

Freedom Watch

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McNeely puts the next block on rebuilding



Boys from the village of Dandar, sing a song of Afghan pride during Col. Kurt McNeely's, Bagram Air Base commander, visit Tuesday.

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

DANDAR, Afghanistan — All eyes were on Col. Kurt McNeely, Bagram Air Base commander, in the town of Dandar Tuesday, as hundreds of villagers listened to the comforting sound of his message.

After being postponed several times, McNeely's visit to Dandar was successful in assessing village needs and reassuring local villagers the work that began, will continue.

"Shortly after the Korean war, Korea was a desolate place with hardly a tree to be found," said McNeely, beginning his speech. "With the help of American forces and the

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Korean doctor treats coalition with acupuncture

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

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Traditions are an important part of a culture and one Korean has decided to share an oriental tradition with coalition forces here.

Cpl. Jaehyung Im is an oriental medical care medic in the Korean Army, but as a civilian he is an internal medicine doctor and owns and runs his own clinic in Korea with six employees.

Here he offers acupuncture for free daily except Friday from 0900Z to 1000Z at the Korean Clinic and sees approximately two patients a day, but continues to see more due to word of mouth.

All patients, so far, have been recommended by Koreans.

Im has been practicing medicine for four years and attended a university for internal medicine for six years. There he learned acupuncture. The procedure costs \$30-\$40 in Korea and is covered by insurance, but here it is offered for free.

Acupuncture is a several thousand year-old oriental traditional healing method that uses pins to simulate spots on the body to balance the bodies energy. It is believed that invisible energy flows inside the body and is released and taken in. There is positive and negative energy, so for a person to be



Cpl. Jaehyung Im, oriental medical care medic, in the Korean Army, treats a coalition officer with acupuncture for ankle pains.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. captures mastermind of Achille Lauro hijacking

WASHINGTON — Abu Abbas, a convicted Palestinian terrorist who masterminded the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro on which a wheelchair-bound American was killed, was captured by U.S. Special Forces in the outskirts of Baghdad, U.S. Central Command said Tuesday.

Abbas, whose real first name is Muhammed, was apprehended Monday night in a compound of three buildings. His capture was made possible by information from U.S. intelligence, officials said. Several others were also captured at the compound, the officials said.

Various documents and passports were also seized.

“One of our key objectives is to search for, capture and drive out terrorists who have found safe haven in Iraq,” Central Command said in a statement.

“The capture of Abu Abbas in Iraq removes a portion of the terror network supported by Iraq and represents yet another victory in the global war on terrorism.”

A senior administration official said the capture sends a strong message to terrorists: “You can run, but you cannot hide.”

To other terrorists, he warned, “We will hold you to account.”

Abbas is the general director of the Palestine Liberation Front, which the U.S. State Department has designated a terrorist organization.

A Palestinian source told CNN’s Christiane Amanpour that Abbas tried to flee to Syria, but was turned away at the border and was captured about 50 miles west of

Baghdad.

Palestinian militants under Abbas’ command hijacked the Achille Lauro in October 1985. During the hijacking, Leon Klinghoffer — a 69-year-old wheelchair-bound American Jew who was with his wife of 36 years on the cruise — was killed and dumped into the sea.

U.S. officials said U.S. indictments of Abbas for piracy, hostage-taking and conspiracy have apparently expired, although they could be renewed. U.S. officials said Abbas’ fate — whether he will be sent to an Italian prison or face a U.S. trial — is “unresolved.”

Tests rule out suspect bio-labs

KARBALA — The buried labs U.S. troops found last week were not the mobile chemical and biological weapons labs one U.S. Army general suspected, according to the head of an expert team brought in to examine them.

The 11 cargo containers were filled with new laboratory equipment apparently intended to make conventional weapons, said team leader Chief Warrant Officer 2 Monte Gonzalez.

“Based on what we’ve seen, the containers are full of millions of dollars worth of high-tech equipment,” he said.

“It possibly has a dual use. But it does not appear to be weapons of mass destruction.”

