

## ROK Soldiers receive prominent visitor

Story and photo by Sgt. Greg Heath  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – The more than 200 Republic of Korea Soldiers serving here at Bagram Air Base welcomed distinguished visitor Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Hee-Sang Kim, Republic of Korea’s Advisor on National Defense to the President, Jan. 19 on an overnight visit.

Kim and his entourage, which included ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff operation director, Maj. Gen. Ki Seok Song, stopped in Bagram as part of their tour to deliver words of support from the South Korean people to ROK soldiers stationed in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Iraq in support of the global War on Terrorism.

Bagram is home to three deployed ROK units, the “Dong-yi” ROK Medical Group, the “Da-san” ROK Engineer Group and a small civil affairs unit that is part of the Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team.



*Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Hee-Sang Kim, Republic of Korea’s Advisor on National Defense to the President, visited the more than 200 ROK troops deployed at Bagram Air Base Jan. 19.*

In the evening all of the ROK soldiers gathered in the Enduring Faith chapel to hear a message from Kim about the importance of their work here in Afghanistan.

The situation in Afghanistan nowadays

is the same as the situation was in Korea 50 years ago after the Korean War, said Hee-Sang Kim. After the war everything in our

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*Lt. Col. Houston B. Washington listens intently as Brig. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III talks to troops at the Martin Luther King Jr. ceremony Monday.*

## Martin Luther King Jr. celebrated on Bagram

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – In the midst of a country torn by tribal intolerance, American Soldiers here took time Monday to look back at their own troubled past and celebrate an American hero.

It was standing room only in the Checo Room at the Viper Dining Facility as Soldiers assembled to honor civil rights pioneer Mar-

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*Bush: "Americans are rising to the tasks of history."*

## Bush warns of 'work unfinished'

WASHINGTON – Ten months before facing voters, President Bush delivered an upbeat State of the Union address Tuesday night that defended his stewardship of the nation at home and abroad, as he called on Americans to stay the course.

Addressing a joint session of Congress in the House chamber, Bush cited progress in the war on terrorism and in turning the U.S. economy around. But much work remained, he said.

"We have not come all this way through tragedy and trial and war only to falter and leave our work unfinished," Bush said. "Americans are rising to the tasks of history and they expect the same of us."

The prepared speech tackles a host of issues, many familiar: an impassioned defense of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, a call on Congress to make permanent some recently enacted tax cuts, and allowing religious institutions to use tax dollars to deliver various social services.

The speech also touches on some issues sure to get the attention of conservatives – a key component of the president's political base.

## Democratic battle moves to N.H.

MANCHESTER, N.H. – Invigorated by a come-from-behind win in the Iowa caucuses, U.S. Sen. John Kerry moved on early Tuesday to New Hampshire, where he took aim at President Bush.

The Massachusetts Democrat told Granite State voters they now have the opportunity "to give America back its future and its soul."

After leaving Iowa at 4:20 a.m. ET, Kerry, his wife, Teresa, and daughter Vanessa greeted a large crowd of supporters in New Hampshire, where the nation's first primary election is but a

week away.

Kerry slammed the president for "this so-called recovery as defined by George Bush," "for making a mockery of the words 'leave no child behind' " and for "the most arrogant, inept, reckless and ideological foreign policy in the modern history of our nation."

On Monday night, Kerry – his campaign all but written off two months ago – came away with a clear-cut win in the Iowa caucuses, positioning himself for a New Hampshire showdown with former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and retired Gen. Wesley Clark.

In an announcement Tuesday in St. Louis, Missouri, Gephardt told supporters that he was bowing out of the presidential race.



*Shiite Muslims march through Baghdad.*

## Saddam's execution demanded

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Thousands of Shiite Muslims marched through Baghdad on Tuesday, clamoring for Saddam Hussein's execution in the latest show of strength by a community repressed for decades by the former dictator.

"Saddam is a war criminal, not a POW ... execute Saddam," the 5,000-strong crowd chanted. It was believed to be the first public demonstration in Iraq to demand death for Saddam since he was captured by U.S. forces on Dec. 13.

A similar protest was held Tuesday in the southern Shiite city of Najaf, where hundreds of people marched through the streets.

The rallies were far smaller than one Monday in which nearly 100,000 Shiites marched in the Iraqi capital to demand early, direct elections, rejecting a U.S. blueprint for handing over power on July 1 to an unelected Iraqi provisional government.

