

## 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain soldier awarded Purple Heart

Compiled by Freedom Watch Staff

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – Less than 24 hours after arriving at Bagram Combat Support Hospital, Pfc. David Modes, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he received during contact with enemy forces the morning of Aug. 31 in Paktika province in southern Afghanistan.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy.

Modes sustained small-arms wounds to the chest and thigh and is currently in stable condition.

Two soldiers died of wounds they received during the same contact with enemy forces.

U.S. forces were conducting a combat mission in the vicinity of a firebase near Shkin when the engagement occurred.



Photo by Sgt. Greg Heath

*Pfc. David Modes, HHC, 1st Bn., 87 Inf. Regt., 10th Mountain Div., is awarded the Purple Heart by the acting commander of CJTF-180 Maj. Gen. Zannie Smith, for wounds he received during a combat operation in southern Afghanistan Aug. 30.*

During the engagement four of the enemy fighters were killed. Coalition forces broke contact with the enemy about one and a half hours after first contact. Total size of the enemy force is not known.

The names of the deceased soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Modes is currently awaiting transfer to a medical facility in Germany.

## Teachers Training Institute to validate educators

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

**GARDEZ, Afghanistan** – The building is 75 percent completed, computers are ready to be installed and hundreds of practicing Afghanistan teachers are waiting patiently for its grand opening.

The Teachers Training Institute located in the Gardez area, Paktya Province is expected to be a successful addition to the area, attracting educators throughout the

province to validate their teachings, said Maj. Dean Fremling, Civil Affairs Team 13, 407<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Detachment.

“This is very important (because) the Afghans really want a lot of focus on education,” he said.

The institute will be stocked with computers for training purposes including use in the library and computer lab.

“They have the computers lined up to get here,” he said. “They’re just waiting on the building to be done.”

Fremling expects the facility to be warmly

welcomed by the people of the area. “It’s going to be a packed house once it’s up and running,” he said.

The project began prior to Fremling’s arrival to the Provincial Reconstruction Team location and Fremling said he is excited about the institute’s progress.

“I look forward to the grand opening ceremony, seeing everyone here and (seeing) all the smiling faces,” he said.

The Teachers Training Institute is expected to be completed within the next two months.

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*Mourners escort the symbolic coffin of al-Hakim through Karbala on Monday.*

## Najaf braces for prominent cleric funeral Monday

**NAJAF, Iraq** – U.S. Marines stocked up on medical supplies and braced for trouble as hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Shiite Muslims converged on Najaf to mourn the prominent cleric killed in a massive car bombing last week.

The bombing killed at least 83 people, including Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim, a longtime Iraqi dissident. U.S. troops are keeping responsibility for security in Najaf longer than originally planned because of the attack, U.S. Central Command sources said Monday.

Hundreds of thousands of mourners were expected in the city by early Tuesday as a symbolic funeral procession for al-Hakim made its way toward Najaf from Baghdad.

Lt. Col. Chris Woodbridge, the Marine commander at Najaf, told *CNN* that helicopters have brought fresh stocks of medical equipment and supplies to Najaf in anticipation of possible violence or even another bombing.

“It’s important to remember that this event is a mass expression of grief and mourning for the Shia community here in Iraq and in the world,” he said. “We are again coordinating very closely with the Najaf police and the Coalition Provisional Authority to ensure that we’re minimizing the risk to that large gathering.”

Woodbridge said the city was calm but “in mourning,” with Shiites arriving from across south-central Iraq for the funeral.

“We have continued to provide the level and type of security that the local civil and religious leaders have requested of us,” he said.



*A car burns in Gaza City after a missile strike.*

## Israel vows ‘all-out war’ on Hamas

**JERUSALEM** – Israel declared “all-out war” against Hamas Monday and said it is freezing diplomatic relations with the Palestinian Authority unless the Palestinian leadership takes “tangible steps to deal with infrastructures of terror.”

A statement released after a Cabinet meeting cited Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz as saying the August 19 bus bombing in Jerusalem had “broken the track that was supposed to give the diplomatic process a chance.”

