

Anti-Tank platoon provides safe passage

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

KABUL PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Specialist Brent Fetters sat high in the gun truck’s turret scanning the area as his small convoy traveled down the dusty, dirt highway leading into Surobi when he noticed something strange sticking out on the edge of a tall hill in a nearby ridgeline. The convoy came to a halt and he pulled out his binoculars to get a closer look, and what he was surprised to see what looked like a Rocket Propelled Grenade round.

The convoy sent a team to investigate and they discovered 14 RPG rounds scattered on the hilltop. Considering coalition supply vehicles had been ambushed in the same area during the previous weeks, this was a relatively significant find, but Fetters and the rest of the 10th Mountain Division Infantry Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment’s Anti-Tank platoon weren’t used to getting the glory for making the big finds. Finding weapon caches and grabbing the spotlight



2-87 Inf. Reg. AT platoon up-armored Humvees mounted with heavy weapons provides security to a small convoy during a patrol Jan. 10 in Ghazni Province.

was for the foot soldiers, the soldiers in the AT platoon are happy just doing their job.

The Infantrymen of the AT platoon are trained to destroy enemy armored vehicles, but in Afghanistan, considering the enemy’s lack of tanks or armored vehicles, they’ve taken a decidedly different role within the battalion.

“In Afghanistan we maintain freedom of movement on routes for the rest of the battalion,” said 1st Lt. Scott Horrigan, AT platoon leader. “We maneuver a task force and get all of its pieces into one position so they can conduct whatever operation they’re tasked

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Paratroopers out-shoot attackers in first armed contact

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth
501st Parachute Infantry Regiment

KHOWST, Afghanistan – Soldiers of Task Force 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment were victorious in their first armed contact in Afghanistan.

While on their way to conduct a village assessment, paratroopers from Fort Richardson, Alaska, shot and killed four individuals along the highway west of Khowst.

The Soldiers were heading west on the highway and passing some buildings when 2nd Lt. Douglas Peterson, a platoon leader, noticed

Afghans on the side of the road signaling. When the five-vehicle convoy came to a halt, the lieutenant noticed a car across from the wadi position. Outside the car were two men, one on the ground apparently hurt.

“My first thought was that it was an ambush, the old person-injured trick,” Peterson said. “When you stop to assist, they open fire from the side of the road.”

The rest of the convoy thought the same thing and quickly scanned the area for any possible threat. Four armed males were spotted lying on the north side of the road. The Afghanistan Militia Forces’ Soldier, who was with Company C for their mission, opened fire.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



L. Paul Bremer speaks after meeting with President Bush at the White House.

Bremer: United Nations has 'vital role' to play in Iraq

WASHINGTON—L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. civilian administrator in Baghdad, emerged from a meeting with President Bush and other top advisers at the White House on Friday saying the United Nations has a “vital role” to play in postwar Iraq.

Bremer huddled with Bush on ways to win U.N. support for a refined U.S. plan for the transfer of power in Iraq. Bremer heads to the United Nations on Monday to meet with Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the president of the Iraqi Governing Council and other officials.

Speaking to reporters outside the White House, Bremer said he believes the United Nations should play a “vital role in the political and economic developments in Iraq.”

“We do think there is a role for the United Nations in this process,” Bremer said. “The U.N. has a lot of expertise in organizing elections, electoral commissions, electoral laws (and) has a great deal of expertise it can bring to bear in the process of writing a constitution.”

He said Monday’s session at the United Nations will be a “three-way discussion between the (Coalition Provisional Authority), the U.N. and the governing council.”

Bush puts Pickering on appeals

WASHINGTON—President Bush used executive powers Friday to bypass Congress and grant a spot on the federal appeals bench to U.S. District Judge Charles Pickering, stoking a long-simmering feud with Senate Democrats over judicial nominations.

Pickering’s nomination has been stalled by Senate Democrats, but Bush’s use of a “recess appointment” means Pickering can assume a seat on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for about a year.

“A bipartisan majority of Senators supports his confirmation, and if he were given a vote, he would be confirmed,” President Bush said in a statement.

The president said he was “proud” to appoint Pickering, whom he described as “highly qualified to serve on the Court of Appeals.” Bush also said Pickering “has widespread bipartisan support from those who know him best.”

