

‘WE GOT HIM’

4th Infantry captures Saddam near Tikrit

Story by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – With three words – “We got him” – Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III announced at a press briefing in Baghdad today that U.S. forces had captured Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein near his hometown of Tikrit.

Saddam was taken into custody at a small mud-walled compound outside the village of Adwar at 8:30 p.m. Dec. 13.

About 600 members of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, along with special operations forces, launched Operation Red Dawn after receiving intelligence that Saddam was in the area, said Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of coalition forces in the country.

Bremer, the coalition administrator, said it was a “great day” in Iraq’s history. “For decades, hundreds of thousands of you suffered at the hands of this cruel man,” he said. “For decades, Saddam Hussein divided citizens against each other. For decades, he threatened and attacked your neighbors. Those days are over forever.”

The ambassador called on Iraqis to look to the future. He urged those who supported Saddam to reexamine their views and cooperate to build a new Iraq. “Your future has never been more full of hope,” he said.

Sanchez described the operation that captured Saddam. The general said it was a cordon-and-search operation, and coalition forces sustained no casualties. In fact, he said, coalition forces never fired



AP Photo
A New England Patriots fan holds a sign during Sunday’s game with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

a shot.

“For the last several months, a combination of human intelligence tips, exceptional intelligence analytical efforts and detainee interrogations narrowed down the activities of Saddam Hussein,” Sanchez said.

Sanchez said intelligence pointed to two likely spots where Saddam could be hiding. He said the Americans struck with lightning speed under cover of darkness. The troops initially did not find Saddam. “As a result, the 1st Brigade Combat Team elected to cordon the area and conduct an extensive search,” Sanchez said. “Coalition forces subsequently found a suspicious location.”

In the search, U.S. forces discovered a “spider hole.” “After un-

See **CAPTURED**, Page 3

Airmen provide energy to keep operations in flight

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt Brian Davidson
455th Expeditionary Operations Group

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Working out of a tiny corner of a dilapidated, Soviet-built aircraft hangar at Bagram Air Base, a force of

only four airmen work around the clock to do their part in rooting out the terrorists who seek refuge in snow-covered mountains and hidden villages throughout the Operation Enduring Freedom region.

They are the Air Force Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant specialists assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group for Air and

Space Expeditionary Force Silver, and represent the dedication of Air Force fuels specialists and their mission to support air operations.

The POL team is made up of experts in fuels and cryogenics operations, accounting and quality assurance, and are responsible for keep-

See **FLIGHT**, Page 3

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Hundreds of Iraqis take to the streets of Baghdad to celebrate Saddam's capture on Sunday.

Dancing in streets of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq – When videotape of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was shown at a coalition news conference Sunday, several Iraqi journalists jumped to their feet, waved their arms and shouted “Death to Saddam!” in Arabic.

Iraqi officials hailed the news and promised to bring Saddam before a special war crimes court.

Shortly after word leaked out about the capture, hundreds of Iraqis flooded the streets of Baghdad, firing guns into the air, singing, dancing and throwing candy into the air — celebrating the apparent capture of the man who had ruled their lives with terror and repression for more than three decades.

“I’m very happy for the Iraqi people. Life is going to be safer now,” 35-year-old Yehya Hassan, a resident of Baghdad, told *The Associated Press*. “Now we can start a new beginning.”

Earlier in the day, rumors of the capture sent people streaming into the streets of Kirkuk, a northern Iraqi city, firing guns in the air in celebration.

“We are celebrating like it’s a wedding,” Kirkuk resident Mustapha Sheriff told AP. “We are finally rid of that criminal.”

“This is the joy of a lifetime,” said Ali Al-Bashiri, another resident. “I am speaking on behalf of all the people that suffered under his rule.”

Despite the celebration throughout Baghdad, many residents were skeptical. “I heard the news, but I’ll believe it when I see it,” said Mohaned al-Hasaji, 33.

