

10th Mountain Div. soldiers climb to glory

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

(Editors Note: This is part two of a two part series on 10th Mtn. Div.'s participation in Operation Mountain Resolve)

NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Four days had passed since the beginning of Operation Mountain Resolve when Company B, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, which led the operation's main ground effort, had reached a small village just a few kilometers from their main objective.

Coalition forces had received information about anti-coalition militia (ACM) activity throughout the Darrahe Waygal valley. During



10th Mountain soldiers turn away to avoid the rotor wash of a CH-47 Chinook coming to extract them during Operation Mountain Resolve. The operation, which began on Nov. 7, is currently taking place in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar and Nuristan Provinces.

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Squadron touches ground for first time

Story by Spc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – A group of sailors are making history in Afghanistan as they support Operation Enduring Freedom from a forward operating base for the first time in their history.

Members from Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 123 landed on Bagram Air Base a little more than a week ago as the first Navy E-2C squadron to contribute, not from a ship, but from land.

"This experience is unique because Navy carrier based aircraft have never operated from Bagram Air Base before," said Aviation Mechanic Second Class John Velasco, VAW 123. "We're making history here. It's exciting to be here and I'm just glad to be apart of it."

The group, containing less than 18 members from the USS Enterprise out of Norfolk, Va., maintain their E-2C Hawkeye aircraft within their experienced crew. Each sailor represents a part of the aircraft, said Velasco.

The E-2C Hawkeye "supplies radar for the missions, protects the ground troops (and) sends in our F14s and F18s" if a hot spot is

detected, he said.

"We're an airborne command and control platform," said Lt. Cmdr. Robert Garcia, of VAW 123. "What we're able to do is provide battle-field command and control for all the aircraft airborne and integrate them to the guys on the ground."

They're flying in support of Combined Joint Task Force 180, he said. Their expertise and uniqueness has landed them an extended stay off the ship and has been recognized to provide assistance in the coalition forces' mission here.

"They needed the type of services our airplanes provide and the best way we can do it is by flying out of here," said Garcia.

Though living in tents and operating from land may be a different experience than the crew is used to, they said they are excited for the change and believe it will be a welcoming change from life on the ship.

"You see it on TV where they have these bases and tents set up; you see how they live and where they live and now we know (the experience) first hand," said Velasco. "We're staying in tents, in the dust, in the rocks, in the different culture and it's a great opportunity."

It's a good change from the ship, said Garcia. "Being on a ship is

See **SQUADRON**, Page 3

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



President Bush tells the *Financial Times* of London that the United States will maintain a military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Troops to remain in Iraq until Saddam is killed or captured

WASHINGTON – The White House said Friday that U.S. troops would remain in Iraq until Saddam Hussein is killed or captured.

But the administration would not publicly discuss any legal or political arrangements that might be necessary if the former Iraqi president is still at large when the U.S.-led coalition turns over power to a new Iraqi government.

Press Secretary Scott McClellan said it was hypothetical to discuss any arrangements that might be necessary.

But the issue could become a factor in the urgent negotiations now under way to speed the transfer of power to a new Iraqi government.

In an interview with *London's Financial Times*, President Bush said the United States would maintain a military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan “until the job is done,” and he answered yes when asked if that definition included accounting for Osama bin Laden and Saddam.

The continuing U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan was a negotiated part of the agreement to turn political power over to the interim government led by Hamid Karzai.

Asked if the United States would insist on a similar agreement as part of any transition plan in Iraq, McClellan said it was a premature question.

Many members of the Iraqi Governing Council have said they want the U.S. mili-

tary to leave as soon as possible, but senior administration officials say that part of any transfer of power would have to include arrangements for some continued U.S. and international military presence.

At his morning briefing with reporters, McClellan said such questions were hypothetical and premature because the hunt for Saddam continues, and there is at the moment no agreement on a timetable for turning over power to a new Iraqi government.

But he also several times reiterated that it is the president’s view that “finishing the job” in Iraq includes accounting for Saddam.

“It is only a matter of time,” before the former Iraqi president is found, McClellan said.

Report: China mine blast kills 48

SHANGHAI, China – Forty-eight miners were killed in a gas explosion at a coal mine in China’s eastern province of Jiangxi, state media said on Friday, in the latest in a string of mine accidents that have taken thousands of lives this year.

The bodies have been retrieved after the blast at a mine in the city of Fengcheng in Jiangxi late in the morning, news agency *Xinhua* said. Two workers were also injured, and operations at the mines have been suspended.

