

ROK celebrates their Armed Forces Day

Story and photos by Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – The Republic of Korea Army's Da-San 100th Engineer Unit, Dong-Yi ROK Medical Group and ROK Marines joined together in celebration of Korea's 55th Armed Forces Day during a ceremony yesterday morning at the ROK Army engineer compound.

The Korean soldiers invited some of their coalition partners to the event and used the day, which marked the 55th year of the existence of Korea's military, to strengthen relations with coalition partners by offering insight into their Asian culture.

Here at Bagram Air Base in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the Da-San 100th ROK Army Eng. unit works on various construction projects improving the base for thousands of coalition service members, while the Don-Yi ROK Med. Group provides free health care for hundreds of local Afghans daily out of their small medical center.

Since its formation 55 years ago, the Korean military has participated in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and since 1991



South Korean soldiers recite their military pledge to support Operation Enduring Freedom and world peace during their 55th Armed Forces Day at the ROK Army Engineer Compound yesterday.

various peacekeeping missions around the world including missions in Somalia, East Timor, Western Sahara, and currently in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

More than one hundred soldiers from the Korean units stood in a mass formation as the Korean Flag was ceremoniously raised, marking the beginning of the celebration.

“Our military has been developing since the Korean War and we're proud of how far it's come since then,” said Pfc. Seungho Moon, 100th ROK Army Eng. Unit, one of the soldiers who participated in the ceremony.

After the formal ceremony, the ROK

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In-state tuition info now available to Army family online

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Army Continuing Education System launched the In-State Tuition Web site Sept. 15.

“The site provides information on state policies and laws regarding in-state tuition eligibility requirements for military personnel and their families,” said Mike Tevnan, education specialist at the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command.

The Army contacted each state asking them to consider their residency requirements for in-state tuition in light of the Army's goals for common policies. The desired outcome, Tevnan said, is eligibility for in-state tuition rates under each of the following conditions: in-state tuition for soldiers and family members within the state of legal residence; immediate in-state tuition for soldiers and family members in the state of assignment; and continuity of in-state tuition once established.

Users of the new Web site will be able to tell whether a particular state meets all three criteria by simply clicking on “Summary by

State.” A map will then pop onto the screen and users can click on the state of interest.

In addition, a news section on the home page discusses any new developments or updates related to in-state tuition, and the references section will provide links to military education Web sites, scholarship Web sites, and other important information that may be of further assistance.

Currently, 43 states have policy or legislation that meets two of the three goals, Tevnan said.

Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, South Dakota, Vermont and Virginia still have policies that are unfavorable to the military or no policy at all, he said.

The In-State Tuition Web site can be accessed by logging onto www.armyeducation.army.mil/InState/index.HTM.

(Information from U.S. Army Personnel Command Public Affairs Office)

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. Army medics attend to an injured soldier Wednesday in Tikrit after an attack on a convoy.

Protest turns violent in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A crowd of angry, unemployed Iraqis threw rocks and set at least two police vehicles on fire Wednesday when they were turned away from a Baghdad police station where they had hoped to apply for jobs.

Some of the estimated 300 job seekers told *CNN's* Harris Whitbeck that they arrived at the police precinct to fill out application forms but were asked for bribes and ordered away from the station.

“We want to get in there, but the only way you get into this force is if you pay extra bribe, extra money,” said a former officer in the Iraqi army, who said he has been without a job since March. “Normal people who do not have money could not get admitted into this fighting force ... the security force.”

“I’ve been coming here for four months,” he said. “We’ve had so many promises, and nothing [violent] happened until now.”

Several Iraqi police officers could be seen firing their weapons, apparently warning the crowd to disperse.

No casualties were reported.

Meanwhile, a U.S. soldier was killed and three were wounded in an explosion near the U.S. Army’s 4th Infantry Division’s main Tikrit base, an Army spokeswoman said.

Authorities said the explosion was caused by either a mine or an improvised explosive device at the side of the road. The

soldiers were traveling in a supply convoy.

CNN was told by one source that the soldier who died, the driver, was female.

Two of the wounded soldiers are in life-threatening condition and are receiving medical treatment. The third had a minor injury and returned to duty.

A quick-reaction force is searching for the attackers, the spokeswoman said.

