

## Engineers 'building bridges' with Afghans

Story and photo by Sgt. Greg Heath  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – Sunday, under the cover of night, 11 combat engineers from the 41<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division air assaulted into Wama District of Nuristan Province to conduct a “special” mission.

Here at Bagram Air Base, the combat engineers spend most of their days clearing minefields and “blowing stuff up,” according to Sgt. James Simmons, Company B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Squad, but this time Simmons and his squads’ special mission was to go in and restore a set of dilapidated bridges.

For the combat engineers, young and



*Engineers from the 40th Eng. Bn., 10th Mtn. Div., get some help from a local Afghan while repairing a bridge Nuristan province.*

See **BRIDGE**, Page A4

## Task Force Geronimo summons ‘Avalanche’

Story by Staff Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**SALERNO**, Afghanistan – With the mission designed to impede anti-coalition forces from using the winter months to move weapons and supplies across the Afghanistan and Pakistan boarder for future operations, Task Force “Geronimo” 1st Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, from Fort Richardson, Alaska, launched Operation Avalanche Dec. 1-14.

The two-week mission afforded the task force the leverage of manning checkpoints along the Afghan boarder, searching villages and examining caves for weapon caches – measures to decrease any pre-staging plans for attacks in the new year.

“The primary purpose of Operation Avalanche was to prevent the enemy from building up for his spring offensive,” said Lt. Col Harry C. Glenn, commander of TF 501<sup>st</sup> PIR. “(The mission was) to go out and establish a presense from Salerno to the boarder (of Afghanistan). We were to interdict enemy supplies

or forces (operating) and to confiscate caches – basically disrupt the freedom of (enemy) movement.”

The operation, which covered a circumference of 50 kilometers along the Afghan ridge, engaged more than 600 task force Soldiers and U.S. service members.

“We had about 600 assets (operating) with this mission,” said Glenn. “We had two rifle companies, 105mm Howitzers battery (unit), (consisting of) 20 armored High Mobility Multipurpose-Wheeled Vehicles, scouts, mortar (units) and medical assets.”

Avalanche’s plot was to arbitrarily set up a checkpoint that would generate news that the border was being monitored, thereby causing opposition forces to use alternates route.

However, the task force covertly placed checkpoints at those alternative routes – surprising the enemy and stopping any avenues for smuggling their goods.

“We were successful on getting eyes on the objectives and ensuring the area was safe for the task force to (set up),” said

See **AVALANCHE**, Page A3

**English/Dari phrase of the day:** *Thank you, I am fine - Tashakor man khub hastam*

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



President Bush says Col. Moammar Gadhafi has agreed to let international weapons inspectors enter Libya.

## Pres. Bush, PM Blair: Libya to dismantle WMD programs

WASHINGTON – Libya has tried to develop weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles in the past, but has agreed to dismantle the programs, President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Friday in simultaneous televised speeches.

Bush said Libya's leader, Col. Moammar Gadhafi, had "agreed to immediately and unconditionally allow inspectors from international organizations to enter Libya.

"These inspectors will render an accounting of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs and will help oversee their elimination," Bush said.

In a televised address from London, England, Blair said Gadhafi had approached British and U.S. officials in March to see if they could resolve the issue of its weapons programs.

"Libya has stated that weapons of mass destruction are not the answer for Libya's defense," Blair said. "Libya's actions entitle it to rejoin the international community.

"Libya has declared its intention to dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and to limit the range of Libyan missiles to no greater than 300 kilometers," Blair said, adding that the Libyan leader has agreed "that this process will be transparent and verifiable."

Libya also agreed to adhere to international agreements on chemical weapons and sign an additional protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the nuclear watchdog group.



The ghostly figure appears to be in period dress.

## 'Ghost' caught on camera

LONDON – Are there ghostly goings-on at Henry VIII's palace, or is that hazy image of a fellow in fancy robes just a bit of Christmas cheer?

Closed-circuit security cameras at Hampton Court Palace, the huge Tudor castle outside London, seem to have snagged an ethereal visitor. Could it be a ghost?

"We're baffled too – it's not a joke, we haven't manufactured it," said Vikki Wood, a Hampton Court spokeswoman, when asked if the photo the palace released was a Christmas hoax. "We genuinely don't know who it is or what it is."

Wood said security guards had seen the figure in closed-circuit television footage after checking it to see who kept leaving open one of the palace's fire doors.

In the still photograph, the figure of a man in a robe-like garment is shown stepping from the shadowy doorway, one arm reaching out for the door handle.