The cause of the accident at the state-owned Jianxin Coal Mine, which has a capacity of 600,000 tonnes a year, is being investigated, *Xinhua* said, adding that senior officials were on their way to the site.

Among these are a member of China’s cabinet, the State Council, along with the provincial governor and the provincial head of the Communist Party.

A local mining bureau official in Fengcheng confirmed the explosion to Reuters, but could not provide further details.

A new work safety law and greater efforts to patrol unsafe work sites have failed to stem the number of deaths in Chinese mine accidents so far this year.

Coal mine accidents killed 4,620 miners in the first nine months of this year.



A U.S. Apache helicopter patrols the Tikrit area.

U.S. steps up offensive in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq – U.S. firepower hammered targets in Iraq for the third day Friday as part of an intense operation intended to destroy the insurgency against the U.S.-led coalition.

A 1st Armored Division spokesman said the third day of Operation Iron Hammer began Friday afternoon with five strikes.

In addition to Iron Hammer, the 4th Infantry Division has launched Operation Ivy Cyclone north of Baghdad, and the 82nd Airborne Division’s Task Force All American is operating to the west.

President Bush said Friday that his administration’s strategy is working in Iraq.

“We’re going to stay the course,” Bush said in Washington, repeating his commitment to keep troops in Iraq “until the job is done.”

Yet Friday also brought news of rising U.S. casualties.

A soldier was killed and two others wounded when their Humvee struck a roadside bomb while they were on patrol in Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

The three soldiers from the 1st Armored Division were evacuated shortly after the explosion around 8:20 a.m. The military said the soldier died at a hospital.

The death brings to 44 the number of U.S. troops killed this month in Iraq. A total of 404 U.S. forces have been killed since the start of the war. Also on Friday, two soldiers were wounded in western Baghdad when another Humvee hit a roadside bomb, according to Lt. Col. Eric Nantz.

SQUADRON, from Page 1

an interesting experience and being out here is just as interesting.”

Adjusting from sea to land may be the only major hurdle that these troops have to encounter in Bagram.

The E2 squadron had been welcomed into the Bagram military family and all services have pulled together to make the new Navy members feel at home.

“We’ve been accepted and that was really helpful,” said Velasco. “Army, Navy, Air Force (and) Marines; we’re all brothers in one way or another and we all work together.

“We’re one team and it’s great to be here,” said Velasco.

The team is excited to be part of the Bagram mission, he said. “We want to be a really big part and however the mission goes, we’ll stick with it.

“This is a once in a life time opportunity,” said Velasco, who after the mission is complete, wants to bring home with him “the knowledge of our mission statement, of our being here, supporting, being part” of encouraging a free and growing world.



Photo by Maj. Matthew Garner

A Navy E2C from the USS Enterprise refuels at Bagram Air Base as an Air Force C-17 lands in the background. The E2C crew is forward positioned at Bagram in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

American Red Cross gives soldiers comfort

Story by Spc. Marc Loi
13th Public Affairs Detachment

The Sept. 11th attacks on America brought more than 54,700 volunteer workers from the American Red Cross to “Ground Zero,” to help with clean-up efforts. In the subsequent months, additional Red Cross volunteers were also sent to other parts of the world to support servicemembers deployed in support of the war on terrorism.

This isn’t new for American Red Cross volunteers. They’ve been lending a hand to U.S. Armed Forces since 1905, when, according to the American Red Cross Web site at: www.redcross.org, “the U.S. Congress granted a charter to the Red Cross that required it to act ‘in accord with the military authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States and their armed forces.’”

At Camp Doha, Kuwait, there are three Red Cross volunteers working to support U.S. and Coalition Forces servicemembers stationed and coming through here.

Though the group’s main mission is to act “as a liaison between soldiers and families back home,” it also provides other means of support, said Red Cross worker Stephanie L. Davison.

There is a canteen full of items of comfort available, including snacks, stationery and read-

ing materials. There’s also a television and VCR.

“They’re items that are being donated by the American people. The American people are backing the servicemembers in what they’re doing and they want to show support by donating,” Davison, originally from Atlanta, Ga., said. Perhaps the most sought-after items at the center, aren’t snacks or magazines, but are the letters written to servicemembers from school-aged children in America.

“We support you for your bravery,” one child wrote on a hand-made card. “Go and kill Saddam Hussein!”

