

501st PIR fuels Salerno's esprit de corps

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

SALERNO, Afghanistan – Armed with the knowledge that a good, hot meal is one of the biggest morale boosters thereby; the lack of it can destroy troops' spirit, the dining faculty Soldiers of Task Force "Geronimo" 1-501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, from Fort Richardson, Alaska, are working diligently to ensure that service members stationed at the Forward Operating Base Salerno have the esprit de corps and the fuel they need to confront the insidious challenges of Af-



Soldiers from the dining faculty of Task Force 1-501st Parachute Infantry Regiment serve the more than 850 U.S. service members at the Forward Operating Base Salerno.

See **MORALE**, Page 3

Army lifts the fog on stop loss expansion

Story by Staff Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – The Army officially cleared the ambiguity of when active-duty Soldiers can change duty stations, separate or retire Wednesday when Washington announced that the latest stop loss was enacted.

"The stop loss was placed in effect to stabilize deployed units," said Lt. Col. Linda Sheimo, CJ1 of Combined Joint Task Force-180. "There is a lot of personnel movement occurring with Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 and Operation Enduring Freedom 4, so the Stop Loss is a temporary measure to stabilize currently deployed forces."

The stop loss is affecting about 7,000 Soldiers currently serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, according to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

Under the stop loss program, Soldiers are required to remain with their current unit for the duration of their deployment and must remain with the unit a maximum of 90 days upon returning to its

home duty station. Of the 7,000 affected, about half of the Soldiers fall under the Stop Loss and the other under a Stop Movement.

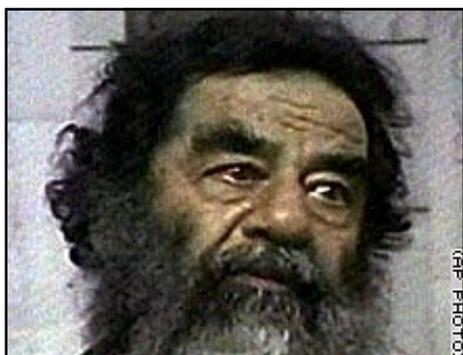
For Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division based out of Fort Drum, N. Y., the major component currently serving in Afghanistan, officials at Fort Drum are hosting a Town Hall meeting for families members to further help them understand requirements of their deployed loved ones.

"The meeting will address the problems or concerns the families are having," said Sheimo. "It is important to know that we will work to support commanders and Soldiers to help minimize the impact of the situation."

The 90-day stabilization period for returning to the home duty station is a measure taken to help Soldiers have an effective transition period, according to Lt. Col. Franklin Childress, G1 Public Affairs officer. The three months allow Soldiers time to complete out-processing – attend to medical needs, engage in the Army Career and Alumni Program, complete housing arrangements and ship personal belongings.

See **STABILIZE**, Page 3

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Saddam Hussein is shown shortly after his capture December 13.

Pentagon: Saddam is POW

WASHINGTON – The Pentagon has declared former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein an enemy prisoner of war, officials said Friday.

The declaration could affect how Saddam is treated in captivity and if, or how, he'll be tried.

Since his capture by U.S. troops in December, Saddam has been afforded protection under the spirit of the Geneva Conventions. Because of the POW declaration, the United States will have to adhere to the letter of the treaty, which could limit its options in dealing with the deposed ruler.

According to Article 17, prisoners of war are not required to divulge anything more than their name, rank, date of birth and serial number, and may not be threatened, insulted or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment to force more information from them.

Also, Saddam's classification as a POW means that he can be tried only under the authority of occupying forces, which might require a U.S. military trial. That would interfere with U.S. plans to turn the former Iraqi leader over to an Iraqi war crimes tribunal.

Pentagon spokesman Larry Di Rita said if any information comes to light that would raise questions about Saddam's status – if, for example, it could be proved that Saddam was leading postwar insurgency against the U.S.-led coalition — there are provisions in the Geneva Conventions to review and possibly change his status.