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat told *CNNRadio* that military means was not the way to secure peace. He added that breaking off ties with the Palestinian Authority will prevent the road map to peace from ever being implemented.

Before the Israeli announcement, Israeli military helicopters fired missiles at Hamas members Monday in Gaza City.

Israeli security sources said a helicopter fired on “a car loaded with arms ... killing two Hamas military activists.” They were identified as Khader Housari, 40, and Munther Kanitha, 32.

Palestinian sources said one Hamas member was killed and conceded that doctors said a second Hamas member was “clinically dead.”

Twenty-five people were wounded in the attack, according to Dr. Mauia Abu Hasanin, director of the Shifa Hospital emergency room.

In addition to Monday’s strike, Israeli helicopter attacks during the past two weeks have killed 10 Hamas activists and wounded more than 50 Palestinians as part of an Israeli strategy to target suspected terrorists.



*Floodwaters carried the Rogers’ minivan more than a mile.*

## Search still on for two missing in weekend floods

**(CNN)** – Crews in Emporia, Kansas, searched a swollen pond and muddy culverts Monday, trying to find two people still missing after “a wall of water” swept down the Kansas Turnpike over the weekend, washing away cars and killing four children.

The mother of those children is among the missing. At a news conference Monday, her husband, Robert Rogers — who was in the minivan with his family — described how they became stuck on the crowded turnpike in Emporia, about 85 miles northeast of Wichita, on Saturday.

“Our minivan became trapped on the freeway between semis and cars,” he said.

“The raging water was too strong to attempt to carry four children safely away. The water quickly rose up to the height of the steering wheel.”

Rogers said his children screamed as the vehicle was swept into a culvert. He kicked out the driver’s-side window and was sucked out by the water.

The bodies of three of his children, ages 1, 3 and 5, were later found in the minivan some distance from the highway, still strapped in their seats. The body of his oldest daughter, age 8, was found Sunday more than a mile from the vehicle. Rogers’ wife, Melissa, hasn’t been found.

“Our families are shattered by the loss of our children,” he said, adding that he still hopes to find his wife alive and well. The family is from Liberty, Missouri.

The other missing person is a man from Fort Worth, Texas, who called his wife back home to come and get him after his vehicle became stuck in the floodwaters.

# Army Civil Affairs helps local youth chill out

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

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – The Bagram Civil Affairs Team gave out ice cream to the students of Bagram High School Monday. At the school, the team gave out more than 30 bags of ice cream. Each bag had more than 100 cups of the milky vanilla substance that’s been known to cool a person off on a hot day.

The project was coordinated event by the Chaplain’s office and the CA team.

“We are doing this as a gesture of good intentions to the local [people of Afghanistan],” said Chaplain (1<sup>st</sup> Lt.) Tino Villalovas. “Also, it shows them that America and its coalition partners desire to do good for the people of Afghanistan.”

More than 400 students, ages five to 17, attend the school that is located in the Russian village near Bagram Air Base. As the team began bringing out the bags, students began running toward the tracker-trailer truck, which transported the ice cream, in an attempt to be the first to receive a cup of ice cream from the soldiers.

Once inside the school, the teams went from room to room passing out the ice cream to the students. The team first presented the frozen treats to the girl’s school. After the visit to the girl’s school, the team traveled to the boy’s school and presented the rest.

After the soldiers finished giving out the ice cream to the students, there were still cups of ice cream left over. So the team began passing out the frozen delight to people as they passed by the school.



*Girls at the Bagram High School take time out to eat a cup of vanilla ice cream given out by the Chaplains and the Civil Affairs Team. The children's ages ranged from 5 to 17.*

Describing the event, in which the coalition partners gained a “sweeter” appeal in the eyes of local children, Villalovas said the morning project was just the beginning of a very busy day.

“We are going to come back out this afternoon,” he said. “We hope to give out close to 9000 pieces of ice cream today.”

## Letters, small packages get to troops quicker

Story by K.L. Vantran  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Postal Service and the Military Postal Service Agency process about 2 million pounds of mail a week for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and some items make it to the recipient faster than others, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brian Lomax, agency chief of plans and policy, said here today.

