

## Italians take Salerno mission

By Master Sgt. Pam Smith  
CTF-82 PAO

**SALERNO**, Afghanistan — It was a historic moment at Forward Operating Base Salerno as Coalition Task Force-82 handed over control of the compound to the Italians Saturday.

The transition of authority marked the first time Italian forces will have served in a combat role since World War II and the first time the U.S. has given control of a base to a coalition partner in Afghanistan.

The base near Khost, which is about six miles from the Pakistan border, is known as one of the most violent areas in Afghanistan and the nearby mountains are said to be the haven of remnants of the ousted Taliban regime.

During the brief ceremony, Lt. Col. Richard Clarke, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment commander, led soldiers from Company C, 3-504<sup>th</sup> PIR and from the Italian force as the color guard lowered the American flag and hoisted the Italian one in front of the headquarters building.

Clarke relinquished command of the formation to Col. Claudio Berto, Italian commander, after being presented with the neatly folded U.S. flag.

Maj. Gen. John R. Vines, CTF-82 commander, noted the significance of the event.

“Our dedicated coalition forces have left behind their families and their countries to help fight the war on terrorism,” said Vines.

Vines welcomed the Italian forces, and then congratulated the departing U.S. unit.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Askew, 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

### A helping hand...

*Spc. Steven Mulhall, Civil Affairs Team-A 2, Combined Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force, hands an Afghan girl a BluePack (containing slates, chalk, and other needed school supplies) at the Dand District High School in Kandahar. Approximately 100 children received bags.*

## Mine dogs asset to detection, safety

By Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — When thinking of dogs working for the military, most people think of military police working dogs, but there are dogs that perform other duties.

Ronco International Mine Clearing is contracted by the Army to find mines with dogs.

The dogs currently used here are bought from Holland and trained in Africa and Bosnia. They include German shepherds, Dutch shepherds and Belgium Malinois. The 16 dogs here are between the ages of 14 months and 10 years old.

According to Johnny Wade, dog trainer, Ronco, the dogs get more proficient as they get older.

The dogs train and work in minefields daily. They are evaluated monthly to ensure

they can do their job, and more often if the trainers or handlers see problems.

The dogs work in 15 to 30 minute intervals, then rest for approximately 30 minutes while another dog works. An area is always covered by two dogs.

“Two dogs cover an area because some days, they have bad days. They are just like people,” said Wade.

The dogs usually work 6-8 hours a day depending on the heat and the weather.

“We are limited due to weather. If there is moisture on the ground or it has been raining, the dogs cannot smell as well. The conditions have to be right,” said Wade.

Grids are set up with two pieces of buried ordnance for training the dogs. Also, a piece of dynamite is placed in a glass container in one of four holes in the ground.

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## Bush: Saddam has 48 hours

WASHINGTON — Saying the “danger was clear” that the Iraqi regime would provide terrorists with biological, chemical or nuclear weapons, President Bush gave Iraqi President Saddam Hussein 48 hours for him and his sons to leave Iraq before military action begins “at a time of our choosing.”

The 48-hour deadline would arrive at 4 a.m. Thursday in Baghdad [8 p.m. Wednesday EST].

The ultimatum came in a 13-minute, televised speech from the White House.

Making his case for military action, Bush said the Iraqi regime had repeatedly defied the will of the international community since the end of the Persian Gulf War 12 years ago by violating numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding that it give up its weapons of mass destruction.

## FBI readies for wartime

WASHINGTON — With a war plan of its own for the home front, the FBI is set to step up round-the-clock surveillance, monitoring and interviewing of people who might try to retaliate should hostilities with Iraq begin, officials said Monday.

The FBI has not detected intelligence foreshadowing a specific threat, officials said, but several thousand of its 11,000-agent force, bolstered by local police and terrorism task forces, are set to attempt to prevent violent attacks in the United States.

The FBI's full-time counterterrorism contingent numbers a little more than 2,000 agents, but the agency has flexibility to shift an additional 5,000 to 10,000 agents to that domestic effort, officials said.

## Iraq: Bush should quit

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri ruled out the possibility that President Saddam Hussein would go into exile to avoid war with the United States and its allies, saying Monday that President Bush should resign, instead.

Bush is expected to deliver an ultimatum to Saddam, his immediate family and other key leaders in a televised address Monday night, urging him to give up power and go

into exile to avoid a U.S.-led invasion.

Sabri said Bush, not Saddam, should be the one to yield power.

“He should go away from the presidency and let the Americans lead an ordinary life with other nations, not a life of aggression, a policy of aggression against other nations,” Sabri said. “This policy has brought about disasters to the U.S. So for the U.S. to live properly with the world and for the world nations to live in peace, this crazy man should go.”