The area around the man is somewhat blurred, and his face appears unnaturally white compared with his outstretched hand.

"It was incredibly spooky because the face just didn't look human," said James Faukes, one of the palace security guards.

## CDC: flu outbreak 'epidemic'

(CNN) – The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday that the influenza outbreak sickening people in three dozen states is an epidemic, though it does not technically meet the definition.

"There is no firm dividing line between what is an epidemic and what is not an epidemic, but I think, when you look at a map that shows widespread influenza activity in 36 states, that

we regard it – from a common-sense perspective – as an epidemic," Dr. Julie Gerberding told reporters.

Although this year's outbreak began earlier than usual and has spread more widely than usual, Gerberding said it is not clear if the final death toll will exceed the average of 36,000.

The CDC has said more than three-quarters of laboratory-confirmed cases this year are a type of influenza A that is typically associated with severe outbreaks that bring higher hospitalization and death rates.

"But, as we know, the past doesn't always predict the future," she added.



An artist's rendering of a night view of the proposed Freedom Tower, center, as seen from the south.

## Freedom Tower to rise 1,776 ft.

NEW YORK – The Freedom Tower to be built at the site of the devastated World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan is still planned as the world's tallest building, according to a revised model unveiled Friday by the architects collaborating on its design.

The tower, to be a centerpiece of the rebuilding plan for the World Trade Center site, is to rise 1,776 feet – a nod to the year the United States declared its independence. The height was originally proposed a year ago by architect Daniel Libeskind, since designated the site's master planner.

But the tower's angular shape and appearance has been altered as a result of Libeskind's work with David Childs, the architect for real estate developer Larry Silverstein, the trade center leaseholder who aspires to replace all 10 million square feet of commercial space lost in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The crashes of hijacked passenger jets leveled the 110-story twin towers and five smaller buildings, and killed 2,752 people.

**AVALANCHE**, from Page A1 —

Spc. Joshua Ebhart, a Soldier of the Headquarters Company scouts. “We were there to confirm or deny enemy routes into and out of Pakistan.”

The ground forces operated under the watchful eyes of Army Chinooks, Marine AH-1W Super Cobras helicopters, UH-1 Huey Gunships, and Air Force A-10 Warthogs and B-1 Bombers, which provided essential air support and also offered a quick resupply method for troops.

Setting up the overt and clandestine points proved to be a successful strategy for the task force and netted them a handsome reward.

“For the most part, the people we searched were cooperative,” said Sgt. Chad Kair, Co. C, TF1-501<sup>st</sup> PIR. “They were taken aback that we were there until the word got out about the checkpoint(s).”

“We found caches of equipment and weapons; also, we found improvised explosive devices (IED) and we were able to destroy them before they hurt any of our (soldiers),” said Glenn.

Glenn noted that the group, “(observed) some suspicious activity” and is monitoring it for possible future operations.

Along with U.S. service members, the task force incorporated interpreters and Afghanistan Militia Force Soldiers to assist with searches and to let the local citizens know what was occurring, which proved to be very beneficial.

“They (were) very helpful in letting us know what is right and what is wrong,” said Capt. William Kilgore, Task Force 1-501<sup>st</sup> PIR intelligence officer. “They know the local customs (and also the language) and know if someone is not using the correct dialect for (the) region.”

Though Operation Avalanche was the first Afghanistan combat mission for Task Force Geronimo, it catapults the 501<sup>st</sup>'s assurance that future operations will resemble the efforts of its namesake.

“It’s a stepping stone for future operations,” said Glenn. “We have been (in Afghanistan) for a little more than 30 days, and to (sustain) a major combat operation for two plus weeks helps us build confidence. We know we definitely disrupted (the enemy’s) movement and (the enemy’s) ability to free flow supplies for (future operations).”

“The operation (was) a success,” said Maj. Val Keaveny, Task Force 1-501<sup>st</sup> PIR operations officer. “We spent two weeks flooding the border region with paratroopers and gathering (intelligence). We learned a lot about the enemy and shown that we can be anywhere, anytime with the capabilities to destroy them.”

*(Editors note: Contributing reporting in article courtesy by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth)*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

*The first wave of TF 1-501<sup>st</sup> PIR Soldiers board CH-47 Chinooks at dawn. These Soldiers were staged on high ground to provide security for the second set of Soldiers that were to perform village assessments for weapons and gather intelligence on anti-coalition forces.*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

*Battery E, 319th Field Artillery sends a round down range during registration of their 105mm Howitzers.*

**BRIDGE**, from Page A1

old, this was their first opportunity since arriving in country to build something up, and the unusual job put their engineering skills to the test.

