

LTF delivers needed supplies from the heart

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

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – The philanthropic nature of Logistics Task Force 129, which began with an ice cream delivery to a school a few months ago, blossomed Wednesday into a special delivery for three local villages.

Soldiers from the task force worked with Base Operations Civil Affairs to deliver a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle full of humanitarian rations, winter clothes, blankets and assorted school supplies to the villages of Qalay Khoja, Qur Ktana and Khala Azara.

According to Chap. (1st Lt.) Tino Villalovas, the task force's Chaplain, the supplies were collected from friends and family of task force Soldiers. "Everything was donated," he said. "The 3654th Maintenance Company did a big drive and most of the stuff came from them."



Chap. (1st Lt.) Tino Villalovas hands out a blanket to an apprehensive Afghan girl during LTF 129's delivery of humanitarian aid to local villages.

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Supplemental bill to improve quality of life for troops in Iraq, Afghanistan

Story by K.L. Vantran
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Part of the \$87.5 billion supplemental appropriations bill for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan signed earlier this month by President Bush will go toward improving quality of life for troops there.

"We want people to have air conditioning," Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer Dov S. Zakheim said here Nov. 17. "We want them to have running water. We want them to have decent facilities to sleep in."

Zakheim said the troops who deployed to Afghanistan started out in "pretty miserable

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From the editor...

We will be filming Holiday Greetings for soldiers from the greater New York City viewing area (WABC-TV) on Friday from 1100L to 1300L behind Motel 6, Bldg. 815, and will be filming holiday greetings for soldiers from the Fort Drum area on Friday as well from 1300L to 1500L in the same location.

We are only able to film greetings for these areas at this time as special arrangements have been made with the media in those two locations. The Hometown News team has already been here and will not be returning.

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Bush: "The British people are the type of partners we want."

Bush urges Europe to end Iraq rift with United States

LONDON—George W. Bush has urged Europe to end the rift with the United States and help to build democracy in Iraq or risk returning the nation to terrorists.

The U.S. president reached out to the many critics of his foreign policy in a speech in London as tens of thousands of anti-war protesters prepared for a march on Thursday.

Bush, who is in Britain on a state visit, conceded that differences remained over Iraq, even between close allies Washington and London.

But he said "we did not charge hundreds of miles into the heart of Iraq and pay a bitter cost of casualties and liberate 25 million people only to retreat before a band of thugs and assassins."

Bush's speech at Banqueting House followed a welcoming ceremony for him and his wife Laura from Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, which included a 41-gun salute and the playing of the U.S. national anthem by a military band. The queen later hosted the Bushes at an ornate state banquet at Buckingham Palace.

In a toast, the queen referred to the "special relationship" between Britain and the United States, noting that the expression had been coined 60 years ago by former British leader Winston Churchill.

"The leadership you showed in the aftermath of the terrible events of September 11, 2001 won the admiration of everyone in the United Kingdom," she said.

In his toast, President Bush also recalled World War II, and said once again Britain and the United States had been "asked to secure the

peace of the world".

He said the U.S. and Britain were on a "mission of freedom" in Afghanistan and Iraq and that soldiers from their two nations were sacrificing themselves in a common and noble cause.

Throughout Wednesday there were isolated protests across London. At one point as Bush arrived to make his speech at Banqueting House, noisy demonstrators could be seen and heard a short distance away.



During Taiwan polls in early 2000, Beijing also threatened to use force against the break-away island.

China renews threat of war

HONG KONG—For the first time since 2000, Beijing has threatened to use force against Taiwan should the island's pro-independence movement continue to escalate.

In a tough statement, the Vice-Minister at Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office Wang Zaixi said Beijing's Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian's recent pro-separatist activities had crossed Beijing's "red line" and that they "run the risk of triggering a war" with the mainland.

"War will break out if the island declares formal independence," state media on Wednesday quoted Wang as saying.

"[The separatist forces] are set to pay a high cost if they think we will not use force against their conspiracy to promote formal independence."

Beijing regards Taiwan as a renegade province and has threatened to use force if the self-governing island declares independence.

In the past month or so, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian has indicated Taipei will be holding referendums on political issues — and that the island's constitution will be revised in 2006 to reflect full-fledged statehood.

A representative from China's People's Liberation Army also spoke out for the first time since controversy broke out several months ago

over Taiwan's "creeping independence" gambit.

The official *China News Service* quoted a senior researcher at the Chinese Academy of Military Science, Luo Yuan, as saying that "the day 'Taiwan independence' is promulgated is also the time when war will be declared."

Luo said a number of senior PLA generals shared this feeling of urgency.

He added that if the army were to do nothing in the face of Taiwan independence, "we would be going against the constitution and this would be a severe dereliction of duty."