The United States and its allies on the U.N. Security Council, Britain and Spain, abandoned efforts to seek U.N. support for military action Monday and declared that the window for diplomacy had closed. Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Mohammed Aldouri, said the U.S. and British move endangers the future of the United Nations.

## Most on council oppose war

UNITED NATIONS — France said Washington and its allies abandoned their proposed U.N. resolution on Iraq after they realized they lacked a majority on the Security Council.

French U.N. ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said the United States, Britain and Spain “realized that the majority in the council is against and oppose a resolution authorizing the use of force.”

The U.S., UK and Spain announced Monday that they had abandoned efforts to seek a vote on their proposed second U.N. resolution on Iraq.

A short time later, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said weapons inspectors and humanitarian workers were to be pulled out of Iraq.

De La Sabliere said a “huge majority” of the Security Council remained opposed to war.

## Shuttle lost a debris steadily

HOUSTON, Texas — Columbia lost “a steady stream” of pieces from California all the way to its final breakup over Texas, as wires in its left wing burned and shorted out, shuttle officials told the accident investigation board Monday.

“We continue to be shocked that we had



Mike Leinbach, far left, Columbia reconstruction project team leader, describes debris to U.S. Representative Tom Feeney, second from left, and others Friday.

debris coming off the orbiter as we crossed the California coastline,” said NASA flight director Paul Hill. He is leading debris recovery efforts in the West, which so far have yielded no wreckage.

Later, to illustrate his point, Hill showed a video that was a composite of 15 to 20 amateur videos sent in by citizens.

Hill expressed amazement that during much of the time debris was falling and sensors were going haywire — probably from hot atmospheric gases that had entered a hole in the left wing — “the vehicle flew perfectly, no indication of what was going on in flight control.”

## Palestinians say 9 dead

GAZA CITY — At least nine Palestinians were killed and 20 injured Monday during Israeli operations in Gaza, Palestinian security and medical sources said.

The incidents came a day after Israel Defense Forces called “regrettable” an incident in which an Israeli bulldozer ran over and killed an American peace activist at Rafah in southern Gaza.

Seven of the dead were killed when Israeli forces entered the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza early Monday, Palestinian sources said.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz cites Palestinian sources as saying a four-year-old girl, two teenagers and at least two gunmen were among the dead.

The Israel Defense Forces said one of those killed in Nuseirat was senior Islamic Jihad activist Muhammad Saafin.



*Capt. Edward K. Samuelian, Assistant Operations Engineer Officer, Combined Joint Task Force-180, assists in caring for an Afghan boy. He says volunteering at the hospital helps him sustain his medical skills and meet people.*

# Volunteers brush up medical skills

Story and photo by  
Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke  
*11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment*

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – The work day is finished. It is now time for servicemembers to go back to their tents and relax. Well, not everybody. Some spend most of their off time volunteering at the 48<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital.

When Spc. Brian Huxford, optical lab specialist, a reservist with the 5502<sup>nd</sup> Army Hospital, Aurora, Colo., deployed here in late January, he said his cousin was volunteering at the hospital, which motivated him to do the same.

Before arriving here, the college student, majoring in Biology, intended to volunteer at a Colorado hospital, but fate led him to Bagram,

and he seized the opportunity to volunteer. “I just showed up one night and said, ‘Hey, I want to do this,’” said Huxford.

Ever since he started volunteering extra hours at the 48<sup>th</sup> CSH, Huxford’s typical day includes working until 1100Z, taking a run, eating dinner and returning to the hospital to volunteer for the Emergency Medical Technician department until around 2100Z. The future-minded student said he allows himself to have a little time off on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings.

To prepare himself for medical school, the optical lab specialist said he crosstrains in the basic care of patients, like what a medic would

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## DOGS, from Page 1

“We teach them the odor of explosives. We start out with a chunk of (dynamite) and get smaller and smaller,” said Wade.

The dogs are taught to smell four inches under the ground, but can be taught to smell deeper. They are also taught against their instincts to walk in a straight line when searching.

Dogs have advantages over other means of finding ordnance.

“The dogs can discriminate between metal and mines because of the explosives. A mine detector can’t.

“The dogs also work 10 times faster than other means. They are used for speed and safety,” said Wade.

“It is easier to replace a dog than a person. You can’t put a price on a person,” said Richardson.

Dogs are useful, but cannot be used in all situations.

“Dogs are one tool. There are some fields the dogs cannot clear, mountainous areas and areas with grass too high to see the dogs work,” said Wade.

