

Getting BluePacks out to children



Photo courtesy of Civil Military Operations Center, Jalalabad

Civil affairs soldiers distribute BluePacks to school children in Jalalabad.

By Staff Sgt. Kevin Askew
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — As a result of years of conflict and war, education in Afghanistan was next to nothing. Girls were not permitted to attend school and boys received limited education.

“It’s the little things we need to do, it may have been small, but for that girl it was a big thing. She could grow up to be a doctor or diplomat just from this incident,” said Staff Sgt. Paula Loyd, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Riverdale, Md., as she handed the BluePack to Fabzana — the first girl to receive a BluePack in southern Afghanistan.

BluePacks, filled with school supplies, were given out for the first time at Dand District High School in Kandahar.

“The lack of basic supplies is really heart wrenching. These kids are learning in an en-

See **PACKS**, Page A3

Female soldiers assist with cultural sensitivities

By Spc. Marie Schult
CJTF-180 PAO

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Marching along with the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., in the Sami Ghar mountains on their most recent operation, Valiant Strike, one would never imagine looking up and seeing a tightly wound bun under the Kevlar of the soldier to the front.

But that’s just what’s happening.

Due to cultural sensitivities, female soldiers are being taken on combat missions to search village women.

Until recently, this was handled by female military police, however a shortage of female MPs has forced women from other areas of the military to pick up the slack.

“There’s only so many female MPs. They go through a course that the MP’s teach on how to properly search and what to look for,” said 1st Sgt. Craig Pinkley, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. “So, with that they get trained up and they do practical exercises and when the MPs feel they’re ready they send them to us.”

Amusingly, the troops were unaware of the nature of their female counterparts.

“At first they thought we were rough and tough MPs, but when they found out I was in supply, they were surprised,” said Pfc. Maria Gonzalez, a 21 year-old supply specialist with B Company, 307th Forward Support Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C.

It sounds simple, but to these women going on a combat operation is a big deal for them.

“It’s a lot different because being supply I work in an office, so being out here in the woods is really different,” said Pfc.

Tamika McGee, a supply specialist with the 307th FSB.

The hardest thing for these women to deal with has not been the males, sleeping outside, improvising latrines or being constantly on the move. It has been the women they search.

“Some of them get really mad, most are scared and start crying,” said Pfc. Adalina Roman, a 19 year-old supply specialist, B Co., 307th FSB, “and some are cooperative.”

The Afghan women are sensitive about being seen by

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Kuwaiti policemen inspect the damage caused by a missile at Souq Sharq Shopping mall Saturday.

Missile hits Kuwait City mall

KUWAIT CITY — A missile struck a closed shopping mall in Kuwait City early Saturday, the first time the capital has been hit since the Iraq war began, Kuwaiti authorities said.

The explosion shook the city center shortly after 1:30 a.m. (5:30 p.m. EST Friday), and smoke billowed across the sky. No warning sirens alerted residents, as is protocol here. One worker suffered minor injuries.

Souq Sharq — Kuwait's premier mall on the seafront with shops, a movie theater and restaurant — is near Kuwait's parliament, Foreign Ministry and the Sief Palace, the official seat of the emir of Kuwait.

The theater was heavily damaged, and video showed the main portico with glass doors, dry wall and twisted steel beams scattered across the interior.

Bush: Iraqi war criminals to be 'hunted relentlessly'

WASHINGTON — President Bush, accusing Saddam Hussein's regime of committing scores of atrocities against the Iraqi people and prisoners of war, said those responsible will be "hunted relentlessly and judged severely."

Speaking to war veterans in the East Room of the White House, the president said U.S.-led forces were closing in on Baghdad, loosening Saddam's grip on power with every advance.

"The regime that once terrorized all of Iraq now controls a small portion of that country," he said.

Bush accused Saddam's forces of mur-

dering Iraqis who refuse to fight coalition forces, brutalizing and executing prisoners of war and opening fire under the flag of surrender.

"Against this enemy, we will accept no outcome except complete victory," he said.

Rumsfeld warns Syria

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld issued a stern warning to Syria on Friday, saying military supplies, including night-vision goggles, were passing from that country into Iraq, posing a "direct threat" to coalition forces.

"We consider such trafficking as hostile acts and will hold the Syrian government accountable for such shipments," Rumsfeld said at a Pentagon briefing.

Rumsfeld also warned Iran — a longtime enemy of Iraq — about proxy forces moving into Iraq, where the United States and coalition forces are waging a war to topple the regime of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The defense secretary cited the Badr Corps, a military force he said is trained and equipped by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard.

