

439th AIR EXPEDITIONARY ADVISORY SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

439th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron

STATIONS

Kabul, Afghanistan

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

3/20/2012 - KABUL, Afghanistan (AFNS) -- Aircraft are useless without proper maintenance, pilots and the fuel needed to feed the beast. One senior NCO is working to improve the capabilities of the Afghan air force one fuel sample at a time. U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jeremiah Fentress, a fuels flight advisor with the 439th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron at Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, recently conducted training on basic fuels laboratory analysis with three Afghan air force fuels specialists assigned here. "The training we conducted

mainly focused on pulling multiple types of fuels samples," Fentress said. "We discussed the basics on how to properly conduct a fuels analysis and used the different laboratory equipment needed to accomplish the various tasks."

The course consisted of specialized training needed to properly perform an American Petroleum Institute density test, Fuels System Icing Inhibitor test, Conductivity Unit test and an inline sample test. "The training we conducted will allow the Afghans to properly analyze their fuel supplies in the future," said the Longmont, Colo., native. "They will be able to determine if the fuel is within specification and therefore suitable for use." In addition to analyzing fuels samples, the students learned the proper use of weight bottles and bacon-bomb samplers to collect accurate fuel samples and to function check the fuel and filter separators from fuel storage tanks.

Without this training, said Fentress, the AAF would not be able to assess the current status of its fuel. Contaminated fuel may cause serious damage to aircraft or loss of human life. "This is very good training that we are receiving and we have learned a lot," said Sayed Ghani, AAF fuels flight civilian liaison officer. "This is beneficial to us and Afghanistan because these are things we can continue to use in the future." Currently the AAF has more than 6,000 oil items that are managed and distributed to the aircraft maintenance squadrons across the airport. One of the biggest challenges, Fentress explained, is that the Afghan air force is still working on getting the equipment and supplies needed to have the full capability to get the actual job done. "Basically we can only perform training runs because the AAF doesn't have the capability yet to conduct full analysis on the fuel," Fentress said. AAF Lt. Mohammad Hamayoon said he appreciated the opportunity to attend training, even with the unique supply challenges. "We had a lot of problems trying to get training done before," Hamayoon said. "Since the mentors have arrived we have seen many improvements and have started receiving the equipment we need to do our job like oil, lab equipment and of course the fuel." Fentress said that he was very impressed with the students and by using their new found skills the AAF will benefit in the future. "We are here to help them and build on our future relationship, so I look forward to working with my Afghan brothers the rest of the time I'm here," Fentress said.

Air advisors certified Afghan airmen with the Kabul Air Wing in Fly Away Security Team tactics for the first time to permit the Afghan Air Force to operate more autonomously. "This new skill set enables them to conduct both aerial and ground operations with highly trained security details while extending the AAF's reach beyond garrison," 439th Air Expeditionary Advising Squadron head security advisor Capt. Tony Short said in a Jan. 7 release. FAST-trained security teams were crucial in securing helicopter landing zones and defending the aircraft against attack while collecting rural ballot boxes during Afghanistan's recent elections. In addition, "We will be able to provide ground security for downed aircraft or aircraft forced to emergency land due to technical problems," said AAF Capt. Hazim, head of the unit's quick response team. Advisors qualified eight AAF security airmen and plan to host two more FAST courses in the near future, according to the release. 2015

5/25/2012 - KABUL, Afghanistan -- Approximately 21 Afghan air force air wing security forces led their first quick reaction force patrol outside the gates of Kabul, Afghanistan, International Airport May 21. The AAF security forces were accompanied by seven members of the 439th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron who trekked up the mountain with the AAF security forces to give advice and guidance throughout the mission. But before the AAF security forces squadrons left base, they performed battle drills for a few hours the day prior. The drills go over commonly encountered scenarios and what to do if the worst case situation occurs. It was final training before the actual mission . This type of military defense contributes to the overall defense of the base, said Capt. Dan Minnoccii, 439th AEAS SF operational advisor, who is deployed from Barksdale Air Force Base, La. The mission consisted of a mounted and dismounted patrol. After reaching the dismount point, the AAF security forces established a secure perimeter before taking the lead in the patrol. "The main goal is to get the Afghans to a point where they can defend the base and assets on their own," Minnoccii said. The advisors took the rear of the patrol to make sure the AAF were the ones leading the patrol. "We tagged along with the Afghan led patrol so we could answer any questions or give advice on the way," said Master Sgt. Chris Wright, 439th AEAS security forces advisor. It was the AAF security forces who gathered information, planned the mission and got approval, Minnoccii said. "This mission was a show of force and deterrence," said the Indiatlantic, Fla., native. "It also allowed us to gather intelligence for force protection." The AAF also recognized the tools they have been learning. "We are getting very good at it [patrolling] because people came here helping us," said Capt. Azom, AAF QRF component commander. "Now, we can do a service for our country." "I think they are more than ready, and they have showed it in both training and in action," Minnoccii continued. "They are effective for security." The patrol went well, said Wright. "They used what they were taught and applied it," he continued. "They definitely met the expectations."

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.