

Driving force of Bagram, Disney gets face lift

Story and photo by Spc. Wes Landrum
Coalition Joint Task Force 180

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – A massive re-paving effort has begun on Disney Drive, the two-mile stretch of pavement between the Marine compound and the front gate, here at Bagram Air Base.

The resurfacing of the main road began a couple of weeks ago according to Staff Sgt. James Bagnell, 416th Engineer Command. He said the work is going faster than expected.

“The scope of work called for three to four months to complete,” he said. “Now, with the way the company is moving, I would say they should be done in another four

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“Jake” the interpreter instructs workers as they place asphalt on Disney Drive, the two-mile road that stretches the length of Bagram Air Base. The workers are paving out the road entirely by hand.

Bagram Ten Miler brings coalition forces together



Photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall

More than 400 runners representing U.S., coalition forces and civilian personnel commenced the Bagram Army Ten-Miler.

Story by Spc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – A show of collaboration and camaraderie shined through as the sun peeked over the horizon illuminating the Bagram Army Ten-Miler participants Sunday.

Coalition troops and civilians supporting Operation Enduring Freedom joined forces to compete side-by-side during the run, cheering each other on from the start to the finish of the race as the runners made their way over the dusty course. For most, the thrill of the race was running alongside people who share the ambition and pride that comes from serving in the fight for freedom. Placing in the top of their division was just an added bonus.

“Where you finish in the race makes it nicer, if you’re in the top five or 10, but really

it’s just good to run with a lot of other folks,” said Air Force Capt. Gordon Birdsall, Combined Joint Task Force 180, Air Component Coordination Element, who took second place in the Men’s Master’s Division. This was Birdsall’s first Ten-Miler competition in more than 15 years.

Others supported Birdsall’s thoughts saying that it wasn’t really about placing, but more about the drive of competing with fellow troops and supporters.

It’s great just to be out here with all of these people, said 1st Lt. Laura McManus, Combined Joint Task Force 180, CJ-7, who finished first in the Women’s Open Division. “(It’s about) the feeling that you get with other runners; the feeling you get afterwards.”

Even after breaking through the finish

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



An Iraqi boy joins a group of former Iraqi soldiers demonstrating over rumors their pay would be cut off in Baghdad on Sunday.

Iraqi ex-soldiers protest 2nd day over pay Sunday

BAGHDAD, Iraq – For a second consecutive day, hundreds of former Iraqi conscripts from Saddam Hussein’s army scuffled with U.S.-led coalition troops and Iraqi police Sunday in Baghdad and the southern city of Basra.

In Baghdad, at least one U.S. soldier was slightly injured and five demonstrators were arrested during scuffles in Damascus Square.

Though all 440,000 ex-soldiers were to have received one-time \$40 payments from the Coalition Provisional Authority by Saturday, coalition officials said the deadline passed with only 320,000 getting paid.

The payments — totaling about \$18 million — made by CPA over a series of months are coming from formerly frozen Iraqi funds.

“The conscripts were told to come Sunday and get their money,” said Capt. Bassem Issa, a spokesman for the Iraqi chief of police. But “there was no money to be given out.”

The U.S.-led administration in Iraq officially disbanded the country’s army in May, leaving hundreds of thousands of conscripts unemployed.

An Iraqi translator with the 1st Armored Division was carrying a stick or club, which angered the conscripts, who were already on edge because they had been promised their payments for seven days straight, he said.

“Every day, they come to this location and they didn’t receive their salaries.”

U.S. soldiers Sunday promised the ex-soldiers they would be paid if they returned

in two or three days.



IDF issued video to journalists of what it said is the terror training camp it targeted in Syria.

Syria asks U.N. to condemn Israel

UNITED NATIONS – Syria has called for the U.N. Security Council to condemn Sunday’s Israeli airstrike against what Israel called a terrorist training camp inside Syrian territory, but Israel says it acted in self-defense after a suicide bombing that killed 19 people.

Syria, an elected member of the Security Council, requested a special meeting and asked the council to strongly condemn the attack.

Syrian U.N. Ambassador Fayssal Mekdad called the raid an act of “unwarranted aggression” that violated the U.N. charter and the 1974 disengagement agreement that followed the 1973 Mideast war.

