

## Military safe house now schoolhouse

Story and photos by  
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11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**KAPISA PROVINCE**, Afghanistan — At one time the foundation was a fighting position for Taliban members. Later on, children sat in the sun to learn, and today it houses a newly refurbished school building for more than 785 students.

In the 2,500-person village of Washikheil in Kapisa province, rests the Washikheil Boys Primary School.

The project was started by the Civil Affairs Team-A from the Army Reserve 450<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Riverdale, Md. in February, said Maj. Mark Cepiel, 450<sup>th</sup> CA Bn.

The team fixed up the once-dilapidated roof, and built a restroom and a 10,000-liter water tank for the school and an inn for teachers who come to teach from far away.



Col. Kurt McNeely, Bagram Air Base commander, delivers a speech during the Washikheil Boys Primary School opening ceremony Monday in Kapisa Province.

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## Provincial Recruiting Offices established

By Maj. Craig Doescher  
CJTF-180 Information Operations

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — The future success of the Afghan National Army depends on recruiting quality volunteers from all ethnic groups in Afghanistan. Until recently, getting the message to the young potential recruits has been a challenge.

As a result of seven recent visits to various cities of Afghanistan by leaders of President Karzai's administration and representatives of the international community and coalition forces, awareness of the new army is rapidly spreading throughout the country. Key to the establishment of a national recruiting system is the opening of National Army Volunteer Centers, or Provincial Recruiting Offices.

The first two NAVCs are now almost ready for operation.

These two offices, one in Jalalabad and the other in Gardez, are scheduled to begin recruiting efforts by the end of July and August

respectively. Four additional offices in Bamian, Kandahar, Konduz and Kabul are scheduled to open later this year. This is a significant and powerful first step in the development of a truly national army. For the first time, a young Afghan can visit an ANA recruiting office, talk to a knowledgeable, professional recruiting officer, get printed materials, watch multi-media videos showing life in the army and voluntarily join the ranks of the ANA should he choose to do so. Further, select offices will be equipped with billeting for the new recruits while they await transport to the Kabul Military Training Center for formal processing and training.

Building an all-volunteer army is a major step in assuring the safety and security of Afghanistan. Not only will NAVCs provide access for all eligible Afghans to join the ANA, but they will also extend the influence of the Afghan government into the provinces. Each of these six offices will, in the future, oversee operations of up to six smaller offices. By the end of this year, each of the 32 provinces will have a fully functional recruiting office.

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*A family member is assisted by police as she arrives at the Lockheed plant on Tuesday.*

## Six dead in Mississippi shooting

**MERIDIAN, Miss.** — A worker armed with a shotgun and a rifle went on a rampage at a Mississippi aircraft plant Tuesday morning, killing five co-workers and wounding eight others before killing himself, authorities said.

Lauderdale County Sheriff Billy Sollie said the gunman was Douglas Williams, 48, a worker at the Lockheed Martin plant on the northeast outskirts of Meridian, about 200 miles north of New Orleans.

He said Williams opened fire during an employee meeting about 10 a.m. Tuesday. A company official said the gathering was a required annual business ethics course.

## Elementary vice principal sought in five deaths

**BAKERSFIELD, Calif.** — Police searched Tuesday for the vice principal of an elementary school as a possible suspect in the shooting deaths of five people, including three children.

The five — including a grandmother and a mother — were found dead in their Bakersfield home Tuesday morning. Police said they apparently had been shot multiple times.

Detective Mary DeGeare said officers were looking for Vincent Brothers, 41, the vice principal at Fremont Elementary School. DeGeare said he is the estranged husband of the younger woman and father of at least two of the dead children, and had periodically lived in the house.

## Bush: Slavery one of history's 'greatest crimes'

**DAKAR, Senegal** — Not far from buildings where Africans were ushered into bondage, President Bush condemned slavery Tuesday as “one of the greatest crimes of history” and said slaves ultimately “helped to set America free.”

On the first day of his five-nation African trip, Bush spoke at a ceremony on Senegal’s infamous Goree Island. From the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, its dark and dank slave jails served as a point of departure for Africans on their so-called “middle passage” across the Atlantic to the Americas.

“One of the largest migrations of history was also one of the greatest crimes of history,” Bush said. “Below the decks, the middle passage was a hot, narrow, sunless nightmare; weeks and months of confinement and abuse and confusion on a strange and lonely sea.”

