

Dasht-e Rabat school breaks ground



Col. Kurt McNeely, commander, Bagram Air Base, stresses the importance of education to teachers and students at the Dasht-e Rabat groundbreaking ceremony Thursday.

Story and photos by
Spc. Rick Robinson
11th Public Affairs Detachment

DASHT-E RABAT, Afghanistan — A groundbreaking ceremony held Thursday marked the first stage of construction for a new school in Dasht-e Rabat.

Children applauded as the vehicles containing coalition personnel arrived at the barren field. Village mayors as well as the Bagram Air Base commander addressed a crowd during a ceremony held at the austere location.

“There was a tent there, which was the only structure they’ve had for sometime,” said Maj. Mark Cepeil, team chief, Civil Affairs Team-A. “The Russians had destroyed the original school.”

The 12-room building will serve 1,400 stu-

See **SCHOOL**, Page A3

Bagram PRT headquarters maintains small footprint

By Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — As Afghanistan continues to move into its reconstruction phase, more reconstruction teams are being placed throughout the country and coalition forces are lending a hand to help the Afghan people get back on their feet.

To help the process along, the new Provincial Reconstruction Team headquarters is scheduled to open June 20 on Bagram in Motel 8 to better facilitate, coordinate and organize PRT needs and missions throughout Afghanistan.

“Right now, the PRT headquarters is located in Kabul but is being moved for a variety of different reasons,” said Master Sgt. Emanuel Valdez, operations noncommissioned officer in charge, 416th Engineer Command, Chicago, Ill. “With the move of (the Combined Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force) to Bagram, it’s

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Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner, 109th MPAD

Got your six...

Sgt. Robert Farmer, flight engineer, C Company, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky., watches as a dust devil chases their Chinook outside of a fire base in southern Afghanistan. For more about the Chinooks, see Page B1.

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Palestinians in Gaza City chant as they hold debris from a car attacked by Israeli helicopters.

Source: Israeli-Palestinian meeting possible

GAZA CITY — High-level Israeli and Palestinian officials might resume meetings as early as Saturday, a Palestinian source told CNN early Saturday.

Israeli and Palestinian sources said Friday that the two sides planned to discuss the possibility of Palestinian Security Chief Mohammed Dahlan assuming responsibility for part of Gaza — including keeping terrorists in the region in check and preventing Palestinians from firing Qassam rockets at Israeli targets.

Since June 5, Palestinians have fired 15 Qassam rockets at Israeli targets, according to the Israel Defense Forces. The latest attack Friday hit a house, Israeli military sources said. Israeli gunships later hit a car carrying Hamas militants transporting Qassams and a warehouse where rockets were stored, Israeli sources said.

A senior Israeli official said “there are some signs things are starting to move” in the discussions about the Palestinian authority taking control of security issues.

U.S. forces kill 27 attackers in Iraq

CNN — An “organized group” of attackers ambushed a U.S. tank patrol Friday north of Baghdad, sparking a battle that killed at least 27 of the assailants, U.S. Central Command said.

The attackers fired rocket-propelled grenades at the 4th Infantry Division patrol in Balad, according to a Central Command statement. The tanks immediately returned fire, killing four attackers and forcing the rest

to flee, the statement said.

Tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, backed by Apache helicopters, pursued the attackers, killing 23, according to Central Command.

This week near Balad, U.S. forces conducted a wide-ranging mission — dubbed Operation Peninsula Strike, capturing almost 400 suspected Iraqi fighters loyal to Saddam Hussein’s former regime.

Government: Al-Qaida witness ‘buries’ 9/11 defendant Moussaoui

CNN — Federal prosecutors in Virginia dispute the main claim behind Zacarias Moussaoui’s reason for wanting to call a key al-Qaida captive as a witness in his pending criminal trial, saying the witness would convict rather than exonerate Moussaoui.

Prosecutors say that alleged September 11 attack planner Ramzi Binalshibh “is not an exculpatory witness,” according to just-released oral arguments made by Assistant Attorney General Michael Chertoff.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has unsealed a heavily edited transcript of the June 3 court session where classified evidence was discussed out of public earshot.

The partially public hearing focused on the government’s appeal to block the January order of U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema permitting Moussaoui to conduct a remote video deposition with Binalshibh, a 31-year-old Yemeni detained as an “enemy combatant” overseas since his capture in Pakistan nine months ago.

The trial remains indefinitely delayed until this issue is resolved.

