

Jalalabad PRT site construction begins

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

JALALBAD, Afghanistan – With a little bit of luck and landmines, the Combined Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force (CJCMOTF) team based in Jalalabad were recently able to find a good home for the future Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) site in the eastern Afghan province of Nagarhar.

Work for the first proposed Jalalabad PRT site began in early October and was tentatively scheduled to begin receiving civil assistance personnel in December, but the team hit a major roadblock when landmines were found on the premises.

Because of the landmines the CJCMOTF team had to find a new site, and fast, and that's when they discovered a rundown, decades-old hotel inside of an Afghan Ministry of Defense compound in Jalalabad.

At the hotel, which had been neglected for years and was a former vacation spot for Russian soldiers, the CJCMOTF team found their new PRT site, and it couldn't have been better,



Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Santos, an engineer at the burgeoning Jalalabad PRT site, shows one of the Afghan interpreters tools the team needs to buy from a local business.

according to Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Santos, PRT engineer for CJCMOTF Jalalabad.

The original plan at the previous site was to build the PRT up from scratch, but at the new site not only had an infrastructure already in

place but it would be much more cost effective, according to Santos, who's team had a \$1.8 million budget for the project.

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Help desk keeps Bagram 'net' working

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

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Keeping 11,000 plus coalition forces troops communicating in unison should be a colossal task, but for the soldiers working at the Bagram Help Desk, Company B, 10th Signal Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, keeping Bagram Air Base communicating it just a matter of 'net' working.

"We provide (and install software) for all of the computers on Bagram to use the Secure Internet Protocol Router (SIPR) and Non-secure Internet Protocol Router (NIPR), we solve computer network problems, and we troubleshoot customers' computers," said Staff Sgt. William Irvine, noncommissioned officer in charge of the help desk. "We're basically [Bagram's] one-stop computer shop."

Working around the clock, 24 hours, seven-days-a-week, the five-man technician team acts as a conduit to Bagram and the world ensuring that troops are always just a mouse click away from the information they need.

"Because we provide the SIPR and NIPR from [our location] we have be accessible to our customers at any moment in the day," said Spc. Timothy Ashworth, help desk technician. "Without us people can't do their jobs, which means their mission doesn't get complete and around here you can't afford to not complete the mission."

While the help desk does handle bulk of Bagram's computer issues, they don't provide or fix hardware on computers.

"Although most of the team has the ability fix hardware on computers, we don't handle those issues," said Irvine. "With 11,000 customers

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A crowd chants slogans after clashes with U.S. forces in the outskirts of Baghdad Friday.

14 die in Baghdad clashes

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Clashes between unruly Iraqi mobs and coalition forces using tanks and air support left 14 Iraqis dead and five wounded, a U.S. source said early Friday evening.

The fatal fights, which lasted 7 1/2 hours on the western outskirts of Baghdad Friday, came as the U.S. Consulate in Baghdad warned Americans to take precautions, citing rumors of a “day of resistance” planned for this weekend.

A number of days has been mentioned for possible attacks, but the common one is Saturday.

Coalition forces suffered no casualties during the day’s battles, said the source from the U.S. Army’s 1st Armored Division.

It is not clear how the fighting started, but the source said a crowd of 500 to 1,000 Iraqis started throwing rocks at a coalition patrol from the 2-70 Armored Regiment, and began burning tires and “being disruptive.”

Some in the crowd carried pictures of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein, the source said, while others carried religious banners including one reading: “Ramadan makes you closer to God.”

A resident of the area told *CNN* the people were protesting the coalition’s imprisonment of Iraqis at Abu Ghraib prison. The coalition source said the battle centered on the Abu Ghraib market and police station.

The conflict escalated after people in the crowd fired mortars at the police station.

“The decision was made then to turn them (the crowd) back,” the coalition officer said.

Armored tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, mechanized infantry, airborne infantry, air assets, MPs and Iraqi police joined in the battle, the coalition source said.

An Iraqi police lieutenant said one of his

colleagues was killed, but *CNN* could not confirm that, and the source said the coalition’s report did not mention any Iraqi police deaths.

The source said coalition troops entered two mosques near the battle scene and found a small quantity of weapons in each.



An attorney, left, stands motionless after being shot Friday by a gunman, right, outside a courthouse.

Gunman shoots lawyer outside courthouse, police say

VAN NUYS, Calif.—A 60-year-old man shot and seriously wounded an attorney Friday outside the courthouse where actor Robert Blake will stand trial for murder, Los Angeles police said.

There is no indication the shooting was related to Blake’s case.

The shooting happened about 10:20 a.m. PST in the presence of a number of bystanders.

Police identified the gunman as William Striler and said he pulled a revolver from his coat and fired six shots at attorney Jerry Curry, 53. The victim ducked behind a small tree to avoid being shot, but was struck multiple times in the upper body, Los Angeles Police Capt. Jim Miller said.