In Tikrit – Saddam’s ancestral home town

and a base of loyalty to him – the streets were quiet.



The blast happened in Khaldiya, part of a hotbed of anti-coalition activity.

20 people killed in Iraq bomb

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Twenty people have been killed and 32 wounded by a car bomb outside an Iraqi police station west of Baghdad, an Iraqi police officer told *CNN*.

Sixteen policemen were among those killed in Sunday’s explosion at Khaldiya, 80 kilometers (50 miles) from the Iraqi capital, the officer added. The police station is on a main road in the town which lies between Fallujah and Ramadi in the heart of the Sunni triangle, a hotbed of anti-coalition activity.

“About 8:30 (a.m.), a car bomb was detonated at Khaldiya police station. We have some indication that it’s a suicide bomber. But it’s too early to give a final judgment,” *The Associated Press* quoted Lt. Col. Jeff Swisher of the U.S. military as saying. The U.S.-led coalition said a rapid reaction force had been sent to the area. None of its forces were involved, a spokesman added.

The bombing was the latest of several police station blasts that have killed dozens of officers in recent months.

Bomb targets Musharraf convoy

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan – Pakistan’s president has escaped an apparent assassination attempt when a bomb exploded near a bridge after his motorcade passed, Pakistani officials said.

The explosion occurred about 7 p.m. (1300 GMT) in Rawalpindi, a suburb of the Pakistani capital Islamabad, while Gen.

Pervez Musharraf was en route to his residence.

Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan, an army spokesman, said the “severe” blast occurred as the presidential convoy passed by, but no vehicles were damaged.

Musharraf was en route to the official army chief’s residence in Rawalpindi at the time and reached home safely, Sultan said.

“All appropriate action is being taken to ensure the safety of the president,” he said.



Renee Thompson alerts the public that there are no more flu shots available at Wuesthoff Hospital in Rockledge, Fla.

Advisory panel reluctantly backed flu vaccine to FDA

(*CNN*) – Members of an advisory panel that backed this year’s flu vaccine expressed doubts about its potential effectiveness before recommending it for the Food and Drug Administration’s approval.

Some said they were concerned the vaccine would not provide as much protection against the Fujian strain of flu that was thought most likely to dominate this year’s flu season, according to a transcript of the group’s deliberations.

The Fujian strain, which emerged in the Far East, is now responsible for 75 percent of U.S. flu cases, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

But drug makers could not culture the Fujian strain in a way to meet FDA standards, forcing the advisory committee to make this year’s flu vaccine the same as it was last year.

The committee’s decision in March has come under a microscope now because the flu is reaching near epidemic proportions in the United States.

CAPTURED, from Page 1

covering the spider hole, a search was conducted and Saddam Hussein was found hiding at the bottom of the hole,” Sanchez said. “Saddam was captured without resistance.”

Coalition forces moved the former Iraqi dictator to a secure area, and he has undergone medical tests and questioning. Bremer said Saddam was “cooperative and talkative.”

Coalition forces also uncovered some weapons and \$750,000 in \$100 bills. Two other Iraqis were detained.

Sanchez showed a video of the spider hole and then showed Saddam undergoing medical tests. Iraqi journalists at the press conference erupted at the sight of Saddam, shaking their fists and shouting “Death to Saddam.” The Iraqi dictator had a full beard and looked disheveled.

Sanchez called the capture of Saddam “a defining moment in the

new Iraq.” he said the capture brings closure to the Iraqi people. “Saddam Hussein will never return to a position of power from which he can punish, terrorize, intimidate or exploit the Iraqi people as he did for more than 35 years,” the general said.

Saddam will continue to be held at an undisclosed location. The determination on how to try Saddam will be made later.

Pentagon officials said President Bush was informed of the possible capture yesterday. It was confirmed to him this morning.

