract, receives a temporary registration, temporary plates and zooms away in his fancy new car or truck, confident that the deal is done.

Then, days or even weeks later the dealer calls with the news that the first credit transaction was declined, meaning the Soldier must either return the vehicle or sign a new credit contract on different and generally far less desirable terms.

In this scenario, the dealer has deceived the Soldier into believing the title had been transferred, when in reality the dealer held it "pending" sale of the cred-

it contract, knowing the sale would fail.

When it fails, the dealer has leverage to force the Soldier to pay astronomical more in interest or to walk away completely—a decision made all the more difficult if the dealer has already sold the Soldier's trade-in.

In that case, the dealer will offer a much less valuable and less desirable vehicle at the same sky-high interest rate. This is the known as the Bait-and-Switch portion of the yo-yo sale.

How to avoid it: Make sure you have the title after purchase or that the dealership has properly transferred it to the lender before you leave in the new car.

Odometer Act violations

What it is: These violations occur when a dealer misrepresents the mileage on the vehicle to increase the perceived value and in turn, the sales price.

How to avoid it: The Odometer Act requires not only an accurate disclosure, but also requires that the disclosure be in a particular place: on the car's title.

Make sure to check the title for the odometer reading and compare it to the actual reading on the vehicle.

Prior-wreck

What it is: These frauds involve selling salvaged or distressed vehicles. Typically, the dealer fails to mention that they salvaged the vehicle from a prior wreck.

The new buyer drives away from the dealership and within a short period, the vehicle has repeated problems.

The dealer knows that it will break down, anticipating that the Soldier will bring it back once problems develop.

In keeping with his character, the dealer will refuse to repair the vehicle citing the limited warranty, or they may offer to repair it at inflated prices.

In either case, they will demand that you continue making payments accord-

ing to the contract.

How to avoid it: Always insist on seeing the vehicle's history. Although the title may not disclose that the car was a salvage, it will tell you if one dealer has repeatedly sold that same car, which is a big red flag.

You may also be able to request a third-party verification of the title, which should reveal flood damage, serious accidents or other problems.

Other Common Practices:

If you intend to finance the vehicle, consider doing so through a non-associated lender such as a bank or credit union.

Dealerships often make far more money selling speculative finance contracts than they do selling the actual car, which is why they are so motivated to get you to finance with them.

Loans with higher interest rates are worth more to the dealership when they sell the contract, giving them an incentive to get you to agree to a higher interest rate.

My sincere hope is that

Soldiers looking for a vehicle upgrade can realize the dream, without falling victim to predatory dealers. While most dealerships are honest and ethical, keeping your guard up and sensors out for these red flags will provide an extra safety step.

If you have any questions or concerns, stop by or call your local Legal Assistance Office.

You can reach the USFOR-A Legal Assistance Office at DSN 318-481-8543, or email stphen.m.beaty.mil@mail.mil or jacob.a.robinson27.mil@mail.mil.

This article was written with Maj. John Olson, 4th ID, Kandahar Airfield.

*Capt. Stephen Beaty
Chief of Combined Joint
Task Force Client Services*



"While most dealerships are ethical, keeping your guard up and sensors out for red flags will provide an extra safety step."

Avoid violation: Properly display ID

By JON MICHEAL CONNOR
USFOR-A Public Affairs

To avoid embarrassing encounters and violating policy, personnel must adhere to the installation's badging rules.

According to Commander BAF/Frago 16-130, all non-military personnel on Bagram Airfield (BAF) must maintain or display either a Common Access Card, BAF access badge or Resolute Support theater badge at all times.

"This is a security measure that helps us prevent nefarious activity. It allows us to not only identify all personnel on the installation but it also allows us to ensure individuals are in locations they're authorized to be in," said Joe Faulkner, the Directorate of Emergency Services director at BAF. "For example, if a person who has a red badge and requires escort is found to be in a location without an escort, that would raise suspicion about who they are and why they are there."

