

## 805<sup>th</sup> Military Police head to Bagram

Story by Staff Sgt. Cynthia A. Hernandez  
211 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**KABUL**, Afghanistan – Proactive, professional, exemplary and effective, are terms personnel at the Kabul Compound use to describe the members of the 805<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company out of Raleigh, N.C. The unit was activated July 7 and mobilized to Fort Bragg July 10, where they began their combat support training.

The 805th consists of members from Raleigh as well as augmentees cross-leveled from the 414<sup>th</sup> MP Co., Joplin, Mo. and the 724<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Earlier this year, some members of the 805<sup>th</sup> deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The MP's arrived in Afghanistan the beginning of August and a platoon set up shop at the Kabul Compound where their primary mission was force protection. This consisted of base security for the compound and escort security for officials traveling outside the compound. But now their mission will move to Bagram Air Base where they will join the rest of their company.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy M. Williams

*Platoon Sergeant Sgt. 1st Class Todd W. Blythe (right) and Cpl. John S. Worley of the 805<sup>th</sup> MP Co. stop a vehicle for inspection at the Kabul Compound.*

“We enjoyed the opportunity to conduct real world missions such as escort security for the secretary of defense and senators such as John McCain. Hopefully we will continue to conduct equally challenging missions in Bagram,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Todd W. Blythe, platoon sergeant. Blythe’s main job

was to ensure his troops were properly trained, equipped and capable of performing the mission.

The platoon assigned to Kabul provided security on observation points located

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## Comedians give soldiers relief from daily grind

Story and photo by Spc. Wes Landrum  
Coalition Joint Task Force 180

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – They came from all over the United States. Los Angeles, Chicago, New York to name a few. Their mission was simple: to provide relief with laughter. But for the men of the Comics on Duty, it was more than just doing a job.

The comics, Kevin Jordan, Steve Mazan, Mike Burton, Steve Eblin and Don Barnhart Jr., left the U.S. Sept. 4 to begin a seven-nation tour that will end Sept. 25. The tour

included stops in Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Qatar and Africa. They performed at Bagram Thursday night as part of the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> activities. Jordan said the tour started from humble roots.

“Comics on Duty was started 11 years ago by Rich Davis,” he said. “It was a way to entertain the troops.”

Jordan said the tour began on domestic installations for the first 10 years. Just recently, the tour branched out into the international field.

“We have been traveling abroad now for over two years,” Jordan said.

Barnhart has been doing shows for Comics on Duty for more than 10 years. He said Davis, after leaving the USO, wanted to tour more bases and get more entertainment to the soldiers.

“Rich knew a lot of the soldiers were getting overlooked by the USO (Uniformed Service Organization),” Barnhart said. “He knew the soldiers needed a reminder from home.”

He added that Comics on Duty was not in it for the publicity like most celebrities who do USO shows are.

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. soldiers from the 101st Airborne prepare to break into a house during raids in Mosul Sunday.

## Powell says U.S. are not occupiers in Iraq Sunday

BAGHDAD, Iraq – U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on Sunday said U.S. forces are not occupiers but liberators, shortly after the military said another American soldier had died in an attack on a U.S. convoy.

“We are not occupiers,” Powell told a Baghdad news conference. “We have come under a legal term having to do with occupation under international law, but we came as liberators.”

“We have liberated a number of countries, and we do not own one square foot of any of those countries, except where we bury our dead,” Powell said on his first visit to Baghdad.

The secretary spoke just hours after an improvised explosive device ripped through an 82nd Airborne Division convoy west of Baghdad in Fallujah early Sunday, killing one soldier and wounding three others, according to the Coalition Press Information Center.

Powell told *CNN*’s “Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer” on Sunday that Iraq remains “a little unstable in the central part of the country, but we knew it would be difficult.”

Fallujah is about 43 miles (70 km) west of the Iraqi capital, in a region where many residents are Saddam Hussein and Baath Party loyalists.

With Sunday’s attack, 294 U.S. troops have died since the Iraq war began in March — 188 from hostile fire. Of those, 155 have died since May 1, when President Bush declared an end to major combat operations — 73 from hostile fire.

Just a day earlier in Fallujah, angry demonstrators — many of them armed — had crowded the streets protesting the deaths Friday of nine Iraqi security personnel. Their deaths were blamed on an accidental friendly fire incident by U.S. forces.



Yasser Arafat gestures to supporters packed into his compound in Ramallah on Sunday.