The attack brings the number of U.S. forces killed in the Iraq war to 310 — 198 deaths in hostile action and 112 in nonhostile activity, which includes accidents.



Israel says the barrier will stop Palestinian terrorists. Palestinians call it a land grab Wednesday.

Israel approves new construction on security barrier Wednesday

JERUSALEM – The Israeli Cabinet voted Wednesday to approve construction of the next phase of a controversial security barrier that leaves some gaps but goes deep inside the West Bank.

It settled on a plan that would start the construction of segments of the barrier but would not connect them to the main security barrier that runs mostly along the dividing line between Israel and the West Bank.

Under heavy pressure from the United States, which has declared that the cost of the barrier will be deducted from \$9 billion in loan guarantees to Israel, the Cabinet stopped short of authorizing construction of a section of the barrier that would veer toward the Jewish settlement of Ariel, in the West Bank.

However, the plan authorizes the beginning of construction of barriers east of Ariel and four other Jewish settlement blocks — Beit Arieh-Elkana, Nili-Naaleh, Gush Etzion-Efrat and Yatir-Sussia — all deep inside the

West Bank. Those barriers will not be connected to the main security barrier, at least for now.

Israel has said the barrier — which is a few kilometers inside the West Bank in most cases but follows the contours of the border with Israel — is necessary to stop Palestinian terrorists from entering Israel.

The Palestinians call the barrier a land grab, noting construction around the settlements does not follow the so-called Green Line, the frontier between Israel and the West Bank before the 1967 Mideast war.



The White House pledge full cooperation with Justice Department probe into the CIA leak.

Bush won't rule out polygraphs

WASHINGTON – The White House pledged full cooperation Wednesday with a Justice Department probe into the leak of a CIA operative’s name and has followed proper procedures so far, a spokesman told reporters Wednesday.

Press secretary Scott McClellan strongly intimated that President Bush would expect White House aides to take polygraph examinations if the Justice Department asked for them.

“Full cooperation is full cooperation,” McClellan said.

All White House employees have been instructed to preserve documents dating to February 2002 that could be relevant to the investigation.

Meanwhile, a meeting scheduled for Wednesday between retired diplomat Joseph Wilson, husband of the CIA operative, and congressional Democrats was canceled out of concern it would undermine his credibility and lead to allegations of political opportunism, Democratic aides said.

IG agents break dinar counterfeit ring in Iraq

WASHINGTON – Agents from the Defense Criminal Investigative Service and the 812th Military Police Company assisted by Iraqi police and the Ministry of Finance have broken a counterfeit printing operation in Baghdad and seized counterfeit currency worth 100 billion dinars.

DCIS agents and MPs raided two locations, seized printing presses and arrested Amar Fadiel Ramadan Al-Kayse, an Iraqi national who was subsequently released to Iraqi Ministry of Interior officials for prosecutorial action by the Iraqi Ministry of Justice and Courts.

The investigation leading to the arrest of Al-Kayse revealed that Al-Kayse was printing and attempting to pass counterfeit 250 Iraqi dinar notes to the Central Bank of Iraq, which is funded and operated by the Coalition Provisional Authority. Al-Kayse owned and operated the Sarmad Company for Printing, a local Baghdad printing shop and worked as editor of Nuktat Dhaw “Spot Light”, a newspaper in Baghdad.

“The close cooperation between Iraqi officials alongside DCIS agents and the Military Police shows once again the emerging partnership taking place within Baghdad the goal of which is a better future for all Iraqis” said Defense Inspector General Joseph E. Schmitz. “Had we not stopped this counterfeiting ring, it would have destabilized the Iraqi economy and postponed the day when economic and political order is restored to the people of Iraq.”

A new Iraqi currency will be introduced on Oct. 15. The ‘new Iraqi dinar’ will replace existing currency, which is printed with images of Saddam. Unlike the old, low-quality paper money in use in Iraq, the new currency will be very difficult to counterfeit. It incorporates a number of modern security features specifically designed to foil fraudsters.

Deputy Inspector General Rear Admiral Larry Poe was detailed as the first Inspector General for Ambassador Bremer in Baghdad. DCIS agents, along with auditors from the DoD IG, work in support of the CPA.