Depending on where it originates, a letter or package spends “a couple of days” in the USPS system before it reaches either San Francisco or New York City, Lomax said. Then it travels another 16 to 19 hours by plane before landing in Kuwait or Bahrain. From there, it’s picked up or delivered by motor vehicle.

Once in theater, a letter takes seven to 14 days to reach the service member, while a package usually takes 14 to 24 days, Lomax added. Packages make up 90 percent of the mail.

“The mail is getting to the troops,” he said. “The troops are happy. Our intent is to continue to make improvements and exceed

their expectations.”

Using automated mail scanning equipment and increasing the number of people working at mail facilities are two improvements that have speeded up mail delivery, Lomax said.

People who mail letters and packages also can help, he added. “The size of the package plays an important role,” Lomax said. “Large packages take up a lot more room. If there’s a choice between taking one large box or a lot of smaller boxes and letters, the large box will stay (at the mail facility). The ideal size is a shoebox. It’s also important to correctly address the package.”

Aerosol cans, alcoholic beverages, ammunition, fireworks, flammable or explosive materials and illegal or infectious substances are among items that cannot be mailed to service members in Iraq and Afghanistan. For more information, call 1-800-ASK-USPS or visit the USPS Web site.

Though it’s not one of the restricted items, Lomax recommends against sending chocolate. “Chocolate and 140 degrees makes chocolate paste,” he said.

Cookies and sunflower seeds seem to travel well, he added, and placing cookies in a coffee can helps to protect them.

# Afghan National Army soldiers make history

**KABUL**, Afghanistan – On Aug. 28, ANA soldiers of the 11<sup>th</sup> *Kandak* Battalion, Afghanistan National Army met the challenge of a critical blood shortage by voluntarily donating blood for the first time in ANA history.

The event was made possible by the brainstorming of Doctor Zeyaratgul Sofy, Chief of the Blood Bank at the Academy and an Army colonel.

The men came up with the idea after the Academy of Medical Knowledge, a 400 bed military hospital in Kabul had a critical shortage of blood.

Working with the Ministry of Defense and Brig. Gen. Ghulam Sakhi Asifi, Commander, Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC), it was agreed that the ANA might be able to contribute to the needs of the nation and the new Army.

The event was a twofold success, not only is the blood bank refilling its shortages, but each soldier's blood is getting typed and screened for possible ailments.

Due to limits on storage capacity and testing resources, only 50 pints could be drawn from the soldiers. However, because of this outpouring of generosity, Sofy and his staff plan to return several times a month to KMTC.

An example of the generosity and patriotisms the ANA soldier was Pvt. Abdul Mohammad, a 20-year old Pashtun from Kandahar in 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 11<sup>th</sup> *Kandak*. Upon giving blood Mohammad said, "I volunteered and am happy to give blood because it will help my comrades in need."

"I hope this blood can be used to help anyone in Afghanistan or our Coalition friends. This is one reason I joined the Army- to serve the people of my country and to help anyone in need," Mohammad added.

*(Information from CJTF-180 Press Release)*

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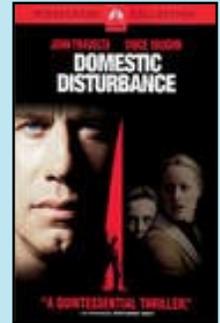
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## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Domestic Disturbance." A divorced father discovers that his 12-year-old son's new stepfather is not what he made himself out to be.



Tomorrow's movie will be "The Bourne Identity."

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

|                    | Today                             | Wednesday                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Bagram:</b>     | Partly cloudy<br>H: 93F<br>L: 57F | Partly cloudy<br>H: 91F<br>L: 59F |
| <b>Kandahar:</b>   | Dusty<br>H: 100F<br>L: 72F        | Dusty<br>H: 100F<br>L: 70F        |
| <b>Kabul:</b>      | Dusty<br>H: 90F<br>L: 57F         | Dusty<br>H: 90F<br>L: 57F         |
| <b>Uzbekistan:</b> | Clear<br>H: 98F<br>L: 58F         | Clear<br>H: 97F<br>L: 60F         |

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Team USA becomes Gold member

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico** – The Americans finished with a flourish, giving Argentina – and the rest of the world – something to think about for the next year.