Democrats have accused Pickering of supporting segregation as a young man, and promoting anti-abortion and anti-voting rights views as a state lawmaker, *The Associated Press* reported. They also have said they wouldn’t be able to trust him to keep his conservative opinions out of his work on the federal appeals court.



The quake toll could reach 45,000

Iran quake toll now at 41,000

TEHRAN, Iran—Iranian officials say the death toll in last month’s Iranian earthquake in the city of Bam has risen to 41,000 and the final figure could hit 45,000, according to Iran’s state-run media.

A close aide to Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, reported the increased death toll from the Dec. 26 quake, which was previously estimated to be around 30,000.

Khamenei was visiting the southeastern city of Bam Friday to supervise relief opera-

tions.

As well as the dead and a further 15,000 injured, the quake also leveled most of the ancient city, including the Arg-e-Bam, or Citadel of Bam, the world’s largest mud-brick fortress.

Earlier this week the last person rescued from the rubble in Bam died from respiratory problems.



Jackson stands on top of his SUV.

Michael Jackson pleads not guilty to molestation charges

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — Amid a carnival-like atmosphere of fans, international media and curiosity-seekers, pop superstar Michael Jackson entered a California courthouse and pleaded not guilty to child molestation charges Friday.

As he departed the Santa Maria courthouse following the hearing, Jackson held up his right hand in a victory sign and threw kisses to a crowd. He then stood atop a sport utility vehicle, did a few dance moves, and waved to a cheering throng from beneath a big umbrella while a supporter filmed the crowd.

Afterward, Jackson attorney Benjamin Brafman said the singer’s decision to climb to the SUV’s rooftop was a spur-of-the-moment thing.

“This was a spontaneous love outpouring on both sides,” Brafman said. “This was not planned. ... I think the outpouring of love for Michael Jackson is universal. ... I think it’s an unprecedented outpouring of love.”

The hearing began about 20 minutes after its scheduled 8:30 a.m. time, prompting a warning from the judge.

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to do.”

The heavily armed AT platoon are the main security escort for the 2-87 Infantry Soldiers during any vehicle movement, whether moving a few soldiers a short distance or providing security for an entire company of soldiers during grueling, daylong Ground Assault Convoys.

“Basically, any time they move, we move with them, front and back,” said Staff Sgt. Richard Odor, AT section leader.

To accomplish their mission, the AT platoon employs tons of firepower mounted onto several up-armored Humvees, which can withstand small arms fire and improvised explosive devices.

“We have 100 percent of the battalion’s heavy weapons on our up-armored humvees,” Odor said, referring to the mounted .50 caliber machine guns and Mark 19 Grenade Launchers. “We’ve got their far security; we can put rounds down range four times the distance they can and be accurate with it. We can sit here and scan the terrain for 10 kilometers and see if anything is moving.”

The Soldiers of the AT platoon aren’t limited to security escorts.

“We can do missions light infantry can’t do,” Horrigan said.

The AT platoon is on call 24/7 for any mission, which includes conducting presence patrols at any hour, providing security during Vehicle Check Point missions and also provide overwatch security while soldiers

conduct Cordon and Search missions, Horrigan added.

With all their different responsibilities, the AT soldiers rarely manage to stray too far from their vehicles, according to Odor.

“(The Humvee) is home to us when we’re on an operation,” said Odor. “Everything we own and need to survive is on this truck so we don’t like to get far from it.”

But he and the rest of the AT platoon understand that although they might not always get the attention that the foot Soldiers searching villages and finding weapon caches get, they’re the guys in the background enabling those Soldiers to accomplish their mission.

“We’re always going where the action is,” Odor said.

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When the four men fired back, the “Geronimos” returned fire with devastating results. All four of the opposition soon lay motionless on the ground.

As the paratroopers moved in to secure the area, one of their attackers threw a hand grenade. As the task force members quickly got out of the blast radius and a well-placed shot ensured that the man was no longer a threat.

According to Staff Sgt. Christopher Clark, 3rd squad leader, his guys reacted to the situation just like they should have.

“They did everything right,” Clark said. “If we could have rehearsed a contact situation like this, I would have wanted them to do it just like they did on the side of that highway.”

