

Freedom Watch

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U.S. congressmen fly in to Bagram, visit with troops

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – In a show of gratitude and appreciation, U.S. congressmen from Virginia, Iowa, California, Nebraska, Montana, and Texas visited with troops at Bagram Air Base Monday.

The reason for visiting with the service members was three-fold, said U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer, a Republican from Texas. “One, we came to thank the troops; two we wanted to see first hand how the troops here are doing; three, we wanted to hear from the soldiers their issues and their concerns that congress needs to hear,” said Neugebauer.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte, a Democrat from Virginia, Rep. Leonard Boswell, a Democrat from Iowa, Rep. Doug Ose, a Republican from California, Rep. Tom Osborne, a Republican from Nebraska and Rep. Dennis Rehberg, a Republican from Montana also visited with the troops.

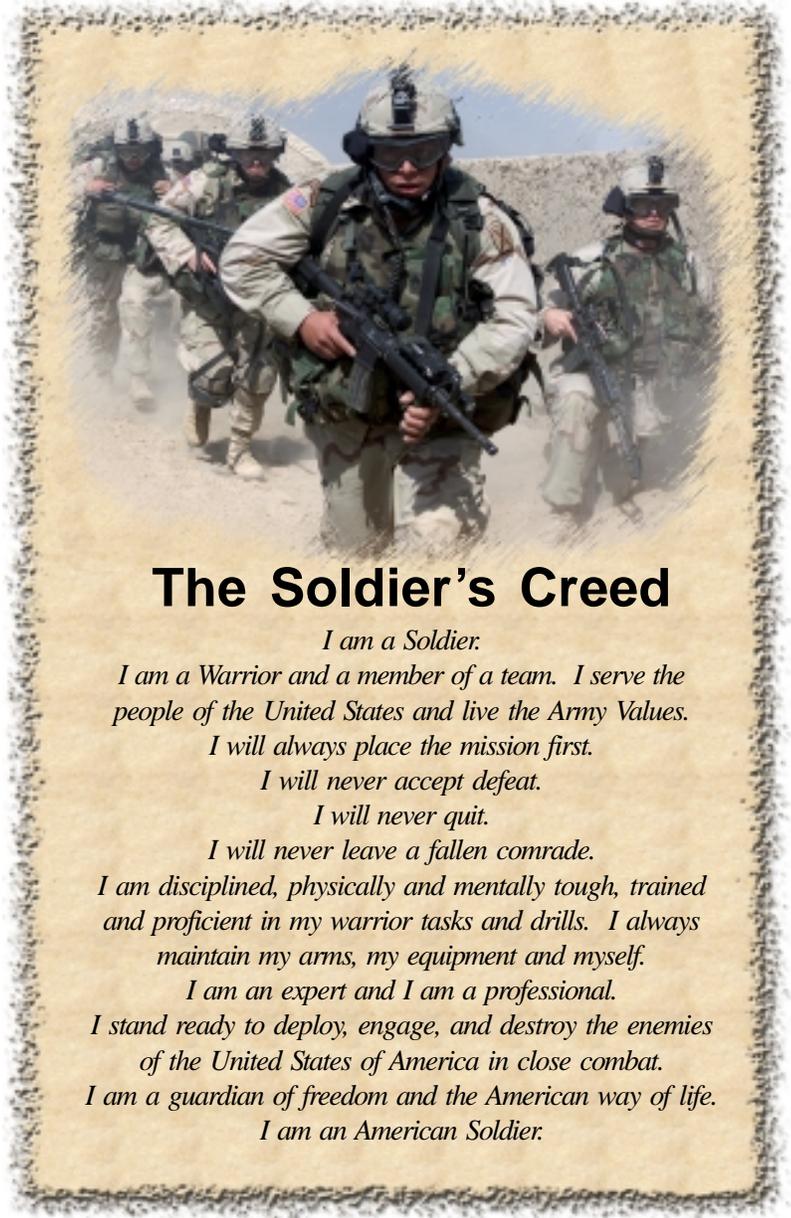
During the visits, the congressmen handed out various CDs, DVDs and handfuls of 50-minute phone cards. Several troops brought up the fact that the phone cards, when used to call home from Afghanistan, caused the minutes to be cut considerably of their original value.