“We’re the best in the world,” Jermaine O’Neal said after the U.S. team defeated Argentina 106-73 Sunday night in the gold medal game at the Tournament of the Americas.



*Richard Jefferson hoists the trophy, flanked by (from left) Tracy McGrady, Mike Bibby and Kenyon Martin.*

A year from now, they’ll get a chance to try and prove it.

The U.S. team proved one thing definitively in its final game: They are once again better than Argentina in basketball. Much, much better.

In a brilliant first half that featured a devastating 21-0 run, unbelievable alley-oop dunks were followed by even better ones that sent the “ooh” and “ah” meter off the charts in the strongest all-around performance by a U.S. team since the Sydney Olympics.

“I think that game right there is really going to leave a taste in somebody’s mouth,” Tracy McGrady said.

A much more competitive gold medal game was expected from Argentina, which defeated the United States last summer at the World Championships and performed brilliantly in its semifinal win over Canada on Saturday night. Argentina also competed well against the U.S. team in the second round, losing by just eight.

But with nothing at stake aside from national pride, the Americans showed themselves ready to restore a sense of normalcy to a basketball universe that changed so drastically last summer when the U.S. team lost three times at the World Championships.

## Bonds delivers after night of exhaustion

**PHOENIX** – Considering what he’s been through lately, Barry Bonds decided it was time for the game to end.



Hours after being released from the hospital, Bonds hit a two-run, bases-loaded single in the ninth inning to lead the San Francisco Giants to a 2-0 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Monday.

“Don’t leave it up to me,” he said. “I don’t like to **Barry Bonds** play overtime.”

Bonds, scratched from the lineup minutes before the first pitch Sunday because of exhaustion, was released from the hospital after staying overnight to have his vital signs monitored.

He argued at the time about the hospitalization, but said it was the right thing to do.

“I just had problems with my heart and chest,” Bonds said. “I couldn’t get around it. It was just safer for me to go there than to try to play.”

Sunday’s game was the second Bonds missed in the series with the Diamondbacks for reasons related to the death of his father, Bobby Bonds, on Aug. 23. He left Saturday night’s game in the eighth inning after homering off Randy Johnson earlier in the contest because his heartbeat rose to more than twice normal and he had trouble breathing.

He said he felt fine throughout the game Monday, and didn’t have his vital signs monitored.

Bonds was hitless in three at-bats against Curt Schilling, but that wasn’t the case against Mike Myers, Arizona’s left-handed specialist.

The slugger lined a 1-0 pitch just to the left of the mound and into the outfield, scoring two of the three runners Myers inherited from Oscar Villarreal (7-6), who walked Eric Young and allowed singles to J.T. Snow and Marquis Grissom without getting an out.

Bonds is .320 (8-for-25) lifetime against Myers, with two doubles and a walkoff homer against him the last time they faced off — July 24 in Pac Bell Park.

## Great Scott, young Aussie wins Deutsche Bank Championship Monday

**NORTON, Mass.** — He swings like Tiger Woods. He worships Greg Norman.



*Scott closed with a 5-under 66 to win the Deutsche Bank Championship.*

It might not be long before Adam Scott of Australia sets his own standard of greatness.

Scott took an important step in that direction Monday at the Deutsche Bank Championship with a flawless performance under pressure only he knew was there, closing with a 5-under 66 for his first PGA Tour victory.

“It’s difficult to win in America, not just being a foreigner but a young player,” Scott, 23, said after a four-shot victory over Rocco Mediate.

Scott sure made it look easy.

With consecutive birdies to open a huge lead and clutch pars that kept anyone from making a serious run, Scott led by at least three shots throughout a rainy day at the TPC of Boston and finished at 20-under 264.

It was his fifth victory worldwide, and he won all of them by protecting a lead going into the final round.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Officials: US steps up Afghan assault

(BBC News) – United States-led troops in Afghanistan say they have launched a new offensive against suspected Taleban forces in the south-eastern province of Zabul.