Faced with the growing Shiite opposition, the United States asked the United Nations on

Monday to send a team to Iraq to see if elections could be held. U.S. officials hope the team would conclude that early elections are not feasible and convince Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani to drop his demand for them.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he was considering the U.S. request.



*An Israeli soldier wounded in Monday's attack is prepared for transfer to another hospital.*

## Israel strikes Hezbollah targets in south Lebanon

JERUSALEM – Israeli warplanes Tuesday pounded two Hezbollah bases in the central and western areas of southern Lebanon, a day after the death of an Israeli Soldier along the Israel-Lebanon border, Israeli security sources said.

"Israel considers Syria directly responsible for any terror activity emanating from Lebanon, and will not tolerate the current situation whereby the terror organizations attempt to escalate the situation," the Israel Defense Forces said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. Israel said "terror activity" is carried out from the bases on northern Israel.

One Israeli Soldier was killed and another wounded Monday when Hezbollah guerrillas fired an anti-tank missile at a military tractor sent to the Israel-Lebanon border to remove explosives planted by Hezbollah on Jan. 4, the Israeli Army said.

Tuesday's attack by Israel comes three months after Israel launched an airstrike on Syria, destroying a terror training base that had been used by "many terror organizations," including Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Israel Defense Forces said. A spokesman for the group denied there were any Palestinian Islamic Jihad training bases in Syria.

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country was destroyed and by the work you're doing here you give hope to the Afghan people and help them develop their country; and we are very proud of the job you've done, he added.

Since arriving in Afghanistan in late August, the current ROK Engineer Group has completed more than 46 construction projects; the biggest of which was the expansion of Bagram Airfield's taxiway and

runway.

The ROK Medical Group, the fourth Korean unit of its kind to be deployed here in Afghanistan, has treated more than 16,000 Afghan patients since also arriving here in late August. In total, the four ROK medical units have treated more than 84,000 Afghans over the last two years.

For ROK Medical Group interpreter, Sgt. Andrew Kyungyoon Kim, and many others, it was a surprise to see a high-ranking government official come all the way to Af-

ghanistan to visit a relatively small group of ROK soldiers.

But according to Kyungyoon Kim, one of the most impressive aspects of the entire visit was a simple gesture made by their distinguished visitor.

"We had spent a lot of time setting up a special room for him and his entourage but he said he wanted to sleep in the tents with the soldiers," said Kyungyoon Kim. "It showed me that they wanted to feel what we are feeling out here."

## Civil Affairs Task Force transfers authority

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – It's out with the old and in with the new as the Combined Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force got a new commander and crew in a Transfer of Authority ceremony here.

A group of the old, the 321<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Brigade and 407<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion from Minnesota and Texas, and a group of the new, the 364<sup>th</sup> CA Bde. and 401<sup>st</sup> CA Bn. from Oregon and New York, stood in formation to honor the symbolic passing of the flag Monday in the Bagram Civic Center.

Brig. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, Combined Joint Task Force-180 commander, was the honored guest at the ceremony and gave words of praise for the outgoing nation builders.

"You have completed hundreds of tasks that are helping to bring stability and security to the people of Afghanistan," he said. "You have built schools, clinics, wells, roads and bridges and the looks on the faces of the people that benefit from this assistance tell of the importance and impact you have made."

Austin said that the fact the coalition was able to do a replacement in place of one of its major units while still engaging the enemy was testament to the professionalism and skill of coalition troops.

Following the praise for a job well done, Austin gave words of encouragement for those picking up the torch.

"You have a large task in front of you and I want to encourage you to work together as a team," he said.

