

## Troops visit recovering Afghan village

Story and photos by Spc. Kelly Hunt  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – With less than a week passed since the tragic events taken place in Petaw Village on Dec. 6, people from the small town located in Gazni District have had more visitors in this short time than most villages in the area have seen in their lifetime.

The local Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team was no exception, first visiting Petaw Village to assess the situation a few short days after the accidental deaths of villagers had shocked the area. On Dec. 13, the team made the trip again, only this time, to offer their condolences for the villagers' loss and to determine how the PRT could aid Petaw Village.

"The Petaw mission started a week ago when we got word late Sunday night that there had been an attack in Ghazni Province and people were dead," explained Lt. Col. Mark Schnur, Ghazni PRT Commander. "The U.S. had been targeting a terrorist there and in the process of the attack we had unfortunately killed ten local villagers, nine of them children."



*Capt. Dan Verich, Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team operations officer shows village elders from Petaw Village how to use the recently donated radios they brought with them.*

The PRT personnel immediately planned a mission to the village and accompanied by an investigation team, the group met with the locals to determine how the villagers were handling their recent loss and how the PRT could help Petaw Village in their own way.

"They were upset and mourning for their

dead children," Schnur said. But added that they were not lashing out at the coalition forces which would be an understandable reaction given the situation.

"The village was supportive of the coal-

————— See **VISIT**, Page 3

## Combating stress during the holiday season

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

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – While holidays typically are times set aside for celebration with friends and family, they can be a time of increased sadness and stress. This holiday season can be a difficult time for military women and men deployed overseas, especially those spending their first deployment away from home.

"It was kind of disturbing at first, but after a while you get used to it," said Pfc. Alix Jeanniton, Joint Logistics Command, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. "Things are basically routine now."

Spc. William Degraffenreidt of Bagram's Combat Stress Control office offers this advice for handling stress during the holidays. "People should concentrate on the positives in their lives. Think about your family and, if possible, you should give them a call."

That's advice Jeanniton is already using to handle any stress he might be feeling this time of year. He misses his family, but deals with it by staying in contact with them as much as possible. "I email home every day," said Jeanniton. "Not a day goes by that I don't email. I also call home every other day."

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**English/Dari phrase of the day:** *My name is - Naam man (name) asst*

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Malvo, left, and John Allen Muhammad.

## Jury spares Malvo's life in Washington sniper case

**CHESAPEAKE, Va.**—A Virginia jury Tuesday decided Lee Boyd Malvo should be sentenced to life in prison without parole for his role in the Washington, D.C.-area sniper killings, rejecting prosecutors' call for his execution.

Malvo watched intently, blinking as the verdict was read; defense attorney Craig Cooley sat with his head bowed, while co-counsel Michael Arif patted Cooley's back.

The *Associated Press* reported that Malvo, wearing a blue sweater that made him look like a schoolboy, sat expressionless, with his elbows on the defense table.

Malvo was convicted last week of capital murder, terrorism and weapons charges. Prosecutors had asked the same jury to recommend a death sentence.

Judge Jane Marum Roush set formal sentencing for March 10. She cannot increase the penalty. Jurors also called for Malvo to be fined \$100,000 on each of the two capital counts against him.

Malvo was convicted in the killing of Linda Franklin, an FBI analyst gunned down outside a Home Depot in Falls Church, Va., on Oct. 14, 2002. Franklin was one of 10 people killed and three wounded in the sniper attacks that gripped the capital and its suburbs that month.

## Pakistan probes Iran nuclear link

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan**—Pakistan's Foreign Ministry has admitted that some of the country's top nuclear scientists possibly passed information to Iran.

Pakistan has been questioning three scientists for the past five to six weeks in connec-

tion with the possible transfer of nuclear technology and information to Iran and other countries.

In the wake of news reports that the country may have been the source of the information, Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan said Tuesday that Pakistan had never and would never proliferate nuclear technology.

"Pakistan takes its responsibility as a nuclear weapons state seriously," Khan said. "We are a responsible state and we understand our obligations."



Mad cow disease causes severe nervous system deterioration, and has been linked to a similar disease in humans.

