

## HA mission brings true meaning of the season

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – For most Americans the holiday season is an exciting time. It’s a period when love, compassion and giving are emphasized, not only to family and friends, but also to the world.

Those endearments reached Afghanistan Wednesday as Soldiers of the Joint Operation Center at Bagram Air Base delivered more than a 110 boxes of humanitarian aid from American families, parishes and organizations to villages surrounding Bagram.

The aid, which consisted of blankets, children’s clothing and shoes, and adult clothing, were gifts of love from Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New Jersey – home states of the Soldiers who delivered the items.

“(Americans) want to help other people, regardless of if they are their neighbors or they are people 10,000 miles



*Soldiers from the Joint Operation Center at Bagram Air Base unpack the more than 110 boxes of humanitarian aid delivered from American families and organizations.*

away,” said Maj. Brian Michelson, aviation operations officer for Combined Joint Task Force-180. “The (humanitarian aid) shows the compassion of (Americans) who want to give to (a nation) less fortunate than themselves.”

Michelson noted that the aid came from numerous families, churches, well-known private organization, and a Cub Scout team that wanted to “show their

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## New FOO store offers convenience for Bagram

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

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – With no plans of building an Office Depot store here in Afghanistan anytime soon, and the closest supply stores being an hour drive south to Kabul, the Bagram Contracting Office has opened a new store to help units get supplies the supplies they need quickly and conveniently.

The new Field Ordering Officers (FOO) store opened for business on Thursday and will now enable units to use their FOO money here on Bagram Air Base.

The FOO program is regulated by the contracting office, and provides units with funds to make over the counter purchases under \$2,500 directly with local merchants to support their mission.

Before the FOO store opening, if a unit needed office equipment or materials quickly and they weren’t available through their supply section, the only alternative was to take a trip down to Kabul and find the supplies there.

And that was the main reason for opening the FOO store, said Air Force Maj. James Eastman, Chief of Bagram Contracting, “We wanted to keep people from having to drive down

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**English/Dari phrase of the day:** *Thank you, I am fine - Tashakor man Khub hastam*

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



About 500 people waited in line this week to get 400 flu shots at the DuPage County Health Department in Wheaton, Ill.

## Flu outbreak expected to reach epidemic level

ATLANTA – This year's flu outbreak isn't an epidemic yet, but a health authority said Friday it soon will be.

Dr. Bill Shaffner, chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and a liaison member of the Centers for Disease Control's advisory committee on immunization practices, said he is confident it will reach epidemic status.

"It is going to be a very noteworthy epidemic," he told *CNN*.

On average, flu kills about 36,000 people in the United States each year. This year's outbreak will likely kill more than that, Shaffner said.

But, he said, it is unlikely to reach the next level — a pandemic.

A pandemic occurs when a new flu virus spreads quickly throughout the world, he said. "What we're having is a modestly changed influenza virus, as opposed to a radically new one," he said.

So far, flu is widespread in 24 states, cases have been reported in all 50 states and people are lining up in droves to get vaccinated. This year's outbreak is unusual for its early onset.

Last week, pneumonia and influenza were blamed for 7 percent of all deaths logged by the country's reporting system that includes 122 cities, just below the 7.6 percent that the CDC said would represent the epidemic threshold.

The 2002-2003 outbreak never reached epidemic status. The flu reached epidemic levels for nine weeks during the 2001-2002 season, for 10 weeks during the 2000-2001 season and for 15 weeks during the 1999-2000 season.



Pfc. Jordan McGee supervises the limited distribution of gas at a filling station in Baghdad on Friday.

## Center of U.S. operations in Baghdad attacked overnight

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The U.S. military said that unidentified explosions overnight in Baghdad were rocket attacks targeting the "Green Zone" in Baghdad, the location of the Coalition Provisional Authority and the nerve center of U.S. operations.

"What we know now is three to six explosions impacted in ... one of the buildings inside the Green Zone, not the palace or the headquarters," Brig. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti told *CNN*. "There were two wounded, both were (U.S.) soldiers."

He said the soldiers were not seriously hurt.

The ferocity of the blasts had people working inside the headquarters diving under their desks, sources said. The Coalition Provisional Authority headquarters was targeted in November by insurgents but no one was injured.

The Green Zone — a compound measuring two miles long and 1.5 miles wide, sits on the west bank of the Tigris River in the center of Baghdad — is the name for the area where U.S. operations are centered. It's the most heavily guarded site in the city. Scaparrotti, the assistant commander for maneuvers in the 1st Armored Division, in charge of Baghdad, said damage was still being assessed.