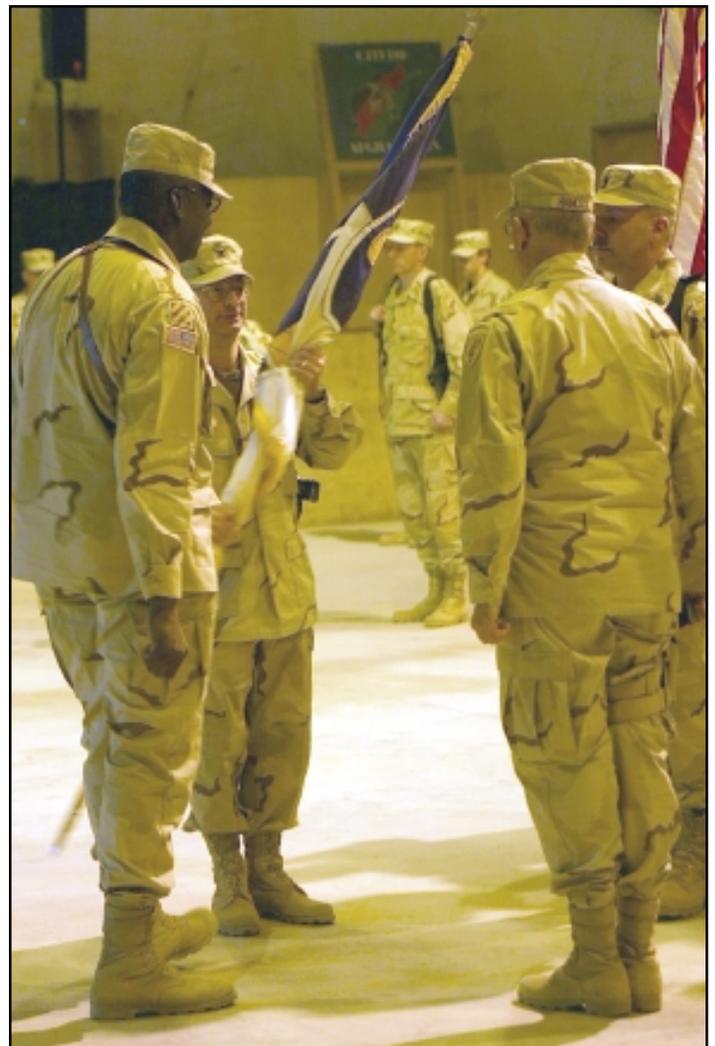
Col. Mackey Hancock, the outgoing CJCMOTF commander, echoed Austin's words of encouragement.

"Know that you will accomplish the mission," he said.

The incoming commander, Col. Richard C. Perry, seemed eager to begin the thorny task of rebuilding a nation in his brief remarks.

"I welcome the challenge and the opportunity," he said.

Perry takes command of a critical organization to the coalition mission in Afghanistan. CJCMOTF's Provincial Reconstruction Teams are a centerpiece to the mission to provide a lasting peace as



*Col. Richard C. Perry receives the unit flag from Brig. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III during the Transfer of Authority ceremony for the Combined Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force Monday.*

well as a safe and secure environment for the people of Afghanistan.

Currently, CJMOTF has PRTs at Gardez, Bamian, Mazar-e-Sharif, Konduz, Parwan, Herat, Kandahar and Jalabad. Four new PRTs are planned to open at Ghazni, Khowst, Asadabad and Qalat.

**KING**, from Page 1

tin Luther King Jr. and his legacy of racial and religious tolerance.

Featured speaker at the event, Lt. Col. Houston B. Washington, 327<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion commander, gave a presentation on civil rights history in the military and played an audio recording of King speaking.

“I believe the U.S. military is the most diverse and integrated organization in the world,” said Washington.

He then took the audience through a slide show of the history of the military up through the Korean War when segregation in the military was abolished in 1952.

The MP commander then talked of what he saw for the future of the military and warned, just as King warned many years ago, for Americans not to become complacent.

“We can’t put our head in the sand because we still have work to do,” said Washington.

After presenting a Combined Joint Task Force-180 coin to Washington for his historical insights, Brig. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, CJTF-180 commander, talked to those assembled about the significance of the day.

Austin said the reason America was attacked by terrorists was for the U.S. belief in “justice for all” and our diversity.

He said that there was still a lot of hatred here in Afghanistan and it was our job to show the Afghans a better way.

“There’s a lot of hatred here and the U.S. doesn’t tolerate that,” he said.

Austin went on to praise the Army’s diversity and said that diversity “makes us better.”

“I treasure diversity,” he said. “I treasure every member of my staff that’s a different race ... or a different religion. Every one of them has a different point of view that they can bring to the table.”

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is one of America’s newest holidays – only in its 10<sup>th</sup> year of being observed. The day is generally known as a day of service, which is echoed by the holiday’s motto as “a day on, not a day off.”

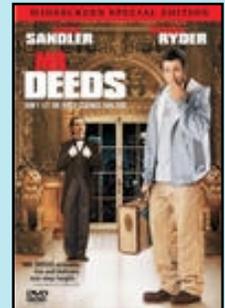
As King said, “Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.”

# Bagram Air Base MWR presents

## “Mr. Deeds”

1530Z at the MWR building:  
A sweet-natured, small-town guy inherits a controlling stake in a media conglomerate and begins to do business his way.

