

Military Police unity keeps K-2 in ‘check’

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

KARSHI-KHANABAD, Uzbekistan – “Nobody ever thought 9/11 would happen, but here we are (in Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Iraq) nearly three years later as a result of it, so everyday you have to be ready for anything. You have to be proactive,” said Maj. Thomas Cooney, 342nd Military Police Detachment, Deputy Provost Marshall and Operations Officer. “There is no room for complacency over here.”

Those are the words that a steely Cooney emphasizes to the Soldiers of the 342nd MP Det. and 290th MP Company everyday before they take on the task of operating as Camp Stronghold Freedom, Karshi-Khanabad Airbase’s first line of force protection.

“Our mission is to operate the entry con-



Pfc. Jared Butler searches a visitor as Spc. Ashley Webber, both from the 342nd Military Police Detachment, searches his vehicle before leaving Camp Stronghold Freedom.

trol points, conduct law and order patrols, conduct military police and traffic accident investigations and provide force protection,” said Cooney. “Our job is pretty much the same as a community police department back

home.”

Their size illustrates that fact, combined Soldiers from the 342nd MP Det., part of the

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Terrorism challenges freedom, Rumsfeld says

Story by Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Terrorism is a “truly deadly” challenge to freedom, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Thursday.

Speaking at a Pentagon breakfast honoring the late Martin Luther King, Rumsfeld said the terrorist threat is more deadly than any that could be imagined during King’s era.

“It’s a challenge – not only to the freedom that we enjoy, but also to the very idea of living free. It’s a challenge to being able to say what you wish, go where you wish and behave as you wish. We’re fighting it by setting in motion the forces of freedom and trying to help make that freedom real to others,” Rumsfeld said.

The defense secretary called the breakfast audience at the Pen-

tagon “freedom fighters,” because, he said, “you believe as he (King) did, in the dream of freedom. In your own way, you’re engaged in the great battle to protect and respect freedom.”

Rumsfeld said that in Afghanistan, young women, by virtue of their sex, were denied the right to study, practice medicine, or to appear on the street, except in certain dress. “They’re now attending school and pursuing careers as equals,” he noted.

Turning to Iraq, Rumsfeld said the Kurds and Shia, many of whom were oppressed because of their religion and ethnicity, now have an opportunity to participate fully in the life and government of their country.

Calling King a courageous leader, Rumsfeld said “he was also a freedom fighter. Not just a fighter for freedom, in the sense that he battled evil and segregation and discrimination, but a champion who challenged every American to live up to the promise of freedom. He believed in the promise of America.”

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



President Bush met Tuesday with Iraqi envoys (from left) Hoshiyar Zebari, Adnan Pachachi, Ahmed Chalabi and Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim.

Adnan Chalabi joins call for direct elections in Iraq

WASHINGTON – A leading member of the Iraqi Governing Council called Friday for nationwide direct elections in Iraq, echoing a growing number of voices in the country seeking elections before the United States hands over sovereignty July 1.

“The view that we hold in Iraq now is this – that democracy is associated with elections,” said Ahmed Chalabi, who was the first to hold the council’s rotating presidency. “I believe that elections are possible.”

Chalabi’s comments at the American Enterprise Institute mark a sharp departure from previous views voiced by the council. It joined with the United States in November in announcing a plan for caucuses to choose the transitional national assembly by the end of May. That assembly would pick a transitional sovereign government, which would take power July 1.

But Shiite critics of the plan, particularly Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, want direct elections for the transitional legislature.

The United States maintains that it is too difficult to organize direct elections before the July 1 deadline, but has asked the United Nations to gauge the possibility of direct elections within the timetable.

Dean: ‘I have all kinds of warts’

(CNN) – Three days after the scream “heard ‘round the world,” Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean was still trying to explain his frenzied speech following his third-place finish in the Iowa caucuses.

“I was having a great time,” he told ABC’s Diane Sawyer on Primetime Thursday. “I am not a perfect person, believe me, I have all kinds of warts. I wear cheap suits sometimes, I say things that I probably ought not to say, but I lead with my heart, and that’s what I was doing right there, leading with my heart.”

Dean said he was trying to raise the spirits of more than 3,000 disappointed volunteers who had worked so hard for his campaign in Iowa.



The mother and daughter of a woman killed near Fallujah grieve at her gravesite.