## U.S. officer fined for improper interrogation tactics of Iraqi

TIKRIT, Iraq – The commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division's on Friday accepted a

U.S. military investigator's recommendation and ordered administrative action against Lt. Col. Allen West, who was accused of using improper methods to force information out of an Iraqi detainee.

Following a military hearing, West was fined \$5,000 over two months, according to West's civilian attorney, Neal Puckett.

The punishment does not affect West's eligibility for retirement and pension, Puckett said in a statement.

West, 42, will be assigned to the rear detachment of the 4th Infantry Division awaiting the processing of his retirement request, the statement said.

Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno, the 4th Infantry's top general in Tikrit, could have rejected the recommendation and ordered a court martial. If he were to be found guilty at a court martial of the two articles against him, West could have faced 11 years in prison, a military prosecutor told *CNN*.

The case stems from an incident August 20 at a military base in Taji, just north of Baghdad, when West was interrogating an Iraqi policeman, who was believed to have information about a plot to assassinate West with an ambush on a U.S. convoy.

## PM Qorei: Palestinians won't accept Israeli barrier on land

JERUSALEM – In a newspaper interview Thursday, Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qorei said that Israel cannot build a barrier on Palestinian land and "put us in cages like chickens."

But he also said if the Israelis build the barrier on the Green Line, the 1967 border separating Israel and the Palestinian territories, he would support that action and the Palestinians would be willing to share the cost.

Israel has accelerated its construction of what it calls a security fence, saying it is intended to block terrorists from entering the country.

In what they say is an Israeli land grab, the Palestinians have said the barrier, which they call a wall, is being built on Palestinian land with planned sections that will go deep inside their territory.

"It won't help, it won't work, it will cause a tragedy," Qorei told the Israeli newspaper *Maariv*.

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support when they heard about the conditions (of Afghanistan).”

“We (Soldiers in the JOC) decided that we wanted to help (after going to different areas in Afghanistan and seeing the hardship), so we started telling our families back home about what we were seeing and they started organizing and gathering (aid) to send.”

“Whether it’s Afghanistan, Iraq, the U.S. or wherever, when people hear that others are having a hard time they want to help,” said Sgt. Brian Davis of CJTF-180, CJ-3. “Today showed (Americans) generosity.”

The aid was delivered to the Charikar Orphanage, Belandey Bala Village and Belandey Paen Village, and will be divided to three additionally villages.

The aid, carried to the villages on an Army light tactical vehicle, was more than 3,000 shirts, jeans, pants, skirts, T-shirt,

underwear, jackets and blankets.

At the Afghan Red-Crescent Society, Charikar Orphanage, Soldiers issued clothing and blankets to more than 100 children and 30 adults. Each child received a hat, gloves and three clothing items, and adults received a blanket and two clothing items.

“People of Afghanistan have endured through a lot of hardship, they’ve suffered through (numerous) wars and (the country) is one of the poorest countries (as a result),” said Michelson. “We (Americans) want to pitch in and help because we’ve been so tremendously blessed that we can’t afford not to help.”

Michelson noted that the aid was being gathered before the holiday season began, and “while it was nice to deliver the aid during (the holiday season) it had nothing to do with the spirit of giving from the people back home.”

Conversely, Davis said he hopes the aid teaches his children the true meaning

of the holidays.

“As a father I want this (humanitarian aid) to teach my sons that it’s not about getting, but about giving to others,” he said.

“The generosity of these Americans will open new doors and bring direction and I want my children to know that giving does that.”

Though the villagers and orphans didn’t see the Americans who donated the gifts of love, only the Soldiers who delivered it, Michelson hastily noted to every elder and village representative that the aid wasn’t from Soldiers or the coalition force, but from American families and organizations that want to show that they care.

“We were conduits, in no way can we take credit for this contribution,” said Michelson. “Hopefully this shows (Afghan citizens) that we (Americans) are on their side on their side and that their goals are our goals – a better place for them to live.”

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there to save them time and effort.”

Eastman’s been working on opening the FOO store since last summer, and he said he’s happy that the project finally came around.

The new FOO store is located inside of a renovated CONEX next to Bagram’s contracting office. Inside the CONEX are shelves loaded with office supplies ready to be purchased, including computer parts, printers and printer cartridges, tools, and USB micro drives, just to name a few.

The supplies are brought up from local merchant Abdul Saboor, who owns A-1 computer supply store in Kabul.

Although the shop might not have everything a unit needs on site, Eastman is quick to point out that Saboor obtain requested supplies from Kabul within a matter of days.

“If they need something I can bring it in a couple days,” said Saboor, who’s happy to start the new business supporting the mili-

tary personnel at Bagram. “Everytime I try to be honest with the military and anytime I have any customers I try to make them happy.”

