

# 455<sup>th</sup> EXPEDITIONARY LOGISTICS READINESS SQUADRON



## MISSION

### LINEAGE

455<sup>th</sup> Sub Depot (Class I) constituted, 2 Nov 1943

Activated, 1 Dec 1943

Redesignated 455<sup>th</sup> Sub Depot, Class I, Special, 17 Jul 1944

Disbanded, 15 Apr 1945

Reconstituted, redesignated 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Supply Squadron, and converted to provisional status, 4 Dec 2001

Activated, 26 Jul 2002

Redesignated 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, 1 Dec 2002

### STATIONS

Great Ashfield, England, 1 Dec 1943-15 Apr 1945

Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, 26 Jul 2002

### ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth Air Force, 1 Dec 1943-15 Apr 1945

Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate anytime after 4 Dec 2001

455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Logistics Group, 26 Jul 2002

### COMMANDERS

### HONORS

#### Service Streamers

World War II European-African-Middle Eastern Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

Afghanistan  
Consolidation I  
Consolidation II  
Consolidation III

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" for Valor  
16 Sep 2002-15 Sep 2003

#### Meritorious Unit Awards

16 Sep 2003-30 Sep 2004  
1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2005  
1 Oct 2005-1 Sep 2006  
1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2007  
1 Oct 2007-30 Sep 2008  
1 Oct 2008-30 Sep 2009  
1 Oct 2009-30 Sep 2010  
1 Oct 2010-30 Sep 2011  
1 Oct 2011-30 Jun 2012  
1 Jul 2012-30 Jun 2013  
1 Jul 2013-30 Jun 2014

### **EMBLEM**



455<sup>th</sup> Sub Depot emblem

455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, a dancetty of three peaks with the center peak higher Argent, overall a griffin rampant Gules, holding in its sinister paw a globe of the field, grid lines Or, all within an annulet of the last; all within a narrow Scarlet border. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Scarlet border and

inscribed "455 EXP LOGISTICS READINESS SQ" in Scarlet letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. Red refers to the courage and patriotism of the members of the Squadron. The griffin represents the legendary creature with the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle, symbolic of Air Force logisticians being king of their domain and supporting both theaters of operations—air and land. The three peaks represent the history of the 455<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing. (Approved, 12 Jan 2011)

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Four Airmen deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron at Bagram Airfield sprang into action following a Jan. 4 terrorist attack on a compound in Kabul, Afghanistan. The Airmen were in Kabul as part of U.S. Central Command's materiel recovery element, inspecting equipment for air transport out of Afghanistan. While eating dinner at an eatery on the military side of the Hamid Karzai International Airport, they heard and felt a blast. "We were done eating and sitting there then we heard (the blast) and we felt it," said Master Sgt. Matthew Longshaw, deployed from the Utah Air National Guard at Salt Lake City International Airport. "The building shook, and then (Tech. Sgt. Chad Huggins) came in after that; he was pretty visibly upset." Huggins, deployed from Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, was outside talking on the phone when he saw and felt the blast.

"You heard it, and saw the flash and the next thing it was like a movie," he said. "I got pushed into the wall and my phone went flying. I don't even know how to explain it." Huggins said he picked up his phone and ran back into the restaurant to find his comrades. About a quarter-mile away, a 15-foot-deep crater sat where the vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated. "I was staring at these guys," Huggins said about the situation, "and they were staring back. Then they started speaking and I couldn't understand them; my ears were ringing.

They asked, 'Are you OK,' and I said, 'Yeah, we need to go. The team left the restaurant and went back to their temporary billeting, still reeling over what they had just experienced. Then came the call for help. "One of the civilians came in from (readiness management support) and asked for our help," Longshaw explained. "So we got up and started to help; did what we could and whatever we were asked to do." Staff Sgt. Tobi Wagner, deployed from Little Rock AFB, Arkansas, had just lied down in his bunk. "(Airman 1st Class John Michael Aradanas) grabbed my ankle and said, 'Hey, we need to help those contractors. C'mon, let's go.' So I got up, put on some shorts and went to go help. I was still a little out of it so I wasn't sure what was going on, but I knew I wanted to help." Aradanas, deployed from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, is serving on his first deployment. He said his adrenaline was "through the roof" at that moment. "I was just trying to help," he said. "It went by quick, just watching all of these people come in and doing what I could to comfort them."

The four Airmen all pitched in to help set up a temporary area, where nurses constantly checked on the civilians, mostly contractors, who were injured in the attack. Then they stuck around for the next eight hours, sitting with patients and comforting them; doing whatever was needed of them.

"It brought you back down to reality real quick," Wagner said. "They came in and were covered in debris and they were hurt. You'd see fresh cuts and blood. Everyone was kind of disheveled because they couldn't get any of their stuff." The team commented how one man was knocked from his bed when the blast occurred near his living quarters. He walked his hallway in bare feet on broken glass until someone was able to find him some boots to wear. Another man was saved by a treadmill, which created a pocket in the rubble where he was buried for three hours until a crane was brought in to sift through the debris.

While scenes like this aren't necessarily the norm for most Airmen deployed to Afghanistan, it's something which the Airmen felt prepared to support. "When I was here two years ago they (terrorists) were much more active," said Wagner, on his second deployment. "It felt as if we were getting attacked constantly. So I was expecting a little bit of the same. Then I got (to Bagram Airfield) and there wasn't much of anything." That was the case for them until Jan. 4, when the attack occurred and their reflexes and training kicked in. "It's human instinct that if you see someone worse off than you, that you're going to help them," Huggins said. "But the Air Force did help with the training to understand how to deal with it and what to do in certain situations."

The team said they set up lodging for the victims of the blast, consisting of about 70 beds, then comforted the victims and assisted the medical staff with anything else that was needed. "I think we did everything that we could've possibly done," Wagner said. "You sit and you listen, which is really what we did. I think that helped a lot of people." Although the attack, which claimed one life and injured more than two dozen others, occurred just a few days ago, each of the Airmen has had a chance to reflect on the incident. "I figure that the guys getting hurt are the ones kicking in doors or doing convoys and stuff like that," said Longshaw, who has previously deployed with the Air National Guard and Marine Corps. "I didn't really think about our contractors getting blown up on the civilian side of an airport. I didn't expect that to happen." For Huggins, serving on his seventh deployment, he figured incidents like this happened to other people, not to him. "I've been deployed a lot," he said. "You know the dangers and reality, but you don't expect to be put in that situation. 'Oh, that ain't going to happen to me.' Now that it has, it's a reality check. You look at things differently."2016

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Air Force Order of Battle  
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#### Sources

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The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.  
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.