

American Indian heritage celebrated



Brig. Gen. Lloyd Austin III, CJTF-180 commander, and Lt. Col. Valerie Jircitano-Torres, 10th Signal Battalion commander, cut the cake to signify the start of Native American Heritage Month.

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – A culturally diverse group of Combined Joint Task Force-180 officers, soldiers and civilians celebrated the kick-off of Native American Heritage Month with a cake cutting ceremony Wednesday at the Viper Dining Facility’s Checo Room.

According to Brig. Gen. Lloyd Austin III, CJTF-180 commander, the event was “about diversity” as he urged those in attendance to “take a moment and stop and think what we’re about.”

Austin reminded those assembled that America stands for diversity.

“If you treasure diversity then people will bring great ideas from their culture,” Austin said. “Diversity makes us a better team.”

Guest speaker at the event, Lt. Col. Valerie Jircitano-Torres, 10th Signal Battalion commander and Mohawk Indian, took the opportunity to enlighten attendees about Congressional Resolution 76.

“Resolution 76 was set forth to acknowledge the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy of Nations to the development of the United

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IG ‘TTRAIN’ing helps keep Army harmonious

Story by Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – It’s probably one of the less lethal sections of the Army, but this section’s might can’t be surpassed because it benefits the Army’s most powerful talent – the soldier. That section is the Inspector General’s office.

With a mission of acting as the commander’s eyes, ears, voice and conscience in peace and wartime, the IG office offers soldiers help with issues or dilemmas when they feel the system has worked against them.

“We are fair and impartial fact finders,” said Maj. Stephen Wise, Combined Joint

Task Force -180 Inspector General. “We’re here to provide rapid and confidential assistance to soldiers, family members and civilians when they feel there has been a violation of (Army) policies, regulations, standards or (military) law.”

For the IG office to inquire about an issue or investigate a person’s complaint the situation must meet some basic criteria: who did, or did not do, what, in violation of an established regulation, standard, or policy.

“We are not a court of law,” said Master Sgt. John A. Bosco, CJTF -180 IG non-commissioned officer in charge. “We don’t look for blame. We look for a root cause of why the system is broke, (or) why the process has failed. And then we see how the issue can be resolved.”

The IG office doesn’t intervene in certain issues such as criminal allegations, court-martial actions, nonjudicial punishment, officer evaluation reviews, noncommissioned officer evaluation reviews, military discharges or financial claims; however, Wise noted that if a soldier brings such matters to the IG’s office they will look into the matter to ensure that the soldier is receiving fair and balanced judgment in the proceeding.

“Because proper appeals processes are in place for those issues, we don’t get involved in such matters,” said Wise. “But after the issue has gone throughout the entire appeals process if a soldier still believes [they have a valid argument] we will

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Sri Lankan army soldiers patrol on the streets of Colombo.

State of emergency declared by Sri Lanka's president

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—Sri Lanka's president has declared a state of emergency amid an escalating row with the prime minister over the direction of the country's peace process.

The exact details and powers of the declaration have yet to be made clear, although it is thought to give the police sweeping powers of arrest and allow for indefinite detention without trial.

Emergency powers are also likely to give the president power to clamp down on the media, *CNN's* Kasra Naji reported from Colombo.

"This looks more and more like a constitutional coup here in Sri Lanka," Naji said.

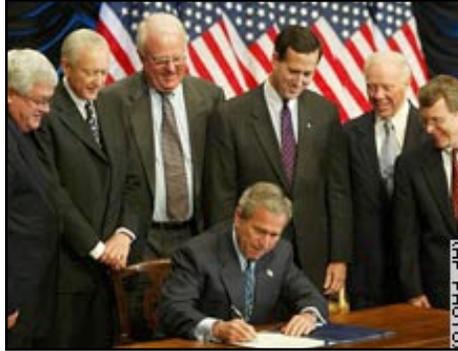
Under the constitution President Chandrika Kumaratunga has command of Sri Lanka's armed forces with ultimate responsibility for law and order and security.

The declaration of a state of emergency is the president's latest move following her surprise sacking Tuesday of three key cabinet ministers and the suspension of the country's parliament.

Troops have also been deployed to key areas around the capital, Colombo.

Attempting to rally support against Kumaratunga's moves senior members of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's cabinet held a news conference Wednesday pledging their support for his policies in the form of a letter signed by a majority of parliament.

Calling the president's actions capricious and arbitrary, government spokesman Laxman Pieris said, "We have a mandate from the people and we will uphold the mandate" through our actions in parliament.



As members of congress look on, President Bush signs the Partial Birth Abortion Act of 2003 Wednesday.