Members of the 101st Airborne’s 2nd Brigade found the site — about 50 miles south of Baghdad near Karbala — last week as they were heading north to Baghdad.

The containers held equipment typically found in laboratories, including test tubes, water baths, sand baths, pH transmitters, explosive-proof lights, ethyl alcohol gauges, shakers, test tubes, test tube holders, and temperature and pressure gauges.

Lebanese prime minister quits

BEIRUT — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri resigned Tuesday, opening the way for the formation of a new government, officials said.

Lebanon’s President Emile Lahoud will

start consulting with members of the National Assembly Wednesday on recommendations for Hariri’s successor.

There was no immediate explanation given for his resignation, but sources said it had been expected and was even postponed during the war in Iraq.

Sources also said the resignation was not connected to regional tension involving Syria and the increasing pressure Washington has put on Damascus.

Ex-Iraqi spy chief allegedly in Syria

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials Tuesday added to the pressure on Syria, accusing Damascus of allowing the former head of Saddam Hussein’s feared intelligence service to enter the country.

Secretary of State Colin Powell admitted Washington has concerns about Syria, which the United States has accused of harboring deposed Iraqi leaders and attempting to develop weapons of mass destruction.

But he added that the Bush administration has “no list” of U.S. enemies in line for military action.

During the past week U.S. diplomatic pressure on Syria has been stepped up with the most powerful figures in the administration, including Bush, publicly criticizing Syria and threatening sanctions.

U.S. officials said Tuesday Farouk Hijazi, ex-head of Saddam’s Mukhabarat intelligence service, had arrived in Syria from Tunisia where he had been serving as Iraq’s ambassador at the start of the war.

Powell said Tuesday the administration has no plans to attack any other country, “either for the purpose of overthrowing their leadership or for the purpose of imposing democratic values.”

“Iraq was a unique case,” Powell told reporters at the Foreign Press Center in Washington.

“It wasn’t just a matter of a dictator being there, it was a dictator terrorizing his people ... (and) beyond that, invading his neighbors, threatening the whole world with weapons of mass destruction and supporting terrorist activities.”

U.S. News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Powell concerned about Cuba's rights record, says horrible

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell, calling Cuba's rights situation horrible and getting worse, urged the U.N. Human Rights Commission to censure Cuba for suppressing dissent.

The 53-member commission, winding up its annual meeting in Geneva, is expected to vote on a Cuba resolution on Wednesday.

The United States has been pushing for the strongest resolution possible. But officials said there was no certainty that a commission majority favored such a measure.

The officials also said the U.S. and other delegations have been attempting to strengthen a Cuba resolution introduced by several Latin American delegations.

The resolution asks only that Cuba accept a visit by a U.N. monitor assigned to observe the rights situation on the island.

In recent years, the commission has usually approved resolutions critical of Cuba, almost always by close margins.

White House: Bush, Chirac conversation 'businesslike'

WASHINGTON — President Bush had what the White House described as a "businesslike" phone conversation Tuesday with French President Jacques Chirac, the first time the two leaders have spoken since the beginning of war with Iraq, which France adamantly opposed.

While a spokeswoman for the French leader called the conversation "positive," the White House assessment of the conversation was cooler.

White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer described the 20-minute phone

conversation, initiated by Chirac, as "wide-ranging," but made a pointed distinction when asked by a reporter whether it was positive.

"From the president's point of view, he would call it a businesslike conversation," Fleischer said.

Relations between France and the United States have been frosty since France opposed U.S.-led efforts to secure a second U.N. resolution authorizing military action against Iraq and repeatedly voiced its opposition to war.

Rodney King slams SUV into house, breaks pelvis

RIALTO, Calif. — Rodney King, whose videotaped beating led to the deadly 1992 riots in Los Angeles, was hospitalized with a broken pelvis after he lost control of his sport utility vehicle while weaving through traffic at 100 mph and crashed into a house, police said.