## Israeli official says killing Arafat is option Sunday

RAMALLAH, West Bank – Israel’s vice prime minister said Sunday that killing Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is an option.

“From a fundamental, moral point of view, I want to put this question to every man of conscience,” Vice Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told *CNN*. “How many more civilians must be killed ... before someone will come and say, ‘Hey, let’s stop the man who has been responsible for all of this?’ “

The Israeli Security Cabinet decided in principle last week to remove Arafat, calling him an obstacle to peace, but provided no specifics about how that would be accomplished.

Reacting to Olmert’s comments, Palestinian minister Saeb Erakat told *CNN Radio* that the Israeli government was behaving “like gangsters.”

“Nation-states should not act in the way of blackmail, extortion, assassinations ... nation-states must adhere to the rule of law,” he said. “I believe [what] the Israeli government is doing now is not the action of nations anymore, it’s like gangsters.”

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell cautioned against killing or exiling Arafat.

“We think it would create a great deal of difficulty in the region. You’re just putting

him on another stage somewhere else,” Powell said on *CNN*’s “Late Edition.”

“What we really need to see is for the new prime minister ... to make sure he gets the political authority he needs from the Palestinian Council and Mr. Arafat,” Powell said.



Davis and Clinton speak to reporters after appearing together Sunday in Los Angeles.

## Against recall: Clinton stumps for Davis Sunday

LOS ANGELES – Former President Bill Clinton campaigned for California Gov. Gray Davis at a Los Angeles church Sunday, warning that recalling the embattled governor would “create a circumstance where nobody ever makes a hard decision again.”

Clinton said he got a chuckle out of early news coverage of the recall, when 135 people signed up as candidates to replace Davis if a majority of Californians vote to remove him.

But “it’s not funny anymore,” he told parishioners at the First AME Church in South Central Los Angeles.

“I don’t want you to become a laughingstock, a carnival or the beginning of a circus in America where we just throw people out whenever they make a tough decision,” Clinton said.

Cecil Murray, pastor of the church, is a prominent recall opponent. He urged his parishioners to vote to keep Davis in office.

“We are his posse,” he told them.

Clinton is the most prominent of several high-profile Democrats who have agreed to campaign for Davis this week, among them former Vice President Al Gore and two presidential candidates, Sens. Bob Graham of Florida and John Kerry of Massachusetts.

# PRT inspires growth in Gardez area communities

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

**GARDEZ**, Afghanistan – Making a difference in Afghanistan requires teamwork, diligence, commitment and a strong desire to be part of the community. The soldiers of the Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team understand those values and are implementing them during their rebuilding and stabilizing efforts.

Their mission is to support the rising of the local government and help rebuild the surrounding communities; one school, one road, one bridge and one relationship at a time.

The PRT is in the area to “provide responsive access to resources to impact security, education, economy, agriculture and infrastructure issues,” said Lt. Col. Anthony Hunter, Gardez PRT commander, 321<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion.

We act as a “stability force in the area (and) by our presence, I think we have (encouraged) the Afghan National Army to take over that role more and more,” said Capt. Brad Domy, Gardez PRT Engineer.

The hope is to “access and improve the security environment to attract (non-government organizations) involvement,” said

Hunter.

NGO involvement would greatly improve the chances of rebuilding the area and developing a future for the people of the area, but to attract NGO’s to Afghanistan requires the commitment of both the coalition forces and the local population to provide a secure place for rebuilding teams to come to.

“This is a cooperation effort between the Afghan government and the U.S. government,” said Domy.

Working side by side with local nationals is the only way to nurse Afghanistan back to health and soldiers from Civil Affairs Teams 12 and 13 and the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division have embraced the concept knowing that rebuilding the area is a task that can only be completed through joint effort.

“It’s a good concept and a good experience,” said Sgt. John Bodey, Combined Joint Civilian Military Operations Task Force, Gardez PRT. “We do a lot of work for the local people, (and) it helps them out.”

CA team projects usually stay in the realm of clinics, wells and schools, said Domy.

“Schools and wells are primarily the big ones because they’re the ones that have the most impact right now.”

Education is crucial to the development of the nation and CA Team members are

making the effort to refurbish schools throughout the area.

“One of the criteria that we have is that if we build a school or refurbish a school, they will make it available to girls,” said Domy. “That’s why it’s important that we do this.”

The PRT has helped 39 schools to be built in the area as of August, said Hunter

In addition to the completed school projects, PRT personnel have instigated the development of eight clinics, three bridge and several other projects bringing the number to a total for this team to 72, said Hunter.