“The reason they responded the way they did is because of the training that Staff Sgt. Clark has given them,” Peterson said.

That training not only helped to keep the Geronimos uninjured in

the attack, but it also helped save lives of Afghans. What had looked like a possible ambush was actually a possible assassination.

Minutes prior to the convoy reaching the wadi, the four assailants had opened fire on the car that Peterson earlier noticed. Their bullets had ripped through the door and passed through the driver and his seat. The driver, who died, was the assistant of police security for the area.

The other man who was kneeling near the dead police officer when the convoy arrived worked for an Afghanistan government official. Peterson said that he had no “doubt that he would have died if we hadn’t rolled up when we did.”

The gun men just picked the wrong time and place to carry out their mission.

The Afghans in the area said that they did not recognize the four attackers, but thought they might have come from one of the villages to the north of the attack site.

To ensure that there was no other threat in the area, the task force sent elements of Companies B and C out the following day to saturate the area with U.S. presence. The companies started at opposite ends of the valley where the attackers might have come from and searched the villages for weapons of war and information on al Qaeda.

“The people in the villages were cooperative for the most part,” said 2nd Lt. Huck Finn, 1st platoon leader, Co. C. “They told us that we were making their town safe.”

The two days netted the task force several thousand rounds of ammo, hand grenades, pistols and an RPG. The information garnered from the two days was priceless.

“The information we got will help us to track down where the enemy is,” said Capt. William Kilgore, task force intelligence officer. “It tells us a lot about what the enemy is thinking, planning and doing.”

“On the way back to Salerno we got more waves and thumbs up than we normally do,” said Clark.

“For 30 years these people have seen people being killed and nothing being done about it,” said Peterson. “This time there was immediate justice for them.”



Pfc. Tommy Daw, Company C, pulls security for other task force members as they search an Afghanistan village.

On Patrol with Comanche Company

**Photopage by Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment**

GHAZNI PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Every day since arriving in Ghazni Province in early January, the Soldiers of Comanche Company and the

rest of the companies of 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division leave their respective firebases and ventured out into the numerous surrounding villages in an effort to deny Anti Coalition Militia forces sanctuary in the area.



Nearly all of the patrols conducted out of Comanche Fire base are taken on foot. Here, a platoon takes a breather as they move in a tactical formation through a rural valley in Ghazni during one of their patrols.



(Above) Co. C Soldiers get a lift aboard a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle to the area that they will have to patrol. (Left) Curious Afghan children follow a Co. C Soldier as he and the rest of his squad conduct a routine patrol in a village nearby Comanche Firebase.

FREEDOM'S VOICES

Guantanamo detention is legal, essential

By William Taft

American treatment of detainees held at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba is fully consistent with international law and with centuries-old norms for treating individuals captured in war-time. On Sept. 11 2001, al Qaeda terrorists brutally attacked the U.S. These attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people from more than 90 countries, were not only crimes but also acts of war. Since that day, the U.S. has been at war with al Qaeda and its supporters. This state of war is not in dispute by the United Nations Security Council, which passed a resolution in response to the Sept. 11 attacks recognizing the right of states to act in self-defense; it is not disputed by members of NATO, or the Rio or Anzus treaties, all of which unanimously invoked their treaty clauses regarding collective defense against armed attack.

To suggest that those captured in battle in Afghanistan should be either released or charged with criminal offences, provided with lawyers and then tried in civilian courts reflects a misunderstanding of the situation we are in and the laws that apply to it. We are engaged in a war. The applicable law is the law of armed conflicts and those conventions and customs that govern people fighting in them. Under these rules, captured enemy combatants, whether soldiers or saboteurs, may be detained for the duration of hostilities. This detention is not an act of punishment but one of security and military necessity.

Nothing in the law of war requires a country to charge enemy combatants with crimes, pro-

vide access to counsel absent such charges, or allow them to challenge their detention in court, and states in prior wars have generally not done so. States in the Second World War, for example, did not generally give captured Soldiers access to counsel and courts to challenge their detention. Nor did they release enemy prisoners to rejoin the fight.