Woman charged over lying about lost lottery ticket

(CNN) – The woman who claimed to have lost a winning lottery ticket and then acknowledged that she lied about it was charged with

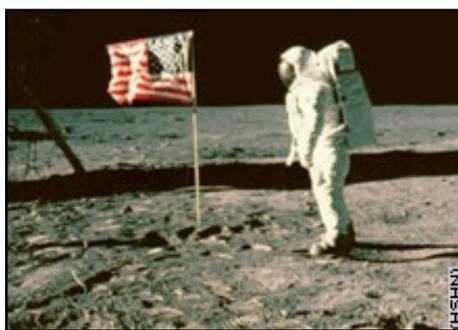
one count of filing a false police report, a South Euclid, Ohio, police spokeswoman said Friday.

The spokeswoman said ELECIA Battle will appear in court Jan. 15 on the misdemeanor charge and could be sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$1,000 if convicted.

Thursday, Battle dropped a lawsuit she had filed to block the \$162 million payout of the Mega Millions lottery jackpot and admitted she had lied about losing the ticket.

"I wanted to win. The numbers were so overwhelming. I did buy a ticket and I lost it. I wanted to win so bad for my kids, my family," she said.

Battle had said she lost the ticket when she dropped her purse outside the store where it was sold, in the Cleveland suburb of South Euclid.



Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin stands on the moon in 1969.

President Bush's space dream draws jeers, cheers

(AP) – The prospect of sending astronauts back to the moon and maybe on to Mars is stirring a mix of skepticism and excitement.

"I'll believe it when I see it," said Nadine Barlow, a Mars expert at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

"We've heard these things before and they never pan out," she said Friday.

Senior administration officials say President George W. Bush is planning a permanent science base for astronauts on the moon and, more than a decade from now, human voyages to Mars.

Does the last part sound familiar? In 1989, his father, President George H. W. Bush, directed NASA to plan a human landing on Mars by 2020, but that initiative was soon abandoned.

Nevertheless, the current White House has confirmed Bush will describe his ideas for long-term direction of the space program next Wednesday, but no details were disclosed.



A vehicle burns and two bodies lie on the ground near a Shiite Muslim mosque in Ba'qubah, Iraq, where a bomb exploded Friday.

Suicide bomber kills four at Iraq mosque during prayers

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A man on a bicycle packed with explosives blew himself up in front of a mosque during Friday prayers in the eastern Iraqi town of Ba'qubah, killing four people and wounding dozens, U.S.-led coalition officials said.

A 4th Infantry Division officer said an improvised explosive device was inside a propane tank strapped to the back of the bike.

The bomber was at a gate shouting to be let in to the Shiite Muslim mosque, but he was turned away, the officer said. The man then detonated the explosive, killing himself and the four others, the officer said.

He said 36 people were wounded, with four in serious condition at a hospital. He said the coalition suffered no casualties.

Several vehicles were damaged in the blast, and news footage showed a burning car, injured people and distraught, panicky bystanders.

"As I was sitting on the television car filming the Friday prayers in front of the Sadeq mosque," a local journalist said, "a car – I think, a taxi – exploded, and I was hit by broken glass of windows."

Ba'qubah is a predominately Sunni Muslim town about 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of Baghdad – a region where opposition to the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq runs high.

It was unclear if Friday's blast reflects religious tensions between Sunni and Shiite Muslims, but there have been other bombings near religious sites in recent months.

MORALE, from Page 1

ghanistan.

“Our mission is to provide meals for the (service members) in Salerno and ensure that they have the proper nutrition they need for the combat mission here,” said Staff Sgt. Henry Thomas, DFAC manager for TF1-501st PIR.

The 13-man dining facility team prepares breakfast and dinner for the more than 850 Army, Air Force and Marine service members based at Salerno.

Working in two shifts (0230 and 1230L), a six-Soldier crew takes about four hours to undertake the task of taking ingredients and transforming them into delectable meals. And while it may not seem like a daunting task, the trick is that they do it all without an oven or stove.