The decrepit bridge spans a small river and provides passage along one of the province's major roads. It was initially brought to the attention of the Sapper squad after an engineer officer had visited the site and made the assessment that the bridge could be a hazard to any local nationals or coalition service members operating in the area.

"We didn't really know what to expect," said Staff Sgt. John Kirkpatrick, 3<sup>rd</sup> squad leader. "All we had were two pictures of the bridges."

The squad began gathering supplies with what little information they had on the bridge, beginning with their most important material – wood and lots of it.

With the help of the 205<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn., who acquired and palletized the wood for the mission, the 41<sup>st</sup> Eng. Bn. Sappers embarked on their mission equipped with more than 100 pieces of wood, ranging in size from 8 ft., 2"x 6" boards, to 15 ft, 2"x 6".

On early Monday morning the Sappers got their first chance to see the dire condition of the bridge.

"I wondered how they could be driv-

ing on it," said Callahan.

The bridge was in worse condition than they had originally planned for, said Kirkpatrick, after seeing gaps in the bridge big enough for a grown man to fall through.

Although lacking experience in the finer points of bridge construction, the engineers were confident they could repair the bridge.

"I was a little hesitant at first, but everyone just worked together and put their heads together ... and even the local Afghans contributed," said Pvt. Merlin Quiles.

Local Afghans pitched in immediately, helping the Sappers carry the scores of heavy wooden planks to the bridges. And whenever soldiers would run into a little problem while working on the bridges, the Afghans were quick to offer suggestions through hand signals, or even pick up a tool and go to work.

Many of the Soldiers were impressed with the unexpected helping hands.

"(Afghans) are hard workers," said Callahan. "It was cool that they helped out; it made things a little easier."

Along with their work ethic, the Afghans' kindness and hospitality also left an impression on the Soldiers.

After the Soldiers had been working on the bridges for a few hours the Afghans brought out some tea and bread for them.



*Pfc. Jeremy Gray hammers down wooden planks during the bridge renovation mission.*

"I thought they were pretty friendly," said Quiles. "The bread and tea helped out a lot because after a couple hours of working hard you get pretty hungry, and the stuff they brought out hit the spot, and it gave me a lot of energy to keep working hard."

Seven hours, 100 wooden planks and thousands of nails after they had started on Monday morning, the Soldiers were finished with the job.

By the time the project was completed many curious Afghans from the surrounding area had gathered around the bridges to see what had been done.

And then, much to their satisfaction, the Soldiers got a chance to see vehicles successfully cross the improved, sturdier bridges.

"It's a good feeling being able to help out," said Kirkpatrick. "That bridge was the bare minimum, less than that actually, we left them a safe bridge for people to drive across."

Callahan agreed, adding, "It was good because it shows the rest of the Army that the engineers can be used for more than just mine clearance; we can pretty much do any mission that's given to us ... and we hope to do more of these missions in the future."



*The bridge that the engineers worked on spans a river that is impassable by car.*

# FREEDOM'S VOICES

## Times change, Soldiers don't

Commentary by Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

I was blessed recently with the opportunity to spend some time with the Soldiers at Shkin Firebase. Some may question my using "blessed" in the same sentence with "Shkin," which has been referred to by some as "the most evil place in Afghanistan."

I use the words not for the location, but for men and women who stand tall at the forefront of this conflict and stare Anti Coalition Militants in the face every day. This is literal since the firebase is just a stone's throw from the border where remnants of the Taliban regime seek shelter to wage war on coalition forces.

During my extended stay there – thanks to the predictable, mild Afghan weather – I had a good opportunity to get to know a lot of the Soldiers who defend this austere mud compound.

From the old hand to the young greenhorn, the warriors at Shkin make up a melting pot uniquely American. Some of the soldiers here are from the "Be All That You Can Be" generation of Soldiers while many are an "Army of One."

Having been around the Army through four Permanent Change of Stations and a litany of deployments, I fall into the middle of the "Be All You Can Be's." As such, I have a certain mental image of a Soldier that's tied to the enlisted troops, noncommissioned officers and officers I served with when I first came in.

Through the years I've seen a lot changes and challenges blow through the Army. From

action in Somalia to Kosovo and controversies in Aberdeen, Md. to the sergeant major of the Army being taken to court, there've been a lot of things to take in . . . and who can forget about the contentious black beret (I still feel like a sergeant major is going to light me up for impersonating a Ranger when I'm in garrison).