The streets of Baghdad erupted with “celebratory gunfire,” according to correspondents in the Iraqi capital. Officials said some Iraqi regime diehards may launch attacks, but that coalition forces are prepared. In the long term, officials said, they see the capture as going a long way to bring stability to the country.

Bremer and Sanchez, while visibly pleased by the capture, said much work remains to be done in Iraq, and pledged to continue working with the Iraqi Governing Council to build a new Iraq.

FLIGHT, from Page 1

ing the A-10 fleet and other Coalition Joint Task Force-180 aircraft ready to fly.

“Our mission is to get the right quantity and quality of fuel and cryogenics at the right time to deployed units conducting forward combat, deterrence and surveillance operations,” said Master Sgt. Mark Knapp, fuels superintendent who deployed from Aviano Air Base, Italy. “Our primary responsibility is to support the A-10 mission, but the joint environment provides us an opportunity to lend a hand to our sister services and other coalition forces.”

Flightline servicing at Bagram offers its own unique set of challenges for even the most experienced fuels troop. Limited ramp space to maneuver refueling trucks and constant cargo, vehicle and aircraft movement require operators to perform with the highest degree of vigilance.

Dusk brings a near-total darkness that quickly descends on the flightline, bringing with it a bone-chilling cold. In response, the team dons their night vision goggles and continues working in a world where everything is represented in shades of green, without peripheral vision or depth perception.

The fuels team is also keenly aware that they are driving their giant, jet fuel-laden trucks on an airfield where one misstep could bring very costly results. The surrounding unpaved areas are littered with mine fields and the primary travel routes are within sight of the base perimeter. Since early November, two contract fuel delivery trucks have been hit by insurgent

small arms fire.

Add to these challenges the 24-hour operations, and some people may expect such a small crew to fold under pressure. But the four POL specialists have proven their mettle and met or exceeded all of their mission requirements.

Knapp’s team is made up of three airmen from the 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska: Staff Sgt. Christopher Lund is a refueling equipment operator and the team’s chief accountant; Staff Sgt. William Paholak is a refueling equipment operator and cryogenics expert; and Staff Sgt. Robert Armentrout, the youngest team-member, is a refueling equipment operator and also in charge of quality assurance.

The men operate on 12-hour shifts, but visitors to their control center would most likely find them working and training together, regardless of who is supposed to be off-shift.

“Working with such a small shop requires each of us to learn all aspects of the mission,” Lund said. “Duty hours don’t really matter. We’re here to get the job done.”

That job means the fuels flight delivers about 450,000 gallons, or three million pounds, of jet fuel per month; that’s more than 100,000 pounds of fuel each day, an impressive feat for a small group of dedicated professionals.



Staff Sgt. Robert Armentrout, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group fuels specialist, uses an in-line sampler, free water detection pad and single weight monitor to check for water particles in jet fuel.

“The fuels mission here is seamless and goes relatively unnoticed,” said Lt. Col. Pat Lee, 354th EOG vice-commander and A-10 pilot. “They bust their butts to keep the jets ready to go.”

Knapp said, “It really takes a complete effort from all flightline support teams to get wheels-up, bombs-down.” He is also quick to add, “No fuel no flight, no flight no fight.”

Veterans rise early to greet Soldiers with open arms

Story by Spc. Lorie Jewell
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – With home hundreds of miles away in New York, Sgt. Adam Mulvey wasn't expecting any familiar faces meeting him when he arrived at Baltimore Washington International Airport to start two weeks of rest and recuperation.

Neither were Spc. Anthony Thomas and Sgt. Maurisah Hushma, both headed for Fort Campbell, Ky.

The Soldiers were caught a bit off guard when they were greeted, nonetheless, by several unfamiliar – but friendly – faces from the Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As they came through the doors leading into the International corridor, William Self, department surgeon, stopped clapping long enough to shake each Soldier's hand. A short distance later, there were more greetings from Self's wife, Carolyn, and Raymond Shipley, department commander, who also handed out Uplink telephone calling cards.

