

## Technology saves lives, goes commercial

Story and photo by Spc. Kelly Hunt  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – A lost CONNEX may not seem like much of a problem, but to a unit on a mission waiting for a shipment of Meals-Ready-To-Eat, it's a life or death issue. Modern technology is now making sure cargo gets where it needs to go and gets there on time, saving time, money and ultimately military lives as well as making its debut in the civilian sector.

A program known as the Radio Frequency In Transit Visibility program is ensuring that military operations run as planned, tracking shipments ranging from food to high priority equipment, and bringing troops one step further into



*John Hansen of the UNISYS Corporation makes sure that shipments are on track with the Radio Frequency In Transit Visibility program.*

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## Herat PRT: hope for today and tomorrow

Story and photo by Maj. Richard C. Sater  
CJTF-180 PAO

**HERAT, Afghanistan** – Two little girls in traditional Afghan dress giggle as they help plant a young pine tree outside a new building on the northwest side of town. The children concentrate only on the fun of it – digging in the dirt – and pay no attention to the crowd watching.

For the solemn onlookers, the tree-planting marks the culmination of many months of hard work and the beginning of a hopeful tomorrow for the region. As of Dec. 1, the Herat Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) headquarters is officially open for business.

It serves the provinces of Herat, Farah, Ghowr, and Badghis, a potential clientele of three million. Commanded and supported by Combined Joint Task Force-180, the PRT's goal is to make a real difference in the lives of the people in the region by setting conditions for stabilization, security, and reconstruction.

"Combat operations are necessary to defeat our common enemy," said CJTF-180 Commander Brig. Gen. Lloyd Austin at the ceremony, "but reconstruction and development are necessary to win the battle for a better future."

PRTs help attain that strategic goal, working hand-in-hand with provincial governors, local officials, Afghan government ministers, the United Nations, and other international agencies. Through consolidation of efforts, rebuilding becomes a reality.

PRTs are designed to operate in remote areas where other non-governmental organizations traditionally have no presence, creating a safer environment that encourages the NGOs to expand their operations – extending the reach of the national government and directly benefiting local populations.

For a practical analogy, ask the Herat team commander: "The PRT is one tool in our kit," to facilitate the reconstruction process, said Lt. Col. John Lineweaver, an Army Reservist from the 301st Civil Affairs Battalion, Texas.

Civil affairs teams patrol the region, visiting towns, brokering productive relationships between people, the government, and various aid organizations to encourage reconstruction. With the PRT's assistance, local laborers are hired to repave roads, rebuild bridges, repair schools and clinics, and drill wells. Such projects re-establish an infrastructure seriously damaged by years of war while benefiting the economy.

Lineweaver illustrates the potential of his PRT with the example of a

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Chief Deputy Steve Martin said Tuesday that ballistics results have positively linked two more cases to the killing of Gail Knisley.

## Tests link 2 more cases to freeway shooting in Ohio

(CNN)—Ohio investigators learned Tuesday that ballistic tests have positively matched two prior incidents to the weapon used to kill an elderly woman riding as a passenger on Interstate 270 before Thanksgiving.

There are now four cases positively linked to the weapon, announced Chief Deputy Steve Martin with the Franklin County, Ohio, Sheriff's Department.

Since May, there have been 11 shootings along Interstate 270, which circles Columbus, Ohio. Investigators suspect they may all be related to the same shooter, or shooters.

A 12th shooting took place November 11 at a school, rather than along Interstate 270 like the other 11. However, the incident took place at 1:35 a.m., when no one was there.

The shooting at the school, "takes this person or persons off of (Route) 23 or off of (Interstate) 270 and puts them more in a residential area," Martin said.

The four cases linked through ballistics are the shooting of a freight truck Oct. 19, the shooting at the empty school building Nov. 11, a shooting along Route 23 Nov. 23 and the most recent shooting Nov. 25, which killed 62-year-old Gail Knisley.

Knisley — the only casualty so far — was hit by a single bullet as she was being driven on the highway, about 10 miles south of Columbus, to a doctor's appointment. She was taken to a hospital, where she died shortly afterward.

Martin reiterated his plea Tuesday to residents to inform authorities of anything that might be suspicious. He said more than 225 leads have been called in so far, and none are considered too small or too insignificant.

In addition to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the investigation includes the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Columbus Police Department and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Meanwhile, the police presence remained beefed up along Interstate 270.



One of four large bronze busts of Saddam Hussein is dismantled on Tuesday in Baghdad. The cost of the sculptures' removal is said to be about \$27,000.