He said Syria has exercised “maximum self-restraint,” but he accused Israel of trying “to export its current domestic crisis to the entire region.”

“Syria is not incapable of establishing a resistance and deterrent balance that would force Israel to reconsider its calculations,” Mekdad added.

Syria is tabling a draft resolution, backed by other Arab countries, that asks Israel not to make any further attacks.

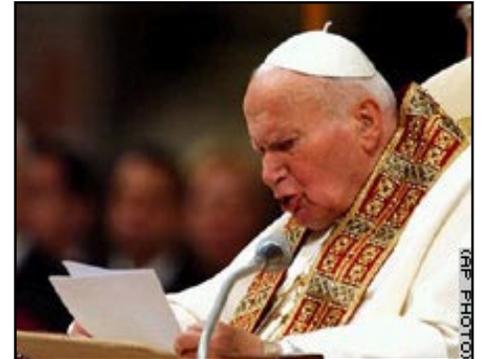
Sunday’s session initially was to be a closed-door meeting, but was later opened.

But Israeli U.N. Ambassador Dan Gillerman called the airstrike a “measured defensive operation” aimed at a training camp used by Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian militant group the U.S. State Department has designated a terrorist organization.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for

Saturday’s suicide bombing in Haifa, which killed 19 people.

Gillerman said Israel acted in accordance with Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, which allows nations a right of self-defense. And Syria has “put itself in the dock” by calling for Sunday’s meeting, he said.



This month marks the 25th anniversary of John Paul’s election to the papacy.

Ailing Pope names 3 new saints

VATICAN CITY – Ailing Pope John Paul II gave the church three new saints Sunday, presiding over the first of several stamina-testing ceremonies on a packed schedule this month.

John Paul’s voice sounded clearer than it had in recent days as he opened the canonization ceremony in St. Peter’s Square, which only a few hours early had been drenched by a downpour.

Slowly reading a long Latin text, the 83-year-old pontiff declared three missionaries to be saints: Daniele Comboni, an Italian; Arnold Janssen, a German; and Josef Freinademetz, an Austrian.

John Paul read most of his homily but let an aide read three paragraphs in German. Although German is one of the polyglot pope’s best languages, Parkinson’s disease has stiffened his facial muscles, making his speech often unintelligible.

Sunday’s canonization was the 50th such ceremony John Paul has led since becoming pontiff in 1978. In all, he has raised to sainthood 476 faithful, new role models he hopes will help shore up the faith of Catholics.

Coming from countries around the world and including lay people as well as clergy, the saints offer a variety of professions and paths taken in their holy lives.

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weeks, weather permitting.”

The team began construction north of the Marine compound and has worked south to “four corners”, the center of Bagram, in a relatively short time. “Jake”, an interpreter, said the men work from 0800 L to 1800 L.

“The men are working hard to get the road fixed,” he said. “They work [diligently] and they are getting the job done.”

According to Bagnell, more than 50 local nationals file in the gate every day to work on the road. He said the local people hired to repave Disney have never missed a day since they started on the road.

“The company that we hired to repave the road hired local workers,” he said. “They’ve kept the same workers,” Bagnell added saying that the consistency has

helped in the pavement project and has “given a boost to the local economy.”

The pavement project has given the local nationals a couple of bumps and bruises, but it has not deterred them from accomplishing the job.

“A few [men] have burns on their hands,” Bagnell said, “[However], they can still work.”

Another thing that makes the pavement project significant is that the road is being done entirely by hand.

According to “Jake” they have five mixers that mix dirt and rocks into asphalt. When the asphalt is mixed, the workers load it into wheelbarrels and dump it into a waiting transfer truck.

“It normally takes four wheelbarrel loads from each mixer to fill up the truck,” he said. “From there, it goes to the road.”

Bagnell said they average about a quarter-mile a day. Sometimes, they go farther depending on how fast the workers get the asphalt from the mixers. Bagnell praised the workers for a job well done so far.

“They’ve done amazing work,” he said. “To build this road entirely by hand says something about their work ethic. It’s been flawless so far.”