Any such "proxies" would be viewed as a "potential threat" to coalition forces, Rumsfeld said.

"We will hold the Iranian government responsible for their actions and will view Badr Corps activity inside Iraq as unhelpful," he said. "Armed Badr Corps members found in Iraq will have to be treated as combatants."

Myers: Saddam losing control

WASHINGTON — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's regime has lost control of more than one-third of his country, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said Friday.

Displaying a map of Iraq, Gen. Richard Myers outlined for reporters at a Pentagon briefing the areas he said Saddam no longer controls.

"The slide on the screen shows the now approximately 35 to 40 percent of Iraq, Iraqi territory where Saddam's regime has lost control," Myers said.

President Bush, speaking later to some

veterans gathered at the White House, gave what appeared to be a more optimistic assessment of how much territory Saddam had lost, but he did not offer specifics.

"The regime that once terrorized all of Iraq now controls a small portion of that country," he said. "Coalition troops continue their steady advance and are drawing near to Baghdad."

Marines recover bodies

NEAR NASIRIYA, Iraq — U.S. Marines Friday recovered the bodies of seven fallen comrades who died in intense fighting around Nasiriya in southern Iraqi Sunday, officials said.

The city has been the scene of the fiercest fighting the Marine Corps has been involved in since Vietnam, senior Marines told CNN, and still is not under coalition control five days after coalition forces first engaged Iraqi paramilitaries.

Three Marine infantry battalions occupy the northern and southern parts of the city, military officials told CNN Friday.

Col. Ron Johnson, Task Force Tarawa operations officer, said the Marines were "very close to controlling Nasiriya and making it secure."

Attacks on U.S. interests thwarted

WASHINGTON — Two terrorist plots involving Iraqi intelligence officers against U.S. interests overseas have been thwarted in recent days, the State Department said Friday.

"In recent days, we received information regarding specific terrorist plots in two countries involving Iraqi intelligence officers. In both cases, operatives were arrested and terrorist material confiscated," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

Boucher said the United States had received information on "widespread terrorist plots against U.S. interests" involving Iraqi intelligence officers and that they remained a threat.

He said the United States had requested a number of countries expel suspected Iraqi intelligence officers, "based on the significant threat posed by their presence."

Linguist manager performs many roles

Story and photos by
Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Linguists are an important part of any military mission and without them communication with Afghans would be near impossible and humanitarian missions would fail.

Scott Mabey is a linguist manager for Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan. He is responsible for all the linguists hired by his company from the United States.

There are approximately 200 linguists, about 100 are American citizens and the rest are Afghans hired by contracting. The American linguists are hired by two companies and Mabey is responsible for the approximately 40 linguists.

According to Mabey, there are six female linguists who are American because of the cultural limits in Afghanistan.

Mabey's company recruits linguists to help with Operation Enduring Freedom, then screens and transports them.

"It's like the military, they are screened for a high (security) level and given a background check, then transported. It usually takes between of 45-60 days," said Mabey.

After the linguists arrive in country, they are Mabey's responsibility. He coordinates with the military as to where the linguists



Scott Mabey, linguist manager, assists linguists with their questions.

will be assigned, acting as the liaison.

The linguists' assignments are based on their language skills and what language they speak.

They work 12 hours a day, six days a week, and if they are not working they are on-call.

"Whenever and wherever the military works, the linguists do, too," said Mabey.

If they need anything, they go to Mabey.

"I'm their everything. They come to me for any questions they have – their pay, insurance, everything. I'm their boss, their

human resources representative, their travel agent, finance, basically everything," said Mabey.

Mabey believes what he does is important to the linguists.

"Without my position I think a lot of linguists would be mismanaged. Their needs wouldn't be taken care of," said Mabey. "They would be like individuals instead of a group."

"I'm like a company commander. I try to get everything done and make sure all my people are happy," he added.

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environment that we (Americans) would consider unacceptable," Loyd said.

The Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force received 7,000 BluePacks to distribute throughout southern Afghanistan.

BluePacks contain schools supplies such as, a chalkboard, regular and colored pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, notebook, ruler and writing tablets and a few toys for the children. They are designed for Afghan children in primary school, (1st and 2nd grades).

The program is a direct result of President George Bush's appeal to American children to donate one dollar to support educational efforts for Afghan children.

America's Fund for Afghan Children received \$750,000 in donations as a result of the President's request. The Academy for Educational Development produces the BluePacks for distribution.