Al Qaeda agent arrested in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A senior al Qaeda operative was captured Thursday in Iraq by friendly foreign forces and turned over to U.S. intelligence personnel, senior U.S. officials said.

A U.S. official told CNN that Ghul is a “longtime facilitator, operator” within al Qaeda, and a “significant player.”

It is believed that Ghul was captured soon after his arrival in Iraq, the official said.

Earlier Friday, Pentagon sources announced that U.S. forces had captured a man described as a top lieutenant to a man connected to Ansar al-Islam, a Kurdish guerrilla group that U.S. officials say is linked to Osama bin Laden’s terrorist network.

Ansar al-Islam is accused of attacking U.S. troops in northern Iraq.

The suspect, identified as Husam al Yemeni, was captured last week along with other suspects during a raid near Fallujah in central Iraq, sources told CNN. He is said to be a key associate of Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi. Pentagon officials call the capture

“significant” and say it suggests they may be getting closer to finding Zarqawi.



Keeshan as Captain Kangaroo in 1981.

TV’s ‘Captain Kangaroo,’ Bob Keeshan dies from illness

(CNN) – Television’s Captain Kangaroo, Bob Keeshan, died Friday morning in Vermont, a family friend told CNN.

He was 76.

He died after a long illness, his family told *The Associated Press*.

“Captain Kangaroo,” a children’s show, featured the walrus-mustached, bowl-hair-cut Keeshan entertaining youngsters with his gentle, whimsical humor. Among the show’s other characters were the puppets Bunny Rabbit and Mr. Moose, as well as Dancing Bear and the laconic Mr. Green Jeans (Hugh Brannum).

The show ran on CBS from 1955 to 1985, and then moved to public television for six more years. The show won six Emmys and three Peabody Awards.

The format was simplicity itself: Keeshan would wander through the Treasure House, wearing his distinctive big-pocketed coat, and talk with Brannum and the puppets. He’d meet with guests, tell stories, and generally entertain.

Shows were frequently interrupted with silliness, such as hundreds of ping-pong balls dropping from the ceiling or Mr. Moose’s knock-knock jokes.

But the mainstay was the grandfatherly Keeshan.

“I was impressed with the potential positive relationship between grandparents and grandchildren, so I chose an elderly character,” Keeshan said, according to the AP.

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94th Regional Readiness Command and the 290th MP Co., of the Maryland National Guard make up nearly a 100-man protection force.

And though they may operate similarly to a police department back home, the one snag in Cooney's comparison is that a police department back home doesn't have two separate entities combined to do one job; however, K2 does.

"We started as the superior command when we first arrived, but we both had the same mission (protecting K2 service members, civilians and military assets) so it made sense to join and become one force," said Cooney.

Before their merger, the units split the duty of operating the entry control points and other force protection measures. The 290th MP Co. was designated as the base's quick reaction force, while the 342nd MP Det. handled the military investigations, traffic details and law and order patrols.

Having two law enforcement agencies on base would seem to create an antipathy with one unit getting the "good duties", but conversely the merger enabled the MPs to forge a great working relationship and has afforded senior officers the time to brainstorm on security improvements.

"The whole job is about people, about service," said Sgt. Kevin Haj, 342nd MP Det. "We get along great because both units understand that. We share duties without missing a beat."

Haj added that another benefit to having two units available is that the mission never has to stop or alter due to training non-MP Soldiers on how to conduct force protection.

"Having two forces allows us to fulfill all tasks given to us, and allows (leaders) to constantly check our security for weaknesses," said Cooney. "Without the extra bodies something would have to drop off – patrols, investigations or some other inner base force protection (asset). This enables us to complete the entire mission."

Cooney iterated that having two forces also helps to keep Soldiers from getting burned out.

"We don't get much time off, but that's the life of an MP," said Spc. Adam



Sgt. Randy Marvel and his MP working dog check a truck for ordnance to ensure the safety and security of Camp Stronghold Freedom.

Canterbury, of the 290th MP Co. "So having two units is a plus because it helps relieve some of the burden off each other."

Though K2's probability of encountering enemy forces is less likely than the other security forces in the combined joint operations area, they're no less vigilant in their job approach.

"We weren't asked, 'where do you want to serve – Iraq, Afghanistan or Uzbekistan?' Because if we were, I'm pretty sure my Soldiers would have chosen Iraq or Afghanistan," said Cooney. "But (there are) people out there always thinking of ways to hurt us, so while the job here no doubt gets boring at times, we have to stay ready. We don't have the same problems as Afghanistan and Iraq, but that is a plus and minus within itself."

"There is a big misconception (about encountering enemy contact) here, (but) we react to everything like it's a potential danger," said Cpl. William Fitzgerald, of the 342nd MP Det. "We are a combat support unit, so while I'm sure a lot of us would like to be out there fighting the battle, the truth is someone has to be in the rear to maintain law and order, and that someone is us."



Sgt. Randy Marvel and his MP working dog check a truck for ordnance before allowing the vehicle to enter Camp Stronghold Freedom.



2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment mortarmen create a makeshift weight bench from a Humvee towbar to get a little work out.

Passing time at Comanche Firebase



Soldiers gather around a hand-crank powered radio to keep up with news.

A Comanche Company Soldier takes a break to write a letter home inside of a small room in the Afghan compound.



Photo Page by Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment



A Soldier takes a moment to enjoy a rare hot meal at the base.

FREEDOM'S VOICES

Bringing the Afghan experience to Iraq

By James Dobbins

The appointment of Lakhdar Brahimi, the former U.N. envoy to Afghanistan, as a senior adviser to the U.N. secretary general, Kofi Annan, opens the possibility that the United Nations and the United States may be able to achieve in Iraq what they have just achieved in Afghanistan – agreement among all ethnic and religious groups on a democratic constitution.

Brahimi has returned to headquarters in New York after spending two years as the U.N. senior envoy in Kabul, where he successfully organized and brokered agreement at the recently concluded grand council, or loya jirga, in Afghanistan.

At the loya jirga, more than 500 delegates chosen by communities throughout Afghanistan debated the balance between central and local authority, Parliament and president, large and small ethnic groups, religious authority and secular law, tradition and modernity. In the end they all agreed on a document capable of meeting the aspirations of their constituencies and the standards of the international community. Afghanistan is at least as ethnically fractured, and far more socially and economically ravaged than Iraq.

If Afghans can peacefully select their representatives, and if those in turn can come together to debate and ultimately agree on a genuinely democratic Constitution, there must be hope that something similar can be achieved in Iraq.

The post-Sept. 11 international consensus also caused the governments that had been

most responsible for pulling Afghanistan apart in the preceding 20 years – Russia, Pakistan, Iran and India – to collaborate with America in putting it back together again.

The popular American perception persists that after Sept. 11, the United States formed an international coalition and defeated the Taliban. In fact, the United States responded to the Sept. 11 attacks by joining an existing coalition consisting of Iran, Russia and India in support of the Northern Alliance.

U.S. influence caused Pakistan to abandon its support for the Taliban. By early December 2001, Northern Alliance forces toppled the Taliban and liberated most of Afghanistan. These indigenous forces received some U.S. money and a great deal of American air support, but they were equipped, trained and paid principally by Russia, Iran and India. After the collapse of the Taliban, American willingness to work collaboratively with those three countries and others within a UN-sponsored framework promoted the early emergence of a broadly based successor regime.

Successful U.S.-UN collaboration in Afghanistan points the way toward a similar achievement in Iraq. The Afghan experience underscores the positive, and perhaps the essential roles that both the United Nations and neighboring states can play in fostering the emergence of a moderate, modernizing and democratizing successor to the regime of Saddam Hussein.

(The writer was President George W. Bush's special envoy for Afghanistan.)

STREET TALK

Who do you feel the Democratic nominee should be?



"I don't care because I'm a Republican."

Spc. Jason McGowan,
Co. D, 140th Aviation



"Kerry, because he's a decorated veteran, (and) his economic views are pretty good."

Cpl. Elton Thomas,
HHC 10th Mtn.



"Kerry, because he's someone that's served."

Spc. Kathryn Jorgenson,
10th Soldier Support Btn.



"That'd be Gen. Clark because he has the best opportunity to beat Bush, he has the military experience and he would do a better job on the War on Terrorism."

Sgt. Joel Colon,
327th MP Btn.

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Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Pres. Karzai's costly project

(Radio Netherlands) – Afghanistan has announced a major nationwide reconstruction project. President Hamid Karzai says every district of the country will benefit from the \$160-million-dollar project to build public offices, banks, post offices, and libraries. The only catch is, he doesn't have the money or the infrastructure to carry it out.

In this interview with Radio Netherlands, Paul Bucherer of the Swiss Afghanistan Institute says lack of funds isn't the only problem.

