

## Local hospital gets aid from Medical TF- 44

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

**CHARIHKAR**, Afghanistan – Soldiers from Medical Task Force 44 Combat Support Hospital delivered large amounts of medicine to Charihkar Hospital Saturday in their continuing effort to offer medical aid to Bagram Air Base’s closest neighboring city.

The TF-44’s soldiers donated two Humvee loads of medicine and medical supplies in what was their second donation run to the hospital in a little more than a month.

On the task force’s last visit, personnel

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Photo by Spc. Kelly Hunt

### Last hurrah...

*Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, former CJTF-180 commander, meets with coalition troops during his farewell luncheon held at the Joint Operations Center Friday afternoon. Vines is returning to Fort Bragg, N.C. to command the XVIII Airborne Corps.*

## Airmen bring bombs to ‘most evil place on the planet’

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Russell Wicke  
455th EOG Public Affairs

**SHKIN FIRE BASE**, Afghanistan – The sound of an incoming rocket is an everyday occurrence at Shkin Fire Base. It is where being shot at before sunset is a typical expectation, and the Army is always busy defending their ground from the enemy behind four mud walls. The American troops serving here are familiar with the loss of fallen comrades, and it is often claimed to be the most evil place on the planet by Lt. Gen. John Vines, former Combined Joint Task Force-180 commander.

In the face of such a grim environment, two airmen offer hope at Shkin as the Army’s most popular redeemers in perilous fire fights.

Staff Sgt. Travis Stricker and Airman 1st Class Justin Pilant, 20th Air Support Operations Squadron, are the tactical air control party assigned to Shkin Fire Base. They are the only airmen among a sea of soldiers.

Stricker said their job is to maximize the amount of firepower on the battlefield by directing aircraft to the enemy target for bomb delivery.

“We’re the experts on air power for the Army,” said Pilant. “We use multiple tools to help us get our eyes on the enemy, mark them for the aircraft and lead the aircraft to that mark.” Although the statement alone sounds simple, many complications come with the Air Force’s job at Shkin.

“We have to keep up with the Army infantry in the field,” said Stricker. “That gets very difficult when we’re carrying nearly 70 more pounds on our back than they are.”

Although they carry more gear, Stricker said it is important they blend in with the Army as much as possible. Removing chevrons from their sleeves is a command directive.

“We are specifically targeted by the enemy,” he said. “Mainly because they know if we are taken out of the picture, air power is delayed.”

Stricker said in addition to him and Pilant having to carry more than 100 pounds each in radios and equipment, Shkin offers extra obstacles to their job.

“Shkin is very unpredictable,” said Stricker, who just recently finished fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom. “On most battlefields, I usually have an idea of what I’m up against.”

He explained that in this area, which is

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Condoleezza Rice is to head an Iraq Stabilization Group, responsible for the day-to-day administration of Iraq, sources told CNN.

## Source: White House to expand role in Iraq recovery

WASHINGTON – The White House is planning to take a more direct role in Iraq’s reconstruction, a senior administration official said Monday.

The official, who called the plan a “new phase” in the rebuilding effort, said the White House is creating an Iraq Stabilization Group that would be responsible for handling the day-to-day administration of Iraq and be headed by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, according to the official.

Each of the four deputies reporting to Rice would be responsible for a particular area: fighting terrorism, developing the economy, overseeing political affairs and working with the news media, the official said. Each group will have among its members undersecretaries from the State, Defense and Treasury departments, and senior staff from the CIA.

The counterterrorism group will be led by Frances Townsend; the economic group by Gary Edson; the political group by former ambassador to India Robert Blackwill; and the media group by National Security Council communications director Anna Perez.

The Pentagon would remain the lead agency, with L. Paul Bremer, head of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, still reporting to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

“This is not meant to diminish the Pentagon’s effort but support it,” the official said.

The announcement comes as the administration is looking to Congress for \$20 billion in reconstruction and \$67 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Tariq (left) is kissed by a follower after his release from prison in 2002.

## Sunni politician dies in shootout

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan – Gunmen opened fire on five people in a government car in Islamabad, killing them all, including a prominent Sunni Muslim politician.

The car carrying Maulana Azam Tariq and four other people came under fire between 3:30 and 4 p.m. (6:30-7 a.m. ET) Monday, when it stopped at a toll booth at the entrance to Islamabad.

Unknown gunmen in an SUV drove up alongside and sprayed the car with automatic weapons, police said.

Tariq, 45, had been en route to Islamabad to attend a session of the National Assembly, which was to meet at 5 p.m. (9 a.m. ET).

The victims were taken to Pims Hospital, where they were declared dead. Soon afterward, a number of politicians, protected by a busload of police, arrived at the hospital to pay their respects.

Police said they were on high alert in case of reprisals.