Of the 72 projected projects, 24 have been completed thus far, he added.

Despite all the accomplishments the soldiers have made they still strive for more, trying to discover ways to reach out to the farthest points of their jurisdiction.

“We cover a five province area, and getting to every project is a challenge,” said Domy. “The hardest ones are the ones so far away that I can’t get to them, (but) I think we’re making some head way.”

It’s great to be able to help them experience things that we sometimes take for granted, (and) it’s rewarding to see the changes you help make, especially when you get a smile from one of the children, said Bodey.

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throughout the compound. They worked in conjunction with the Provost Marshall Office as well as the S2 Intelligence Office for force protection.

“The MP’s did a very good job here. They learned their job quickly and did it effectively,” said Capt. Andrew J. Barrow, the PMO in charge of base operations known as “Keystone Base”.

Barrow also said the one significant thing that stood out about the 805<sup>th</sup> was their flexibility. “Their platoon duties were constantly changing and additional duties were added in comparison with the previous MP unit. Yet they never complained,” he said.

Their main focus lies on securing the site and its residents. The 805<sup>th</sup> MP were vital in performing this task and performed it effectively during their stay at Kabul. The training and mission will remain basically the same with a few added changes. “The job is going to remain the same for the new platoon, but we’re going through a transition of a lot more emphasis on force protection. The force protection drills that we are going to be

having in the next few months, is going to be markedly more than in the preceding months,” said Kabul Compound Command Sgt. Maj. Terrence C. Werley.

Werley also stressed on how exemplary the 805<sup>th</sup> and some of its members performed during their short stay. “The most significant thing I found was their professionalism and the ‘can do attitude’ of all the soldiers of the 805<sup>th</sup>,” he said. “I was very impressed with their Platoon Leader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Nicholai Birch and Platoon Sergeant Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Blyth. I received nothing but cooperation from them on anything that I asked and they were very cooperative in all their dealings with the garrison command.”

On the second anniversary of 9-11 the significance of force protection and security exercises were tested at local International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) compounds and Bagram Air Base. Birch and his platoon alerted everyone on the compound with assistance from the 290<sup>th</sup> MP platoon. “Thankfully another MP platoon was here and able to assist in the base defense plan,” said Birch.

The 805<sup>th</sup> will continue its mission and provide security with the same professionalism that they exhibited here through the completion of their tour.

**COMEDIANS**, from Page 1

“When I was over in Bosnia doing a show,” Barnhart said. “We had a celebrity refuse to come over because she was not staying in a five-star hotel once we got there.”

The comics performed Friday even though there was no show scheduled.

“We heard that the soldiers in Kabul hadn’t had entertainment in a while,” said Burton. “We went down there and did a show for them because they deserved it.”

“We had a choice, stay up here and have a day off or put on flack vests, brave the roads to Kabul, and do a show,” said Barnhart. “Without hesitating, we said ‘when do we leave for Kabul.’”

On Saturday, the comics were back entertaining soldiers as they performed for the Quick Reactionary Force in the afternoon and for Camp Vance that night.

All total, the guys did four shows on their Afghanistan tour.

As he finished his routine Saturday night, Steve Eblin summed up the tour in three sentences.

“We don’t do this for the money,” he told the crowd Saturday night.

“We do this because this is our way of saying thank you for all that you do in keeping us safe and allowing me to be doing comedy. You are all heroes. God bless everyone of you and come home safe.”

“We do this because this is our way of saying thank you for all that you do in keeping us safe and allowing me to be doing comedy. You are all heroes. God bless everyone of you and come home safe.”



*Comedian Don Barnhart Jr. performs for soldiers at Camp Vance Saturday night. Barnhart is part of the Comics on Duty entertaining troops on a seven-nation tour.*

# Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Triple X.” Xander Cage is an extreme sports athlete recruited by the government on a special mission to gather information on an organization that may just be planning the destruction of the world.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “Switch Back.”

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Mostly clear H: 90F L: 63F	Partly cloudy H: 90F L: 59F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 100F L: 64F	Dusty H: 100F L: 64F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze H: 90F L: 59F	Haze H: 90F L: 57F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Clear H: 85F L: 54F	Clear H: 86F L: 55F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Poll position, Ohio State drops again

**NEW YORK** – Another close call dropped Ohio State even further in *The Associated Press* college football poll. The defending national champion Buckeyes fell two spots to No. 5 in the poll released Sunday following their second straight close call, a 44-38 triple-overtime win over North Carolina State.