In addition, the dogs are taught to begin upwind. This is safer for the dog and the handler because if the dog started downwind it would be drawn to the strongest smell and may walk over a different mine.

As the dogs learn, they receive treats for

their accomplishments.

They are given rewards for finding something, to include playing with a ball, playing with a “Kong,” a rubber toy shaped to bounce in different directions, physical praise and verbal praise.

Just like the dogs, the handlers must also be trained.

Handlers go through a 10-12 day class for selection in their country. There is no formal interview.

They must be able to use hand and voice signals, have an appropriate voice and tone and be able to pick up a new task and repeat it. Anyone who meets the requirements can become a handler.

“People who are aggressive toward dogs are not selected because they overcorrect,” said Wade.

Before deploying, the dogs must have at least six months of training.

Each dog is assigned to a specific handler based on both of their traits. Careful selection ensures a perfect match.

“If we have a hyper dog, we try to match him with a calm handler. Eventually, they will even each other out,” said Wade.

Handlers here are from Bosnia and Mozambique. The dog trainers are always U.S. personnel.

Care of the animals is also very important. They are fed only quality food — Science Diet.

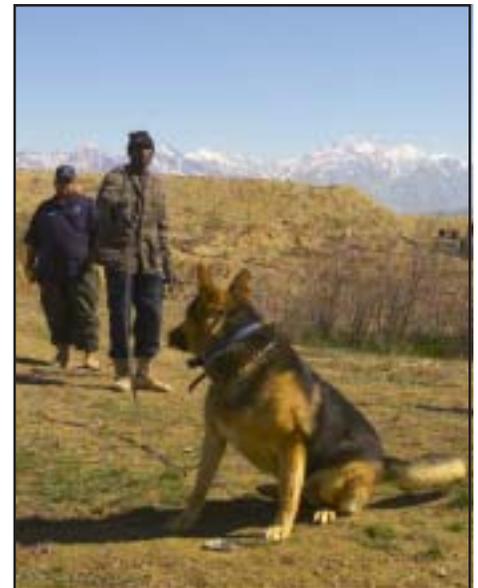


Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

*Gojo, a four year old German Shepherd, looks expectantly at his handler, Mozambican Olimpio Amadeu, awaiting his treat for finding a pebble size piece of dynamite during training.*

“These aren’t you’re typical house dogs. Their job is very aerobic so they need a good diet for that,” said Lawrence E. Richardson, dog trainer, Ronco.

Another consideration is the terrain. The rockiness is rough on the dogs’ feet.

“Handlers are taught health check points. They inspect the dog daily from nose to tail. They come to use immediately if there is a problem,” said Richardson. “The dogs are taken care of very well.”

**TOA**, from Page 1

“To the soldiers of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, I salute you for doing such a remarkable job in a challenging environment.”

Brig. Gen. Giorgio Battisti, the Italian brigade commander of troops in Afghanistan, said he is proud to be a part of the historical event.

“This simple ceremony shows our common will to fight terrorism.”

Clarke said he leaves the post knowing that his unit was vigilant through every mission. “I leave this post in very capable hands,” said Clarke. “The Italian force is well trained, very professional and ready to carry on the mission at hand.”

More than 500 Italian soldiers will be stationed at the camp.

Salerno has been under CTF-82 control since July 2002, when the 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment replaced 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., in Afghanistan.



Photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Milton Robinson, 55<sup>th</sup> Signal Company (Combat Camera)

**Maj. Gen. John R. Vines, Coalition Task Force-82 commander, and Brig. Gen. Giorgio Battisti, commander of Italian forces in Afghanistan, salute the lowering of the American flag during the transition of authority ceremony that gave responsibilities of the Salerno forward operating base to Italian forces Saturday.**

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “The Wedding Singer.” Robbie, the singer and Julia, the waitress are both engaged to be married but to the wrong people. Fortune intervenes to help them discover each other.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “Spiderman.”



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Wednesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Rain H: 63F L: 36F	Mostly cloudy H: 63F L: 39F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 68F L: 46F	Clear H: 73F L: 41F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Rain H: 61F L: 39F	Fog H: 63F L: 37F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Thunderstorms H: 62F L: 46F	Isolated showers H: 66F L: 45F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## SEC, Big 12 sending 12 toughest teams

ESPN — Colorado should be taken seriously in the NCAA Tournament. If, for no other reason, the Buffaloes play in the Big 12.

It's that simple.

Forget about the Buffaloes' rather pedestrian overall record of 20-11. This team had to play Kansas, Texas and Missouri — twice. And they beat them all — once.