“(In theory) it may seem easy to cook food and have it prepared for service members when they enter the DFAC, but when you are cooking in a mass quantity

without a stove what a person thinks should be easy is really a lot of hard work,” said Spc. Freddie Williams, DFAC shift leader for TF 1-501st PIR. “We cook on M59 Ranges (small, compact cookers), so we are constantly on the move. As soon as a (dish) is finish we have the pots right back on the range cooking more food.”

Williams noted that on menu days such as “Surf n’ Turf” cooking become even more frantic saying, “If you don’t cook those type of (dishes) with the right timing, you may as well not cook them at all because the taste will be awful.”

However, even in their frenzy the Soldiers work like an orchestrated symphony says Thomas.

“We’ve been working together for about a year, so we are use to each other,” he said. “We know who is good at what, so we put people where they are best at and that helps things run smoothly.”

The DFAC gets its food supply from Bagram Air Base weekly, but plans a mini-

num of two weeks in advance so that they always have a feel for the eating habits of service members.

“We feel like we are important to the service members here, so we try to keep ourselves in tune to what they like and want,” said Thomas.

He noted that although the DFAC gets food from Bagram weekly, they keep 14 days of supply on hand in the event that supplies couldn’t be transported adding, “If something unfortunate or unplanned happens service members still have to eat, so we have to be prepared for that of scenario.”

Though they may not have the lethal prowess of an Howitzer, the Soldiers that operate the DFAC know that their job is no less significant for they fuel the force that is helping a nation mold its future.

“We know that service members are missing the luxuries of home, so every meal we cook we cook with the intent of bringing one of those luxuries to Salerno.”

STABILIZE, from Page 1

Childress noted that if Soldiers complete the out-processing arrangements before the 90 days expire they may leave early.

The stop loss efforts are also affecting units gearing for a deployment, according to G1 officials. On Nov. 13 2003, the acting secretary of the Army approved the re-institution of the Stop Loss for Soldiers assigned to units of OIF2 and OEF5. The Soldiers are expected to meet the same requirements as Soldiers currently serving under the program.

10th Mountain Officials note that while the stop loss can create Soldier and family member hardship the advantages of the program allow for the Army to retain trained, experience and skilled manpower assets essential to the national security of the United States. “The Army is operating at a level in which it is critical that we maintain the forces we have on the ground,” said Sheimo.

Sheimo noted that the major concerns Soldiers of the 10th Mtn. Div. have voiced are the issues about retaining assignments that they re-enlisted for and wanting to continue assignments scheduled prior to the stop loss.

“Soldiers need to address concerns through their chain of command,” she said. Information regarding this program is available on the HRC webpage as well as at the CJ1 section of the CJTF-180 webpage.

Army officials emphasize that since the lifting the last stop loss in May, more than 16,000 Soldiers have transitioned from the service.

“Army leaders will lift the current Stop Loss as soon as possible,” said Sheimo.

PRT opens in Jalalabad

KABUL, Afghanistan – The eighth coalition-led Provincial Reconstruction Team officially opened its doors in Jalalabad Thursday following a ceremony at the site, according to Combined Joint Task Force 180 officials. The Jalalabad team will serve the provinces of Nangarhar and Laghman, with a potential of reaching 2.1 million people. This opening represents another step in the PRT expansion process aimed at extending the reach of the Afghan central government by delivering security and dramatically accelerating reconstruction, development and long-term stability across Afghanistan.

Attending the opening ceremony were Gen. Sadat, representing the Afghan Ministry of Interior; John Schweiger, U.S. Agency for International Development Representative to the Jalalabad PRT, who spoke on behalf the United States; Nangarhar Governor Hadji Din Mohammad; Laghman Governor Mohammed Ibrahim Babakar Khel; and General Hazrat Ali, 1st Corps Commander.

The PRT has been operating in Jalalabad for more than a month already, integrating the efforts of the Afghan government, the non-governmental organization community and the coalition as well as setting conditions to enhance security and bring a wide variety of programs and initiatives aimed at enabling and assisting Afghans realize their vision of building a stable, self-sufficient nation.

