

CMA makes first visit to Tagab

Story and photos by
Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

TAGAB, Afghanistan - After enduring a six-hour journey over mountainous terrain that began before sunrise, the tired and hungry medics from the Medical Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., immediately unpacked their medical supplies and began their Cooperative Medical Assistance mission in Tagab, Wednesday.

More than 27 vehicles accompanied the CMA team making it the largest organized medical assistance mission to ever reach the village of Tagab. The convoy brought medical and school supplies, candy, literature and seven medics who saw more than 600 patients in a span of five hours.

“We only have one day to see as many patients as we can, and we don’t know when or if we’re coming back,” said Capt. Marc Roy, surgeon, Medical Platoon, 2-505. “My goal is to give the maximum amount of assistance in a minimum amount of time.”

The patients consisted of men, women and children from small infants, to 60-year-old adults.

Most of the ailments were joint and muscle aches, colds, flus, gastritis, infections, rashes and other problems due to lack of routine medical check-ups, said Roy.



Village military officials wait in line to receive medical care during the Cooperative Medical Assistance operation in Tagab Wednesday.

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Rotary-wing asset saves lives in a fixed-wing world

By Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti
11th Public Affairs Detachment

KARSHI-KANABAD, Uzbekistan – Saving lives in a combat environment means taking risks. It means going where no one else can to get the person to medical help.

The 41st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga. does just that. They go where no one else can to save lives. To accomplish their mission, it takes a crew of 12—six each in two HH-60

Pave Hawk Helicopters. Each crew consists of a pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer, systems specialist and two para rescuers.

“We are different from any other kind of rescue,” said 1st Lt. B.J. O’Neil, Pave Hawk pilot, 41st ERQS. “We can go almost anywhere and our helicopters make that possible.”

Both the Army and the Air Force have the HH-60 Pave Hawks – a highly modified version of the Army Black Hawk, but what makes the Air Force aircraft unique is what

is onboard. Each Air Force Pave Hawk is outfitted with an upgraded communications and navigation suite that includes an integrated inertial navigation/global positioning/Doppler navigation system, satellite communications, secure voice, and Have Quick communications.

Since the units arrival about a year and a half ago, they have completed approximately 60 rescues – that was not enough to

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. helicopters fly over the dome of a mosque in the center of Mosul Thursday.

Saddam's deputy prime minister in custody

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Tariq Aziz, the deputy prime minister in the regime of deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, is in U.S. custody, CNN has confirmed.

Aziz, who was often the public face of the regime on the international stage, was No. 43 on the list of the 55 most-wanted Iraqis and was the “eight of spades” in the deck of cards being circulated by coalition troops.

U.S. Central Command has not disclosed any details of Aziz's apprehension. But various U.S. officials have told CNN that Aziz turned himself in.

An intermediary approached U.S. officials Wednesday, indicating that Aziz was interested in surrendering, U.S. officials told CNN. The surrender took place late Thursday, the officials said.

Aziz — described by one U.S. official as “pretty well wired” — may have knowledge about the fate of top Iraqi leaders, including Saddam Hussein, a U.S. official told CNN. While it is considered unlikely that he would know the location of weapons of mass destruction, he “may be able to confirm their existence,” the official said.

N. Korea 'admits having nukes'

BEIJING, China — American and North Korean delegations have had separate meetings Friday morning with Chinese For-

eign Minister Li Zhao Xing, followed by a brief “trilateral” meeting among all the parties, the U.S. Embassy says.

No information was released on a date for a future round of talks among the three parties, designed to diffuse a controversy over North Korea's alleged nuclear program.

North Korea on Thursday admitted to having at least one nuclear bomb, senior Bush administration sources told CNN.

North Korea's representative Li Gun pulled aside U.S. Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly on Wednesday and told him “blatantly and boldly” that the country has at least one nuclear weapon, one official said.

Gun asked, “Now what are you going to do about it?” the official said.

Gun said his country would “prove” it has the weapon “soon,” implying that North Korea may test a nuclear bomb, though he did not explicitly threaten that, a source said.

Governor outlines vision for Lower Manhattan

NEW YORK — The first New York governor to move his office out of the World Trade Center wants to be the first tenant in the main tower on the rebuilt site.

Gov. George Pataki pledged Thursday to relocate his Manhattan offices to an iconic 1,776-foot tower designed by architect Daniel Libeskind, whose master site plan will guide the rebuilding effort.