The gunman calmly pocketed his weapon and walked away after the shooting. Moments later, police swarmed and took him into custody. One officer confiscated an envelope that fell from the alleged gunman’s pocket as he was tackled.

Although the gunman fired from nearly point-blank range, his bloodied victim was responsive to emergency personnel before being taken by ambulance to Holy Cross Hospital in Mission Hills. “His injuries are serious but do not appear to be life-threatening,” Miller said.

The police spokesman said it appears that Striler was angry about a probate case, but he didn’t offer details. The suspect, he said, was not talking.



Laci Peterson was last seen alive Dec. 24; her husband, Scott, has pleaded innocent to charges of killing her and their unborn son.

Detective: Laci’s family searched boat warehouse

MODESTO, Calif.—A police detective testified Friday that Laci Peterson’s relatives questioned her husband about his cancelled golf plans and searched the warehouse where he kept his boat the day he reported his pregnant wife’s disappearance.

Modesto Police detective John Evers provided the last testimony of the day as the three-day hearing ended. Evers was the first officer to respond to the missing persons report on Laci Peterson.

The testimony came during the preliminary hearing for Scott Peterson, charged in the deaths of his pregnant wife and their unborn son.

During the first two days of the hearing, prosecutors, who must present enough evidence to warrant a trial, focused on DNA evidence collected from Laci Peterson’s death.

Evers said he searched a nearby park with Scott Peterson and Laci Peterson’s relatives, visited the Peterson home and used car headlights and flashlights to search a warehouse where Scott Peterson kept his boat.

Evers said that Laci’s mother and Scott Peterson appeared to be the most distraught, and that there was an awkward exchange between Peterson and Ron Grantski, his father-in-law. Grantski “walked up [to Peterson] and asked did he go golfing today,” Evers said. “Scott said it was too cold and that he went fishing instead.”

Evers said the father-in-law responded, “Boy, that’s late, 9:30, to go fishing.”

Earlier, Laci Peterson’s sister, Amy Rocha, testified that Scott told her the day before that he planned to go golfing Christmas Eve.

PRT, from Page 1

The CJCMOTF team saw unlimited potential in the new site, but they realized it would take a lot of work before it would be considered inhabitable.

“We went into what was basically a ruin,” said Sgt. 1st Class Lance Hinds, Jalalabad PRT noncommissioned officer in charge.

Years worth of garbage littered the rooms of the hotel, and the Army team quickly recruited help from local Afghans, and with their help the transformation began to take shape.

The workers were able to clean out the massive amounts of garbage in the first week and a half and began repainting the rooms, said Hinds.

“Guys are working at about three times the speed of a construction company in the States,” said Hinds, about his hardworking crew of local Afghans.

“We couldn’t do it without the locals,” Hinds said, adding along with hiring local help, the team also tries to get most of their construction supplies from local businesses. “The best part of our job is doing everything with the locals,” he said.

When the Jalalabad PRT is finished, it will be able to accommodate more than 100 PRT members.

“It might very well be the nicest facility in the country when it’s done,” Hinds said, expressing the team’s pride in the site.

Santos agreed, adding that he can’t wait to



Two soldiers from the Jalalabad CJCMOTF check out the newly painted dining area of the future Jalalabad PRT.

see the finished product.

“I’m putting in an extension so I can see this all the way through,” he said. “I want to watch this go all the way up.”

HELP, from Page 1

to serve we can’t devote the time needed to fix those types of problems.”

Irvine noted that collectively his help desk team has more than 25 years of computer knowledge and experience, so though they don’t fix hardware they can give a customer a synopsis of what the problem may be and how to remedy the problem.

Along with acting as computer gurus, the help desk also serves as the ears of Bagram.

“We service tactical phone lines and troubleshoot commercial lines,” said Irvine.

The help desk doesn’t install or fix commercial phone lines and

Internet server jacks Irvine added; however they are the initial agency customer must see to get work order requested.

“We take request and transfer them to J-6 and from there they begin processing the work order,” said Irvine.

Work order request are usually processed within a few days, but for customer needing immediate action, help is merely a phone call away.

“Most of the people that call us don’t have a working knowledge about computers,” said Spc. Joshua Jones, help desk technician. “The only thing they know is that their computer isn’t working and they need it fixed. With a little patient on their part and a general description what’s wrong we can usually solve the problem.”

Ashworth iterated that 99 percent of the time the help desk is able to fix a computer problem or give an evaluation of what’s wrong with the equipment over the phone. However, if the problem is more complex the help desk will come to the customer’s location.

Not bad for a group of soldiers who “technically” are working outside of their military occupational specialty.

“We are multi-channel system switchboard operators,” said Ashworth, “but we’re performing the jobs of network administrators.”

