

## Airmen accomplish big mission from small base

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Davidson  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing public Affairs

**KARSHI-KHANABAD**, Uzbekistan – At first glance, the little-known airfield in Karshi-Khanabad appears to be nothing more than a sleepy, little whistle-stop for aircraft supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Officially named Camp Stronghold Freedom, the base is most often referred to as “K-2.”

For airmen assigned to the 416th Air Expeditionary Group here, and the aircrews they support, the base and its mission represent an important role in winning the war on terrorism.

Situated on a wind-swept plateau in the southwest corner of the former Soviet state, Uzbekistan, K-2 is a relic of the Cold War that hundreds of deployed airmen and Soldiers now call “home.”

Although seldom mentioned in the news, K-2 is becoming well known by military aircrews as the most hospitable and efficient airfield in the region.

The base hosts countless heavy airlift and transport aircraft,



*Staff Sgt. Lance Harris, 416th Expeditionary Operations Group transient alert craftsman, refuels a visiting C-17 Globemaster III.*

See **K-2**, Page 4

## Coalition, Afghan officials discuss future projects

Story and photo by Sgt. Greg Heath  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – Parwan provincial Governor Zarar Ahman and more than a dozen Afghan representatives from the local community gathered with several of Bagram’s Base Operations and Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Soldiers yesterday night over dinner to discuss upcoming plans for civil reconstruction projects in this province.

The get together was a chance for the Soldiers responsible for executing the civil

reconstruction projects to meet face to face with the local officials they will be working closely with over the next several months, according to Base Operations Commander Col. Tom Boyle.

“We wanted to talk to them about what we are trying to do for them and how they can help us help them,” said Boyle.

Bringing the local Afghan representatives and the Bagram Soldiers together for the social affair is a vital step in gaining the confidence and support of the local community, according to Ahman.

“This gathering has a direct affect on a lot people, and the representatives will go back and tell their people what happened

here,” said Ahman.

After the formal introductions and meal, each Afghan representative was given an opportunity to directly address to the Soldiers in attendance the most significant issues affecting the welfare and stability of the people in their areas.

Their issues ranged from having wells dug to provide clean drinking water and fixing roads that are in horrible condition to creating a safe area for their children to play at.

The PRT is responsible for traveling around the province and proposing civil

See **FUTURE**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Top four in New Hampshire: Clark, Dean, Kerry, Edwards, clockwise from top left.

## Democrats gear up in N.H.

MANCHESTER, N.H. – Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts lead in the latest tracking polls in New Hampshire, but both are calling themselves underdogs as they retool their campaigns in a changed political landscape.

Dean, who has dominated polls and fund raising since the summer, stumbled in Monday's Iowa caucuses, finishing a distant third to Kerry and Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina.

Dean's fiery speech to supporters at a post-caucus rally Monday night also has sparked questions among some political observers and Democrats about his temperament.

Aides said Dean, surprised but undaunted by his weak showing in a state in which he'd devoted considerable resources, would refocus his campaign on his record in Vermont and away from the red-meat, anti-war rhetoric that fueled his insurgent rise last year.

Dean lost the endorsement of former U.S. Sen. John Durkin of New Hampshire, who told *CNN* he is now undecided as a result of Dean's speech.

## Man linked to al Qaeda indicted

(*CNN*) – A Minnesota man has been indicted on charges he provided material support to al Qaeda for more than three years, the Justice Department said Wednesday.

Authorities say Mohammed Abdullah Warsame, 30, attended an al Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan at which Osama bin Laden was present.

Warsame was indicted Tuesday by a fed-

eral grand jury in Minneapolis. The indictment was unsealed Wednesday after he appeared in federal court in New York and ordered held without bond pending his return to Minnesota to face the charges.

Warsame, a Canadian citizen of Somali descent, was first interviewed Dec. 8 by FBI agents in Minneapolis and admitted his involvement in the training, according to an affidavit released Wednesday.



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon

## Sharon may face legal challenge

TEL AVIV, Israel – Prosecutors will decide “within weeks or months” whether to indict Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in a scandal involving alleged bribes from an Israeli businessman in the late '90s, Israeli Justice Ministry sources said Wednesday.

Businessman and political activist David Appel was indicted Wednesday on charges of bribing Sharon and Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, a close associate of Sharon's.

At that time, 1998-99, Sharon was Israeli foreign minister, and Olmert was mayor of Jerusalem. Both officials are members of the Likud party.