With all the changes that have come down, I've foolishly thought that somehow with an increased focus on peacekeeping instead of war and the metamorphosis of "wall-to-wall counseling" into "Consideration of Others" training that the Army's saber had somehow been dulled.

But through it all, the big green machine has kept driving on. Spending time with the Soldiers at Shkin that showed me how wrong I was on a basic fundament – the Army is not the organization, but the Soldier.

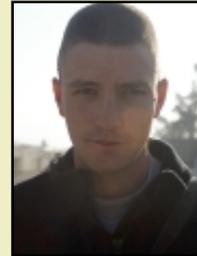
From the young lieutenant who proudly wears a NYPD hat from his brother who's on the force to the seasoned first sergeant who is coming to grips with the fact that his teenage daughter is discovering boys while he's deployed, the Soldier is still as strong as ever.

It's America's sons and daughters who volunteer to carry freedom's torch that is the true measure of the Army's strength – not the amount of technology they carry on their back.

As we enter the holidays and the season of giving, I give thanks for the Soldiers serving at Shkin Firebase for being great hosts. Although I still wouldn't recommend it as a travel destination, the place may teach even the oldest dog a new trick or two.

## STREET TALK

Who do you think was one of the most influential political figures of 2003 and why?



"President Bush, because he completely changed the political structure of two countries in 2003."

**Spc. David Robertson**  
10<sup>th</sup> Target Acquisition Detachment

"Colin Powell, because I think his military background helped him kept a level head during a time when the country was in turmoil."

**Sgt. Mark Krob**  
8<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operations Battalion



"President Bush, because he didn't hesitate to take action against terrorism. He also did a great job supporting the military service members."

**Spc. Corey Hill**  
8<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operations Battalion



"Arnold Schawaneger, because he took a risk in running for and winner the California gubernatorial election. And I think he'll make great changes for California."

**Staff Sgt. Julie Valdez**  
304<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operations



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CJTF-180 Commander —

Brig. Gen. (P) 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

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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

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# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## 'Terrorists' trying to sabotage peace process in Afghanistan

**KABUL, Afghanistan (DPA)** – Afghan authorities said today they had received reports indicating that “terrorist” groups are planning to sabotage activities against the peace process in war-ravaged Afghanistan.

But Afghan Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali told a news briefing in the capital Kabul that despite warnings by ousted Taliban loyalists to disrupt the country’s grand assembly (Loya Jirga), no major incidents have occurred.

“We have received reports indicating that the terrorist groups are endeavouring to perform sabotaging activities against the peace process in Afghanistan,” Jalali said.

“By creating fear among people, distributing leaflets and exploding mines, they (terrorists) want to bring an atmosphere of insecurity to the war-torn country,” he added.

However, he said Afghan security forces have neutralized the terrorist activities so far. He revealed that since last week, several mines were neutralized across the country, including one in front of a Chinese restaurant in Kabul last night.

Jalali also said the security forces have discovered 80 rockets and some other ammunition from surrounding areas of Kabul. “These rockets could target Afghan capital,” Jalali said.

Jalali’s comments came as more than 500 Afghan delegates are gathered in Kabul, under a giant German-donated tent, to debate a draft constitution proposed by U.S.-backed president Hamid Karzai.

Remnants of the Taliban, toppled by a U.S.-led military coalition in late 2001, have warned Afghans to disrupt the proceedings and said that delegates deserve to die.

Earlier Tuesday, two explosions ex-

ploded within minutes of each other in Kabul, several kilometers from the meeting site, but caused no casualties.

Jalali said those who fired the rockets will be arrested soon, but provided no detailed information.

## Threats against woman at loya Jirga condemned

**KABUL, Afghanistan (Agence France Presse)** – Amnesty International and the United Nations on Thursday condemned threats against an outspoken Afghan woman delegate at a constitutional convention who accused former anti-Soviet fighters of dragging the country into civil war.

“Some present were heard to say that they would kill the woman while others intervened to protect her,” Amnesty said in a statement.

“If delegates are threatened or otherwise prevented from expressing their views, this process of building a new future for Afghanistan will be severely threatened,” the rights watchdog said.

Malalai Joya, a female delegate to the loya jirga (“grand assembly”), Wednesday criticised the powerful mujahedin for dominating proceedings and said they were responsible for dragging Afghanistan into civil war, which ended only when the Taliban seized power in 1996.

Joya said the mujahedin had had their chance to run the country, made a mess of it and should not be allowed to take power again.

She said they should be tried in national and international courts.

Dozens of angry mujahedin delegates immediately stood up and rushed to the stage and demanded the expulsion of Joya, one of around 100 female delegates.

The United Nations also deplored the incident in which Joya was nearly expelled by the loya jirga chairman. “We deplore very much the incident that

marred the plenary session of yesterday,” spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva told reporters.

## U.S. staff chief: Capture of Osama bin Laden a certainty

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP)** – Osama bin Laden probably is alive and will be caught one day “with absolute certainty,” America’s top general said Thursday during a visit with U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said bin Laden probably is hiding in the rugged border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan, “where he has some support, where he can buy support, and probably in very difficult terrain.”

“It’s very difficult to find individuals. What will happen is, with absolute certainty ... he will be captured some day, just like we captured Saddam Hussein,” Myers said at Bagram air base, the U.S. military headquarters in Afghanistan.

The capture of the former Iraqi dictator near his hometown Dec. 13 leaves bin Laden, whose al Qaeda network is responsible for a host of terror attacks, as the United States’ most-wanted suspect worldwide.

Since Dec. 2, the U.S. military has been engaged in a large-scale sweep, dubbed Operation Avalanche, targeting militants in the south and east of Afghanistan.

The operation, which involves 2,000 soldiers, is supposed to make a vast tract of the country safe for reconstruction and to put insurgents on the defensive during while a historic constitutional council meets in the capital.

Myers said the U.S., which has about 11,000 soldiers hunting militants in Afghanistan, was unlikely to send many more troops under plans to expand NATO forces.

# Entertainment

December 20, 2003

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

## Parwan party celebrates PRT opening

Story by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Angelita Colon-Francia  
211<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – The clanking sound of horseshoes hitting their mark mixed with the sounds of karaoke music at the Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) cookout on Thursday.

The cookout was a “second celebration” of the PRT’s grand opening that occurred during Ramadan. Out of respect for the Afghan culture, no food or drink was served during the October opening. Tuesday’s event gave the Soldiers of the U.S.-Korean partnered PRT the opportunity to host some local citizens, government and military officials who have often fed them.

“Every where we go when we are out doing civil affairs missions, the local nationals feed us,” said Lt. Col. Elizabeth Damonte, Parwan PRT commander and commander of the 407<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion from Arden Hills, Minn. “They take every opportunity to share their wonderful hospitality. We wanted to reciprocate. This gives us the opportunity to feed them the way they always feed us.”

Guests at the cookout feasted on foods representative of the PRT’s U.S.-Korean-Afghan contingent, including Afghan potato bread and rice, Korean kimchee pancakes with a spicy sauce and American hamburgers and hotdogs.

One thing all three cultures shared was a fondness for a little friendly competition. Americans, Koreans and Afghans joined together to play horseshoes and on the hole-in-one golf course.

“Today is about a lot of different nationalities getting together, having a good time and learning new things about each other,” said Spc. Melissa Dannehy, 407<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion.

The Parwan PRT assists five of Afghanistan’s 32 provinces: Kabul, Kapisa, Logar, Parwan and Wardak.

The team is a unique combination of U.S. Reserve civil affairs and active-duty field artillery Soldiers, as well as regular Republic of Korea (ROK) Soldiers. Together, they have completed more than 95 projects, including one road, two bridges, and 13 school projects in the last five months. In the next three to four months, the team hopes to break ground on a hospital project in the Kapisa province.

PRT teams often go out into areas where most Soldiers don’t go in order to coordinate with local community leaders to find solutions to problems like not having sufficient wells for clean drinking water.

Every trip out outside the secure perimeter of Bagram Air Base to help a community presents security challenges for the Parwan team. Finding the time to relax and socialize in a secure environment with each other and their constituents is a welcomed retreat. The cookout offered that chance to “unwind” for the soldiers and to share something more personal.

“It is a great pleasure for me to serve at the Parwan PRT,” said Capt. Min Hongki of the Korean Army. “This is my first time in a foreign country so every thing I see and experience is wonderful.”

Instead of working with grid coordinates and large caliber weapons, the 9-man squad from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment from Fort Bragg that provide security for the PRT are ambassadors, working with U.S. Reserve Soldiers, ROK Soldiers and local nationals.

Squad member Staff Sgt. Don Lincoln’s most interesting experience so far is the time he has been able to spend getting to know local Afghans, a opportunity he has rarely



*Local Afghans try out throwing horseshoes while Parwan PRT Korean Soldiers watch*

had as an artilleryman firing a 155mm self-propelled howitzer.

“I’ve enjoyed meeting the local citizens and understanding their culture,” said Lincoln. “It has been interesting learning about their religion and the different languages, Dari and Pashtun.”

Lincoln has also enjoyed his experience working with his Reserve civil affairs counterparts.

“It’s not at all that different working with them,” Lincoln said. “We all know what needs to be done and whatever needs to be done is always taken care of, whether by active duty Soldiers or by reservists. We all work as a team.”

One thing was apparent during the Parwan PRT cookout. In the process of breaking bread, they were building a bridge of friendship and cooperation that will lead to many successful projects in the future.



# Music Notes (Compiled from CNN.com)



*Beyonce Knowles is one of the stars that features on MTV shows.*

## MTV takes on Myanmar's junta

**SINGAPORE** – Music television channel MTV has launched a campaign for the release of detained Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi — but viewers in Asia aren't likely to see it.

MTV hopes the publicity blitz will raise the profile of Suu Kyi's struggle against Myanmar's ruling military junta to the level of Nelson Mandela's 1980s battle against apartheid, MTV Networks Europe said in a statement.

"MTV is all about providing a platform for the voice of young people, and we vehemently support everyone's right to freedom of expression, no matter who they are or where they live," MTV president Brent Hansen said.

But MTV's Singapore-based Asian network won't be taking part, even though Myanmar, also known as Burma, is an Asian country.

There are no immediate plans to run the campaign on the network's eight Asian channels, MTV Asia said late Tuesday in a written response to questions.

The campaign uses an ad produced in Europe — and intended for all of MTV's

42 channels worldwide — said the statement from the channel's European headquarters.

MTV Asia's statement said it would review the ad next year, along with other European content, and consider it for future use.



*Aaron Carter (foreground) performing with his brother Nick in 2002.*

## Carter's mom denies allegations that she mishandled funds

**NEW YORK** – Jane Carter, the mother and former co-manager of 16-year-old Aaron Carter, is denying allegations that she mishandled the pop star's funds.

Last week, the singer announced that he had severed personal and professional ties with his mother, who says she has managed his career since he was seven.

Aaron Carter alleges that his mother took more than \$100,000 from his bank account without his permission. The pop star issued a statement saying, "I feel betrayed by my own mother." He is seeking legal emancipation from her.

Jane Carter had been managing Aaron's career along with his father, Bob Carter; the couple is in the process of divorcing and is said to be battling over child-custody issues. Bob Carter continues to manage Aaron; a spokesperson for the singer says his father is seeking a co-manager.

In a statement, Jane Carter says she has been accused of "false allegations designed to hurt me, my family and my son's career. I am confident that the truth will come to light in a court of law."



*Justin Timberlake*

## American pop rocker in Paris

**(CNN)** – It's hard to believe that with several number ones on his resume, and millions of albums sold worldwide, Justin Timberlake has never rocked Paris.

The city of lights and fashion capital of the world is, in many ways, the entertainment capital of Europe. So how is it that one of the biggest young entertainers of today, whose glitzy life has been tabloid fodder in French gossip and fashion mags, has never performed there?

It just was never on his schedule according to Timberlake.

Metro stops around the city were plastered for months with posters announcing his impending arrival. Although it was hard for non-French speakers to understand what the radio stations were saying exactly, the occasional mentions of "Justin Timberlake" were more than enough indication.

# Bagram Air Base MWR Event

## Dance Party: Salsa

1530Z at the MWR building

**Tomorrow's movie:**  
"Runaway Juror"

# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)



After winning the SEC championship, Nick Saban is staying focused on playing Oklahoma.

## Saban says he's not interested in NFL

**BATON ROUGE, La.** – LSU coach Nick Saban is not interested in NFL openings and wants to concentrate on the Sugar Bowl.

Saban's name has come up as a possible coaching candidate with the Atlanta Falcons and the New York Giants.

"I haven't talked to any teams," Saban said during a luncheon Thursday. "I don't intend to talk to any teams. We're happy to be here."

LSU meets Oklahoma in the Jan. 4 Sugar Bowl at the Superdome for a shot at the national championship.

"We have worked hard here for four years to build what our goal was, and that was to have a dominant program that was nationally recognized," Saban said.

"I think we have done that to some degree, and we have a great opportunity ahead of us to play for the national championship, and I am pleased and proud of all that."

The Falcons fired Dan Reeves and the Giants dismissed Jim Fassel.

## White granted another year of eligibility

**NORMAN, Okla.** – Heisman Trophy winner Jason White has been granted an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA and will return to Oklahoma next season, the quarterback said Friday.

White, whose previous two seasons were cut short by knee injuries, surprised his team with the announcement during a team huddle at the end of practice.

"Anyone who has played college football will understand [my decision]," White said. "I had been leaning this way and just decided today that I am sure this is what I want to do. I really look forward to another year at Oklahoma."

White, listed as a senior, had shrugged off questions all year about whether he would return to Oklahoma for another season or enter the upcoming NFL draft.

He repeatedly said he wouldn't reveal his decision until the end of

the season, but changed his mind after getting the NCAA's approval Friday and consulting with his parents and coach Bob Stoops over the past two weeks.

"I talked with my parents and coaches and decided this is what I wanted to do," he said.

## St. John's fires Jarvis after 2-4 start

**NEW YORK** – Mike Jarvis was fired Friday as men's basketball coach at St. John's, a team off to one of the worst starts in school history and beset by problems away from the court.

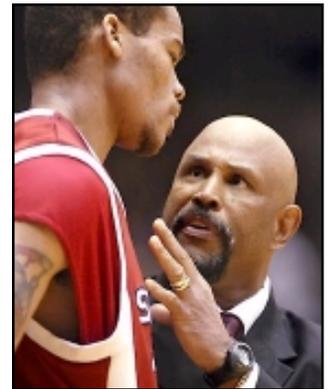
Jarvis was in his sixth season with the Red Storm and had a 110-61 record, including 2-4 this season.

He will be replaced by associate head coach Kevin Clark.

Jarvis still had next year remaining on his contract.

"This wasn't my choice, but you must respect the decision an employer makes," Jarvis said. "There were discussions all of yesterday between the school's attorney and my attorney. I have been relieved of my duties. I want to coach college basketball next year."

St. John's also fired Jarvis' son, assistant coach Mike Jarvis Jr. Athletic director Dave Wegrzyn said no single event led to the decision.



Johnnies beat Georgetown to win the 2003 NIT in March.

## After worst season, JoePa not planning to hang it up at Penn State

**STATE COLLEGE, Pa.** – Joe Paterno is spending December in an unusual way — recruiting and preparing for holiday visits from his grandchildren instead of gearing up for a bowl game.

Coming off his worst season ever as a coach at Penn State, Paterno has no plans to retire. He still has some lofty goals he wants to achieve.

"I've coached undefeated football teams in the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s. That's four decades that I've had undefeated teams," Paterno said Friday, two days before he turns 77. "We had a shot at the national championship in every single one of those decades."

"I want to do it for five decades. Every year that's what I want to do. I really thought we had a legitimate shot at it last year and I'm working my butt off to give us a chance to get it done before I get out of it. I understand what it takes to get it done and I know how to get it done."

Penn State finished a miserable season with a 3-9 record, 1-7 in the Big Ten. It was the third time in the last four years the Nittany Lions had a losing record, and just the fourth losing season since Paterno joined the coaching staff in 1950.

## Mourning underwent kidney transplant surgery Friday

**NEWYORK** – Former All-Star center Alonzo Mourning underwent kidney transplant surgery Friday and was listed in good condition, hospital officials said.

The surgery, performed at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia hospital, came less than a month after Mourning retired from the NBA due to a kidney disease.

The kidney donor, a family member, was also in good condition, officials said.

Mourning, 33, retired from the New Jersey Nets on Nov. 24 because of complications from the disease, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis.

He was diagnosed before the 2000-01 season, when he was with the Miami Heat.

## Judge considering arguments about accuser's mental state

**EAGLE, Colo.** – Putting off testimony at a key hearing in the Kobe Bryant case, the trial judge sent witnesses home Friday and met privately with attorneys arguing over whether the medical history of the woman accusing the NBA star of rape should be allowed as evidence.

Attorneys for both sides left the courthouse without comment after the closed-door session ended Friday night.

The outcome of the issue before state District Judge Terry Ruckriegle could play a huge role at trial: The defense hopes to argue the woman had mental problems that could have clouded her perception of what happened between the two in a Colorado hotel room last June.

Bryant, 25, has insisted they had consensual sex.

Ruckriegle asked attorneys on both sides to spell out in briefs due Jan. 9 whether the medical history should be allowed. The issue will be taken up again at a Jan. 23 hearing.

"I want the opportunity to reflect on it," he said.

David Lugert, a defense attorney and former prosecutor, said the trial's slow pace suggested a long paper fight was coming.

"The case is going sideways," Lugert said.