“The stolen sons and daughters of Africa helped to awaken the conscience of America,” Bush said. “The very people traded into slavery helped to set America free. My nation’s journey toward justice has not been easy and it is not over.”

## Police make arrest in Philadelphia girl's 1987 murder

**PHILADELPHIA** — Sixteen years after a couple awoke to find their 10-year-old daughter raped and murdered in her bed, investigators said a new DNA analysis has tied a former neighbor to the crime.

Police on Tuesday arrested Raymond Sheehan, 38, saying he stole into Heather Coffin’s bedroom while her family slept in the next room and silently strangled her. Sheehan was charged with murder.

The fifth-grader’s 1987 death vexed investigators for years and police had considered dozens of people as suspects — including neighbors, friends and Heather’s parents — before efforts to find the killer ran cold.

## Dems want uranium claim probed

**WASHINGTON** — President Bush’s assertion in his State of the Union address that Iraq tried to buy uranium in Africa — a

claim the White House has since admitted was erroneous — prompted more calls Tuesday from Democrats for an investigation.

An administration official said Bush would not have included the reference in his Jan. 28 speech had his advisers known it was false.

But other U.S. officials said the White House had a report from a former U.S. ambassador a year before the speech that the intelligence was bogus.

Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, ranking Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, said the latest White House statements only reinforce the importance of an inquiry into why the information about the bogus uranium sales didn’t reach the policymakers during 2002.

## Outpouring of grief as twins die

**CNN** — The deaths of two conjoined Iranian twins following unprecedented surgery to separate them has prompted an outpouring of grief around the world.

Ladan Bijani died when her blood circulation failed after the operation to separate the twins’ brains, officials at Singapore’s Raffles Hospital say. Her sister Laleh died when her circulation failed one-and-a-half hours later.

Mourners gathered outside of Raffles Hospital and the sad news spread quickly through the twins’ home country of Iran.

## Abbas offers to quit key Fatah post

**RAMALLAH, West Bank** — Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas offered to resign Tuesday from a key political body after a quarrel over how he is conducting peace negotiations with Israel, a senior Palestinian official said.

The offer to quit the Fatah Central Committee came after Abbas postponed a scheduled meeting Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Palestinian officials said the committee unanimously refused to accept Abbas’ resignation.

The Fatah Central Committee is the leadership group within Fatah, the political organization of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. Abbas fought a power struggle with Arafat before becoming prime minister in April.

# Forecasters summer forecast – anything but cool

By Pfc. Christina Carde  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — One hundred degrees in the daytime dropping to 60 degrees at night, blowing dust, sweltering heat, pouring rain – this time of year, troops don't know what the weather will bring.

Even though there's no way to control the weather, the airmen of the 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group, Combat Weather Team work 12 to 14 hours daily, to give accurate weather predictions and keep troops informed.

"Bagram is a crazy place when it comes to weather," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Raphael, 455<sup>th</sup> EOG. "You have

to be prepared for basically anything because it changes so frequently."

As unpredictable as the weather can sometimes be, there are two weather conditions that will pretty much stay constant throughout the summer and into the fall.

"I'm sure that troops have noticed that it has been pretty dry and hot for the past couple months up until the rainfall we had this past week," said Raphael. "This is the way it will be for the rest of the summer... a few days of scattered thunderstorms and then a dry spell for about two weeks."

The reason for this is due to two different elements simultaneously battling each other.

"Right now we are receiving moisture from India due to their monsoon season which is what is creating the thunderstorms," said Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Asbell, 455<sup>th</sup> EOG. "This in conjunction with the subtropical ridge that causes the dry spells in the summer and creates the imbalance of rain and heat."

Another act of nature that has already started and will last throughout September is the 120 days of wind.

"For the next couple of months, winds will be anywhere from 30 to 40mph and sometimes for more than six to eight hours a day," said Asbell. "The reason for this is due to winds coming from

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The team also brought in chairs and desks so the children can learn comfortably.

"The school was destroyed through the war and lack of maintenance," said Cepiel.

A ceremony for the school opening was held Monday, and included speeches, prayer and a song about education sung by some of the school's students.

"This school is the first of three school openings in Kapisa province this week. If you look at Kapisa and Parwan province, you'll see that most of the construction has been on education. It's critical for the future of Afghanistan," said Col. Kurt McNeely, Bagram Air Base commander during his speech.