\$10 million reward set for Saddam's top deputy

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The U.S. military on Wednesday announced a \$10 million reward for information leading to the capture of Saddam Hussein's top deputy, who is believed to be behind many of the insurgent attacks in Iraq.

Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri is the second most-wanted Iraqi behind Saddam. Both men remain at large.

Al-Douri was the vice chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council and is No. 6 on the list of the 55 most-wanted Iraqis. Of the other top six, three have been killed, and one is in custody.

The Bush administration has offered up to \$25 million for information leading to Saddam's arrest or proof of his death.

The U.S. military is stepping up its offensive against the anti-coalition insurgency, leveling houses and buildings used by suspected Iraqi guerrillas. On Sunday, soldiers used rockets to destroy al-Douri's house near Kirkuk in northern Iraq. The house was one of more than a dozen structures the U.S. military has demolished in recent days.

"I think it demonstrates our resolve," Maj. Gen. Charles Swannack, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, said Tuesday at a Baghdad briefing. "This is war. And we're going to prosecute the war not holding one hand behind our back. When we identify positively an enemy target, we're going to go ahead and take it out with every means available."

Pentagon officials reject any comparison to Israeli military tactics in the West Bank and Gaza, saying the U.S. actions are aimed at eliminating military targets — not punishing sympathizers.

ANA soldiers learn computer skills to improve effectiveness

Soldiers of Afghan National Army (ANA) are improving upon the effectiveness of the national army everyday.

Not only are the soldiers developing better tactical skills but also increased technical skills. The two-week course, designed to familiarize key military leaders with computer programs, trains soldiers from Kabul Military Training Center and Central Corps to be more technically proficient.

For four hours a day, 15 ANA soldiers learn the idiosyncrasies of loading programs on computers and working with programs such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

“The goal here is to train these students to learn technical skills that will be useful for their job,” said Amirjan, the computer instructor.

Sgt. Maj. Muhemadjan, an engineer for the Central Corps, is learning programs that will enable him to produce and organize documents quickly and efficiently such as schedules, briefings, policy letters, spreadsheets and contracts.

“When I first joined the ANA, I didn’t think I would be doing things like this. My idea of training was that of soldiering, not of computers,” said Muhemadjan. “As I’ve progressed in to my current position, I’m finding this type of training to be beneficial to me and I’m able to apply everything I’m learning from this class to my job.

This course is helping us be more productive soldiers, and it’s serving to increase the ANA’s effectiveness.”

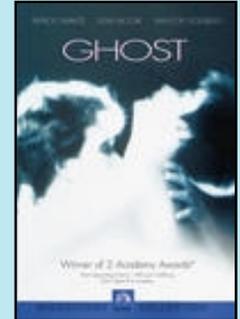
(Information was provided by Spc. Douglas DeMaio, OMC-A.)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

“Ghost”

1530Z at the MWR building:
After being killed during a botched mugging, a man’s love for his partner enables him to remain on earth as a ghost.

Tomorrow’s movie: “Young Guns”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Friday
Bagram:	Partly Cloudy H: 54F L: 32F	Partly Cloudy H: 57F L: 34F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 61F L: 36F	Dusty H: 61F L: 37F
Kabul:	Partly Cloudy H: 55F L: 34F	Partly Cloudy H: 57F L: 36F
Uzbekistan:	Mostly Cloudy H: 63F L: 32F	Partly Cloudy H: 58F L: 35F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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But when it came to the delivery mission, Villalovas gives the credit to the Soldiers of the task force.

“This was the effort of a lot of different folks,” he said. “The LMTV was packed to the hilt. [The supplies] are going to be a blessing to a lot of folks.”

For some of the logistics Soldiers, the outreach to the local villages was their first chance to venture outside the confines of Bagram Air Base.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” said Spc. Brian Bloodsworth, a supply specialist with the 3654th Maintenance Co. “My section sergeant told me some things about his experiences but today was different.”

Bloodsworth said that the day’s journey gave him an added perspective on the mission in Afghanistan. “It’s neat that we got to experience this,” he said. “I’m glad that we got to see what [Afghan] living conditions are like compared to our own.”

For one soldier, the experience gave him an appreciation for family stories told to him about reconstruction after the Korean War.

“It gave me an idea of what it must have been



A group of Afghan kids from Qalay Khoja stand watch over their new supplies donated by the Soldiers of LTF 129.

like,” said Spc. Song Don, an instrument calibration specialist with the 95th Maintenance Co.

Don went on to say that the time spent delivering humanitarian aid was a welcome break from their daily duties on Bagram.

“It’s great that the Army is delivering these kind of humanitarian supplies out here,” he said.

“Doing this allows soldiers to do something more while they’re here,” said Villalovas.

The Chaplain said the day’s charity was best summed up by a comment he heard from their first sergeant. “Our first sergeant said, ‘This day has made the entire six months (deployment) worth it,’” he said.