"We want to send a message that Americans value education, and that we are proud of them (boys & girls) going to school," said Loyd.

One hundred girls patiently stood in line waiting to receive their BluePacks. The civil affairs team plans on distributing all 7,000 BluePacks. Their primary goal is to go to all of the Primary schools first. That is about 5,000 to 6,000 students.

"We want to get them out to as many schools as we can. Our plan is to distribute to the schools that were victimized. We want

to applaud them for continuing school under the circumstances," said Loyd.

The Taliban vandalized a school in southern Afghanistan and broke chairs and other furniture and wrote graffiti on the walls. The administration and students responded by continuing classes the very next day, despite the destruction. "The best defense against the Taliban is education," Loyd said.

The 450th's goal is to distribute 200 BluePacks daily. They want to do as much as possible for the Non-Governmental Organizations. The CA team is working with several villages to help establish schools and lay the road for education in all of Afghanistan.

For more information on BluePacks or to make a donation visit www.bluepacks.org.



Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Pfcs. Maria Gonzalez and Adalina Roman, both supply specialists, from B Company, 307th Field Support Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., take a much needed rest near the Sami Ghar mountains on Operation Valiant Strike. They are tasked by the 82nd as searchers. In order to respect cultural sensitivities women are taken on combat mission to search village women for any weapons or ammunition they might be hiding on their person.

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people who are not members of their family. They are sometimes upset when even female soldiers try to search them.

They're really scared, one woman was so upset she lost control of her bowels when asked to stand up, said Pfc. Marcella Brady, a 22 year-old supply specialist, B Co., 307th FSB.

"I feel real bad for them," said Brady. "I'd probably be scared too."

Women are not the only ones who get emotional when searched.

Brady mentioned one man who became hysterical, started crying and choking when he saw his wife being searched. This prompted all the women to start crying and Brady had to get the already very busy interpreter to help calm them all down.

For all the misery this piece of protocol might cause Afghans, it is a very necessary task.

In one village the women were sitting near an olive grove, said Roman. When searched, the searchers found they were hiding ammunition in the grove.

"Male soldiers would never have found them because they can't go near the women," said Roman.

"They have a big responsibility too," said Pinkley, "because in the past we have caught some of the women, in the villages, with weapons on them."

Not all soldiers are so positive about the women being there.

A male soldier said he felt the same job could be done without having to bring the women along. He said they just did not belong, even though he admitted that, thus far, the women had not been a burden

Although one soldier feels a slight bit discouraged by the presence of women on his combat operation, the senior leadership appreciates the women who are there to fill the roles of searcher.

"They're doing a phenomenal job," said Pinkley.

In line with the senior leadership the females who are selected for the missions do not have a problem with being out with the infantry.

"They're (the men) real respectful," said McGee. "They always check on me to see if I need anything, they take real good care of me."

These women also have a new view of Afghanistan. One not provided by sitting behind the supply desk.

"The best part was experiencing how

they (women) live," said Brady. She said she took pictures of Afghans in order to show her little brother how they live.

"So, when he's complaining about not having new Jordans and stuff like that, (he can see) these people are walking around in shoes that do not even fit and some people don't even have shoes," Brady added.

"I think a lot of people in the world need to see the other half of the world, to know how other people live. Instead of just worrying about them having all the luxuries. They'd probably give up some stuff seeing how these people live," said Brady.

Even though the females are succeeding in the field and having new experiences they do not pretend it's easy.

McGee said she gets through by praying, "every morning and the whole time out here."

Pinkley agreed, they are doing a good job of hanging in and dealing with the rough conditions.

"They have to share the hardships that we go through," said Pinkley. "We ask a lot of them and they do real well."

(Editor's note: Spc. Jim Wagner, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, contributed to this article.)

Armed Forces Network Radio and TV Stations



National Press Radio
105.7FM
 Power Rock (music & news)
107.3FM
 Bright Adult Contemporary
104.5FM
TV (broadcast)
 AFN News - 7
 AFN Sports - 9

FREEDOM'S VOICES

Follow your own map

Just my Opinion

Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs
Detachment



A favorite actor prances around on the TV screen and you watch him.

Not only do you watch his actions, but you also take notes. You take notes on what clothes he is wearing, how he smiles and how he takes his coffee.

You don't realize you are doing this. It is subliminal knowledge later turned into part of your character.

Whether you believe so or not, everyone around you forms who you are. People persuade you with their popularity, scent and appearance.