A little surprised at that situation, Ose made a note with an assistant to rectify the situation. His fellow congressmen also vowed to remedy other troops’ issues and problems.

“We didn’t ask for much,” said Sgt. Emily J. Maass, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 109th Aviation Battalion. One of the issues she heard brought up was the lack of sufficient phone lines for all the troops wanting to call home. She felt this, and other issues, were genuinely considered by the congressmen, and “I hope that they do what they need to do,” she said.

Overall, the visit was “a great opportunity for everyone

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The Soldier’s Creed

I am a Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Editor’s Note...

Master Sgt. Mark Magnussen, retention manager for the theater, will be at Bagram today conducting reenlistments/extension for U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers, and will be able to support National Guard Soldiers with contacts back in Arifjan, Kuwait. He will be at “Motel 6”, Room 207. Soldiers who want to reenlist or extend in the Army will need a copy of their 2A and APFT (DA Form 705). If you have a specific commissioned officer or commissioned warrant officer for the reenlistment or extension, bring him or her along. For more information, call 231-4353.

English/Dari phrase of the day: *Hello, how are you - Sallam chotor hастey*

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Col. James Hickey, left and his team pose for a photo, in front of the mud-brick hut that was the last hideaway of Saddam Hussein.

'Bush sends his regards'

(CNN) – The soldiers who captured Saddam Hussein talked to reporters Monday about how a mission that seemed similar to others they had been on ended with the former Iraqi dictator in custody.

In fact, Saddam's capture came as something of a surprise to some of the 600 soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, who carried out the mission.

"To us, quite frankly, it was another raid," said the brigade's commander, Col. James Hickey. His unit and others had gone after Saddam at least a dozen times before.

But last Saturday evening was a little different. They had good intelligence, and they were accompanied by a special operations unit called Task Force-121 set up to go after members of the former Baathist regime and other high-profile targets.

"There was a good chance that we would be successful because of the source of information and the timeliness of the information," Hickey said.

It came from intelligence accumulated over some time and from an Iraqi under interrogation, said Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq.

And, as Hickey said, they had good luck: "There was zero illumination that night. Moonrise would not happen for some hours. It was fortuitous."

Bounty may go unclaimed

(CNN) – It is unclear whether anyone will receive the \$25 million bounty on Saddam Hussein because the information leading to his capture came under duress and from more

than one person.

Unlike the hunt for Saddam's sons – in which a \$30 million reward was paid – the information leading to Saddam did not come from a tip.

In recent days, U.S. officials pulled in former Saddam bodyguards and members of Tikriti families close to his regime for intense interrogation. Information extracted from one person led to another and then eventually to the former Iraqi leader.

"Over the last 10 days we brought in about five to 10 members of these families, who then were able to give us even more information and finally we got the ultimate information from one of these individuals," Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of the 4th Infantry Division troops, said Sunday.



Charles Cullen is shown in a New Jersey courtroom Monday.

Former nurse charged with murder in deaths of patients

SOMERVILLE, N.J. – A nurse who claims to have killed as many as 40 patients was charged Monday with murder in the death of one of them and attempted murder in another case, New Jersey authorities said.

In a brief court appearance, Charles Cullen, 43, told a judge, "I am going to plead guilty. I don't plan to fight this."

As the judge tried to stop Cullen from speaking to protect his rights, the nurse said he did not want a lawyer and repeated his vow not to fight the charges. He's being held on \$1 million bail.

Somerset County Prosecutor Wayne Forrest told reporters later that Cullen claimed to have killed between 12 and 15 patients at

the Somerset Medical Center, where he worked for several years.