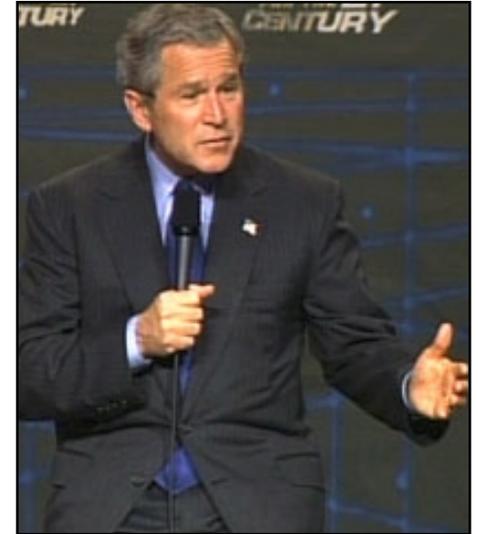
Prosecutors said they have 200 witnesses to buttress their case on Appel, but attorneys for the businessman maintain their client is innocent.

Defense attorney Moshe Israel told the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, “There was no bribery. There was no giver, and there was no taker.”

Sharon and Olmert previously have said they did nothing wrong.

The Appel indictment, filed in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, said the alleged bribes

were to get aid in developing a Greek real estate project and secure the rezoning of land near Tel Aviv.



President Bush pushes his \$250 million job-training program Wednesday at Owens Community College in Perrysburg Township, Ohio.

## Bush carries message to college students

PERRYSBURG, Ohio – On the heels of his optimistic assessment in the State of the Union address, President Bush was touting his domestic agenda Wednesday before college audiences in Ohio and Arizona.

At his first stop, Bush spoke to students and local leaders about his \$250 million job-training program for community colleges. Democrats have criticized the proposal as modest.

In remarks at Owens Community College, near Toledo, Bush said he would address “how we can use our community college system to help people who want to work.”

“Nationwide, our economy is strong,” Bush said. “In Ohio there are still troubled times. The manufacturing sector is sluggish at best, and therefore people are looking for work.”

Protesters, many chanting “No more Bush,” braved a cold morning outside the college ahead of the president's address.

A woman wearing a Howard Dean campaign button and holding a sign that read “No more NAFTAs” criticized Bush for lifting steel tariffs.

## ANA secures Loya Jirga area: No security incidents disrupt CLJ

Story by Maj. Arif Anes,  
Central Corps Headquarters, ANA

**POL-E-CHARKI**, Afghanistan – The Constitutional Loya Jirga marked a big step forward for the people of Afghanistan and also for the Afghan National Army.

ANA Central Corps Soldiers from 1st Brigade, 2nd Brigade, and 3rd Brigade provided critical security for the CLJ throughout the assembly, preventing any terrorist attacks or other unfortunate incidents while the delegates gathered to vote on the constitution. The Soldiers accomplished their mission with complete success.

Before the CLJ, the soldiers trained carefully for this important mission. Each brigade contributed one Kandak to provide security.

The ANA set up a base of operations on the grounds of the Kabul Polytechnic compound where the CLJ took place. Soldiers from 1st Brigade conducted reconnaissance patrols and provided security inside the compound at 18 observation points and checkpoints.

Soldiers from 2nd Brigade manned observation posts along the ridge overlooking the CLJ site. Soldiers from 3rd Brigade served as a quick-response force, providing 24-hour security for delegates and distinguished visitors along the routes connecting the Polytechnic to the Kabul airport and the presidential palace.

ANA Soldiers could be seen controlling all guard posts and road intersections in central Kabul during the CLJ also. The commander of Central Corps, Maj. Gen. Mohammad Moeen, was also the commander of all the ANA soldiers providing security.

As the Afghan National Army grows in size, citizens of Afghanistan can expect to see well-trained, professional soldiers making a difference here and elsewhere in the country. The successful protection of the entire Constitutional Loya Jirga – from the first day to the last – is a big step forward for the ANA, toward a stable future for Afghanistan.

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

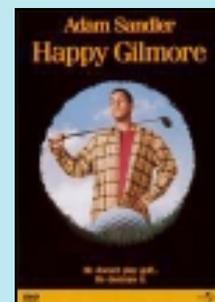
### “Happy Gilmore”

0830Z at the MWR building:

When Happy discovers his grandmother will lose her home if she doesn't fork over 270,000 dollars to the IRS, he tries to figure out how he can possibly scrounge up the cash.