The war on terrorism and war in Afghanistan are far from over. Around the world, al Qaeda and its affiliates continue to mount deadly attacks. In Afghanistan, Taliban and al Qaeda fighters continue to attack Afghans and coalition forces. It is therefore premature to say the detainees in Guantanamo must be released because the war is over. It is not.

We have screened more than 10,000 detainees in Afghanistan to determine whether continued detention was warranted. The vast majority have been released. Our policy was, and is, that only enemy combatants who pose special security, intelligence or law enforcement concerns are transferred to Guantanamo.

The detention of enemy combatants at Guantanamo is not an easy or pleasant task. But it is a necessary one. Every day we gain information from detainees that helps us learn about our enemies at large and their plans and operations. As we continue to fight the war on terrorism, a war waged in self-defense against a vicious foe, we must do everything possible to prevent attacks on civilized people around the world.

(William Taft is legal adviser to the U.S. secretary of state.)

STREET TALK

Which Army value do you think best represents Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy?



"Personal Courage, because of all the chances he took to make a difference in society. It takes a strong and courageous man to do that."

Master Sgt. Elliott Hines
10th Aviation Brigade

"Personal Courage. He willingly and without regard for his own life took a stand for equity despite the norms of the world at that time."

Spc. Kyle Luciano
Co. C, 159th Aviation Bde.



"He represents all of them because he represented leadership. He was a leader in a time period when the U.S. needed one. He led by example, one of the essential things the Army promotes."

Maj. Marvin White
CJMOTF

"Honesty, because he tried to do what was morally right. He tried to back down barriers so everyone could be seen for the person he/she is."

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Harrison
Headquarters International Security Assistance Force



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Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

U.S., Pakistan discuss terror

By Paul Haven

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) – Gen. John Abizaid, the chief of the U.S. Central Command, met Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf on Friday to discuss the fight against terror and ways to seal the country's porous border with Afghanistan, officials said.

The general's visit came on the heels of a major operation Jan. 9 by Pakistani military and commando units searching for al Qaeda and Taliban fugitives in South Waziristan, a semiautonomous tribal area along the border. The area is one of the main suspected hideouts of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri.

U.S. and Pakistani officials say no American troops took part in the operation, but U.S. intelligence officials did provide logistical and technical support.

Pakistani authorities say they have arrested 18 foreign terror suspects, but there is no indication any major figures are among those captured. They also have arrested at least 23 local tribesmen on suspicion they gave shelter to the foreigners. Several dozen others are being sought.

U.S. and Afghan officials have long complained that al Qaeda and Taliban suspects who launch attacks in Afghanistan often retreat through the rugged mountains into Pakistan, where they are protected by tribesmen sympathetic to their cause.

"The general (Abizaid) is here to discuss the Taliban and al Qaeda from the point of view of the porousness of the border," a senior official with knowledge of the meeting said on condition of anonymity.

Pakistani Army Spokesman Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan said only that the two sides were discussing "matters of mutual professional interest."

A military official said Abizaid met Musharraf in the morning but would not discuss the rest of his schedule. It also was not clear whether he would go to neighboring Afghanistan to meet with U.S. troops and Afghan officials.

Abizaid's Florida-base Central Command has responsibility for American military operations in

Iraq, as well as Afghanistan, other parts of the Persian Gulf and Central Asia, and the Horn of Africa.

Pakistan is a key U.S. ally and has been instrumental in the battle against al Qaeda. The government has rounded up more than 500 al Qaeda suspected and turned them over to the United States.

Musharraf has earned the ire of both al Qaeda and homegrown Islamic militants through his actions. The military ruler survived two assassination attempts in December – both at the hands of suspected militants.

Musharraf met with his own top generals on Thursday to emphasize his commitment to preventing terrorists from using Pakistani soil as a safe haven. Stopping such attacks is a key part of a peace dialogue agreed to last week with nuclear rival India toward settling their long-standing dispute over the divided Himalayan territory of Kashmir.

Turkey to contribute copters to Afghanistan mission

(*Agence France-Presse*) – Turkey has decided to contribute three helicopters to the NATO-led international stabilization force in Afghanistan, the Turkish army said on Friday.

Deputy chief of staff Ilker Basbug told reporters that the helicopters would be sent to Kabul once technical talks on the issue were completed.

The Netherlands has promised five helicopters, while Germany has pledged another three, he added.