Forrest said Cullen claimed to have killed as many as 40 patients in his 16 years as a nurse in at least 10 other medical facilities.

"He purposely caused the deaths by the improper administration of various medications," Forrest said. "He asserted that his motive was to alleviate pain and suffering in these cases."

The prosecutor said Cullen, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was arrested Friday and charged with murder in the death of a Catholic priest who entered Somerset Medical Center for treatment of heart disease. The attempted murder charge involves a female patient who had cancer and heart disease.



Kharrazi, right, with Spain's Ana Palacio.

Iran 'doing its best' on terror

MADRID, Spain – Iran's foreign minister says his country is doing all it can to battle terrorism.

Asked in a news conference whether fighters in Iran are crossing the border to Iraq, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said, "We certainly will do our best to not allow any terrorist elements to use Iranian territory."

"Of course, we have a long border. There have been cases that we have arrested people trying to do so, and some have been sent back to Kurdish authorities" in Iraq.

Kharrazi, who talked to reporters after meeting with Ana Palacio, Spain's Foreign Minister, said the danger from the border went both ways.

"Some elements from Iraq have entered Iran to engage in activities against Iranian interests," he said. "Therefore, we are under threat also. There is no reason why we should not do our best to control this."

Odierno: Saddam was 'disoriented and bewildered'

Story by Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service



Congressman Dennis Rehberg, a Republican from Montana, talks with troops from his home state about issues concerning troops at Bagram Air Base during a visit Monday.

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to see their congressmen and to voice any concerns that they may have," said Master Sgt. Taylor L. Crenshaw, the first sergeant of the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group. "It really was really neat that these congressmen went out of their ways to visit with the troops," he said.

The visit itself did a lot to boost Maass's belief that she and her comrades in arms were not forgotten. "I thought it was good of them to come and represent us," she said.

Neugebauer said it was their pleasure to visit the troops. "I was absolutely impressed with the quality of the men and women we've met today," he said. "The American people should be proud to have these folks fighting for freedom."

USAID assists locals...



Photo by Maj. Matthew L. Garner

Andrew S. Natsios, administrator for U. S. Agency For International Development, meets with local nationals at the Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team site to discuss rebuilding projects to revitalize their communities. USAID is the Governmental Organization that primarily funds nation-building endeavors on the large scale.

WASHINGTON – Saddam Hussein had been living in "two small rooms in an adobe hut" and seemed disoriented and bewildered when captured by U.S. Soldiers, the general in command of those Soldiers said Sunday.

Army Maj. Gen Ray Odierno, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, during a briefing from Iraq shortly after 11 a.m. EST, described the area in which Saddam was caught.

The small compound near the village of Adwar is about 15 miles southeast of Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, which generally is considered the seat of resistance in the country. The immediate area contained two farmhouses, a farmer's field, a sheep pen, and a hut in the middle where Saddam was hiding. It was close to the Tigris River, and Soldiers found boats nearby, Odierno said.

The bedroom of the two-room hut contained one chair, one bed and "lots of clothes strewn all over the place," Odierno said. A rudimentary kitchen had a sink with running water and an area to cook in.

The hole Saddam was found in was nearby. Odierno said the opening was covered by a Styrofoam insert and a rug, which were then covered with dirt.

The inside was "extremely small, (with) not a lot of space to move around."

Saddam had a pistol on him, which he never used, and \$750,000 in U.S. currency was found in the hut. Two other people were captured at the compound. Odierno said the other two were not in the hole with Saddam and tried to run when coalition forces arrived. They were later captured when the Soldiers cordoned off an area of about two square kilometers.

The general said he thought it ironic that palaces from the former regime were nearly in sight across the Tigris River. "I think it's rather ironic that he was in a hole in the ground across the river from these great palaces that he's built where he robbed all the money from the Iraqi people," Odierno said.

Saddam was disoriented as he came out of the hole, and said very little to the Soldiers who detained him. Odierno said he was taken south to higher headquarters via helicopter within an hour after being captured. He gave no further details on where Saddam in being held, other than to say he is in U.S. military custody.

