

Korean medical group offers healing hand

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

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Every morning more than a hundred Afghans, male and female, young and old, line up in front of the gate that separates the medical facility from the local village and patiently wait as the small Korean-lead medical staff works diligently to improve the local Afghans' quality of life, one patient at a time.

The Republic of Korea Medical Group "Dong-yi," named after a medical book written by famous Korean doctor Hu-jun who gave up his wealth and fame to commit his life to medical aid, has been at the forefront of providing desperately needed medical attention to Afghans in the Bagram at the Korean Medical Facility for the past 19 months.

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Capt. Junyoung Song, Internal Medicine Doctor of the Republic of Korea Medical Group, jots down notes during an examination of one of hundreds of local Afghan patients the Korean Hospital treats every day here at Bagram Air Base.

Chaplains help Gardez troops 'see the light'

Story and photo by Spc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

GARDEZ, Afghanistan – They are soldiers of a different breed, making their way through dangerous territory in the name of God and showing active support to troops from all religious backgrounds through services and counseling.

They carry no weapon with them on their mission; just faith. Faith that inspired hearts will help win this war and bring Afghanistan peace.

Jumping on the back of a Humvee, traveling out to combat soldiers to inspire and provide hope is an event that Army chaplains do often while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"The main mission for a chaplain is to perform or provide for the free exercise of religion," said Chaplain Puckett, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force. "To ensure that every soldier's religious requirements are met, regardless of their perspective."

To provide for that freedom, chaplains must reach out to different areas of the country, making themselves available to the troops by any means possible.

"We call it a chaplain service," said Puckett. "We find a place and time that's most convenient for the majority of the troops and try to provide a service where everybody can come worship and be encouraged."

In most areas there are no worship facilities for troops to gather in for prayer like back home. In the remote areas of Afghanistan, chaplains make use of what they have and

conduct services anywhere they can.

"You have to be a lot more flexible out here," said Puckett. "You get on the back of a Humvee and do a service. You find a chow hall and do a service."

Troops need to know that the chaplain is there for them; supporting them and encouraging them, he said. Seeing the chaplain amongst them is one way to accomplish that.

Being deployed is a trying period of time for some soldiers. For soldiers of religious background, the mobile chaplains provide stability, hope and encouragement in and unpredictable environment.

"Not everyone requires chaplain support, but for the ones that do, I think it's very important," said Puckett. "I think it's terribly

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. troops carry away an injured man on a stretcher near Taji, north of Baghdad, on Wednesday.

Purported Saddam tape tells U.S. to leave Wednesday

(CNN) — An audiotape statement broadcast on an Arabic news station on Wednesday is said to be ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein calling on U.S. troops to leave Iraq or face continuing attacks.

The statement, broadcast on the news network *Al Arabiya*, accuses U.S. President George W. Bush of lying about the reasons for the U.S.-led invasion that deposed Saddam in April. The statement also says an American withdrawal is “inevitable — if not today, (then) tomorrow.”

“We call on you to withdraw your troops as quickly as possible and without any conditions, because there is no reason for more losses that will be catastrophic for America if American officials, primarily you, persisted in the continuation of their aggression and aggressiveness,” the statement said.

The audiotape is being subjected to “technical analysis” by the CIA, an official says.

The agency expects to determine within “a day or two” whether the voice on the tape is most likely the former Iraqi leader or not, the official says.

Saddam has been on the run from U.S. troops since his overthrow. The United States has put a \$30 million price on his head, and his sons Uday and Qusay were killed by U.S. troops in Mosul in July.

Guerrilla forces loyal to Saddam and

others, including some that U.S. officials say are linked to the al Qaeda terrorist network, have been continually attacking U.S. forces in Iraq. Bush has declared that Iraq is the “central front” in the war on terrorism launched after al Qaeda’s attacks on New York and Washington two years ago.

The latest tape says captured officials of Saddam’s government could help negotiate a U.S. withdrawal.