PRTs serve as a catalyst for stabilization, building relationships and enabling the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. Coalition forces and NATO currently operate seven other PRTs in Afghanistan, with an additional four scheduled to open within the next several months.

(Information provided by a Bagram Press Release.)

FREEDOM'S VOICES

Afghanistan's milestone...

By **Zalmay Khalilzad**

The constitutional loya jirga that concluded in Kabul Sunday was a milestone on the Afghan people's path to democracy. Afghans have seized the opportunity provided by the United States and its international partners to lay the foundation for democratic institutions and provide a framework for national elections in 2004.

The Afghan people manifested this remarkable commitment to democracy in two ways. They defied the enemies of Afghanistan's progress – remnants of the extremist Taliban and al Qaeda forces – by participating in elections for the delegates to the constitutional loya jirga. The extremists sought to intimidate candidates and voters. They failed.

Women especially were not intimidated. There was a powerful reversal of symbolism when the Kabul soccer stadium – used less than three years ago by the Taliban to execute women accused of adultery – was used by thousands of women to choose their representatives to the constitutional loya jirga.

Second, Afghans overcame their past. Instead of relying on the power of the gun, they embraced the often difficult and sometimes messy democratic process of debating, listening and compromising. They trusted in the power of their words by openly deliberating the important issues. Afghans used newspapers, radios, teahouses, schools, universities, mosques – even the Internet – as forums to debate fundamental issues such as the system of government, the role of religion, human

rights – particularly the role of women – and, in a country with more than a dozen ethnic groups, such emotional issues as official languages and the relationship between the center and provinces. Such a wide-ranging debate is unprecedented in more than 5,000 years of Afghan history.

The Afghan constitution also sets forth parallel commitments to Islam and to human rights. While embracing Islam as the state religion, the document provides broad religious freedom – allowing adherents of other faiths to practice their religions and observe religious rites. The loya jirga increased the number of women in parliament to an average of two female representatives from each province and explicitly stated, "Citizens of Afghanistan – whether men or women – have equal rights and duties before the law."

Afghanistan faces more challenges: implementing this constitution, defeating the remaining extremists and terrorists, disarming militias, strengthening national institutions, eliminating narcotics production and helping the poorest of Afghans gain a foothold on the ladder of opportunity.

Our work in Afghanistan is not yet done. It will take several years and a sustained commitment of significant resources by the United States and the international community before the country can stand on its own feet. Given the stakes involved, we must remain committed for as long as it takes to succeed.

(The writer is special presidential envoy and ambassador to Afghanistan.)

STREET TALK

What are you going to do with your 2004 pay raise?



"I'm going to continue in investments."

Staff Sgt. Craig Rogers
HHC, 1st Bn., 130 Av. Regt.



"Save it – I'm going to put in a savings account."

Sgt. Brandi Campbell
HHC, 1st Bn., 130 Av. Regt.



"My raise is going to help me pay the bills."

Sgt. Lex Tarricola
Co. D, 210th Av. Regt.



"I'm pretty sure my wife will probably spend it."

Sgt. Gervon Todd
Co. D, 210th Av. Regt.

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

CJTF-180 Commander —

Brig. Gen. (P) Lloyd J. Austin III

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey

Public Affairs Officer —

Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Master Sgt. Sharon Opeka

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Commander — Maj. Matthew L Garner

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson

Editor — Sgt. Stephanie Hall

Journalists — Staff Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson,

Sgt. Gregory Heath, Spc. Kelly Hunt

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

Visit the CENTCOM web site at www.centcom.mil and click on the *Freedom Watch* or Forces in Afghanistan link at the bottom of the page to get to the *Freedom Watch*. To be added to the daily distribution list e-mail HallSTE@baf.cjtf180.army.mil

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Timing of Afghan elections creates rift in nation's issues

By Ahmed Rashid

KABUL, Afghanistan (*The Wall Street Journal*) – The country finally has a new constitution. But that doesn't mean the way is clear for speedy elections.