Though the messages on the letters and cards may look like right-handed people wrote them with their left hands, and the cards may have colors smeared all over, the recipients don’t really mind. The most important thing on there is perhaps the message, Davison said.

“The children wrote from all over the states and we sit it out everywhere,” she said. “It’s special for them when they see a letter written by a child that’s the same age as their child,” she said.

The letters, along with items of comfort, were collected from donations across America through various American Red Cross chapters and shipped to Kuwait and other overseas posts, said John Gooch, Red Cross worker.

Gooch, from Brownwood, Texas, spent 20 years in the U.S. Navy and said he wanted to continue to do positive things after retiring from

the Navy. The Red Cross, he said, offered that choice.

Though the job involves ‘traveling the world,’ both Gooch and Davison agreed they’re not doing it for the money or world traveling – world travels often means traveling to a third-world country and as for the money, they’re probably overworked and underpaid. What they do it for, however, said Davison is for a much greater the reward – a chance the smiling faces of servicemembers who they’ve had a positive impact on.

And they have made a positive impact. Many servicemembers come through the facility each day, some to relax, some to collect goods to send to other soldiers in Iraq and some for the coffee.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael M. Hardee, of Norfolk, Va., comes in frequently to collect items of comfort for his soldiers in Iraq. As an first sergeant of the 235th Signal Co., Hardee said he’s grown to appreciate the Red Cross.

“Their daily assistant has helped our unit’s morale. I’ve been able to send care packages up north for my guys,” he said, adding that having the Red Cross around is a very important part of a deployment because the Red Cross always gives soldiers a place to unwind and allows them to relax in a different atmosphere.

Like Hardee, Marine Sgt. Johnny A. Perez, of Long Island, Ny., said he thinks very highly of the Red Cross.

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the first three nights of the operation, elements of the 10th Mountain Division Warrior Brigade had traveled along the mountainsides of the valley along the Fawerikhwar River with the main purpose of disrupting any ACM operations and denying them sanctuary in a province coalition forces hadn't entered since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom, according to Co. B Commander Capt. Toby Moore.

They had traveled more than 20 kilometers by foot from the village of Namgalam where they had air assaulted into under the cover of night Nov. 6, and now they were to begin the uphill climb to their final objective, a suspected ACM stronghold located 6,000 feet up a nearby mountain.

According to Co. B 1st Sgt. Carl Ashmead, the days of marching and the ensuing climb to the objective were some of the most physically demanding tasks they'd done since arriving in Afghanistan.

"Nothing that you hold true conventionally holds true in the mountains," Ashmead said. "Travel time from point A to point B is longer, resupply is more difficult . . . and the simple fact of moving through the terrain is difficult."

To help lessen the load of soldiers carrying heavy radios and other essential supplies while climbing the mountain, the 10th Mountain Division soldiers borrowed a page from World War II history, according to Ashmead, when they contracted locals and rented four donkeys to aid them on their mission.

The soldiers climbed the steep snaking mountain trail and arrived at the objective as the sun was setting behind ridgelines that dominated the area's landscape.



A CH-47 Chinook hovers over a roof to pick up 10th Mountain Division soldiers during Operation Mountain Resolve.



10th Mountain Division mortarmen fire mortar rounds at Anti Coalition Forces' positions during Operation Mountain Resolve. The operation, which began on Nov. 7, is currently taking place in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar and Nuristan Provinces.

"Every one of the soldiers has definitely earned his mountain tab this mission," said Moore, about his soldiers' efforts.

When they arrived at the objective and cleared the buildings in the area, the soldiers discovered that the enemy had clearly abandoned the site.

According to Ashmead, showing up to an empty objective was a bit anticlimactic.

"Every infantryman trains to close with and destroy the enemy," he said. "This was an indicator of how positive the War on Terrorism is going in Afghanistan that there isn't any enemy to close with when we get here."

Over the next two days, the infantrymen searched the objective and surrounding areas for clues of ACM forces.

Even though there were no enemies to be found, many of the soldiers were still content with their accomplishments.

"There were a few times when I wanted to quit, but I just kept going," said Pvt. Jason Dominguez, Co. A, 2-22 Inf. "The mountains were a little rough, but we overcame them."

Sgt. Benjamin Ireland, Co. A, 41st Engineer Co., 10th Mtn. Div., agreed, "This mission, I felt like we actually got something accomplished; we went up there and made sure there wasn't any enemy left in the area."

And perhaps most importantly, the soldiers were able to draw some important lessons from the harsh experience,

according to Ashmead.