In an expansive speech laying out an aggressive timetable for rebuilding the 16-acre Trade Center site and Lower Manhattan areas surrounding it, Pataki said the frame of the Libeskind skyscraper, which he dubbed the Freedom Tower, will be completed by the September 11, 2006, the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attack that toppled the 110-story twin towers.

Pataki said, “2006 will be the year New Yorkers reclaim their skyline.”

It will also be the final year of Pataki's third term in office.

Chicks defiant with interview

CNN — On the eve of their U.S. tour, the

Dixie Chicks — who raised a ruckus last month with lead singer Natalie Maines' comments about President Bush and the war in Iraq — have blasted back with both barrels.

They answer their critics in an interview with Diane Sawyer and appear nude on the cover of Entertainment Weekly under the headline, “The Dixie Chicks Come Clean.”

“I'm not truly embarrassed that, you know, President Bush is from my state, that's not really what I care about,” Maines said in an interview with Sawyer, according to The Associated Press. The interview aired on ABC's “Primetime Thursday.”

“It was the wrong wording with genuine emotion and questions and concern behind it. ... Am I sorry that I asked questions and that I just don't follow? No.”

In a March 10 concert in London, England, Maines told the crowd: “Just so you know, we're ashamed the president of the United States is from Texas.” The group also hails from the Lone Star State.

Peterson getting visitors, mail

MODESTO, Calif. — The district attorney in the Laci Peterson case intends to seek the death penalty against husband Scott Peterson if he is convicted of murdering her and their unborn son, he said Wednesday in a television interview.

James Brazelton, district attorney in Stanislaus County, California, made the statement during a taping of “The John Walsh Show” scheduled to air Thursday, The Modesto Bee newspaper reported.

Brazelton had previously said that a decision whether to seek the death penalty awaited consultations with Laci Peterson's family. He told the newspaper after the interview that a meeting had not yet taken place and that the final decision rested with a committee of attorneys in his office.

Brazelton said, however, that he wanted to seek Scott Peterson's execution.

“In my opinion, this is the type of case that cries out for death penalty consideration,” Brazelton told the Bee. “In particular, the family is the most important consideration.”

Engineers help factory return to business

By Spc. Steven Marroni
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — Muhammad Naim worked at the Metal Pipe and Irrigation Gate Fabrication Factory in Kabul for 15 years. He said lately the factory has been busier than it has been in a long time.

“We work seven hours a day instead of six,” Naim said. “There is so much work.” Besides making metal pipes for irrigation, laborers in the factory cut steel for bridges, gates, fences and structure work for other construction projects throughout Afghanistan.

The factory has been in bad shape for a while. Broken or missing windows and roof damage caused leaks throughout the building. All the damage prevented the factory from operating during the winter. Engineers at the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force in Kabul began refurbishing the estimated \$34,000 national impact project.

“It’s a great project,” said Capt. Elizabeth Ewing, who heads the undertaking of the factory’s reconstruction. “They prefabricate metal pipes for the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and the Environment, but they weren’t able to operate through the winter. Now they can operate year-round.”

The ministry owns the factory, so year-round production of pipes could bring clean water and irrigation to more rural regions of Afghanistan – the reason why the project falls under the engineer’s national impact category.

Besides producing pipes, factory workers also refurbish steel. Though the factory purchased the raw materials from Russia and Pakistan, they sell the final product in Afghanistan. One of the engineers’ contractors has bought steel from the factory for a bridge they are reconstructing north of Bagram.

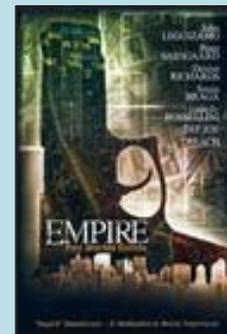
“Contractors have bought from this factory for the bridge

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Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR Building: “Empire.” A big time drug dealer Victor Rosa is looking to get out of the game and sees his chance with a big deal with a new friend who happens to be a Wall St. stockbroker. Thinking this will be his chance to go out on top Victor soon finds out that he has been double crossed and his last option is to get revenge.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “8 Mile.”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Saturday
Bagram:	Cloudy H: 72F L: 52F	Dusty H: 77F L: 50F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 93F L: 59F	Haze H: 95F L: 52F
Kabul:	Cloudy H: 75F L: 52F	Haze H: 79F L: 50F
Uzbekistan:	Sunny H: 75F L: 52F	Partly cloudy H: 87F L: 55F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Capt. Marc Roy, surgeon, Medical Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., examines a muscular deformity on the hand of a villager.

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“Many of the older patients suffer mostly from joint aches, and the younger ones suffer from headaches, infections and growth problems. Unfortunately, many of these ailments can’t be cured by just one visit,” he said.

Even though some of the Afghans’ illnesses required medical attention beyond Motrin pills or antibiotics, Roy said many of the problems could be fixed with simple medi-

cations that can be found at a drugstore.

“Many of the problems such as colds, rashes, aches and pains are easily treated by antibiotics, aspirin, vitamins and other over-the-counter medicines most of which we have plenty of,” said Roy. “Hopefully, the medicine we issued will be enough to sustain them until another medical team comes through here or until we return.”

According to Roy, many of the more serious ailments seen in the local population such as

deformities and blindness, all started as simple sicknesses and could have easily been avoided.

“Proper hygiene and nutrition are the key,” said Roy. “Many of the problems the Afghans have are not seen regularly among Americans because we bathe daily and have access to the proper nutrients. If the local people practice good hygiene and proper eating habits as children, they will have fewer health problems as adults.”

While the villagers waited in lines outside the exam rooms to be seen, they occupied themselves by chatting with curious soldiers and reading newspapers brought by the civil affairs team. While mom and dad were being seen, the children were outside busy receiving candy, school supplies and demonstrations from soldiers on how to use soap and tooth brushes.

While all of these things are important, Roy said a lot more is needed.

“All we did was hand out some supplies and distribute some medication,” said Roy. “These people need a steady hospital with doctors and nurses capable of seeing them on a regular basis. For now, they have to settle for a small clinic and whatever supplies we can leave them.”

To Americans, the assistance given to the people of Tagab may have not seemed like much, but to the villagers, it meant everything.

“These people are very happy with whatever assistance they receive since it is few and far between,” said Roy. “Even though it didn’t seem like much to us, the villagers were very grateful. My only hope is that someone will come behind us and finish the work we began.”

After a hard day’s work, Roy, his executive officer and seven medics were tired and hungry, but satisfied.

According to Roy, the CMA would have never been a success if it wasn’t for 1st Lt. Edward Sido, Staff Sgt. Donald Peart, Sgt. George Tompkins, Spc. Kenrad Sierszen, Spc. Brian Kinsey, Pfc. Kenton Erb, and Sgt. Hilda Lerma and Spc. Juliet Kirkpatrick, 48th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Meade, Md. – the soldiers who made it happen.

“These medics are very well trained professionals who know their job,” said Roy. “They did all the work today, I just supervised. Hopefully when the villagers think back on the help they received today, they will always remember the faces of these troops.”

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project,” Ewing said. “They can buy from this project for other projects, like schools, wells and clinics. It impacts the economy.” Instead of importing steel for other projects, many have been purchasing from the factory. Ewing pointed out this type of self-sufficiency can cause a positive ripple effect on the economy of Afghanistan.

But, it’s just another busy day for Naim and his fellow workers. He spoke above the hum of lathes and bandsaws as he took a break from cutting steel rods.

“We’re making steel for some bridges, and a fence around the ministry and a gate for somewhere in Kandahar today,” he said.



Photo by Spc. Steve Marroni, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Workers at the Metal Pipe and Irrigation Factory produce not only pipes, but cut steel for bridges, gates and other projects around Afghanistan.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Tracy tops first-quarter voting

Paul Tracy, winner of all three CART Champ Car World Series races so far this year, was selected as first-quarter winner in the Driver of the Year voting.

The 34-year-old Canadian, in his first year driving for Jerry Forsythe's Team Player's, is off to the best start of his 13-year Champ Car career.



Paul Tracy

"Momentum is everything," Tracy said. "You have to take advantage of it when it comes because, when luck is shining upon you — and things are going right — if you don't take advantage, you're a fool."

The fast start earned him nine of 18 first-place votes from the national panel of motorsports writers and broadcasters. His 122 points were considerably better than the 79 points for runner-up Dale Earnhardt Jr., who had three first-place votes.

Fellow Winston Cup star Matt Kenseth beat Earnhardt with five first-place votes but fell five points short and finished third.

NHRA Funny Car driver Tony Pedregon was fourth, followed by NASCAR's Kurt Busch and World of Outlaws star Steve Kinser.

Each member of the panel votes for six drivers and a total of 23 drivers made it onto the ballots.

Four quarterly winners are chosen before voting for the year's overall winner at the conclusion of the racing season. The award is presented by Speed Channel.

NASCAR testing a new device

NASCAR is testing a device designed to reduce or eliminate dangerous carbon monoxide fumes being inhaled by drivers.

Gary Nelson, NASCAR's managing director of competition, called it a "catalyst system," and said Tuesday that it was used two weeks ago in Martinsville, Va., by Winston Cup champion Tony Stewart during practice and the race.

Stewart was sickened by carbon monoxide fumes on the half-mile oval during a race last fall at Martinsville Speedway, and the Joe Gibbs Racing team volunteered to be the first to test the new system.

"We have a system we have been developing in our laboratory and thought it was time to try it at the track," Nelson said.

Stewart was supposed to try the device only in practice, but

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Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ NBA Playoffs First Round - Conference Quarterfinals Gm 3: Detroit Pistons @ Orlando Magic (live) 0000Z
- ❖ NHL Playoffs Second Round - Conference Semifinals Gm 1: Minnesota Wild @ Vancouver Canucks (live) 0230Z
- ❖ Totally NASCAR (live) 0500Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0600Z
- ❖ NHL Playoffs Second Round - Conference Semifinals Gm 1: Philadelphia Flyers @ Ottawa Senators (tape delayed) 0700
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (tape delayed) 1000Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ Boxing: PPV Monday Night Fights: Multiple Fights (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ 2003 NFL Draft Presented by Coors Light * LIP (live) 1600
- ❖ NHL Playoffs Second Round - Conference Semifinals Gm 2: Anaheim Mighty Ducks @ Dallas Stars (live) 1900Z

Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ PGA: Shell Houston Open: Third Round (tape delayed) 0000Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 0400Z
- ❖ NASCAR Busch Series: CaliforniaSpeedway.com 300 (tape delayed) 0500Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0730Z
- ❖ Boxing: Ballroom Boxing (tape delayed) 0800Z
- ❖ International Tennis Federation Fed Cup: Serena & Venus Williams vs Czech Republic (tape delayed) 1000Z
- ❖ 2003 NFL Draft Presented by Coors Light * JIP (live) 1300Z
- ❖ 2003 NFL Draft Presented by Coors Light (live) 1430Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 1500Z
- ❖ NBA Playoffs First Round - Conference Quarterfinals Gm 4: Dallas Mavericks @ Portland Trail Blazers (live) 1700Z
- ❖ NBA Playoffs First Round - Conference Quarterfinals Gm 4: San Antonio Spurs @ Phoenix Suns (live) 1930Z

"Hurry up mister, other kids wanna' play."



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support

SPORTS, from Page 5

chose to use it in the race as well.

"I felt better than I probably had after any of the Martinsville races I remember," Stewart said. "I still did have a headache after the race was over, which is typical of a Martinsville race, but not nearly as severe as it was in the past."

Stewart said he told Nelson he would like to try the device again in the fall race at Martinsville "to be certain it wasn't just a good day. But I'm somewhat encouraged the filter did its job."

Gibbs is enthusiastic about the development of the device.

"Our biggest problem last year was when Tony got a pretty heavy dose and didn't feel very good," Gibbs said. "They gave him a test and it wasn't to a level where he needed to go to a decompression chamber. But it was fairly substantial."

It is on the tracks under a mile in length where the carbon monoxide problem is the most severe because of the close proximity of the cars during a race.

"We wanted to see if the results we had in the laboratory could be repeated in the car," Nelson said. "This is obviously a big milestone in our study, which is being done by a doctor, one of our engineers and myself."

Nelson, who heads up NASCAR's new research and development facility in Concord, N.C., said the device that Stewart described as a filter "is a catalyst that sits on the floor in the car next to the driver. The system sends (clean) air to the driver's helmet."

Nelson said the new system runs on "the same theory" as catalytic converters used in street cars to diminish pollutants in the exhaust, "but this is a low-temperature catalyst."

2003 NASCAR Winston Cup Series standings

Winston Cup Points

1. Matt Kenseth	1090
2. Kurt Busch	935
3. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	924
4. Michael Waltrip	898
5. Jimmie Johnson	885
6. Jeff Gordon	864
7. Tony Stewart	849
8. Ryan Newman	848
9. Ricky Craven	840
10. Kevin Harvick	802
11. Bobby Labonte	784
12. Ricky Rudd	780
13. Mark Martin	773
14. Rusty Wallace	771
15. Dale Jarrett	752
16. Johnny Benson	748
17. Joe Nemechek	741
18. Jeff Burton	740
19. Robby Gordon	737
20. Elliott Sadler	725

2. Greg Biffle	60
3. Casey Mears	56
4. Jack Sprague	50
5. Tony Raines	45

Manufacturers' Championship

1. Ford	45
2. Chevrolet	37
3. Pontiac	27
4. Dodge	23

Top 10 Owner Points (Car No.) Points

1. Mark Martin	935
2. Georgetta Roush	797
3. Joe Gibbs	788
4. Teresa Earnhardt	786
5. Teresa Earnhardt	749
6. Jeff Gordon	743
7. Calvin Wells II	735
8. Joe Gibbs	732
9. Glen Wood	695
10. Rick Hendrick	694

Money

1. Michael Waltrip	\$1,896,856
2. Kurt Busch	1,584,081
3. Jimmie Johnson	1,134,726
4. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	1,116,568
5. Kevin Harvick	1,083,280
6. Matt Kenseth	995,730
7. Mark Martin	951,318
8. Tony Stewart	944,199
9. Jeff Gordon	897,613
10. Bobby Labonte	892,684

Rookie of the Year Points

1. Jamie McMurray	61
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Point System

Points are awarded from 175 for the winner down to 34 points for 43rd place.

Five bonus points are also awarded to the driver who led the most laps during the race.

Another five points are awarded to each driver who leads at least one lap during the race.

CSAR, from Page 1

justify them being there.

Most of their rescues were Afghans and the members of the Afghan Militia Force.

"It fosters good relations," said O'Neil. "They fight for us and with us. It's our responsibility to help them when they need it."

The unit, which covered all of northern Afghanistan and Manas, has now been moved to Kandahar Air Field to join the 71st ERQS, Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

"It's good and bad that we had nothing to do," said O'Neil. "It meant that no one was in need of immediate medical attention, but it also meant that we had nothing to do and very little training."

K2 was the rest spot for those who were in Kandahar. The 71st ERQS was responsible for the southern part of Afghanistan and is very busy, said Lt. Col. Tom Greetan, 41st ERQS. To keep them well rested they worked a three-week rotation.

Another reason for the consolidation is the shortage of aircraft. Each location had three helicopters – two for missions and one in reserve in case something was wrong with one of

the other two. One helicopter was lost in a crash during a rescue March 23 that killed six members of the team.

"It is such a tragedy," said O'Neil, who was flying the second helicopter. "We are a real family, we live, work and train together. It affected everyone."

It was through the help of "family" that got them through. After the incident, the rest of that night's crew flew to Bagram Air Base.

"The Air Force squadron on Bagram helped us tremendously. They gave us everything we needed and the rest of the base honored those who were killed, and just showed us great support through that. Everyone in the unit really appreciated it," O'Neil said.

Though everyone in the unit knows that this is a risk, it doesn't stop them from doing a dangerous job.

"We are trained to pick up and work in a hot (Landing Zone)," said Greetan. Along with systems that help them at night and through inclement weather, the Pave Hawks are equipped with two crew-served 7.62mm machine guns.

O'Neil said the danger of the job is frightening, but the end results are what keep him flying.

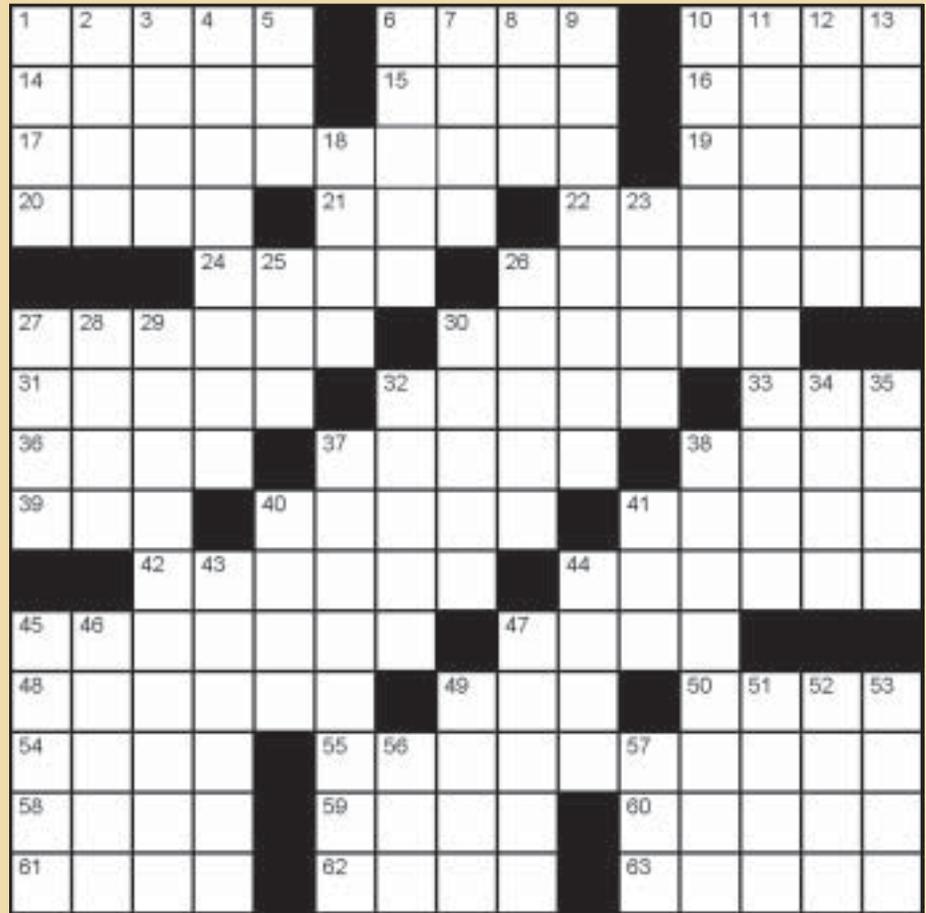
"Saving a life is rewarding," he said. "It makes it all worthwhile."

Take a Stab crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

Across

1. Place for vows
6. Go the distance
10. Counterfeit
14. Pro __ (perfunctory)
15. Cambodia's continent
16. __ breve (2/2 time, in music)
17. Long, crisp munchie
19. Sluggers' stats
20. Crystal ball gazer
21. Part of a royal flush
22. Epoch in which mammals arose
24. Novelist Hunter
26. Decorated the walls, in a way
27. Roof support
30. " __ young man" (Greeley's advice)
31. Ham it up
32. Eliot's Marner
33. Zeus or Thor
36. __ Beach, Florida
37. About to collapse
38. Sheltered inlet
39. Sleek plane
40. Classic toothpaste brand
41. Bridge expert Charles
42. Fielder's stat
44. Like a dirty-tricks campaign
45. Serves, at a restaurant
47. Wander about
48. __ band (variety-show act)
49. Spinning toy
50. Acting too hastily
54. Surrealist painter Joan
55. Tropical viper
58. PC bailout keys
59. Film director Kazan
60. Illinois city
61. Nair rival
62. Pop's Celine
63. Lots and lots



Down

1. Andrews, Langley, etc.: Abbr.
2. Folk history
3. Oak or elm
4. Almond-flavored liqueur
5. "Far out!"
6. Grow dark
7. M __ "mnemonic"
8. " __ 'em, Fido!"
9. Subtract
10. Marx Brothers films, e.g.
11. 2000 also-ran
12. 1988 Oscar winner Kevin
13. Slackened
18. Magi guide
23. Reveals, poetically
25. Two-finger sign
26. Oompah band tune
27. Guns, as an engine
28. Spy Aldrich __
29. City on Florida's Atlantic coast
30. Willie Mays was one
32. '70s teen idol Cassidy
34. Walkie-talkie word
35. Fender ding
37. Overindulged, in a way
38. Snowsuit, e.g.
40. Frank Capra's " __ Wonderful Life"
41. Bush, before becoming pres.
43. Most extreme
44. Deal with difficulty
45. Most Vassar grads
46. Ouzo flavoring
47. Tokyo trasher, in film
49. Crosby, Stills and Nash, e.g.
51. Poker pot primer
52. Flat boat
53. Cacklers
56. Inventor Whitney
57. __ Cruces, New Mexico

Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch