

PSYOPS help units communicate with locals

Story and photo by Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment

NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan— During Operation Mountain Resolve, infantrymen operating out of Firebase Catamount in the northeastern province of Nuristan, have been conducting a majority of their missions amid Afghans who, by and large, haven't seen coalition soldiers since the early stages of Operation Enduring Freedom, if ever.

While the infantrymen focus on finding and disrupting Anti Coalition Militants operating in the area, nearly every mission initiated out of the fire base included a special group of soldiers whose job is to inform and speak with the countless local Afghans whose lives may be affected by these operations.

For soldiers of the Tactical Psychological Operations Team (TPT), accomplishment of their mission relies not on finding the "bad guys," but on their ability to speak to and inform the population of the coalition's intent.

As TPT members, they are the infantry's resident experts on Afghan culture when out on missions, according to Sgt. Leland Crowl,



Spc. James Whim, 308th Tactical Psychological Operations Company (center), hands out mine awareness flyers to children passing through a vehicle checkpoint mission a few kilometers away from Firebase Catamount. Tactical PSYOPS teams work with the infantrymen operating in the area to help pass on information to Afghan's who may be affected by Operation Mountain Resolve.

308th Tactical Psychological Operations Company, (TPC).

"A lot of times, infantry won't necessarily understand the local's point of view; both have totally different outlooks on life," said Crowl. "It's our job to understand the local population."

The TPTs then use the knowledge they gain from specialized training and reading on Afghan culture to help bridge communication gaps with the locals and promote the coalition's efforts of the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

————— See **PSYOPS**, Page 4

Rumsfeld in Azerbaijan; talks include NATO, war on terror

Story by John D. Banusiewicz
American Forces Press Service

BAKU, Azerbaijan – Conveying President Bush's gratitude for Azerbaijan's help in the global war on terror, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld arrived for meetings with the president and defense minister of this former Soviet republic on the western shore of the Caspian Sea.

Rumsfeld met with Defense Minister Col. Gen. Safar Abiyev upon arrival, and the two defense leaders then met with new Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev at the Presidential Apparatus here.

"I expressed the appreciation of the American people and President Bush for the important support and contributions of this country in the

global war on terror," Rumsfeld said in a joint news conference with Abiyev after their meeting with the president.

A senior defense official told reporters before the meeting that Azerbaijan was one of the first nations to offer any help it could provide to the United States after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in America. The country grants important overflight rights for U.S. military aircraft, and also has sent contingents of troops to the coalitions in Afghanistan and Iraq. The defense official called Azerbaijan's forces "highly competent" in their performance while serving with Turkish forces in Afghanistan and American forces in Iraq.

The United States provides about \$3 million per year in security support assistance to Azerbaijan. In 2002 and again this year, Bush responded

————— See **NATO**, Page 4

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A videotape shows police officers struggling with Nathaniel Jones.

Coroner rules death a homicide

CINCINNATI—The Hamilton County coroner Wednesday said the violent struggle over the weekend between 350-pound Nathaniel Jones and Cincinnati police officers was the immediate cause of the man's death and said his death will be ruled a homicide.

Dr. Carl Parrott noted that Jones was obese, had an enlarged heart, and had ingested PCP and cocaine hours before the incident with police. Parrott said superficial bruises consistent with nightstick injuries were on his body.

Parrott said Jones' death being ruled a homicide doesn't imply hostile or malign behavior. The coroner's office said Tuesday that Jones had bruises on his legs but no sign of injuries to his internal organs.

He said Jones' death "must be regarded as a direct and immediate consequence, in part, of the struggle, plus his obesity, heart disease, and drug intoxication." He said Jones had several lethal health problems when the confrontation happened. The struggle caused cardiac dysrhythmia, which was the ultimate physical cause of death, but he stressed the event precipitating his death was the struggle.

He added, "Absent the struggle, however, Mr. Jones would not have died at that precise moment of time."

New video released Tuesday showed Jones dancing and marching around the White Castle restaurant and in the parking lot before officers arrived on the scene.

Later, he fell down and rolled down a hill. Restaurant employees called the fire department at 5:45 a.m. to report his bizarre behavior.

The tape also shows another view of the altercation with police, and Jones is seen lunging at one officer, as he also is shown on the squad

car videotape.

Jones died at a hospital shortly after police beat him with metal nightsticks to subdue him.