“You can contact them and conduct proper dialogue on this in a way as to provide security for your soldiers during withdrawal,” the statement says, and warns that Iraqis will reject any plan “that is made under occupation.”

In past few months, several tapes said to have been made by Saddam have been aired, including one in July urging Iraqis to resist U.S. forces.



Pakistan border soldiers inspect a barricade near the Afghanistan border.

Afghanistan dangers ‘underrated’

WASHINGTON — The American public and news media are underestimating the continuing dangers and challenges remaining in Afghanistan, senior German officials have said.

Germany’s ambassador in the United States, Wolfgang Ischinger, said Wednesday, “Afghanistan should be on the front burner,” given the danger of renewed Taliban and al Qaeda activity there and the magnitude of the task of rebuilding the country after 24 years of war and occupation.

Yet from American journalists, “I only get questions about Iraq.”

Ischinger said the Bush administration and Berlin “see eye to eye” on the need for additional resources for Afghanistan, but the

American public understanding of the urgency of the matter is “lagging” due to media preoccupation with Iraq.

Lt. Gen. Norbert van Heyst, the German commander of international forces in Afghanistan, told reporters he wants to put a few hundred troops in each of eight provincial cities to protect proposed reconstruction teams.



Rock star Bono talks to reporters in Washington Tuesday, where he met with religious leaders to talk about AIDS funding.

Bono has ‘row’ with Bush over AIDS funding Tuesday

WASHINGTON — Irish rock star Bono pressed President Bush Tuesday to set aside more cash for AIDS initiatives but came away disappointed after a face-to-face talk with the president at the White House.

“We had a good old row,” Bono said of his meeting with Bush. “What I just can’t agree with him on is the numbers.”

Congress is weighing a \$2 billion spending request for next year that would provide the first installment for Bush’s five-year, \$15 billion plan to combat AIDS.

Bono, the lead singer of U2 who founded an advocacy group for issues affecting Africa, said the AIDS epidemic had reached crisis proportions, with millions of children in Africa orphaned by the deadly virus.

He urged a U.S. commitment of \$3 billion for the fiscal year that begins in October — an increase of \$1 billion over the plan Bush has backed.

“I’m not here peddling a cause,” Bono said at a news conference at the St. John’s Episcopal Church across from the White House. “Seven thousand people dying a day is not a cause. It’s an emergency.”

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Korean medical personnel recently reached a milestone by treating their 70,000 Afghan patient out of their small medical facility on the edge of Bagram Air Base.

“The Afghan people have gone through 25 years of hard times and this is the first time we’ve had medical care in this area,” said Aman Khalili, one of three Afghan doctors who travels to Bagram every day to assist the Korean medical staff.

Along with the three local Afghan doctors, the main Korean medical staff consists of only three doctors, two nurses and seven medics, but they manage to treat 100 - 200 patients each day during their morning walk-in hours.

For Korean Capt. Junyoung Song, Doctor of Internal Medicine, he notes how his nation struggled in the aftermath of the Korean War and how many allies came to their aid, so he says it’s only natural for Koreans to take a personal interest in the welfare of the people of Afghanistan.

“When I treat the young kids I fell like I’m treating my own children,” Song said, adding, “and although we’ve treated 70,000 people we still have a long way to go.”

Korean nurse Capt. Hyunsuk Jeon agreed, “Just like Korea developed really fast after the war, I hope that we can help the Afghan people improve the quality of their lives.”

At the medical facility, the medical staff is able to give physical examinations, administer prescription medicine, physical therapy, electrical nerve stimulation to treat chronic pains, and can perform minor surgery.

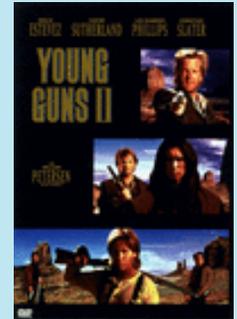
The Korean medical center is only equipped to help patients with minor problems, but according to Song, the Korean staff work in cooperation with U.S. Task Force 44 Medical Team and other coalition medical personnel and in an emergency can send patients to either of their hospitals on Bagram.

Although communication between the Koreans and Afghans can be difficult at times – the nurses usually have to resort to rudimentary forms of body language to move the long lines of patients along – and the medical facility can quickly become swamped with patients, the Afghans patiently wait their turn to be seen.

They know the Koreans are here to help, said Khalili, “I’ve asked many people and they say they are very happy and appreciative of medical care.”

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Young Guns II.” Billy “The Kid” and his gang is wanted by the law, and when “Doc” Scurlock and Chavez are captured, Billy has to save them...



Tomorrow’s movie will be “Westside Story.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 90F L: 57F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 91F L: 61F
Kandahar:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 95F L: 68F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 97F L: 66F
Kabul:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 90F L: 57F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 91F L: 61F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Clear</i> H: 88F L: 59F	<i>Clear</i> H: 95F L: 58F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Prototype goggles to give Army edge

Story by Pfc. David Foley
Fort Benning Bayonet

FORT BENNING, Ga. – For years, the Army has used image intensification technology and thermal viewing technologies. Now, an experimental goggle may combine both technologies to give soldiers an edge on the battlefield.

The Army research lab has been experimenting with prototypes of goggles that combine image intensification technology and thermal viewing technology.

“There are three companies that have created prototypes, and all three are using the same technology, but in different ways,” said Mark Bylan, project manager for sensors and lasers at the Army Research Lab.

The lab is using two existing goggle types as a comparison for the prototypes: the AN/PVS-7 Binocular and the AN/PVS-

14 Monocular.

“Image intensification goggles are proliferated throughout the world, and we are trying to top that technology,” said Beth Redden, chief, Army Research Lab, Human Research Element Directorate, Field Element. “The bottom line is to see first.”

“We are looking at a trade-off and a combination of technology to provide the soldier with the best of both worlds,” said Dutch Waldheim, controller, Dismounted Battlespace Battle Labs. “This is very exciting,” said Maj. Greg Paul, assistant project manager, sensors and lasers, “because when you fuse this technology, it will really enhance the soldiers’ fighting capability.”

The research lab uses soldiers from several units throughout the Army to perform drills with the equipment and collect data that will be evaluated.

The experiment consists of five events determined to be vital skills for the infantry,

Redden said, and each event is conducted by a different set of soldiers.

The soldiers tested the equipment on its capabilities with target detection in an urban terrain environment, target detection in a woodland environment, target detection during a tunnel-clearing exercise with no light, target detection in an open field and how well the soldiers were able to negotiate obstacles while wearing the equipment.

“We are looking at the vision aspect (of the goggles), but we are also looking at the configuration,” Redden said.

The soldiers need to be able to perform individual movement techniques while wearing the equipment, she said.

The Army Research Lab will use the data collected to determine which device has the best overall rating, and they may combine some of the other devices’ capabilities into a single system, Bylan said.

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important for the military to have that kind of assistance and support available for soldiers, airmen, the Navy and Marines.”

Religion has been part of the military history of this country since before its birth. Wherever there are troops, there is a chaplain.

After the American Revolution, Patrick Henry was asked how America won the war despite overwhelming odds, said Chaplain’s Assistant McEney, CJSOTF.

His response was simple, he said. “America was founded upon the evangelical faith of the redeemer of this world, Jesus Christ and that is how America won the war.”

“They knew the heart of America was its spirituality and that’s what Chaplain Puckett and I are trying to bring to the troops,” said McEney.

The chaplains hope to have a positive impact on the troops and will continue to “go where they are” to “encourage and provide for any religious requirements they have through different services and individual counseling,” said Puckett.

Both men said the deployment has had an incredible impact on themselves and is an experience they will not forget.

“Everywhere I go, the troops have been just incredible,” said Puckett. “These guys are great to be around, just to see their professionalism and the way they carry themselves.”