## U.S. case of mad cow disease

**WASHINGTON**—The first apparent case of mad cow disease in the United States has been discovered in Washington state, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Tuesday.

Two tests have already been carried out on the cow enabling Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman to call the case a "presumptive positive" and a sample is being flown to England for a third test to absolutely confirm the case.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, is linked to a similar form of the incurable and fatal brain-wasting disease in humans, called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, or vCJD. There have been a small number of cases of vCJD reported worldwide, primarily in the United Kingdom, in people who ate BSE-contaminated meat.

Officials believe that meat from the Washington animal left a processing plant, Veneman said, and an investigation is under way to determine if any had reached store shelves.

However, that does not mean the public is in danger, Veneman said.

"One important thing to remember is that muscle cuts of meat have almost no risk," Veneman said, emphasizing that the disease is typically spread by consumption of brain or nerve tissue, which did not enter the food system. "I know of no science to show that you can transmit BSE from muscle cuts of meat."



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger surveys damage caused by the quake in Paso Robles.

## Schwarzenegger views damage

**PASO ROBLES, Calif.**—California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger visited Paso Robles on Tuesday to view the earthquake devastation and declare a state of emergency in San Luis Obispo County.

Two people died in the collapse of a historic building in the central California town as the earthquake rippled up and down the state's coast about 11:15 a.m. (2:15 p.m. ET) Monday. At least 50 people were injured.

Schwarzenegger offered his "heartfelt thanks to all the rescue workers" who searched the rubble for victims.

"Today this is a site of devastation," Schwarzenegger said, "but we will come together once again as Californians and as neighbors."

The quake registered a preliminary magnitude of 6.5 when it hit, according to the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, near San Francisco.

The earthquake's epicenter was about six miles northeast of San Simeon, a coastal town about 240 miles north of Los Angeles and 200 miles south of San Francisco.

The quake occurred at the relatively shallow depth of about five miles and was felt across a wide swath of the state.

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tion, supportive of our presence there,” he said. The PRT determined the best way they could help the villagers was to use their resources and find a way to bring clean drinking water to the area, introduce a school for the children to in order to build an education foundation and provide medical assistance to the local villagers.

Meeting all of the villages’ needs would take time, but Ghazni PRT troops did what they could right away.

“The very next day, we went down there with some humanitarian assistance supplies which was food, school supplies for the children, clothing, toys; things we could scrape together on very short notice to take to the villagers,” said Schnur.

Through an early assessment of the village we determined their most important need was clean drinking water; a well, he said.

Water for the villagers is collected from a creek or drainage ditch that runs down the mountain, said Lt. Gordon Williford, the PRT’s certified physician assistant and head of the medical team for the PRT. The only other possibility for water supply is walking to a neighboring village to obtain it, he added.

The short supply of water is thought to have caused the lack of crops and livestock in the village. The many stomach problems that circulate through the area can be attributed to the water sources they currently use, said Williford.

After a short time regrouping and gathering supplies, the team headed back out to the village on Dec. 13 with more aid and a refined plan.

“Our mission here today was to interface with the town of Petaw and to express our condolences on behalf of the coalition,” said Capt. Dan Verich, PRT operations officer. “In doing so, we decided to build a well, deliver some humanitarian assistance aid and medical supplies to build relationships and provide support on behalf of the PRT.”

The major delivery was a combination of winter clothing and food that would hopefully prove helpful to the villagers during the winter months.

In addition to the HA for the town, the PRT presented short wave radios to the village elders that would later be distributed to



*Sgt. Debrah Lawson passes humanitarian aid boxes to Staff Sgt. Joey Rivera during a distribution effort in Petaw Village Dec. 13. Both are with the Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team.*

the families that lost their children in the unfortunate incident.

The medical supplies could not be immediately distributed due to a complication. The village of Petaw has no medical provider.

“We don’t have anything,” said one village elder. “We don’t have a drug store, we don’t have a hospital, we have nothing.”

Although no medical physician was available to release the supplies to, the elder suggested that the PRT medical team translate the writing on the donations to him and when a doctor was available, the villagers could be taught how to properly use the materials, said Verich.