You may find yourself with different habits from a year ago. Let's say, hypothetically, someone you looked up to decided to quit smoking. This person appeared to have a happier lifestyle because they quit their habit. You, believing that the grass is greener on the other side, ventured over the bridge and embarked on living this person's lifestyle by going cold turkey and tramping on your Marlboros.

Why do we feel that we are obliged to live other people's lives? Why do we feel that "something different" will make life sweeter?

Maybe it is because we feel we need

examples to live by. We are constantly watching the Biography Channel, seeing how "successful" people tick.

Why is it so hard for us to simply read up on facts and focus on what we truly believe is the right thing to do? Do we feel like people will not accept us for who we are so we mock their lives?

We scrounge up some money frustrated and inconvenienced; we rush ourselves to the mall to buy the "cool" brand of clothes. And for what? Just so the more popular Joe can see us wearing the same brand of clothing as him.

And once you find yourself doing this you also find yourself looking down on others who don't live up to Joe's standards? Who is Joe anyway? Why do we care what Joe might think of some guy you see down the street with "out-of-style" jeans?

It's funny how people live up to everyone else's standards. We must learn to follow our own road maps and stop asking for stranger's directions. Don't get me wrong though, go forth and ask about better routes to get to your dreams. But, make sure they will help you and not point you toward detours. And, yes, people will criticize you when you take your own path, but sometimes the path less taken is the better one.

In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

STREET TALK

What has been the most essential part of your mission in Gardez?



"Getting supplies for the Provincial Reconstruction Team and making sure soldiers have everything they need."

Sgt. Imari Allwood
Corps Support Center
Fort Bragg, N.C.

"Showing the local populous that we are here to help them rebuild their city, and they should support the reconstruction and not our enemies."

Capt. Dan Glanz
450th Civil Affairs Bn.
Riverdale, Md.

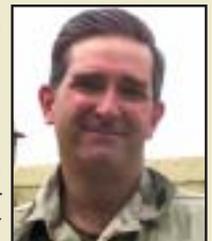


"Rebuilding the local area and helping bring stability to the Gardez economy."

Spc. Rodolfo DeLaCruz
450th Civil Affairs Bn.
Riverdale, Md.

"Establishing a good relationship with the governors of the five provinces we have been sent here to support."

Lt. Col. Christopher Allen
PRT commander
Gardez



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Entertainment

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On the road to equality, two Afghan women lead the way

Story and photo by
Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

GARDEZ, Afghanistan – On the walls of Afghan buildings, in school houses and on the streets, pictures of men who influenced government, economy and religion are proudly displayed. However, there are other faces that aren't seen. The faces of two women who have influenced the lives of the female gender throughout the country. Their faces may no longer be hidden by burqas, but are still covered by the stagnant cloud of inequality.

As Afghanistan begins to rebuild after 23 years of war, famine and poverty; education and medicine are two of the biggest concerns for many Afghan provinces. In the city of Gardez, two women have made substantial contributions in both areas, changing the way Afghan women think, live and progress.

"As a child, I was the first female to attend school in this city," said Halima Khazam, director of the Paktika Province Women's Movement. "I knew then that education for women was essential to our progress and eventually our equality."

As Khazam grew into a woman, she decided something needed to be done about the lack of education for women.

"I have lived my whole life in this city and I knew that I had to do something to help educate young girls and women," said Khazam. "My solution came with



Halima Khazam, teacher and director of the Paktika Province Women's Movement, gives a gift to a sick female patient at the Gardez Civil Hospital. Khazam has devoted her career to petitioning for Afghan women's rights.

the opening of the Naswan Girl's School, the first school to open to females in Gardez since the rein of the Taliban."

In addition to being a teacher, vice principal and helping run the school, Khazam spends a lot of her time petitioning for women's rights.

"I am the director of the women's movement for this province," said Khazam. "I travel all over to meet with women from this province and other provinces to speak to them on the importance of our equality and education for us and our daughters."

For security reasons, there are some places Khazam cannot travel to. However, she still gets her message out.

"Because of long distances

and terrorist threats, there are some places I can't personally go to," said Khazam. "To help reach women further away, I have a show on the radio that airs Mondays and Thursdays so women all over Afghanistan can hear my speeches."

Not too far away from Naswan Girl's School, Dr. Nada Zana, head female physician, Gardez Civil Hospital, is ensuring improvements are being made in women's healthcare to continue pushing the number of maternal and fetal deaths further down the scale.

