

Afghan Army's not so new face

By Spc. Jim Wagner
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ORGUN-E, Afghanistan — The face of Afghanistan's new army is one the country has not seen for some time, made up of many cultures and tribes and dedicated to peace for everyone, according to its soldiers.

Before the Afghan National Army was formed, it was decades since the country had fielded a military force comprised of people from the many different cultural aspects of the country — Dhari, Pashtu, Tajik, Uzbek and a host of others.

Today, the ANA's first operational unit — the 3rd Battalion, ANA — is made up of all these cultures and said it's committed to bring an end to the tribal warfare that's hindered Afghan development since the early 1970s.

See **NEW FACE**, Page 4



Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The face of Afghanistan's "new" National Army, from left to right, and the tribe they each come from — Platoon Sergeant Sayed Nadir (Hazara), Hafizullah (Uzbek), Ahmad Ahmadi (Tajik) and Squad Leader Niaz Muhammad (Pashtu).

Readiness essential in face of continued threat

By Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — In the early morning hours of Jan. 21, a high explosive rocket was launched on Bagram and landed approximately 200 meters outside the air base. Less than 48 hours later, another rocket was launched at the base landing further north.

Even though these attacks seem random and unpredictable, there are actions taken in response to them as well as measures soldiers can take to protect themselves.

“There have been instances before an attack occurs where civilians from local villages notify us that something is about to happen,” said Cpt. Paul L. Felician, assistant force protection officer, 332nd Rear Area Operations Center, Task Force Dragon.

“Tips like these can help us prevent against potential attacks,” Felician said.

“There are also situations where there may be unusual movement outside the perimeter before an attack, that hints something is wrong,” said Felician.

Once an attack is launched, elements are in place almost immediately, ready to respond.

“Usually, soldiers inside the perimeter will inform us that there was an explosion,” said Felician. “Once we coordinate with the guard towers and try to determine where the rocket hit, we send out patrols and air craft within our task force to assess the situation.”

If a situation is deemed to be more critical, it is taken to a higher level outside of the task force.

“If the problem is not something that can

be remedied within our resources, we will then enlist the help of the 82nd Airborne Division, and the Quick Reaction Force,” said Felician. “If there is something out there it will be found and destroyed whether with small arms fire or by other means.”

In addition to the patrols outside of the perimeter, there are elements ready and in place within the wire.

According to 1st Sgt. Leonard P. Houser, Camp Dragon perimeter defense first sergeant, Headquarters Headquarters Company, in the event of an attack, there are troops set aside to assess the situation inside the compound.

“The Dragon City compound has four teams of between three to five people who

See **ROCKETS**, Page 4

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

No new Iraqi cooperation

UNITED NATIONS — Chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix said Thursday he has so far seen no evidence of a promised increase in Iraqi cooperation and that he is still considering Baghdad's offer to return for further discussions on disarmament.

Iraq asked Blix and International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei to return to Baghdad before Feb. 10 to discuss issues the inspectors raised Monday before the U.N. Security Council. Blix and ElBaradei are scheduled to report again to the Security Council Feb. 14.

Blix told the council Monday that Iraq has not fully accounted for its stocks of chemical and biological weapons and has not fully accepted its obligation to disarm under U.N. Resolution 1441.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz pledged Monday that his country would cooperate fully with U.N. inspectors but Thursday Blix said he had yet to see any change in the Iraqi stance.

Exchange between Reid, judge follows life sentence

BOSTON — The man who admitted to trying to blow up a U.S. jetliner with explosives in his shoes was wrestled out of a courtroom by federal marshals Thursday after a federal judge sentenced him to life in prison.

As he was dragged out of the courtroom, Richard Reid began yelling at Judge William Young, repeating his allegiance to Osama bin Laden.

"I'm at war with your country not for personal reasons but because you have killed so many innocents, so many children. ... My fate is in Allah's hands. ... I leave you to judge."

Reid, a 29-year-old British citizen, was sentenced to life in prison on three counts: one of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction against U.S. nationals outside the United States and two of interference with flight crew and attendants using a dangerous weapon.



West Pharmaceutical Services employees embrace Thursday.

N.C. governor: Plant workers 'shell-shocked'

KINSTON, N.C. — Survivors of a deadly pharmaceutical plant explosion were "shell-shocked" Thursday, a day after the blast claimed the lives of at least three of their co-workers as well as their livelihood, North Carolina's governor said.