Tariq was a controversial candidate because he had led an extremist, militant Sunni group called Sipah-e-Sahaba, which Pakistan’s President Gen. Pervez Musharraf banned in January 2002.

One of its arms is a more radical militant group known as Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, which government authorities say is responsible for hundreds of sectarian killings.

Sunnis are the majority Muslim sect in Pakistan, and the group is blamed for the

deaths of hundreds of Shiite Muslims, the nation’s minority, over the past few years.

Lawsuits were filed in court to keep him from running, but he went on to win a seat in the National Assembly.



President Bush, right, meets with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki in the Oval Office.

## Terrorism on the agenda as Bush meets with Kenyan president

WASHINGTON – Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki asked President Bush Monday for more American help in stabilizing Somalia, an East African neighbor that terrorism experts say is a concern because of the lawlessness there.

“I emphasized that in order to maintain the democratic gains and to sustain the war against terrorism, it is essential that Somalia stabilizes,” Kibaki said at a joint news conference with Bush. “In this respect, it is important for the U.S. to increase its involvement in this search for peace in Somalia. It is pertinent that all parties involved in the peace process remain engaged. I requested the U.S. government to assist in this regard.”

Bush made no public commitments on expanding the American role in Somalia, where 18 U.S. soldiers died in a fierce street battle, a clash that spurred the exit of American peacekeepers during the Clinton administration.

But Bush said he hoped that “Somalia will continue to work with Kenya to bring unity and reconciliation to a badly divided land.”

The two leaders faced reporters as part of a state visit by Kibaki. It was just the fourth state visit Bush has hosted since becoming president, underscoring the importance that he attaches to America’s ties with Kenya.

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donated more than \$10,000 worth of medical equipment and supplies, which included a blood refrigerator and dentist's chair, among many other things.

Included in the many items donated on this trip were various pain medications, antibiotics, intravenous starter kits, and bandages, according to 452<sup>nd</sup> CSH commander Lt. Col. Richard Haile.

"Sometimes in our supply chain we have an excess of medicine and we knew it could be put to good use here," said Haile, explaining one of the reasons why TF-44 was able to donate the medicine.

While at the hospital, Haile was given the opportunity to speak to some of the doctors and learn some things about the often crowded and under-supplied facility.

"One of the things that was most eye opening to me was that the hospital only gets their ration of medications every three months," Haile said. "And that supply can be depleted very quickly."

Additionally, the hospital in Charihkar, which provides services to an estimated 200,000 Afghans, distributes its medical supplies to other smaller clinics in the surrounding area, so at times it can be hard to keep



*A young Afghan girl watches after her little brother while waiting to be seen by a doctor at the Charihkar hospital. They are two of the many people who will benefit from the donations from Med. TF-44.*

stocked up on important supplies, said Dr. Hussain Seyar, Charihkar hospital vice president.

"Everything we've gotten has been very useful," said Seyar. "We are very happy that the U.S. forces are able to send us the supplies."

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Michelle Orley of 452<sup>nd</sup> CSH, who also helped deliver supplies during the last

trip, got to see first hand how important these donations are to the hospital.

"Everything we gave them they used," said Orley, "but I'm sure they can always use more."

According to Haile, Med. TF-44 plans on continuing to support the Afghan hospital in any way it can.

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*Staff Sgt. Travis Stricker, 20th Air Support Operations Squadron, zeros his sights on his M-4 rifle at Shkin Fire Base.*

right next to the border of Pakistan, it's nearly impossible to distinguish an enemy from a civilian until they are shot at.

"Al Qaeda blends in with the population," said Stricker. "So we don't know who they are until they engage us. Most of our enemies are guerrilla fighters, using rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and small arms. By the time we can get eyes on them, they usually have

already retreated into Pakistan."

Stricker said the proximity of the Pakistan border complicates their ability to do their job. Pakistani casualties equal fratricide.

Pilant also said they are threatened with suicide bombers and gunners.

Despite all the challenges facing Stricker and Pilant at Shkin, they are successful at what they do and enjoy it.

"Stricker and Pilant are fantastic," said Army Capt. Eric Lopez, a 10th Mountain Division company commander at Shkin. "They always get their bombs right on target."

"Fifty percent of the battle is getting our pilot's eyes on us," said Stricker. "Once we do that, we can guide him to the enemy with a coded laser, give the pilot a grid coordinate or mark it with artillery."

Both airmen say the job is rewarding.