During a visit to Ankara in October, former NATO chief George Robertson asked Turkey to also contribute troops and civilian professionals for reconstruction operations in Afghanistan.

Turkey led the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan between July 2002 and February 2003. A small unit of Turkish soldiers remain in the country.

NATO, in its first mission outside Europe, took command last August of ISAF, which was set up in December 2001 following the defeat of the hardline Taliban regime.

Its members have agreed to expand the force beyond the capital Kabul.

U.N. wants more peacekeepers

UNITED NATIONS (AP) – The outgoing U.N. envoy in Afghanistan urged the immediate expansion of the international peacekeeping force, warning Thursday that factions and extremists are threatening the peace process.

Lakhdar Brahimi said the lack of security is a challenge to implementing the agreement calling for elections in June - and that date "is not realistic anymore."

The agreement for the peace process was reached in Bonn, Germany, in December 2001 after a U.S.-led force ousted the country's former Taliban rulers.

Brahimi told the U.N. Security Council he believes it is urgent to convene another conference "to improve and accelerate the performance of the government and its international partners in implementing the Bonn process."

Brahimi, who spent two years in Kabul, criticized the Afghan government and the international community for not doing enough to make peace irreversible.

He stressed that the success of the convention this month that drew up a new Afghan constitution must be quickly followed by security improvements and efforts to broaden the government's popular support, strengthen the rule of law and increase the pace of reconstruction.

"The new constitutional order will only have meaning for the average Afghan if security improves and the rule of law is strengthened," Brahimi said.

"For too many Afghans, the daily insecurity they face comes not from resurgent extremism associated with the Taliban ... but from the predatory behavior of local commanders and officials who nominally claim to represent the government."

Brahimi said one of the lessons from the first two years of the Bonn process is the difficulty of carrying out a post-conflict transition without security assistance.

NATO is currently running a 5,500-strong peacekeeping force in the capital and expanded its operation last week with the deployment of 170 German troops to the northern city of Kunduz.

Retired SMA Jack Tilley hangs up his muddy boots

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Through tearful eyes and a wavering voice, retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley promised his wife no more deployments and muddy boots, but long walks and more days to do yard work.

Tilley ended a 35-year career in the Army Jan. 15 at a ceremony held at Fort Myer in Arlington, Va. He has made it known to his close friends that he is looking forward to retiring in Florida, but he struggled to clear the lump in his throat and fight back the tears to make his farewell speech as the 12th sergeant major of the Army.

“Although I am taking off my boots for the last time this morning,” Tilley said, “I am a Soldier, no matter what uniform I wear.”

Standing at 5 feet 7 inches tall, he is no giant, but whenever Tilley walks in a room he’s looked up to by both junior Soldiers and senior leaders.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker said that he has only worked with Tilley for about five months, but he sees that he’s a ball of energy ... devoted to improving the quality of life of Soldiers and their families.

“He has worked tirelessly behind the scenes ... He has testified before the United States Congress communicating Soldiers’ concerns about housing, health care and compensation,” Schoomaker said. “And Congress listened, and they approved increased base pay and targeted pay raises for our NCOs (noncommissioned officers.)”

Soldiers don’t expect to get rich soldiering, Tilley said. They only ask that their leaders train them hard and truly care for their wel-

fare, he said. Soldiers learn very quickly if you have their best interest at heart, Tilley added.

“Sergeant Major (Tilley) just doesn’t say he cares about us, he does,” said Spc. Contress Noel-Maberry, a medical specialist at Fort Myer.

While stationed in Germany, Noel-Maberry said that Tilley intervened and helped her get a compassionate assignment to the States to get help for a family member who was enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

“I felt proud to be a Soldier to know that the sergeant major of the Army cared enough about me to help me and my family,” Noel-Maberry said.

The Army’s Soldier of the year, Spc. Russell Burnham, said that Tilley has done so much for him by giving him a chance to earn his current title. It was Tilley’s idea to honor a Soldier and NCO of the year at the Department of the Army level two years ago.

This year Burnham and Staff Sgt. James Luby received \$30,000 in prizes respectively, and received the chance to travel with Tilley on a USO tour to Southwest Asia right before the holidays.