"Those workers are, at this point, in a state of anxiety," said Gov. Mike Easley, who visited the scene of Wednesday's blast. "They've lost three or four co-workers, many have been injured, but they also don't know the status of their jobs, their families, their income, their debts, all of the anxieties that come with that."

More than 100 workers were on the job when the blast at West Pharmaceutical Services occurred around 1:30 p.m. EST Wednesday.

At least three people died in the explosion and one person is still unac-

counted for, Easley said.

Officials have not been able to identify them because of the severity of the burns and may have to use dental records, Easley said.

Sergeant gets 6 years for stealing Central Command laptops

TAMPA, Fla. — An Air Force staff sergeant was sentenced to six years in military prison Thursday for stealing four laptop computers from the center that oversees operations in the Middle East.

Sheridan Ferrell II will also be demoted to airman basic, then dishonorably discharged after his release from prison.

Ferrell, 33, showed no emotion as the sentence was read, but his wife sobbed and left the small military courtroom at MacDill Air Force Base, home of U.S. Central Command.

Though the computers contained sensitive information, officials have said that the thefts didn't compromise classified material. Ferrell has said he took the computers last summer for his own use.

He blamed his actions on stress but prosecutors said he was trying to get back at someone over a mix-up on the job.

Before the sentence was announced, Ferrell cried as he apologized to his family and the military.

"I destroyed the most important thing servicemen and women share with each other, and that is trust," said Ferrell.

Four killed in helicopter crash

Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Four soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash six miles east of Bagram at about 0300Z, Thursday.

The MH-60, special operations Blackhawk, went down during a routine exercise at the East Training

Range.

"The incident appears to be an accident and not a result of any hostile fire," said Col. Roger King, Coalition Joint Task Force-180 public affairs officer.

Names of the individuals are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The incident is currently under investigation.

Bush, Powell meet with Italian, Canadian allies

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell each met with high-level officials from countries that support America’s efforts in the War on Terror.

Bush had a lunchtime meeting at the White House with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, while Powell met with Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham earlier at the State Department.

In a brief press conference before lunch, Bush thanked Berlusconi for the letter of support he and seven other European leaders submitted to the Wall Street Journal and several European newspapers. The president called the letter a “statement of solidarity” between Europe and the United States.”

“I am most grateful that the prime minister signed a letter, along with other leaders of European countries, which clarified the issue that we’re dealing with, and that is that Saddam Hussein is a clear threat to peace,” Bush said. “It was a strong statement.”

The president reiterated earlier comments by national security adviser Condoleezza Rice that the time left for Iraq to disarm “is a matter of weeks, not months.” He once again suggested a peaceful solution could come of the situation if Hussein would leave Iraq, “along with a lot of other henchmen who have tortured the ... Iraqi people.”

Berlusconi’s comments were full of unabashed support for the United States. He said the Italian people will never forget that they owe their freedom and wealth to the United States.

“So for us, the United States is not only our friend, but they are the guarantee of our democracy and our freedom,” the Italian prime minister said. “Every time I see the U.S. flag, I don’t see the flag only as a representative of a country, but I see it as a symbol of democracy and of freedom.”

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1300Z Spades and game night. The Dragon Palace invites everyone to come out and ante up for a night of cards and other games. Food, drink and prizes await those who attend.



The movies will continue tomorrow at the normal schedule with the film “Serving Sarah.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 45F L: 23F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 50F L: 23F
Kandahar:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 57F L: 32F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 55F L: 30F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 46F L: 18F	<i>Fog</i> H: 48F L: 19F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 47F L: 27F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 51F L: 31F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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ROCKETS, from Page 1

are responsible for assessing the situation inside the compound and making sure everyone is under cover,” said Houser. “The teams are also equipped with combat medics who collect casualties and take them to the casualty collection point.”

Aside from the patrols and teams, soldiers should be taking their own measures



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

Accountability is very important during a drill or attack. Higher ranking personnel should get the names and ranks of everyone in their bunker or hard structure to better assess the situation.

NEW FACE, from Page 1

“Before, all the tribes were against each other,” said Muhammad Atef, platoon sergeant from the 2nd Platoon, 3rd Company, 3rd BANA. “Now we are one team and we are all brothers.”

There was some question when the ANA was formed last year whether the cultural differences would make them an effective fighting force. But the soldiers of the 3rd BANA say they are committed to bringing peace and prosperity to the country; and it starts right here in the ANA.

“I joined the ANA to protect the Afghan people from all invaders, it doesn’t matter whether I’m fighting for a Dhari or Pashtu or Tajik,” Atef said.