## No. 2 Iraqi still at large, U.S. says

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. forces in Iraq have indeed captured a man named "al-Duri" as earlier news reports announced, but he is not the second-most-wanted former Iraqi official the troops have been hunting, the U.S. military said Tuesday.

The reports about the capture of a top member of deposed President Saddam Hussein's regime were false, Maj. Robert Cargie of the 4th Infantry Division said.

Cargie spoke with Maj. Doug Vincent of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Kirkuk, who said forces conducting overnight operations had not caught Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri, the former vice chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council and a former member of Saddam's inner circle.

Sources said an Iraqi police official identified the captured man as Saad Mohammed al-Duri.

Wire service reports quote the police chief as saying Mohammed is a "private secretary" to Ibrahim.

Pentagon sources indicated he might be Ibrahim's "personal physician."

Ibrahim is No. 6 on the U.S. military's list of most-wanted Iraqis, and the king of clubs in the deck of cards issued to U.S. troops to help identify wanted regime members. He and Saddam are the only two among the top six still at large.

## U.S. to seize WMD on high seas

WASHINGTON — The United States and its allies are willing to use "robust techniques" to stop rogue nations from getting the materials they need to make weapons of mass destruction — including interdicting and seizing such "illicit goods" on the high seas or in the air, a top U.S. official bluntly warned Tuesday.

Under Secretary of State John Bolton also said the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, should haul Iran in front of the U.N. Security Council if it discovers any more violations of nuclear non-proliferation agreements — a step that has so far been opposed by U.S. allies in Europe.

"The real issue now is whether the board of governors [of the IAEA] will remain together in its insistence that Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons is illegitimate, or whether Iranian efforts to split the board through economic incentives and aggressive propaganda will succeed," he said.

## Hundreds expected to search for missing student

(CNN) — Wednesday is going to be a "very important day" in the search for a 22-year-old North Dakota student who has been missing for 10 days, said the Grand Forks police chief.

Despite an arrest in the case, finding her is our number one goal, said Police Chief John Packett.

"We estimate up to 1,500 citizens will be bussed to Grand Forks from as far away as the Twin Cities and Fargo to assist in the search. I think that's unprecedented in a situation like this and it certainly shows the community interest in this case," he said.

Dru Sjodin has been missing since Nov. 22, when she was last seen leaving work at a Grand Forks shopping mall. Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., a 50-year-old man who served time in prison for rape, was arrested Monday night in nearby Crookston, Minnesota, on a kidnapping charge.

"Our community is a safer place this morning," Packett said during an earlier news conference.

"With the arrest of last night, this investigation has only reached the 50-yard line," Packett said. "As additional charges and information becomes available, we will not be satisfied or comforted until such time as we find Dru."

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the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

“The purpose of the program is so equipment, parts, supplies and ammunition don’t get lost in theater; we track the movement of logistics and equipment throughout the entire theater,” said John Hansen of the UNISYS Corporation. “In previous military engagements, there’s been a problem with distressed cargo where you have a CONNEX, pallet or load (that) will be set in a corner (of a storage yard), maybe not labeled correctly, and two months later someone discovers it. Ultimately, that can cost lives.”

The process begins when a numbered tag is placed on a shipment. This tag is tracked using satellite technology and can be located at any time through an electronic impulse that awakens the tag, detecting its location.

“It’s a very good system and it saves a tremendous amount of man hours because it’s done electronically,” said Hansen. “Once the tag is written, the transfer of information is sent automatically.”

The information is of no value at all to unfriendly forces that may intercept the tag, he said, because all the tag reveals it’s assigned

number. The information containing what types of material are being shipped, to where and by when, are safely directed elsewhere, available only to those who require the information for military purposes, Hansen added.

“The origination of the tags is done manually on a computer,” said Hansen. “The information we send back and forth is not classified.”

Information on a CONNEX or pallet’s contents are stored within a data base in Washington and Germany which allows personnel to refer the number back to a manifest-like list.

“(Personnel) controlling things back in Washington can look on their computers and see where the equipment is, (which) is very critical (information) to know for the mission,” he said.

“This is just one more tiny piece of the big picture of today’s modern battlefield, streamlining the process and making sure that with the tremendous amount of material and troop movements that we have today, that things get where they need to be on time,” said Hansen.

This technology is fairly recent, being put to use within the last few years. Its services have been invaluable to the military and have

been adapted by the commercial world as well.

“Wal-Mart’s going to start this program in their warehouses in January all across the U.S. and pretty soon you’re going to see this technology even spread to individual items in stores,” he said.