“What you see is what you get,” Burnham said giving one reason why Tilley is so loved and revered among Soldiers. “No matter where life leads us, I will always look to him as my superior.”

The list of people who have met Tilley and grown to love or admire him extends past his military life, and it was apparent when country music singer Darryl Worley made changes to his schedule to make an appearance at Tilley’s retirement dinner. In attendance at his retirement ceremony was Karri Turner from the J.A.G. television series; John Layfield, known as wrestler Bradshaw; and Meredith Whitney from Fox news.



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army salutes while his wife Gloria stands at a modified position of attention during his retirement ceremony Jan. 15 at Fort Myer in Arlington, Va.

Tilley said he has a lifetime of memories from visiting Soldiers in all four corners of the world, but he has also provided Soldiers with memories of him doing one-arm pushups, telling his one and only joke of a private he ran into at the airport who didn’t recognize him, and then there is the sight of him grooving on stage doing the electric slide.

Thanks to Soldiers, Tilley said he survived the streets of Saigon and was able to stand in the streets of downtown Baghdad 35 years later.

Now Tilley is going to focus on being a husband, father and grandfather. He doted on his three grandbabies, and choked up when he talked about how his sons grew up without him at home most of the times.

“That is my only regret,” Tilley said. “I missed so much of your youth,” talking to his sons Brian and Kevin. “I hope that these next 35 years I can try to make up for all the birthdays I missed.”

Hours later after Tilley bid farewell to the Army, Schoomaker swore in the 13th sergeant major of the Army.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston was joined by his wife, Karen, his two sons: Kenneth Jr. and Michael, a specialist in the Army; and his daughter Valerie.



Music Notes (Compiled from CNN.com)



Mystikal

Mystikal sentenced to 6 years

BATON ROUGE, La. – Michael Tyler, better known as the Grammy-nominated rapper Mystikal, was sentenced to six years in prison Thursday for forcing his hair stylist to perform sex acts.

Tyler, 33, who pleaded guilty to sexual battery, was taken from court in handcuffs.

The victim accused Tyler and two bodyguards of forcing her to perform oral sex after they accused her of stealing \$80,000 worth of his checks. She denied stealing any money.

Judge Tony Marabella, who saw a videotape that the men made of the acts, said the victim had been “terrorized.”

“The court is convinced that the defendant believes he is above the law and can take the law into his own hands,” Marabella said.

The bodyguards also pleaded guilty to sexual battery. Leland “Pokie” Ellis, 37, received three years in prison, and Vercy “V” Carter, 35, got four.

Tyler also pleaded guilty to extortion, and earlier received five years probation on that count.

Tyler has paid the woman \$350,000 – \$300,000 of it borrowed from his record label, according to a letter in court records.

It said the money and his plea show he is “continuing to try to make up to all involved for the distress” he caused.



Lawrence is pictured second from left.

Hope guitarist found hanged

LONDON – A guitarist with rising British rockers Hope of the States has been found hanged at an English recording studio.

Police said James Lawrence, 26, was discovered by bandmates hanging from roof timbers at the Real World Studios near Bath, western England, early Thursday.

The studio complex in the western English countryside is owned by Peter Gabriel, former singer with Genesis.

Wiltshire police said his body had been discovered by other members of the group.

“In spite of attempts by ambulance staff Mr. Lawrence was pronounced dead at the scene by a local doctor,” said the police.

They added they were not treating his death as suspicious.

The six-piece band, from the southern English town of Chichester, were at Real World recording their debut album, due for release in the spring after months spent recording in Russia and then Ireland.

The group had a top 40 hit in Britain with “Enemies/Friends” and recently signed to Sony imprint Seeker after what was described by the NME.com Web site as an “an intense bidding war.”

The band, led by singer Sam Herlihy, had recently performed on BBC’s “Top of the Pops” and were due to play at the NME awards at the London Astoria next month.

The state-of-the-art Real World studios are a firm favorite with many in the industry and have been used by everyone from Kylie Minogue to the Stereophonics.

They are set in idyllic surroundings with panoramic views and water features.



Britney Spears

Britney’s take on Timberlake?

NEW YORK – With her wedding/annulment imbroglio behind her, Britney Spears is getting back into showbiz high gear.