The most significant assistance the team could provide to the village was the news of the well project approval for the area.

“They were thrilled knowing we are going to build them a well,” said Verich. It’s essential to their survival and the rebirth of agriculture to the area.

We do understand that this village is suf-

fering and enduring a tremendous loss right now, said one team member, and we’ll do anything in our power to make their lives a little more comfortable.

“There are no words or materials that can bring back a loved one, but showing remorse on behalf of the Army is an honor to our team,” said Staff Sgt. Rosen Santoyo on behalf of the Civil Military Operation Center section of the Ghazni PRT. “To drop off humanitarian aid, medical supplies and food will make a positive difference in this village.”

This is only the beginning, said Sgt. George Davila, Ghanzi PRT. “We’ll be back out here more.

“There’s going to be future projects conducted in this area which we will continue to follow up on,” he said. “And as we make friends with these local nationals, it can only benefit us further in (stopping) the harboring of terrorists” and prevent incidents like the one in Petaw from happening again.

**RELIEF**, from Page 1

If calling home is a problem, Degraffenreidt advises service members to look to friends and coworkers here for support.

“Don’t look at this deployment as a long separation, because eventually you will go home,” said Degraffenreidt. “Talk to a buddy or come see us or your chaplain.”

Time spent with a network of friends after work offers Jeanniton additional stress relief. “My friends tend to get my mind off things. You almost forget you’re deployed sometimes.”

At other times, Jeanniton participates in Moral, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activities, like salsa night, or he enjoys special events like the United Service Organizations shows.

Purchasing gifts for family members at the local bazaar and mailing them home allowed Jeanniton to participate in the holidays from afar. He regularly uses mail to stay in touch.

“I get my fair share of mail,” said Jeanniton. “I do find that I write more than I get back because most of the time I don’t ask for anything. It’s just nice knowing that you are writing back home and that you have someone to write to. That’s the main thing.”

Although deployed service members may not be able to totally avoid stress this holiday season, they can lessen their level of combat stress by staying in touch with family, spending time with friends and participating in activities here at Bagram.

“(Being here) makes me cherish being at home, now that I am in Afghanistan away from my family,” Jeanniton said. “But, I’ll be alright. As long as I have my friends here, I’ll be alright.”

*(Writer’s note: Combat Stress Control is located inside the Task Force-44 compound. Contact Spc. Degraffenreidt, Capt. Denisse Ambler, 1493<sup>rd</sup> Medical Detachment of North Carolina, Capt. John Weeden, 452<sup>nd</sup> Combat Support Hospital of Wisconsin, or Staff Sgt. Vicki Wurth, 452<sup>nd</sup> CSH at 231-4639 for additional advice and information.)*

# Bagram Air Base MWR presents

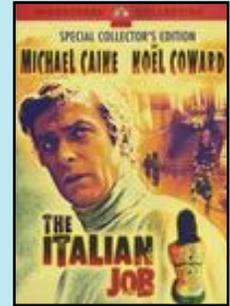
## “The Italian Job” (1969)

1530Z at the MWR building:

Comic caper movie about a plan to steal a gold shipment from the streets of Turin by creating a traffic jam.

**Tomorrow’s movie:**

“The Italian Job” (2003)



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Clear</i> H: 45F L: 20F	<i>Mostly Cloudy</i> H: 46F L: 27F
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 46F L: 21F	<i>Mostly Cloudy</i> H: 48F L: 23F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 45F L: 27F	<i>Mostly Cloudy</i> H: 46F L: 23F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	<i>Mostly Clear</i> H: 52F L: 27F	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 52F L: 30F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

## N.C. State ends on winning note

ORLANDO, Fla. – Philip Rivers kept throwing and throwing and throwing, leading North Carolina State to another victory.

Now, the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year will take his act to the NFL.

“He’s going to make somebody a winner, because he is a winner,” coach Chuck Amato said after the Wolfpack routed Kansas 56-26 in the Tangerine Bowl on Monday night. “He’s been that way since the day he showed up to our campus.”

Rivers threw for Tangerine Bowl records of 475 yards and five touchdowns, and T.A. McLendon scored three touchdowns to help the Wolfpack (8-5) rebound from a two-game losing streak that cost them a trip to a bigger bowl. The Wolfpack amassed 653 yards, including 30 plays of at least 10 yards.



*Philip Rivers has been behind center for the entire Chuck Amato era.*



*The Thrashers expect Dany Heatley, shown here in his first skate since the Sept. 29 car wreck, to return this season.*

## Thrashers’ Heatley returns to ice

DULUTH, Ga. – Thrashers All-Star Dany Heatley passed another test in his comeback from injuries and tragedy – he didn’t fall on his skates.

He took the ice Tuesday morning for the first time since the car wreck that killed teammate Dan Snyder, an incident that left Heatley with a broken jaw and two torn knee ligaments.

“He can still skate,” Atlanta general manager Don Waddell said. “I don’t know what we all were looking for, but it was good for us to see him out there.”

He wasn’t available after the 10-minute workout, but the team scheduled a news conference for Friday where he’s expected to speak publicly for the first time since the crash Sept. 29.

After Snyder died from head injuries, Heatley was charged with vehicular homicide. Test results showed he consumed a very small amount of alcohol before the crash, with his blood alcohol content less than 0.015 percent, far below the state’s legal limit of 0.08 percent.

Because Heatley wasn’t drunk, and Snyder’s relatives said they forgave him, prosecutors could decide the car crash was just an accident, with no need to pursue felony charges and sentences.

## Alex Rodriguez to stay with Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas – Alex Rodriguez was ready to go to Boston, and the Texas Rangers were doing their part to make it happen.

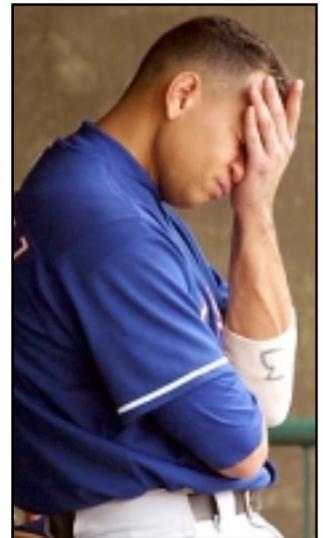
But after nearly two months of discussions, the American League MVP is staying in Texas.

Attempts to complete a trade of baseball’s only \$20 million-a-year players – Rodriguez to Boston for outfielder Manny Ramirez – ended Tuesday after Rangers owner Tom Hicks’ deadline passed without a deal.

“We both recognized there was too big a gulf to bridge,” Hicks said. “Neither one of us thought it would take the public profile it did, or get as complex as it did.”

Hicks spoke with Red Sox owner John Henry twice Tuesday before the 5 p.m. EST deadline.

The end of the deal really came last week after the players’ association rejected a proposal by the Red Sox to cut \$28 million to \$30 million off A-Rod’s record \$252 million contract.



*Following three last-place finishes in Texas, Alex Rodriguez was interested in playing for a winner.*

## Mourning released after trasplant

NEW YORK – Former NBA All-Star center Alonzo Mourning was released Tuesday from the hospital where he received a kidney donated by his cousin.

Mourning said he was in “a lot of pain” as he left New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. He was joined by the cousin, Jason Cooper, who hadn’t seen the basketball player in several years before volunteering to give Mourning one of his kidneys.

“Jason was definitely God-sent,” Mourning said. “I’m very grateful. Words can’t even be enough to explain how I feel.”

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

After testing a number of would-be donors, including former New York Knicks center Patrick Ewing, Cooper was determined to be the best choice, doctors said.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## U.S. misses taking cleric, bin Laden

By Derek Rose

**NEW YORK** (*New York Daily News*) – Soldiers hunting terror kingpins Osama bin Laden and Mullah Mohammed Omar have come close to catching them several times, it was reported this week.

American and Afghan soldiers muffed their best chance a few months ago when they brushed by Omar in Uruzgan Province but failed to recognize the one-eyed cleric, according to *Newsweek*.

The ousted Taliban leader and his security detachment had stopped at a mosque for afternoon prayers when several Humvees and pickup trucks carrying American and Afghan soldiers pulled up.