The FOO store is open Saturday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



*Office supplies line the walls of the newly opened FOO store here at Bagram Air Base. The FOO store allows units to make purchases on supplies and equipment to help them accomplish their mission.*

# Injuries expected to drop with new parachute

Story by Pfc. Eliamar Castanon  
*Bayonet* staff writer

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** – Airborne Soldiers should expect to see a new parachute system in the next few years that will replace the T-10 model that has been in use since the 1950s.

The Advanced Tactical Parachute System is expected to decrease the landing impact velocity for jumpers, provide a more reliable reserve system than the Modified Improved Reserve Parachute System of the T-10 and improve the harness.

“We were looking for a parachute that will lower the rate of descent and lessen the impact with the hopes and expectations that this would result in a reduction in injuries,” said Joe Jones, combat development specialist with the Directorate of Combat Developments.

Rate of descent is the speed at which jumpers fall to the ground.

The T-10 has been modified a number of times but has reached the limits of its growth. A new approach had to be taken, Jones said, resulting in an entirely different design.

The ATPS canopy is not circular in shape, as the T-10 is. It is a highly modified cross-shaped canopy with an inflated diameter 14 percent greater than that of the T-10, with 28 percent more surface area.

The reserve unit is a cone-shaped, center-pull deployment system. It includes apex scoop pockets at the top of the canopy and skirt assist lines at the system’s hem to promote fast opening during low-speed malfunctions.

The main container bag is made of Cordura, an abrasion- and water-resistant fabric.

Both the ATPS main and reserve canopies are made of low-porosity ripstop nylon with Teflon-coated suspension lines.

The entire system weighs 51.2 pounds, compared to the T-10’s 44 pounds.

The 14-percent weight increase earns jumpers a 25-percent reduction in rate of

descent. The T-10’s rate of descent is 22 to 24 feet per second, causing a strong landing impact. The ATPS’ rate of descent is 16 feet per second, reducing the landing impact by 53 percent.

The T-10 parachute system was designed when the total weight of a jumper and equipment averaged 300 pounds.

During Operation Just Cause, more than 4 percent of Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, suffered jump-related injuries - 28 Rangers and their equipment weighed between 350 and 435 pounds.

“The T-10 was originally intended for jumpers who didn’t weigh what Soldiers weigh today and wasn’t intended to carry the loads that Soldiers carry today,” Jones said.

Other advantages of ATPS are the reserve system and the harness, said Jones. The ATPS reserve offers improved reliability, he said.

“The ATPS has a reliability of .95, compared to the .75 to .80 of the T-10,” he said.

The reserve is also equipped with enhanced deployment techniques, which equal low opening shocks. It may be deployed using either hand, offers a soft loop closure and has a rate of descent of approximately 26 feet per second with low oscillation.

The biggest advantage in the improvements of the harness is the attaching point of the reserve parachute system, said Jones.

When a T-10 reserve is activated, the opening forces are located in the waist area; essentially, this bows the jumper, he said. ATPS reserve risers connect to the harness in the shoulder area.

Now when the reserve canopy opens, the opening forces are passed down



Courtesy Photo

*The Advanced Tactical Parachute System*

through the long axes of the body, minimizing the bow effect.

The harness is also fully adjustable and is compatible with the current and future battlefield equipment.

The T-10 and ATPS are mass tactical parachute canopies, meaning they are not steerable. Because these are not steerable, distribution is managed by exit sequences and timing, aircraft altitude and speed, wind and canopy drift characteristics, Jones said.

Because ATPS is not a steerable parachute, test developers are still trying to increase the obstacle avoidance variable while in the sky or on the ground, said Maj. Jason Craft, assistant program manager of personal airdrop systems at the Natick Research Laboratories in Natick, Mass.

“The bottom line is that ATPS reduces jump injuries to airborne Soldiers so they’re in better condition to go into combat operations,” Craft said.

The ATPS is being tested at Yuma Proving Grounds in Yuma, Ariz., and will be fielded between 2005 and 2006.

# FREEDOM'S VOICES

## Vaccine protects troops

By William Winkenwerder

We provide vaccinations to our armed forces for a reason: to protect them from real threats, natural and man-made. We administer vaccinations based on scientific facts and the best medical practices.

Today, servicemembers are protected against tetanus, measles, typhoid, hepatitis, yellow fever, anthrax, smallpox and other dangers. The tragic death of Spc. Rachel Lacy reminds us that no medical intervention is risk-free. Independent panels of medical experts that reviewed her case concluded that the five vaccinations she received might have triggered a previously unknown, underlying autoimmune disorder. The panels could not conclude whether any single vaccine triggered the event.