Her new video, “Toxic,” will have its debut on Tuesday’s “Making the Video” on MTV, and the singer is readying a North American tour.

The video apparently takes a swipe at ex-boyfriend Justin Timberlake and his “Cry Me a River” video. According to an article on *MTV.com*, “Spears plays a femme fatale who’ll do just about anything to procure a poisonous potion so she can kill her cheating ex, played by actor Martin Henderson.”

Among the video’s images: Spears in flight attendant garb picking up a man for a “bathroom interrogation”; Spears in a catsuit; and Spears wearing “nothing but pasted-on diamonds,” according to *MTV.com*.

Bagram Air Base MWR Event

Dance Party: Night

1530Z at the MWR building

Tomorrow’s movie:
“Queen of the Damned”

Coalition Sports Zone



(Compiled from *SI.com*)

Tigers offer Pudge 4-year, \$40M deal

DETROIT – Ivan Rodriguez has been offered a \$40 million, four-year contract by the Detroit Tigers, a baseball source told *The Associated Press* on Friday.

Rodriguez and his agent, Scott Boras, were in Detroit on Thursday, according to the source who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Tigers president and general manager Dave Dombrowski said earlier this week the team is interested in the 10-time All-Star catcher, but has declined to elaborate much on his discussions with Rodriguez or his agent.

“We continue to explore the situation,” Dombrowski said Friday, before flying to the Chicago area for his father’s birthday. “I don’t expect anything imminently.”

The Chicago Cubs and Baltimore Orioles have also expressed interest in Rodriguez.



Ivan Rodriguez is coming off a postseason in which he hit .313 with 17 RBI in 17 games.

Wilkins’ first game as coach success

NEW YORK – Lenny Wilkins turned Stephon Marbury loose and enjoyed a laugh in his first game as coach of the New York Knicks.

Marbury had 17 assists before going to the bench for good with nine minutes remaining in a 108-88 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics on Friday night.

Repeatedly looking to shoot the first open shot, the Knicks had the kind of offensive freedom not seen from the home team at Madison Square Garden in quite some time. Keith Van Horn scored 30 points in just 28 minutes and Allan Houston added 18 in a game that turned into a blowout before halftime.

Two days after Don Chaney was fired, Wilkins was introduced with no fanfare during pregame introductions. But the fans were chanting Wilkins’ name by the third quarter – and again more in the fourth – after seeing an example of how he’ll try to open up the offense.



Keith Van Horn outgunned Seattle’s leading scorer, Ray Allen, pumping in 30 points on 10-of-15 shooting.

D.C. picks 14-year-old Adu at No. 1

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – In a move that surprised no one, 14-year-old soccer phenom Freddy Adu was selected by D.C. United as the first pick in Friday’s Major League Soccer draft.

“I’m in awe right now,” Adu said after D.C. United took just more than three minutes to make a selection that had been predetermined. “I’ve been waiting for this moment for a long time.”

“I can’t wait to get on the field and start playing,” added Adu, who will try for a starting spot on the United when their season starts in the spring.

Adu, a naturalized American born in Ghana, will become the youngest professional American athlete in over a century when he takes the field in April.

On Nov. 19, Adu became the highest-paid player in MLS with a guaranteed salary of \$500,000. He also inked an endorsement deal with Nike reportedly worth up to \$1 million.

“I’m going to go in, keep my mouth shut and just listen to the guys,” Adu said in an interview with *SI.com*’s Grant Wahl. “I have to earn the respect of my teammates and coaches, and I’m going to do whatever it takes to earn that respect.”



Freddy Adu joined his hometown club, D.C. United.

Panthers’ Davis practices, Fox closes session

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Carolina running back Stephen Davis worked out Friday, only no one got to see it: Panthers coach John Fox closed practice for the first time all season.

Fox also did not reveal much when discussing Davis’ status for the NFC championship game against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

“He looked fine,” the coach offered.

Was he able to participate in all the drills?

“Uh-huh,” Fox mumbled.

Davis, the Panthers’ workhorse tailback who rushed for a career-best 1,444 yards this season, had been held out of practice all week with a strained left quadriceps. He was injured in the second half of Carolina’s playoff victory over St. Louis on a 64-yard run.