"I think it's a very important project and something needs to be done on infrastructure, but in practice it will be quite problematic, because on the one hand, the political influence of the Kabul government is quite limited and on the other, it's a big financial problem."

"You see, most of the financial resources – the \$5.2 billion dollars pledged by the international community for the reconstruction of Afghanistan – are used to pay peacekeeping troops. If you know that the cost for one single Soldier per day is around \$4,000 dollars, then not much money remains for reconstructing the country."

"You find similar problems with non-governmental organizations or NGOs which Afghans call 'cows drinking their own milk'. About 70 percent of NGO money is used for their own purpose."

RN: "The project is meant to cost \$160 million dollars and be completed in two years. But considering that the government lacks the necessary funds or infrastructure, how realistic is the plan?"

"It may not be realistic, but it shows the direction in which the Afghan government intends to go and it's keeping hopes and ideas alive. We should not forget that the Afghan countryside is a completely agricultural society. Schools or libraries are not the sort of items that are needed now for reconstruction. Mouths have to be fed first."

RN: "But if a plan is completely unrealistic, and on top of that doesn't address the

immediate needs of the people, isn't there a danger that they'll be so disappointed that they'll lose faith in a government whose influence is already limited?"

"You're right, but confidence in the central government among the people in the countryside is already very low. And if you say, the cost of this project will be \$160 million dollars over two years, then it's really not much more than peanuts for a country of the size of France or Germany."

RN: "But it's peanuts that those countries don't seem willing enough to give. I mean, there's been a rather disappointing response, because there've been promises of aid money, but the money is far from being in the bank."

"You're right, but still, \$160 million dollars should be something that could be provided. The outside world has mainly taken an interest in Afghanistan because of the events of 11 September. And if we lose the battle for peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan, then the country will become once again a haven for terrorists with repercussions far beyond its borders."

Kabul appoints new governor in turbulent Paktika province

(AP) – Afghan President Hamid Karzai has appointed a new governor and security chief in turbulent Paktika province in southwestern Afghanistan, *Afghan Islamic Press (AIP)* reported Thursday.

Ghulabuddin Mangal will replace Ali Muhammad Jalali, the Pakistan-based news agency reported, quoting a spokesman of the governor.

Muhammad Raheem, vice security chief of Ghazni Province, will take over as Paktika's security chief in place of incumbent Gen. Daulat Khan, it said.

The reasons for Jalali's removal were not given, but it followed widespread reports of increasing tension between him and U.S.-led allied troops.

Paktika borders tribal areas in Pakistan where Taliban and al Qaeda operatives are

believed to be hiding and has been the site of several attacks on the allied troops during recent months.

Microsoft, Gates announces partnership with United Nations

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) – Microsoft Corp. and the United Nations will work together to bring computer technology and literacy to developing countries, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates said Friday.

Microsoft pledged software, computer training and cash to establish computer centers in poor communities, starting with pilot projects in Egypt, Mozambique and Morocco.

The initiative will draw from a \$1 billion Microsoft Unlimited Potential fund, which the U.S. software giant launched last year.

The company has already donated nearly \$50 million to 45 countries, and Gates said he hoped to "ramp it up" to \$200 million a year through the new partnership with the U.N. Development Program.

At a news conference at the World Economic Forum, Gates said the computer centers won't be restricted to using Microsoft products.

"There's no exclusivity, but our role is to help with the expertise and curriculum around software that is quite popular and happens to belong to Microsoft," he said.

Many developing countries have been eyeing open source alternatives to Microsoft's Windows operating system, not only because they are cheaper but they also can be more easily adapted to meet local language and cultural needs.

Microsoft has questioned the true cost savings from open source packages like Linux and says it has developed tools for better customization.

Microsoft and UNDP already have collaborated on a project to provide computer access and training at 16 regional centers in Afghanistan.

They hope to train some 12,000 Afghans every year.

Staff sergeant uplifts Marines with music

Cpl. Lana D. Waters
MARFOR PAO

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – When most Marines go on a six-month deployment to a combat zone they remember to bring along the necessities—flak jacket, Kevlar, personal hygiene items, weapon, etc...

However, for some musically inclined Marines, taking their instruments along with them is a necessity as well.

Staff Sgt. Anthony P. Daigle is one of those Marines.

“I brought my guitar along with me on this cruise,” said Daigle, jet engine mechanic, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, Marine Aircraft Group 42. “I can’t be without my music for too long.”