"Badges must be displayed to the front, above the belt and visible on the outermost garment, typically in an arm band or lanyard badge holder," said Faulkner, a Marine veteran and retired police officer.

Task force, camp and compound badges are not authorized identification badges outside of their designated areas.

Military personnel—U.S. or Coalition—wearing service or physical training uniforms do not have to display an identification badge.

Faulkner said failure to follow the badging policy can result in the offender being barred from the installation or the respective deployed area.

The one exception to the policy, he said, is in living areas.



"It is not necessary to wear your badge to the shower or restroom if it is within close proximity to your room. However your badge should be readily accessible and secured when not on your person."

And because security is everyone's responsibility, Faulkner said offenders can expect to be approached by anyone on base.

"Any individual who notices a badge violation should challenge the person tactfully about the absence of the proper badge," he said.

According to the policy, it is everyone's duty regardless of a person's rank,



military or civilian status or national affiliation.

"Typically if a military police or law enforcement officer sees a badging violation it is usually an on-the-spot correction, but they can request additional punishment per policy," said Faulkner.

The Area Support Group Directorate of Emergency Services is responsible for BAF's military police, government oversight duties via contracting for contract fire services, anti-terrorism, force protection, physical security, security operations, visa stamp operations, and base access and control.

Form 483 now required to drive on flight line

ASG-A Public Affairs

As of Nov. 1, 2018, drivers without airfield driving licenses are prohibited from traveling on the flight line and accessing the flight line perimeter road.

Guards at the entry control points will no longer allow entry to personnel with-

out a valid AF Form 483, but they will still be allowed to walk onto the flight line with their restricted area badge.

Personnel should contact their airfield driving program manager to obtain a license. For more information, call Alison Tomei or Mary Scheid at DSN 318-447-6171.

ASG-A Online



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Visit www.army.mil and search for Area Support Group Afghanistan

FOB Lightning

1st SFAB, Afghan troops exchange JOCs

Story and photos by
JON MICHEAL CONNOR
USFOR-A Public Affairs

At the NATO/U.S.-led Joint Operation Center at Forward Operating Base Lightning, there is an Afghan Army officer observing and learning how a world-class military deployed unit works in his country.

On the other end of the FOB, a U.S. Army officer observes, watches and assists Afghans in their JOC assessing the enemy on a daily basis.

The JOC is a jointly manned facility of a commander's headquarters established for planning, monitoring, and guiding the execution of the commander's decisions.

It is proactively engaged in nonstop operations pertaining to command and control programs. In essence, it's the heart and brain of an organization.

FOB Lightning is headquarters to the Army's newest premier unit, 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade, deployed to Afghanistan in support of the NATO-led Operation Resolute Support.

The unit trains, advises, and assists partner nation militaries in a variety of specialized skills each SFAB member brings to the team. In Afghanistan, 1st SFAB enables the Afghans from the battalion to corps level.

The unit's home station is Fort Benning, Georgia.



Pictured is the Afghanistan National Army 203rd Corps' Joint Operations Center at Forward Operating Base Thunder. The JOC is established for planning, monitoring, and guiding the execution of the commander's decisions.

For the Afghanistan National Army's 203rd Corps headquartered at FOB Lightning, nine-year infantry officer Capt. Rahmuddin Wali Zadah serves as an operations liaison officer and says the experience has been good.

"Very interesting work," he said through a linguist. "Everybody's friendly." Earlier in his career, Zadah said he assisted U.S. Special Forces at which

time he learned how to properly report to a JOC.

A normal day sees Zadah reporting to the 1st SFAB JOC at 8 a.m. and working there until noon. After eating, praying and working out at the gym, he heads to the JOC on the Afghan side of the base and works there until about midnight and then calls it a day.

SEE JOC, PAGE 12

Afghan infantry officer Capt. Rahmuddin Wali Zadah serves as an operations liaison officer at the 1st SFAB's JOC at FOB Lightning near Gardez.