(Information from U.S. Department of Defense News Release)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “The Mummy.” Brendan Fraser stars as a French Foreign Legion soldier, who on an archaeological dig at the ancient city of Hamunaptra accidentally awakens the Mummy.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “Maid in Manhattan.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Friday
Bagram:	Haze H: 79F L: 52F	Mostly cloudy H: 79F L: 52F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 86F L: 50F	Dusty H: 86F L: 52F
Kabul:	Mostly cloudy H: 75F L: 46F	Mostly cloudy H: 77F L: 48F
Uzbekistan:	Partly cloudy H: 82F L: 50F	Clear H: 88F L: 51F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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New equipment helps Peace Radio spread peace

Story and photo by Spc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Troops producing Peace Radio have a little more help now that new equipment has come onto base, transforming their tactical gear into a more permanent radio station setup.

The new short wave transmitters are the only two existing in the United States Army and are considered the most advanced equipment available to broadcast troops, said 1st Lt. David Angelus, Special Operations Media commander, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 4th Psychological Operations Group, Ft. Bragg, N.C.

The short wave transmitters were accompanied by a new “state of the art” Fly Away Dubbing System, he said. All the equipment arrived on Aug. 11th. For about 18 months prior to its arrival, troops operated on the Special Operations Media System, which allowed them to broadcast on A.M., F.M., short wave radio and television. Though its tactical setup provided mobility, troops said it was time for a more permanent situation.

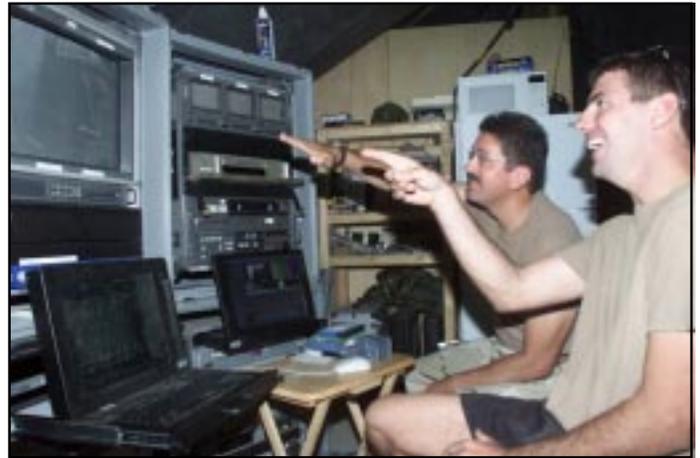
“Transition to the new (equipment) allows us greater production, has greater capabilities

and more power than the old system did,” said Angelus. “We can produce more video, produce more audio and it’s easier for us to produce more audio and video products in support of any (Combined Joint Task Force) operations.”

The FAD is also the only one of its kind in the Army, he said. The new system allows troops to take any type of video and transfer it onto DVD’s that can then be distributed to field teams or any others that may seek the information.

Radio is highly significant in the military’s mission in Afghanistan. It is the easiest and most effective way to reach out to the Afghan population without being forceful or threatening in nature.

“The average Afghan can not afford a TV set, so radio is huge out here,” said Angelus. “It’s our greatest amount of influence.”



Staff Sgt. Thomas Pina, noncommissioned officer in charge and 1st Lt. David Angelus, Special Operations Media commander, both of B Co., 3rd Bn., 4th PYSOPS, Ft. Bragg, N.C., review broadcast information for Peace radio.

Short wave radio is probably the most non-lethal weapon in CJTF 180’s inventory, he said. It’s “capable of affecting the most people in the widest amount of area without having any soldiers on the ground (while) presenting absolutely no danger to civilians or soldiers.”

Troops broadcasting Peace Radio now have a full production studio within one tent. The new advancements will contribute in the teams’ goal of reaching out to all of Afghanistan through radio waves.

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ROK Marine Cpl. Gojang Sang soars over three of his fellow soldiers while performing a highly-skilled kicking demonstration as part of the Korean Armed Forces Day celebration yesterday.

Marines performed a choreographed Tae Kwon Do demonstration and a high-flying kicking showcase for their coalition guests.