Daigle, one of the few active duty members with the Red Dogs, originally intended to bring his music with him for his own personal reasons. However, shortly after arriving here that all changed.

“Somehow the Chaplain found out I had my guitar. We got together and he asked me if I would play for the Sunday services,” Daigle said.

Daigle agreed and every Sunday since then he’s been uplifting the Marines in the congregation with songs of praise.

“Music is the key of the worship service,” said RP 2 Mark C. Benson, Chaplains assistant, HMLA 773, MAG 42. “Without him (Daigle) we’d still have the service, but he uplifts the service with the music.”

“I love playing for the services. It helps the time in Bagram go by faster,” said Daigle. “Besides that, I get to go to church and play my music.”

Shortly after starting the Sunday services, Daigle decided to have his keyboard shipped here.



Staff Sgt. Anthony P. Daigle, jet engine mechanic, HMLA 773, MAG 42, provides uplifting music for his fellow Red Dogs during religious services held at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

“The guitar was great, but the addition of the keyboard has helped make it sound more like a service from back home,” said Benson.

Playing for the Red Dog congregation isn’t the first time Daigle has been in front of an audience. He began playing at nightclubs in Louisiana at the age of 15 and continued to do so until he joined the Marine Corps. He then joined a few bands, but as time went on, Daigle found his music being pulled in another direction.

“In my older age I slowed down and started to play in church instead of nightclubs,” said Daigle, who has been playing in churches for about the last 10 years. “I also played in church while I was stationed

in Japan.”

Many of the Marines, here, who have seen Daigle play in church, have also expressed an interest in learning to play.

“Since the other Marines in the unit have found out I’m a musician, they have been wanting free lessons,” said Daigle, to which he was happy to oblige. “I learned on the road and I would do whatever I could to help someone else learn an instrument.”

Upon his return to the states in a few months, Daigle plans to finish a CD of his songs, which he started before the deployment. Until then, Daigle will continue to entertain, teach and uplift with his music here.



Music Notes (Compiled from CNN.com)



Garfunkel (left) with Simon during their "Old Friends" tour in the U.S. two months ago.

Art Garfunkel charged with marijuana possession in N.Y.

HURLEY, N.Y. – Art Garfunkel, part of the folk music duo Simon and Garfunkel, was charged with marijuana possession after police pulled his limousine over for speeding in upstate New York.

Garfunkel, 62, had a small amount of marijuana in his jacket pocket when a state trooper stopped the limo Saturday afternoon in Hurley, 55 miles southwest of Albany, the of Kingston reported.

The trooper smelled marijuana after approaching the vehicle, in which Garfunkel was the lone passenger.

Garfunkel, of Manhattan, was scheduled to appear in court on January 28 on the charge, which carries a possible \$100 fine, or he could respond by mail.

A representative for Legacy Recording, Garfunkel's New York-based record label, did not immediately return a phone call Wednesday.

Garfunkel completed a U.S. concert tour with Paul Simon last fall, their first in 20 years.

The duo, who have been inducted into the Rock And Roll Hall of Fame, produced a string of hits in the 1960s, including "The Sounds of Silence," "Mrs. Robinson," "Old Friends" and "The 59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy)."



Fuller helped mold Clay Aiken from unpolished singer to slick crooner.

The Svengali behind 'Idol'

LOS ANGELES – Simon Fuller is no professional singer. He does not dance and he doesn't play an instrument. Yet there he is – collecting a fortune at the top of the pop charts.

As creator of the "American Idol" franchise, Fuller manages every aspect of the careers of Clay Aiken, Ruben Studdard, Kelly Clarkson and all other instant "Idol" celebrities.

But Fuller earns far more than the typical 15 to 20 percent that most managers keep from their clients' gross earnings. As the "American Idol" phenomenon begins its third season Monday on Fox, Fuller's franchise is raising questions about exploitation and the price of fame.

Fuller says that as the primary imaginative force behind these artists, and the one with the connections to transform Clarkson from struggling Texas waitress to pop diva, he deserves a larger percentage of their earnings.

"If you think of Andrew Lloyd Webber, if he creates 'Phantom of the Opera' he owns it. He hires Michael Crawford to take the lead. Crawford doesn't get a cut of 'Phantom of the Opera,' and no one questions that," Fuller said. "My deals are the best in the world. I create 'Phantom of the Opera' and then say to Michael Crawford, 'Let's be 50-50 partners, or 60-40 – whatever the deal is.'"