**1530Z: Karaoke Night**

**Tomorrow's movie:** “The Water Boy”



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Cloudy/Fog H: 46F L: 25F	Sunny H: 53F L: 24F
<b>Bagram:</b>	Cloudy/Snow H: 43F L: 32F	Cloudy/Fog H: 45F L: 28F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Cloudy/Snow H: 41F L: 30F	Cloudy/Fog H: 43F L: 27F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Cloudy/Rain H: 50F L: 34F	Cloudy/Rain H: 50F L: 36F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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 —  
Maj. Matthew L. Garner  
Public Affairs Sergeant Major —  
Master Sgt. Sharon Opeka

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

Visit the CENTCOM Web site at [www.centcom.mil](http://www.centcom.mil) and click on the Freedom Watch or Forces in Afghanistan link at the bottom of the page to get the latest editions of the Freedom Watch. To be added to the daily distribution list email [HallSTE@baf.cjtf180.army.mil](mailto:HallSTE@baf.cjtf180.army.mil)

**K-2**, from Page 1

and before an aircrew even touches down on the base's short, crumbling runway, an orchestra of people is already on-hand to welcome them.

Teams representing transient alert, command post and combat weather anticipate the needs of all visitors and aircraft. When an aircraft taxis to a stop, forklifts are standing by to off-load cargo and fuel trucks are close behind, waiting for their cue.

Passengers are greeted by a base representative before they even step off the plane and then ushered to a bus, parked just a few feet from the aircraft.

If the airfield crews are the orchestra, then the conductor is Col. Tim Vining, 416th AEG commander.

Vining can most often be found around the flightline mingling with his troops. He has become well known for love of photography, and many supervisors here and back home receive regular e-mail from Vining with words of praise and photos of their airmen hard at work.

Deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., Vining is fiercely proud of his people's accomplishments. He challenges those under his command to do their part in contributing to the base's reputation for excellence.

"We work together, Army and Air Force, to accomplish a vital mission," he said. "It doesn't matter what service tag is on your uniform, we are all here for a common purpose."

For the crew of a C-17 Globemaster III from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., K-2 is an oasis in the barren, rocky landscape that is common to this part of the world. "Landing here is always a relief when flying missions that often last 26-hours and longer," said Maj. Bob Rowe, a C-17 pilot with McChord's 97th Airlift Squadron. "These

people are always right on it. This is my sixth time here, and we are always provided everything we need, without even having to ask. They even help clean the aircraft."

The 416th AEG have set records within the region for quick-turning aircraft, and have even had a C-17 fueled, serviced, cleaned and back on the runway in about 40 minutes.

Like finely tuned instruments, each duty section must play in harmony with each other to get the job done. While crews are working aircraft, Vining's three-man weather team is providing eyes-forward for the aircrews.

"We take the overall weather forecast for the region and tailor it to each specific crew and mission," said Staff Sgt. John Rogers, 416th AEG weather craftsman, deployed from Vance Air Force Base, Okla.

Working 24-hour operations, the weather crew provides two-day forecasts to the base's rescue units, and on-the-spot forecasts to transient crews.

The aircrews never have to walk more than a few steps to find the support they need. After receiving their weather briefing, the command post staff is on-hand with a quick-reaction checklist.

"We update command staff on all events, and help coordinate all maintenance activities," said Senior Airman Orlando Brown, 416th AEG Command Post technician. Deployed from Kadena Air Base, Japan, Airman Brown can be found skillfully juggling the needs of aircraft on the ground while working three steps ahead and projecting the needs of inbound aircraft.

Many of Camp Stronghold Freedom's airmen are due to return home soon, but continue to focus on the tasks at hand. This is also true for Staff Sgt. Lance Harris, deployed from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. "It's not just a matter of getting the job done," he said. "It's a matter of doing the job in the best way possible and leaving things better than we found them."

**FUTURE**, from Page 1

construction projects in areas with the greatest need, and then Base Operations is responsible for providing the funding for those nominated projects.

Of the 10 issues that were brought up after the dinner, Boyle said he was pleased to report that four of them were already in the planning phase.

Boyle added that in the future he wants to employ members of the communities in which the projects are taking place to further bolster local economic growth and employment.

Many of the Afghan representatives took the time to pledge their support for the coalition's plans and to give thanks for the numerous projects that have already been completed throughout the province.

"The reconstruction Afghanistan will take a very long time, but when the base



*An Afghan representative from Parwan province discusses the needs of the people in his community to Base Operations and PRT Soldiers during a dinner meeting at Bagram Air Base last night.*

commander (and PRT Soldiers) speaks to the people, that will give the people hope," said Ahman. "I believe this kind of meeting will create an atmosphere of goodwill among the people."

Boyle said his plans are to make the din-

ner meeting a monthly event so that there is a constant forum to bring up new issues and discuss the progress of ongoing projects.