King, 39, was spotted Sunday by a police officer who said King was speeding and weaving through traffic in his 2003 Ford Expedition when he slammed into a utility pole, a chain-link fence and then the home, police said. No one in the home was injured.

King was in fair condition Monday afternoon, hospital spokesman Jorge Valencia said. His condition was not available Tuesday as hospital officials did not answer phone calls.

Police said they suspect that King was intoxicated, and a blood sample was drawn to determine his blood-alcohol level. Test results have not yet been released.

King was not arrested, but a report detailing the crash circumstances will be submitted to prosecutors, police Lt. Kathy Thompson said.

King, who is black, was chased by police through the San Fernando Valley in 1991 and was captured on videotape being beaten by four white officers.

After their acquittal, riots broke out and lasted for four days, leaving 55 dead and more than 2,000 injured. The mayhem caused \$1 billion in property damage.

King later received a \$3.8 million settle-

ment from the city of Los Angeles in 1994.

He was convicted of spouse abuse in 1999 in San Bernardino County and was sentenced to 90 days in jail and four years' probation.

King pleaded no contest to three counts of being under the influence of PCP and a count of indecent exposure in October 2001.

A judge gave King a year in a drug treatment center even though a prosecutor argued King should spend a year in county jail.

Rialto, where King lives, is 53 miles east of Los Angeles.

High winds whip New Mexico

DEMING, New Mexico — Powerful winds with gusts as high as 130 mph swept through southern New Mexico on Tuesday, prompting road closures and causing a 10-car pileup that killed two people.

Blowing dust was responsible for the pileup on U.S. 180 that killed two and injured five between Deming and Silver City in southwestern New Mexico, state police Lt. Jerry Anderson said.

The White Sands Missile Range recorded the highest wind gusts — 126 to 130 mph — east of Las Cruces, range spokesman Jim Echols said.

A bus that takes high school students from Las Cruces to housing at the military installation waited until the winds subsided to take the children home.

The range advised employees who travel through the pass to do the same.

The National Weather Service issued high wind warnings for much of southern New Mexico and dust storm advisories for southwestern areas. S

tate police for a time closed several roads around Deming.

In southeastern New Mexico, 50 mph winds blew topsoil across the farming community of Artesia, prompting the school district to cancel bus service and tell parents to come pick up their children.

"When you're driving on the highway, 15 feet in front of you is just a cloud of dark dirt," district transportation secretary Mike Phipps said.

Family ecstatic as 1st Cav pilots found in Iraq

Story by Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas — The haunting question of “where’s Da-Da?” came to an end Sunday morning for Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michelle Williams and her two young children as U.S. soldiers taken prisoner were found in Iraq.

“This has been the most difficult time of my life,” Michelle said.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Williams and co-pilot Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ronald Young had been captured March 23 when their Apache Longbow helicopter went down in enemy territory.

Video images of the downed helicopter sped around the world via satellite, with everyone at Fort Hood knowing it was an aircraft from the 1st Cavalry Division’s 1-227th Aviation Battalion.

Later, Michelle saw her husband again ... in grainy rebroadcast images from Iraqi television.

An Army aviator herself, Michelle Williams knows firsthand the risks involved when flying combat missions.

Even so, she’s also a wife and the mother of two small children - 2-year-old Jason, and 6-month-old Madison.

It has been several weeks since her David had been seen on television. Michelle could only wait ... and hope.

The waiting ended about 6 o’clock Sunday morning. The telephone woke her up. Her mom told her to tune into Cable News Network.

“She said it was something about prisoners of war,” Michelle said. “I really didn’t understand much, because I was still half asleep.”