The last stop in the welcoming line was Richard Udoff, District 7 commander, who beckoned service members to him with outstretched arms.

"Welcome Home! Where you headed to, Soldier?" said Udoff, repeating the greeting over and over again without ever losing the boom in his voice that drew service members to him. Knowing their destination, Udoff offered the quickest route to the right ticket counter or gate area.

"We thought we were coming through an empty airport," said Kushma, who handles NBC duties and the mail for her brigade, the 3/101st Aviation, currently deployed near Mosul, Iraq. "It's nice to see that people care."

Mulvey appreciated having veterans meeting and greeting, then shepherding the Soldiers on their way.

"I like the continuity of it," said Mulvey, a scout for the 1st Brigade, 63rd Armor Division in Kirkuk. "They went before us, now they're here for us when we come back. It makes me feel really good."

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

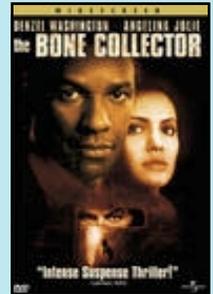
"The Bone Collector"

1530Z at the MWR building:

Two cops on the trail of a brutal killer. They must see as one, they must act as one, they must think as one, before the next victim falls.

Tomorrow's movie:

"Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers"



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
Bagram:	Clear H: 48F L: 23F	Partly Cloudy H: 50F L: 27F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 41F L: 23F	Dusty H: 43F L: 25F
Kabul:	Clear H: 48F L: 23F	Partly Cloudy H: 50F L: 27F
Uzbekistan:	Mostly Clear H: 39F L: 13F	Partly Cloudy H: 52F L: 32F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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

CJTF-180 Commander —
Brig. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III
CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —
Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey
Public Affairs Officer —
Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty
Public Affairs Sergeant Major —
Master Sgt. Sharon Opeka

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



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

Commander — Maj. Matthew L. Garner
NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson
Editor — Sgt. Stephanie Hall
Journalists — Staff Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson,
Sgt. Gregory Heath, Spc. Kelly Hunt

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

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.

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 the latest editions of the Freedom Watch. To be added to the daily distribution list email HallSTE@baf.cjtf180.army.mil



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)



Marc Bulger completed 20 passes for 236 yards and two TDs.

Rams secures division title with win

ST. LOUIS—Bottled up all day, Marshall Faulk finally took matters into his own hands, lifting the St. Louis Rams to the NFC West title.

With the Rams ahead by two points, Faulk led a final, clock-killing march that clinched a 27-22 victory over the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday.

Faulk more than doubled his yardage for the first 3 1/2 quarters, when he was held to a measly 34 yards on 20 carries, to help the Rams (11-3) clinch their third division championship in five years.

The Rams have won 13 in a row at home, tying a franchise record set from 1998-2000, and are 7-0 this year. They did just enough right to continue the Seahawks' road woes and put a dent in Seattle's playoff hopes.

Heat edge Raptors for third win in a row

TORONTO—The Toronto Raptors were unable to recover after Vince Carter crashed into Miami coach Stan Van Gundy.

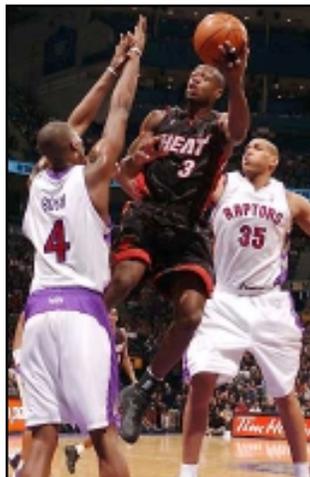
Dwyane Wade scored 23 points, including the go-ahead jumper with 28 seconds left, and had a key block on Carter to lead the Miami Heat past the Raptors 90-89 Sunday for their third straight victory.

After Carter missed a fadeaway with 43 seconds remaining, he banged into Van Gundy.