Fuller, a 43-year-old British music mogul, is the longtime manager of Annie Lennox and former manager of the Spice Girls, whose world-conquering "girl power" image he takes credit for creating.



Britney Spears used the 2000 MTV Video Music Awards to showcase her new image.

Does sex still sell in music?

NEW YORK – Christina vamps like a burlesque stripper. Britney's gone from schoolgirl to slut. Pink is punk.

Many of music's reigning divas are partying like it's 1999, even though the world has become a darker, more uncertain and more anxious place since Sept. 11, 2001.

With the economy in a funk and record sales down for three years running, even established artists are sexing it up – no doubt encouraged by edgy industry executives.

The problem is, the public just doesn't seem to be in the mood for it, and the recent mediocre album sales by Spears, Pink and similar artists may reflect a classic case of mismarketing. "When social and economic times are more threatening and pessimistic, we actually prefer others with more mature facial, body and personality characteristics," says Terry Pettijohn, a Ph.D. social psychologist at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Penn.

**Bagram Air
Base MWR
Event**

**Dance Party:
Night**

1530Z at the MWR building

**Tomorrow's movie:
"Sword Fish"**

Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)



Jaromir Jagr hasn't posted a 50-goal season since 2000-01.

Rangers' deal for Jagr finally complete

WASHINGTON – With the team losing millions and a possible lockout on the way, the Washington Capitals could no longer afford Jaromir Jagr. They finally shipped him to one of the few teams that would take him: the New York Rangers.

After six months of off-and-on negotiations, the Capitals traded Jagr to the Rangers for forward Anson Carter on Friday, bringing an end to the All-Star's 2 1/2 disappointing years in Washington.

"This was a contract that we had to move," Washington general manager George McPhee said. "We couldn't go forward in our market in a new era with this type of deal."

Much of the negotiations centered on how much of Jagr's \$11 million-per-year contract the Capitals would continue to pay as the cost-conscious NHL heads toward a possible lockout next season.

Washington owner Ted Leonsis told WTEM radio that the Capitals would not have to pay any more of Jagr's salary this season, but they would have to pay between \$4 million and \$4.5 million for each of the remaining four guaranteed years of the contract. The contract, however, would not be paid during a lockout.

Leonsis said he was preparing for the "new economic reality" the league is facing with the expected lockout and the possible salary cap that could follow.

Despite losses, Davis gets extension

BEREA, Ohio – The Cleveland Browns gave coach Butch Davis a two-year extension Friday despite a season in which the team lost 11 games.

Davis is signed with the Browns for four more seasons, through 2007. Davis joined Cleveland in 2001, taking over an expansion team that had won just five games in two seasons. He led the Browns to the playoffs in his second season, but injuries and a lackluster offense kept the Browns from building on that success this season.

"He inherited a challenging situation in January of 2001, and we are in a much better position today than we were three years ago," Browns president Carmen Policy said. "We certainly have not achieved the lofty goals we have established for ourselves, but I am convinced we are not as far away as some may believe."

The Browns announced the contract extension with little fanfare and without a news conference.

The move, which Policy had said would be made after the Super Bowl, provides the Browns with coaching stability as they look to attract free agents.

"We have a very healthy cap situation, and we head into the offseason encouraged about the likely opportunities to improve through free agency and the draft," Davis said in a statement.

Boston Celtics forward Baker out after failing to comply with aftercare program

BOSTON – The Boston Celtics on Friday indefinitely suspended forward Vin Baker, who struggled with alcoholism last spring, for failing to comply with his aftercare program.

The suspension took effect Friday, before the Celtics' game against the Washington Wizards.

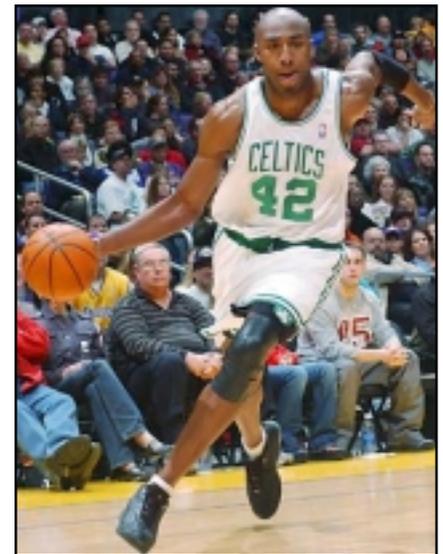
It was the second time this season Baker had been suspended by the NBA franchise for failing to comply with his recovery program. On

Jan. 7, he was suspended for three games, returning to action Jan. 16.