Irvine stated that all of the help desk technicians volunteered for the assignment, “so being a computer nerd has paid off for them because they’re getting the opportunity to work on what they enjoy doing.”

Having the opportunity to work on what they enjoy at their leisure is only an added benefit of the job for the technicians, because at the end of the day the help desk lives by the customer service creed.

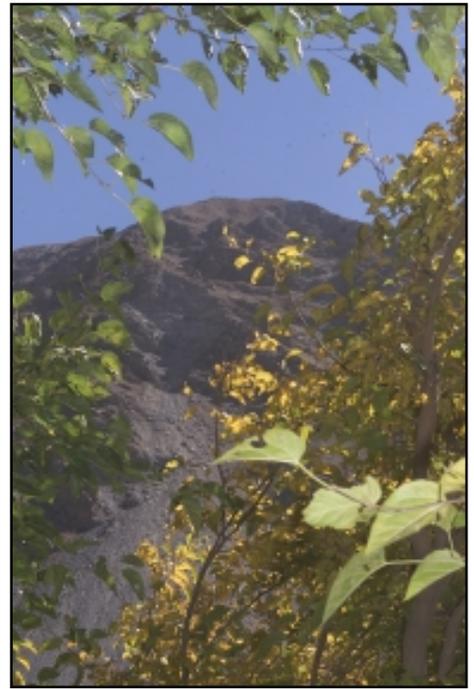
“Our purpose is to please our customers,” said Irvine. For help desk service call (318) 231-4759.



Spc. Joshua Jones (right) and Sgt. Timothy Ashworth (left), Bagram Helpdesk technicians, install software to a customer’s computer which will allow the customer to access Bagram’s secure Internet protocol router and non-secure Internet protocol router.



Children of Panjshir Valley get out of the sun and enjoy the day near the river bank Oct. 22.



Mountains peak through the flourishing trees.

Panjshir panoramas: Picture pretty

Photos by Spc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment



A building stands alone overlooking the flowing river.



Trees decorate the edge of the road in one village in the Panjshir Valley, accenting the area.



The road through the valley offers onlookers the benefits of an amazing view of the villages.

FREEDOM'S VOICES

Continuing the pattern...

By Sgt. Stephanie Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

Right now, if you knew everything about me except my ethnic background, you would never guess that I'm a Navajo Indian. The reason why you wouldn't be able to guess is because I regretfully didn't learn a lot about my heritage, so I don't project it.

I don't know why I never really studied any aspects of my heritage save a few miscellaneous stories, superstitions and bits and pieces of my language.

When I look back on my life to try to remember anything I learned about being a Navajo, one memory sticks out in my mind. I was about 10 years old and I remember sitting next to my grandma while she showed me the finer points of weaving a Navajo sash belt on my miniature loom while she herself worked on her own grand Navajo rugs; masterpieces within themselves. The colors, textures, shapes and meanings of those rugs were beautiful, but like many other threads of my heritage, I let this one unravel as well.

But something happened recently that dramatically altered my outlook about my heritage: my grandma passed away. My grandma was a constant presence in my life, as well as the lives of so many others, and I loved her so much. It was a hard blow to hear about her death.

I'm not one to mourn in public or seek out a shoulder to cry on, so I've been discreetly coming to terms with her death on my own. When I initially thought about it, it seemed unreal that she was gone, and I will never again hear her laugh, feel her smile, or look to her for support.

Since then, I've been able to let her go. But with her passing, I realized that as each generation passes, my heritage faces the danger of becoming diluted, and could eventually evaporate away.

With that in mind, I've become determined to continue the pattern of Navajo traditions that my grandma proudly held on to such as her weaving. I've become determined to learn all I can about my heritage so I won't be one to let the colorful threads of my heritage completely unravel.

Today marks the beginning of the National American Indian Heritage Month, so I felt it was important to let my intentions known to the world.

Because now, to me, being a Navajo isn't about being from a certain ethnic background, it's about carrying on traditions in honor of all those great ones who passed before us, so I will relearn my heritage, I will continue the Navajo pattern.

STREET TALK

What is your all-time scariest movie monster?



"The spirits from 'What lies beneath' because the dead spirit scared."

Spc. Frederica Curry
10th SSB

"Werewolf from 'American Werewolf in London' which made me scared of a full moon, and the alligator from the movie 'Alligator,' which made me scared of the toilet."

Staff Sgt. Robert Hill
CJTF-180



"Jaws, and I've never been in the ocean because of it."

Sgt. Corry Lansberry
HHC 213th ASG



"The theme of 'The Exorcist' with the devil possessing the girl because I was scared that a person could get possessed."