"He turned around and ran into me," said Van Gundy, who has a welt under his left eye.

Carter stayed on the floor for several seconds before a timeout was called. He glared back at Miami's bench after getting up a couple of minutes later.

After a foul and a timeout, a double-teamed Odom passed to Wade, whose jumper gave Miami a 90-89 lead. Carter missed a potential game-winning jumper with five seconds left, and the Raptors couldn't get an-



Dwyane Wade came through for the Heat on both ends of the floor.

other shot off. Carter, also bothered by a sore left Achilles' tendon, finished with 12 points.

Brian Grant added 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Heat, and Lamar Odom had 17 points and 16 rebounds.

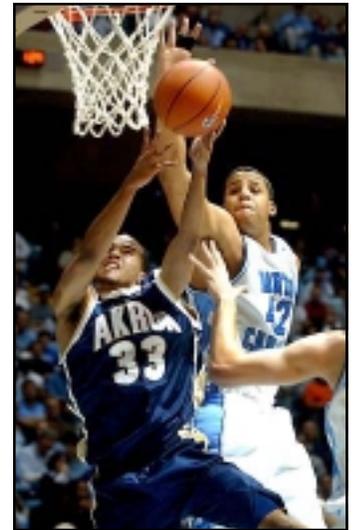
May's rebounds lift North Carolina to win

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.—Roy Williams could barely hide his frustration Sunday.

Rashad McCants had 14 points and Sean May had a Smith Center-record 21 rebounds to lift No. 7 North Carolina to a 64-53 victory over Akron. But Williams, in his first season as coach at his alma mater, couldn't look past the woeful shooting and what he called a "pathetic" defensive effort.

"We didn't play basketball the way we're capable of playing," Williams said. "We didn't have any intensity. We didn't have the concentration."

North Carolina (6-0) had been averaging 93 points and shooting 52 percent this season, but shot just 38 percent Sunday. That included an 8-for-34 effort in the second half, a 24-percent effort that was the worst in a half for the Tar Heels since at least the 1979-80 season.



Sean May rejects a shot by Johnny Hollingsworth.

New England Patriots top Jacksonville Jaguars 27-13, run win streak to 10

FOXBORO, Mass.—The Patriots gave up a touchdown at home for the first time in five games. Their unbeaten streak is still going strong.

New England beat Jacksonville 27-13 on a snowy Sunday for its 10th consecutive win, even though the Jaguars became the first visitor to reach the end zone in Foxboro in more than two months.

"We are a very prideful defensive unit," Patriots linebacker Ted Johnson said. "We may not be perfect, but we're pretty good."

The Patriots (12-2) are 7-0 at home and extended their club record for consecutive victories overall. They also pushed their streak to 19 quarters without giving up a touchdown in Foxboro before Byron Leftwich threw a 27-yard scoring pass to Kevin Johnson with 3:22 left.

That throw in the snow merely reduced the Patriots' 21-point lead and kept them from becoming the first team since the 1932 champion Chicago Bears to play five straight home games without allowing a touchdown.

They'll have to settle for tying the four-game streak of the 1938 New York Giants, who also won the championship.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Crucial Afghan assembly underway, Karzai seeks sweeping power

By Sayed Salahuddin

KABUL, Afghanistan (Reuters) – Afghans launched a crucial meeting Sunday to approve a constitution to take the country to its first free elections and President Hamid Karzai defended his bid for a strong presidency, calling it vital after years of war.

Amid tight security after Taliban threats, the Loya Jirga, or Grand Assembly, finally got under way in a giant tent at Kabul Polytechnic campus after successive delays earlier in the week.

The gathering is expected to last from 10 days to several weeks, with vigorous debate expected on many of the 160 articles of a published draft constitution, including Islam's role and women's rights.

But the central theme is the sweeping power sought by Karzai, which critics and rivals want diluted by a stronger parliament.