"What it shows me about my soldiers is that they are very hard physically and mentally because they're able to come into unfamiliar terrain and they're able to adapt to it," he said. "We learned some painful lessons. We had a couple sprained ankles and other small injuries, but we also learned these hills aren't anything to be scared of; we can go up them and we can move on our own terms in these hills."

After two long, bitter-cold nights at the objective, the soldiers made the vastly easier trek down the mountain and back to the village where they started to prepare for extraction from the province.

"It was a stressful experience but rewarding," said 1st Lt Matthew Crowe, fire support officer out of 3rd Bn., 6th Field Artillery Regiment, about the whole experience. "It seems we've severely hindered the enemy's operations in this area."

And in climbing the mountains of Afghanistan to fight the War on Terrorism, the soldiers of 10th Mtn. Div added pages to the proud history of the 10th Mountain Division, according to Ashmead.

"We've added to the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division. Maybe not with the same skill or dash that our forbearers from WWII did it, but we did it," he said. "And we came back with all the soldiers we left with, so overall, it's the end of a pretty good day."

Operation Mountain Resolve is currently ongoing.

FREEDOM'S VOICES

I am a veteran...

Commentary by Maj. Dani Johnson

"I am a veteran." Four words that still seem so strange for me to say. In my mind, veterans have always been the men in their American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars caps who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. It hasn't been the airman or officer you see playing with a young child in the park or have over to your house for a barbeque.

In September I returned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, from a five-month deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, and Camp Doha, Kuwait, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I didn't think much about the term "veteran" as I quickly outprocessed there and headed here for my new assignment. During the time I was deployed, I was shot at and found out that if I had to I could defend myself and was lucky I didn't have to. I worked longer hours and was more fatigued than I ever thought I could be and still accomplish the mission.

One of my most memorable experiences was when Saddam's sons were killed July 22.

I was the public affairs operations and plans chief in the joint operations center for Headquarters Coalition Joint Task Force-Seven. Upon notification of the possible deaths, I was in charge of developing and coordinating all the guidance and preparation for the upcoming press conferences.

I will always have in my memory the image of me at a laptop with five Army colonels and an Army brigadier general hanging over my shoulders "helping" me write the commanding general's opening statement. Within 24 hours, we held two live international press conferences. It was a team effort all around. It took everyone, across all specialties, in two operations centers to prepare the general for every possible question and to inform him of the details of the operation.

Not once during that time or any other time during the deployment did I think, "When I leave here, I will be a combat veteran." I did what I had to do with the resources I had available and left knowing that I gave everything I had and made a difference.

I'm not the only veteran here or at other bases. A veteran is an airman guarding the flightline, a captain flying the B-52H Stratofortress and an NCO working on the communication lines in the missile field. It includes many others across the base and the Air Force who are too numerous to mention here, who served recently in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Look closer at that senior NCO and lieutenant colonel; they are probably veterans of operations Allied Force and Desert Storm. Some here might even be veterans from the Vietnam War. Don't forget our civilians either. Many of them are prior military, and served during times of conflict. All of us have a reason to thank those who came before us. But in that gratitude, don't forget to thank the ones standing next to you this Veteran's Day.

Because I am a veteran.

STREET TALK

How are you going to bring the holiday season to Bagram?



"I'm going to go home and see my family."

Spc. Brian Fahringer,
213th Area Support Group

"We're going to look for a little person smaller than me, to play the elf at my Christmas party."



**Chief Warrant Officer 3
John Robinson,**
HHC CJTF 180



"For Thanksgiving, our Chaplain is going to do a service, we're going to eat some chow and then we're going back to work."

**Command Sgt. Maj.
Corbly Elsbury,**
41st Engineer Battalion

"I'm going to buy some gifts from the bazaar and send them home to my family."



Capt. John Gerber,
Co. D, 1st Bn., 130th
Aviation Regiment

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CJTF-180 Commander —

Brig. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Rodney Davis

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Master Sgt. Sharon Opeka

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Commander — Maj. Matthew L Garner

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson

Editor — Sgt. Stephanie Hall

Journalists — Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson,

Sgt. Gregory Heath, Spc. Kelly Hunt

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Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Special ops soldier killed in Afghanistan

LONDON (*Reuters*) – A special operations force soldier has been killed in Afghanistan after the vehicle he was driving was hit by a roadside bomb, the U.S. military has said.

U.S. Central Command said in a statement the attack was near Asadabad, in eastern Afghanistan, on Friday. It gave no more details.