The technology will aid in inventory accountability and decrease man-hour intensive tasks and, the hope is to save money across the board.

“Having to take a hand scanner and scan a bar code item by item (is) cost and labor intensive where our (device) can read the tags of everything in the store just like that,” said Hansen, snapping his fingers. “If someone tries to shop lift, the radio frequency is going to be picked up so it should save the consumers a lot of money and the companies a lot of money.”

Using the same technology in a similar way to the military can also benefit corporations by locating their shipped merchandise.

“Say it’s wintertime and it’s Christmas season, they can just press a button and see that their (shipments) are in route,” said Hansen. “It’s a great technology and it’s just one of those things that’s streamlining commerce worldwide.”

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cement factory on the outskirts of Herat, abandoned by the Soviets during their occupation in the 1980s. “If we do the homework,” he said – if his team’s influence can spur a reopening of the plant – “it could mean 5,000 jobs” for the region.

Roving teams let the PRT “cover a huge area with limited resources,” he said. That’s particularly important here, considering that the four provinces served by the Herat PRT make up more than 20 percent of Afghanistan’s territory. The isolated towns and wide-open spaces “remind me a little of West Texas,” he said.

Initial response to the Herat PRT has been extremely encouraging. “Just our presence helps establish security. They [local leaders and citizens] want us to be here. They’ve told us that,” he said.

Lineweaver’s team, primarily civil affairs soldiers from Minnesota as well as Texas, faces some challenges, but he can’t hide his excitement, even as impending winter weather and poor road conditions in the west present obstacles. His long-term goals include establishing “safe houses” in each province, places where his teams can live and work for a week or two at a time.

“It’s kind of the hub-and-spoke concept,” he said, with the headquarters at the center and the safe houses extending PRT capability into the outer regions. “It’s only common sense.”

Herat itself is a sensible location for the western PRT. “The airport is here. Logistical support is available here. Many NGOs have their headquarters here.”

Lineweaver hopes his handsome new headquarters building will be perceived as a friendly place, and he extends some Texas hospitality to the local citizens. “Come by the house,” he says.

The Herat “house” is the sixth of 12 projected PRTs sponsored by CJTF 180 in Afghanistan. Mezar-e-Sharif, Gardez, Bamian, Konduz, and Parwan also host PRTs, with new team headquarters scheduled to open soon in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Qalat, and elsewhere – each one a concrete manifestation of the coalition’s commitment to stabilization and security.

Newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad also spoke at the Herat opening ceremony. “I am optimistic about the future of Afghanistan, that the Afghans will make the right choices,” he said.

Like the tree planted at the conclusion of the ceremony, the Herat PRT will grow and endure as a symbol of Afghanistan’s tomorrow.



*Spc. Mary Miller, 407<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, and two young Afghan girls in traditional costume plant a tree at the conclusion of the opening ceremony. The tree symbolizes growth and promise for the future.*

## ANA to provide security for 'grand assembly' late December

The Afghan National Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Kandak (Battalion), 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, is providing security for the Constitutional *Loya Jirga* (CLJ), or "grand assembly." The commission will assemble at Polytechnic University in late December.

With more than 18 months of force protection and sustainment training, members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Kandak are skilled and ready to patrol, set up checkpoints, search vehicles and personnel, and provide crowd control.

"ANA is a well-trained force with knowledge of how to treat citizens. The soldiers have been raised among the people and are doing everything to make this country secure," said Maj. Tazagul, operations chief for the 1<sup>st</sup> Kandak. "The ANA is the backbone of the country and is the source of security within society. We have a good feeling for providing security on behalf of our country and are confident the representatives of the nation coming to approve the new constitution will be safe and secure," Tazagul stated. Serving as protectors, the ANA will provide security for each and every representative on-site and during the CLJ process. "Being a part of this is very important to the people of Afghanistan and the Army," Tazagul declared.

As guardians, securing the event and functioning as a defensive force for the Transitional Islamic Government of Afghanistan provides for the greater good for Afghan citizens. "CLJ security is a great example of how the ANA is serving the country," said Cpl. Asadullah, communications specialist. Assistance such as this will help the country prosper. "Businesses will become more successful and the economy will grow. The future of all Afghans, especially the children, will be bright. This constitution will create national unity, guarantee independence, and bring social justice to Afghanistan," he said.

Asadullah continued to say, "We are thankful and proud to be assigned to this mission. ANA is dedicated to Afghanistan under any circumstances. We will heartily serve our country and tell our sons and grandsons that we were the soldiers protecting the authors of the constitution as they wrote it—part of the reason why they are living well and in a safe place."