Master Sgt. Shawn Williams

712th EASOS



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Contents of *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

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

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 4th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

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Visit the CENTCOM web site at www.centcom.mil and click on the *Freedom Watch* or Forces in Afghanistan link at the bottom of the page to get to the *Freedom Watch*. To be added to the daily distribution list e-mail HallSTE@baf.cjtf180.army.mil

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

U.S. soldier dies from wounds in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A U.S. Special Forces soldier died from wounds he suffered during fighting in a southern Afghan province, the U.S. military said Friday.

The fighting broke out Thursday when troops from the U.S.-led coalition patrolling with Afghan militia in Helmand province met between 10 and 15 combatants about 35 miles west of Deh Rawood in neighboring Uruzgan province, the coalition said in a statement. A-10 Thunderbolt warplanes and Apache attack helicopters were called in to reinforce the ground troops in small arms fighting between the sides.

One “enemy” soldier was killed, and the U.S. Special Forces soldier and an Afghan militiaman were wounded, the U.S. military said from the coalition base at Bagram, north of Kabul.

The U.S. soldier died Thursday from “wounds received in combat” after he was evacuated by helicopter to an airfield in the southern city of Kandahar, the coalition said. His identity wasn’t released pending notification of relatives. No other details were released on the battle.

Intelligence sources and ex-Taliban have said anti-coalition attacks in the same area are being commanded by former Taliban Interior Minister Abdul Razzak.

On Thursday, the United Nations said it had temporarily suspended road missions to four provinces in the south including Helmand and Uruzgan because of attacks on humanitarian workers. Armed escorts also are accompanying U.N. missions in parts of Kandahar province, U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva said in Kabul.

Helmand province is a major opium poppy growing region in Afghanistan, although the United Nations has said production of the illegal crop is dropping off there and moving to central Afghanistan. U.S. troops have previously conducted house-to-house searches in the same area as the Thursday fighting.

Afghanistan welcomes U.S. aid package

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan on Friday welcomed the approval by the U.S. House of Representatives of an aid package that includes \$1.2 billion for Afghan reconstruction but said more will be needed over the long term to rebuild after decades of war.

The House voted 298-121 late Thursday in favor of the \$87.5 billion sought by President Bush, with most of the funds designated to make Iraq a secure and free country. The Senate could vote as early as Friday, sending the package to the president.

“We are grateful to the United States for taking the lead in mobilizing reconstruction assistance for Afghanistan,” Jawid Luddin, President Hamid Karzai’s spokesman, told *The Associated Press*. He said the one year of assistance “will go a long way toward achieving the reconstruction goals of Afghanistan.”

However, Luddin said that Afghan government also is looking to the United States to help mobilize the international community to make long-term pledges of reconstruction money, from five to 10 years.

“We obviously would like to emphasize that Afghanistan is a totally destroyed country, it’s a devastated country. It’s hoped that the commitment will continue for much longer,” he said.

The U.S. package includes \$18.6 billion for reconstruction in Iraq, but Luddin said the smaller amount for Afghanistan didn’t reflect lost interest in Washington in rebuilding the country, where it forced the hard-line Taliban movement from power in late 2001.

The Afghan government has received assurances from President Bush that Washington is “committed to Afghanistan whatever it takes,” Luddin said.

Significant win for women of Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (U.S. Newswire)—In a victory for Afghan women, the House of Representatives voted last night to include \$65 million for Afghan women’s programs in the \$87 billion supplemental. The Senate could vote this Friday and send the bill to the President.

The President’s original request for the supplemental made no mention of women’s programs for reconstruction efforts. In response, Congress specifically included funding for women’s programs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We are extremely pleased that the Congress is following through on its commitment to Afghan women and girls,” said Ritu Sharma, executive director of the Women’s Edge Coalition. “This is monumental for them. Two years after the war in Afghanistan, we finally have a serious down-payment for Afghan women’s advancement.”

The bill ensures that \$60 million will go to programs for Afghan women and girls such as education, help for victims of sexual abuse and trafficking, assistance for war widows and support for women led Afghan non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The remaining \$5 million will go to the Human Rights Commission in Afghanistan.

The specific Afghan women’s programs are based on the Access for Afghan Women Act, the first bill ever written to provide the U.S. government with a blueprint on how to integrate Afghan women and girls into development and reconstruction activities. The Women’s Edge Coalition and several Afghan women’s groups collaborated with Members of Congress to create the Act and ensure funding for Afghanistan in the supplemental bill.

The inclusion of women’s programs into the supplemental was originally introduced by Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) on the House floor in early October. Senators Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) then worked on the specific guidelines that would integrate women’s programs into U.S. reconstruction activities in Afghanistan. While the funding for women’s programs faced resistance in debate, Senators Mary Landrieu (D-La.), Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) and Patty Murray (D-Wash.), and Representative Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) diligently worked to ensure the final bill included the Afghan women’s programs. Lowey also led the effort to include \$10 million in the final bill for Iraqi women programs.