Talk about being prepared for the NCAA Tournament. At least more so than playing Wisconsin, Illinois and Purdue — not that we're picking on the Buffaloes' first-round foe Michigan State.

Big Ten slight aside, there is no question the Big 12 prepared its teams better for the tournament than the Big Ten or almost any other conference — save the SEC.

The 12 teams — six out of each conference — who arrive at the Dance are a little beat up, but they're more mentally tough. The Big 12 could have moved seven into the field if Texas Tech had been given an earned bid. The SEC easily could have had eight if Georgia didn't put itself on a postseason ban and Tennessee won one more game.



Ronald Dupree and LSU are battle-tested from games like their SEC quarterfinal win over Florida.

And that's why penciling in teams out of these two conferences deep into the bracket — not to mention the Final Four — is a smart move. Look for Kentucky, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Mississippi State, LSU, Florida, Colorado and even Alabama to be trouble in the tournament.

## Lavin's tenure is over

LOS ANGELES — Steve Lavin's hiring as UCLA basketball coach in 1996 was shocking. His firing sure wasn't.

Lavin was dismissed Monday after the team's first losing season in 55 years, a move widely anticipated for months by everyone, including Lavin.

"I've been leaning toward this decision over the last several weeks," said first-year athletic director Dan Guerrero, who fired his second major coach at the school in three months. "Can a coach have a bad year? Sure they can, but it's about looking to the future."

Football coach Bob Toledo was let go in December after seven years on the job.

Lavin went 145-78 in seven years and took the Bruins to the final 16 of the NCAA tournament five times in six years, a feat matched only by Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski.

Lavin's teams won at least 20 games every season except this one.

UCLA went 10-19 overall and 6-12 in Pac-10 play, finishing sixth for the second straight year — its worst-ever conference showing.

"That's not acceptable," Guerrero said after a 13-minute campus news conference. "You need to be consistent throughout the year. You need to finish at the top of your conference."

## Shyatt leaves with two years left

ESPN — Clemson coach Larry Shyatt resigned Monday night, Shyatt told ESPN.com.

A source said Shyatt was pressured to resign.

Shyatt was 15-13 overall this season, but wasn't invited to the NIT out of the ACC. The snub shocked the Clemson staff. The Tigers were 5-11 in the ACC and beat Cincinnati and swept Virginia. Shyatt was an assistant at Clemson for three years before going to Wyoming, where he was head coach for five years.

Shyatt had two seasons left on his contract. Shyatt went to the

## Week 1 Preseason NCAA Division 1: ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll

Team	Record	Team	Record
1. Arizona	25-3	9. Gonzaga	23-8
1. Kentucky	29-3	9. N.C. State	18-12
1. Oklahoma	24-6	9. Purdue	18-10
1. Texas	22-6	9. Utah	24-7
2. Kansas	25-7	10. Arizona State	19-11
2. Pittsburgh	26-4	10. Auburn	20-11
2. Wake Forest	24-5	10. Colorado	20-11
2. Florida	24-7	10. Alabama	17-11
3. Marquette	23-5	11. Central Michigan	24-6
3. Duke	24-6	11. NC Wilmington	24-6
3. Xavier	25-5	11. Pennsylvania	22-5
3. Syracuse	24-5	11. Southern Illinois	24-6
4. Stanford	23-8	12. Wisc. Milwaukee	24-7
4. Dayton	24-5	12. Weber State	26-5
4. Illinois	24-6	12. Butler	25-5
4. Louisville	24-6	12. BYU	23-8
5. Mississippi St.	21-9	13. Austin Peay	23-7
5. Connecticut	21-9	13. Western Kentucky	24-8
5. Notre Dame	22-9	13. Tulsa	22-9
5. Wisconsin	22-7	13. San Diego	18-11
6. Oklahoma State	21-9	14. Troy State	26-5
6. Creighton	29-4	14. Colorado State	19-13
6. Missouri	21-10	14. Holy Cross	26-4
6. Maryland	19-9	14. Manhattan	23-6
7. Memphis	23-6	15. East Tenn. St.	20-10
7. Michigan State	19-12	15. Sam Houston St.	23-6
7. Indiana	20-12	15. Wagner	21-10
7. St. Joseph's	23-6	15. Utah State	23-8
8. Oregon	23-9	16. Vermont	21-11
8. LSU	21-10	16. South Carolina St	20-10
8. Cincinnati	17-11	16. Indiana Purdue	20-13
8. California	21-8		



**SPORTS**, from Page 5

NIT title game in his first season.

“Love the program and fought back hard but it wasn’t enough wins yet,” Shyatt said.