“Jake” said the praise goes directly to the coalition forces here in Afghanistan. He said they are the driving force for them being here in the first place.

“If it wasn’t for them driving out the Taliban we would not be here paving the road,” he said. “We work hard because this is our way of saying ‘thanks’ for all they’ve done for our people.”

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line, participants caught their breath and offered their support to the other runners nearing the end point of the race.

“When you finish, it’s nice to cheer on the other folks that are coming in right behind you,” said Birdsall.

The Bagram Army Ten-Miler was open to all supporters of Operation Enduring Freedom and attracted more than 400 participants. The race was designed to keep the competitive spirit alive here in Bagram and offer troops a little time away from their missions, said Sgt. Maj. Sonny Mitchell, event coordinator, CJTF-180.

“We wanted to do something that they’re doing in the United States that everybody can identify with,” he said.

Running is a sport that most military personnel and people around here enjoy participating in, said Mitchell, so it was a perfect choice for Bagram.

“Anytime you can do a competitive event or a fun event, it takes their mind off where they’re at (and) what they’re doing for a little bit,” he said. “They’re concentrating on the event so it’s a break for them, (and) I think it alleviates stress in some ways.”

Participants were addressed by Brig. Gen. Byron Bagby, director of the combined and joint staff, after the race where he stated that “everyone serving in Afghanistan in our coalition is a winner,” including troops from all branches and countries and the civilian supporters as well.

“Those of you who ran this morning are double winners because you are not only supporting global war on terrorism, but you had the fortitude to get up this morning and run 10 miles,” said Bagby.

He praised troops on their accomplishments during the race and assured them that their efforts during the event were outstanding.

“Looking at the times you earned today in this run, there’s

no doubt in my mind that some of you that competed today would have competed well in Washington,” said Bagby.

Participants in the Ten-Miler were divided into divisions by age and gender.

The Women’s Open Division included women under age 40. The first place finisher was 1st Lt. Laura McManus, CJTF-180, CJ-7. Second place was 1st Lt. Michelle Orley, Task Force 44 and the third place holder was Capt. Michelle Meier, 10th Military Police.

The Women’s Master’s Division included women age 40 and above. Coming in at first place was Lt. Col. Linda Shymo, CJTF-180, CJ-1. Second place was Staff Sgt. Barbara Tyler, Logistics Task Force 129 and finishing third was Lt. Col. Elizabeth Damonte, Combined Joint Civilian Military Operations Task Force.

The Male’s Open Division included men under age 40. The first place finisher was Capt. Juddeska Raimundas of Lithuania. Second place was awarded to Air Force Capt. Gordon Birdsall, CJTF-180, ACCE and third place finisher was Maj. Steve Anderson, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment.

The Male’s Masters Division included men age 40 and above. First place was awarded to Maj. Craig Leisher, CJTF-180, CJ-1. Second place finisher was Lt. Col. Sebastian Leitner, French Liaison Office and coming in at third place was Air Force Lt. Col. Dutch Holland, 712th Air Support Operations Squadron.

Supporters for the event include the northern New York chapter of the Association of the United States Army who donated the trophies, PX personnel who contributed gift certificates, vendors from Army Air Force Exchange Services who donated plaques, the Bagram Morale, Welfare and Recreation who contributed prizes for the winners, Kellogg Brown and Root who provided refreshments and water during the event and *Runner’s World* magazine who provided the runners’ numbers.

Iraqi Ten-Miler gets jump on local run

Story by Pfc. Justin Nieto
MDW News Service

WASHINGTON – Troops deployed to carry out Operation Iraqi Freedom prepared to run 10 miles Sunday under the blazing desert sun.

Soldiers positioned just outside of Balad at the Logistical Support Area Anaconda, a former Iraqi Air Force Academy base one hour north of Baghdad, hosted their own version of the Army Ten-Miler amid the swirling sands of Iraq Sunday at 7 a.m., which translates into midnight Saturday for those in the United States.

The run, which consisted of a timed, 10-mile run around the inner section of the base, was open to every soldier currently stationed in Iraq.

More than 500 soldiers participated in the event, which was designed to give the soldiers a boost in morale and give them a change of pace from the everyday duties of a soldier deployed during wartime.