College student accused of creating fake airline

BOSTON — A college freshman created a fake airline that offered bargain-priced tickets on flights between Honolulu and Los Angeles, authorities said Thursday.

Luke Thompson, of Yardley, Penn., incorporated Mainline Airways in Pennsylvania, established a business address in the Boston suburb of Wellesley and set up an elaborate Web site, according to Massachusetts Attorney General Thomas Reilly.

Thompson, who attends Babson College in Wellesley, offered fares as low as \$89 one way between Los Angeles and Honolulu, Reilly said. Flights were to begin July 3, but Mainline had neither planes, crews nor the required permits and approvals as recently as a few weeks ago.

Thompson told The Associated Press that the allegations were “absolutely untrue,” but he did acknowledge that he was the only person behind the company, other than a consultant and an investor he did not identify.

“We had every intention of doing this operation,” he said. “We had 15 airlines we had contacted or were in serious negotiations with, regarding the actual providing of the (air) service.”

He offered no details on which airlines were involved.

Police hunt for answers among graves at home in Pennsylvania

WILKES-BARRE, Penn. — Pharmacist Michael Kerkowski’s short run as one of northeastern Pennsylvania’s biggest drug dealers ended in a shallow grave on a hillside littered with bodies.

The 37-year-old Kerkowski had been missing a year when his corpse was discovered June 5, buried along with the remains of his girlfriend behind the home of a one-time bank robber he had once called his best friend. The couple had been strangled.

Farther down the hill on the ex-convict’s property, investigators also found the charred bones of at least three more people, whose identities are unknown.

The grisly discoveries surprised prosecutors, who had insisted for months that Kerkowski was on the lam to avoid being sentenced for selling hundreds of thousands of doses of the painkillers OxyContin, Vicodin and Lorcet to addicts who visited his shop north of Wilkes-Barre in a region known to locals as the Back Mountain.

And after a week of digging, police are worried they have something bigger on their hands.

“Is this some sort of a dumping ground for bodies? We don’t know,” said state Trooper Martin Connors.

Blood chit: survival's last resort

Story and photo
Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — A helicopter crashes in a “hot” zone. Luckily, the troops inside are okay, but now they try to escape from the approaching enemy. There is nowhere to run or hide. After remembering techniques from a Survival, Escape, Resistance and Evasion class, one thing comes to mind — show a blood chit to a local.

A blood chit, translated in Chinese means “life payment.” It is normally used in combat search and rescue as a last resort for escape, said Capt. David Ortega, Rescue Coordination Cell here. When a servicemember presents a blood chit, he is asking the opposition to return him to friendly control in exchange for a reward. The blood chit is written in the language of the area of operation the servicemember is in.

Anyone can be in a convoy and get separated from their team, said Ortega.

Like the recent wrong turn made by the 507th Maintenance Company March 23 in the Iraq city of Nasirya, the importance for combat-support soldiers carrying blood chits is escalating, said Ortega.

“The ones who helped out Pfc. Jessica Lynch are now U.S. citizens,” said Ortega.

“Blood chits are controlled items (government property). They represent an obligation to the U.S. government. They are not souvenirs,” said Ortega.

This is a common misconception, said Ortega. A lot of soldiers don’t even know what they are.

Ortega, who has only been here about three weeks, already had three cases of found blood chits.

“This is relatively new to the Army,” he said. The Marines, Navy and Air Force have been using them longer, but today the Army has a rising need for them.

“A lot of people have (moved to a different duty assignment) and gone through all have their stuff and they found it.

“People that get them need to keep track of them. Those are the guys who really need to be responsible. The people that might find them need to know what they are so they can turn them back in.

“There is no reward, just gratitude,” said Ortega.

“We definitely want to decrease the loss (of blood chits),” said Ortega.

“It’s a high speculation or a guarantee that the blood chits will be part of every soldier’s packing list,” said Ortega. This is simply because you never know when something is going to happen.



Blood chit for Afghanistan theater.

If someone finds a blood chit they should bring it directly to the Rescue Coordination Cell located in the Joint Operations Center, said Ortega. If someone is responsible for a blood chit, they should do daily combat supply checks, he said. “Just like you keep track of your wallet.”



Girls sing during the groundbreaking ceremony for the upcoming Dasht-e Rabat primary school.

Parwan Province. The \$80,000-project, was funded by Overseas Humanitarian Disaster and Civic Actions funds.