See **FAMILY**, Page 7

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Panic Room.” Trapped in their New York brownstone’s panic room, a hidden chamber built as a sanctuary in the event of break-ins, newly divorced Meg Altman and her young daughter Sarah play a deadly game of cat-and-mouse with three intruders.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “Stranded.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<u>Bagram:</u>	<i>Cloudy</i> H: 63F L: 43F	<i>Hazy</i> H: 75F L: 54F
<u>Kandahar:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 88F L: 57F	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 90F L: 61F
<u>Kabul:</u>	<i>Cloudy</i> H: 64F L: 41F	<i>Cloudy</i> H: 81F L: 50F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	<i>Cloudy</i> H: 55F L: 39F	<i>Cloudy</i> H: 50F L: 39F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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DANDAR, from Page 1 ——— hard work of Korean citizens, Korea is now full of trees. If we continue to work hard, the same can happen in Afghanistan.”

According to McNeely, the previous base commander, Col. Christopher Pritchett, established a solid foundation for Afghan citizens and reconstruction teams to build on.

“(Col.) Pritchett fostered good relations with many villages in his area of operation known as ‘AO Bush,’” said McNeely. “I plan to take the work done in these villages and expand it beyond that area.”

Before McNeely’s arrival, only certain villages within a province were being assessed by civil affairs due to boundaries within “AO Bush,” while others



Hundreds of local villagers came to hear Col. Kurt McNeely, commander, Bagram Air Base speak about his plans for the residents of Dandar and the rest of Kohe Safi.

were neglected. McNeely said that will soon change.

“The time has come to expand the civil affairs mission to the remotest areas of Afghanistan,” said McNeely. “By September, I plan to have thorough civil affairs assessments completed on the provinces of Darwan and Kapisa.”

Another goal McNeely hopes to accomplish is getting the Afghan people to improve on their business skills and relationships.

“A chamber of commerce needs to be established here so the people can be more self-sufficient,” said McNeely. “They need to understand that the prosperity of their country depends on how well they work together and not on who has the biggest gun.”

Some of these ideas were addressed in McNeely’s speech and in turn, the people of Dandar expressed their issues.

“We need wells, schools, clinics and more security

DOCTOR, from Page 1 ———

healthy, these must be balanced.

Im has treated people with back problems and muscle problems, but that is not all acupuncture can be used on.

According to Im, it can also be used for internal injuries.

Bu-hang is another technique he uses.

Acupuncture helps circulation of the entire body, while Bu-hang focuses on one area.

Bu-hang uses suction to accomplish this.

Im started this treatment because he thought treating coalition forces would be a challenge and allow others to see a piece of oriental tradition.

He is also pleased to provide this service.

“I see the response of the soldiers I treat. They tell me they have less pain and their response to the procedure is good,” said Im through an interpreter.

“Patients feel better with one or two treatments. I feel good knowing I’m doing my part.”

Im is happy to treat people, even though he receives nothing extra for it.

“I am happy to contribute to the local people and the coalition forces,” he said. “My job is treating people and that’s what I’m doing.”

In the coming weeks, a space will be set aside for acupuncture treatments for coalition forces inside the Korean hospital.



Col. Kurt McNeely, commander, Bagram Air Base, prepares to speak to local villagers on his plans for Kohe Safi.

forces for our area,” said a local village elder.

“We have the people here willing to work to maintain these things, but we need the resources from the U.S. to get started.”

Among the dignitaries who attended the meeting were Farid Shafaq, founder of the Shafaq Organization, and Gen. Mullahrazic, commander of the 32nd Infantry Division, Afghan National Army.

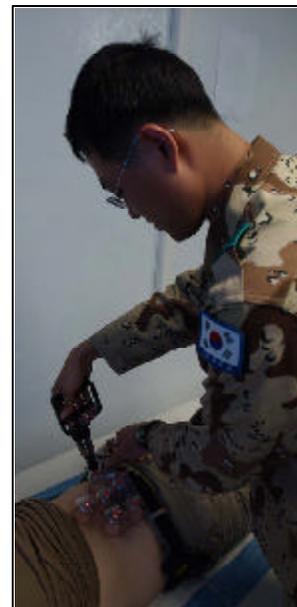
“The people of Afghanistan are tired of all the wars and tribal disputes,” said Mullahrazic.

“They are ready to put down their weapons and come together in business negotiations to rebuild this country.”