An American military spokesman said Operation Mountain Viper had been launched on Saturday with an air assault in the Dai Chopan area of Zabul.

In two separate incidents, at least seven Afghan Government soldiers were killed overnight in attacks by suspected Taleban fighters along the main road linking Kabul with the south of the country.

On Sunday, two US soldiers were killed in a clash with guerrilla fighters in neighbouring Paktika Province.

The one-and-a-half hour battle took place near the Pakistan border close to Shkin, the US military said in a statement.

Another US soldier was wounded in the clash in which four opposition fighters also reportedly died.

The US military has not said who was behind the attack, but similar clashes have been attributed to Taleban fighters, their al-Qaeda associates or supporters of the renegade former prime minister, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

South-east Afghanistan has been hit by a recent rise in violence blamed on apparently resurgent Taleban fighters.

Dai Chopan has been at the centre of an offensive by Afghan forces supported by US troops and aircraft for the past week.

The hunt, which is in its seventh day, has so far reportedly led to the death of up to 90 Taleban fighters.

But the American military spokesman, Colonel Rodney Davis, said he could confirm the deaths of only 37 militants in Zabul, mostly in attacks by coalition aircraft.

Supporters of the Taleban regime which was ousted in 2001 by the US-led coalition are believed to be regrouping in the mountainous border regions of Afghanistan and in Pakistan.

The names of the dead US troops were withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The wounded soldier is in a “stable condition” having been transferred to Bagram Air Base near Kabul, said US Central Command.

## Afghanistan Karzai Approves Defense Reforms

KABUL, Afghanistan (Radio Free Europe) – Afghan Transitional Administration Chairman Hamid Karzai has approved long-delayed reforms to the structure of the Defense Ministry and wants 22 top posts filled within two weeks.

His spokesman, Jawid Luddin, said today that the reforms

are central to building a national army and disarming the warlords who control most of the country.

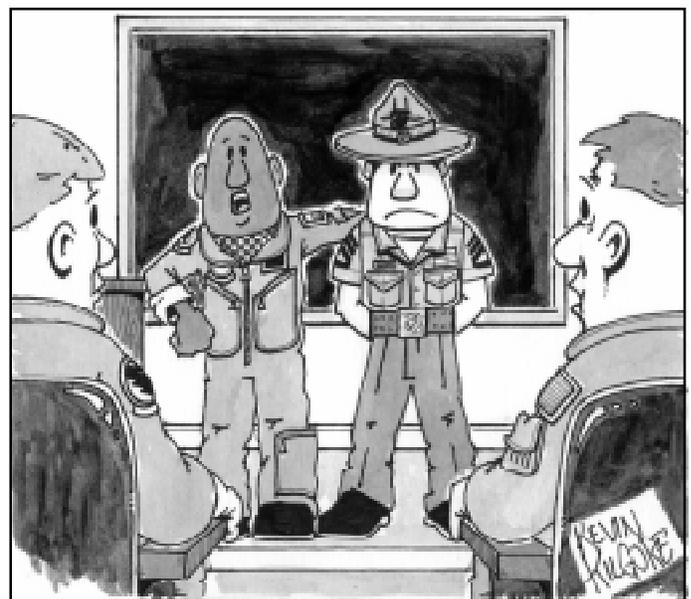
Luddin said that the next step is for a selection team made up of representatives from the president’s office, the Defense Ministry, and the international community to choose from a minimum of four candidates for each post.

At present, tens of thousands of militiamen nominally serve under the Defense Ministry, but in practice are loyal to autonomous regional commanders.

## Kabul enters peace negotiations with Taliban rebels

KABUL, Afghanistan (Deutsche Welle) – In Afghanistan, a spokesman for President Hamid Karzai has denied reports that the government had begun negotiations aimed at ending fighting with remnants of the former Taliban regime. An earlier report said a government delegation had entered negotiations aimed at stopping recent fighting, that has pitted Afghan security forces and US troops against Taliban rebels in the southeast of the country.

**"Gentlemen, I've found the solution to our sloppy formation flying."**



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By Kevin Kilgore

**Laugh Support**