According to Cepeil, construction began Friday and the project is estimated to take 90 days. Local contractors are tasked with building the school.

“The school will come complete with desks and chairs for students and teachers and a desk for the administration,” said Cepeil. “We require the contractor to provide chalk and erasers for the blackboards.”

“We coordinated with the mayor of Bagram district to decide on this location,” Cepeil added. “This has been a priority on our list of things to do since late 2002.”

The students sang and performed gymnastics during the ceremony to celebrate the beginning of their new school. Afterwards, Col. Kurt McNeely, commander, Bagram Air Base, and teachers for the new school enjoyed some Afghan food and discussed the importance of education to Afghanistan.

“Education is the probably the most important step that needs to be taken in the rebuilding of Afghanistan,” said McNeely.

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dents in grades one through five and facilitate students throughout

Quality of life initiatives headed to Orgun-e



A paratrooper with 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, does a set of curls in "The Yard" at Fire Base Harriman near the city of Orgun-e near the Pakistan border. The yard is a popular place to be early in the morning and as the sun sets.

Story and photo by
1st Lt. Cory Angell
109th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

FIRE BASE HARRIMAN, Afghanistan — Under the hot sun, men lift weights in a panned-in area to pass the time, an image often seen in movies depicting prison life. However, this is not a prison yard but rather an average day in the life of a soldier at Fire Base Harriman in Orgun-e, Afghanistan, not far from the Pakistan border.

Capt. Lucien Campillo, a company commander with 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., has been here since Jan. 14 and says the fire base is in a key location for projecting combat power.

"We have had 60 to 70 rocket attacks since I have been here," said Campillo

when asked about the threat level. "We are in a combat zone and every time these soldiers go outside the wire they go out with that mindset.

"For a long time, every soldier here was an infantryman," Campillo said. "If you were a cook you were out there pulling security. In a fire base you don't have the flexibility of a larger base. You can't just say, 'only the infantrymen are going to do the patrolling and pull the security.'"

With continuing combat operations and security always a concern, the leadership are also thinking about the quality of life for the soldiers at the remote location.

"I lift most every day," said Pfc. David Sieb, a combat medic with the 82nd Military Police Company (Airborne). "As long as there is time between missions I'll come over and lift."

Life at the fire base is improving on a daily basis. Engineers can be seen working hard constructing new buildings on the base.

"The toughest thing about being here is just being away from home," said Sieb. "If you have seen one fire base you've seen them all."

As far as comfort, soldiers can turn in their laundry to the locals and usually get a two or three-day turn around, and there is no complaining about the food.

"We have some good cooks here," said Sieb. "So the food's pretty good."

Even though no one complains about the food, Sieb said food in a care package from home is one thing that makes life for him at the fire base a little better, while another soldier, Sgt. Nelson Gil, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3-504th PIR, looks for other things in his mail.

"I like to get pictures from home," said Gil. "My wife is due in September and I like to see how she is doing."

The base does provide a Moral, Welfare and Recreation tent for the soldiers to use.

"We have one computer and three phones that we can use to call home on," said Gil.

Campillo said the phones and computer are among the most recent improvements and just arrived in the past week.

The fire base does not have a barber shop like the larger bases in Afghanistan so the soldiers learn fast how to make do.

"I got pretty good at cutting hair in just a couple of months," said Gil. "I cut the commander's hair all the time."

Both soldiers agreed that the improvements have made life a lot better.

"The Louisiana National Guard guys are life savers," Sieb said. "They made a lot of differences at (Fire Base) Shkin and here. There is nothing like coming back from a patrol and being able to take a hot shower."

Among the future improvements scheduled are panels to be built to shield the soldiers working out in the sun.

FREEDOM'S VOICES

Training hard for the real deal

Just my Opinion

Spc. Jonathan Lopez
307th Forward Surgical Battalion
Kandahar Air Field

(Editor's Note: Fifteen Afghan Militia Force soldiers were involved in a two-car, head-on collision June 2 on Highway 4 just outside of Kandahar Air Field. One AMF soldier was pronounced dead on arrival, while the other 14 were treated for serious to minor injuries. The soldiers were treated by KAF's medical staff.)

On June 2 there was a mass casualty incident, and the clinic received about 15 patients. My role was the medic in the delayed section of the mass casualty.

I remember that I was done for the day when the treatment platoon sergeant came into the tent and woke me up.