The day’s events ended with an Afghan-style meal and talk of changes to come.

“My long-term goal is to plant the seed of togetherness and hopefully one day see Afghanistan become a democracy,” said McNeely.

“Even though these people have a long way to go to reach that point, they understand this is a critical time for them and may be their last chance to unite and prosper.”



Bu-hang is another technique. Acupuncture helps circulation of the entire body, while Bu-hang focuses on one area. Bu-hang uses suction to accomplish this.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Bryant scores 20 of 32 points in fourth quarter

LOS ANGELES — It's official: The Los Angeles Lakers will open their quest for a fourth straight NBA championship on the road.

"Let's go," Kobe Bryant said.

Bryant scored 20 of his 32 points in the first quarter, and Shaquille O'Neal added 19 points Tuesday night as the Lakers took command early in beating the hapless Denver Nuggets 126-104.

The win was the seventh in eight games for the Lakers, but they lost any chance of getting home-court advantage in the first round when Portland beat Phoenix 120-102.

The Lakers will finish fifth or sixth in the Western Conference, depending on what happens Wednesday night in the final games of the regular season. They open the playoffs Saturday or Sunday at Dallas, Minnesota or Portland.

If Minnesota beats Memphis and Portland beats the Los Angeles Clippers, the Lakers will finish sixth and face Dallas in the first round.

"I'm not worried about anything, really," Bryant said. "You're going to have to win on the road. The seventh game last year was in Sacramento, and we were pretty excited and happy that we were on the road. We were pumped up: 'Let's go get these guys.'"

Bryant referred to the deciding game of the Western Conference finals, which the Lakers won 112-106 in overtime.

The Lakers lost their chance at finishing fourth in the West and getting home-court advantage in the first round when they were beaten 101-99 Sunday at Portland. "After dropping that game, we realized we had to depend on somebody else to get that position," Derek Fisher said.

Rookie Jannero Pargo scored a career-high 18 points and Rick Fox added 11 for the Lakers, who won their 15th straight home game.

"It's a good feeling," Pargo said.

"As a rookie, you need a game like that to convince yourself you belong in this league."



Kobe Bryant

Pargo averaged 2.0 points in his previous 34 games with the Lakers. Juwan Howard scored 19 points and Marcus Camby had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Nuggets, who have lost seven straight games and 13 of their last 16. "The game was pretty much over after the first quarter," Camby said. "We're not a team that scores a lot of points, so it's hard for us to play catchup."

Camby believes the Lakers have a good shot at defending their championship.

"They've won three in a row, so you have to say they're the favorites," he said.

Bryant had been reluctant to shoot early in recent games, instead trying to involve his teammates, especially O'Neal.

A good example was Sunday at Portland, when Bryant scored all but four of his 36 points in the second half.

But it was a different story in this game. Bryant shot 6-of-9, including 2-of-3 from 3-point range, and went 6-of-7 from the foul line in the first quarter.

He also had four rebounds, two assists, two steals and only one turnover in the period.

"I think Phil wants me to be more assertive at the beginning of the game, so that's what I tried to do tonight," Bryant said, referring to coach Phil Jackson.

Bryant and O'Neal both sat out the fourth quarter. Bryant wound up playing 26 minutes and O'Neal 24.

The Lakers led by as many as 19 points before settling for a 42-24 lead after the first quarter. O'Neal didn't attempt a field goal until Bryant fed him for a layup after 10½ minutes of play.

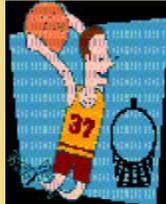
The Lakers shot 12-of-20, including 6-of-9 from beyond the arc in the period, while the Nuggets went 9-of-26.

The Nuggets weren't closer than 14 points after that.

Reserves played most of the second quarter for the Lakers.

Pargo made a pair of 3-pointers to extend the Lakers' lead to 55-33 midway through the period.

The Lakers led 69-41 at halftime, and the Nuggets didn't threaten after that. It was 103-73 entering the fourth quarter.