The Soldiers who captured him were "very excited" once they realized who they were dealing with, but continued to act in a professional manner, Odierno said. The general explained that the 600 Soldiers involved in the operation likely only knew they were going after a high-value target beforehand. Most probably had no idea who had been captured until after the operation was complete.

CAUGHT, from Page 3

There were no cell phones or communications devices found in the area Saddam had been hiding, leading Odierno to conclude the former Iraqi dictator had not been running insurgency operations himself. "I know he wasn't coordinating the entire effort, because I believe it's not coordinated nationally, and I don't think it ever was," the general said. "I believe there's some local and regional coordination that goes on. I think he was there more for moral support, and I don't think he was coordinating the entire effort."

Senior U.S. and other coalition officials have said repeatedly that they believe Saddam was regularly moving to new locations. Odierno is on the record as saying he believed the former dictator was moving as often as every three of four hours. His capture at this location seems to confirm those theories. Odierno said coalition troops had been in this area and even down this road before. The fact that Soldiers found new clothing still in the wrappers in the compound also suggests that Saddam had not been there long, the general explained.

"My guess would be that he has probably 20-30 of these all around the country that he moves around," Odierno said. "And I believe he moved probably to several locations such as this. I'm assuming we'll find out once we get more information from him."

Odierno also said he believes Saddam had been moving in an area he called "the former regime element triangle" – in between Kirkuk, Baqubah, and Tikrit - and he hopes Saddam's capture will lead to even more intelligence information being collected.

"In the past when we've picked up people of importance, we've noticed that we've always had an influx of more intelligence," he said. "So I'm hoping that's what'll occur here and help us capture the other individuals that are involved in this ... insurgency."

The intelligence that led to this raid was a combination of information collected in both the long and short term. Since 4th Infantry Division Soldiers arrived in the Tikrit area in April, intelligence officials have been working to gather information on Saddam and other officials.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

"The Two Towers"

1530Z at the MWR building:

JFrodo and Sam continue on to Mordor in their mission to destroy the One Ring. Whilst their former companions make new allies and launch an assault on Isengard.

Tomorrow's movie:

"Mussolini and I - Mini Series"



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 48F L: 23F	<i>Mostly Cloudy</i> H: 50F L: 23F
Kandahar:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 43F L: 25F	<i>Mostly Cloudy</i> H: 46F L: 28F
Kabul:	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 46F L: 21F	<i>Mostly Cloudy</i> H: 48F L: 21F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 49F L: 17F	<i>Mostly Cloudy</i> H: 53F L: 29F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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CJTF-180 Commander —
Brig. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III
CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —
Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey
Public Affairs Officer —
Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty
Public Affairs Sergeant Major —
Master Sgt. Sharon Opeka

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Commander — Maj. Matthew L. Garner
NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson
Editor — Sgt. Stephanie Hall
Journalists — Staff Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson
Sgt. Gregory Heath, Spc. Kelly Hunt

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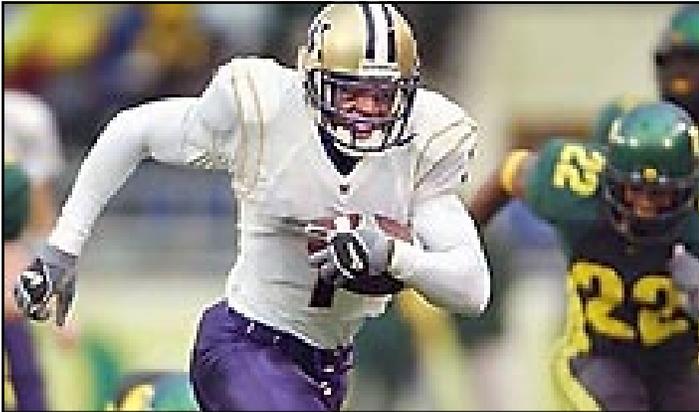
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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)



Reggie Williams has caught 183 passes in the past two seasons for the Huskies.