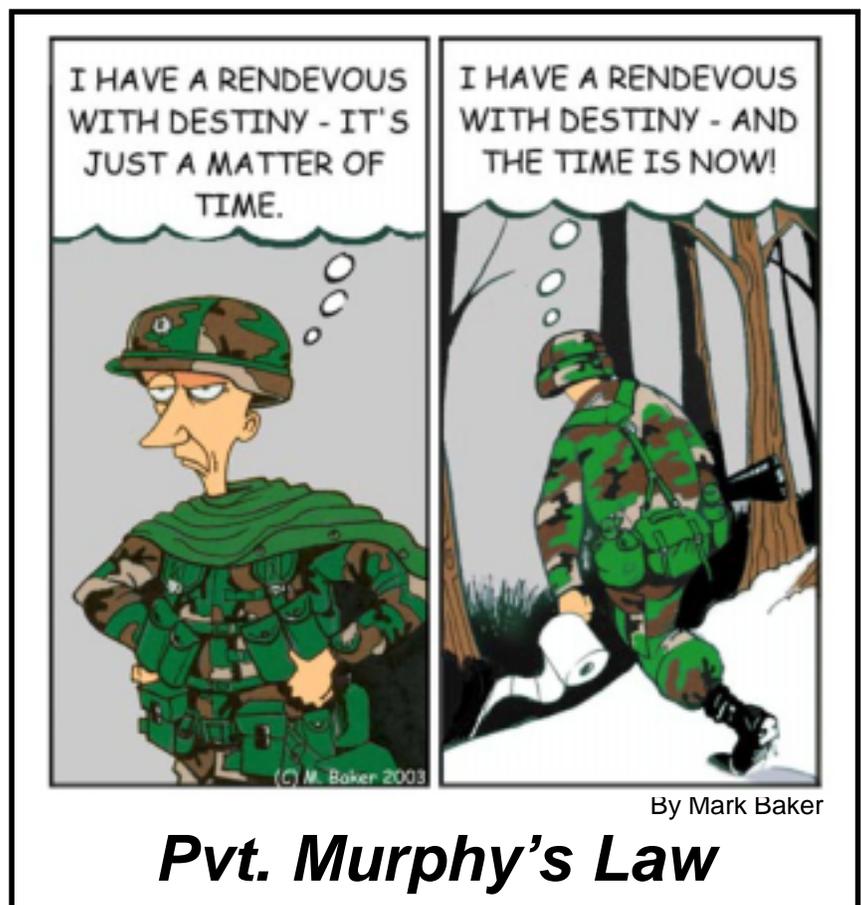
Prosecutors and attorneys for the woman say her medical history should remain out of public view. They urged the judge to hold any arguments about the issue behind closed doors, and he agreed.

The Los Angeles Lakers guard faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation if convicted of sexual assault. The Lakers had a home game Friday night, but it was unclear whether the NBA star would be able to return to California in time.

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

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

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By Mark Baker

## *Pvt. Murphy's Law*

### *Kandahar chapel hours*

**Sunday**

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

**Monday**

- ❖ 1130Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel choir practice

**Tuesday**

- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox/Catholic Bible study
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

**Wednesday**

- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

**Thursday**

- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

**Friday**

- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

**Saturday**

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice

### *Bagram chapel hours*

**Sunday**

- ❖ 0530Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 0700Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1400Z — Gospel service

**Monday**

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass

**Tuesday**

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Protestant Bible study

**Wednesday**

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Protestant mid-week service

**Thursday**

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Gospel Bible study

**Friday**

- ❖ 0700Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 0745Z — Noon-Day prayer
- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

**Saturday**

- ❖ 1330Z — Gospel Choir practice
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study
- ❖ 1515Z — Catholic mass
- ❖ 1900Z — Evening Worship service

### *K2 chapel hours*

**Sunday**

- ❖ 0300Z- Liturgical Service
- ❖ 0400,0730,1130Z-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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

**Thursdays**

- ❖ 1900Z — Roman Catholic mass

# *W e a t h e r*

*Today*

**K2**



Hi — 64F  
Lo — 42F

**Bagram**



Hi — 54F  
Lo — 23F

**Kabul**



Hi — 52F  
Lo — 23F

**KAF**



Hi — 64F  
Lo — 36F

*Sunday*



Hi — 47F  
Lo — 30F



Hi — 52F  
Lo — 25F



Hi — 50F  
Lo — 25F



Hi — 57F  
Lo — 28F

*Monday*



Hi — 45F  
Lo — 24F



Hi — 50F  
Lo — 25F



Hi — 48F  
Lo — 25F



Hi — 48F  
Lo — 27F

### *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.