Afghan and U.S. forces are scouring mountains and villages in that part of the country as part of a new operation against militants called “Mountain Resolve,” villagers reported.

At least four Afghans were killed and three hurt on Wednesday when their car was blown up by a remote-controlled bomb apparently intended for a U.S. vehicle close to a U.S. base in the area.

More than 350 people, including civilians, Afghan troops, rebels, aid workers and at least 11 U.S.-led soldiers or CIA operatives, have been killed in attacks in Afghanistan since early August.

The violence is the worst since U.S.-led forces overthrew the radical Islamic Taliban regime two years ago on Thursday.

Afghans say suspected militants killed

KABUL, Afghanistan (*Reuters*) – Afghan forces killed four suspected Islamic militants when they tried to overrun a government base near the border with Pakistan, an official said on Friday.

The clash took place in Shaplung in the southeastern province of Khost on Thursday night and lasted for an hour before the attackers retreated to Pakistan, said Kheyal Baaz Khan, a top provincial military official.

“I do not know the size of the enemy’s force involved in the attack,” Khan told *Reuters* by satellite phone.

“But I do know that four Taliban or al Qaeda members were killed in their abortive attack in which no government soldier was harmed.”

He did not have further details of the clash in remote Shaplung. Afghan officials say Taliban and al Qaeda guerrillas use Pakistani territory to or-

chestrate raids on Afghan soldiers, U.S.-led forces and aid workers.

More than 350 people, including civilians, Afghan troops, many rebels, aid workers and at least 11 U.S.-led soldiers or CIA operatives have been killed in a series of attacks in various parts of Afghanistan since early August.

The violence is the worst since U.S.-led forces overthrew the radical Islamic Taliban regime late in 2001.

About 11,500 U.S.-led troops are hunting remnants of the Taliban and al Qaeda as well as followers of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, former prime minister and renegade warlord who has called a jihad, or holy war, against foreign troops on Afghan soil.

Nine killed in clash in Zabul Province

(*Sabawoon*) – One soldier loyal to the Afghan government and eight suspected loyalists of the former Taliban regime were killed on 8 November in a clash that took place in Khak-e Afghan District of Zabul Province. Meanwhile, two explosions reportedly occurred in the provincial capital Qalat on 8 November. The Afghan Interior Ministry confirmed the clash in Khak-e Afghan District, but said it had no information regarding explosions in Qalat. Reports attributed the information about the Qalat explosions to Mawlawi Mohammad Omar, the deputy governor of Zabul. He was quoted in the reports as saying that four districts in the province are not under government control.

Afghanistan’s Constitutional Effort

(*NY Times*) – Almost two years after the war, Afghans face growing insecurity, rising troubles with the Taliban and diminishing help from the West. A draft of a new constitution released at the end of October offers a first step toward real elections and a more humane society. This draft includes some promising aspirations, with a preamble that calls for observation of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and for a civil society with a “deserving place in the international community.” But there are also troubling aspects of this crucial document, which will go before a constitutional convention next month for ratification.

Above all, the draft lacks a clear promise to the Afghan people that their individual rights cannot be easily trumped. The document does not invoke Shariah, the Islamic law that, among other restrictions, does not tolerate dissent. But it says that no law can be contrary to the sacred religion of Islam. And it says the members of the Supreme Court should be educated in either civil law or Islamic law, a provision that raises the possibility of more judges who base their rulings on the Koran rather than civil law. Finally, although women would become part of the government, there is no separate acknowledgment of rights for women, a basic need for a country with Afghanistan’s painful history.

United Nations and American officials need to push for language ensuring the protection of core human rights in this document. The constitutional convention in December is expected to include many who want to make the final document more conservative.

A note from the editor...

To all,

The *Arizona Daily Star* is asking deployed military members and other personnel deployed here who call Arizona home what they are thankful for this Thanksgiving.

You may stop by the public affairs office, on the second floor of the control tower or you can e-mail Tech. Sgt. Brian Davidson at DavidsonB@baf.cjtf180.army.mil

There is no limit to the length of your answers.

Please include your full name, rank, job title here at Bagram and your hometown in your response.

Deadline for submissions is Nov. 17. Publication will be in the Thanksgiving Day issue of the *Arizona Daily Star*.

Entertainment

November 15, 2003

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

On any
given
day ...