As rebuilding proceeds precariously in the war-torn nation, at issue is which should come first: elections, or security and livelihoods. Fresh from Sunday's agreement on a constitution, Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his allies in Washington are determined to go ahead with presidential elections this year, adhering to a schedule established in Bonn in December 2001. But the United Nations, as well as many European countries, Afghan officials and international aid agencies, favor delaying the elections. "Elections should come at the end of the political process and stabilization and not at the beginning," said U.N. Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi, who left Kabul this week after two years in Afghanistan.

The debate echoes a similar one about the pace of nation-building in Iraq. It threatens to put another wedge in relations between the U.S. and Europe, with European diplomats claiming that President Bush simply wants a bit of positive news as he prepares to seek re-election this year, and Washington retorting that the Europeans are restricting Afghan aid. The outcome could help determine whether a country that provided haven for the al Qaeda terrorist group can be transformed into a stable, Western-friendly democracy.

The stabilization process in Afghanistan certainly has far to go, as underscored by a bombing Tuesday that killed 15 people in the southern city of Kandahar. The same day, 12 people were killed after their vehicle was ambushed in a neighboring province. Since August, 400 Afghans have been killed in that region amid a resurgence by Afghanistan's former ruling Taliban militia, which was ousted with U.S. help after al Qaeda's Sept.

11, 2001, attacks in the U.S.

Afghanistan has undergone "a deterioration in security at precisely the point where the peace process demands the opposite," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said this week in a report to the U.N. Security Council.

He said the attacks are imperiling efforts to register 10.5 million Afghan voters by June. By late December, the U.N. had registered only 150,000 voters, rather than the half-million that should have been registered by then, said Reginald Austin, the head of the U.N. voter-registration unit in Kabul. The U.N. has pulled out registration teams from southern Afghanistan because of a lack of security.

With no expansion of international peacekeeping forces outside the capital of Kabul, only a trickle of Western aid for large reconstruction projects, and the resurgence of the Taliban in the south, many of the 502 delegates at the constitutional convention said the provision of jobs and security must precede elections.

"From a technical point of view, elections are not possible in June," says Francesc Vendrell, the European Union representative in Kabul. "We have to make sure that elections are held in a secure environment which are credible to the Afghans and advance the political process rather than retard it." He worries that the attacks in the south would mean large numbers of voters in that area — primarily ethnic Pashtuns — wouldn't be able to get to the polls.

But President Karzai and his allies say early elections are necessary for change. "We need elections in order to have legitimacy and a mandate for changes the country needs," said Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani, citing the failure of past Afghan leaders to step down at their appointed time.

Those pushing for speedy elections have been encouraged by the passage of the country's constitution. The 22 days of bitter debate highlighted continuing ethnic divi-

sions in Afghanistan, but also defied expectations by reflecting most of the demands asked for by Western donors, including a strong presidential system and equal rights for women and minorities.

Serb ethnic cleansing brigade in training for Afghan mission

By Ian Bruce

(*The Scottish Herald*) – Serb paramilitary troops who last saw action in the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo in 1999 are being trained for anti-terrorist duties in Afghanistan beside some of the U.S. forces who helped expel them from the Yugoslav province.

The 1,000-strong force comprises some former members of the "red berets", a feared military police unit which helped lead the campaign to drive the Albanian majority out of Kosovo and wipe out Kosovo Liberation Army resistance fighters.

The U.S. has provisionally accepted the offer of the battalion to help relieve the strain on its overstretched garrison in Kandahar and to help hunt al Qaeda and Taliban fugitives in the mountains east of the city.

Gen. Goran Radosavljevic, its proposed commander, led anti-guerrilla teams during the conflict alleged by Human Rights Watch to have committed atrocities against civilians, including the massacre of 41 villagers at Cuska in May, 1999.

A New York court is also considering charging the Serb officer, alleging that he and other officials were responsible for the execution of three Albanian-Americans.

The Serbs forced more than 800,000 Muslim Kosovars from their homes before NATO intervened in a 73-day bombing campaign and ground invasion.

About 10,000 Kosovars, mainly civilians, are estimated to have been killed.