Bomb explodes outside Georgia state TV network

(CNN)—A bomb went off Wednesday night outside the studios of the state television network in the Georgian capital Tblisi, the latest in a series of violent incidents following the ouster last month of the country's president.

No injuries were reported in the explosion, which Interior Minister Georgy Baramidze called a terrorist act, the independent broadcaster Rustavi 2 reported.

The blast, which occurred on the television studio's grounds, followed an explosion Monday outside the offices of the Georgian Labor Party. And Tuesday, an unidentified attacker fired two shots into the home of an official of former President Eduard Shevardnadze's party, For a New Georgia. Shevardnadze, a former Soviet foreign minister, was forced to resign Nov. 23 amid widespread demonstrations against parliamentary elections the country's Supreme Court decided were neither free nor fair.

Raids nab 55 Hells Angels

LOS ANGELES—Fifty-five members and associates of the Hells Angels motorcycle gang were arrested in five states Wednesday following raids that also netted dozens of guns and some drugs, officials said.

Special Agent in Charge Donald Kincaid of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) said those arrested face firearms, drug and other charges.

The raids, the result of a two-year investigation, took place in California, Nevada, Arizona, Washington and Alaska, and involved federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, Kincaid said in a statement.

"This joint operation is just one small part of ATF's ongoing, collaborative efforts to reduce violent crime, particularly as it relates to gang violence and firearms-related violent crime," his statement said.

Those arrested were taken into custody for alleged violations of narcotics trafficking, firearms violations, possessing stolen explosives and various other crimes, the ATF statement said.

Authorities confiscated about 50 firearms,

narcotics and stolen explosives in the raids in the Western states.

The ATF statement said Hells Angels dates back to the 1940s and has about 2,500 full-fledged members and prospects worldwide.

"The gang is believed to be involved in a variety of criminal activities, including the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine, firearms and explosives trafficking, extortion, and motorcycle theft," the statement said.

It added that "the Hells Angels are considered the largest and most heavily armed of all the 'outlaw motorcycle gangs.'" "



President Bush with 7-year-old Terrance Martin.

Seven-year-old corrects Bush

WASHINGTON—Young Terrance Martin could not let President George W. Bush get away with mistakenly saying he was just 6 years old when he was really 7.

It happened in the Roosevelt Room at the White House on Tuesday when Bush signed the Adoption Promotion Act of 2003, which renews tax credits for adoptions and encourages families to find homes for more than 500,000 children in foster care.

Before signing the legislation Bush talked about the need for more adoptions as he stood with Christopher and Diana Martin and their seven children, four of them adopted.

Terrance interrupted the president in mid-speech under the glaring television lights to point out he was not 6.

"How old are you?" Bush asked.

"Seven," said Terrance.

"OK, seven," said Bush, as the crowd chuckled. "I'll take it up with the fact-checker."

Officials stand by number of attackers killed in Samarra

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Force Press Service

WASHINGTON – U.S. Central Command officials are standing by the claim that 54 attackers were killed in the Nov. 30 ambush at a bank in Samarra, despite Iraqi civilians who say the number is much lower.

During a briefing from Baghdad today Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, deputy director of operations, Combined Joint Task Force 7, told reporters today that he has “no reason to claim inaccurate figures.” Kimmitt had reported the 54 killed in a Dec. 1 briefing.

“In fact we stand by those numbers,” Kimmitt said. “Those numbers were provided by soldiers who were involved in the engagement, and we see no other evidence to suggest that those numbers are incorrect,” he said, adding, “I trust the reports of my soldiers.”

“There is no reason to doubt what the soldiers saw, there is no reason to doubt what the soldiers reported,” he emphasized.

Dan Senor, senior spokesperson for the Coalition Provisional Authority, added that coalition forces go through “great efforts” to provide unscrupulous reports after each mission operation. “They (soldiers) have been forthright and truthful, and will continue to be so.”

Kimmitt told reporters insurgents who wanted to “steal” the money provoked the Samarra incident. He said an Iraqi currency exchange truck arrived at the town to deliver new dinar to two banks. He said the 4th Infantry Division soldiers’ only purpose was to provide security. Currency exchange trucks had been attacked four times in the past, he noted.