It’s really encouraging to see, he said.

“When I can gather with a group of soldiers, sing ‘Amazing Grace’ together, look at something in the Bible together and just for



Spc. Phillip McKoy, CJSOTF(right) and Master Sgt. Roger Bevins, Senior Operations non-commissioned officer, 441st Ordnance Bn., follow the passage during a religious service performed by Chaplain Puckett in the Gardez area.

a moment we can push out the war and really renew our faith together; that’s the highlight for me,” said Puckett.

Personally, it’s been a great time of growth and it’s been a wonderful opportunity to meet some great people, he said.

The work of Puckett is appreciated by troops all over Afghanistan and his mark is left behind as he travels into the most remote areas to be there for the soldiers.

“I’ve seen over and over again the results of his work,” said McEney. “He has a real heart for people and he’s very faithful about getting with troops in the combat zone.”



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Braves on the brink of 12th division title

MONTREAL — Mike Hampton allowed three hits in five innings and hit a home run as the Atlanta Braves closed in on their record 12th straight division title with a 14-4 victory over the Montreal Expos on Wednesday night.



Behind the power hitting and superior defense of Andruw Jones, the Braves are one game away from clinching its 12th straight division title.

Javy Lopez and Andruw Jones also homered, and manager Bobby Cox got his 1,900th win as Atlanta reduced its magic number for winning the NL East to one.

The Braves, who clinched a playoff berth Tuesday night, would clinch the division title with a Florida loss at Philadelphia

later Wednesday night.

Hampton (14-7) struck out three and walked four for the Braves.

Lopez's 41st homer was his 40th as a catcher, one behind Todd Hundley's major league record set in 1996 for the New York Mets.

Atlanta, which had a season-high 19 hits, got four straight singles off T.J. Tucker (1-3) with one out in the first to go up 2-0.

Julio Franco hit a two-run double for Atlanta's fifth straight hit. One out later, Darren Bragg's RBI single made it 5-0.

Lopez's two-run shot capped a five-run fourth inning against Vic Darenbourg to increase Atlanta's lead to 10-0.

Orlando Cabrera hit a run-scoring grounder in the bottom of the fourth, but Hampton made it 11-1 with a solo shot — the 12th of his career — off Hector Almonte with two outs in the fifth.

Jones added his 36th homer in the sixth off Almonte, who allowed two more runs in the seventh on a wild pitch and Marcus Giles' RBI single.

Vick sidelined longer than expected

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Michael Vick had hoped to be walking without crutches last week.

He's still waiting.

Atlanta Falcons orthopedist Andrew Bishop has told Vick, the team's star quarterback, that X-rays show a nearly healed fracture in his lower right leg. Vick broke his fibula in a preseason game Aug. 16.

"Yeah, the bone's healing, but there's still pain in my foot," Vick said Wednesday. "Once I'm able to overcome that, I'll be able to

walk without these crutches and without this boot."



Michael Vick

The 23-year-old Vick, who last year led the Falcons to the playoffs and set three NFL records for rushing by a quarterback, believes the earliest he could return is Oct. 13 at St. Louis. He hopes the latest date would be Oct. 19 against NFC South rival New Orleans.

Vick is uncertain when he might be able to return to practice.

"Too early to tell now, man, but I'm hoping sometime in the middle of next month I'll be back and ready to lead this football team," he said.

Two days before the Falcons' season-opening win at Dallas, Vick indicated that he could be off crutches the following week, but the pain continues to linger.

"He X-rayed it again on Friday, but it ain't really about the X-rays anymore," Vick said. "It's more about me just walking on my own. That's the problem."

The Falcons (1-1) host defending Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay (1-1) on Sunday. Vick plans to watch the game from the sideline as he did in last week's 33-31 loss to Washington.

Gang ties believed to be part of Price case

COMPTON, Calif. — A man arrested in the shooting death of the sister of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams was associated with gangs, and the killing took place outside a home where drugs were sold in the past, police said.