Entertainment

November 1, 2003

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

Halloween spooks troops into running

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

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Coalition forces came together on the blacktop in the early morning darkness Oct. 31 to celebrate the Halloween holiday the Bagram way; with a 10K run.

More than 150 troops gathered at the start line on Disney Drive for the Mountain Sapper Halloween Mine Field 10K just as the sun began to peak over the horizon. Music streamed out of the civic center and pumped participants up as they prepared for the race.

For Bagram's coalition troops, the 6.2 mile route was the perfect beginning for the holiday.

"It's a good morale builder for soldiers and something to do that's different," said event coordinator Command Sgt. Maj. Corb Elsbury, 41st Engineer Battalion. This run offered troops "a piece of what we do back in the states as runners."

Though the race offered runners an opportunity to feed their need for speed, some troops took the excitement and ran with it, putting yet another fun spin on the event.

"Some of the folks got motivated and ran in Halloween costumes," said Elsbury with a chuckle, explaining the two runners who crossed the staged mine field finish line in full gorilla suits.

Nothing was usual about this run, though creators of the event were just trying to offer troops a chance to get up and do something other than the norm. If you didn't sense the battalion's humorous and fun nature from the event flyers, then seeing this well organized holiday run was a perfect example.

Between the blood pumping music, the running monkeys and the unbelievable enthusiasm beaming from the participants, the event was more than a success. As they crossed the finish line with sweat streaming down their necks, there were more laughs



Participants of the Halloween 10 K got a little creative with the run. Pvt. Chaleun Reusmei, 41st Eng. Bn., ran the race in his Halloween costume: a gorilla suit.

and smiles than anything.

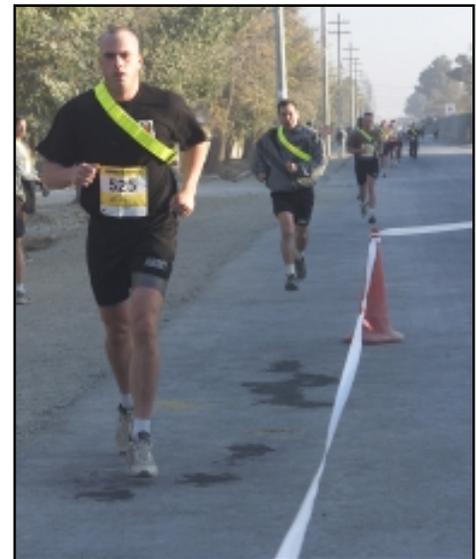
"I had a lot of fun," said 1st place female runner 2nd Lt. Kathy Sands, 452nd Combat Support Hospital, who's run every race Bagram troops have put together since she's been here. Though the run did help her prepare for a marathon she's been training for, Sands said today was about having a good time.

Coordinators of the event sported the event's T-shirts that we designed through a collective effort from several Sappers, said Elsbury. "I know they were attracted to our T-shirts," he said in reference to the participants.

The shirts were so popular that runners who had not gotten them early, regretted not making that move.

"I would have been happier if I could have got a T-shirt," whimpered Sands jokingly after the race.

Donations from AAFES kept up the spirits of the participants, even if they didn't place in the top three of their category. A raffle was added to the mix after the race and the crowd stayed,



Sgt. Edward Neely, HHC, 10th Mountain Div., strives for the finish line during the Halloween 10 K.

anxious to see if they had won the drawing.

It was "a good race," said Elsbury during the awards ceremony and by the cheers of the crowd, it seemed they agreed.



Music Notes (Compiled from CNN.com)



The couple named their new baby girl Beatrice.

Baby girl for McCartney

LONDON – Former Beatle Paul McCartney’s wife Heather Mills has given birth to a girl, the couple’s first child.

The couple are said to be “ecstatic” and have named their daughter Beatrice Milly McCartney, after Heather’s mother Beatrice and Paul’s aunt Milly. The baby was born three weeks early, by Caesarian section, Tuesday night.

It is the first baby for Mills, 35, and the fifth for McCartney. McCartney, 61, is already the father of three adult children and stepfather to a fourth child from his marriage to his first wife Linda, who died in 1998.

The couple married in June 2002.

The news of the birth came as a surprise to the London media, after *The Daily Mirror* earlier reported the child was a boy.

Earlier this year, Mills said she was worried she would never conceive. She told British talk show host Michael Parkinson a catalogue of health problems had damaged her fertility, but made no secret of the fact that she wanted a baby.

An advocate for land mine victims, Mills has campaigned for over 11 years to rid the world of the deadly remnants of wars.

Returning from a trip to the former Yugoslavia, Mills lost her leg 10 years ago when a motorcycle struck her as she was crossing the street in London.