"As a young girl, I was encouraged by my family to further my education and make a difference," said Zana. "I decided to study medicine, since I knew proper female healthcare was in

great demand."

After seven years of study, Zana graduated from Kabul University as a doctor.

"In our culture, male doctors are not permitted to examine women regardless of the circumstances," said Zana. "For this reason, the hospital here was more than willing to hire a female physician to care for the women."

In the time Zana has practiced at the Gardez Civil Hospital, she has overseen many of the improvements and new programs now available to women.

"In the last year we have made many improvements in women's healthcare with the help of the American and coali-

— See **ROAD**, Page B4

Chaplain's corner

By Chap. (Maj.) Marvin Luckie
CTF-82 Chaplain

Strategy is the science of planning and directing military operations. No commander leads his troops into battle without first devising a plan for victory.

In 2 Corinthians 10 the commanding general of the first century, the apostle Paul, explains how he intends to mobilize forces for the military campaign. He knows that the spiritual war can be fought to the enemy's advantage, on his turf, or to the royal army's advantage, on God's ground. Paul does not intend to give the enemy anything.

This passage is a warning and a chal-

lenge. Here is one of the skilled; so trained with the weaponry of the spiritual realm, that he was able to establish Christianity throughout the entire civilized world. This man stands as an example of a true warrior of the faith to challenge us to fight and to follow his lead.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. (2Cor. 10:3)

Paul will tell us that we cannot be afraid



Chap. (Maj.) Marvin Luckie

of our natural weaknesses or rely on our natural strengths.

As far as your physical qualities and capabilities, there will always be people who will match you for everything you have – for talent, for intellect, for physical strength, for beauty, for craftiness. That is exactly why you cannot “war according to the flesh,” why you cannot use these things for your spiritual struggle. You have to turn to supernatural weapons for a supernatural struggle. This is the strategy Paul presents in 2 Corinthians 10.

Come on down and let's talk about those supernatural weapons to be used in supernatural struggle.

Music Notes (Compiled from MTV.com)



Lil' Kim forgives 50 Cent for dissing her nose, joins him for 'Magic Stick'

MTV — The Queen Bee, Lil' Kim, like her other industry peers, have traveled to Puerto Rico for the Fifth Annual Mix Show Power Summit. Such luminaries as the late icon DJ Jam Master Jay, Fat Joe, Keith Murray, Missy Elliott, Busta Rhymes and Redman have all made the trip to partake in the weekend's festivities.

She's extra hyped because two of her favorite MCs, Eminem and 50 Cent, are onstage with Obie Trice, filling a local club with their abrasive vocals.

“I'm convinced, man, something really wrong with these **es,” 50 spits, getting wide-eyed looks from spectators who can't believe his audacity, “I thought Lil' Kim was hot, 'til she start ... with her nose.”

Hold up, wait a minute! The Queen Bee has just been dissed.

“Oh you ...!” she blurts out under her breath, shocked by 50's words.

The Queen Bee, however, has thick skin to go along with her stinger. Vowing to keep it moving, seconds later she regains her composure and continues partying.

“I still was dancing, 'cause I don't trip off of stuff like that,” Kim said three weeks ago about 50's concert performance last year. Not only was she able to roll with the punches, she also found room in her heart to forgive. She squashed things with 50 a long time ago and the southside Queens rap kingpin even made it onto Kim's first LP in three years, *La Bella Mafia*.

“He did call me and was like, ‘Yo, I wanna do a record with you so bad,’ “ Kim recalled of a phone conversation the two of them had a few months back. “He said, ‘Yo, I got this record that I think you'd love.’ I had to think about it.”

Kim made her choice to absolve 50 after he apologized and the two went out to dinner.

Eve says Dr. Dre will be 'all over' her next album

Eve doesn't have a title for her next record yet, but maybe she should call it *Still E.V.E.* The golden-locked rapper/actress is hitting the studio next month with Dr. Dre.

“You will see Dre all over the record, let's put it that way,” Eve said recently of the follow-up to last year's *Eve-olution*. She said she hasn't written any songs yet, opting instead to just get in the studio and let the creativity flow.

“It doesn't matter [what type of material he'll bring],” she said with a grin. “It's Dre. That's all I care about. He's creative, he's hardworking, [and] he has the energy. He believes in the project and that is what makes it all good.”

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building, “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.” Harry ignores warnings not to return to Hogwarts, only to find the school plagued by a series of mysterious attacks and a strange voice haunting him.

Tomorrow's movie will be “8 Mile.”