Maj. Chris Welsh, a 16-year Army veteran who specializes in intelligence, serves as an adviser to the Afghan's intelligence directorate.

Your DHI Questions Answered

Q. What upgrades are taking place?

DHI will be introducing a dual band for WiFi. Both 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz options will improve any issues with local wireless interference. Roaming will be automated without having to connect to another WiFi manually. Once the full rollout is completed, your device will move from one access point to another seamlessly.

Q. What does this mean for customers?

Quality of service for Voice Over Internet Protocol and video will be vastly improved.

Customers will experience 100 percent faster upload and download speeds when streaming their favorite shows, movies, music and videos.

There will be occasional breaks in service due to ruptures in fiber outside the Bagram base, and outside of DHI's control.

However, faster speeds, and higher quality connections are in DHI's control.

Q. Why does Wifi service drop, and is there a solution?

"As soon as we receive a problem with connectivity or speed, DHI engineers on the ground start working around the clock to locate the source of the issue.

The technical team monitors the DHI network performance 24/7 to avoid lapses in service under our control," said Alex Bermudez, DHI's chief information officer.

Q. What should I do when I have service issues?

Customers should always send DHI a ticket so that our teams can research the exact problem they are having and provide a proper resolution. Or call DHI technicians on the 24-hour hotline at the local DHI number (AFG: +93-79-710-1366) or 1-855-362-7701.

Q. What causes service interruption?

We understand the frustration with intermittent internet browsing issues. It is a monumental challenge sustaining outage-free internet service in a war-zone, considering power outages from sandstorms, poor infrastructure, and fiber cuts to name a few.

Coverage issues at a customer's location can cause disconnections outside DHI's control. For example, the customer's device is too far from the WiFi—close enough to connect, but not close enough to maintain the connection.

But it's not as simple as just moving the WiFi device closer, there are obstructions between the customer and the WiFi signal, like metal, concrete, or thick wooden walls that impede wireless frequency.

Power outages are also out of DHI's control, but just a split second can cause the WiFi to stop streaming and it will take a few minutes to recover.

Q. Explain usage in Afghanistan.

Personal internet usage on US/NATO bases in Afghanistan greatly exceeds normal usage in the U.S., Europe and most developed countries.

Heavy usage, often referred to as "peak time," is the time of day when the highest number of users who share an allocated amount of bandwidth are online using internet services.

Averaged historical network data shows "peak time" in Afghanistan largely occurs in the evening and nighttime hours.

To improve service, we employ dynamic allocation and bandwidth shaping that allows for evenly distributed bandwidth to provide your plan's average maintained rate.

"There were complaints several weeks ago, stemming from specific Cisco areas," said Bermudez. "Replacing the microwave on the east side rectified the problem and we saw a sharp drop in complaints regarding disconnections. We were able to fix the problem promptly thanks to customers reporting issues to the helpdesk."

Q. What does DHI do to maintain quality service on a daily basis?

In addition to DHI's technical team, the Department of Defense has a network engineer dedicated to monitoring network performance at every site. If needed, he or she acts as the customer's advocate in resolving any issues with DHI.

The representative has a network engineer background and monitors the network performance at every site.

For example, DHI is required to have a monitoring computer at every site and it runs a speed test every 10 minutes, 24/7; to make sure DHI is providing the correct bandwidth and speed.

Q. How do you connect more than use one device at a time?

DHI Mobile stores offer Sapphire mobile WiFi hotspots with 4G LTE signal strength that can connect up to five devices at the same time. For more information, visit or www.SapphireGo.com or www.shopmyexchange.com.

Q. Tell me more about DHI service.

DHI Telecom is based in the United States and has been serving U.S. military and coalition forces in Afghanistan, Iraq and other Middle East bases since 2007.

DHI's management starting with the CEO, Wallace Davis, is made up of military veterans, family members of veterans, active duty Army reservists, and civilian IT experts.

DHI's mission is to serve the military with advanced WiFi solutions. "We understand that for service men and women, it's more than just WiFi, it's a lifeline," Davis said.