Tomorrow’s movie:  
“Happy Gilmore”



# Local weather

## TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Thursday
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Cloudy/Fog H: 39F L: 31F	Cloudy/Fog H: 41F L: 25F
<b>Bagram:</b>	Cloudy/Snow H: 46F L: 32F	Cloudy/Snow H: 43F L: 28F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Cloudy/Snow H: 43F L: 30F	Cloudy/Snow H: 41F L: 28F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Cloudy/Rain H: 55F L: 41F	Cloudy/Haze H: 50F L: 41F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

*Freedom Watch* falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

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*Freedom Watch*, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

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All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)



*Soriano joined Barry Bonds and Willie Mays as the only players to post back-to-back seasons of at least 35 homers and 35 stolen bases.*

## Soriano agrees to year, \$5.4 M contract

**NEW YORK** – All-Star second baseman Alfonso Soriano agreed to a one-year, \$5.4 million contract with the New York Yankees on Tuesday, avoiding salary arbitration.

Soriano was eligible for arbitration for the first time. He made \$800,000 last year, when the Yankees renewed his contract.

Soriano's stats slipped somewhat last season, when he batted .290 with 38 homers, 91 RBIs and 35 steals. In 2002, he hit .300 with 39 homers, 102 RBIs and 41 steals.

A free swinger, he cut his strikeouts from 157 in 2002 to 135 last year, but he hit just .130 (4-for-30) in the AL championship series against Boston and .227 (5-for-22) in the World Series loss to Florida. Manager Joe Torre even benched him before Game 5 of the World Series.

Soriano, an All-Star in each of the last two seasons, is eligible for free agency after the 2005 season.

He made 19 errors last season, prompting speculation that the Yankees might try to move him to the outfield. But during the offseason, New York signed free-agent outfielders Gary Sheffield and Kenny Lofton.

## Wiggins to face former teammates

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** – Jermaine Wiggins considers himself a die-hard Boston sports fan, and that includes an allegiance to the New England Patriots.

But Carolina's tight end will have to put his support for the Patriots on hold when he and the Panthers play New England in the Super Bowl.

"It will be strange," Wiggins, a native of East Boston, acknowledged. "But you know what? It's not going to be a big deal for me. They are trying to win, and I am trying to win it. That's all."

Wiggins lived out his childhood dream by playing one season with the Patriots in 2001. He also played a central role in New England's Super Bowl victory that season.

He had a Patriots postseason record 10 catches for 68 yards – including three receptions on the game-winning drive in overtime – in

New England's playoff victory against Oakland in the famous "Tuck Rule" game.

## Prosecutors 'outgunned' in Bryant trial

**DENVER** – Not long after he was accused of rape, Kobe Bryant held a nationally televised news conference with his wife in which he tearfully admitted to adultery and nothing else.

More recently, though, Bryant's side has managed to put the focus on the mental health and sex life of Bryant's 19-year-old accuser.

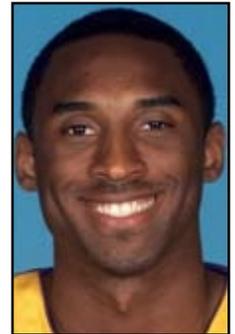
Behind the shift is a deep-pocketed defense team for the NBA star that has kept prosecutors off balance with a flood of paperwork and dominated court sessions in the case.

The defense has hit the prosecution with court filings questioning everything about the case, from the motives of sheriff's investigators and the accuser to the constitutionality of a Colorado law that protects rape victims. A trial is months away at the earliest.

The prosecutor, Eagle County District Attorney Mark Hurlbert, has recruited expert help from his counterparts around Colorado, but at times has seemed to be grasping for words in Judge Terry Ruckriegle's courtroom.

Legal experts say Hurlbert is delivering a methodical, textbook case but is simply not keeping up with quick-thinking defense attorney Pamela Mackey and her sharp-tongued partner, Hal Haddon.

"I would say outgunned, outclassed," trial consultant Howard Varinsky said of the prosecution.



*Kobe Bryant*

## LeBron James won't play Tuesday

**CLEVELAND** – LeBron James isn't going to take any chances with his sprained right ankle.

"It's coming along," James said before sitting out Cleveland's game Tuesday against the Seattle SuperSonics. "But I'm not going to push it. It's a long season and I've got a long career. When I feel like my ankle is ready and I'm 100 percent, I'll be back."