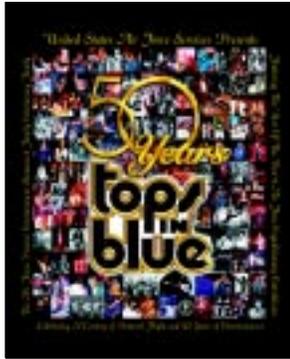
"It takes a special attitude to do this kind of work," said Pilant. "It can be very unnerving in the heat of a fire fight, but when you see an A-10 fly overhead, the enemy gets silent. By then it's too late for them, and we get to see the bomb fall right on target. Most people in the Air Force never get to see things like this happen, even though all their efforts make it possible."

Pilant explained when the bombs do hit, they know their enemy is destroyed, and it is almost like they are heroes to their Army brethren.

# Air Force's Top in Blue schedule to perform at Bagram

Story by Freedom Watch Staff

The U.S. Air Force's Tops in Blue are scheduled to perform at the Bagram Civic Center Oct. 11 at 2030 L.



The Tops in Blue, an Air Force entertainment showcase team, is visiting more than 120 locations and is performing 150 shows in the U.S. and 22 foreign countries.

Tops in Blue is an all active-duty Air Force special unit team of amateur singers, musicians and dancers.

The Tops in Blue entertainment team is celebrating 50 years of entertaining the men and women of the U.S. Air Force. The team performed its first world tour in 1953.

The theme of this year's showcase team is "Soaring with Eagles". The team will be performing songs from the past five decades to include hits such as Tina Turner's "Proud Mary" and The Village People's "YMCA" along with current hits from MC Hammer, Boyz II Men, Ricky Martin and Gloria Estafan.

Two prize giveaways are included in the show. The prizes are a \$200 AAFES gift certificate and 10,000 call minutes from AT&T.

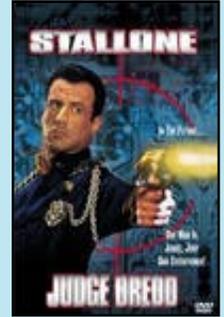
The tour is sponsored by First Command and AT&T.

The show is free and open to all coalition forces and Bagram civilian personnel.

For more information about Tops in Blue and their tour dates log onto [www.topsinblue.com](http://www.topsinblue.com).

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Judge Dredd." In a dystopic future, Dredd, the most famous judge (a cop with instant field judiciary powers) is convicted for a crime he did not commit while his murderous counterpart escapes.



Tomorrow's movie will be "The Banger Sisters."

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Wednesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Scattered TSTMS H: 79F L: 46F	Haze H: 79F L: 46F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 93F L: 57F	Dusty H: 91F L: 55F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze H: 81F L: 48F	Haze H: 77F L: 50F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 78F L: 48F	Clear H: 79F L: 45F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Comeback Kids, Colts win shocker in overtime 38-35 Monday

TAMPA, Fla. – Tony Dungy’s 48th birthday had a little bit of everything. It ended with an improbable victory in his former home.



Ricky Williams scored on a pair of 1-yard run in the fourth quarter Monday to send the game into overtime.

fully knuckled off the right goalpost.

Vanderjagt - who had been 12-for-12 on field-goal attempts this season - missed wide right on a 40-yard attempt with 3:52 left in overtime but defensive end Simeon Rice was whistled for a highly questionable unsportsmanlike penalty call for using a teammate for leverage. Replays indicated Rice grazed a teammate’s back on his way down.

On Vanderjagt’s second attempt, from 29 yards out, defensive end Ellis Wyms tipped the kick, but it still had enough force to just go through and help the Colts become the first team in NFL history to win after trailing from 21 points down with less than four minutes to play.

Dungy went 54-42 in six seasons coaching the Bucs before being fired following the 2001 season by owner Malcolm Glazer, who targeted Bill Parcells as his successor. After Parcells jilted the Bucs, Glazer sent four draft picks and \$8 million to the Oakland Raiders for Jon Gruden, who immediately led the team to its first Super Bowl title.

Dungy’s former squad dominated his current one in the first half, jumping out to a 21-0 advantage and taking a 35-14 edge on Ronde Barber’s 29-yard interception return with 5:09 left.

But Brad Pyatt returned the kickoff 90 yards, setting up James Mungro’s three-yard touchdown run with 3:37 left. Idress Bashir recovered the ensuing onside kick, and Peyton Manning tossed a 28-yard TD pass to Marvin Harrison to cut the deficit to 35-28 with 2:29 left.

The Colts (5-0) narrowly missed recovering another onside kick but prevented the Bucs from getting a first down and took advantage

of a pair of penalties that stopped the clock to get the ball back with 1:41 left. One play after Warren Sapp was whistled for an unnecessary roughness penalty on Manning, the quarterback completed a 52-yard pass to Harrison to the Tampa Bay 6, and Ricky Williams ran it in from one yard out to tie the score with 35 seconds remaining.