Opening the assembly, honorary "father of the nation," ex-king Mohammad Zahir Shah, appealed: "The people have trust in you... Do not forget them. Act for the benefit of Afghanistan."

The meeting and Afghanistan's progress toward elections while U.S.-led forces hunt for remnants of the Taliban regime mirror Washington's efforts to rebuild Iraq, where the U.S. military announced the capture of former ruler Saddam Hussein Sunday.

But there were early signs of problems with delegates from the Northern Alliance, the backbone of Karzai's government that has also emerged as his main rival, saying its supporters would recommend that the current assembly stay together and act as a parliament to supervise presidential activity.

The bloc claimed the support of 241 delegates and demanded that 50 delegates named by Karzai be denied voting rights.

An address by Karzai took on the tone of a campaign speech, listing his administration's successes, from a start of reconstruction work to introduction of a new currency.

He said a strong presidency was vital in a war-ravaged country lacking political parties with nationwide support.

Kabul: Too early to talk about Osama Bin Laden after Saddam's capture

KABUL, Afghanistan (Reuters) – Afghanistan welcomed news of Saddam Hussein's capture Sunday, but said it was too early to say if it might lead to stepped up efforts to find elusive al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

The whereabouts of bin Laden, the man accused of masterminding the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, are not known, but Pakistani and Afghan officials have said he may be hiding in rugged border regions.

Asked to comment on a U.S. announcement of Saddam's cap-

ture near his hometown of Tikrit, Afghan government spokesman Javid Loodin said:

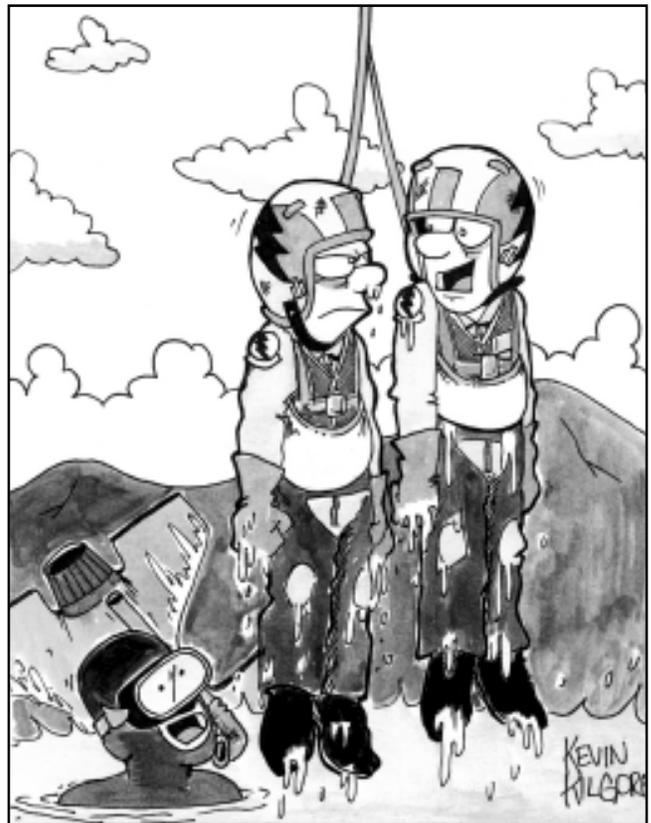
"It is positive news. It's a positive development. The capturing of Saddam Hussein has been one of the primary objectives of the war in Iraq.

"Now that this has been achieved, it's hoped that it will lead to a quick solution to the situation in Iraq and a better life and prosperity and security for the people of Iraq."

However, asked if he thought Saddam's capture could lead to stepped up efforts to capture bin Laden, he replied: "It's too early to talk about that."

The United States leads an 11,500-strong foreign force in Afghanistan that has failed to capture bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar despite two years of searching.

"You shouldn't look at this as a career ending disaster, but more as a new found respect for safety equipment."



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support