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conditions.” He said he’s visited the country several times and can testify that things are improving every day.

“We want to do the same for our forces in Iraq,” he continued. “They’re going to be there. We don’t know for how long. We need to ensure that given the very difficult environment they’re functioning in that they at least have the decent standards of living in terms of basics – water, electricity, heating and air conditioning.”

The bill provides \$64.7 billion for military operations in Iraq, in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Of this, about \$51 billion is for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and \$10 billion for Operation Enduring Freedom. The remaining monies will cover costs with Operation Nobel Eagle and support for allies in the war on terror.

In addition to providing pay and benefits for the troops, the supplemental will pay for such things as spare parts and flying and steaming hours – things that keep day-to-day operations going.

The supplemental also earmarks funds for force-protection measures. This includes protective vests and ceramic inserts for the vests, as well as upgrades for humvees and sensors that will allow detection of attacks, said Zakheim. “It’s a whole array of programs that are geared to protecting our forces who are out on patrol, out on foot,” he added.

The enemy’s use of improvised explosive devices has been a concern said the comptroller. To help counter this, funds will be used for unmanned aerial vehicles that can track when the IEDs are being

placed, he said.

The bill also includes about \$19 billion for reconstruction projects in Iraq. The basic objective, said Zakheim, is not just to transfer sovereignty to Iraq but also to “put them on their own economic feet.”

This includes funding various security forces – civil defense forces, facilities protection forces and the new Iraqi army.

“We want to build up the judicial system,” said Zakheim. “We want to build up the constitutional system. We want to build up a prison system. We want to create the environment of security that is so important for an everyday Iraqi to live in and function in.”

The comptroller said billions of dollars will be spent on electricity, water, health and getting the oil industry “up to speed.”

“If they are to recover economically,” he added, “they’ve got to have some kind of wherewithal to do it with. That is what we’re focusing on – the most urgent infrastructure needs and of course, security.”

The point is, said Zakheim, that if the average Iraqi sees that the new environment will create a better future for him or her, then he or she will buy into the larger ideas for a “democratic” future for Iraq.

Another \$1.2 billion is for rebuilding Afghanistan. It will go toward the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, as well as some infrastructure such as schools, roads and hospitals.

The comptroller said Afghanistan is a very mountainous country and it’s “tough to get around.” One project has been the road from Kabul to Kandahar. It used to take 30 hours to get from one city to the other, now it takes six, he added. “We want to get it to two. This is the way the country gets on its own economic feet.”



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *SI.com*)

MLS's 14-year-old Adu faces spotlight

NEW YORK – Freddy Adu wanted to stay at home, so the 14-year-old phenom spurned offers from some of Europe's top teams and signed with Major League Soccer.

Adu's talents have brought comparisons with Pele, and he just might be the player who puts pro soccer in the mainstream in the United States.

"When I'm out there on the field, I'm not thinking about this stuff people are saying about me," Adu said Wednesday at a Madison Square Garden news conference to announce his signing with MLS.

He was to appear on David Letterman's *Late Show* later Wednesday.

"He is widely considered the best young soccer player in the world," commissioner Don Garber said. "And we believe that playing in his home country, in MLS, will further develop him as a player and, most importantly, as a person."

When he plays his first game with D.C. United next spring, he will become youngest player for a major American team since 14-year-old Fred Chapman debuted for Philadelphia of major league baseball's American Association in 1887, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Adu was courted extensively by English champion Manchester United. He chose to remain near his home in Potomac, Md., where he and his family have lived since immigrating from Ghana in 1997.



Fourteen-year-old Freddy Adu's turn in the MLS spotlight started with a press conference in New York City.

Bryant is free on \$25,000 bond. His next scheduled court appearances is a hearing on Dec. 19 in Eagle. No trial date has been set.



William Green was recently suspended by the Browns.

RB Green hospitalized with knife wound

BEREA, Ohio – Cleveland Browns running back William Green sustained a puncture wound to his back Wednesday following a possible domestic dispute in his home.

Green, currently under suspension for violating the NFL's substance abuse program, was cut after an incident with "domestic overtones," team president Carmen Policy said. Browns head coach Butch Davis said Green was apparently the victim "of a domestic violence crime."

Westlake police Capt. Guy Turner said Green's fiancée, Asia Gray, was being questioned. Turner said police will not classify it as a domestic dispute until a person is arrested.

Green's wound, which police said was below his left shoulder blade, did not require surgery or stitches. There was a possibility the 23-year-old would be released later Wednesday, Policy said.

Browns owner Randy Lerner visited Green in the hospital.

Westlake police responded to an emergency call from Green's home Wednesday morning from Gray, who said Green "had cut himself."

An emergency vehicle was sent to Green's residence, but he was not there when it arrived. Police said Green arrived at St. John-Westshore Hospital in a private vehicle along with another adult and an infant.