We are applying the knowledge gained from this case so that others can benefit. I have directed our civilian advisory panel to assess the practice of simultaneous vaccinations, and we are disseminating new information to military doctors to heighten their vigilance for adverse events.

In 2001, anthrax killed five Americans and made many more seriously ill. Antibiotic treatment following the attacks proved critical in limiting the impact. Our troops, however, may not have an early warning; they need protection before exposure.

Voluntary immunizations put servicemembers, fighting units and military missions at risk — a risk our commanders are not willing to take, and a risk medical science says we need not take.

Scientific knowledge behind the anthrax vaccine is impressive. In March 2002, a comprehensive study by the National Academy of Sciences concluded that the anthrax vaccine is safe and effective. The Food and Drug Administration approved the vaccine as effective against all forms of the disease. The Department of Defense has safely administered several million vaccine doses to more than 980,000 servicemembers.

Our vaccination program is sound and sensible. We provide medical exemptions where indicated and comprehensive education. Since restarting our anthrax vaccination program in 2002, fewer than 10 servicemembers have been discharged for refusals. Our servicemembers readily accept vaccination, understanding the benefits to themselves, their units and the mission.

Vaccines keep our military fit, protected and ready to fight as a team.

*(Dr. William Winkenwerder is assistant secretary of Defense for health affairs.)*

## STREET TALK

*What's the most interesting Christmas present you've found out here?*



"Chain mail panties at the Bazaar."

**Sgt. Daniel Knowles,**  
CJTF-180



"A DVD and VCR combo at the PX."

**Spc. Freddie Jackson,**  
221st MI Bn.



"In Qatar I bought my wife pink pearls."

**Maj. Andrew Hendrickson,**  
452nd CSH



"A hunk of lapis stone; it makes a good stocking stuffer."

**Jack Keenan,**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilian

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# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Historic council delayed again

By Paul Haven

**KABUL**, Afghanistan (AP) – A historic council set to decide on a new Afghan constitution has been delayed for the second time in less than a week, officials said Friday.

The grand council, or loya jirga, was to begin Saturday but will be put off for 24 hours, said a press spokesman, Sultan Baheen.

He said some of the 500 delegates had still not been able to reach Kabul, in part because of bad weather. Once they arrive, delegates must go through an orientation, another reason for the delay.

“Some of the delegates are still not in Kabul so the secretariat asked the president to postpone the opening session from Saturday to Sunday,” Baheen said.

Lakhdar Brahimi, the United Nations’ top envoy in Afghanistan, said the delay had nothing to do with security concerns, but was rather to allow time to issue passes to late-arriving delegates.

“It’s just logistical,” he said. “There’s no other problem.”

Security has been a major issue because of a resurgent campaign by Taliban rebels, mostly in the south and east of the country. U.S. officials have warned that they have intelligence that the Taliban and their al Qaeda allies will try to disrupt the session, though they have given no details.

The council had at first been expected to start on Wednesday, but delays in selecting delegates and travel problems forced an initial postponement.

## AP: U.N. may have to abandon two-year effort in Afghanistan

By Stephen Graham

**KABUL**, Afghanistan (AP) – The United Nations may be forced to abandon its two-year effort to stabilize Afghanistan because of rising violence blamed on the resurgent Taliban, its top official here warned Friday in an interview with *The As-*

*sociated Press.*

Lakhdar Brahimi said his team could not continue its work unless security improves. He called for more foreign troops to halt attacks that have killed at least 11 aid workers across the south and east since March.

“Countries that are committed to supporting Afghanistan cannot kid themselves and cannot go on expecting us to work in unacceptable security conditions,” Brahimi said.

“They seem to think that our presence is important here. Well, if they do, they have got to make sure that the conditions for us to be here are there,” he said. “If not, we will go away.”

U.N. calls for international troops to fan out across Afghanistan’s troubled provinces have grown shrill since a French U.N. refugee worker was gunned down in the eastern city of Ghazni in October.

The world body has suspended some operations in regions along the border, where Taliban militants and their allies have been most active, including help to thousands of refugees returning from Pakistan.

NATO, which commands a 5,500-strong peacekeeping force in the Afghan capital, Kabul, has agreed in principle to expand into the provinces. But nations have been slow to come forward with pledges of troops.

## India to send commandos to Afghanistan after kidnappings

**NEW DELHI**, India (*Afghan Online Press*) – India is to send crack commandos to protect Indian installations in Afghanistan, days after two Indian road workers were kidnapped by Taliban militia, a report has said.