NATO approval is not needed for the planned Afghan deployment, since the Serb contingent would be under U.S. command. NATO's peacekeeping remit is only for Kabul, the capital.

'All-American' Bowl showcases Army recruiting

Story by Richard Lamance
Army/Air Force Hometown News Service

SANANTONIO, Texas – What has become the premiere event in high school sports is quickly becoming the Army's most visible recruiting tool as the top 78 high school football players in the nation faced off in the "All-American" Bowl game at the Alamodome Jan. 3.

The game pitting East and West all-stars was nationally televised by NBC with an event record turn-out of 25,813 in the stands. The East all-stars came away with a 45-28 victory over the West. This marked the fourth year for the Army-sponsored event.

The theme of this year's bowl, sponsored by the U.S. Army Accessions Command, headquartered at Fort Monroe, Va., was a "Tribute to Freedom," dedicated to Soldiers involved with Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. More than 80 Soldiers who have received the Silver Star, Bronze Star or the Purple Heart were introduced along with the players during pre-game activities.

Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee spoke to both the Soldiers and players during a dinner the evening before the game.

"Americans love sports, and sports activities are a central part of American life," Brownlee said. "We celebrate friendly competition through events such as the All-American Bowl, even while we are at war. In doing so, we reaffirm that life is worth living and defending, that we will not yield to threats from terrorists..."

Soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry, known as the "Old Guard," displayed flags from each state and territory, as well as portrayed "period" dress of soldiers from the Revolution through today.

The U.S. Army Band ("Pershing's Own"), anchored by singers Sara Sheffield, Henry Fiske, Juan Rodriguez and Leigh Ann Peterson,



Photo by Master Sgt. Jack Braden

1st Sgt. Cynthia Barren and a football player are greeted by a fan before the start of the Army-sponsored 'All-American' Bowl high school all-star game held Jan. 3 at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. The game matched more than 80 Soldiers who distinguished themselves during the Global War on Terrorism with the nation's top high school football players.

dazzled the crowd with renditions of "Hero," "Hero for Today," "Where the Stars and Stripes and Eagle Flies," "Go the distance," "God Bless the USA," and "We were there."

Spc. Terry Burka, one of the "Old Guard" soldiers involved with the flag ceremony, said he believes the lyrics of "Freedom isn't Free" were perfect to showcase the Army in front of the American public.

"It's important for Americans to understand that while they sleep peacefully in their beds at night, there are men and women half way around the world fighting and dying for them," Burka said. "President Bush once told me that it's because of soldiers like me that terrorists are afraid to come into our country."

Pre-game activities also included a Fan Fest,

where the new Stryker combat vehicle and the Avenger Air Defense System were on display with a variety of activity booths, a climbing wall and recruiting displays.

Pfc. Nicholas Crawford, an Avenger crewmember with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, from Fort Stewart, Ga., said he and the other Soldiers sent to San Antonio were there to not only share their expertise with the weapons systems, but to give people a better understanding of what the Army stands for.

"I'm here for my expertise with the Avenger, but I'm also here because I'm able to share my experiences during the war in Iraq and give the public [a glimpse] of what the Army is about and what its soldiers are about."

Coalition Sports Zone



(Compiled from SI.com)

Mets, Orioles step up in sweepstakes

NEW YORK—Operating with a payroll set at \$80 million, the New York Mets said Friday they have talked with free agent outfielder Vladimir Guerrero.

“We understand the general interest in Vladimir Guerrero,” the Mets said in a statement. “We confirm that we have made an offer to Guerrero, but we respectfully must reserve any further comment until the process is completed.”

Multiple published reports on Friday stated that the Mets have offered Guerrero a three-year, \$30 million deal in an effort to sway him from accepting a more lucrative offer from the Orioles.

The New York Daily News also reported that the Mets included a clause in the deal that would award huge incentive bonuses, thus guarding against Guerrero’s potentially bad back.

The stories, all citing anonymous sources, said the club is not optimistic about signing Guerrero, considering Baltimore reportedly has a five-year, \$65 million offer on the table. New York general manager Jim Duquette said as much earlier in the week, saying that financially, he wasn’t willing to compete with the O’s.