Turner believed Gray drove Green to the hospital accompanied by the couple's 10-week-old baby girl. Turner said Green was treated at St. John before being transferred to MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland.

The player's sports utility vehicle was impounded, police have sealed his home and applied for search warrants for Green's house and vehicle.

Turner said Green was being "somewhat" cooperative. "He's answering some of our questions, but not all of them," Turner said.

Green told police he was hurt accidentally. "He said it was received when he fell going up a flight of stairs, carrying some items, including a knife," a police release said. A hospital spokeswoman said Green asked that no information be released.

Report: Kobe Bryant to be tested for HIV

(*SI.com*) – Prosecutors have filed a motion asking a judge to order Kobe Bryant to undergo testing for the virus that causes AIDS, according to a television report.

The motion was filed under seal and the judge has not ruled, KCNC-Channel 4 in Denver reported Tuesday night, citing unnamed sources.

Neither the district attorney's spokeswoman nor Bryant's attorney returned telephone messages from *The Associated Press* late Tuesday.

Bryant, 25, is accused of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman on June 30 at an Edwards hotel where she worked and he was a guest. He has said they had consensual sex.

Colorado law requires anyone charged with a crime involving sexual penetration to be tested for HIV if the suspect is ordered to stand trial after a preliminary hearing. HIV, or human immunodeficiency virus, causes AIDS.

Bryant has been ordered to stand trial on a charge of sexual assault. He faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation if convicted.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

U.S. redoubling efforts to find bin Laden

By Steve Holland

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – Two years after President George W. Bush said Osama bin Laden was wanted dead or alive, America's new Afghan envoy says the United States is redoubling efforts to find him and other leaders of both al Qaeda and the Taliban.

The new U.S. ambassador, Zalmay Khalilzad, an Afghan-born diplomat who is to be sworn in on Monday and depart for Kabul on Tuesday, said more help is needed from Afghan citizens particularly along border regions of Pakistan that the elusive bin Laden and top aides might be crossing into.

"We're going to redouble our efforts," Khalilzad told a group of reporters. With new funding for Afghanistan approved by Congress, the United States plans to "take the fight to the Taliban extremists and to go after the al Qaeda leadership," he said.

Bin Laden, his top lieutenant Ayman al-Zawahiri and ousted Taliban leader Mullah Omar remain at large after the U.S.-led toppling of the Taliban from control of Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. They have eluded a fierce manhunt based on Bush's order that bin Laden was wanted "dead or alive."

The Arabic television station Al Jazeera a month ago broadcast two audio tapes purportedly from bin Laden that vowed more suicide attacks inside and outside the United States and warning that all countries backing Washington over Iraq were targets.

Khalilzad said as part of the effort to find bin Laden, attempts will be made to convince Afghans that turning them in will lead to a more peaceful country. "We're going to try to engage and involve more Afghans in different parts of the country, to participate in this effort with information, with other kinds of help that they can provide," he said.

Dismissed as a spent force largely on the run only months ago, al Qaeda has taken responsibility for bombings in Istanbul on Saturday and may have launched similar attacks in recent weeks in the Iraqi cities of Baghdad and Nasiriyah as well as Riyadh and Jakarta.

There are concerns in Washington about the stability of the Afghan government amid renewed violence by members of the Taliban and al Qaeda, regional warlords flexing their muscles and drug lords and other criminals operating freely.

Attacks on aid groups spread misery

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) – An unprecedented wave of attacks targeting aid workers in Iraq and Afghanistan has put relief groups in the uncomfortable position of having to stop helping needy people in order to protect their own staff.

The violence has also raised tough questions about whether those groups can play a neutral role, as they say they must to succeed, or end up inadvertently lumped together with the United States, whose troops are fighting to put down insurgencies in both countries.

Humanitarian organizations and governments around the world have condemned the recent attacks as heinous crimes against the targeted relief

workers and intended aid recipients.

To the perpetrators, the attacks are part of an orchestrated strategy to undermine stability and head off U.S. success in Iraq and Afghanistan after invasions launched by Washington as part of its global war on terrorism.

In the latest assault, Afghan Taliban guerrillas have boasted of killing a French U.N. worker in southeastern Afghanistan over the weekend. The murder prompted the U.N. high commissioner for refugees to withdraw expatriate staff from half the country.

"We have confirmed information that most of the foreigners working in our country are American agents and have no sympathy for Afghanistan. We will not spare them," Taliban spokesman Mullah Abdul Samad told *Reuters* in Afghanistan.

"They are not doing anything for common Afghans, but are preaching Christianity in Afghanistan or spying against the Taliban," he said. The Taliban government, which sheltered al Qaeda's Osama bin Laden, was ousted by U.S. forces after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