*The Hindustan Times* daily Thursday said Indo-Tibetan Border Police units were being sent to the Indian consulate at Kandahar after India’s joint secretary for security in Afghanistan, B.C. Katoch, gave an assessment report “on the grave security risks”.

The report said greater security was

also needed at other Indian consulates in Afghanistan.

The Indian road workers were kidnapped in Zabol province on Saturday after finishing their day’s work on the highway between Kabul and the main southern city of Kandahar, Zabol security commander Ayub Khan told *AFP*.

A spokesman for the ousted Taliban militia said they were likely to kill the two road workers “because they are not Muslims”.

Afghan officials said the pair were kidnapped after shopping with Afghan colleagues for chickens in Bazargan village five kilometres (three miles) from the highway near Shahjoy, 280 kilometres (175 miles) southwest of Kabul.

Three men armed with machineguns and Kalashnikovs stopped their car, let the Afghans go and made off with the Indians and the car.

South and southeast Afghanistan have borne the brunt of a rise in violence blamed on resurgent Taliban forces and their allies, who have increasingly targeted aid workers as well as U.S. and Afghan troops.

Indian firm B. Seenaiiah and Company, employers of the two kidnapped workers, told the Hindu newspaper they were in the dark as to their whereabouts.

The firm’s managing director, B. Seenaiiah, said he had not yet informed the family members of the two workers as he did not want them to panic.

“We do not know what is happening there and if there is any development we will come to know of it immediately,” he added.

Some 700 to 800 semi-skilled Indian workers are currently in Afghanistan with private companies, including a smattering of highly-skilled professionals such as doctors and engineers, the paper said.

India has been in the forefront of reconstruction work in the country since the Taliban was dislodged from power following the U.S. global campaign against terrorism after September 2001.

# R&R; medicine for the war weary soul

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Story by Staff Sgt. Dave S. Thompson  
211<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

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**CAMPAS SAYILYAH**, Qatar – As the war on terrorism continues in the mountains, valleys and cities of Afghanistan, wary troops look forward to a break in the action and an opportunity to get away from it all, if only for a little while. Leaders at all levels recognize the importance of giving their troops a breather, thus the Rest and Relaxation program (R&R) was put in place.

Soldiers fighting the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, converge daily on the Middle Eastern country of Qatar by the hundreds. Touted as one of the best-kept secrets in the region, the ultra-modern city of Doha plays host to the American warriors in grand style.

“As soon as I got off the plane it was like stepping back into civilization,” said Spc. Elijah Spencer, a Journalist arriving from Kandahar Air Field (KAF).

“I can breathe freely without ingesting sand and dust into my lungs. This is great!” Spencer spends a good deal of his time traveling to Afghanistan’s “hot spots” while escorting embedded civilian reporters, and this break is just what the doctor ordered.

Day 0 is the day of arrival on Camp As Sayliyah Army Base, and soldiers are quick to shrug off dusty desert uniforms for the wrinkled civvies that have been crammed in the bottom of their duffle bags.

After changing, the energized soldiers make a mad dash to partake of the forbidden beverage they have so yearned for all those long, hot days in the desert: BEER! Smiles and laughter abound as the sandblasted GIs sip their

beers and mix and mingle in a setting they have not enjoyed since leaving home so many months ago.

As techno music reverberates off the walls with deafening loudness, soldiers engage in conversation, each regaling their version of the bombs and firefights, patrols and near death experiences they’ve had.

The next morning, Day 1, the soldiers awoke at their leisure to the sounds of silence. No artillery booming in the distance, no noises of helicopters, or trucks, or rockets impacting close by. Sgt. Kristina Martinelli from the 303<sup>rd</sup> Adjutant General Postal Company raved about the simple pleasures of having indoor bath facilities. “It was so nice to be able to use real flush toilets, and tiled showers,” she said. “Everything was so nice and clean.”

While some soldiers prepared for a day of deep sea fishing and water sports off the base, others grabbed towels and suntan lotion, and headed to the on-base, state-of-the-art, Olympic size pool. Staff Sgt. Mike Johnson from Bradenton, Fla., dove into the pool with a splash, then surfaced and shouted in excited tones, “this is the life” at the top of his lungs. He was beaming from ear to ear and behaving like a man discovering water after crossing a desert on foot. Johnson’s enthusiasm was contagious as soldiers in various stages of relaxation began to clap and egg him on. Stationed at KAF, he is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Movement Control Team at the Airflow Terminal.

“Having no responsibility for anything other than to have fun is a wonderful break,” said Johnson. Being in this environment makes me feel like I’m back home in Florida.”