She received a Nobel Prize nomination in 1996 for her anti-land mine efforts in Croatia and Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



Franco Corelli, left, in a 1962 photo taken after a performance in New York.

Opera great Corelli dies at 82

ROME—Franco Corelli, whose large, ringing voice and matinee-idol looks made him one of the greatest tenors of the 20th century, has died, the ANSA news agency said. He was 82.

Corelli, whose career took him from La Scala to New York’s Metropolitan Opera and other great stages in between, had been hospitalized in August following what was believed to be a stroke, and ANSA said Corelli died in the same Milan hospital where he was being treated.

Born April 8, 1921, Corelli made his opera debut in 1951 at Spoleto as Don Jose in “Carmen.”

He inaugurated the opera season at Milan’s Teatro alla Scala three years later with Maria Callas, singing in Spontini’s “La Vestale.” He made his debut at The Royal Opera in London in 1957 as Cavaradossi in Puccini’s “Tosca,” becoming one of the world’s finest spinto tenors.

He appeared frequently at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, which was for many years his favorite venue.



Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones

Canadian retailers boycott Rolling Stones’ new DVD

TORONTO—Canadians shopping for music this Christmas may have to cross the Rolling Stones off their wish list after retailers yanked their products in protest at an exclusive deal the band struck with a big competitor.

Major music chains vowed Wednesday to keep the band’s music off their shelves indefinitely after the Stones made an exclusive deal with U.S. retailer Best Buy Co. Inc. to carry its new four-disc DVD, “Four Flicks,” due next month.

The deal extends to Best Buy’s Canadian outlets, shutting out other retailers.

“What have these guys become?” said Tim Baker, head buyer for the Sunrise Records chain. “We’ve been supporting the Rolling Stones for decades and loyalty is a two-way street. To do something like this just smacks of greed.”

Stones promoter Michael Cohl said Best Buy agreed to sell the set for the lowest price in Canada, and that was the prime motivator for the deal.

But that failed to satisfy rival retailers who are alarmed by the precedent this might set at a time when their music sales are far from stellar.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

“Spaceballs”

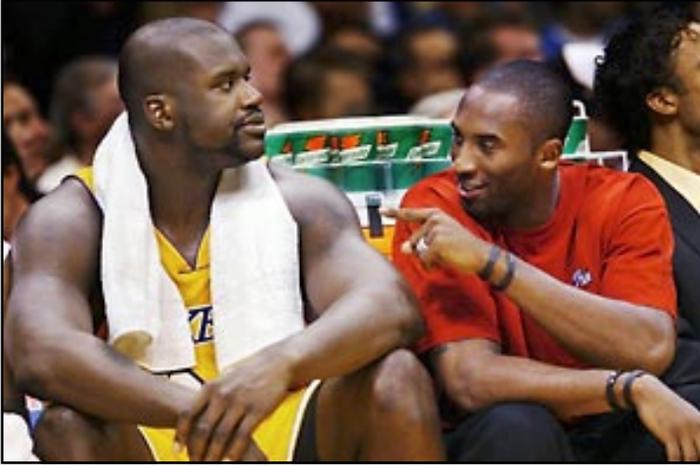
1530Z at the MWR building:

Planet Spaceball’s President Scroob sends Lord Dark Helmet to steal Planet Druidia’s abundant supply of air to replenish their own, and only Lone Starr can stop them.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from CNN.com)



Shaq and Kobe are trying to put their feud behind them.

O'Neal says feud with Bryant is over

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. – Shaquille O'Neal ended his media boycott Friday, saying he and Kobe Bryant need each other and he's put the well-documented feud with his Los Angeles Lakers teammate behind him.

"It happens, it's over with, we just have to move on," O'Neal said before the Lakers flew to Phoenix for a game on Saturday night. "He's boisterous. I'm boisterous. I don't take anything personally."

O'Neal hadn't spoken with reporters since Sunday, when he said after practice that the Lakers were "my team," adding that Bryant needed to be more of a team player — an observation based on two exhibition games last week.

O'Neal sniped several times previously during the preseason at Bryant, who has been ordered to stand trial on a sexual assault charge in Colorado.

Bryant ripped into O'Neal during a telephone interview with ESPN on Monday, calling him "childlike," "unprofessional," "selfish," "fat" and "jealous." It was the first overt sign of hostility between the superstars since midway through the 2000-01 season, when their simmering feud went public.

"We just have to move on and focus on what's good for the team," an upbeat O'Neal said after practice Friday. "I wasn't upset. If somebody's used to it, it's us. We know how to have a tough skin."

"In a marriage, if you keep talking about a problem the problem won't go away. It happened, we just have to move on. If you say something, a person can take things positively or negatively. We both took it negatively."