"My goal is to make Parwan province the model for reconstruction in Afghanistan," Boyle said.



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *SI.com*)

## No. 6 Cincinnati can't handle Louisville heat, suffers its first loss of season

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – Taquan Dean scored 21 points and Francisco Garcia added 19 for No. 5 Louisville in a 93-66 victory over sixth-ranked and previously unbeaten Cincinnati on Wednesday night, the Cardinals' 14th straight victory.

Luke Whitehead had 18 points and eight rebounds as the Cardinals (14-1, 5-0 Conference USA) beat the Bearcats for the fourth time in the last six meetings.

Dean went 7-of-14 from the field, including 5-of-10 from 3-point range despite playing with a pulled groin.

Louisville's victory margin matched the worst in Cincinnati coach Bob Huggins' 15 seasons there. The Bearcats lost to North Carolina 90-63 in 1993.

Jason Maxiell scored 14 to lead Cincinnati (13-1, 4-1), one of three undefeated teams in Division I coming into the game, which scored only 26 points in the second half.

The Cardinals went 29-of-42 from the free throw line, while Cincinnati was 12-of-26.

Louisville outrebounded Cincinnati 42-38 and generated 19 points off the Bearcats' season-high 19 turnovers.



Louisville's Otis George deflects this shot attempt by Cincy's Tony Bobbitt.

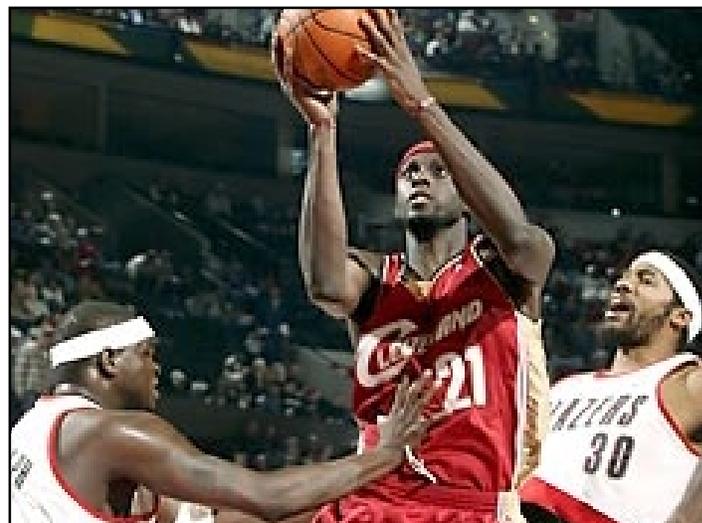
## Oakland moves, Payton stays in Dallas

(*SI.com*) – Despite momentum that seemed to make his hiring something of a formality, Dallas Cowboys assistant head coach Sean Payton never received a contract offer to become the Oakland Raiders next head, and on Wednesday the Cowboys announced that Payton will remain with the organization.

Talks between the Raiders and Payton heated up Tuesday, as he became the first candidate to interview for the Oakland job a second time. But as two sources close to the situation said Tuesday night, reports of Payton's agreeing to terms were premature, and the negotiation process had not reached the stage where contract terms or a potential offer had been discussed.

One strong possibility that emerged Wednesday night was that Dallas head coach Bill Parcells had given Oakland owner Al Davis in essence a deadline: Either hire Payton by the end of Wednesday or move on in your coaching search. According to a source close to the situation, Davis said he was not prepared to offer Payton the job under those conditions, and the two sides agreed to end their talks.

"I don't think Sean Payton turned down the job because Sean Payton was never offered the job," Davis said in a rare interview with reporters. "Sean Payton has a lot of good credentials, but I don't know if that's the direction we're going."



Darius Miles was chosen out of high school by the Clippers with the third pick of the 2000 NBA Draft and was eventually traded to Cleveland in a deal that included Andre Miller.

## Cavs send Darius Miles to Blazers for Jeff McInnis, Ruben Boumtje-Boumtje

CLEVELAND – Darius Miles received another wake-up call: He got traded to Portland.

Miles, who was fined by the Cavaliers for oversleeping and skipping a practice earlier this week, was dealt Wednesday to the Trail Blazers for point guard Jeff McInnis and center Ruben Boumtje-Boumtje.

Miles has been a disappointment in his 1 1/2 seasons with Cleveland, which acquired him before last season in a deal that sent guard Andre Miller to the Los Angeles Clippers.

The 22-year-old Miles, who jumped straight from high school to the NBA in 2000, was averaging 8.9 points in 24 minutes per game. He has shown breathtaking flashes of skill, but has been plagued by inconsistency, and first-year Cleveland coach Paul Silas was reluctant to play him.