The R&R program offers a variety of

events and amenities to suit most every personality type. The poolside Chili’s Restaurant was well received by the soldiers, as were the Subway, the Pizza Express and the Burger King. Add to that the well equipped workout gym, the video arcade and the pool and pingpong tables, and virtually no one is left disappointed.

Among the most sought after service were the MWR phones and computers for getting in touch with loved ones back home. Topping them all however, was the Day Spa Parlor. Offering manicures, pedicures and body massages, soldiers would line up for appointments to be pampered and treated like royalty.

Spc. Katharine Collins from Brimfield, Mass., lounged in one of the parlor’s reclining chairs while being treated to a pedicure. Finally able to wear her hair down after four months of duty in the Afghan dust, she savored every moment of her experience in the parlor which also included a full body massage and a manicure. “I really wish R&R was longer,” she said. “It needs to be four full days instead of three.” Her friend, Spc. Keisha Frith, a native of Jamaica, agreed R&R should be longer. Frith spent some of her sabbatical shopping at the mall and dining at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Doha.

“I really enjoyed meeting new people and hearing everyone’s stories,” she said. “It gave me a small taste of home.”

In addition to R&R not being long enough and the three beer limit, some soldiers complained about the difficulty they had in getting off the Army Base.

Whether it’s playing 18 holes at the Doha Country Club, going swimming in the Persian Gulf, or enjoying a steak dinner at Chili’s, R&R offers something for everyone.



# Music Notes (Compiled from CNN.com)



R. Kelly at the Billboard Music Awards

## R. Kelly wins big at awards

LOS ANGELES – R&B singer R. Kelly, who faces multiple child pornography charges in two U.S. states, was one of the big winners Wednesday at the Billboard Music Awards, which honor the year's top selling artists.

Kelly, whose given name is Robert, picked up four prizes, as did Destiny's Child singer Beyonce Knowles, who is enjoying massive solo success outside the popular female trio.

Canadian Country-pop singer Shania Twain, rapper 50 Cent and hip-hop trio Lil Jon & the Eastside Boyz each took home three prizes. The awards were handed out during a ceremony at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Kelly was named Hot 100 producer, R&B producer, Hot 100 songwriter and R&B songwriter. Knowles won awards for Hot 100 female artist, new R&B artist, new female artist and a special Hot 100 award for most weeks this year at No. 1.

Both performed at the event, as did Twain and other acts such as Evanescence, No Doubt, Foo Fighters and Pink.

In June 2002, Kelly was charged with 21 counts of child pornography in his Chicago hometown on the basis of a widely circulated videotape depicting a man having sex with a girl police said was 14 at the time.

This past January, he was charged with 12 counts of possession of child pornography in Miami after police said they found digi-

tal images of an underage girl. Kelly, 36, has denied guilt, claiming the video was doctored and the photos depict lookalikes.

His legal woes seem to have done little harm to his career. He currently has a Top 10 single, while his album "Chocolate Factory," debuted at No. 1 earlier this year. He picked up two Grammy Award nominations last week.



Clinton

## Clinton illegally searched

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – An attorney for funk music pioneer George Clinton said Tuesday the musician was illegally searched before he was charged last weekend with drug possession.

Attorney Matt Willard said he would file an innocent plea Wednesday morning at the Leon County Courthouse.

Clinton, 62, was arrested early Saturday outside a convenience store, near his recording studio. Police said he had a bag of crack cocaine and a glass crack pipe. He was released on \$2,650 bail.

Cocaine possession, a felony, carries a maximum five years in prison. Clinton also faces a possession of paraphernalia charge.

"It has already been determined that the facts outlined in the (arrest report) are inaccurate, and at times, misleading," Willard said in a news release. "It appears as if the detention, search, and subsequent arrest of Mr. Clinton were all unlawful."

Tallahassee Police spokesman Stewart Clendinen said the department stands behind the facts in the arrest report.

Clinton, 63, who headed the funk bands Parliament and Funkadelic — and the collaboration later known as P-Funk — in the 1970s and 1980s is considered a father of the genre. In 1983, Clinton's solo record "Atomic Dog" rose to the top of the R&B charts.



Houston

## Bobby Brown accused of hit

ALPHARETTA, Ga. – Police considered Tuesday whether to pursue charges against singer Bobby Brown, after officers responded to a domestic abuse call by his wife Whitney Houston at their home in this Atlanta suburb.

Officers arrived at the couple's home Sunday evening and found Houston with a cut upper lip and a bruised cheek, Fulton County Police spokesman Kurtis Young said.

Houston told officers that Brown hit her in the face during an argument.

Young said that by the time officers arrived at the home, Brown had left for the airport to catch a flight to California.