“I would give up my life to protect them. We are different cultures but we look at each other and other people as Afghan people,” he added.

Jalal Audin is assistant commander of the 2nd Company, 3rd BANA, and saw the hope of the national army when it was first established. A commander of 120 troops

to protect themselves and warn their buddies.

“The first thing a soldier should do when they hear an explosion or siren is take cover,” said Houser. “Soldiers should be well aware of the nearest bunker or hard structure in their area, and get to it immediately.”

According to Houser, the most confusing time after an attack is within the first few minutes. During this time, troops should be listening for and reacting to certain things.

“We have two resources that set aside a drill from a real attack,” said Houser. “There are loud speakers throughout the compounds known as The Giant Voice. If the voice says ‘exercise, exercise, exercise,’ soldiers can assume the explosion is only a drill.”

“If the voice says ‘red alert, red alert, red alert, we are under attack,’ and a continuous siren is heard for the span of about three minutes, it is not an exercise,” said Houser.

“Once soldiers determine whether or not we are under attack, they need to grab their Kevlar, body armor and protective mask, if

during the mujadeen against the Russian government in the 1980s, then against the Taliban regime and the al-Qaida with the Northern Alliance in the late 1990s, he brought himself and his soldiers and joined the ANA six months ago.

As a commander with a sizeable force in Afghanistan in the post-Taliban government, he could have set himself up as a senior leader with any regional commander in the country or even set himself up as a regional power of his own. Instead, he said, he joined the ANA to bring the country something it hasn’t seen in some time — stability.

“I wanted to make an example by joining and showing other leaders that the ANA was the way to bring peace in this country,” Audin said.

Audin spends much of his time, when not patrolling with his company, convincing his countrymen that the ANA is the future of the country. As a political mullah, he goes to mosques and madras’s throughout the country explaining the role of the ANA and what they are trying to accomplish.

available, and take cover,” he said. “On their way to a bunker or hard structure, they should check to make sure their buddies in the surrounding tents are awake and getting ready.”

Once inside the bunkers, noncommissioned officers and officers have a job to do.

“The highest ranking person in the bunker or hard structure should start taking accountability of everyone there,” said Houser. “At the end of the exercise, or once the command of all clear is given, they need to make sure that information gets to the Tactical Operations Center.”

“That way in the event of a real attack, we know who is safe, missing or a potential casualty,” he added.

Whether a drill or attack, security force or team member, every soldier has a part to play in the readiness of their compound.

“It’s almost impossible for the average soldier to determine where, when and if an attack is going to take place,” said Houser. “The best defense is to be prepared.”

As a mujadeen commander who gave up much of his personal power to serve the ANA, and as well as a respected mullah, he spends much of his time explaining the U.S. involvement in developing Afghan’s army.

“Why would the U.S. want to take over our country,” he said, “when they have computers and so many other things in life? They are here to help us help ourselves.”

His troops during his days as a mujadeen are now scattered throughout the 3rd BANA, and Audin now serves a commander — Col. Muhammad Akbar — who fought with the Russians during the Communist invasion.

But Audin said the Afghan people can look at the 3rd BANA and see that strength can be found in diversity, and take hope from the fact the army is able to work together to get the job of securing the nation done.

“After a while they’ll see people from different tribes working together; when they see the troops in their community that’s all the proof they will need.”



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Perez flirts with 59; Haas finishes strong, grabs lead

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Never in Jay Haas' 26 years on the tour had he played such a round.

"It was just a magical day for me. Unbelievable," Haas said Thursday after his 61, the second 11-under score of the day, gave him a one-shot lead through two rounds of the Bob Hope Classic.

"Everything is just perfect here, the weather, the greens. If you miss a 10-footer, it's like you can't believe it. So I felt somebody was going to shoot low and I said 61 yesterday. I guess it just took a day to get used to everything."

Second-year pro Pat Perez also shot a 61 on a sunny, windless day in the desert, but that was merely good enough to put him in a tie for third place.

Harrison Frazer's 62 left him one shot back of Haas, and first-round co-leader Stephen Ames had a 67 and was tied with Perez and Joe Durant at 14 under. Durant, the tournament champion two years ago, had a 63.

The 49-year-old Haas, who won the Hope in 1988, rolled in a 3-foot putt on No. 18 for his third birdie in a row and tipped his cap to the gallery as he went to 16-under 128 through 36 holes of the five-day tournament.

"It was one of those days when I almost didn't know how many I was under," said Haas, who has won nine tour titles but none since 1993. "One time I thought I was 9-under and I was only 8. Another time I thought it was 6 and it was 7. I guess I was just playing, so I had a great mindset."