Q. When will the upgrades be complete?

"The upgrade WiFi access point project in Afghanistan is scheduled to be completed by the 1st quarter of 2019. Customers will begin seeing improvements with speed on the connections in November and will experience further improvements as the project progresses.

Bagram Snapshot:

a day in the life of the people and happenings at Bagram Airfield . To view, download and share these and other photos, visit the ASG Flickr Page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/asg-afghanistan/>

The South Korean Ambassador to Afghanistan, Rhee Zha Hyoung (second from left) visited the Bagram Korean hospital during an Oct. 15 visit to Bagram Airfield. The facility, which closed in 2015, was donated and staffed by the Republic of Korea and cared for nearly 300,000 patients and provided vocational training to more than 900 students.

Photos by Adriane Elliot



Nearly 200 personnel, some in costume, showed up for the 5K Spooky Run hosted by the 455th EFSS IAP Oct. 20, on Bagram Airfield.



(Left) Juan Zabata instructs a Brazilian jiu-jitsu class at Fenty (Jalalabad Airfield) Oct. 12. Brazilian jiu-jitsu is a martial art and combat sport system that focuses on grappling and specifically ground fighting. It promotes the concept that a smaller, weaker person can successfully defend themselves or another against a bigger, stronger, assailant by using technique, leverage and taking the fight to the ground, applying joint locks and chokeholds to defeat the opponent. Personnel at Fenty can get information on martial arts classes and other events at the monthly town hall, which is open to anyone who would like to attend. Event information is also posted on fliers throughout the base and sent to unit reps via email.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lerone Simmons

The Harlem Globetrotters and their mascot entertained a full audience at Bagram Airfield Oct. 8 with the magic chair trick. According to their website, the Globetrotters have entertained fans for nearly a century, playing its first road game in 1927. The site says it has entertained more than 146 million fans in 123 countries and territories throughout the globe. The Globetrotters is one of many entertainment groups that visit deployed throughout the year. Get details on upcoming events in the MWR calendar on SIPR, or email don.f.baumgartner.naf@mail.mil.

A service member records story time at a United Through Reading room in the Warrior USO at Bagram Airfield in October. The room recently underwent a vibrant makeover, with classic Dr. Seuss characters painted on the walls and new chairs. USO hosts United Through Reading story time programming at nearly 90 USO locations around the world to help keep deployed parents connected to their children through story time. Participants can pick a book from a large collection of childhood favorites, choose from a collection of hats, relax in a private area and record themselves reading the book aloud. Once finished, the USO ships a copy of the book and the recording to loved ones back home. Visit your local USO to participate.

Bagram Airfield USO photo



Photo by Adriane Elliot

(From left) USFOR-A's Deidre Anderson and Lena Dodley were among more than 500 participants in the Army Ten Miler shadow run at Bagram Airfield Oct. 4. The U.S. Army Ten Miler is held annually in Washington, D.C., in October. It is the second largest 10-mile race in the United States and the third largest 10-mile race in the world.

You may not be getting all of your email

ASG-A Public Affairs

If you didn't register your location after your arrival in country, you may be missing out on important emails.

Personnel must change their duty location to Bagram Airfield (BAF) on the [milConnect website](#) in order to have their emails listed in the 'BAF All' email distro list. This change will affect both NIPR and SIPR address lists. Directions are as follows:

- **Login to milConnect**
- **Select "Update work contact info (GAL)"**

- **Select the "CIV" or military tab.**
- **Change "Duty Installation/Location" to "Bagram, Afghanistan"**
- **Select "Submit"**

Once registered, you are able to receive special announcements and products distributed through the Bagram Afghanistan email distro, including the MWR calendar and AAFES movie schedule.

milConnect is an online portal for

DOD beneficiaries that allows personnel to manage their benefits and records, check health care coverage, view personnel data, transfer education benefits, and retrieve correspondence at your convenience 24/7.

