

## PX reopens days after destructive fire



Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner, 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

*Firefighters water down the smoldering remains of the Kandahar PX. The damage is expected to exceed well over \$1 million.*

By Spc. Jim Wagner  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**KANDAHAR**, Afghanistan — The temporary Post Exchange re-opened for business today with its regular hours of operations just three days after a fire razed the original.

Located in the Kandahar Kafe near the terminal building, the hours of operation for the PX are from 0800 to 1700 Zulu.

The PX opened Sunday at noon for soldiers, according to Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials, to purchase essential items. Also open for business is the barbershop and gift shop that were also destroyed in the blaze.

Plans are already in the works on a new PX, located just yards from the site of the previous one, behind the base gym. Offi-

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## EAES: Getting sick, wounded critical care

Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — A soldier lays wounded in a combat support hospital. There is nothing left the CSH can do. The soldier is stabilized, but needs more care.

The 438<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron is responsible for evacuating sick and injured patients, such as this one, to definitive care using fixed wing aircraft.

The 438<sup>th</sup> has units in Bagram, Kandahar and Jacobabad, Pakistan.

The squadron here is made up of four sections, including a crew management cell, an aero-

medical evacuation liaison team, an aeromedical evacuation aircrew and a critical care air transport team.

The CMC is responsible for launching and recovering the AE crews, CCATTs and their equipment. Because they use contingency aircraft, the cell is also responsible for getting the team and crew on the first available aircraft departing to the patient's location.

The AELT ensures the patient is prepared for the flight and coordinates the patient's movement onto the aircraft.

Patient care is the AE crew's main function. They are also knowledgeable of patient movement, aircraft systems and aéro-

medical configuration of airlift aircraft. A crew flies on every mission.

The CCATT is responsible for transporting critically ill or injured patients. These patients have been stabilized for flight, but still need ongoing intensive care.

The critical care team always flies with an AE crew. Working as a team, they can treat up to three patients requiring assisted respirations and three other patients less seriously ill or injured while on a mission.

"It takes all the elements to make it happen," said Air Force Maj. Sheri Gladish, CCATT doctor, 438<sup>th</sup>.

An AE crew consists of one

flight nurse and two aeromedical evacuation technicians. The CCATT includes a physician, a nurse and a respiratory therapist.

The AE kits all contain the same items, including intravenous needles; bandages; basic patient care items; liquid oxygen and a complete drug kit containing basic cardiac drugs, nausea medication and pain control. They also bring equipment to change the aircraft electric power to power that can be used by their equipment.

The CCATT's kits all contain more drugs and other specialized equipment. This equipment is smaller than a hospital's and has

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*Spain's Ambassador Inocencio Arias, left, U.K. Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock, second from left, and U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte, right.*

## New Iraq resolution introduced

**UNITED NATIONS** — The United States, Britain and Spain proposed a U.N. resolution Monday designed to clear the way for military action against Iraq on the grounds that it “has failed to take the final opportunity” to disarm.

The resolution was presented in a closed Security Council session Monday afternoon. It does not include deadlines or an explicit threat of military force, but it states that the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has failed to comply with previous U.N. resolutions that warned of “serious consequences” if it refused to give up its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction.

The White House said it wants action on the document “in short order.”

Iraq “has made the wrong choice” and refused to meet its obligations to disarm, Britain’s U.N. ambassador told the Security Council on Monday.

Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock told the council Iraq had offered “no semblance of whole-hearted cooperation” with U.N. weapons inspectors since their return in November, according to talking points obtained by CNN.

Germany, France and Russia presented a rival initiative, in the form of a memorandum, not a competing resolution. A text of that proposal says “the military option should only be a last resort” and calls for “full and effective disarmament” of Iraq to be achieved “peacefully through the inspection regime.”

“Disarmament should be done in a peaceful way,” French President Jacques Chirac

said after meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Berlin. “War is always the worst of solutions. It’s always a failure. ... Everything should be done to avoid it.”