All of the runners were broken down in to male, female or team categories for the run.

Teams ran the distance as a relay. The guidon of the unit the team represented was handed off at equal intervals to each of the four runners running two and a half miles.

Organizers enlisted volunteer teams to provide race support along the route. Each team was responsible for a different mile of the race, providing water points, medics, timers and entertainment and encouragement for the runners. At the end, the runners were vote on the “best mile.”

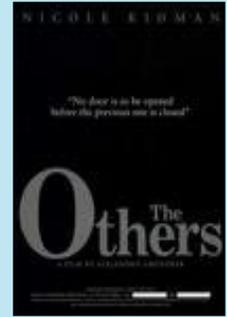
After the race, there was an awards ceremony for winners of each of the categories.

There was a pre-race pasta dinner Saturday night and a rock concert by members of the 76th Army Band for everyone running in the event.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “The Others.”

A woman who lives in a darkened old house with her two photosensitive children becomes convinced that her family home is haunted.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “Sleepy Hollow.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
Bagram:	Scattered TSTMS H: 86F L: 54F	Partly cloudy H: 79F L: 46F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 93F L: 59F	Dusty H: 93F L: 57F
Kabul:	Scattered TSMTS H: 79F L: 48F	Scattered TSTMS H: 77F L: 46F
Uzbekistan:	Partly cloudy H: 76F L: 47F	Partly cloudy H: 78F L: 48F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Hideki Matsui (center) doubled and scored in the Yankees' six-run fourth.

Yankees defeat Twins 8-1 Sunday to end series, headed back to ALCS

MINNEAPOLIS – The New York Yankees sure got back to their postseason best in a hurry.

The Yankees hit four doubles in a six-run fourth inning Sunday, giving David Wells a big lead and breezing into the AL Championship Series with an 8-1 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

After a sloppy loss in the opener that brought back memories of last year's first-round flop against Anaheim, New York beat the Twins three straight times to clinch their AL Division Series 3-1.

A rested Yankees team will open the ALCS on Wednesday night at home against Oakland or Boston.

Wells improved to 9-2 lifetime in the postseason by going 7 2/3 innings for the Yankees, who sent 12 batters to the plate in the fourth and knocked out Twins starter Johan Santana.

Bernie Williams and Hideki Matsui each hit an RBI double, and Nick Johnson added a two-run double. Alfonso Soriano's bloop two-run single made it 6-0.

Derek Jeter later homered for the Yankees. After losing Game 1 at home 3-1, New York outscored Minnesota 14-3.

The big-budget Yankees are under increasing pressure to win it all this year after going consecutive seasons without a World Series title.

H-All in a day's work, Chiefs edge out Denver 24-23 to remain undefeated

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – He cut left, then right, then stutter-stepped and actually ran backward toward the end zone.

Surrounded by Denver tacklers and just a couple of yards from the goal line, Dante Hall cut back left, looped around to the outside and darted 93 yards into the end zone — and the record book.

His NFL record fourth touchdown return in four games came

with 8:20 left and gave Kansas City a 24-23 victory over Denver and the Chiefs' first 5-0 start.

But to the other Chiefs players, the game between previously unbeaten AFC West rivals was almost secondary. They all seemed to want to talk about their remarkable teammate.

"He's a human highlight reel," Chiefs defensive end Eric Hicks



Dante Hall dazzled the Broncos with a 93-yard punt return for a touchdown Sunday.

said. "He's like Michael Jordan. It's ridiculous. The play he made, really nobody was blocked on the initial part of the play. My God, I've never seen anything like

that in my life."

Hall began his streak with a 100-yard kickoff return against Pittsburgh, then had a 73-yard punt return against Houston and followed with a 97-yard kickoff return for a score against Baltimore.

Now with 11 regular-season games left, Hall has already tied the NFL's single-season record for touchdown returns.

Tiger wins fifth title of year at American Express Championship Sunday

WOODSTOCK, Ga. – Against the best players in the world, in



Woods bogeyed his final two holes.

the toughest conditions this side of a major, Tiger Woods felt right at home.