Police said they were trying to reach Brown to get his side of the story. No one had been arrested in the incident.

**Bagram  
MWR  
event**

**Bingo  
&  
Dance Party**

1530Z at the MWR building:

**Tomorrow's movie:**  
"Once upon a time in Mexico"

# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)



## Eli Manning wins Maxwell award

**LAKEBUENA VISTA, Fla.** – Mississippi quarterback Eli Manning was one of four Heisman Trophy finalists to be honored Thursday night, capturing the Maxwell Award as the nation's best all-around player.

Oklahoma's Jason White won the Davey O'Brien Award as the top quarterback, Pittsburgh's Larry Fitzgerald got the Biletnikoff Award for best receiver and Michigan's Chris Perry earned the Doak Walker Award as top running back.



*Eli Manning, who won the Maxwell Award on Thursday, won the Johnny Unitas Award last week.*

"I came here not expecting to win, so I'm shocked that I won it," Manning said after beating out White and Fitzgerald. "The other two guys had outstanding seasons on outstanding teams so this really is a surprise for me."

The Maxwell Award once was a good predictor of the Heisman Trophy, with 14 of 19 players earning both awards from 1981-99. But the last three Maxwell winners fell short in the Heisman race.

The Manning family knows all about that. Eli's older brother, Peyton, won the Maxwell in 1997 but finished second to Michigan's Charles Woodson in the Heisman.

## Brown gives Dodgers OK to trade him

**NEW ORLEANS** – Kevin Brown gave his tentative approval Friday to the proposed trade that would send him from Los Angeles to the Yankees for Jeff Weaver. New York also closed in on signing free-agent outfielder Kenny Lofton to a two-year contract for about \$6 million.

The Yankees and Dodgers agreed to the outline of the deal Thursday, two baseball officials said on the condition of anonymity. For the trade to become final, Brown had to waive his right to block it, both players had to pass physicals and the Yankees had to review Brown's \$105 million, seven-year contract.

"We've pretty much completed everything we needed to complete with the Dodgers," Brown's agent, Scott Boras, said at the winter meetings. "Now, we're dealing with the Yankees."

Brown's contract was the first \$100 million deal in baseball history when Los Angeles agreed to it in December of 1998. As part of the contract, the team pays for 12 private jet trips for the pitcher's family from its home in Macon, Ga., to his in-season home or to selected games, and for ground transportation

## Winston Cup champ Kenseth honored

**NEW YORK** – Matt Kenseth remembers when he was going nowhere as a race car driver.

He was riding small tracks in Wisconsin, the glamour and big money of NASCAR a long way off.

"I thought my chance of moving up was gone, and I was going to spend the rest of my career driving in local short-track races," he said.

Kenseth is doing a whole lot better these days: He's the champion of NASCAR's top series, the Winston Cup.

"This is the coolest feeling in the world," Kenseth said before Friday night's NASCAR Awards Dinner. "I never could have thought something like this would happen."

Kenseth's nearly \$9.5 million in assorted winnings this year was presented Friday. His payout includes a record \$4.25 million from the Winston Cup points fund of \$16.64 million distributed among the top 25 drivers in the season points.

Kenseth drove with extraordinary consistency this season. He had 25 top-10 finishes in 36 races. Only twice did he fail to finish. He led the standings through a modern era-record 33 races.



*Matt Kenseth poses with his championship trophy.*

## Jayhawks suspend forward Graves

**LAWRENCE, Kan.** – Jeff Graves has been indefinitely suspended from the Kansas basketball program, Jayhawks coach Bill Self announced Friday. "As of now, Jeff's status for the remainder of the year is undetermined," Self said in a news release. "There must be serious effort on his part to warrant his return to the basketball program."

Self did not elaborate on the reason behind the suspension.

Graves, a 6-foot-9, 255-pound forward from Lee's Summit, Mo., has played in all five games this year, averaging 15 minutes, 3.8 points and four rebounds a game.

Graves played in all 38 Kansas games last season, when the Jayhawks lost to Syracuse for the NCAA title. He started 25 games after Wayne Simien was lost for much of the season with a shoulder injury.

Graves averaged six points and 6.8 rebounds with a career-high of 16 points and a career-best 16 rebounds against Syracuse and averaged 8.7 points and 9.7 rebounds a game in the NCAA Tournament.

### NFL to consider extra MNF games

**NEW YORK** –NFL owners may be asked to consider the possibility of two Monday night games each week to avoid the recurring problem of meaningless late-season games in the league’s showcase telecast.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue floated the idea in the second of a two-part interview aired Thursday night on HBO’s Inside the NFL.