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Suns didn't get raw deal

ESPN — You were so sure the Golden State Warriors were idiots. Vince Carter for Antawn Jamison? Are you kidding? The steal of the century, right? Now just a minute. The Warriors, led by the high-scoring Jamison, continue to fight for a playoff spot in the rough Western Conference, while the Toronto Raptors have become perhaps the NBA's biggest disappointment and Carter, the once next great one, has become arguably the league's most reluctant superstar — an immense talent who'd rather pass to Antonio Davis. Who would you take now?

And so we get to Jason Kidd and Stephon Marbury. And suddenly it doesn't look so one-sided after all.

Phoenix has risen from the ashes of the supposedly disastrous trade and is contending again for the playoffs, now in the eighth spot for the West's final postseason berth ahead of Houston. Sure, Kidd still is a terrific player. But the Nets are no lock for the Finals anymore and may not even make it out of the first round with a post-All-Star nosedive. And Kidd, a free agent, hardly has vowed fealty to the Nets.

I happen to believe Kidd will stay with the Nets, though I suspect it's one of the last places he'd like to be. But the last place Chris Webber wanted to be was Sacramento.

If San Antonio doesn't bite on Kidd, which makes little sense the way Tony Parker has developed, then the options for Kidd as a free agent are going to be limited. Denver? I don't think so.

The Clippers? No way. One doesn't turn down more than \$100 million, which Kidd can collect from the Nets since he's now eligible for a contract starting at 30 percent of the salary cap, or more than \$13 million in the first year.

I'm not sure I'd want to be paying even Kidd \$20 million a year seven years from now at the end of his deal. And I doubt anyone but



Marbury (bottom) endured a rough first season in Phoenix after being dealt for Kidd.

the Nets will be.

So this still is an awfully good trade for the Nets. Having Kidd makes them contenders in the Eastern Conference for years.

Kidd, Martin hope to be on 'same page' this summer

ESPN — Kenyon Martin might hold the key in keeping Jason Kidd in New Jersey this offseason, the New York Daily News reported in Friday's editions.

"I don't want to be here if [Martin's] not," Kidd told the newspaper. "If that is what's driving him, I want him to keep doing that. (But) he shouldn't

think that if he has a bad game that, 'Well, he's lost Jason.' Because I'm going to be here when (Martin and Richard Jefferson) are in their prime and I am an old man and I can say that these guys are carrying me now."

Kidd plans to talk to the former No. 1 overall pick in the 2000 draft during the offseason so the duo can be on the "same page" with their future plans. The Nets can offer Kidd, who has talked about joining Tim Duncan in San Antonio, close to a six-year, \$102 million deal, the New York Daily News reported.

Kidd can become a free agent on July 1, while Martin is eligible for a contract extension starting Aug. 1. If the Nets and Martin can't agree on a deal by Oct. 31, Martin will become a restricted free agent after next season, according to the report.

"We'll see," Martin told the newspaper of his contract status. "I'm just going to wait and see what happens with (Kidd). If (the Nets) want me here, and they express that to me, then either way it goes, I am comfortable here.

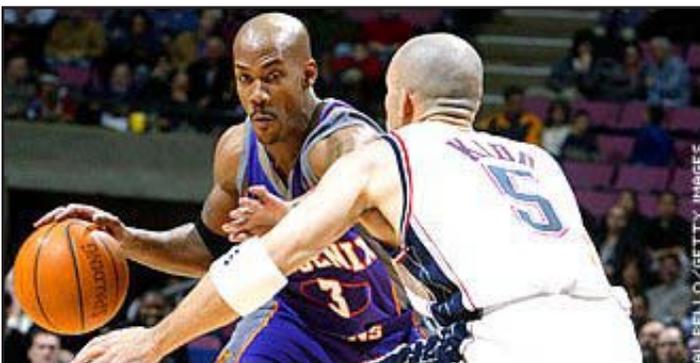
"If (Kidd) is looking for that second (marquee) guy, I can be it," Martin said in the report. "If that is what he is weighing his decision on, I am trying to do my part."

Nets president Rod Thorn told the newspaper, "It's too early at this time to talk about that."

NBA won't broadcast lottery draw

ESPN — After giving strong consideration to televising the Ping Pong-ball portion of the draft lottery for the first time, the NBA has elected to put off alterations to its lottery format for at least another season.

To quell suspicions about which team wins the right to make LeBron James the next No. 1 overall pick, league officials weighed



Stephon Marbury, left, has the Suns sitting in eighth place in the West.