With momentum slipping away, he hit a delicate flop shot out of the first cut of rough that carried a bunker and stopped 4 feet away for a crucial par. With his lead down to one, he blistered

a 4-iron to the back of the green to set up an easy birdie.

When it was over, Woods left no doubt who was the best in the world at the American Express Championship.

"Any time you get to play against the best players ... that's when it's the most challenging," Woods said.

With bogeys he could afford on the final two holes, Woods closed with a 2-over 72 — only the fourth time in 39 victories on the PGA Tour he won with a final round over par — for a two-shot victory over Vijay Singh, Tim Herron and Stuart Appleby.

It was his fifth victory of the year.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

AP Enterprise-America's Warlord Allies

Story by MARK FRITZ

PITHAVE, Afghanistan (*Newsday*)—A Soviet bullet entered his skull behind the left ear and exited via the nearest eye socket, leaving nothing but lid. Two decades later, a permanently winking Maj. Mulla Naimatullah beams with pride when his commanding general tells this story.

Then there is Col. Talib Hayatallah, who literally ate a Taliban slug. It crashed into his mouth and pulverized every tooth on the left side of his face before bursting out his cheekbone. He, too, smiles in satisfaction about the flesh-and-bone medal of valor.

These are America's allies in the south-central Afghan precinct of the worldwide war on terrorism, just two of the 220 men who recently began an open-ended mission to hunt for Taliban fighters who have gained a foothold back inside the country.

The United States toppled the Taliban's darkly repressive Islamic regime in 2001, payment for harboring the headquarters of Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda terror group, which pulled off the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

The Bush administration's plan to rebuild this Texas-sized place includes the creation of a new national army and the disarming of a veritable army of warlord militias — including the relatively elite 1818 Advanced Special Operations, an oft-ambushed intelligence task force to which Naimatullah and Hayatallah belong.

U.N. teams plan to begin the disarmament program on Oct. 18, offering cash for weapons. But few expect much cooperation from the warlords who have bankrolled their own armies to fight 23 years worth of wars in Afghanistan.

To the commanding officers of this unit — run by the secular ruler of southern Kandahar Province and various other regional Sunni Muslims — the disarming idea triggers more perplexity than anger.

"We're fighting the Taliban and they want us to disarm?" asked the hulking Gen. Atta Mohammad, director of Kandahar Special Forces and leader of this patrol, which consists of 20 commanding officers of other units, each with 10 of their own hand-picked men.

Their mission, is to patrol the rugged and isolated area that forms the apex of three hot provinces: Zabol, Kandahar and Uruzgan. Scores of aid workers and others affiliated with the Western presence in Afghanistan have been murdered in recent weeks in the region.

As the force casually mobilized in a Kandahar military base parking lot, the general — who like many Afghans, only has one name — strode among his men, giving an upbeat but vague outline of their mission to scout Taliban command posts. He would be heading into the most isolated areas of the country, with no U.S. assistance.

Hispanic Heritage Month Spotlight

Every soldier gets promoted at one point in his or her military career. And soldiers who are up for promotion here at Bagram Air Base come to the Promotions office located on the second floor of Motel 6, where chances are they meet face-to-face with Spc. Lysseyda Y. Rosario.

"I get documents for the promotion packets and add up all the points [soldiers] have to turn in," she said.

After she gets the points totaled, soldiers packets are ready for the board.

"After the board is over, if the soldier passed the board, I do a transaction and the soldier is promoted," she said.

Rosario was born on the island of Puerto Rico. Growing up in Puerto Rico, she said her life was impacted by the culture that was on the tiny island. She said there were a lot of people who helped her become the person she is today, but no one more than her mother.

"I was raised by a single mother," Rosario said. "She never quit and she was always there for me."

Rosario said to her, Hispanic Heritage Month means the coming together of all cultures for the purpose of celebrating.

"It doesn't matter what race you are — Puerto Rican, Mexican, Cuban, Dominican," she said. "It means everyone comes together as one race, the Hispanic race celebrating this month."

Rosario said in Puerto Rico, Hispanic Heritage Month isn't celebrated in October, but in July when the island has its independence day. And what is independence without a celebration.

"We just party a lot during Hispanic Heritage Month," she said. "Dancing is a big part of culture so we dance all the time."