2002 NBA standings

Eastern Conference		Western Conference	
Atlantic		Midwest	
(2) New Jersey	49-32	(3) Dallas	59-22
(6) Boston	43-38	(1) San Antonio	60-21
(3) Philadelphia	47-34	(7) Utah	47-34
(7) Orlando	42-39	Houston	42-39
Washington	37-44	(4) Minnesota	50-31
Central		Pacific	
(4) Indiana	47-34	(2) Sacramento	58-23
(1) Detroit	50-31	(8) Phoenix	44-37
(5) New Orleans	46-35	(5) Portland	50-31
		Seattle	39-42



Nets out of running for top seed after defeat

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Baron Davis scored 19 points and New Orleans Hornets limited New Jersey to 11 fourth-quarter points in keeping the Nets from clinching a second straight Atlantic Division title with an 87-74 victory Monday night.

New Jersey's loss, coupled with Detroit's victory over Cleveland, gave the Pistons the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

Jamal Mashburn added 17 points and P.J. Brown had 14 as the Hornets won their fourth straight and kept alive their hopes of gaining homecourt advantage for the first round of the playoffs.

New Orleans (46-35) is a half-game behind Indiana (46-34) and could catch Philadelphia (47-33) if the Sixers lose both of their remaining games and the Hornets defeat Atlanta in their regular-season finale Wednesday.

Kenyon Martin had 23 points and 15 rebounds for the Nets, who can win the division with a win at Indiana on Wednesday or a loss by the 76ers in one of their final two games. Richard Jefferson added 21 points and Jason Kidd had 14.

The Hornets never trailed after George Lynch hit a 3-pointer late in the third quarter to snap a 66-66 tie.

A jumper by Lucious Harris got New Jersey within a point in the opening seconds of the final quarter, but the Hornets went on a 12-4 run to take an 81-69 lead.

Davis started the spurt with a layup, hit an off-balance shot in the middle of the run and basically put the game out of reach with an offensive rebound and a 3-pointer.

New Jersey was 4-for-13 from the field in the quarter and turned the ball over seven times.

Davis had nine points in the quarter.

The game was played in spurts for most of the final three quarters.

The Hornets used a 15-2 spurt spanning the end of the second quarter and the start of the third to take a 49-38 lead, a run that forced Nets coach Byron Scott to take a timeout.

While his teammates sat on the bench, Martin clapped his hands and screamed "right now," attempting to remind the Nets that the division title and the No. 1 seed were on the line.

The little speech seemed to work as New Jersey came out and scored 13 straight points to take a 51-49 lead with 7:14 left in the quarter.

New Orleans came right back with an 11-3 spurt that featured three free throws by Davis and an assist on a fast-break dunk by Brown, who also had four points in the run that put the Hornets ahead 60-54.

New Jersey tied the game at 66 on a steal and slam by Martin before Lynch hit his 3-pointer to put the Hornets ahead for good.

FAMILY, from Page 4

The cable news outlet wasn't naming names.

Michelle had to know if David was safe in American hands.

"I called Captain Loeb to see if he could find out anything concrete," she said.

Capt. Jeremy Loeb is the 4th Brigade S-1 Officer, and has been serving as Michelle's casualty assistance officer.

Two-and-a-half hours and dozens of telephone calls later, Loeb was finally able to confirm for Michelle that her husband had been safely returned to American hands.

He delivered that news, in person ... with pleasure.

"I don't remember what her exact words were," Loeb said, "but she was just ecstatic!"

"When I first heard the news, my stomach dropped through the floor," Michelle said.

She was able to share her joy with her father-in-law, also named David, who had been visiting from his home in Orlando since Friday.

After more than three weeks of waiting and wondering, Michelle can now look her 2-year-old son Jason in the eye and truthfully tell him that "Da-Da" is, indeed, coming home soon.

"It can't get any better than this," Michelle said.

But after a short pause, she added smiling, "Yes, it can. When he gets home."

"Nothing exciting ever happens around here ..."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support