“We’re always trying to expose others to Korean culture,” said 100th ROK Army Eng. Unit Commander Lt. Col. Soosung Kim. “Our soldiers really enjoy interacting with coalition forces.”

The coalition guests were also treated to a movie presentation about South Korea and the unit’s history here in Afghanistan.

For many coalition guests in attendance, it proved to be an entertaining as well as educational event.

“For us and the Slovaks, we’re accustomed to European culture and this is all new to us,” said Lt. Col. Henryk Lukaszewicz, commander of the Polish Eng. unit here at Bagram.

Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Allen, 205th Eng. Bn., whose unit works closely with the ROK soldiers, also attended the ceremony and he had many good things to say about his South Korean coalition partners.

“It’s been a delightful experience working with them,” he said. “They’re hard workers and take a lot of pride in their work.”

At the end of the ceremony, the Korean soldiers made a pledge of continued support to their coalition partners and to the people of Afghanistan.

“We will continue to do our best in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and for world peace,” Kim said, reinforcing their pledge.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Garnett agrees on five-year contract extension to stay with Timberwolves

MINNEAPOLIS – All-Star forward Kevin Garnett signed a five-year contract extension with the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday, satisfied that several offseason acquisitions have given him a better chance for his first playoff success.



Kevin Garnett

“I’m excited for the fans. I’m excited for the city. I’m EXCITED!” Garnett said at a news conference at Target Center, where the Wolves begin the regular season Oct. 29 with the highest expectations in the franchise’s 15 years.

That’s because Latrell Sprewell, Sam Cassell and Michael Olowokandi, among others, are here. A flurry of summer activity appears to have enhanced Minnesota’s roster more than any other club in the ultra-competitive Western Conference.

Only Garnett, Wally Szczerbiak, Troy Hudson and reserve Gary Trent are back from last year’s team.

“We think we’ve done some really neat things,” said owner Glen Taylor, whose bottom line will take a significant hit this year with a payroll over \$70 million, well above the league’s expected luxury-tax threshold of \$57 million.

Garnett will make an NBA-high \$28 million this season, the final installment of the record six-year, \$126 million deal he signed in Oct. 1, 1997 — exactly six years ago.

‘Rush’ to judge, McNabb offended by Limbaugh’s comments

PHILADELPHIA – Donovan McNabb doesn’t mind criticism of his performance. He’s upset that Rush Limbaugh made his race an issue.



Donovan McNabb

And the Philadelphia Eagles’ quarterback says it’s too late for an apology from the conservative commentator, who said the media has overrated McNabb because they want to see a black quarterback succeed.

“It’s somewhat shocking to hear that on national TV from him,” McNabb said Wednesday.

Limbaugh insisted Wednesday he had “no racist intent whatsoever.”

Limbaugh said on ESPN’s pregame show that he didn’t think McNabb was as good as perceived from the start.

“I think what we’ve had here is a little social concern in the NFL. The media has been very desirous that a black quarterback do well,” Limbaugh said on “Sunday NFL Countdown.” “There is a little hope invested in McNabb, and he got a lot of credit for the performance of this team that he didn’t deserve. The defense carried this team.”



Juan Pierre (left) sparked the Marlins with four hits and three RBIs Wednesday. Now tied, the series moves to Miami Friday for Game 3.

Marlins storm back on Giants in Game 2, head home with series split

SAN FRANCISCO – Juan Pierre is sure everyone ruled out his wild-card Florida Marlins in their playoff matchup with the San Francisco Giants.

And suddenly, somehow, the Marlins now have the momentum heading home.

Juan Encarnacion homered and Pierre wound up with a bases-loaded double on a misplay by Jose Cruz Jr. in a decisive three-run sixth as Florida rallied to beat sloppy San Francisco 9-5 Wednesday, evening the series at one game each.

“Getting down 4-1, I think they were confident they would get us again,” said Pierre, who had four hits and drove in three runs. “We put the pressure on them and kept the pressure on.”

Pierre said before this series started that the Giants hadn’t yet seen the Marlins at their best. San Francisco won five of six meetings during the regular season.

Pierre led a 15-hit effort, a day after Florida was held to just three. The Marlins overcame a three-run deficit in the fifth.