Dragon Palace hosts Ping-Pong tourney

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – It was an intense round. Silence fell over the Morale, Welfare and Recreation building as the team of Earnest Tart and Hiram Santos faced off against Mathew Madison and Jason Kent. It was the final game of the MWR Ping-Pong tournament Friday. In the end Tart and Santos walked away the champions.

In an effort to keep morale up and the servicemembers here entertained, the MWR hosted the first Ping-Pong tournament Friday. Approximately 27 teams signed up to play representing not on the U.S. but various members of the coalition forces as well.

The tournament was the idea of Kellogg Brown and Root employees Jimmy Ferrazas and Matt Tinklenberg.

“At one time there were three Ping-Pong tables in the gym,” said Ferrazas. “But more space had to be made for lifting equipment, so two of the tables were taken out.”

No one realized how popular



Mathew Madison (right) leaps to hit the ball with his partner Jason Kent standing by during the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Ping-Pong tournament Friday. The team made it to the finals.

Ping-Pong was until Ferrazas noticed the long line in the gym at the table.

“I go lift everyday and it seems like people are waiting forever to play a game of Ping-Pong.” He was also being approached by servicemembers asking for a tournament. He and Tinklenberg then decided to have the tournament.

“I was really surprised at the turnout,” he said. “The spectator and the players.” As crowds of spectators gathered in the limited space of Dragon Palace,

three tables were occupied by two teams leaping and slamming Ping-Pong balls to their opposition hoping for a point.

“I am pleased at the turnout,” said Andy Finnerty, MWR manager. “There is good representation from the U.S. and coalition. This is a really great way to get everyone together.”

Each set consisted of three games to 21 points. The road to the finals was a difficult one, but in the end it was an all-American finals.

After a quick two games, Tart

and Santos walked away with the grand prize of two T-shirts and a DVD. All participants were awarded a T-shirt.

“I entered to win and I did,” said Tart. “It feels really good.” Both he and Santos love to play Ping-Pong and immediately entered when they heard about the tournament. While Santos plays three to four times a week, Tart admits that he hasn’t picked up a paddle since Decem-

ber.

“I knew I had a good partner and I knew that if we played together we would win, even if I was a little out of practice,” Tart said.

Santos said he also had faith in their partnership. Both are looking forward to the next tournament.

“This is a good way for soldiers to do something a little different, and meet other servicemembers” Santos said. “It was a lot of fun and it feels great to win.”

ROAD, from Page B1

tion forces,” said Zana. “Programs that were not available before such as prenatal care, classes on nutrition and hygiene, vaccinations for infants and surgical capabilities for caesarean sections are now up and running in the hospital.”

In addition to Zana, there are other doctors that assist with the female patients.

“I oversee four other female doctors in this hospital,” said Zana.

“These doctors in turn oversee the individual departments such as labor and delivery, surgery, gynecology and the classes

instituted to educate women on health matters,” she added.

When Zana is not examining patients at the hospital, she is actively doing her part with the Paktika Province Women’s Movement.

“I go to as many meetings as possible and speak when I can to the women of Afghanistan on the importance of education,” said Zana. “I also have a spot on the radio where I can deliver my message to Afghan women all over.”

In addition to being a career-driven woman, Zana is also a wife and mother of four.

“I always encourage my daughters to go to school and further their education so they can do their part to help Afghan women,” said Zana. “Personally, I would like to see them both become doctors.”

Even though women’s rights have come a long way since the end of the Taliban’s rule, the women of Afghanistan still have far to go.

“We are still limited in many areas such as employment opportunities, education and choosing our own husbands,” said Khazam. “Our progress is slow because we still meet a lot of opposition, but this will not stop us. There is no going back now, only forward.”

SPORTS, from Page B3

the prospect of airing what happens in the locked conference room where the lottery order is actually determined. The NBA acknowledges that scrutiny of this May's lottery, because of James, is expected to rival its inaugural lottery in 1985, which famously positioned the New York Knicks to select Patrick Ewing.

It's believed that the increased scrutiny, however, also led to reluctance about whether this was the proper time to institute changes.

The league opted instead for the safer option of keeping the current format, in which the order is determined off camera and envelopes containing team logos are opened on air — with none of the team representatives on stage knowing the results — from No. 13 up to the team that scores the No. 1 pick.

As with last year's lottery, the league again plans to invite a few members of the national media to serve as witnesses of the Ping-Pong ball draw.