It is available online and through a mobile app.

milConnect information comes from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System or DEERS.

Eligible users are active duty, National Guard and Reserve members; and military retirees, spouses and eligible family members age 18 and older.



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Kristin High

Compass Call

An Airman from the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group conduct routine maintenance on an EC-130H Compass Call on Bagram Airfield Sept. 30. The modified aircraft uses noise jamming to prevent communication or degrade the transfer of information essential to command and control of weapon systems and other resources. It primarily supports tactical air operations but also can provide jamming support to ground force operations. Modifications to the aircraft include an electronic countermeasures system, air refueling capability and associated navigation and communications systems.

Your online posts can provide a mountain of Family intel

Continued from Page 2

blog caretaker. One has to consider public sites as not secure. Even Facebook, which is supposed to be secure, has been hacked. This could have happened on any public Web site.

I dug a little bit further into the Pikes Peak Parent blog and found a photograph of the spouse with her twin 6-year-old daughters she had posted. Reading more of her blogs, I discovered that they live off Woodmen Boulevard. She also works outside the house as an optometric assistant.

If I were a bad guy

And I am not a "bad guy." I am not a sexual predator. I am not a scam artist. I am not a pedophile. I am not a terrorist.

But this spouse has inadvertently set up her Family and her husband for the bad guys.

If I were a bad guy, I might wait a month.

I might show up with fake credentials, offering unsolicited to check the furnace or the water pipes or a fee cleaning service, maybe something special for "our men in uniform."

I might find the opportunity to strike up a friendship at the grocery store or playground.

I might be a man, I might be a woman. I might monitor the Family's daily routine: what time the girls go to school, what school they go to, if they have after-school activities.

I might check out their car, which probably even has a yellow ribbon magnet on it or some other identifying item that would indicate that the driver is an Army spouse of a deployed Soldier. And I would wait until the time is right.

Scammers

I could be working with someone else, like the two women who several years ago went around informing military spouses that their husbands were injured.

They said that for a several hundred dollar fee, they could reserve a space on a flight for the spouses to visit the Soldiers at Landstuhl Regional Medical

Writing about the school your child attends, along with pictures of your children, are potential clues to help predators locate you or your Family.

Center in Germany, telling them the spouse would be reimbursed for the fee once she got there.

Fortunately in that scam, the spouses were either more experienced or doubtful of the scam artists and contacted the authorities. But it doesn't even have to stop with just the wife and children. It could affect the husband.

Who's to say that a terrorist group wouldn't make contact? Who's to say that the terrorist group wouldn't try to blackmail the Soldier into betraying his country with the threat of hurting his wife and children?

Hopefully, our Soldiers would take this to the proper authorities, but even if they did, why add this stress to their already stressful mission.

The details

According to Terrence Wimberly, Fort Carson installation operations security program manager, the following tips can be used to help protect you and your Family during a deployment:

- Do not post information about upcoming deployments or temporary duty assignments.
- Don't give details about what kind of work your Department of Defense Family member performs for the military or government (this is also valid for DoD civilians who might deploy).
- If your Family member is deployed in support of a military operation, don't give details about the location or the activities your Family member is involved in. Predators could be viewing your blogs and web pages.
- Realize that even if you install security protocols or password protection on your blog or personal web page - they're not foolproof.

- Refrain from posting specific identifying information such as your phone number and address.

- Don't provide information that would allow someone to find you or your Family. Writing about the school your child attends, along with pictures of your children, are potential clues to help predators locate you or your Family.

- Don't post your e-mail address on your page. Small town Internet service providers and personal information contained in your e-mail address should also be protected.

Support groups

Always understand that predators (terrorists, spies, and criminals) are out there just waiting to take advantage of others. Help keep your family safe by using good OPSEC.

One thing that all spouses and Family members need to remember is that during any deployment, there are support groups in place to help you.

Most deploying units have Family Readiness Groups, usually run by more seasoned spouses. Many FRGs have password-protected, secure sites hosted on Army computer systems, like Army Knowledge On-Line.