Bush bans on late-term abortion

WASHINGTON—President Bush signed legislation Wednesday banning a certain type of abortion, handing the disputed procedure's opponents a long-sought victory even as a federal judge at least partially blocked the new law from taking effect.

"For years, a terrible form of violence has been directed against children who are inches from birth while the law looked the other way," Bush said as he signed the ban on a procedure called partial-birth abortion by its critics. "Today at last the American people and our government have confronted the violence and come to the defense of the innocent child."

The White House staged the ceremony, before about 400 cheering lawmakers and abortion opponents, at a federal building named for former President Ronald Reagan, a strong supporter of anti-abortion groups. An "Amen" was heard from the audience as Bush sat down at a desk, before a row of American flags, to sign the bill passed last month by Congress.

But less than an hour after Bush put his pen to paper, a federal judge in Nebraska sharply questioned the law's constitutionality and issued a limited temporary restraining order against it. U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf said he was concerned that the ban contains no exception if the woman's health is at risk as he issued an injunction applied only to the four doctors who brought the suit.

"While it is also true that Congress found that a health exception is not needed, it is, at the very least, problematic whether I should defer to such a conclusion when the Supreme Court has found otherwise," Kopf said.



Flanked by his attorneys, Ridgway answers a prosecutor's questions Wednesday in a packed King County courtroom.

Serial killer avoids death

SEATTLE—Hatred and arrogance fueled Gary Leon Ridgway's killing spree.

In confessing to more murders than any other serial killer in U.S. history Wednesday, the 54-year-old former truck painter provided heart-wrenching details of the 48 women he murdered to their families gathered in a Seattle courtroom to hear his confession.

Ridgway's confessions came in exchange for a plea agreement that spares him the death penalty and provides information that will help parents recover the remains of daughters lost for nearly two decades.

King County prosecutor Norm Maleng said Ridgway agreed to help investigators locate and identify the remains of some of those victims whose bodies remain undiscovered if prosecutors dropped efforts to obtain a death sentence.

Ridgway affirmed a 16-page statement admitting to the killings as King County Deputy Prosecutor Jeff Baird read the document aloud in court Wednesday.

In his statement, Ridgway said he targeted prostitutes "because I thought I could kill as many as I wanted without getting caught."

"Gary Ridgway does not deserve our mercy, and Gary Ridgway does not deserve to live," Maleng said. "The mercy provided by today's resolution is not directed toward Gary Ridgway, but toward the families who suffered so much and to the larger community."

"I hate most prostitutes. I did not want to pay them for sex," Ridgway acknowledged. "I also picked prostitutes as victims because they were easy to pick up, without being noticed. I knew they would not be reported missing right away, and might never be reported missing."

ANA awareness brought to Wardak Province

Several Afghan government officials, the French Ambassador to Afghanistan, and coalition military officers took a trip to bring awareness of the Afghan National Army (ANA) to the people of Wardak Province Oct. 9. Upon arrival, the governor, his staff, and the local people welcomed their guests.

Muhammed Aref Noorzai, the Minister of Border and Tribal Affairs, began the session by delivering a speech in which he recalled Ghazy Mohamed, an Afghan from Wardak Province, who was famous for his bravery during Afghanistan's fight for independence. The Minister asked the people to show their support for the ANA and encouraged the provincial youth to join the ANA to show their bravery as had Ghazy Mohamed.

"Because safety and security (for the people of Afghanistan) is the first priority, we must first establish the ANA. Once the ANA is in place, then we can reconstruct our ruined country. Infrastructure improvements are impossible without the ANA," he said.

Maj. Gen. Mohamed Moeen, Commander of Central Corps, talked about the reform of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the importance of the ANA. He said, "The Army is the backbone of the country... without it our existence is subject to severe damage. As a result of ANA progress to date, we have now established the Central Corps. This ANA consists of people from all ethnic backgrounds. The ANA belongs to the whole nation of Afghanistan. Therefore, it is necessary to have soldiers from all over Afghanistan. If you are Pashtun, Tajik, Uzbek, or Hazara... you are brothers. A brother benefits his brother. That is why we come to your province... to seek you out, and to tell you about this vital process, and to ask you to take your share in it."

Other MoD officials, an ANA soldier, and the French Ambassador spoke about the benefits provided to volunteers by joining the ANA. Following the talks, a luncheon was served and after the meal, the Wardak Governor invited the Minister of Boundaries and Tribes to officially open the first public water faucet resulting in running water being made available to local townspeople for the first time in 20 years.