The 61s were two shots off the PGA Tour record of 59, set by Al Geiberger in 1977, equaled by Chip Beck in 1991, and matched again by David Duval when he won the Hope in 1999.

Duval, this time making the Hope his first event of the year, ballooned to a second-round 78 after an opening 65.

Defending champion Phil Mickelson had a 68 and was 10 shots off the lead.

Injured Roddick unavailable

ESPN — With Andy Roddick sidelined by a wrist injury, James Blake and Mardy Fish will lead an inexperienced U.S. team against host Croatia in the first round of the Davis Cup on Feb. 7-9.

At 23, Blake is the veteran of the group. Fish and Taylor Dent are both 21, and Robby Ginepri is 20; that trio has played a combined total of one Davis Cup match — in doubles.

"A changing of the guard with our Davis Cup team is complete," nonplaying captain Patrick McEnroe said Tuesday. "This is an opportunity for our guys to step up, and it will make us a better team down the road. When Andy comes back, we will be stronger."

Roddick has severe tendinitis in his right wrist, which he landed on during his 4-hour, 59-minute Australian Open quarterfinal victory over Younes El Aynaoui. Doctors told him not to pick up a racket for at least a couple of weeks.

"He's very disappointed, but it's something he needs to take care of now, or it could be an ongoing problem for a long time," McEnroe said. "He's part of American tennis for now and the future. He just wasn't going to be able to be ready to play next weekend."

Blake and Roddick were a combined 12-0 in Davis Cup heading into last year's semifinal against France.

Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

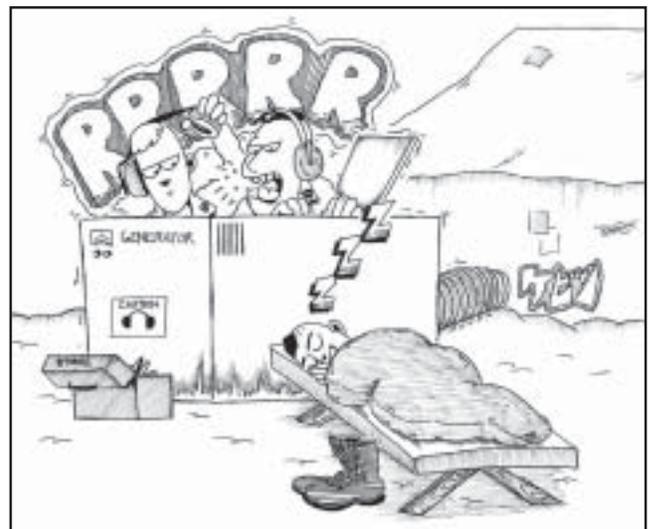
Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ NBA Shootaround (live) 0030Z
- ❖ San Antonio Spurs at Orlando Magic (live) 0100Z
- ❖ 2002 NFL Road to the Pro Bowl (tape delayed) 0500Z
- ❖ Inside the NFL (tape delayed) 0600Z
- ❖ Winter X Games (tape delayed) 0800Z
- ❖ Friday Night Fights (tape delayed) 0700Z
- ❖ Winter X Games (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ L.A. Lakers at Sacramento Kings (tape delayed) 1300Z
- ❖ Col. BB: Kansas at Nebraska (live) 1900Z

Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Col BB, Women's: Marquette @ Cincinnati (live) 0000Z
- ❖ Col. FB Hula Bowl: (live) 0200Z
- ❖ Winter X Games (tape delayed) 0500Z
- ❖ PGA Tour Bob Hope Classic (tape delayed) 0800Z
- ❖ Inside the NFL (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ Col. BB: California at Arizona (tape delayed) 1300Z
- ❖ NHL 2Night (tape delayed) 1730Z
- ❖ Col. BB: Illinois at Michigan State (live) 1800Z

"He must be artillery."