"In the Kohistan district, we have 20 schools, with 15,800 students and about 400 teachers. Unfortunately, from the 20 schools, only five have been rebuilt," said Mcneely.

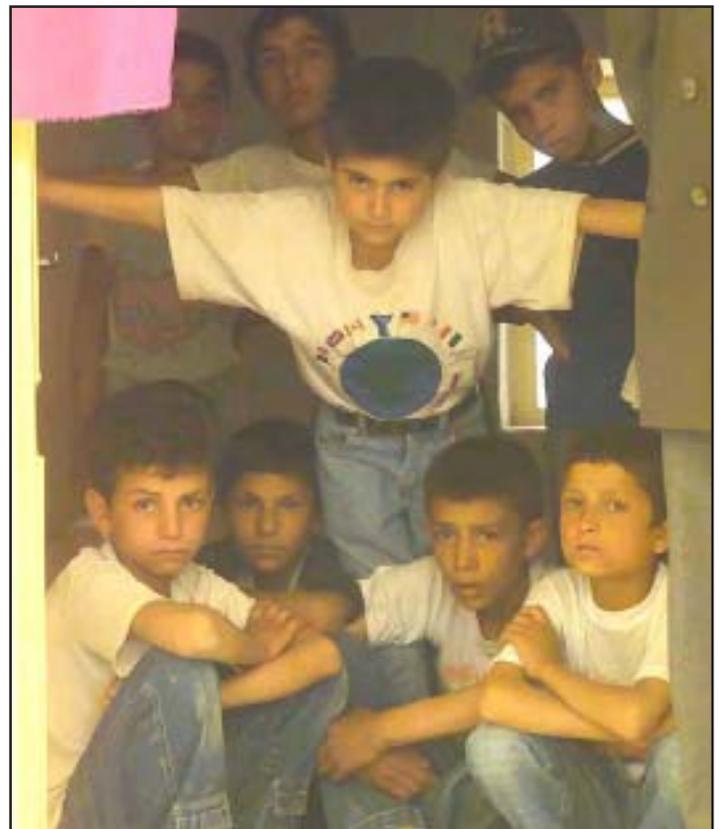
Education for Afghans will get the commerce up and running, said McNeely. "But the future sits in this audience and in these classrooms. Like I've said many times before, coalition forces in Afghanistan are critical for the rebuilding of Afghanistan. But most important for reconstruction of Afghanistan is Afghans."

"Before our students were sitting in the shade of the trees and in the sun, but now we have a school and we're sitting under the roof. We should save it forever," said Abad Razaq, the deputy for Kapisa's minister of education.

The governor of Kapisa province, Dr. Haqbin, also made a speech during the ceremony.

"I congratulate the U.S. in their celebration of independence," said Haqbin.

"One difference between Afghanistan and the U.S. is that they got their independence and kept it ever since. We got our independence but it was taken away when the Russians attacked us. Then



*Washikheil Boys Primary School students listen to their new school's opening ceremony Monday in Kapisa province.*

we defeated them. Then the Taliban captured Afghanistan, but with the help of the coalition forces, we defeated terrorism. I thank the civil affairs teams and coalition forces from Bagram for paying attention to the reconstruction of the school. They did many projects ... The roof of the school was down, but the CA team raised it. We appreciate that," said the governor.

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Northern Afghanistan and other countries in the North that filter down through the mountain canyons into the basin which is Bagram.

The gust behind the winds is fueled by the pressure forcing the winds through the small crevices in the canyons causing the wind-speed to increase by the time it reaches us."

Another change in the weather is the drop from the 100-degree weather in the daytime to 30 to 40 degrees cooler at night.

"Sand has a high thermal response meaning it absorbs heat and radiates faster when the sun is beating on it. This is the reason for the extreme temperature during the day," said Asbell.

"When the sun goes down, the sand is much cooler and doesn't give off the same radiation which is why the temperature is cooler," he added.

With all of the different changes in the weather from day to day, troops need to stay healthy and hydrated to be ready for any weather condition.

"Physical fitness plays a part in how the body reacts to temperature changes," said Raphael.

"Someone who isn't fit won't be able to regulate their body temperature very well and is more susceptible to heat stress than someone who is in shape," Raphael said.

"Also apply substantial amounts of lotion and chap stick," Raphael added. "The humidity our here is very low if any at all and moisturizers will keep chafing and cracking to a minimum."