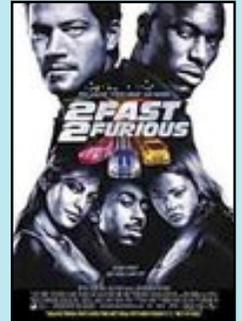
(Information provided by Maj. Kenneth Knowles, OMC-A.)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

"2 Fast 2 Furious"

1530Z at the MWR building:

Set in Miami, Officer O'Conner, stripped of his badge, is recruited to infiltrate the Miami street racing circuit in an effort to redeem himself.



Tomorrow's movie: "The Last of the Mohicans"

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

| | Today | Friday |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bagram: | Mostly Clear H: 64F L: 32F | Mostly Clear H: 64F L: 32F |
| Kandahar: | Dusty H: 66F L: 39F | Dusty H: 64F L: 37F |
| Kabul: | Mostly Clear H: 59F L: 28F | Mostly Clear H: 55F L: 27F |
| Uzbekistan: | Rain H: 48F L: 33F | Rain H: 49F L: 30F |

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

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Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

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In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of Freedom Watch are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

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States Constitution and to reaffirm the continuing government to government relationship between Indian tribes and the United States established in the Constitution,” Jircitano-Torres said.

She told those present about the significant history of the Iroquois Confederacy’s Grand Council and their Great Law of Peace, which both provided inspiration for America’s founding fathers.

“It is absolutely astounding the number of similarities between documents ... it is evident the fundamental structure of the United States government clearly was modeled on the Iroquois

Grand Council,” she said.

Jircitano-Torres said when the white man reached American soil, “they found free nations guided by democratic principles, all under the authority of the natural law, the ultimate spiritual law of the universe. This was the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

CJTF 180 will also celebrate Native American Heritage Month, Nov. 1 through 30, by featuring ethnic food items each week during the dinner meal in all three dining facilities on Bagram as well as information boards featuring famous Native Americans.

Morale Welfare and Recreation will show movies that feature Native American actors and actresses on Friday nights.

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look into the matter and check for due process.”

Though the IG office is not a law enforcement agency, the unit can be described as a civility police because of its gallant attempt to help the Army function harmoniously. The office operates under what it calls a “TTRAIIN” (teaching and training, assistance, investigations and inspections) method to help soldiers and units understand the protocol of the Army.

The office teaches and trains personnel on Army systems, processes, procedures and standards of behavior and appearance.

“We speak to units, do new-comers briefings and hold leadership professional development classes to help soldiers understand regulations and the system that is in place,” said Bosco.

In assistance, the office does informal fact-finding inquiries in response to requests for help, for information from a soldier or unit.

Bosco noted that in both the teaching and training and assistance part of the “TTRAIIN” method a lot of the soldiers who seek IG’s help simply don’t understand or do not know the regulations and after meeting with the office and reviewing the regulations with an impartial body their issues are usually resolved.

“It’s important that soldiers know that they have a place where they can bring issues to be resolved with a neutral party,” said Bosco. “They have an option of redress outside of their chain of command and that’s really important for them to know.”

Wise noted that all of the issues that soldiers bring to the IG office are confidential or are anonymous. Although the IG office does their best to maintain confidentiality, it isn’t guaranteed. He said soldiers do not have to fear adverse action or reprisal because a complaint was addressed to his office due to the whistleblowers protection act.

In investigations, the office conducts formal fact-finding inquiries in response to allegations of violations of laws, regulations or policies.

“We currently have 50 cases,” the vast majority being assistance type cases said Wise.

Wise noted that the case count has been compiled since May 2003 and that number is relatively small in comparison with the number of soldiers deployed in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan, all countries that fall under the CJTF –180 IG office umbrella. Wise also noted that only the commanding general has the authority to direct an IG investigation.

In inspections, the office focuses on systemic issues and root causes for non-compliance of standards, regulations or policies. In this stage the office tailors its approach to meet the commander’s needs.

“I advise the commanding general on the issues that soldiers come to us with,” said Wise. “We keep the general informed on the issues or patterns that we see are concerning soldiers.”

Sensing sessions, review of Army contracts and review of the rule of engagement are an example of the office’s inspections method. Wise stated that IG is “a wandering office because we like speak-

ing with soldiers to find out what is on soldiers’ mind and how is the morale of the soldiers.”

Of the 50 cases the IG office has handled 57 percent are personal issues, 20 percent are command issues, nine percent finance issues, nine percent improper mental health referrals and five percent classified as other.

Wise noted that some incidents could avoid becoming an IG case if the proper procedures are followed. An example of such incident is a mental health referral.