Fox reiterated that Davis’ playing status will be a game-time decision. If Davis can’t go, second-year back DeShaun Foster will start.

Lawyer: Maurice Clarett wants to play for OSU in 2004

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Suspended Ohio State tailback Maurice Clarett wants to play for the Buckeyes next season, even if he wins a lawsuit that would make him eligible for the NFL Draft.

“I know he wants to play with Ohio State next season,” his attorney, Percy Squire, said.

Squire explained Clarett always has wanted to return to the Buckeyes, but filed the lawsuit because he did not know whether he would be allowed to play for them again.

“The development of other options by Maurice has been a reaction to the impression that has been given that his return to Ohio State wasn’t welcome,” Squire said.

Attempts to leave a message at the home of Clarett’s mother were unsuccessful because the voicemail was full.

Ohio State suspended Clarett from the team for the season, but not from school, for accepting improper benefits from a family friend and lying about it to investigators.

Clarett, who in 2002 helped Ohio State win the national championship, will be allowed to join the team for winter conditioning workouts next week.

But the university does not expect to contact the NCAA about possibly reinstating Clarett until after the spring quarter starts in late March, athletic department spokesman Steve Snapp said Friday.

The decision to let Clarett work out does not change his suspended status, Snapp said.

Brewers franchise up for sale

MILWAUKEE—The Milwaukee Brewers put a “for sale” sign on the franchise Friday – more than 30 years after Bud Selig and his family moved the team to Milwaukee.

The club has hired investment banking firm Allen & Company of New York to handle the deal, Wendy Selig-Prieb, chairman of the Brewers board of directors, told reporters Friday afternoon.

No timeline has been set for the sale, and the board has not yet discussed a price.

The team’s home, though, seems unlikely to change. The Brewers have a 30-year lease to play at Miller Park that Selig-Prieb called “ironclad.”

The retractable-roof ballpark, built for more than \$413 million with revenue from a five-county sales tax, opened on April 6, 2001.

“This ownership group came into being when baseball left our community, and their objective was to make sure that baseball was here for our community for generations to come,” Selig-Prieb said. “So having now secured that future, this ownership group believes it is now time to move on.”

Solution from Friday’s Crossword in the *Freedom Watch*

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

A	L	T	E	R		S	P	O	T		A	P	O	D
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By Mark Baker

Pvt. Murphy’s Law

Kandahar chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 1130Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel choir practice

Tuesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox/Catholic Bible study
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice

Bagram chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0530Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 0700Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1400Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass

Tuesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 0745Z — Noon-Day prayer
- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 1330Z — Gospel Choir practice
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study
- ❖ 1515Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1900Z — Evening Worship service

K2 chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0300Z- Liturgical Service
- ❖ 0400,0730,1400Z-General Protestant Service
- ❖ 0530Z-Roman Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1230Z-Latter Day Saints

Monday

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

Tuesday

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Biblestudy

Wednesday

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Midweek Praise Service

Thursday

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

Friday

- ❖ 1400Z-Jewish Service
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Biblestudy

Saturday

- ❖ 0400Z-Jewish Service
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Spanish Worship Services

Kabul Compound chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0430Z — Protestant service (ARK Conference room)
- ❖ 1000Z — U.S. Embassy service (Dining facility)

	K2	Bagram	Kabul	KAF
W e a t h e r	<i>Today</i>			
		Hi — 63F Lo — 36F	Hi — 46F Lo — 30F	Hi — 45F Lo — 32F
	<i>Sunday</i>			
	Hi — 64F Lo — 35F	Hi — 50F Lo — 32F	Hi — 48F Lo — 30F	
<i>Monday</i>				
	Hi — 55F Lo — 29F	Hi — 50F Lo — 32F	Hi — 48F Lo — 30F	Hi — 63F Lo — 37F

Task Force Phoenix chapel hours

Daily

- ❖ 1430Z — Estudio Biblico En Espanol

Sunday

- ❖ 1330Z — Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1600Z — Latter Day Saints (DFAC)

Tuesday

- ❖ 1530Z — Bible Study

Friday

- ❖ 0530Z — Protestant Service
- ❖ 1230Z — Choir practice

All events are held in Chapel or DFAC.