If your unit doesn't have an FRG, call Army Community Service's Relocation Program for information on the Waiting Family Program.

ACS is available for the myriad other things that might come up during a deployment. They can also refer you to other sources if it's a situation outside their area of expertise.

Chances are good that nothing will ever happen. But there is always the chance that something might. If you feel you have to blog, keep Family safety in the forefront.

Have an idea for a story? Want to send in a photo or story submission? Email centcom.bagram.usfor-a.mbx.asg-pao@mail.mil.

ABOUT US: Area Support Group Afghanistan (ASG-A)



The Area Support Group Afghanistan (ASG-A) is headquartered at Bagram Airfield and *ENABLES READINESS* by providing base life support to more than 35,000 personnel—U.S. military, DOD Civilian, contractor and Coalition forces—throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area Afghanistan.

ASG-A base life support services encompass everything from billeting and food service to public works and quality of life.

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.

JOC exchange boosts TAA mission

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"Any time they need me, I'm willing to come and help," he said.

Asked what he has learned at the JOC, Zadah said how to plot grid coordinates using Google Maps and how to stay busy.

Capt. Travis Coley, senior bomb technician and explosive ordnance disposal officer in charge, who is overseeing Zadah's interview for clarification, said Afghans normally relate an incident's location by physical locations such as street names, buildings, or any other known land-based objects instead of more precise grid coordinates which can spot a location within about 10 yards.

Coley said what Zadah has learned is "enduring results" on how to run a professional operations center. And, of course, Zadah shares this experience with the personnel in the Afghan JOC.

"No one in this organization has ever done anything like this before," Coley

said, of personnel assisting in each other's JOC.

On the other side of the base, Afghan Soldiers inside their JOC monitor computer screens, handle phone calls and discuss things amongst themselves.

In the room with them is Maj. Chris Welsh, a 16-year veteran who specializes in intelligence. Besides serving as a company commander, Welsh also serves as an adviser to the Afghan's intelligence directorate.

He, along with other 1st SFAB Soldiers, serve on a combat adviser team during three different daily shifts, to advise and assist the Afghans in their JOC. While there are physical differences in the two JOCs, Welsh said the Afghans have the necessary tools to carry out operations.

"They do have the capabilities," he said, citing that functionality is similar in that they have digital systems to provide mapping imagery and can receive Afghan air support video feeds.

"They really have come a long way," Welsh said. The issue is not capability, but how the leadership implements the information. If used wisely, that can improve ground tactics, he said.

Welsh references that with comparing his experiences of being deployed a total of three years in Iraq and serving in Afghanistan for six months in 2013.

Working with the Afghans in their JOC has been a good thing, he said. "It's been rewarding on a number of occasions," Welsh said. "They're truly patriots."

He added that the Afghans are making "significant headway" regarding intelligence.

"It has been really encouraging and rewarding," Welsh said of the overall swap in officers at the JOCs yielding some positive results.

The TAA approach is working, Welsh said, "That's the biggest potential — to have that experience and seniority partnered with them."

Wish Family and friends a festive season with holiday greetings

ASG-A Public Affairs

It's that time of year again.

The Department of Defense is looking for holiday greetings from personnel stationed abroad.

The deadline for Thanksgiving is Nov. 15, and the deadline for Christmas and holiday greetings is Dec. 19. Follow the following tips for a successful shout-out: Greetings should

be no longer than 10-15 seconds. Be Joyous in the greeting, it's the holidays! Don't mention multiple cities in one greeting. Make sure to mention a city in the greeting and not an entire region or state. Example greeting: "Hello, this is Sgt. Jane Smith stationed in Afghanistan, I hope everyone is having a happy Thanksgiving and I'd like to say hello to my Mom, Barbara and my Dad Jimmy in Atlanta, Georgia." Email centcom.bagram.usfor-a.mbx.asg-pao@mail.mil for more information.