“Improper mental health referrals are cases that could be eliminated if commanders would consult (IG) first or review [Department of Defense] regulations before sending a soldier to an evaluation,” said Wise.

Wise added that commanders should give soldiers two days notice before sending them to a non-emergency evaluation, thereby giving the soldier the right to consult the IG, an attorney, a chaplain or other authorities. Also before sending a soldier to an evaluation commanders should comply with DOD Directive 6490.1. These steps are standard procedures, but they also help the IG determine if there has been a violation on the part of the commander or if a soldier’s claim warrants attention.

In a time period when America needs its military working as a cohesive, unified body the Inspector General is the stitching that holds the Army “family” together at the seams.

“We are here to assist both the soldier and the chain of command,” said Wise. “IG’s sole purpose is to provide a place where people can bring their issues and find a common ground.”



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

Lakers rally from eight down in fourth

MILWAUKEE – Gary Payton figures his job is to take the pressure off Kobe Bryant by bringing the ball upcourt.

On Tuesday night in Milwaukee, he also took the heat off him.

Fans angered that Payton's stint with the Bucks last year lasted all of 34 games booed him and Bryant every time they touched the ball in the Los Angeles Lakers' 113-107 comeback victory.

Payton said he didn't care about the hurt feelings in Milwaukee and that he's a West Coast guy who wanted to play for a championship contender.

But he was more than happy to share Bryant's boo-bird burden for one night.

"Kobe's going to get his share of boos. Give it all to me. It will come in one ear, go out the other," Payton said. "I really don't care."

All he cares about is running the offense.

"I'm here to take pressure off of him, bring the ball up," Payton said.

Bryant, who played 40 minutes just one week after missing the opener because his surgically repaired knee was still sore and weak, said he appreciated Payton's help along with that of another newcomer, Karl Malone.

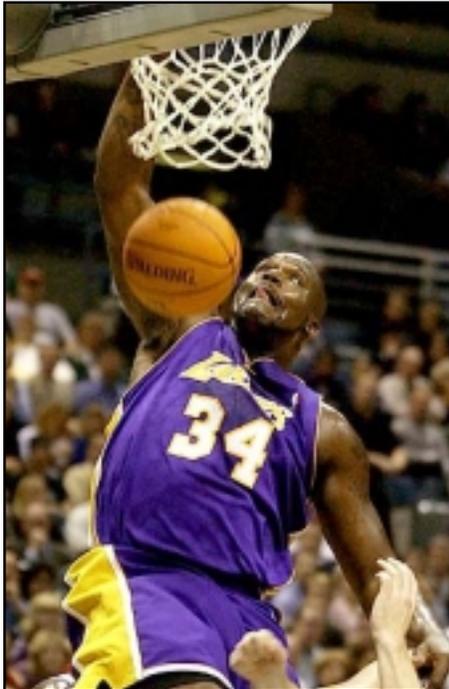
"Forty minutes this season is not like 40 minutes last season," Bryant said. "The game is so much easier playing with these guys out here. Last year, I was the push man. I had to give it up, then get it back.

"Now, all I have to do is run and have Gary find me."

Bryant scored 31 points, including two key 3-pointers in the closing minutes, Shaquille O'Neal had 23 and Payton 19 as the Lakers (4-0) stayed unbeaten by overcoming a 10-point second-half deficit.

The Bucks got a career-high 36 points from Michael Redd, but Milwaukee was outscored 24-10 over the final seven minutes.

"Well, we won that game probably on experience alone," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "But Milwaukee showed its valor."



Shaquille O'Neal scored 23 points against a Bucks team.

Two-goal game lifts Messier into second



Rangers captain Mark Messier celebrates after the final horn of the Rangers' 3-0 victory over the Stars.

NEW YORK – Even at 42, Mark Messier still has a flair for dramatics.

Messier enjoyed being tied with Gordie Howe on the NHL points list for two periods before he passed Mr. Hockey in the closing seconds of the New York Rangers' 3-0 victory Tuesday night over the Dallas Stars.

The Rangers captain scored the first and last goals to give him 1,851 points and set off an on-ice hug with his teammates.

"I always find it hard to celebrate something like that, but what I have to realize is it's a tremendous honor for all the people I played with and the game of hockey itself," Messier said. Messier found an empty net for a short-handed goal with 4.7 seconds left.

"Well, I wasn't really thinking about that point right there," Messier said. "Obviously if the opportunity presented itself, I wasn't going to pass it up."