“A lot of people doubted this team and thought we couldn’t win,” said Lenny Harris, who delivered a key pinch-hit single in the sixth. “We showed them a little something — that we’re not afraid of them.”

The Marlins got the split they so desperately needed at Pacific Bell Park, and did it by getting away from the small ball that sent them on this improbable playoff journey.

After an energized Barry Bonds helped the Giants take an early lead, Sidney Ponson couldn’t hold it. Pierre and the Marlins sent the best-of-five series back to Florida at one apiece.

Game 3 is Friday in Miami. Kirk Rueter pitches for San Francisco against Mark Redman.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

UN to start pilot disarmament programme

KABUL, Afghanistan (Sabawoon) – The United Nations announced on Wednesday that the initial pilot project of the country's over 100,000 ex-combatant disarmament effort would begin later this month. "The first pilot project will start the third week of October in Kunduz province when 1,000 people will be disarmed," Sultan Aziz, a United Nations senior advisor and programme director of the Afghanistan New Beginning Programme, told *IRIN* in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

According to ANBP, six pilot projects would be undertaken before the main phase, the disarming of 100,000 ex-combatants, would start early next summer. "6,000 people will be disarmed in the pilot projects in six provinces including Kunduz, Gardez, Mazar-e Sharif, Parwan (Kabul), Kandahar and Bamyan provinces," Paul Cruick, an operations manager of ANBP said.

As Afghanistan embarks on an ambitious programme to demobilise large numbers of commanders and fighters, international observers have emphasised that Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) of former combatants remained a key solution if the shattered country was ever to achieve an acceptable level of stability. "Without a credible DDR process in Afghanistan, it is inconceivable that any of the key elements of the political process agreed upon at the Bonn conference in late 2001 – including the adoption of a new constitution, judicial reform, and elections – can be meaningfully implemented," Robert Templer, the Asia programme director of the International Crisis Group said in a recent ICG report.

Efforts to start the UN-backed DDR were announced following recent major reforms at the Afghan Ministry of Defence. The multi million dollar DDR programme was scheduled to start in the middle of this year, but was suspended by the United Nations pending major reforms to be under taken within the ministry to make it more ethnically balanced. "What has really been delaying us was the political position that had to be taken," the ANBP operation manager said, noting that the reform at the defence ministry was a step in the 'right direction'.

According to the ANBP the initial intend was that the DDR would be completed in 12 months before the country's general elections next June. "Now it is very evident that it will not be completed in 12 months. This process will take from 18 to 24 months," Cruick ascertained.

Aziz said the DDR was a volunteer process and the ANBP was providing an incentive package enabling the disarmed people to support their families during the transitional phase until they were reintegrated. "The ex-combatant will receive a compensation/severance package including \$200 cash and a clothing and food package [130 kg of different types of food]," the ANBP programme director said, adding that this was merely to ensure that the transition from a life of essentially no salary and no prospects to a life when they are reintegrated was easier and simpler. "This is not a cash for weapon programme," he stressed.

Hispanic Heritage Spotlight

Although she was born and raised in Connecticut, USA, Spc. Jo A. Salazar, 213th Area Support Group, still maintains strong ties with her hispanic heritage, especially when it comes to passing it on to her children. She said an important aspect of her culture is the religion she practices. "When my children were young, the most special thing was Three Kings Day," she said. "The tradition is that they take a shoe box a fill it with hay, then the children put it under their bed at night. The Three Kings come though the night and the camels eat the hay, and they leave a present it its place," she said.

"And that's been the most important tradition I kept from my heritage," she said. "I'm born again and that's important to keep some sort religion to the kids, (because) now they always think it's special – Christmas is when Jesus was born, and the Three Kings is when they came to see the baby Jesus – even now I think my daughter's starting that with her children."

Keeping strong ties with her culture also branches out to keeping strong ties with the people she has met along the trail of her life. "The one person who had made a real big impact on my life has been a woman I worked with," she said. "She was my supervisor, (and) she taught me how to look to people, how to read people, how to pull out the best from them, and about parties," which she incorporates into helping to organize events like the ones held here at Bagram Air Base. "She helped shape a lot of my social ways. I always respected her for that," she said. "I actually sent her a card from here, and after 20, 25 years, she's still around, and she sent me a letter; she's very proud of me," she said.