James injured his ankle Saturday in Utah when he stepped on the foot of Jazz forward Andrei Kirilenko after attempting a layup.

"I thought it was real bad when it happened," said James, who started Cleveland's first 40 games.

Coach Paul Silas said at Tuesday's morning shootaround that the 19-year-old might be able to return for Thursday's game against Sacramento. But James, who never missed a high school game because of injury, said he doesn't know when he'll be back and seemed to indicate he could be out for a few games. He hasn't tried running yet, and didn't want to put a percentage on how strong the ankle felt.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## U.S. rejects report of civilian deaths

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (*Reuters*) – The U.S. military Tuesday rejected reports from Afghan provincial officials that it had killed 11 civilians, including four children, in a weekend air strike in central Afghanistan.

A military spokesman said the strike during an operation in Uruzgan province's Charcheno district Sunday killed "five armed men" who left a compound where "mid-level leadership" of the ousted Taliban regime had gathered. Reacting to reports from senior government officials in the province, who said U.S. planes had killed 11 civilians, including four children and three women, U.S. spokesman Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty told a news conference:

"Typically, the Taliban are attempting to spread disinformation, propaganda, in order to discredit the coalition.

"Our aircraft did not engage non-combatants. We clearly identified and engaged five armed adult males. We have reviewed the incident, but, as I stated above, there is no indication that any civilians were involved."

Uruzgan's governor, Jan Mohammad Khan and Charcheno's district chief Abdur Rahman both said Monday that 11 civilians were killed in the tiny village. Uruzgan was a stronghold of the Taliban before its overthrow by U.S.-led forces in late 2001 and was the scene of a notorious incident in July 2002 when a U.S. helicopter gunship fired on a wedding party.

The Afghan government said 48 people were killed and 117 hurt in that incident. The U.S. military eventually said 34 died and 50 were wounded – most women and children – but said the aircraft came under fire.

Only last month, 15 children were among 18 civilians killed in bungled U.S. air strikes targeting militant commanders in the southern provinces of Paktia and Ghazni

## Afghan security concerns remain

(*The New York Times*) – Afghanistan has a fine new constitution, but for most of its people, security remains the foremost concern. Debates about the intricacies of civil versus Islamic law or the division of powers between the central and provincial governments seem secondary when people are afraid to sow their fields or transport their crops to market. Setting the stage for something like normal life in Afghanistan will require sustained military help and training from American and NATO military forces. It will also require stronger efforts by Pakistan to support Afghanistan's government and to prevent Taliban forces from crossing the border.

Despite the presence of more than 10,000 American troops and nearly 6,000 international peacekeepers in Afghanistan, warlord armies, criminal bandits, drug traffickers and resurgent Taliban make travel perilous and threaten people in their homes and villages. The danger is greatest in the provinces along the border with Pakistan. On the Pakistani side of that border, local inhabitants and governments sympathetic to the Taliban, and some sympathetic military officers as well, have permitted the virtually unchecked recruitment of Taliban fighters and their infiltration into Afghanistan.

The Taliban virtually began as a creation of Pakistan's military intelligence services and have long benefited from support among the Pashtun ethnic group, which spans both sides of the border. In response to pleas from Washington after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, cut off all official ties with Taliban leaders and aided American efforts to oust them from power in Kabul. That rupture was courageous and welcome. But it should have been more complete. Local governments along the Afghan border continue to provide the Taliban with valuable sanctuaries.

Pakistan's ambiguous relationship with the Taliban is in keeping with the larger pattern that Musharraf has followed during most of the past two years, on issues from Afghanistan to Kashmir and domestic Islamic extremism. Rather than following through on his promises to break cleanly with all forms of violent Islamic radicalism, he has moved selectively and equivocally, hoping to keep his opposition off balance. Instead, the various Islamist radical groups have coalesced into the greatest threat to his regime and his life.

In response, Musharraf has begun to stiffen his denunciations of all forms of Islamic terrorism. He now acknowledges the security problem in the border areas. Although he minimizes the involvement of local political and military authorities, he promises an imminent crackdown. And last week, he sent his prime minister to meet with Afghanistan's president, Hamid Karzai, the highest-level Pakistani visit to Kabul since the Taliban government fell. By following up this visit with strong and effective measures against the Taliban, Musharraf can contribute to a more secure future not just for Afghanistan, but for Pakistan as well.

**"Man, this is better than the Boy Scouts!"**



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By Kevin Kilgore

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