Baylor wins exhibition opener Tuesday

WACO, Texas – Tommy Swanson scored 20 points and Terrance Thomas added 18 as Baylor won an exhibition game Tuesday night, the team's first since a tumultuous summer that included the shooting death of a player and allegations of wrongdoing by the former coach.

The Bears defeated Raiders Select 83-73. Brad Newly led Raiders Select, an Australian touring team, with 19 points and Chris Novak added 15.

The Baylor players wore a horizontal black stripe on the left shoulder of their uniforms in honor of Patrick Dennehy, shot to death this summer. Former player Carlton Dotson is accused of murder in Dennehy's death.

"Everyone always looks forward to the first exhibition game, so you have a chance to see what you need to work on," said new coach Scott Drew said. "Every day, there's always something to improve on. We don't look past any day that we're given."

Drew took over as coach in August, two weeks after Dave Bliss resigned amid revelations of NCAA violations.

Corey Herring and Harvey Thomas were held out of the game because they have not been cleared to play by a university compliance investigation committee looking into possible NCAA rules violations.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Refugees join in Afghanistan's political rebuilding

PESHAWAR, Pakistan—Afghan refugees in Pakistan, after years of exile imposed by the violence in their homeland, are enthusiastically turning to the ballot box to join in the peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan.

With the UN refugee agency providing assistance, the 1.1 million refugees in the camps are working with the Constitution Commission of Afghanistan to select delegates who will represent them in Kabul next month when 500 delegates attend a landmark Loya Jirga, or Grand Council of Afghan elders, which will decide on a new constitution for their country.

“Refugees should play their role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process of Afghanistan and the constitution is a milestone in all this,” Zahir Khan Jabarkhel, head of the Peshawar office of the Constitution Commission, told refugee camp leaders who assembled this week to select a delegate to the constitutional Loya Jirga.

The vote for a delegate to represent refugees from four districts of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province (NWFP) was the latest stage in a process of consultation, debate and selections at various levels to ensure that the new constitution emerges with legitimacy—itsself part of a broader political renaissance of Afghanistan that will include national elections expected next year.

“The selection process resembles a tree and it starts from the roots—the people in the refugee camps. You are the stem and the selected representative will be the fruit,” said Zahir Khan. “You have great responsibilities on your shoulders. Try to select the right man.”

The draft of the constitution was unveiled on November 3, calling for an Islamic republic with a bicameral parliament. Under the proposal, a directly elected president will have strong powers to appoint and dismiss the cabinet in consultation with parliament.

Five hundred delegates will debate the draft at a Loya Jirga expected to start on December 10 in Kabul, with 24 chosen by the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran. Of the 13 representatives from Pakistan, seven are coming from NWFP, four from Balochistan and one each from the provinces of Sind and Punjab.

The role of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees is to assist the process, helping the Constitution Commission to understand the distribution of the refugees in more than 200 camps, some almost a quarter century old. UNHCR must also ensure that they meet the refugees to explain the purpose and see that the process is completed.

U.N. mission meets with Afghan warlords

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan (AP)—A U.N. Security Council mission met Wednesday with two rival Afghan warlords whose troops have clashed in some of the deadliest factional fighting since the fall of the Taliban.

The delegation, led by German U.N. Ambassador Gunter Pleuger, met with Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum and Gen. Atta Mohammed, two powerful warlords who buried their differences briefly to cooperate with the

U.S.-led coalition that forced the Taliban from power in 2001. However, the two remain engaged in an ongoing feud for power in the north.

“The Security Council feels that factional strife and factional fighting has to stop, that this is a matter of the past and not of the future,” Pleuger said, adding that the talks with the warlords were “very intense.”

Dostum and Atta “are very powerful and important political leaders in this country, whose words and deeds have an impact on Afghanistan as a whole,” Pleuger said.

“They should heed the responsibility they have as leaders in the north to help facilitate the implementation of the Bonn process,” he said, referring to the agreement that set out Afghanistan's political rebirth.

The U.N. ambassadors and the warlords discussed the issues of security, cooperation with the central government and drug trafficking, Atta said after the meeting.

“We selected the government. It is our government and we support the government,” said Atta, an ethnic Tajik with ties to Defense Minister Mohammed Fahim.

Dostum, an ethnic Uzbek, is a deputy defense minister and the special representative in the north of President Hamid Karzai. Each claims to command more than 20,000 troops.

The delegation includes U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte, British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry, French Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere and the ambassadors of Mexico, Spain and Bulgaria.

Last month, in the heaviest fighting between the two warlords' forces in the past two years, dozens of people were killed and tanks faced off just outside Mazar-e-Sharif before U.N. and top Afghan officials negotiated a cease-fire.