Wash. receiver Williams turning pro

SEATTLE – Washington receiver Reggie Williams will skip his senior season and enter the NFL draft.

Williams said Monday that it was a difficult decision, but he spoke with his family, Huskies coach Keith Gilbertson and some NFL people, and believes it's the best decision.

Gilbertson said Williams is physically mature as well as emotionally ready to step into the NFL. He said he'll miss Williams, but wishes him the best. Williams had 89 receptions this fall for the Huskies, for 1,109 yards with eight touchdowns.

In 2002, Williams set a single-season school receiving record with 94 catches for 1,454 yards and was named first-team All-American.

Davis traded to Celtics in 6-man deal

CLEVELAND – Cavaliers guard Ricky Davis was traded to the Celtics in a six-player deal Monday after failing to work out his differences with coach Paul Silas.

The Cavs sent Davis, Chris Mihm, Michael Stewart and a draft pick to Boston for Eric Williams, Tony Battie and Kedrick Brown, Cleveland general manager Jim Paxson said in a statement.

Cleveland also gives the Celtics back a second-round pick it received from Boston in a trade last summer.

"This is a great opportunity to add experience and toughness," Paxson said. "Specifically, Tony and Eric are both veterans who have been part of the foundation of a team that has had some success in the postseason. That experience is something both Paul and I felt would benefit us immediately."



Ricky Davis has clashed with coaches in three different NBA stops.

'Canes replace Maurice with Laviolette

RALEIGH, N.C. – Coach Paul Maurice was fired Monday by the struggling Carolina Hurricanes in his ninth season, the longest current stretch with one NHL team.

Maurice, who took the Hurricanes to the Stanley Cup finals in 2002, was replaced by former New York Islanders coach Peter Laviolette.

"He brings experience and an aggressive coaching style to the Hurricanes," general manager Jim Rutherford said.

The Hurricanes are 8-12-8-2 for 26 points, next to last in the Southeast Division. Their next game is Thursday at home against Pittsburgh.

Assistant coach Randy Ladoceur and goaltending consultant Don Edwards also are out, Rutherford said. Hurricanes assistant coach Kevin McCarthy and recently retired Carolina forward Jeff Daniels will join Laviolette behind the bench.

Maurice, who coached the franchise for two years when it was in Hartford, is the third NHL coach fired this season.



Paul Maurice had been with the franchise since its Whalers days.

Expos agree with Everett, ship Barrett off

NEW ORLEANS – The Montreal Expos think Carl Everett's troubled past is behind him.

The All-Star outfielder, who feuded with management in Boston but revived his career last season in Texas and Chicago, agreed Monday to a contract with Montreal that guarantees him \$7.5 million.

"We needed to replace some of the offense we lost with Vladimir," said Expos general manager Omar Minaya, who couldn't work out a deal to re-sign Vladimir Guerrero.



Carl Everett earned his second All-Star nod in 2003.

Also Monday, the Expos traded catcher Michael Barrett to the Oakland Athletics for a player to be named.

Everett's complex contract will pay him either \$3 million for one year, \$7.5 million for two seasons or \$12 million for three years. He receives a \$3 million salary in 2004 and a \$4 million player option for 2005. If he exercises it, Montreal would get a \$5 million team option for 2006 with a \$500,000 buyout. He earned \$9.15 million last season, when he became an All-Star for the second time.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Missile fired in Afghan capital, toward international peacekeeping headquarters

(Afghanistan news) – A missile was fired into the Afghan capital toward the headquarters of the international peacekeeping force, but landed well short, a spokesman said Monday.

The missile slammed into a road near Kabul's Olympic Stadium on Saturday, about 2 kilometers from the base of the International Security Assistance Force, Lt. Cdr. Frank Cockburn said.

The missile, an old Russian-made air-to-surface model, had no warhead and caused no injuries.