*Michigan moves up in the polls after a blowout against Notre Dame Saturday.*

Ohio State, which has the nation's longest winning streak at 17 games, fell one spot last week after edging San Diego State 16-13.

Oklahoma and Miami remained in the top two spots in balloting by the panel of sports writers and broadcasters. The Sooners, who have been No. 1 all season, received 50 of the 65 first-place votes and 1,601 points. The Hurricanes got three firsts and 1,508 points.

Michigan, which got four firsts, moved up two spots to No. 3 — matching its highest ranking since winning a share of the national title in 1997 — following a 38-0 win over Notre Dame, the most lopsided ever in the storied rivalry. The Irish fell from 15th to out of the poll.

Southern Cal remained fourth with two firsts, and Ohio State is fifth with the remaining six top votes.

The top five in the Coaches poll was Oklahoma, Miami, Southern Cal, Ohio State and Michigan. Kansas State, Georgia, Virginia Tech, Pittsburgh and Florida State round out the AP Top 10.

## Williams' sister fatally shot in L.A. suburb

**COMPTON, Calif.** – An older half-sister of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams was shot to death Sunday following a dispute in suburban Los Angeles, authorities said.

Yetunde Price, 31, was with a man in a sport utility vehicle shortly after midnight and "somehow they had become involved in a confrontation with the local residents," said Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Richard Pena.

Sheriff's deputies searching for three people believed to be involved in the shooting surrounded a house in Compton at about 6 a.m., but it turned out to be empty. No arrests had been made.

Members of the Williams family were en route to California. Serena has been in Toronto to film a guest role in a cable TV drama series, and Venus was flying from New York.

Price was shot in the upper torso. Deputies on patrol heard the gunshots and found Price, who was later pronounced dead at a hospital.



*Reggie Howard blocks the Bucs extra-point attempt in regulation to send the game into overtime Sunday.*

## Block party: Bucs lose to Panthers 12-9

**TAMPA, Fla.** – With Tampa Bay lining up to kick an extra point with no time on the clock, the Carolina Panthers easily could have hung their heads and accepted defeat.

The Buccaneers knew they wouldn't.

"It's never over. We fight to the end," Carolina defensive tackle Brentson Buckner said after Kris Jenkins blocked what would have been a game-winning conversion by Martin Gramatica. That set the stage for the Panthers to beat the Super Bowl champions 12-9 in overtime Sunday.

"We knew they had to go out and make the extra point. We blocked two kicks prior to that, so we thought: 'Hey, we've got a chance.' ... By the grace of God we blocked it."

John Kasay's fourth field goal, a 47-yarder with 3:28 remaining in the extra period, capped a wild final few minutes.

The Bucs had tied it with no time left in regulation on Keenan McCardell's 6-yard reception. Considering Gramatica never missed an extra point in his career (129 attempts), the conversion seemed a formality.

Jenkins had other ideas.

"I went in and blocked it. I don't think it was rocket science or anything," said Jenkins, who also knocked down a 38-yard field goal try in the second quarter. "It was now or never. We didn't have a choice. Somebody had to get it."

Stephen Davis rushed for 142 yards and Kasay also kicked field goals of 28, 35 and 20 yards for Carolina (2-0), which set up Kasay's game-winner with Steve Smith's 52-yard punt return to the Tampa Bay 40.

Last week, the Panthers also blocked a punt for a safety and blocked a 55-yard field goal attempt to save a 24-23 win over Jacksonville.

Six days after opening the season with a dominating 17-0 victory over Philadelphia in a rematch of last season's NFC championship game, the Bucs (1-1) looked flat. They self-destructed with frequent mistakes, including 17 penalties for 168 yards.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## US, Afghan forces seize explosives, unearth caves

*(Associated Press)* – US-led coalition forces claimed success on Saturday in an operation aimed at rooting out Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgents in southeastern Afghanistan, saying they had captured tons of explosives and unearthed secret caves.

Col Rodney Davis, the US military spokesman in Afghanistan, said Operation Warrior Sweep, which began July 20, was completed this week. It included counter-insurgency actions along a key highway between the southeastern towns of Khost and Gardez and in the rugged Shai Kowt mountains and Gayan Valley, he said.

Forces comprised of US, Italian and Romanian soldiers and Afghan military discovered several secret caves and caches “containing more than 20,000 pieces of ordnance used by rebels,” Davis said.

“Coalition ordnance disposal experts destroyed more than 31,800 kilograms of explosive ordnance, and ammunition that could be reused was collected and given to the Afghan National Army,” he said in a statement from Bagram Air Base, the coalition’s headquarters north of the capital, Kabul.

Guerrillas of the former ruling Taliban and Al-Qaeda have stepped up attacks against Afghan soldiers, government officials and humanitarian workers in recent months in the east and south, the heartland of the hardline Islamic regime, before its ouster by US-led forces in late 2001.

More than 100 Taliban were killed earlier this month in the Dai Chupan mountains, the scene of nine days of heavy ground fighting and bombing in southern Zabul province, dubbed Operation Mountain Viper. That operation is still in progress, although the heavy fighting has apparently subsided.

## Shortfall in aid to rebuild Afghanistan reported

**UNITED NATIONS** *(New York Times)* – The leader of the Afghan government’s reconstruction effort said that existing pledges of international aid amounted to barely one-third of the \$15 billion his government believes it needs to bring basic services to the country.

A budget shortfall could delay elections scheduled for June, he said.

The official, Haneef Atmar, Afghanistan’s minister for rural rehabilitation and development, called for a new donors’ conference early in 2004, two years after the original conference in Tokyo, which produced pledges of \$4.5 billion — later increased to \$5.2 billion — to repair the damage done by more than two decades of war.

“This will be the best opportunity to measure donors’ real commitment to Afghanistan,” he said in an interview Friday in the offices of the U.N. Development Program.

## Holiday greetings taping scheduled at Bagram

The Army and Air Force Hometown News service will be at Bagram Air Base taping holiday greetings this week. The greetings are open to all U.S. service members.

The taping will began Sept. 15. Dates and times are subject to change.

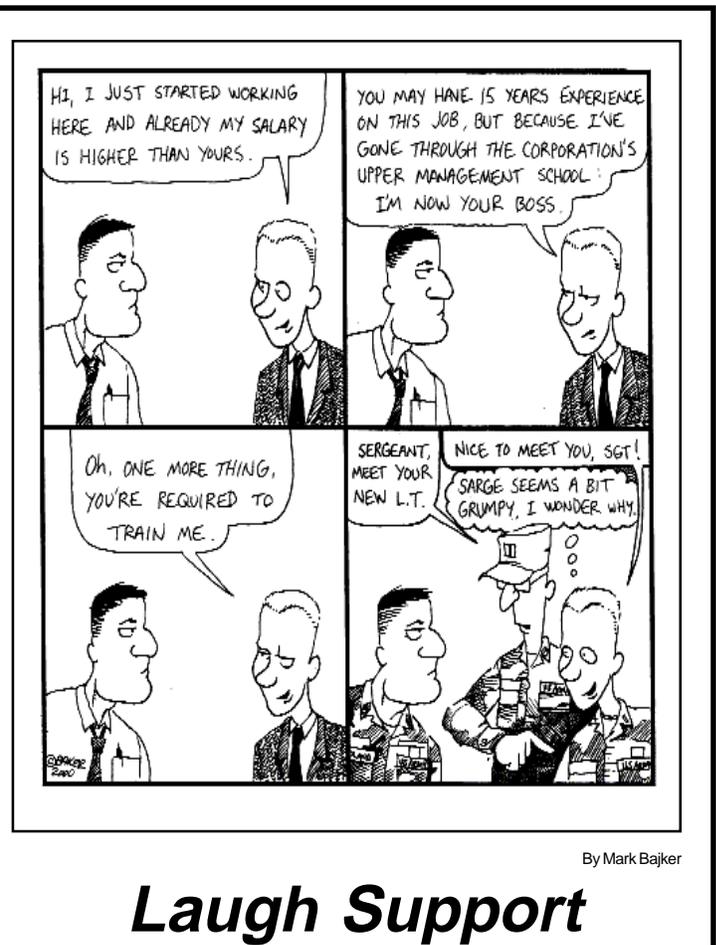
Sept. 15 at the Post/Base Exchange 1230-2030 L.

Sept. 16 at the Air Force Compound 0830-1330L and Viper DFAC 1630-2030L.

Sept. 17 at the Dragon DFAC 0730-1130 L. Viper DFAC 1230-1630 L.

All service members are encouraged to show up and tape holiday greetings for family member and friends back home.

The news service personnel will be available to answer any questions and concerns.



**Laugh Support**