“We’d like to look to see if we could put more than one game in the prime-time window,” he said. “The one that is more attractive would be telecast nationally; the other could be telecast regionally.”

The Monday night schedule is released in early spring. Teams with winning records the previous year normally play in the majority of the prime-time games.

But salary-cap induced parity has led to drastic annual fluctuations. If this season ended now, nine of last season’s 12 playoff teams would miss the postseason, including the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Oakland Raiders, who played in the Super Bowl.

So, ABC has been asking the league for the flexibility to switch a Sunday game to Monday late in a season to avoid a meaningless matchup. Fox and CBS, which have the contracts for Sunday games, have resisted, suggesting that they would lose viewers if there was a late switch that took an attractive matchup from their schedule.

Tagliabue said a late switch also would inconvenience fans with tickets for a game. His alternative would be the two games.

But that would still have to be approved by the networks and the owners — perhaps at league meetings next March. He did not say what financial arrangements would be involved, although ABC would have to make a financial concession to the network that loses a Sunday game.

### Syracuse keeps Pasqualoni as coach

**SYRACUSE, N.Y.** – Syracuse football coach Paul Pasqualoni will keep his job despite a 6-6 season in which the Orangemen failed to make a bowl for the third time in four years.

“Change is necessary, yes, but not wholesale change — more along the lines of adjustments to the way we do things,” athletic director Jake Crouthamel said at a news conference Friday. “We don’t need to lay a new foundation.”

Crouthamel said Pasqualoni will now be responsible for making game-day decisions on offense. During the past two years Pasqualoni has focused on defense.

Syracuse avoided its second straight losing season by defeating a weak Notre Dame team 38-12 in its last game. The Orangemen tied for next to last in the Big East at 2-5. Pasqualoni has been Syracuse’s coach for 13 years.

“We are determined here to examine every aspect of our program and improve,” he said.

## Solution from Friday’s Crossword in the *Freedom Watch*

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

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By Mark Baker

## Pvt. Murphy’s Law

### *Kandahar chapel hours*

**Sunday**

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

**Monday**

- ❖ 1130Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel choir practice

**Tuesday**

- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox/Catholic Bible study
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

**Wednesday**

- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

**Thursday**

- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

**Friday**

- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

**Saturday**

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice

### *Bagram chapel hours*

**Sunday**

- ❖ 0530Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 0700Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1400Z — Gospel service

**Monday**

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass

**Tuesday**

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Protestant Bible study

**Wednesday**

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Protestant mid-week service

**Thursday**

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Gospel Bible study

**Friday**

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 0745Z — Noon-Day prayer
- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

**Saturday**

- ❖ 1330Z — Gospel Choir practice
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study
- ❖ 1515Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1900Z — Evening Worship service

### *K2 chapel hours*

**Sunday**

- ❖ 0300Z- Liturgical Service
- ❖ 0400,0730,1130Z-General Protestant Service
- ❖ 0530Z-Roman Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1230Z-Latter Day Saints

**Monday**

- ❖ 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

**Tuesday**

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Biblestudy

**Wednesday**

- ❖ 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Midweek Praise Service

**Thursday**

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

**Friday**

- ❖ 1400Z-Jewish Service
- ❖ 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Biblestudy

**Saturday**

- ❖ 0400Z-Jewish Service
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

### *CJCMOTF chapel hours*

**Sunday**

- ❖ 1100Z — Christian service
- ❖ 1430Z — U.S. Embassy service
- ❖ 1900Z — Christian service

**Wednesday**

- ❖ 1900Z — Bible study - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

**Thursdays**

- ❖ 1900Z — Roman Catholic mass

# *W e a t h e r*

*Today*

**Bagram**



Hi—50F  
Lo—32F

**K2**



Hi—32F  
Lo—19F

**Kabul**



Hi—48F  
Lo—30F

**KAF**



Hi—37F  
Lo—21F

*Sunday*



Hi—48F  
Lo—27F



Hi—36F  
Lo—18F



Hi—48F  
Lo—27F



Hi—41F  
Lo—23F

*Monday*



Hi—50F  
Lo—27F



Hi—43F  
Lo—23F



Hi—50F  
Lo—27F



Hi—48F  
Lo—32F

### *Task Force Phoenix chapel hours*

**Daily**

- ❖ 1430Z— Estudio Biblico En Espanol

**Sunday**

- ❖ 1330Z — Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1600Z — Latter Day Saints (DFAC)

**Tuesday**

- ❖ 1530Z — Bible Study

**Friday**

- ❖ 0530Z — Protestant Service
- ❖ 1230Z —Choir practice

All events are held in Chapel or DFAC.