Tennis star Serena Williams and sister Yetunde Price pose with the award Serena won for best female athlete at the ESPY Awards.

Aaron Michael Hammer, 24, was held without bail after being booked for investigation of murder in the death of the 31-year-old mother of three. As many as four others were being sought for questioning, Los Angeles County sheriff's investigators said.

Hammer has ties to a Compton street gang although he is not a member, authorities said, declining to elaborate. He also has been convicted on counts of check forgery and

commercial burglary.

He had been set to be arraigned Tuesday morning, but the court appearance was postponed.

Yetunde Price was shot in the chest as she sat in a sport utility vehicle shortly after midnight Sunday, about a mile from the tennis courts where her younger sisters first rose to prominence in this violence-plagued city southeast of Los Angeles.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



Guardsmen prepares to train Afghan troops

Story by Nancy Cicco

NEWINGTON, Conn. (*Portsmouth Herald*) - Transformation in Afghanistan can start one soldier at a time, according to a New Hampshire Army National Guardsman who will leave for the country next week.

Sgt. 1st Class Jefferson Perry, of Dover, will be one of nine New Hampshire civilian-soldiers who will live in Afghanistan for up to a year to train members of the Afghanistan National Army. The Guard soldiers hail from Charlie Company, 3rd of the 172nd Infantry Mountain Regiment. Perry, 37, is a platoon sergeant with the company.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said on Tuesday of his impending deployment to a post north of Kabul, Afghanistan's capital. "Like anybody, I'm a little remorseful to leave my personal life behind for six months to a year, but I think the mission is viable ... and that it has a long-term effect."

Perry and the other Charlie Company members will become mentors for Afghanistan National Army leaders. The formation to which Perry is assigned is part of the Afghanistan Army's Central Corps, 2nd brigade, he said. He expects his mission will include training Afghan soldiers how to fight al Qaeda and Taliban forces, but added work will include teaching soldiers how to help support a stable new government in the country "so they can protect their own sovereignty."

Capt. Ray Valas, commander of Charlie Company, called the mission "a crucial next step in the global war on terrorism."

"A fully-trained and equipped Afghan National Army is a focal point for stability in that region, and New Hampshire's mountain infantry soldiers will play an integral role in making that happen," Valas said in a prepared statement.

There are 9,600 U.S. soldiers currently stationed in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, according to United Press International.

Perry believes their presence in the country is essential to building long-term peace. Regardless of any cultural differences, he said, there is a bond that develops among soldiers once they work together for a common cause.

"Our strongest advocates have always been the (personnel and) soldiers that have been trained by us," he said. "Us training them ensures that they don't become our enemy in the future."

The Charlie Company members were selected for the mission given their particular training, which will be well-suited to Afghanistan's terrain and climate. The company is part of the U.S. Army's only active alpine unit, which has its headquarters in Vermont. Unit soldiers train at the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., and at the Mountain Warfare School at

(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Camp Ethan Allen, Vt., where they learn rock and ice climbing, skiing, snow shoeing, cold weather survival techniques and rappelling.

Half of the members traveling to Afghanistan are or have been police officers and more than half have previously been deployed as military members "in real-world operations," Perry said.

Before heading to Afghanistan, company members will train briefly in Colorado, in order to better acclimate to living in a high-altitude region.

Perry has 18 years of experience in the military upon which to draw. During the first Gulf War, he served as a rifle squad leader with the 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

Today, he works full time with the New Hampshire National Guard as a member of its Counter Drug Task Force.

His latest deployment will offer him a chance to brush up on his Pashto and Dari, languages of Afghanistan. A martial arts teacher, Perry will also bring the tools of that trade with him so he can teach others those skills.

He is proud to be a soldier.

"More than anything else it was a calling, it was something I always knew I wanted to do. ... I was born to do this."

"Give me E-mail, or give me death!"



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support