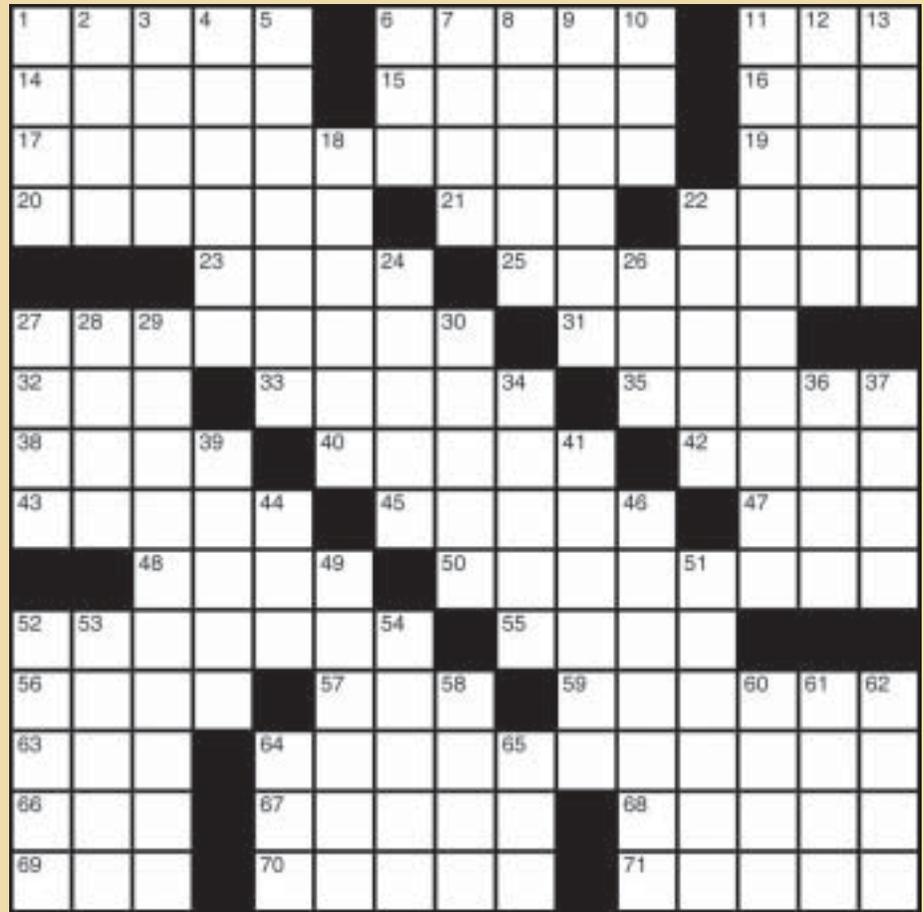
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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support

Slippery crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)



Across

- 1 Lightens up
- 6 Hilo hello
- 11 Hood's gun
- 14 Flat on one's face
- 15 Lord's home
- 16 Copacabana site
- 17 It's slippery
- 19 Superlative's ending
- 20 Trig ratio
- 21 Comic Caesar
- 22 Barn topper
- 23 King of tragedy
- 25 Brought up to date
- 27 Dry red wine
- 31 Hitchhiker's hope
- 32 Attorneys' org.
- 33 Poky critter
- 35 Jason's wife, in myth
- 38 Give a little
- 40 "Our Miss Brooks" star Eve
- 42 Makes a choice
- 43 Kick off
- 45 Really enjoy
- 47 Part of TGIF
- 48 Can't be without
- 50 Sci-fi weapon
- 52 Blood bank collections
- 55 Red beans partner
- 56 What weightlifters count
- 57 BART stop: Abbr.
- 59 Avian homebuilder
- 63 "___ been robbed!"
- 64 He was slippery
- 66 Twister Joey
- 67 Monopoly payments
- 68 Open to bribery
- 69 Right-angle bend
- 70 Cropped up
- 71 Perfect spots

Down

- 1 Vast in scope
- 2 With the bow, in music
- 3 Salty sauces
- 4 Store, as fodder
- 5 Anglers with nets
- 6 Letters in some church names
- 7 They're sometimes broken
- 8 Studio warning sign
- 9 Place-kicker's mate
- 10 Boat for pairs
- 11 It's slippery
- 12 River to the Oise
- 13 Schlepped
- 18 Durbin of old films
- 22 MTV airing
- 24 Keisters
- 26 Get-up-and-go
- 27 Semi compartments
- 28 Aid in wrongdoing
- 29 It's slippery
- 30 Wave or basin preceder
- 34 "Roots" star Burton
- 36 Ides rebuke
- 37 Org.
- 39 Get decked out
- 41 Acting the snoop
- 44 President pro ___
- 46 Field the kickoff
- 49 One of Santa's team
- 51 Took five
- 52 Serengeti family
- 53 Tool with a bubble
- 54 Dictation pro
- 58 Times to call, in ads
- 60 Antler branch
- 61 Hunter or Bayh
- 62 Fam. members
- 64 La-la lead-in
- 65 Put into play

Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch