

## ROK Army rebuilds Afghan kindergarten

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – More than a hundred Afghan kindergarteners filed into their newly refurbished classrooms Saturday after nearly three months of renovations conducted by the Republic of Korea Army Engineer Unit and a U.S. Army Facility Engineer Team.

Afghan school officials as well as Korean and U.S. representatives signified the event by holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the school Saturday.

The ROK Army Engineer Unit, the Pa-San Unit, and the Facility Engineer Team 120, an element of the 416th Engineer Command, brought the project together, but it was the civil affairs team who first brought the project to light.

“This project first came to our door through civil affairs,” said Maj. Erwin R. Blancaflor, 416<sup>th</sup> Eng. Com. (FET 120). “They wanted to know what we could do with this kindergarten project.”

Once the responsibilities were allocated between the ROK Army and the FET, the two teams went out to see what kind of condition the school was in. Both teams agreed that it was in pretty bad shape.

“When we first got there, the roof was blown, and the walls were gone,” said



*Korean and U.S. representatives join with Afghan dignitaries to commence the reopening of a Bagram Kindergarten school. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to signify the reopening.*

Blancaflor.

“Also, they didn’t have any grounds for them to play sports, and the roof of the school was actually leaking,” said Lt. Col. In-Hee Lee, commander of the Korean Eng. Unit, the Pa-San Unit. “It was a very horrible situation.”

The headmaster asked Lee if it would hurt for his unit to help them. Lee agreed, but because mission requirements come first, a lot of his soldiers gave up a lot of free time to help out, said Lee.

First, the project funds were gathered through donations. A church group from the United States donated four thousand dollars, and another donation of \$1,000 was contributed through the Koreans for a grand total of \$5,000. That money was used to buy construction material.

Before the construction could be started, a plan had to be formed. “We sat down with the Korean engineers to plan and prioritize,

————— See **REBUILD**, Page 3

## Special Forces kill rebels after attack on Coalition convoy

**KANDAHAR PROVINCE**, Afghanistan – Special Operations Forces killed approximately 22-24 enemy soldiers when an unknown element attacked a coalition convoy in the vicinity of the fire base at Spin Boldak Saturday.

The coalition forces drove through the kill zone, requested close air support and engaged the enemy forces, killing approximately five enemy and pursuing the remaining forces into the surrounding hills.

AH-64 Apaches provided the air support, making several passes on the hill, killing approximately 17-19 more enemy.

There were no coalition casualties. *(Information from CJTF-180 Press Release)*

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Thousands of Shiites protest outside coalition headquarters in Baghdad Saturday.

## 2 soldiers killed in ambush

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Two U.S. soldiers were killed Sunday and another was wounded after being ambushed with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

The attack happened west of Mosul, in northern Iraq. The three soldiers — from the 101st Airborne Division — were brought to a hospital, where two of them died, U.S. military officials said.

Assailants also attacked a convoy of international aid workers near Hilla, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, U.N. spokesman Ahmed Fawzi said. The driver of one vehicle was killed and another aid worker was injured when their vehicle crashed during the attack, Fawzi said.

The two vehicles in the convoy were carrying members of the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration (IOM), he said.

Also Sunday, near Baghdad International Airport, a U.S. military vehicle rolled over, killing one soldier and injuring two others, according to military coalition officials.

Since May 1, when President Bush declared the end of major combat operations, 92 U.S. soldiers have died — 26 in July alone. Thirty-five of the 92 deaths were from hostile fire.

In all, 229 members of the U.S. military been killed in the war with Iraq, 150 of them from hostile fire.

The killings of U.S. soldiers come at a time of growing concern in the United States over the rising death toll and uncertainty about how long American troops will have to stay in Iraq.

## Bush's approval rating sags

**WASHINGTON** — The public has grown increasingly uneasy with President Bush's handling of the economy and the situation in Iraq, a new poll suggests.

Bush's overall job approval dropped 8 points since May to 55 percent, according to a new *CNN-Time* poll.

A majority in this poll, 52 percent, said the president is doing a poor job of handling the economy, and just four in 10 say the U.S.-led military campaign in Iraq has been a success. That's down from 52 percent who felt that way in late March.

Fifty-five percent of Americans said they approved of the way Bush is handling Iraq, according to the poll, compared with 69 percent in May.

The poll of 1,004 adults was conducted Wednesday and Thursday and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The president's slipping poll numbers come as the effort in Iraq has been clouded by a controversy over the intelligence cited by the Bush administration before the war and continuing casualties.



A government soldier waits near the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia Sunday.

## Rebels shell diplomatic area

**MONROVIA, Liberia** — Liberian rebels Sunday night began shelling a Monrovia neighborhood containing several diplomatic compounds and humanitarian groups.

The attack was the latest development in a day of pandemonium in the nation's capi-

tal as rebel forces attempting to oust President Charles Taylor rained heavy mortar fire on the city's center and advanced rapidly through the streets with little resistance from government forces.

Taylor promised to fight on and insisted he would not leave the country until international peacekeepers arrived.

Thousands of Monrovia residents fled their homes, running toward areas they hoped would be safe.

The Pentagon said at the request of U.S. Ambassador John Blaney as many as 41 more troops, probably Marines from a quick-reaction force based in Spain, are being sent to Monrovia to boost security at the embassy.



Wirt County is decked out for Jessica Lynch's homecoming.

## Lynch goes home Tuesday

**ELIZABETH, West Virginia** — Jessica Lynch has never seen her home county look quite like this: bedecked, bow-strewn and virtually weedless.

Then again, Wirt County has never planned a celebration quite like Tuesday's homecoming of Lynch, the 20-year-old Army private who was taken prisoner in Iraq in March, and whose survival and recovery by U.S. forces made her a hero.

Knowing that hundreds of journalists will be descending on this county seat of about 1,000 for Lynch's first public comments about her ordeal, the locals have been painting, pruning and preening for weeks.

Lynch — who is still recuperating from multiple broken bones and other injuries — and family members will be flown to Elizabeth by helicopter from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

## Lunch is served...



Photo by Pfc. Kelly Hunt

*Spc. Ben Beauchemin of Charley Company 3/504th Parachute Infantry Regiment prepares his sandwich Saturday during the first dining facility lunch opening. The lunch hours are 1130-1300L.*

## REBUILD, from Page 1

and they actually took the lead from there,” said Blancaflor.

The Korean engineers fixed the roof, painted the interior and exterior walls of the school and assembled 55 desks and 110 chairs for the children because the children were sitting on the floor, said Blancaflor.

They also graded the area around the school and developed a soccer field for the Afghan children to play sports on.

It took 165 personnel to complete the first phase of the project, which started May 16 and was wrapped up Friday.

The kindergarten is now operational, but the complete project is far from over, said Blancaflor.

Now it is time for the second phase, he said.

The second phase includes fencing in the compound, creating some playgrounds around the compound, expanding the building itself to accommodate as many as 300 students and creating a shed for their firewood.

Currently, the school uses one of the rooms in the school to store the firewood for when they cook, said Blancaflor.

“We’re also going to provide them with a stove to cook on,” said Blancaflor. Right now, they cook outside, but “we renovated one of the rooms so that during the rainy season, the cook doesn’t have to go outside,” he said.

Lee says that although this project adds to his unit’s already busy work load, his unit decided that “if we work a little harder, we’ll be able to help the growing children of Afghanistan by helping the schools here,” he said.

“Hopefully the children here will now work harder to help build a better Afghanistan in the future.”

## Ceremony opens Contracting building

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

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — More than a year ago, the contracting area was nothing other than a mine field, but Sunday, a ribbon cutting ceremony symbolized the official opening of the building and celebrated the relationship built between Bagram Air Field and the Afghan people during construction.

“We felt we needed to give (the building) a grand opening now that it is completed,” said Lt. Col. Stephen Cooper, Director of Bagram Joint Logistics Command Contracting.

“By holding this ceremony) we are going to honor those who serve and who have served in the past for this base.”

The completion of the building shows

how far we have come and how far the Afghan American partnership has grown, said Leo Burris, Department of Defense civilian, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and the first DOD civilian contractor in Afghanistan.

Cooper thanked the local contractors for all they have done adding that they have made great accomplishments in their lives, their families’ lives, to the base and to their country.

Both Afghan contractors and American personnel planted a tree in front of the building to symbolize what can happen if the two teams work together.

“A tree adds life,” said Cooper. “A tree is the symbol of life and as it grows, we grow as a team.”

Cooper encouraged the local contractors



*Shreen Agha, representative for delegates of local contracting, addresses the attendees at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Contracting building.*

to look at this building and think about how far they have come over the past year.

“(The building) has come a long way,” said Burris. “It’s a place that (the locals) can come to do business and a place that the Americans can come to get things that support the mission.”

See **CONTRACT**, Page 4

**CONTRACT**, from Page 3

The new building is also a place where local contractors can take classes in their field of business. "We'll give them a contracting class on how Americans do business and how they can improve their chances of winning a contract," said Burris.

The renovations will help the flow of business, allowing contracting personnel to help more people, said Burris. Additions include a new service center, awnings, sidewalks, interior improvements, added security, painting, gutters and computers.

Cooper presented Air Force Maj. Michael Dombrowski, JLC contracting, contracting officer, with a Certificate of Achievement signed by Col. Kurt McNeely, Base Operations Commander, for the work he has done to the contracting building and to numerous projects for base.

"(It couldn't have been done) without (Maj. Dombrowski's) vision for forecasting what improvements need to be made to make this truly a world class contracting office," said Cooper.

## Rumsfeld, thank employers of Guard and Reserve members

By Linda D. Kozaryn  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** – Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, thanked about 20 of the nation's top business leaders Friday for their support of employees serving in the National Guard and reserves.

Defense officials say employers have become inextricably linked to national security. From 1986 until 2002, the military's use of the nation's 1.4 million Guard and Reserve increased from 800,000 man-days annually to 46.8 million.

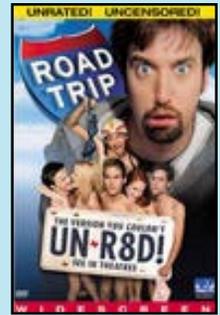
The secretary told the group the military is working on ways to prevent repeat call-ups of reservists with certain skill sets available only in the reserves. Such repeat activations, he said, make it very difficult for service members' employers and families.

# Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building:

"Road Trip." Four friends (Meyer, Qualls, Scott, Costanzo) take off on an 1800 mile road trip to retrieve an illicit tape mistakenly mailed to a girl friend.

Tomorrow's movie was not available at press.



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Dusty H: 102F L: 72F	Mostly clear H: 100F L: 72F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 108F L: 81F	Dusty H: 108F L: 82F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze H: 102F L: 64F	Haze H: 104F L: 64F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 109F L: 69F	Sunny H: 105F L: 67F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

- CJTF-180 Commander — Maj. Gen. John R. Vines
- CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major — Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey
- Public Affairs Officer — Col. Rodney Davis
- Public Affairs Sergeant Major — Sgt. Maj. Harrison Saries

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

- Commander — Maj. Matthew L. Garner
- NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson
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In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of Freedom Watch are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

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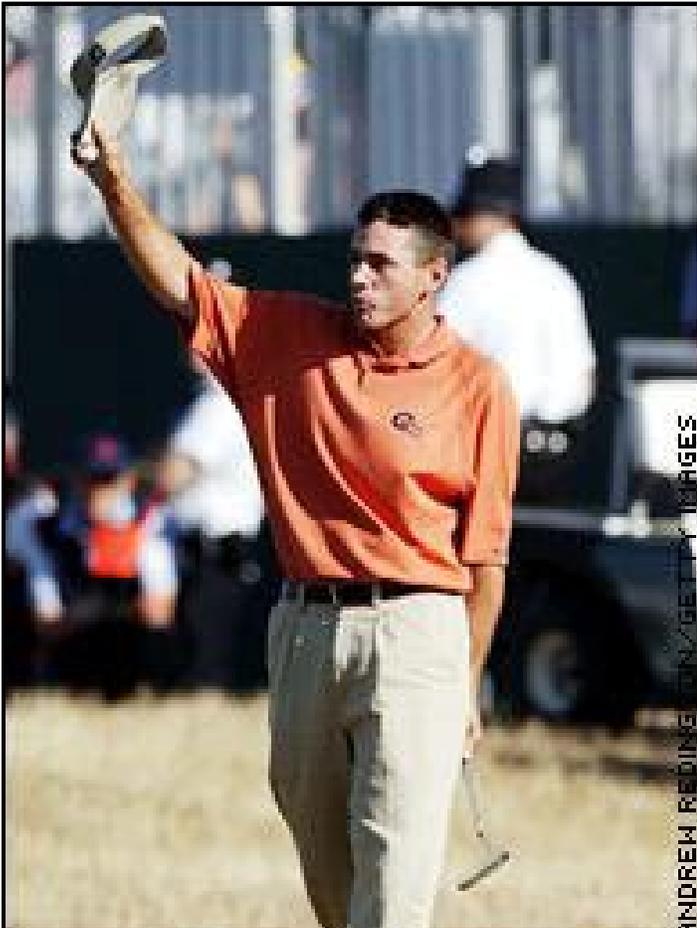
# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

“Major championships are sometimes won out of the blue,” Bjorn said. “This is one ‘won out of the blue’ for sure.”

The Open took a zany turn right from the start when Woods, the world’s most watched player, lost his opening tee shot in the rough.

It ended with a player hardly anyone knew holding the Claret Jug.



*Ben Curtis didn't realize it at the time, but the par putt he made at the 18th hole was the difference.*

## Rookie Ben Curtis left holding the Jug

**SANDWICH, England** — Hardly anyone knew Ben Curtis before the British Open.

He was a PGA Tour rookie who had never cracked the top 10. He was No. 396 in the world ranking and a 500-1 longshot with the British bookies. The first reaction from the local caddie hired on the spot to guide Curtis around Royal St. George’s was, “Ben who?”

Strangely, the answer now is British Open champion.

Surprised?

Not on the most unpredictable links in golf. Not after one of the wackiest weeks in the game’s oldest championship. Not even with Tiger Woods and an All-Star cast in position to restore order.

“Many people are probably saying, ‘Well, he doesn’t really belong there,’” Curtis said. “But I know I do, so that’s all that matters.”

He earned his spot in golfing lore by closing with a 2-under 69, leaving him the only player to break par at 283.

He got plenty of help from Thomas Bjorn, who took three shots to escape a pot bunker, dropped four shots on the final four holes and finished as the hard-luck runner-up with Vijay Singh.



*The win is Johnson's fifth in Winston Cup.*

## Johnson wins NASCAR fuel game

**LOUDON, N.H.** — Jimmie Johnson gambled on fuel and made it. Ditto for points leader Matt Kenseth. Jeff Gordon’s strategy was a disaster, and all the right calls Dale Earnhardt Jr. made meant little to the big picture.

Johnson proved to be an expert fuel strategist Sunday, conserving his gas to win at New Hampshire International Speedway in a race that widened Kenseth’s hold on the Winston Cup points standings.

Johnson stretched his final tank of gas for 93 laps, then carefully conserved the fuel after taking the lead in the New England 300. He had to keep a close eye on his fuel gauge to make sure he had enough to hold off Kevin Harvick at the finish in a battle of Chevrolets.

“I think some strategy played into it at the end with us gambling we had enough gas to finish it,” Johnson said. “After I took the lead, I had to look in my mirror the rest of the way while I conserved fuel and kept an eye on whoever was second. But I was able to ride around and watch my gas and we made it.”

The win was the second of the year for Johnson, fifth of his two-year career and the 400th overall for Chevrolet.

## Armstrong keeps yellow jersey from Ullrich

**LOUDENVIELLE-LE LOURON**, France — Lance Armstrong is starting to consider what once seemed almost unthinkable: losing.

He still leads the Tour de France, but Jan Ullrich is a mere 15 seconds behind — and a new threat emerged Sunday.

Alexandre Vinokourov of Kazakhstan pulled away from Armstrong in the day's last climb in the Pyrenees and trails by only 18 seconds in the overall standings.

Such a tight race is uncharted territory for Armstrong, who is trying to match Miguel Indurain's record of five straight Tour titles.

"It's obvious that I'm not riding as well as I have in the years past. I can't exactly say why," Armstrong said. "I'm still not 100 percent and when you're lacking and when you're missing form, you've just got to rough it."

Vinokourov started the stage 61 seconds back. Now he, Ullrich and Armstrong face a battle of wits and stamina with only six days of racing left before the finish in Paris.

Since three Alpine stages a week ago, Armstrong has complained about his riding and the crushing heat. Instead of his usual self-assurance there's struggle.

"Something's not going right and there's nothing I can do about that now," he said. "All I can do is wake up every morning and do my best. I'm not going to cry and whine. I'm just going to do my best."

Cutting his losses, Armstrong stuck with Ullrich on Sunday. He let Vinokourov power ahead up the 5,158-foot Col de Peyresourde pass, the last of six climbs that made this one of the hardest of four stages in the Pyrenees.

Vinokourov placed sixth in the 119-mile stage, 43 seconds ahead of Armstrong and Ullrich. They finished 11th and 12th, 84 seconds behind stage winner Gilberto Simoni of Italy. Ullrich's overall 15-second deficit to Armstrong did not change.

The three contenders face two more days in the mountains that separate France and Spain and an individual time trial to Nantes on Saturday, the day before the Tour ends.

"I knew it was going to be close," Armstrong said. "I probably didn't expect it to come down to the last few decisive stages — two days in the mountains here ... and then the final time trial."

"If we get to Nantes and I have 15 seconds and I lose by 16, you know it will go down as the closest Tour de France in history and I'll go home and have a cold beer and come back next year," he added.

Monday's stage to Luz-Ardiden has two imposing climbs, and Vinokourov senses he can take the yellow jersey.

"It's still doable," the Team Telekom rider said. "It's always a dream. I believed I would today, but there remains another hard stage tomorrow."

But Armstrong still regards Ullrich, the 1997 Tour winner from Germany and four-time runner-up, as his key rival.

## Clippers making waves in free agent market

**LOS ANGELES** — For years the poster child for the NBA's thrifty, the Clippers shocked the basketball establishment this week by retaining one of their own big-name free agents.

Now they are after someone else's.

On Saturday, after matching Miami's six-year, \$82 million offer and keeping restricted free-agent power forward Elton Brand, the Clippers have made a six-year, \$60 million offer to Golden State point guard Gilbert Arenas, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Sunday.

The Clippers' offer matches Washington's earlier offer for Arenas, a restricted free agent, but he has spoken openly of his desire to stay on the West Coast, giving the Clippers a significant edge.

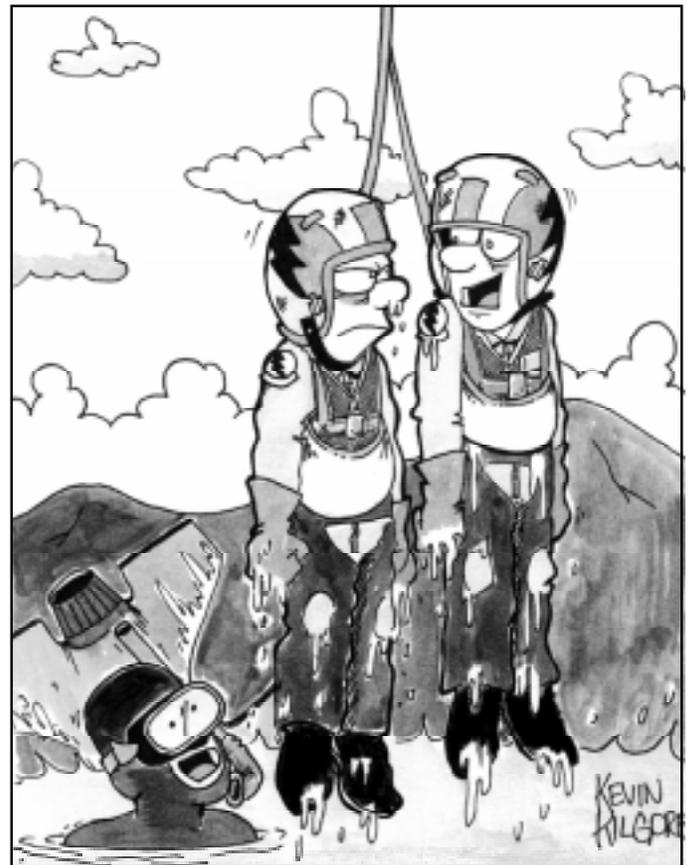
According to the *Times*, the Clippers still expect to match Utah's \$7-million-a-year offer to Corey Maggette and are hoping to extend Lamar Odom for a salary in that range. Los Angeles lost unrestricted free-agent center Michael Olowokandi to Minnesota earlier this week, and has indicated that it will not match Denver's offer to point guard Andre Miller, also a restricted free agent.

With or without Arenas, the Clippers are poised to get something they have never had: a stable nucleus, locked up with multi-year contracts. Finally, there may be some hope in the future for L.A.'s "other" team.



Arenas

*"You shouldn't look at this as a career ending disaster, but more as a new found respect for safety equipment."*



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By Kevin Kilgore

# Laugh Support