“We changed the culture and socially and academically that was unacceptable and I’m proud of the group. All five seniors will graduate in school history. We have no regrets but leaving behind some awfully young men.”

### Attorney says pursuing matter ‘pointless’

ATHENS, Ga. — The two Georgia basketball players dropped their case Monday after suing for the right to play in the conference and NCAA tournaments.

Starters Ezra Williams and Steven Thomas decided the lawsuit wasn’t going anywhere after the NCAA selected its field of 65 teams Sunday night, their lawyers said.

The university pulled out of the tournaments last week after an investigation showed evidence of academic fraud by two players. Neither Williams nor Thomas was accused of wrongdoing.

### Six Big East squads land in NIT

NEW YORK — Six Big East schools, including Villanova and its suspension-limited roster, headed the 40-team field for the NIT on Sunday.

Five other conferences — the Atlantic 10, Atlantic Coast, Conference USA, Big Ten and Mountain West — all had three teams chosen for the tournament which gets under way Monday night and concludes with the championship game at Madison Square Garden on April 3.

Villanova (15-15), which had 12 players suspended on March 9 for alleged unauthorized use of a campus phone access code, will be limited to seven players as it was in its final regular season game against Pittsburgh and its Big East tournament opening-round game against Georgetown.

The other Big East teams selected were: Boston College (18-11), Georgetown (15-14), Providence (16-13), Seton Hall (17-12) and St. John’s (16-13).

Temple (15-15), Georgia Tech (14-14) and Virginia (15-15) were the other teams in the field with the minimum .500 record.

Charleston (24-8) had the most wins of the teams in the field and was one of eight school in with 20 or more victories.

In addition to Temple, Rhode Island (19-10) and Richmond (15-13) were from the Atlantic 10, while Georgia Tech and Virginia were joined by fellow ACC school North Carolina (17-15).

DePaul (16-12), Saint Louis (16-13) and UAB (19-12), which reached the conference tournament championship game, were chosen from Conference USA, while the Mountain West will have San Diego State (15-12), UNLV (20-10) and Wyoming (21-10).

Minnesota (16-12), Ohio State (17-14), which reached the conference championship game, and Iowa (15-13) were invited from the Big Ten.

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know – what to do when preparing a patient to see a nurse or a doctor.

“After watching stuff here, it has definitely opened up to a lot of new paths,” he said.

“It’s a great experience that I could never get back home. You can volunteer at hospitals back home and they will just have you do paper work.

“It will be years before you could see something like this. The doctors and nurses here consider your help, not just being in the way. They are willing to show you so much,” he said.

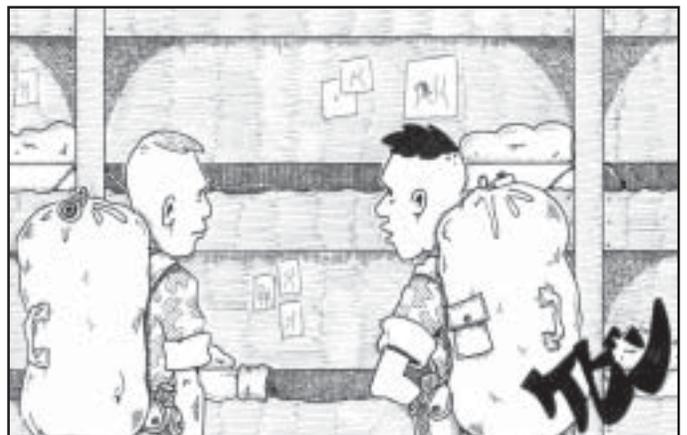
Others offer their time in the hospital for different reasons. Capt. Edward K. Samuelian, Assistant Operations Engineer Officer, Combined Joint Task Force-180, says he volunteers here Sundays because he likes helping people and it gives him a change of pace from his everyday job.

With a background in pre-medicine in college and being a Red Cross instructor, the engineer said he makes himself available to triage patients and assists where ever help is needed.

Medical school didn’t work out for Samuelian, but he still makes sure he is occupying himself with something he likes to do. He said he gets to meet a lot of people here, including Afghans. Scared faces show up at the hospital, some who have never seen advanced medical care, but they soon realize “you’re trying to help,” he said.

The hospital welcomes anyone who is ready to volunteer; any branch of service or military-occupational-specialty are invited, said Lt. Col. Lani McKinney, Chief Nurse, 48<sup>th</sup> CSH, Fort Meade, Md. Even if a servicemember is uneducated in the medical field, they can still stop by to comfort a sick child or lend a helping hand, McKinney added.

**“Man, it looked nothing like this in the brochure.”**



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By Kevin Kilgore

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