A Pakistani mine clearance technician takes a break from clearing mines next to Old Kabul Road. Around Bagram is one of the most heavily mined areas in Afghanistan. This is just one of the many sights Bagram Air Base MPs see during their daily presence patrols.

Daily life goes on around Bagram

Photo page by
Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Nobody knows just exactly what a day will bring for the soldiers of 2nd Platoon, 805th Military Police Company, when they head out the front gate on patrol.

The MPs patrol area includes the area around Bagram Air Base up to roughly half way to Kabul where the International Security Assistance Force picks up responsibility, according to Staff Sgt. Shawn Beckett, one of the patrol leaders.

“Our main mission is doing presence patrols

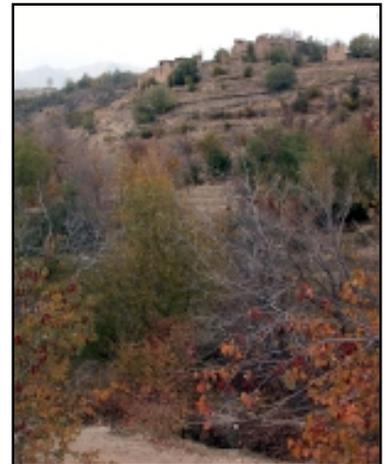
and escort missions,” he said.

According to Beckett, another objective of the patrols is to see how the roads on the map correspond with the actual roads of the area.

“Some of the roads on the map don’t actually exist,” Beckett said. “We go out and see what’s actually there and what can support military traffic.”

The MPs spend their patrol time keeping an eye out for what’s going on and frequently stop to talk with locals and listen to their concerns.

“We go out so that these people can see Americans a little and know that we are around,” Beckett said.



Fall colors show their colors in a village west of Old Kabul Road. What used to be a resort area is now rebuilding after the Taliban destroyed it.



(Above) Local girls wash rugs in a stream near Old Kabul Road.

(Right) MPs from the 805th MP Co. stop to talk with villagers during their daily presence patrol.





Music Notes (Compiled from CNN.com)

Beach Boys in legal battle

NEW YORK (*Billboard*) – Beach Boys co-founder Al Jardine has won an appeal against ex-bandmate Mike Love, clearing the way for a breach-of-fiduciary-duty lawsuit against Love.



The Beach Boys during their 1960s heyday.

“This is the first step in a long journey,” Jardine told *Billboard*.

Love became the sole licensee to perform under the Beach Boys name in 1998, when bandmate Carl Wilson died. In 2001, Love sued Jardine in California superior court to prevent Jardine from using the band’s name when he toured. According to the complaint, Jardine had been touring under the names “Beach Boys Family & Friends,” “Al Jardine, Beach Boy” and “Al Jardine of the Beach Boys.”

At the time, the lower court ruled in Love’s favor, denying Jardine use of the name. Jardine then appealed the decision, seeking \$4 million in damages.

By now, the damage amount has ballooned to “something in the tens of millions of dollars,” says Jardine. “But it’s about much more than just the money. I want to be able to tour again, and to be able to identify myself as a Beach Boy again.”



Hatfield, left, and Medley after their induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in March.

Righteous Brother sings alone

IRVINE, Calif. (*Hollywood Reporter*)— The surviving member of the Righteous Brothers sang a gospel song alone Tuesday as family, friends and fans remembered his late partner, Bobby Hatfield, at a memorial service filled with music and funny stories.

“I’m going to miss our two-part harmony. I’m going to miss our rock and roll. I’m going to miss looking to my right on stage and seeing my friend,” said Bill Medley, whose hits with Hatfield included “Unchained Melody” and “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feeling.”

Addressing Hatfield, he added, “I want you to rest as well as you lived.”

Hatfield, who with Medley was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, died last week in a hotel room in Kalamazoo, Michigan, shortly before the duo was to perform.

Hundreds turned out at the public memorial service at the non-denominational Mariners Church in Irvine. Pictures of Hatfield were on display, many of which showed him with a microphone. A video montage showed the Righteous Brothers performing their best-known songs.



Britney Spears

Does Britney still have it?

LOS ANGELES (*Reuters*) – Two years ago, she sang plaintively that she was “Not a girl, not yet a woman.”

For the past couple of months, former pop princess Britney Spears, 21, has been out to prove that girlhood is but a distant memory, posing topless and bottomless for magazine covers and smooching publicly with Madonna to promote her recording comeback.

“In the Zone,” Britney’s first album for two years, hits record stores November 18 following her decision in August 2002 to take a break from the business that had turned a wholesome teen from the American South into a worldwide pop phenomenon with album sales of 60 million.