When asked if he felt comfortable with Bryant as a teammate, O'Neal replied: "Of course. I need him, he needs me, we need each other. He's the yin. I'm the yang. Opposites attract. We're just different. Off the court, he does his thing. Off the court, I do my thing."

O'Neal and Bryant led the Lakers to three straight championships from 2000-2002. They were eliminated last May by eventual champion

San Antonio in the Western Conference semifinals.

Bryant said earlier in the week that he had put the feud behind him, but O'Neal refused comment until Friday.

Then, after beating teammate Karl Malone 3-1 in a 3-point shooting contest, instead of avoiding reporters as he left the court, he met them with a smile.

"I'm good, I'm cool today," he said.

Bryant spoke with reporters after sitting out Tuesday night's 109-93 season-opening victory because of soreness and weakness in his surgically repaired right knee and again Wednesday and Thursday, but didn't do so Friday.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson said he was "pretty optimistic" Bryant would play against the Suns but a decision wouldn't be made until sometime Saturday.

Vick moves return date to Nov. 30



Dan Reeves and Michael Vick have differing opinions on when it would be best for Vick to return.

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. – Atlanta Falcons coach Dan Reeves insisted he's not pressuring Michael Vick to get back on the field, while the ailing quarterback bumped up his scheduled return by a week.

Vick, recovering from a broken right leg, said Thursday he

hopes to be playing by the Nov. 30 game at Houston — not Dec. 7 against Carolina, which he indicated a day earlier.

Reeves took issue with the media for the way his comments Wednesday were reported. He had said: "Mike needs to get back as soon as he possibly can" and "if he's going to be better, it's going to be getting in ballgames."

"Never once did I indicate anything that was written, so you definitely had a different slant on it than I did," Reeves told reporters Thursday.

Once again, Vick said he won't play until he's fully recovered.

"I understand exactly where Coach Reeves is coming from," he said. "Trust me — I want to be out on the field, too, playing, but if I can't do it, then how can I go out there and play? I can't go out and give my all."

Vick fractured his fibula in an Aug. 16 preseason game. The bone has healed, but he has too much pain to cut as he runs.

"Me and the trainers — Coach Reeves — we all have a big part, but what it all boils down to is it's my decision," Vick said. "I'll be glad when the rehab is over."

Sosa won't opt for free agency, will play out contract with Cubs

CHICAGO—Sammy Sosa will keep on doing his home run hops for the Chicago Cubs.

Sosa announced Friday he will not pursue free agency and will keep the last two seasons of his four-year contract. He will earn \$33 million over the remainder of the deal.

"I have said all along I wanted to remain a Cub forever," Sosa said in a statement. "We had such an exciting year in 2003, for both myself and for Cub fans everywhere. I am already looking forward to next season. I know with Dusty Baker as the manager and the direction our team is headed, it will be another exciting year."

Sosa signed a four-year extension worth \$72 million during spring training in 2001. Under the deal, Sosa got the right to terminate the contract after this season or exercise player options for \$16 million next season and \$17 million in 2005.

But the free-agent market has tightened because of the luxury tax and debt rules, and Sosa probably wouldn't find a better deal anywhere else. He also likes playing for Baker and sees loads of potential in the Cubs, who were within five outs of advancing to the World Series this year.

"The market is different now than it was in 1998 and 1997," Adam Katz, one of Sosa's agents, said Thursday. "Sammy is a bright, pragmatic guy. He also has indicated to everyone that he'd like to stay in Chicago and retire with the Cubs."

Sosa, a fan favorite worldwide since his home run race with Mark McGwire in 1998, had perhaps the toughest season of his career this year. He was suspended for seven games in June after he was found to be using a corked bat. Sosa apologized and said it was a mistake, but he heard occasional taunts from fans the rest of the season.

He rebounded, though, finishing with 40 homers and 103 RBIs to become the first NL player with six straight 40-homer seasons. He hit .262 in the playoffs, including a .308 average with two homers and six RBIs in the NLCS.

On Thursday, Cubs left-hander Shawn Estes and center fielder Kenny Lofton filed for free agency. Left-hander Mark Guthrie filed after the club declined a \$2.2 million option for next season.