The team said it was notified by a doctor jointly selected by Baker and the team to oversee his aftercare. It did not specify the nature of the violation.

"We were sorry to learn of Vin's noncompliance," team CEO and managing partner Wyc Grousbeck said. "As we have said throughout this process, we will continue to wish Vin the very best in his aftercare and will refrain from further comment."

Baker, who got off to a strong start after seeking help for an alcohol problem last spring, had averages of 11.3 points per game and 5.7 rebounds per game when he was suspended.



Vin Baker got off to a strong start this season before his troubles returned.

Hospital released Kobe Bryant accuser's medical records

EAGLE, Colo. – Medical records not directly related to a sexual assault charge leveled by a 19-year-old woman against NBA star Kobe Bryant were given by mistake to his attorneys, it was revealed Friday in a Colorado courtroom.

The records were sent by a hospital in Eagle and include notes about an emergency room visit by the woman May 30, a month before the alleged incident, a lawyer for the hospital said.

In court papers, attorneys have been referring to a purported suicide attempt by the woman, which courtroom observers have concluded was described in the records.

The records were sent by mistake to the prosecutors, who then sent them – in another mistake – to defense lawyers.

On Friday, the hospital's lawyer asked to have those records returned, but instead Eagle County District Judge Terry Ruckriegel ordered that the copies be destroyed and ordered the lawyers involved to remove the information from their minds.

That is unlikely to happen, said Craig Silverman, an attorney who has been following the case.

"To get rid of the damage, it would make all of the members of Team Kobe have a partial lobotomy," Silverman said. "The information is basically in their heads."

Ruckriegel said the defense could get new copies if it decides that the records can be used in the trial.

Nets lose for 5th straight loss

MIAMI – Wang Zhi Zhi outscored Jason Kidd and sparked the Miami Heat to an 85-64 victory Friday night over the New Jersey Nets, who lost their fifth in a row.

With starting center Brian Grant slowed by a knee bruise, the 7-foot-1 Wang came off the bench in the first half and finished with 11 points in 11 minutes, matching his point total for the season.

Kidd shot 4-for-19 and narrowly missed his seventh triple-double of the season. He had nine points, nine rebounds and eight assists. The Nets, who had won five in a row against Miami, shot just 29 percent.

The victory margin was the Heat's most lopsided this season.

Lamar Odom tied a career high with 18 rebounds and added 12 points and six assists. Eddie Jones led seven Heat players in double figures with 18 points.

The Nets' losing streak is their longest since April 2001. They still lead the Atlantic Division with a 21-20 record at the halfway point in their season.

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

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

C	A	B	O	T		C	A	R	E		M	E	T	A
A	B	O	V	E		A	V	O	N		A	M	O	R
M	I	N	E	R	S	D	I	S	C	O	V	E	R	Y
P	E	E	R		U	R	S	A		P	E	N	T	A
			B	A	N	E			L	I	N	D	E	N
S	T	R	O	N	G		F	L	I	E	S			
O	R	I	O	N		B	O	O	S			T	S	K
P	I	C	K	E	T	E	R	S	A	C	T	I	O	N
H	O	E			O	N	C	E		R	O	L	L	O
			C	A	R	T	E			T	A	L	L	O
C	A	S	A	B	A			C	O	W	L			
A	L	O	N	E		G	R	E	W		G	H	I	A
M	I	L	I	T	A	R	Y	A	S	S	A	U	L	T
E	B	O	N		S	E	A	S		A	T	E	S	T
L	I	N	G		P	Y	N	E		S	E	D	A	N



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)

W e a t h e r

Today

K2



Hi — 58F
Lo — 30F

Bagram



Hi — 45F
Lo — 30F

Kabul



Hi — 43F
Lo — 28F

KAF



Hi — 55F
Lo — 36F

Sunday



Hi — 58F
Lo — 35F



Hi — 50F
Lo — 30F



Hi — 48F
Lo — 28F



Hi — 57F
Lo — 37F

Monday



Hi — 60F
Lo — 41F



Hi — 46F
Lo — 30F



Hi — 45F
Lo — 30F



Hi — 57F
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.