Two years is a lifetime in the fickle pop music industry as Madonna, the mother of reinvention, knows all too well. So once the TV specials, the eye-popping photos and the media furor over her “not that innocent” new image blows over, Britney’s success as a recording artist will depend on the music.

“It really comes down to how good the songs are. Any kind of image is not going to sustain you for that long unless there is really some substance there,” said Jeff Pollack, a leading radio and music consultant.

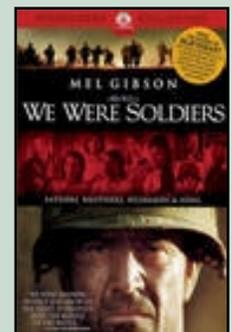
Bagram Air Base MWR presents

“We Were Soldiers”

1530Z at the MWR building:

The story of the first major battle of the American phase of the Vietnam War and the soldiers on both sides that fought it.

Tomorrow’s movie: “Carrot Top Rocks Las Vegas”



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)



MLS rookies lead Chicago, New England

ATLANTA – The top two rookies in Major League Soccer will square off Friday night for a berth in the MLS Cup championship game.

The Chicago Fire and New England Revolution meet at Soldier Field to decide the Eastern Conference representative in MLS Cup (8:30 p.m. ET; Fox Sports World).

First-year Fire forward Damani Ralph had 11 goals and six assists in the regular season, while the Revs' Pat Noonan came on strong late in the season to tally 10 goals and seven assists. Noonan has two goals in two playoff games, and Ralph has one.

On Saturday, the San Jose Earthquakes and Kansas City Wizards clash for the Western Conference title in the first-ever playoff meeting between the clubs (10 p.m. ET; Fox Sports World).

The winner-take-all, one-game format is a first for MLS, which this season got rid of a cumbersome three-game playoff.

In the new playoff system, the first-round series were decided on total aggregate scores after two games.

New England and Chicago met in the playoffs in three of the previous four seasons, and each time the winner went on to lose the MLS Cup. Last year, the Revs beat Chicago only to lose to the Los Angeles Galaxy at home in the final. In four meetings between the teams this season, New England won both games at Gillette Stadium, while the Fire won and tied at Naperville during the renovation of Soldier Field. While the first-round offered the higher seed little in the way of home-field advantage, the Fire are happy to be hosting the Conference Final.

"There are some coaches in the league that have downplayed it, but I still feel it's very important," said Chicago's first-year head coach Dave Sarachan. "This place will be rocking. We just feel good at home and having home-field is going to be big."

Trojans lose starting defensive end

LOS ANGELES – Southern California defensive end Omar Nazel needs surgery to repair ligaments in his right thumb and is expected to miss the rest of the season. Frostee Rucker, a redshirt sophomore, will start in place of Nazel on Saturday, when the No. 2 Trojans play at Arizona. USC also will be without starting linebackers Matt Grootegoed and Melvin Simmons. Grootegoed has a sprained ankle, and Simmons has a bruised leg.



Pat Noonan (left) has stepped up to lead the Revs' offense, while Marshall Leonard has filled in on defense.

Pierzynski gets traded to Giants

MINNEAPOLIS – Though A.J. Pierzynski was sad to say so long to Minnesota, he saw it coming.

The tightly budgeted Twins traded their All-Star catcher to the San Francisco Giants for right-handed reliever Joe Nathan and two minor leaguers Friday.

San Francisco will send right-hander Boof Bonser and left-hander Francisco Liriano to Minnesota. The Twins will give up either a player to be named or cash to complete the deal between division champions.

"It's one of those things that was eventually going to happen," said Pierzynski, reached on a golf course in Hawaii. "I was one of the first guys people had talked about, and they've got the guy coming behind me."

Joe Mauer, the top pick in the 2001 amateur draft, is waiting to take over as Minnesota's catcher. "The door is pretty wide open right now," Mauer said from his offseason home in Florida. "It's pretty exciting for me. ... I've got a shot to be on the club next year."

The Twins' minor league player of the year, Mauer hit .335 with Class A Fort Myers and .341 for Class AA New Britain.