In addition to being fit and keeping moisturizes handy, being ready for any weather condition is also important.

"Drinking plenty of water and using sunglasses and sun block will help protect against the heat," said Asbell. "At the same time, troops should keep a Gortex (jacket) or rain gear available just in case it rains or the temperature changes. Out here you never know what's going to happen."

# Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Legends of the Fall." Epic tale of three brothers and their father living in the remote wilderness of 1900s USA and how their lives are affected by nature, history, war, and love.



Tomorrow's movie will be "The Program."

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Thursday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Haze H: 97F L: 64F	Haze H: 97F L: 68F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dust H: 106F L: 79F	Dust H: 104F L: 77F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze H: 90F L: 61F	Haze H: 91F L: 64F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 103F L: 65F	Partly cloudy H: 104F L: 65F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



*James showed his all-around game Tuesday vs. the Magic.*

## James lives up to hype in win against Magic

ORLANDO, Fla. — With equal parts flash and fundamentals, LeBron James was a thrill to watch Tuesday night in his pro basketball debut.

Before a huge crowd that waited several hours to get in to see him play, James had 14 points, seven rebounds and six assists as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Orlando Magic 107-80 in the NBA summer league.

Playing 23 minutes in a 40-minute game, James was five for 11 — despite missing three 3-point tries — from the floor and converted all four of his free throws. He had three turnovers while running Cleveland's offense.

James' game showed little rust although it was his first competition since late March, when he led St. Vincent-St. Mary's High School to its third Ohio state championship of his prep career. A little more than three months later, the 18-year-old James is worth about \$100 million, thanks to endorsement deals and, to a far lesser extent, his NBA contract.

## At long last, Cruz finds McCovey Cove

SAN FRANCISCO — Since Jose Cruz Jr. joined the San Francisco Giants, he's wanted to hit a home run into McCovey Cove.

He considers it a meaningless feat, really — but when he did it Tuesday, it felt good.

Cruz homered and drove in four runs and Jim Brower pitched 4 1-3 strong innings in relief of injured starter Kirk Rueter as the Giants defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 8-3 on Tuesday.

"That was a thrill," Cruz said. "It's been my goal for this year to get one. To do it, you have to crush the ball. It's just a neat thing to do, like hitting one into the upper deck at Yankee Stadium."

## Payton to 'follow dream' with Lakers

ESPN — Gary Payton, in the words of his longtime agent Aaron Goodwin, has decided to "follow his dream."

The dream, in this case, is winning a championship, and Payton wants to chase that dream in Los Angeles alongside Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant.

Goodwin told ESPN's David Aldridge on Tuesday afternoon that Payton has elected to sign a free-agent contract with the Los Angeles Lakers Wednesday, despite L.A.'s financial limitations.

As a team well over the NBA's salary cap, which is expected to fall between \$40-42 million for next season, the Lakers are limited to offering Payton a starting salary of \$4.9 million next season. It is believed Payton, who turns 35 on July 23, will sign a multiyear deal with the dethroned champions, who received word of Payton's plans just two days after the franchise and its fans were rocked by sexual-assault allegations against Bryant.



*Payton is expected to sign with the Lakers on Wednesday.*

## Hasek to play for Red Wings next season

DETROIT — The return of two-time league MVP Dominik Hasek gives the Red Wings a unique problem: too many top-notch goaltenders.

The 38-year-old Hasek, who led Detroit to a Stanley Cup title a year ago, announced Tuesday he plans to come out of retirement to rejoin the Red Wings.

"My batteries are recharged, and I have the fire for competing for the Cup again," he said during a conference call.

The Red Wings late last month exercised an \$8 million option on Hasek, who lives in the Czech Republic. It wasn't clear until Tuesday whether he would play this season.

Hasek's re-emergence in Detroit means the Wings have a glut of quality goaltenders, including two set to earn \$8 million each this season.

Likely to be traded is Curtis Joseph, signed last summer to a three-year, \$24 million deal as a free agent to replace Hasek. He first

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would need to waive a no-trade clause in his contract.

“Ideally, as quickly as possible, I’d like to get a goaltender moved,” general manager Ken Holland said Tuesday. “We’re going to have to be creative with some other teams to try to put something together.”

### Woman accuses Bryant of sexual misconduct

**EAGLE, Colo.** — The sexual assault allegations against Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant were made by a 19-year-old Colorado woman, authorities said Tuesday.

Eagle County Sheriff Joe Hoy confirmed the woman’s age but refused to discuss other details of the case. He said the alleged victim has left on vacation with her family.

“She’s a local girl,” Hoy said.

Hoy also said investigators have sent unspecified evidence to the state Bureau of Investigation for analysis, but refused to discuss other details of the case. A bureau official would only say the work has begun.

Prosecutors Monday said they needed more time before deciding whether to bring charges against Bryant, 24, who is accused of assaulting the woman at a resort near Vail last week.

### Skins Game organizers deciding on whether to invite Annika

**NORTH PLAINS, Ore.** — Annika Sorenstam is done playing on the PGA Tour, but Colonial might not be her last chance to play against the men.

Organizers of the Skins Game are trying to decide whether to offer Sorenstam a sponsor’s exemption into the original silly-season event, which is moving to the Trilogy at La Quinta in the California desert. It will be played Nov. 29-30.

“I haven’t had any talks about it, but I would do a special event, something like that,” Sorenstam said last week at Pumpkin Ridge.

Offered an exemption, would she say yes?

“I would be flattered,” Sorenstam said. “I would consider it, because it’s not a PGA event, and I won’t do another PGA event. But a special event like this is different.”

### Yanks play it safe with star infielders

**CLEVELAND** — The New York Yankees were without their starting middle infield for Tuesday night’s game against the Cleveland Indians as Derek Jeter and Alfonso Soriano were sidelined with hand injuries.

The pair were hit with pitches by Boston’s Pedro Martinez on Monday, and the Yankees decided to take the safe route to recovery.

Jeter, who was hit on the right hand, took one round of batting practice when manager Joe Torre decided he had seen enough and gave his shortstop the night off.

Soriano had tested his left hand earlier, and the All-Star was

benched because he couldn’t grip a bat.

### No Final Four re-seeding; top teams separated in draw

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Stopping well short of re-seeding the Final Four, the NCAA Tournament selection committee will attempt to match the country’s top-seeded teams in the national title game, starting in 2004.

Under the new setup, the national semifinals will no longer be predetermined as in years past. Instead, the committee will wait until Selection Sunday to match up the four regional brackets.

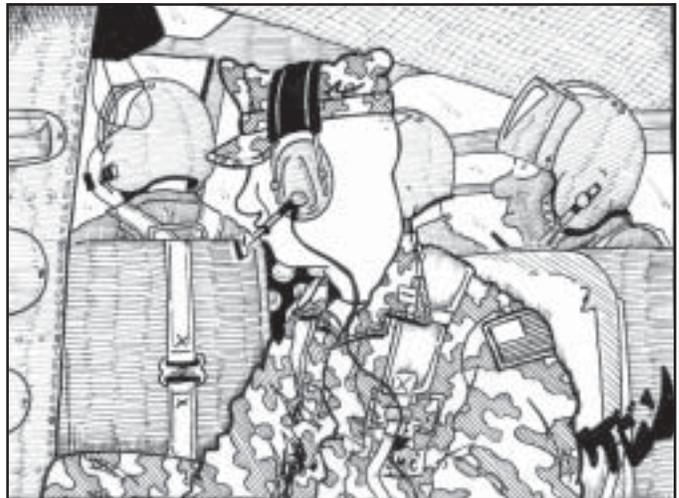
The committee wants to create added suspense when the 65-team field is announced. The top two teams — as decided by the committee on Selection Sunday — will be placed on opposite sides of the bracket. As a result, the archaic yearly rotation of the regional matchups will end.

The selection committee also decided two weeks ago to drop directional labels to each regional. Instead, the regions will carry the names of the four regional final sites. In 2004, those will be Atlanta, St. Louis, Phoenix and East Rutherford, N.J.

There is no functional change to the 65-team bracket once the seeding and first-round pairings are announced on Selection Sunday. But, prior to Selection Sunday, the 65-team bracket that appears in national magazines and on Web sites will be blank, with no sites attached or predetermined pairings.

If this new method of seeding were applied to the 2003 NCAA Tournament, Kentucky and Arizona would have been slotted on opposite sides of the bracket instead of being matched up in a potential national semifinal. Both Arizona and Kentucky lost in the Elite Eight, but the committee still took heat for placing its top two seeds on the same side of the national semifinals.

**“Take us around one more time, I’m trying to max out my frequent-flier miles.”**



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By Kevin Kilgore

*Laugh Support*