## N. Korea test fires missile

**SEOUL, South Korea** — North Korea launched a missile that crashed into the sea between the Korean Peninsula and Japan on Monday, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reports.

Yonhap, quoting an unidentified source at Seoul’s Defense Ministry, said that South Korea was investigating whether the launch was a test of a new missile.

The South Korean Defense Ministry could not immediately confirm the report, said a spokesman who wished to be identified by only as Lt. Col. Moon.

Yonhap said South Korean authorities were investigating other details of the land-to-sea missile.

The reported missile launch came on the eve of the inauguration of South Korea’s new president, Roh Moo-hyun.

In August 1998, North Korea fired a multi-stage missile that flew over Japan and landed in the Pacific Ocean, proving the Koreans can strike any part of Japan’s territory.

The following year, North Korea pledged to freeze testing of long-range missile for the duration of negotiations to improve relations.

In recent months, fear has risen that North Korea might resume missile tests amid the standoff over North Korea’s renewed nuclear activities.

In Washington, a U.S. Defense Department official said he was unaware of any North Korean missile test — a statement echoed by Japanese defense officials in Tokyo, Reuters news service reports.

## Four U.S. soldiers killed in Kuwait copter accident

**KUWAIT CITY** — Four U.S. soldiers were killed early Tuesday when their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed near Camp New Jersey, about 31 miles northwest of Kuwait City, U.S. Central Command said.

The soldiers’ names are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The aircraft was on a night training mission when it crashed about 1 a.m. (5 p.m. Monday EST). The four crew members were the only personnel on board the aircraft.

The cause of the crash is being investigated, Central Command said.

## Louisiana is sinking

**NEW ORLEANS** — The high wooden porch slants toward the street. The twin steps are cracked. So is the plastered support between them.

“My wife and I, we’ll lie in bed and notice a new crack every couple weeks,” said Stalios C. Leres, who rents one side of the aging two-family house.

Southern Louisiana is sinking — houses, cemeteries, roads and all.

While most of North America rests on bedrock, New Orleans and the surrounding area are built on Mississippi River silt. And the silt is slowly settling and compacting because of gravity.

The settling has been going on for ages, but the surface really began dropping fast during the 20th century because of man’s doing: The levees built to keep the Mississippi within its banks all but stopped the floods that used to lay down new layers of soil over the land.

Moreover, the human effects of the sinking are greater than ever simply because more people are living here.

Houses not built on deep pilings are tipping and cracking. So are streets, often rupturing water mains and sewer lines beneath them. Along parts of the coast, the ground is now under water, and some yards have become marshland.

The situation is so dire that some highways may be unable to serve as evacuation routes while a hurricane is approaching, the National Geodetic Survey recently warned. The roads themselves could be awash.

Among the solutions that have been floated: spreading fertilizer to stimulate the growth of plants, which trap soil and add to the dirt when they die. Also: digging a deep trench to divert the Mississippi River and its silt, or building pipelines to spread silt across the landscape.

# Bad checks will come back to haunt you

Pfc. Christina Carde  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – Before cashing a check at the finance office or processing a debit card at the Post Exchange, troops may want to check their bank accounts to be sure there are sufficient funds to cover their transactions.

Even though checks take longer to process when deployed, check bouncing does occur and penalties are imposed, according to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard Marsden, finance officer, E Detachment, 126<sup>th</sup> Finance Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C.

“From the time we receive a check to the time it hits the bank, a check can take anywhere from three to four weeks to clear,” said Marsden.

The checks are mailed out

weekly. “For all checks returned for insufficient funds, our disbursing office at Fort Bragg draws up a list of names and action will be taken.”

Some of the penalties imposed are wage garnishment and loss of check-cashing privileges with no prior notification to the individual.

“Every time a check is cashed in this office it is stamped with a message that reads ‘I consent to immediate collection from my pay for the amount of this check plus bank charges if this check is dishonored,’” said Marsden. “Every individual initials by this statement in agreement. This is the only notification given. If the check is bad, the money is deducted from their pay and will appear on their

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Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

*Any time a soldier writes a bad check, penalties such as bank fines, wage garnishment and loss of check cashing privileges can be imposed.*

## **FIRE**, from Page 1

cials expect the project to be completed in the next seven to eight weeks.

The blaze completely destroyed the PX, barbershop, gift and coffee shop and the personal living quarters of 25 Army AAFES employees. Also damaged was the Morale, Welfare and Recreation computer, movie and telephone tents, located next to the previous PX.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. The PX was a complete loss because Air Force fire fighters were more concerned about containing the fire that was heading towards a diesel fuel bladder and other critical buildings.

Fierce winds, measured at 22 knots at the time of the fire, and the confined space around the PX compound made saving any part of the building difficult. The fire continued to smolder throughout Friday night.

“We went to the back and the wind was blowing towards us,” said Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Charvis Kali Gordan, an Air Force firefighter. “We got there and there was debris, ash, pitch



Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner, 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

*Staff Sgt. Patrick Platt, left, and Sgt. Shawn Mills of the 527<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, construct shelves Sunday for DVDs and books at the temporary PX.*

black smoke and my eyes were burning even with my mask on. My helmet started burning up a little bit so I knew it was hot.”

A quick turnaround time in opening the temporary PX, said Paula Gunderson, AAFES director in Kandahar, was necessary.

“When the soldiers see the PX destroyed, it really hurts their morale,” she said.

The fire, which took five water trucks, bulldozers and 20 firefighters to contain, destroyed 90 percent of AAFES food at the

base as well as all its stock on the shelves. The damage, according to Scott Curran, AAFES field accountant, is well over \$1 million by conservative estimates.

Curran, like the other 24 AAFES employees, lost everything in the blaze – from clothing and his bed to irreplaceable items like photographs, he said. The employees are staying in temporary lodging, and officials at AAFES headquarters are currently looking at recouping employees’ losses.

But despite personal losses, Curran and other employees concentrated first on getting the temporary PX open for business. “Our primary mission is to take care of the soldiers,” he said.

The opening wouldn’t have been possible, he said, without the unasked-for aid of the 527<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, an Army National Guard, Ruston, La.

“I don’t think there’s ever been a question of not helping (rebuild the PX),” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Ben Pipes, 527<sup>th</sup> Engineer Co. platoon sergeant. “Everyone wants to see the PX reopen.”

**CHECKS**, from Page 3

Leave and Earning Statement.”

“They will also be banned from cashing any other checks in our facility,” he added.

In addition to the finance office, the PX also has policies and penalties against bad checks.

“We have been having problems with bad checks and debit cards lately,” said Paula Gunderson, PX general manager.

According to the Army and Air Force Exchange operations procedure, service manual 55-21, certain information is required to cash a check.

The name of the individual, branch of service, duty station, unit and identification card is required on every check before it can be cashed, according to the manual. Other information such as a social security number is not required but a check can be refused if an individual doesn't give it.

According to the manual, there is \$25 fee imposed for all bad checks in addition to the amount of the check, not including bank fees. If the debt is paid voluntarily, credit and check privileges are immediately reinstated.

If wages must be garnished or the Internal Revenue Service contacted to collect the funds, the individual's AAFES check-cashing and credit card privileges can be permanently terminated, according to the manual.

Marsden said there is a simple way for troops to avoid all of these complications.

“If troops know there isn't enough money in their account to cover a check, they shouldn't take the chance even if the check takes awhile to clear. Check cashing is a privilege in a deployed environment that troops can't afford to lose.”



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

***Before cashing a check or processing a debit card, troops should be sure there are sufficient funds in their account.***

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Mission: Impossible II.” IMF agent Ethan Hunt has been sent on a mission to retrieve and destroy the supply of a disease called ‘Chimera’. He is not the only person after samples of the disease. He must also contest with a gang of international terrorists headed by a turned-bad former IMF agent. Tomorrow's movie will be “Enemy at the Gates.”



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 61F L: 36F	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 46F L: 32F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 70F L: 50F	<i>Haze</i> H: 72F L: 46F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Haze</i> H: 55F L: 27F	<i>Haze</i> H: 46F L: 30F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 48F L: 35F	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 54F L: 44F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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Photos by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

Members of the 438<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, load their equipment for a mission.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael "Irish" Broughman, aeromedical evacuation technician, 438<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, secures his team's medical equipment for flight.

**EAES**, from Page 1

all been approved for flight. A majority of it is strictly designed for Air Force aircraft.

The EAES transports servicemembers and American civilians to the Bagram combat support hospital. If the patient's condition is beyond their capability, the EAES transports the patient to Germany, the closest facility with comprehensive medical care.

The squadron also transports Afghans from Kandahar to Bagram. The Afghans have only in-theater transports.

"We are always ready to take care of any patients and get them where they need to go," said Air Force Maj. Laura Stracke, Bagram officer in charge, 438<sup>th</sup>.

Since December, the 438<sup>th</sup> in Bagram has completed 30 missions, transporting approximately 35 patients. In February, they completed 11 missions.

"It's kind of like being the fire department," said Gladish. "You want to be ready, but it's not a good thing if we're working hard. Then people are sick and injured and we have to do something to get them out."

The squadron can have a response time of 15 minutes to the next day depending on the mission. The squadron's role is to fly the patient out after they have been stabilized, and the number of patients the squadron can transport depends on the aircraft.

The CMC usually works with the movement control team to ensure patients, cargo and passengers can all be transported on the same aircraft.

The 438<sup>th</sup> not only tries to make transportation easier, they also make soldiers more comfortable being in the field.

"Our presence here gives the soldiers in the field piece of mind," said Air Force Cpt. Rick Williams, flight nurse, 438<sup>th</sup>. "We're here in case they need us."

**English/Italian as a second language**

Are you interested in learning or brushing up on your English or Italian?

Beginning Wednesday, English as a Second Language and Italian classes will be held in the Coalition Task Force-82 Conference Room.

English classes will be held every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 0900Z. Italian classes will be held on the same days at 1000Z.

For more information call 303-587-5596.

**When the siren sounds...**

Every evening a siren is heard throughout the air base for about 15 seconds.

Everyday at 1430Z, the siren will sound for 15 seconds. This is to test the siren to make sure it works.

If there is a drill, each servicemember's chain of command will have been notified and should give them the proper information. Additionally, a voice will be heard on the loud speaker in conjunction with the siren to alert troops of the exercise.

In the case of an actual attack, the siren will be heard continuously for a period of three minutes. The voice will then give the message "red alert" and troops should then proceed to the nearest bunker or hard structure.

Any time the siren is heard and troops are confused on what to do, they should see their chain of command to receive access to the correct information.



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

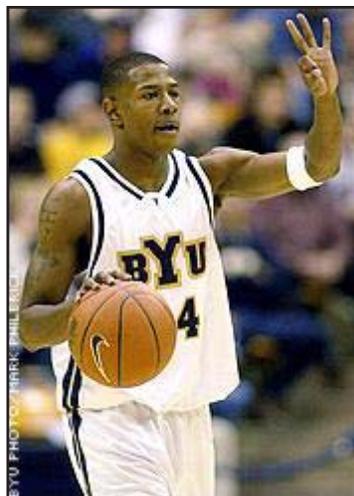
## Winning at BYU is black, white decision

ESPN — Behind the visiting bench at Arizona State, there walked a proud BYU alumnus, a black basketball player wearing his letterman's jacket and inspiring his old coach to the brink of tears. Out of nowhere, Cougar head coach Steve Cleveland had a vision validating everything. He reached out to Silester Rivers, wrapped his arms around him and squeezed him so tight.

"I just had to tell him what it meant to me to see him there," Cleveland said. "This was something that a lot of people didn't think we could do."

Back in the beginning, these were Cleveland's favorite moments as a high school and junior college coach: The kids stopping back to visit, telling him they would do it all over again. Yet, this was different. This was BYU. This was a black player. And for the longest time, this had been a struggle. Rivers hadn't just worked to restore the program to respectability in his two seasons (1998-2000), but turned the tide on the turmoil surrounding the coach's commitment to changing the complexion of the BYU basketball program.

All at once at Arizona State in December, it washed over Cleve-



Kevin Woodbury is averaging 6 points and 2 assists per game this season.

land: His plan to recruit more black players more relentlessly wasn't just worthy; it was working. It wouldn't just be enough for Cleveland to take this job six years ago and get the best Mormon recruits to return to BYU, the university founded and operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He sold the school on reaching back to his own roots with inner-city players, with a recruiting pool that had long been ignored by his predecessors in Provo.

All those years of Mormon recruits, the Danny Ainges to the Shawn Bradleys, brought the Cougars a rich basketball history, if not a dubious and telling claim: BYU has the most NCAA Tournament appearances (19) without a Final Four appearance.

It wasn't just that Cleveland wanted to make his basketball program reflect the church's growing black membership around the world; nor that Cleveland had comfort coaching mostly black players in his junior college background. It was the purely practical purpose of getting great basketball players and winning again.

"This is a sport dominated by African-American players, and we need them to compete on the highest level," Cleveland said.

## Clemons broke his hand in Colorado loss

ESPN — Missouri junior guard Ricky Clemons broke his left hand during Saturday's loss at Colorado and his status for Wednesday's crucial game against Oklahoma is unknown, ESPN.com learned Monday night.

The source said the Tigers' third-leading scorer (16 ppg) and the leading playmaker (4.5 apg) broke a bone in his non-shooting hand when he went up for a layup and was hit by Colorado's Michel Morandais.

Clemons continued to play Saturday and finished with a season-low eight points on 3 of 13 shooting. Clemons didn't participate in Monday's practice and won't until the swelling goes down. He might try to practice Tuesday. The Tigers will go with reserve guard Josh Kroenke in Clemons' place and start him next to Ricky Paulding and Jimmy McKinney. But the Tigers don't have a capable perimeter backup behind those three.

## NCAA Division 1: ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll



Team	Record
1. Arizona	21-2
2. Kentucky	22-3
3. Oklahoma	19-4
4. Florida	22-4
5. Duke	19-4
6. Texas	18-5
7. Kansas	20-6
8. Pittsburgh	19-4
9. Louisville	19-4
10. Notre Dame	21-5
11. Marquette	20-4
12. Wake Forest	19-4

Team	Record
13. Xavier	20-4
14. Maryland	17-7
15. Syracuse	19-4
16. Illinois	18-5
17. Oklahoma State	20-5
18. Creighton	24-3
19. Stanford	21-6
20. Mississippi St.	17-6
21. California	19-5
22. Georgia	16-7
23. Utah	20-4
24. Connecticut	17-6
25. Dayton	19-5



**SPORTS**, from Page 6

The Tigers (16-7, 7-5 in the Big 12) could dictate the outcome of the Big 12 race. Missouri plays first-place Oklahoma and Kansas at home in its final four games.

Clemons was suspended for one game (at Oklahoma State Jan. 18) pending an investigation into an alleged sexual assault. His case is still pending.

**Athletes deserve their share**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** — Giving college athletes a small percentage of the millions of dollars they generate is a “pipe dream,” says Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson.

Baylor coach Dave Bliss calls the whole idea “a Pandora’s Box.”

But judging from an informal survey, most Big 12 basketball coaches would love to see players in revenue-producing sports get a stipend, if not a monthly salary.

“I think it’s unrealistic to think these kids only need their education paid for and nothing else,” Colorado coach Ricardo Patton said during the coaches’ weekly conference call with reporters.

“Most of these kids are far away from home. A great deal of them don’t have parents who can send them money on a regular basis, if at all,” Patton said. “I’ve coached kids whose parents are unable to send them anything other than a box of food. The people who are making these decisions are all capable of sending their kids money when they go off to school.”

The biggest argument against paying players has always been the value of the education and other benefits they derive as scholarship athletes.

In the Big 12, the value of a full athletic scholarship ranges from about \$23,000 a year for out-of-state students at Baylor, Colorado and Missouri to roughly \$8,300 at Oklahoma, Kansas State and Oklahoma State, according to figures provided by the conference office.

Full scholarships include tuition, room and board, books and fees. Athletes also get other con-

siderations, such as free tutoring.

“I still am one of the ‘old school’ guys who feel the education and the opportunity to learn life skills ... is what really enhances their college experience,” Bliss said.

“But that doesn’t mean (paying players) won’t happen tomorrow, the way college athletics has gone,” Bliss said. “College athletics has a guilt complex because of all the money involved with football and basketball.”

The issue has heated up in the Big 12 because a bill working its way through the Nebraska legislature would mandate payments for football players.

Gov. Mike Johanns has said he would sign the bill into law, which would not take effect unless three other Big 12 states adopt the same measure. Former Nebraska Gov. Kay Orr vetoed similar legislation in 1988.

Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson wondered if the Nebraska lawmakers are prepared for the lawsuit that would come.

**CBS would consider moving games**

**ESPN** — You want your MTV? Better yet, you want your NCAA Tournament coverage airing on MTV?

It could happen, CBS Sports president Sean McManus said.

If the United States goes to war with Iraq and major developments occur during the NCAA Tournament, CBS might pre-empt its basketball telecasts. If that happens, McManus said CBS probably would shift the games to MTV, VH1 or TNN. Those cable networks are owned by Viacom, as is CBS.

“That’s a decision you have to make at the time of the crisis,” McManus said recently. “If there is a war going on and there are important news elements to cover, that will take precedent over a sporting event.”

The NCAA Tournament begins March 20 and 21 with 16 first-round games each day.

**Black History Month**

February is Black History Month. In light of all the accomplishments made by African-Americans, every day this month the *Freedom Watch* will highlight an individual.

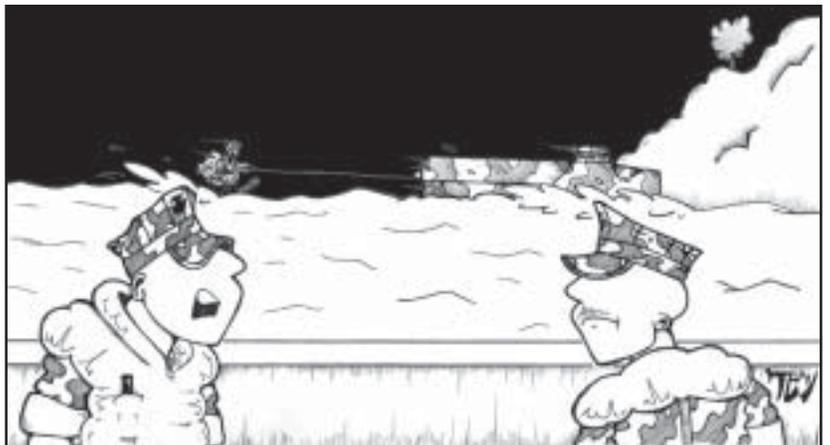
**Thomas L. Jennings, inventor**

**Born:** 1791 **Birthplace:** New York

A tailor in New York City, Jennings is credited with being the first African American to hold a U.S. patent. The patent, which was issued in 1821, was for a dry-cleaning process.

**Died:** 1859

**“There wasn’t enough room on the last amtrac, so we improvised, sir.”**



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By Kevin Kilgore

**Laugh Support**