(Information provided by Spc. Douglas DeMaio, OMC-A Informations Operations NCOIC.)

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

### "Lara Croft: The Cradle of Life"

1530Z at the MWR building:

Lara Croft is on a quest to save Pandoras box.

Tomorrow's movie:

"Analyze That"



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

|                    | Today                             | Thursday                          |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Bagram:</b>     | Mostly Cloudy<br>H: 63F<br>L: 30F | Mostly Cloudy<br>H: 64F<br>L: 30F |
| <b>Kandahar:</b>   | Mostly Cloudy<br>H: 61F<br>L: 46F | Mostly Cloudy<br>H: 57F<br>L: 41F |
| <b>Kabul:</b>      | Partly Cloudy<br>H: 63F<br>L: 30F | Mostly Cloudy<br>H: 64F<br>L: 30F |
| <b>Uzbekistan:</b> | Mostly Cloudy<br>H: 58F<br>L: 32F | Mostly Cloudy<br>H: 59F<br>L: 40F |

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

## Marlins offer Pudge long-term deal

**MIAMI**—With Mike Lowell and Luis Castillo re-signed, the Florida Marlins turned their attention to Ivan Rodriguez.

Lowell agreed Tuesday to a \$32 million, four-year contract with the Marlins, who also confirmed their \$16 million, three-year deal with Castillo.

Pushing ahead with the team's offseason business, general manager Larry Beinfest said Florida had made a multiyear offer to Rodriguez, the 10-time All-Star catcher who was a key to the Marlins' World Series title.

Florida has until Sunday to sign Rodriguez, whose previous contract prohibits the Marlins from offering salary arbitration.

"Pudge was a very important part of our ballclub last year," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said. "What manager in the game wouldn't want to have Pudge back?"

He hit .297 with 16 homers and 85 RBIs during the regular season. He piled on three more homers and 17 RBIs in the postseason and was selected MVP of the NL Championship Series victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Beinfest said Florida made Rodriguez "a good-faith offer on a multiyear commitment within our abilities" but wouldn't discuss specifics. The Marlins say they cannot afford a significant increase over last year's \$54 million payroll. Rodriguez's agent, Scott Boras, did not return a telephone call seeking comment.



*Mike Lowell posted career highs for home runs (32) and RBIs (105) despite missing September with a broken hand.*

## Bryant's attorneys push for secrecy

**EAGLE, Colo.**—Kobe Bryant's defense team agreed with prosecutors Tuesday, saying some court documents in the NBA star's upcoming sexual assault trial should be sealed from public view.

In court filings, attorney Pamela Mackey said state District Judge Terry Ruckriegle should require both sides to file evidence-related documents under seal to avoid influencing potential jurors.

As an alternative, she said, the judge could have both sides file bare-bones documents for public review but submit more detailed discussions in separate, sealed documents.

Bryant, 25, faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation if convicted of felony sexual assault. The Los Angeles Lakers star is accused of attacking a 19-year-old worker at a mountain resort where he was staying June 30. He is free on \$25,000 bond.

On a separate issue, Mackey said the defense doesn't object to media requests to have photographers in the courthouse hallway and at the entrance to the building for a Dec. 19 hearing. She said she opposes a request to place a photographer inside the courtroom.

## NFL extends suspension of RB Green

**CLEVELAND**—The Cleveland Browns took a big risk two years ago when they drafted William Green. Is the troubled running back worth another one?

That's the dilemma facing the club after learning Tuesday that Green's NFL-imposed suspension for violating the league's substance-abuse policy has been extended.

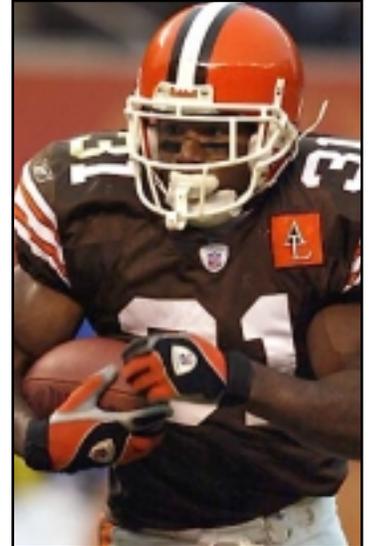
The league's decision to lengthen Green's ban indefinitely makes it unlikely he will play again this season.

The second-year back was suspended four games on Nov. 8 for a violation involving alcohol. He was already enrolled in the second stage of the league's treatment program.

Green, who was eligible to return to the team Monday, will remain suspended for "treatment purposes." The league said commissioner Paul Tagliabue will decide when the 23-year-old can return after consulting with medical experts in the program.