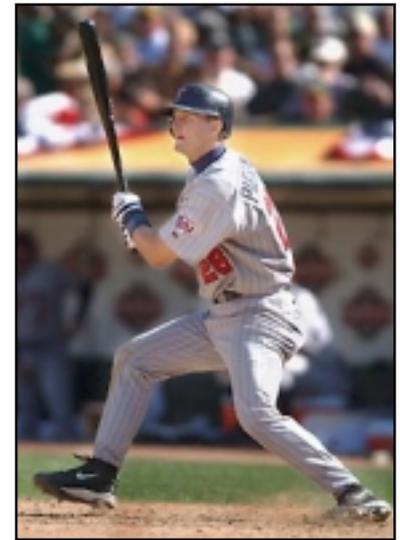
"That's all part of the reasons we decided to make this trade," general manager Terry Ryan said. "We're dealing from a position of strength. We've got some talent at catching come up and some financial concerns, as far as making sure the pieces fit."

Owner Carl Pohlad wants to keep Minnesota's \$56 million payroll about the same, and Pierzynski, 26, will get a significant raise through salary arbitration from the \$365,000 he made last season.

First baseman Doug Mientkiewicz and left-handed pitcher Johan Santana are among four other players eligible for arbitration, and relievers Eddie Guardado and LaTroy Hawkins and outfielder Shannon Stewart are free agents. So it was no secret the AL Central champion Twins had to make some moves this fall.

Pierzynski spoke with Mientkiewicz shortly after hearing the news, and they briefly lamented the limitations of a small-market club. Both players have spent their entire careers in the organization, debuting in 1999 on a team that used 18 different rookies.

"It's exciting, but I'm sad at the same time," said Pierzynski, an All-Star in 2002 who hit .312 with 35 doubles, 11 homers and 74 RBIs in 137 games in 2003.



A.J. Pierzynski has a .301 career average.

Battles looming in Bryant case

DENVER—Let the paper war begin: The judge in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case has given attorneys a month to outline issues that could play a key role at trial, from medical histories to rape kit evidence.

Winning the fight over evidence and testimony is crucial when it comes to convincing jurors the Los Angeles Lakers star is guilty or innocent.

“Team Kobe’s biggest worry now is a hung jury,” said Denver attorney Craig Silverman, a former prosecutor. “After the preliminary hearing, it doesn’t look like 12 people would convict him. At the same time, it’s very hard to convince all 12 people to vote not guilty. If he wins these motions hearings, it could reduce the likelihood of a hung jury.”

During Bryant’s initial appearance in state court Thursday, the judge gave attorneys 30 days to file formal requests. Legal experts expect the defense to try to limit evidence and to set ground rules for expert witnesses.

More important will be evidence the defense wants to ensure goes before a jury, Loyola Law School-Los Angeles professor Stan Goldman said.

He said the defense will want to argue that Bryant’s 19-year-old accuser was mentally and emotionally unstable, that she was promiscuous and that she expected Bryant to make sexual advances. Prosecutors have indicated they will try to keep such evidence away from the jury.

“In my opinion, that is the far more relevant and potentially compelling evidence — if true — about why in this he-said, she-said context we should believe he instead of she,” Goldman said Friday.

Bryant, 25, is accused of raping the woman at the posh hotel where she worked and he was a guest June 30. Free on \$25,000 bond, he faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation if convicted.

State District Judge Terry Ruckriegle has set a Dec. 19 hearing to discuss unresolved issues deferred to him by the Eagle County judge who sent the case to trial.

Among those disputes are defense requests to see the woman’s medical records from several hospitals and clinics and a rape-crisis center. The motions to be filed in the next month will be discussed at a Jan. 23 hearing.

Legal experts predicted the defense will try to keep Bryant’s tape-recorded statement to police and his T-shirt, stained with the woman’s blood, out of evidence. They also expect the defense to seek permission to discuss the woman’s reported suicide attempts and her sexual history.

Colorado’s rape-shield law prohibits the use of evidence about the sexual history of an alleged sexual assault victim unless the evidence is proven to be relevant to the case.

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

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

B	E	S	S		R	E	S	T		V	A	D	E	R	
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pvtmurphy.com

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
- ❖ 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-Biblestudy

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-Biblestudy

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—43F
Lo—39F

K2



Hi—47F
Lo—32F

Kabul



Hi—41F
Lo—37F

KAF



Hi—63F
Lo—45F

Sunday



Hi—43F
Lo—28F



Hi—40F
Lo—28F



Hi—41F
Lo—27F



Hi—54F
Lo—36F

Monday



Hi—43F
Lo—25F



Hi—42F
Lo—30F



Hi—43F
Lo—25F



Hi—46F
Lo—30F

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.