But Guerrero has not yet accepted Baltimore’s offer, reportedly concerned about playing in the American League or in a city without a large Dominican population. The Orioles, though, were said to be stepping up negotiations late Thursday after learning of the Mets’ interest.



Vladimir Guerrero is the Expos franchise leader in batting average (.323) and home runs (234).

Bryant’s attorneys jab prosecutors

EAGLE, Colo. – Kobe Bryant’s attorneys on Friday got in a jab at prosecutors in a court filing in which they agreed to allow a detective to measure the NBA star’s hand span.

In the filing, Pamela Mackey said Bryant would have complied if prosecutors had simply asked, rather than wasting the judge’s time on “an uncontested issue.”

“Rather than inquiring of the defense, the prosecution filed a motion which contained an irrelevant and totally gratuitous statement attributed to Mr. Bryant by the accuser,” Mackey wrote. “The alleged statement was wholly irrelevant to the motion and its inclusion was a transparent attempt to prejudice the jury pool.”

Prejudicing the potential jury pool was not the intent of filing the motion, prosecution spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said Friday. She said it was a routine request to collect a certain type of evidence.

The defense filing referred to a Dec. 12 motion in which prosecutor Ingrid Bakke asked the judge to order Bryant to allow his hands to be

measured.

The alleged victim told investigators that Bryant had one hand around her throat during their June 30 encounter at a mountain resort west of Vail, Bakke wrote.

Bryant tightened his grip after asking the 19-year-old woman whether she liked a particular sex act and she responded “no,” Bakke wrote. This comment was the statement challenged by Mackey.

During Bryant’s preliminary hearing in October, Eagle County sheriff’s Detective Doug Winters testified that a nurse had spotted a small bruise on the alleged victim’s jaw during an examination the day after the alleged attack. Winters also said he did not see any injuries on her neck.

Bryant, 25, is charged with felony sexual assault. The Los Angeles Lakers guard has said he had consensual sex with the woman. He faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation if convicted.



Jim Mora (right, with Steve Mariucci) was San Francisco’s defensive coordinator before taking the head job in Atlanta.

Mora Jr. names Falcons’ head coach

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. – Jim Mora is following his father as an NFL head coach.

Mora, San Francisco’s defensive coordinator, was introduced as coach of the Atlanta Falcons on Friday, inheriting a team that was a major disappointment this season but has one of the league’s most exciting players in Michael Vick.

At 42, Mora will be one of the youngest coaches in the NFL.

“I know there’s some apprehension, I know there’s some hesitancy,” Mora said. “I know people are saying, ‘He’s a first-time head coach. He’s young. There are other proven guys out there.’”

But he said he’s fully prepared for his first head coaching job, having worked with coaches such as Bill Walsh and, of course, his father, former New Orleans and Indianapolis coach Jim Mora.

“I’ve spent almost half my life in coaching, and my entire life in football,” Mora said. “While I may be young in age, I’m vastly experienced.”

Serena Williams pulls out of Australian Open due to injury

WASHINGTON – Serena Williams pulled out of the Australian Open on Friday, delaying her comeback from a knee injury.

Williams hasn't played since beating sister Venus in the Wimbledon final in July. She was hoping to return this month to defend her title at the Australian Open.

"After conferring with my trainers and coaches, we really don't think that I've had sufficient time to prepare and train for it," Williams said in a statement.

"My knee feels great, but my rehabilitation took a little longer than I expected. I'm on the courts daily, and look forward to coming back in championship form."

Williams, who won five of six Grand Slam tournaments before her injury, had surgery on Aug. 1 to repair a partial tear in the quadriceps tendon of her left knee. She fell from No. 1 after the injury and entered this year ranked third.

Rough start for Tiger Woods in year's first PGA Tour event

KAPALUA, Hawaii – The first hole in the first PGA Tour event of the year proved to be a problem for Stuart Appleby and Tiger Woods.

The difference is what they did on the rest of the Plantation course at Kapalua in the first round of the year at the Mercedes Championships.