The Afghan soldiers entered the mosque, but Omar kept his cool, Taliban fighter Assadullah Zarafat told the magazine.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai acknowledged in October that Omar has slipped through the allies' fingers several times.

Bin Laden had his own close call not too long ago when a U.S. warplane passed overhead as the terror bigwig walked down a mountain trail, a senior Taliban planner told *Newsweek*. But the pilot apparently failed to see him as bin Laden and his aides ducked into some bushes.

Bin Laden has been sleeping in secret bivouacs surrounded by mines and high explosives designed to kill him, ensuring he doesn't meet the same end as former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, Taliban operatives told *Newsweek*.

## Afghan woman eyes presidency

**KABUL**, Afghanistan (*Reuters*) – Dr. Massouda Jalal wants to be the next president of Afghanistan. But in this deeply conservative Muslim country, where women are still struggling to find a voice in politics, she knows her chances are slim.

Jalal is also a female delegate at the constitutional Loya Jirga, or Grand Assembly, underway in Kabul to map out the future of Afghanistan and pave the way for the country's first democratic elections next June.

There, as in society at large, she says women are being patronized, ignored and under-represented.

"As a woman, I was far from satisfied when I saw that less than a quarter of the Loya Jirga delegates were women," Jalal, a trained doctor, former aid worker and independent politician, told *Reuters* at her home in the capital.

"The latest statistics show that women make up to 60 percent of society."

There are 114 women in an assembly of 502 delegates. According to Jalal, not one was voted to a senior position at the gathering in a huge tent on a Kabul college campus.

The few that do hold titles were appointed "as symbols."

"Women had no chance in the elections for positions," she complained. "Men just made jokes at women's expense."

Despite the small number of female delegates and concern that their

rights will not be enshrined in a new constitution, it is a woman who has caused the biggest stir at the assembly so far.

Malalai Joya's outburst last week, in which she called former mujahideen (holy warriors) "criminals" for their part in Afghanistan's ruinous civil strife in the early 1990s, triggered angry exchanges. She has been given police protection.

"She is still under U.N. protection and two female police are staying with her at night," Jalal said.

Jalal said a constitution protecting women and promoting their rights was meaningless unless it was enforced.

"Women want implicit guarantees. We have had articles like these in the past but still the problem goes on," she said.

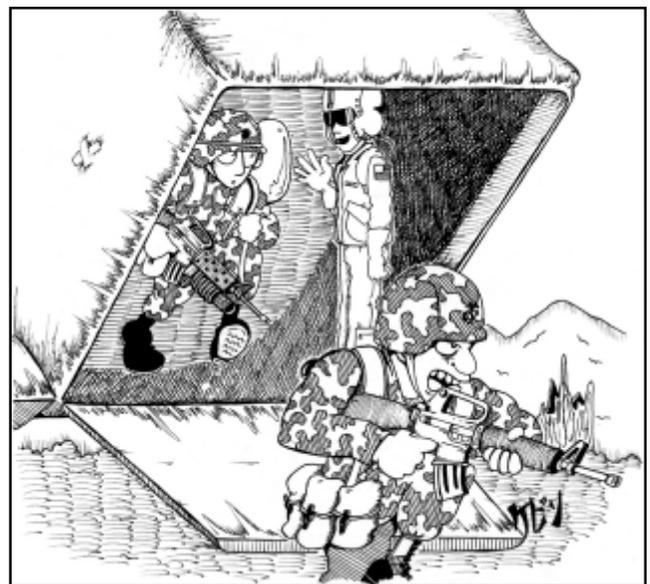
And rights groups have called for explicit clauses to be included outlawing under-aged or forced marriages and the use of women and girls as bartering chips in family feuds — all practices still common today in Afghanistan.

Jalal has begun to campaign ahead of next year's presidential elections, and is working to encourage women to vote and their husbands to allow them to do so.

"The more women who vote, the better for me."

She came a distant second to current president Hamid Karzai in a vote last year to the interim leadership.

**"Thank you for choosing Marine Air, please fly with us again."**



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support