Cockburn said the missile was fired in the direction of the base from a point about 2 kilometers further to the southeast. He said the force had no leads on who might have launched it.

"It made a hole in the road," Cockburn said. "Whether it was meant for us, I don't know."

The incident occurred on the eve of the start of a loya jirga, or grand council, in Kabul to ratify Afghanistan's first post-Taliban constitution.

The U.S. military says the hardline Islamic militia might try to attack the gathering, which began Sunday and could go on for several weeks. There have been no incidents so far.

The 5,500-strong ISAF force, made up mainly of Canadian and German troops, and Afghan soldiers are providing tight security around the college campus where the loya jirga is being held.

2 Afghans arrested for spying

(Kabul Daily) – The political administration has arrested two Afghans in the Zeri Noor refugee camp and seized from their possession a satellite phone, a wireless set and other equipment believed to be used for spying.

They, identified as Rahim and Akbar, were held when the law enforcement agencies raided two houses in the refugee camp on Saturday night, sources said. The accused spies were shifted to the Wana scouts camp for interrogation.

A number of houses were partially damaged as Makeen valley was rocked with rocket explosions on Saturday night.

Two houses were damaged in Wachobai village of Makeen when devices planted nearby exploded. The houses belonged to

Gulab Khan and Galas Khan.

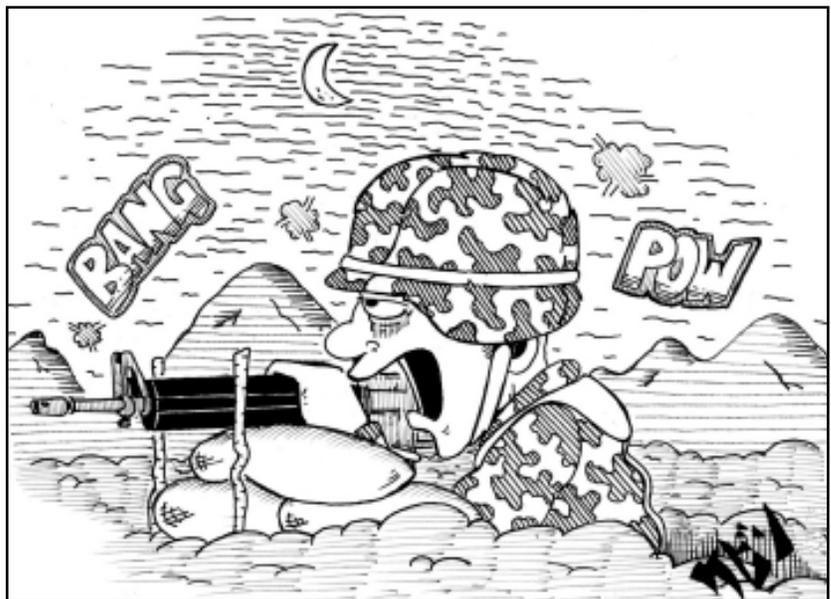
Five rockets were fired at the houses of Bashar Khan and Noor Gul Khan in the Washka and Warogha Tangi areas, damaging them partially. An explosive device planted near the main gate of Faqir Mohammad's house in Gulakhel village went off, damaging its boundary wall. No loss of life was reported.

Unidentified persons fired five missiles at the make-shift camp of allied forces in Machadad Kot near Angoor Adda across the border in Afghanistan. Two of the missiles exploded around the camp site, creating panic among the Afghan and U.S. troops.

In retaliation, the U.S. forces resorted to intense mortar fire. However, no loss of life or property was reported. Meanwhile, a reinforcement contingent of allied forces comprising 800 troops arrived in the Birmal area for a fresh operation against al Qaeda and Taliban fighters in the eastern parts of Afghanistan.

Sources said the fresh allied contingent was aided by tanks and artillery and fighter planes circled over the area all the time. They feared that another big operation was in the offing against the Taliban and al Qaeda suspects.

"How's a fella' supposed to get any shut-eye 'round here?!"



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support