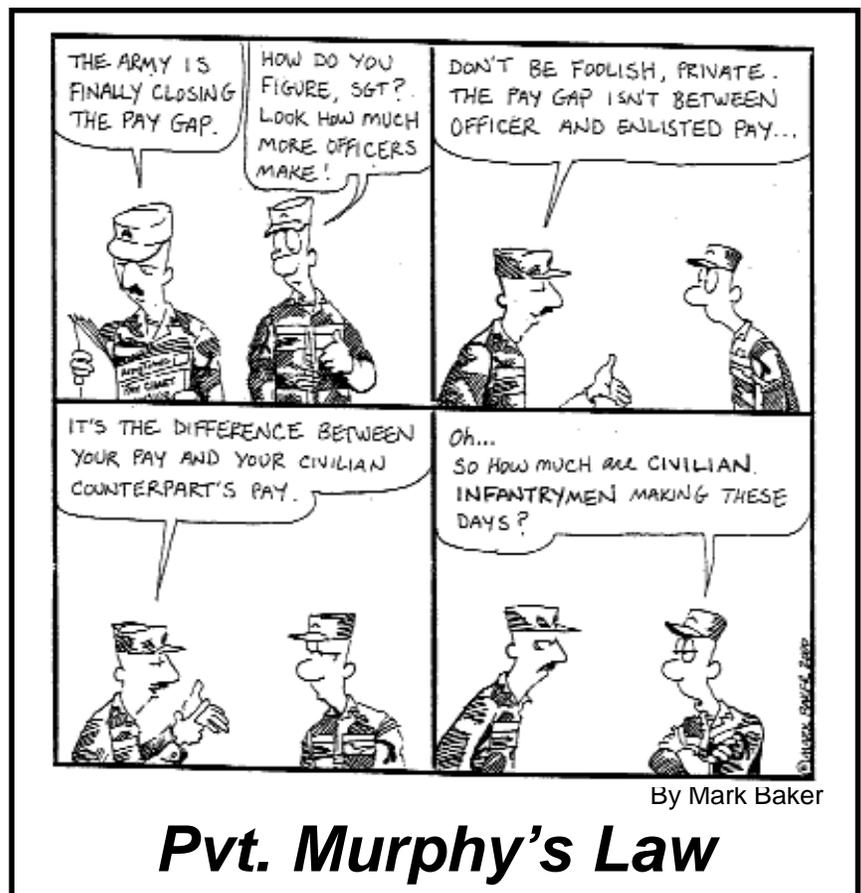
Acquired from Pittsburgh after Corey Patterson injured his knee, Lofton played a big role in the Cubs advancing to the NLCS. He hit .327 with 20 RBIs after joining the Cubs on July 22, and had 12 stolen bases.

Estes went 8-11 with a 5.73 ERA after signing a one-year deal with the Cubs, and was demoted to the bullpen in early September. He pitched his eighth career shutout against Cincinnati when the Cubs were in the thick of the playoff race, but was on the disabled list for the postseason.

Guthrie was 2-3 with a 2.74 ERA in 65 appearances with the Cubs this year.

Solution from Friday's Crossword

A	L	T	E	R		S	P	O	T		A	P	O	D	
H	E	I	D	I		T	A	K	E		C	H	A	R	
A	S	P	I	C		I	R	A	N		C	O	T	E	
			C	H	E	R	R	Y	S	T	O	N	E	S	
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A	P	R	S			I	R	E		R	A	P			
T	E	M				H	O	S	S		C	L	O	S	E
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K	A	R	E	N			H	O	U	R			E	A	T
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T	I	K	I			S	I	N	E		A	T	O	L	L
E	N	I	D			E	C	O	N		S	E	P	I	A
R	Y	N	E			R	E	N	D		P	L	A	N	T



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
- ❖ 15150Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1900Z — Evening Worship service

K2 chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0300Z — Liturgical Service
- ❖ 0400,0730,1130Z — General Protestant Service
- ❖ 0530Z — Roman Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1230Z — Latter Day Saints

Monday

- ❖ 0230Z — Devotions and Prayer
- ❖ 1230Z — Catholic Mass

Tuesday

- ❖ 1230Z — Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0230Z — Devotions and Prayer
- ❖ 1230Z — Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Midweek Praise Service

Thursday

- ❖ 1230Z — Catholic Mass

Friday

- ❖ 1400Z — Jewish Service
- ❖ 0230Z — Devotions and Prayer

- ❖ 1230Z — Catholic Mass

- ❖ 1400Z — Bible study

Saturday

- ❖ 0400Z — Jewish Service
- ❖ 1230Z — Catholic Mass

CJCMOTF chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 1100Z — Christian service
- ❖ 1430Z — U.S. Embassy service
- ❖ 1900Z — Christian service

Wednesday

- ❖ 1900Z — Bible study
- 2nd & 4th **Thursdays**
- ❖ 1900Z — Roman Catholic mass



W e a t h e r

Today

Bagram



Hi — 75F
Lo — 36F

K2



Hi — 84F
Lo — 43F

Kabul



Hi — 75F
Lo — 39F

KAF



Hi — 82F
Lo — 48F

Sunday



Hi — 73F
Lo — 34F



Hi — 70F
Lo — 43F



Hi — 72F
Lo — 36F



Hi — 82F
Lo — 48F

Monday



Hi — 73F
Lo — 32F



Hi — 74F
Lo — 42F



Hi — 70F
Lo — 34F



Hi — 81F
Lo — 46F

TF 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.