Miles will get a fresh start with the disappointing Blazers, who might not be done turning over their roster.

Portland general manager John Nash said the trade had been in the works for about a week, but talks had been on and off between the teams for the past year.

"We knew that Cleveland was interested in a point guard, and we knew they'd been interested in Jeff for several months," said Nash, who may still trade Rasheed Wallace.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## NATO: Several top agents of Afghan warlord have been arrested in Kabul

By Stephen Graham

**KABUL**, Afghanistan (AP) – Several top agents of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, an Afghan warlord the United States considers a terrorist, have been arrested in Kabul, the international peacekeeping chief said Wednesday.

Lt. Gen. Goetz Gliemerth, the commander of the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Kabul, said that “more than a total of three main actors” in Hekmatyar’s organization have been detained.

At least one of the men is suspected in a mine blast that killed two Canadian Soldiers in October, he said. All are now in American custody.

A man identified as Abu Bakr was arrested in Kabul five days after the mine blast, and Gliemerth said there was “very strong evidence” that he had been involved in the attack.

Gliemerth didn’t identify the other men or provide further details, including when the other arrests were made. He said the investigation was still continuing.

Hekmatyar is a former Afghan prime minister and now an ally of the ousted Taliban regime which has recently stepped up attacks inside Afghanistan.

Gliemerth said Kabul police sent the men for detention to the main U.S. military base at Bagram, north of the capital.

U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty said he couldn’t comment on any detainees at Bagram, where the American military has a jail for terrorist suspects.

The two Canadians died Oct. 2 when at least one anti-tank mine hidden on a sandy track in hills south of Kabul exploded under their vehicle during a routine patrol. Three other Soldiers were injured.

While the formal investigation into their deaths has yet to conclude, Gliemerth said it was “sure that that was a deliberate attack.”

Gliemerth, a German, commands the 6,100-strong International Security Assistance Force that patrols the Afghan capital and recently added a base in the northern city of Kunduz.

## Four men arrested over planned attacks in southern Afghanistan

**KANDAHAR**, Afghanistan (AFP) – Four men, including two wearing women’s clothes, have been arrested in the main southern city Kandahar on suspicion of planning bomb attacks, the city’s military chief said Wednesday.

Two men carrying grenades and wearing all-enveloping head-to-toe burqas used by most Afghan women, were arrested

Wednesday in Kandahar’s crowded Herat Barwaza district, Ahmad Shah said.

“They were planning a terrorist attack,” Shah said. Two other men were arrested separately in the same district earlier this week “for placing bombs,” he added.

The Herat Barwaza shopping district is close to the site of a bicycle bomb explosion in early December which injured some 15 people.

Meanwhile, five people have been killed in a landmine explosion in south-central Afghanistan, a district governor said Wednesday.

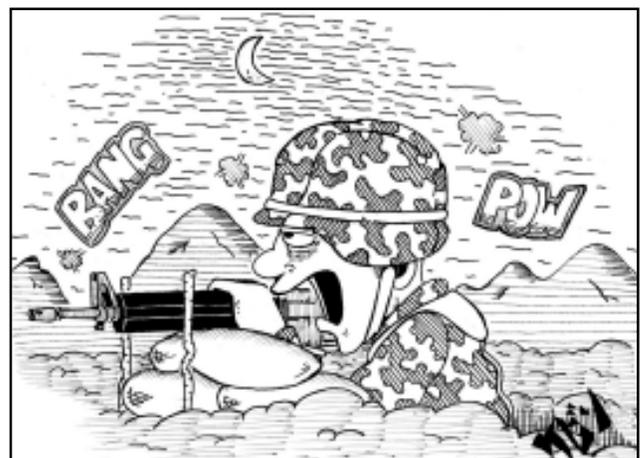
“A civilian vehicle which was on its way from Deh Rahwood district ran over a mine which killed five and injured one,” Char Chino district chief Abdul Rahman said.

The mine was apparently newly-planted along the road in Uruzgan province’s Char Chino district, the same district where a U.S. military operation led to the deaths of at least five people on the weekend.

Despite US. rebuttals, Rahman has insisted that 11 civilians, including women and children, were killed by U.S. fire in the attack. The U.S. maintains it killed five armed men.

Rahman said the latest incident, which occurred on Tuesday, killed three civilians and two Afghan Soldiers, all from the same district in neighbouring troubled Zabul province.

**“How’s a fella’ supposed to get any shut-eye ‘round here?!”**



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

**Laugh Support**