If that doesn't happen until after the season, the Browns will have some tough choices to make on Green. Do they give him a second chance, bring him to training camp and risk Green having a relapse? Or do they release him and move on?

Browns coach Butch Davis refused to address questions about Green's future on Monday.



*William Green was the 16th overall pick in the 2001 draft.*

## Kevin Jones to leave Va. Tech for NFL

**BLACKSBURG, Va.**—Virginia Tech running back Kevin Jones will pass up his final season of college eligibility to enter the NFL draft, his father said Tuesday night.

"He's coming out," Thomas Jones said in a telephone interview from his Chester, Pa., home. Kevin Jones did not immediately return a message left on his cell phone, but Virginia Tech called a news conference for Wednesday for the formal announcement.

Jones, a 6-foot, 221-pound junior projected as possibly the top running back in the draft, has rushed for a school-record 1,494 yards this season, averaging 5.6 yards for 265 carries. He has scored 20 touchdowns and caught 10 passes for 136 yards.

"Next year could be even better, but I'd like him to take it to the next level and get better, and that's what he's going to do," Thomas Jones said, adding that the decision is the product of discussions that have been evolving throughout the season.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## DHL resumes cargo flights to Afghanistan

BONN, Germany (AFP) – DHL, the international express courier, has resumed flights to Iraq and Afghanistan, just over a week after one of its planes was hit by a surface-to-air missile in Iraq, a spokesman for its parent company Deutsche Post said Tuesday.

DHL resumed flights to Iraq last Thursday and resumed flights to Afghanistan on Friday, said the spokesman for the semi-privatised German postal authority.

Services to Iraq had been suspended on Nov. 22 after one of DHL's planes was hit by a surface-to-air missile as it left Baghdad airport and was forced to make an emergency landing.

In addition, services to Afghanistan were halted on Nov. 25 while DHL carried out a security review in the volatile country.

The Deutsche Post spokesman told AFP that flights had been resumed after "additional security measures were taken in cooperation with U.S. troops."

He did not provide further details.

## Feuding warlords hand over weapons to Afghan Army in hopes to end violence

GONDIVOLGA, Afghanistan (AP) – Feuding warlords in northern Afghanistan handed over tanks and cannons to the fledgling national army Tuesday in a move greeted by war-weary residents as a chance for peace after more than two decades of fighting.

The region around the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif has been plagued by violence between two powerful factions who helped the United States drive the Taliban from power two years ago.

But after the latest burst of deadly fighting in October drew the ire of the central government, factional leaders agreed to a truce brokered by British peacekeepers that included the impounding of their big guns.

At Gondi Volga, a former Soviet military base some 19 miles east of Mazar-e-Sharif, officials inspected the first results of that month-old accord: dozens of tanks, cannons, rocket launchers and anti-aircraft batteries from the fighters of Atta Mohammed, lined up in a dusty field.

Gen. Ishaq Noori, leading a delegation from the Ministry of Defense in Kabul to the base Monday, said a similar compound to the west of Mazar was filled with heavy cannons and other weapons collected from Abdul Rashid Dostum, Mohammed's rival.

A battalion of troops from the new U.S.-trained Afghan National Army was at each site to guard the weapons, Noori said.

"Everything is calm. There have been no negative reactions," he said. "This is very important for the national army and for security and peace in this province."

Taming regional warlords and helping their fighters disarm and return to civilian life is seen as crucial to extending the influence of President Hamid Karzai's weak central government and encouraging rebuilding in one of the world's poorest nations.

In the south Monday, an Afghan soldier fighting alongside U.S. forces was killed in a clash with guerillas, the U.S. military said Tuesday.

The U.S.-led patrol exchanged fire with unidentified rebels near an American base at Deh Rawood in Uruzgan province, said Maj. Richard Sater, a U.S. military spokesman.

No coalition soldiers were killed or injured in the clash, Sater told reporters at the U.S. military headquarters at Bagram, north of the capital Kabul.

Some 11,700 soldiers from the United States and other countries face stiffening resistance from suspected Taliban and al Qaeda guerillas, who regularly attack their patrols and bases as well as Afghan troops and officials.

In the U.N.-sponsored disarmament program, hundreds of soldiers have also handed in guns, rockets and tanks in Kunduz, another northern city, and at Gardez near the Pakistani border.

Eventually, the Ministry of Defense and its sponsors hope to disarm and decommission 100,000 Afghan militia members as it creates a new army and police force, though only 6,000 of the new troops are armed so far.



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support