Appleby hit his drive into the brush and never found it, hit his third shot to where most guys hit their drives, and managed to escape with a bogey.

He was flawless the rest of the day, making six birdies on the back for a 7-under 66 and a one-stroke lead over Darren Clarke.

"After that bogey glitch on the first, I played solid all day," Appleby said Thursday. "I liked the way I swung, like the way I rolled it."

Woods was in the right rough and had to play short of the green, and his 15-foot par putt circled almost all the way around the cup before staying out. The rest of the day wasn't much better.

Woods twice hit into the hazard on par 5s, making bogey and double bogey.

When his eagle putt curled in the left side of the cup on No. 18 for a 2-under 71, he looked more shocked than anything.

"Nothing went right," Woods said. "I either hit great shots or horrific ones. It was not a relaxing round of golf. The positions I put myself in today were very stressful.

"I was just happy to finish under par."

Solution from Friday's Crossword in the Freedom Watch

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | L | E | D | | P | A | I | D | | P | O | R | K | |
| O | V | U | L | E | | O | N | T | O | | U | P | I | N | |
| L | I | K | E | N | | O | K | C | H | O | R | A | L | E | |
| E | L | E | C | T | | R | A | H | | M | E | R | L | E | |
| | | | T | A | P | | | | | V | E | S | T | E | D |
| C | H | A | R | L | I | E | C | H | A | N | T | | | | |
| H | O | M | O | | | T | R | A | I | T | S | | W | E | D |
| O | W | E | N | | | R | I | T | | | | R | I | L | E |
| P | E | N | | | B | I | O | N | I | C | | E | L | S | E |
| | | | S | E | C | R | E | T | B | A | L | L | A | D | |
| S | A | S | H | A | Y | | | | S | L | O | | | | |
| A | M | A | I | N | | D | A | W | | | S | C | A | M | S |
| M | E | T | R | O | | A | R | I | A | | T | A | R | S | I |
| O | N | I | T | | | M | A | N | X | | O | T | T | E | R |
| A | D | E | S | | | I | T | T | Y | | N | E | E | D | S |



By Mark Baker

Pvt. Murphy's Law

Kandahar chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 1130Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel choir practice

Tuesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox/Catholic Bible study
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice

Bagram chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0530Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 0700Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1400Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass

Tuesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 0745Z — Noon-Day prayer
- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 1330Z — Gospel Choir practice
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study
- ❖ 1515Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1900Z — Evening Worship service

K2 chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0300Z- Liturgical Service
- ❖ 0400,0730,1400Z-General Protestant Service
- ❖ 0530Z-Roman Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1230Z-Latter Day Saints

Monday

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

Tuesday

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Biblestudy

Wednesday

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Midweek Praise Service

Thursday

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

Friday

- ❖ 1400Z-Jewish Service
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Biblestudy

Saturday

- ❖ 0400Z-Jewish Service
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Spanish Worship Services

Kabul Compound chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0430Z — Protestant service (ARK Conference room)
- ❖ 1000Z — U.S. Embassy service (Dining facility)

W e a t h e r

Today

K2



Hi — 61F
Lo — 37F

Bagram



Hi — 45F
Lo — 35F

Kabul



Hi — 41F
Lo — 32F

KAF



Hi — 66F
Lo — 50F

Sunday



Hi — 47F
Lo — 35F



Hi — 45F
Lo — 34F



Hi — 41F
Lo — 32F



Hi — 61F
Lo — 48F

Monday



Hi — 48F
Lo — 27F



Hi — 45F
Lo — 32F



Hi — 43F
Lo — 32F



Hi — 59F
Lo — 45F

Task Force Phoenix chapel hours

Daily

- ❖ 1430Z — Estudio Biblico En Espanol

Sunday

- ❖ 1330Z — Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1600Z — Latter Day Saints (DFAC)

Tuesday

- ❖ 1530Z — Bible Study

Friday

- ❖ 0530Z — Protestant Service
- ❖ 1230Z — Choir practice

All events are held in Chapel or DFAC.