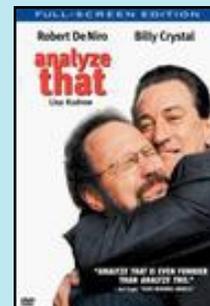
“The Iraqi currency exchange trucks were able to perform their mission, which was to bring new dinars into the town and take old dinars out,” he explained. “The people who attacked those trucks were attacking not only coalition soldiers, but were attacking Iraqis that were trying to provide money for a restored, restabilized, rebuilt Iraq.”

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

“Analyze That”

1530Z at the MWR building:
Mobster Paul Vitti is released into Dr. Ben Sobol’s care, where only more chaos ensues.

Tomorrow’s movie:
“Bringing down the House”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Friday
Bagram:	Mostly Cloudy H: 57F L: 30F	Partly cloudy H: 57F L: 30F
Kandahar:	Mostly Cloudy H: 64F L: 43F	Mostly Cloudy H: 64F L: 43F
Kabul:	Mostly Cloudy H: 59F L: 32F	Partly cloudy H: 59F L: 32F
Uzbekistan:	Mostly Cloudy H: 52F L: 37F	Mostly Cloudy H: 58F L: 40F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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PSYOPS, from Page 1

“We’re basically a buffer between the local Afghans and Soldiers,” said Spc. James Whim, 308th TPC.

While working with 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, the most common missions the TPC soldiers go out on are the vehicle checkpoint and village cordon and search missions, and they accomplish their mission through numerous methods.

While on cordon and search missions, the TPC team members can broadcast messages to the villagers with loudspeakers or a bullhorn, giving them a message from the unit commander.

An example of a message they may broadcast would be to tell people to stay in their homes during searches, or not to make any threatening moves, said Whim.

During the vehicle check points, while the Afghans step out of their cars the PSYOPS soldiers try to educate the public of the coal-

tions intent by hand out informational flyers on mine awareness, wanted posters offering rewards for information on ACMs, and also the coalition produced *Peace* newspapers that highlights rebuilding efforts going on throughout Afghanistan.

“We’ll run into sections of the country where they haven’t seen soldiers in a long time, so we’re just trying to educate the public about what we’re doing out here so they don’t get hurt,” said Whim.

Other times Whim says he’ll just chat with the locals and try to maintain a friendly rapport with them.

“One of the most rewarding things about the job is just talking to the kids (and other locals) and just asking them about their daily lives, just chatting,” said Whim.

Their methods have on more than one occasion proven valuable to 10th Mountain Division’s Catamounts in getting leads on illegal activity in the area.

I handed out a wanted flyer at a vehicle control point once and a guy came over to us ... and he ended up giving us information on (ACMs), said Whim, who added he’d also seen many flyers and wanted posters they’d given out hung on the walls of buildings in the surrounding area.

In the end, the job of the TPT soldiers during their mission with the Catamounts had boiled down to one idea – winning the “hearts and minds” of the local population, Whim explained.

“Winning the hearts and minds can be taken two different ways,” he said. “It’s easier to change (people’s) behavior than it is (their) attitude ... (hypothetically), if someone has always hated Americans and we go and shove an gun in their face, most of the time they’re going to do what we tell them to do, but they’re still going to hate us. But truly winning the hearts and minds is overcoming that attitude part and, (as we’re doing), trying to persuade them that what we want to do here is good.”

NATO, from Page 1

to Azerbaijan’s cooperation by waiving sanctions imposed by Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act. The sanctions had been in place as a result of an ongoing territorial dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia. To keep an even-handed approach in the dispute, the official said, the president also waived Armenia’s sanctions stemming from the dispute.

Rumsfeld said the United States would like to see a peaceful, negotiated settlement of Azerbaijan’s territorial dispute with Armenia, but wouldn’t comment further, other than to explain that such matters are under the purview of the State Department.

The secretary said today’s meeting with Abiyev continued discussions they’d had during the Dec. 1-2 NATO defense ministers conference in Brussels, Belgium. The defense secretary said he and Abiyev discussed Azerbaijan’s participation in NATO’s Partnership in Peace program, a relationship Rumsfeld said is helpful both to NATO and to Azerbaijan. The program helps countries from various nations learn to work alongside NATO forces in situations of mutual interest.

Discussions also included the ongoing bilateral military- to-military cooperation between the two nations, Rumsfeld said, as well as how the United States can help Azerbaijan’s navy and maritime forces improve security in the Caspian Sea. The official who briefed reporters before the meetings said the Caspian Sea is like an uncontrolled country in how it serves as an avenue for drug trafficking and illegal weapons shipments.

As to whether the United States is considering basing forces in Azerbaijan, Rumsfeld said discussions of changes in the U.S. military’s global posture continue, and have yet to yield specific proposals.

“What they reflect is a desire to be positioned not so much for a static defense or deterrent posture, but rather to be arranged in a more flexible and agile way so that we can deal with the 21st century threats and capabilities, rather than the 20th century,” he said.

Tis the season for unloading...



Photo by Spc. Kelly Hunt

Sgt. Lech Magnuszewski and Sgt. 1st Class Bill Lunsford, both with 300th AG, unload one of the many pallets that reached Bagram Wednesday. Nearly 15 tons of mail was received at Bagram Air Base Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas season rush which the postal team handled with ease.



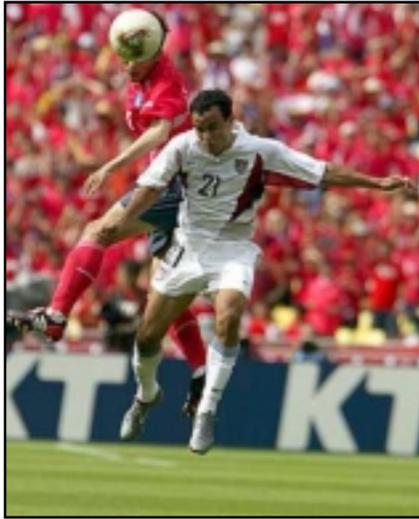
Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

FIFA OKs World Cup qualifying format

FRANKFURT, Germany—The format for 2006 World Cup qualifying that gives the United States a first-round bye was approved Wednesday by soccer's governing body.

The United States will start qualifying on June 12 or 13 against either one of the 10 first-round winners from the Caribbean, or against Belize or Nicaragua — Central American teams that also have first-round byes. The second game of the home-and-home, total-goal series takes place June 19 or 20.



Landon Donovan helped the U.S. tie South Korea on the way to the 2002 World Cup quarterfinals.

The proposal was approved Wednesday by the FIFA World Cup Organizing Committee.

The World Cup qualifying draw will take place Friday. The 12 CONCACAF second-round winners will be divided into three four-team groups for the semifinals, with the top two teams in each group advancing. The top three teams in the finals qualify for the 32-nation tournament, and the No. 4 team goes to a playoff against the No. 5 team from South America or Asia, or the Oceania champion.

Also Wednesday, FIFA announced the schedule for the 2006 tournament, which will take place in 12 Germany cities. The tournament opens June 9 in the new stadium under construction in Munich, and the final is July 9 in Berlin's Olympic Stadium, which is being renovated.

NFL fines White \$2,600 for missed call

NEWYORK—Referee Tom White was fined \$2,600 for failing to restart the clock at the end of the Seattle-Baltimore game, a mistake that contributed to the Seahawks' 44-41 overtime loss.

The fine represented half of White's game check, supervisor of officials Mike Pereira said Wednesday.

The entire crew was reprimanded for its performance during the Nov. 23 game, presumably hurting its chances to officiate in the playoffs. Crews are assigned to the postseason based on their regular-season ratings.

"Maybe they didn't do their part, but we didn't do our part, either," Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck said a day after the game.

The play in question occurred with 58 seconds left and Seattle ahead 41-38. The Seahawks' Shaun Alexander gained 3 yards to the Baltimore 33, but head linesman Ed Camp threw a penalty flag because he thought

offensive tackle Floyd Womack lined up as an ineligible receiver.

The Ravens called their final timeout but the clock was stopped anyway for the officials to discuss the penalty. They determined Womack was eligible, let the play stand and gave Baltimore back its final timeout.

The Ravens were ready to call timeout again, but White did not restart the clock. As a result, Baltimore saved its timeout until after the plays, saving 40 seconds that it used when it got the ball back to tie a game it eventually won in overtime.

"I don't think we have any cause to be pointing fingers anywhere else," Seahawks linebacker Chad Brown said at the time. "Yeah, the officials blew the call. And we gave up 41 points."

Phillies get Milton in trade with Twins

PHILADELPHIA—The Philadelphia Phillies acquired left-hander Eric Milton from the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday for reliever Carlos Silva and utility infielder Nick Punto.

The Twins also get a player to be named.

Milton, who won 41 games from 2000-02, started just three games last season after having surgery on his left knee during spring training.

A former first-round pick of the New York Yankees in 1996, Milton was an All-Star in 2001 when he went 15-7 with a 4.32 ERA. He also pitched a no-hitter in 1999 for the Twins.

"I'm happy for the opportunity. I'm glad the Phillies wanted me this badly," Milton said. "I'm just going to come there and try to win."

The Phillies have been seeking another starter for the top of their rotation since Kevin Millwood filed for free agency last month. Philadelphia was interested in Curt Schilling, but the right-hander went to Boston in a trade with Arizona last week.

Phillies general manager Ed Wade also spoke to representatives for free agents Andy Pettitte and Bartolo Colon.

Wade said the team probably will not offer arbitration to Millwood before Sunday's midnight deadline, but wouldn't rule out the possibility. The Phillies had offered Millwood a three-year deal believed to be worth \$30 million with a club option for a fourth season.



Eric Milton missed most of the 2003 season after undergoing surgery in March to have torn cartilage removed from his left knee.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Two G.I.s wounded in Afghan attack

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (MSNBC) – An attacker threw a grenade at a U.S. military vehicle in the southern city of Kandahar on Wednesday, wounding two American soldiers, Afghan police said.

Afghan Security forces arrested the attacker, believed to be a member of the ousted Taliban regime, but not before he threw another grenade and wounded a local police officer, Kandahar deputy police chief Salim Khan said.

Another police officer told *Reuters* that the attacker was a renegade Afghan policeman.

“We have arrested the attacker. He was a member of our own police force. He had a rifle with him and several grenades. We caught him as he was trying to flee the area,” the police officer, Gulalai, said.

The U.S. military has a base at Kandahar, which was the Taliban’s main stronghold before it was ousted from power by a U.S.-led invasion in late 2001.

Khan said that in Wednesday’s attack, the assailant threw the grenade as the two soldiers sat in a parked vehicle in a busy square while three other U.S. soldiers went into a shop nearby.

One U.S. soldier was seriously wounded and the other sustained minor injuries, he told *The Associated Press*.

Traffic police officer Tir Mohammad said he saw a man throw a grenade at the vehicle. “I heard an explosion. Then I saw one U.S. soldier on the ground, seriously wounded,” he told *The Associated Press*.

“I saw the American soldier, who had lost a leg, being carried from his vehicle to an ambulance,” Gulalai, told *Reuters*.

More than 11,500 U.S.-led coalition soldiers are hunting down followers of the Taliban and its allies, who in recent months have stepped up attacks in the country’s south and east.

Afghan warlords hand over weapons

GONDIVOLGA, Afghanistan (AP) – Afghanistan’s two main northern warlords handed over dozens of tanks and heavy guns yesterday, putting aside their personal hostility and placing a measure of trust in the US-backed government of President Hamid Karzai.

The action by Abdul Rashid Dostum and Atta Mohammed, whose armies have been attacking each other for two years, is a small triumph for the fledgling government’s attempts to gain control over the provinces.

At Gondi Volga, a former Soviet military base about 19 miles east of the principal northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif, beaming government officials inspected an impressive arsenal collected from Mohammed’s fighters.

The weaponry was surrendered to the new Afghan National Army under a deal between the warlords brokered with the help of British peacekeepers.

Soldiers posed on some of the dozens of tanks and troop carriers

parked in a dusty field alongside anti-aircraft batteries.

General Ishaq Noori, leading a delegation from the Ministry of Defense in Kabul, said a similar compound west of Mazar-e-Sharif was filled with heavy artillery and ammunition from Dostum.

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

In October, clashes between the warlords’ forces reportedly left dozens of civilians dead.

Karzai then sent Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali and enlisted the help of British peacekeepers and the United Nations to bring the warlords into line.

Under the deal, the warlords agreed that a battalion from the new national army would guard the surrendered weapons until the Ministry of Defense decides what to do with them.

Eventually, the Ministry of Defense and its sponsors hope to disarm and decommission 100,000 Afghan militia members as it creates the new army and national police — which so far have only 6,000 forces. Karzai’s government has little control outside the capital. Much of the country is controlled by warlords, and resurgent Taliban rebels have stepped up attacks in the south and east in recent months.

Mazar-e-Sharif residents made it clear they wanted an end to warlord power. “We have seen a lot of fighting here, and we are fed up,” said Zulgai, a 52-year-old taxi driver who uses only one name.

Due to ammo shortages, battalion wants us to use MRE brownies instead.”



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support