Four news organizations were in conference room 3A at the NBA Entertainment building in Secaucus, N.J., last May to see the Houston Rockets overcome the league's sixth-worst record to win the lottery ... and the chance to draft Yao Ming.

**Solution from Friday's Percussion Session
Crossword in the *Freedom Watch***

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)



2002 NBA standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic

- (2) New Jersey 44-28
- (3) Philadelphia 42-29
- (6) Boston 39-34
- (7) Orlando 39-34
- (8) Washington 34-37

Central

- (1) Detroit 45-26
- (4) Indiana 42-30
- (5) New Orleans 41-32
- Milwaukee 34-38
- Atlanta 29-44

Western Conference

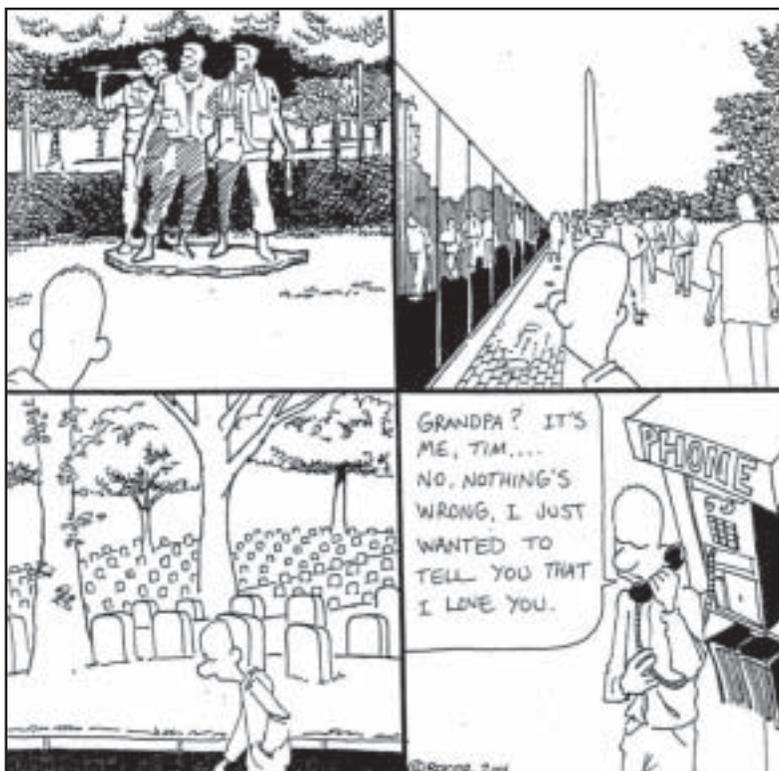
Midwest

- (1x) Dallas 54-17
- (3) San Antonio 51-20
- (4) Minnesota 46-28
- (6) Utah 42-29
- Houston 37-35

Pacific

- (2x) Sacramento 51-21
- (5) Portland 44-27
- (7) L.A. Lakers 41-30
- (8) Phoenix 38-34
- Golden State 36-37

x = clenched playoff berth.



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

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

Monday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers

Tuesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 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
- ❖ 1500Z — Rosary and prayers

K2 chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0330Z — Liturgical service
- ❖ 0430Z, 1200Z — General protestant service
- ❖ 0600Z — Roman Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1300Z — Latter Day Saints

Monday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass

Tuesday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Midweek Praise service

Thursday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass

Friday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1400Z — Jewish services
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study

Saturday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1200Z — Roman Catholic Mass

C/MOTF

chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0630Z — Nondenominational service

Tuesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Catholic service (every other Tuesday)

Wednesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study



Weather

Bagram



Hi — 61F
Lo — 46F



Hi — 72F
Lo — 48F



Hi — 72F
Lo — 48F

K2



Hi — 66F
Lo — 41F



Hi — 60F
Lo — 37F



Hi — 60F
Lo — 36F

Kabul



Hi — 61F
Lo — 43F



Hi — 75F
Lo — 48F



Hi — 72F
Lo — 45F

KAF



Hi — 77F
Lo — 50F



Hi — 81F
Lo — 46F



Hi — 82F
Lo — 48F

KMTC chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0430Z — Protestant Service
- ❖ 0530Z — Roman Catholic Mass/Eucharist
- ❖ 0630Z — Latter Day Saints
- ❖ 1630Z — Protestant Service

Wednesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Bible Study

Friday

- ❖ 1530Z — Thank God It's Friday fellowship and singing

All events are held in FOB195 Chapel/Conference Room area.