After rallying from a 21-point deficit to the NFL’s best defense with less than four minutes remaining, the Indianapolis Colts stunned the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in overtime, 38-35, when Mike Vanderjagt’s second attempt at a game-winning field goal successfully knuckled off the right goalpost.

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## Red Sox complete comeback, advance to ALCS Monday

OAKLAND, Calif. – Pedro Martinez, Johnny Damon, Manny Ramirez and even that maligned Boston bullpen — they all were tougher than any curse.



With the draining victory, the Boston Red Sox advance to face the rival New York Yankees in the ALCS.

After Martinez’s pitching and Ramirez’s three-run homer staked the Red Sox to a lead, starter-turned-reliever Derek Lowe pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the ninth as Boston completed a three-game playoff comeback, beating the Oakland Athletics 4-3 Monday night in Game 5 of their AL Division Series.

Lowe struck out pinch-hitters Adam Melhuse and Terrence Long on called third strikes in the ninth to finish Boston’s fourth playoff series victory since its last World Series title in 1918.

“It’s not like anything I’ve ever felt before,” Lowe said. “It’s a win for Boston, for the Red Sox Nation.”

Boston meets the Yankees, its traditional rival, in the AL Championship Series starting Wednesday night in New York — but the Red Sox had to make a memorable stand in the ninth to get there.

And for once, good luck was wearing Red Sox in October.

“It feels pretty good, to tell you the truth,” Boston manager Grady Little said. “Every single game in this series was outstanding. I think it was nothing short of what people expected, and it was all brought about by some outstanding pitching by both teams.”

While Boston’s players doused each other, Oakland’s frustration extended to its fourth season. The A’s have lost nine straight games in which they could have gained postseason advancement, extending a major league record.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## NATO agrees to widen Afghan mission

Story by Paul Taylor

**BRUSSELS** (*Reuters*) - NATO agreed on Monday to expand its peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan beyond the Kabul area to the country's troubled provinces for the first time in response to pleas from the Afghan government and the United Nations.

Diplomats said the U.S.-led alliance backed German plans to send up to 450 soldiers to the northern district of Kunduz, once the U.N. Security Council approves a wider mandate for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Germany, which holds the ISAF command, is expected to submit a resolution soon to expand the mission.

NATO also endorsed the principle of other limited, temporary deployments outside Kabul, for example to protect elections due next year, subject to forces being available, diplomats said.

U.N. and European Union officials have warned that the international effort to build a stable Afghanistan will fail as long as President Hamid Karzai's government has little authority beyond the Kabul region because of the power of ethnic warlords.

Officials said the main constraint on NATO was the shortage of deployable troops due to other priorities in Iraq, the Balkans and Africa, and member nations' budget restrictions.

France and the United States submitted letters expressing some reservations about the scale of NATO's commitment in Afghanistan but did not block the decision, they said.

Both countries urged caution since the alliance had had difficulties finding enough troops to make up the existing 5,500-strong force when it took over command of ISAF in August.

The U.S. letter said the mission should be enlarged in a "flexible and progressive manner," a NATO source said.

That also reflected concern that ISAF should coordinate with the separate U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom which continues to fight remnants of the former ruling Taliban movement and its al Qaeda militant allies in southern and eastern Afghanistan.

Taliban fighters have stepped up attacks on the U.S.-led forces in the last few days ahead of Tuesday's second anniversary of U.S. intervention in the country.

A senior NATO diplomat said the 19-nation alliance agreed in principle that it could support other Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) — groups of international aid workers under military protection — in light of the Kunduz pilot project.

Detailed military plans for the Kunduz operation are to be submitted to NATO ambassadors by October 20.

NATO military planners last month proposed a range of options for expanding the peacekeeping mission, as requested by Karzai and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The suggestions ranged from around 2,000 troops to 10,000 at the top end.

## Top Taliban commander killed, says Afghan official

**SPIN BOLDAK**, Afghanistan (*Reuters*) - A close aid to supreme Taliban leader Mullah Omar has been killed in a clash in south Afghanistan, an Afghan official said on Monday, the second major blow to the hardline Islamic movement in under a month.

News of the death of Mullah Abdul Razzaq Nafees, a member of the 10-strong Taliban shura (council) formed in June, came just days after the Taliban confirmed that Mullah Abdur Rahim, its top military commander in southern Afghanistan, had been killed.

Abdul Razzaq Achakzai, a senior Afghan military commander, said Nafees was killed in a clash with U.S.-led coalition and Afghan forces about 10 days ago in central Uruzgan province.

"He was among the many Taliban killed in that fighting," he said.

"The Taliban are persistently showing signs of weakness," Achakzai told *Reuters* in the town of Spin Boldak, close to Pakistan border.

Mullah Abdul Samad, a Taliban intelligence officer, neither confirmed nor denied the report but said they had had no contact with Nafees for the past two weeks.



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support