As a medical company, we usually practice mass casualty exercises so we are ready for the real deal; however, today was a day that the practice turned into the real thing. All my training had come into place. As I waited for the first ambulance to drop off the first patients, sweat and anticipation was growing, but I knew that I had to respond without hesitation.

The first person that I saw was a

trauma to the nose, which was bleeding profusely. In shock — the whole event was still taking place — I acted more or less on instinct. As I said before, we train the same way we would fight.

The idea behind this is to make sure we are ready at all times. After stabilizing the bleeding on the first patient, I then moved to other casualties and assisted our doctors, who had their hands full.

I have never doubted my training in any way, but I was always curious to see how I would respond if put to the test.

In field exercises we always practice mass casualties and how to operate during them. It is easier to practice on a patient without seeing what is really going on, but during this event I really saw the injuries that had taken place.

I had to react to what I saw, and saw how my interventions helped the patients.

It is sad to say that I was happy to be a part of this incident, but it proved to me that I am able and ready to do anything that was or is put in my direction.

You can expect panic and confusion in a setting like this; that is the

— See **COMMENTARY**, Page A6

STREET TALK

What will miss most about Afghanistan?



"Being in a different land — seeing a different culture."

Sgt. Joseph Conaty
450th CA Bn. (Abn.)
Riverdale, Md.

"The scenery."

Capt. Lawrence

Bleboo

Chaplain, Enduring
Faith Chapel



"Operational mission."

Air Force Master Sgt.

Scott Furnner

455th Expeditionary
Security Forces Sqdn.

"Hot temperatures, because I'm going back to New York."

Spc. Wesley Landrum

CJTF-180 PAO
Fort Drum, N.Y.



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more convenient to move the PRT as well.”

“The buildings the PRT is operating out of in Kabul are rented and costing the military a lot of money,” said Staff Sgt. William Halverson, PRT liaison officer for Konduz and Jalalabad.

“By moving the headquarters here, it’s more cost efficient,” he added.

Another fact that must be taken into consideration when relocating a headquarters, is its location in relation to different resources.

“Everything and everyone the PRT needs to interact with is centrally located on Bagram,” said Halverson. “There’s aircraft for logistical support, good sources of communication, different coalition headquarters and the personnel in charge of different operations that the PRT deals with frequently.”

Once the headquarters opens up shop at the end of the month, it will organize all the intelligence data on the different PRTs and distribute information and logistical support the PRTs need from one location.

“The headquarters ... will be in Motel 8 and will contain all the different cells needed to conduct PRT operations,” said Halverson. “Personnel, plans, intelligence,

logistics and everything else necessary to facilitate PRT needs will come out of the Bagram headquarters for most PRTs in Afghanistan.”

With all the moving, planning and reconstruction going on, the U.S. forces are not the only ones helping out.

“We have received a lot of offers from the different coalition forces wanting assist with many projects underway, and to even take over some PRTs,” said Halverson. “The Romanians have been a great help with the engineering aspect of projects in Kabul, and the British coalition may take over the PRT in (Masar-e Sharif) completely.”

According to Halverson, the main importance of having one headquarters building in one location is to maintain a small footprint.

“It is much better to have a small number of skilled professionals running things in one location, than a lot of people maintaining a large presence in different places,” he said.

“Multiple headquarter buildings require additional force protection assets that give the wrong impression to the Afghan people,” said Halverson. “We want to have the maximum effect while maintaining a small footprint.”

Father’s Day b-ball tourney

The Father’s Day single-elimination basketball tournament will be held Sunday at 0330Z.

There will be a BBQ all day with free hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks behind the court at Four Corners.

To play, sign up at Dragon Palace by Saturday. If anyone would like to referee visit Dragon Palace.

All players need to be at the game by 0230Z to find out when they will play.



Photo by Cpl. Keith Kluwe, 109th MPAD

Spc. Jonathan Lopez, 307th Forward Surgical Battalion combat medic, left, guides an 82nd Airborne Division soldier through the proper way to find a vein and draw blood during an intravenous therapy training course Wednesday.

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dangerous part of my job. That was not the case here — we all responded the way we practice in a training environment. That is why this incident was handled so smoothly.

Patients rely on us to remain calm and make the situation better for them. I am glad that I am a combat medic, and I know that people trust me with their personal care. I am very confident in what I do because if I begin to second-guess myself, then I would be putting the patient in danger, and that is something that I will never do.

To me the day was nothing different — I have been ready for something like this to happen so it was no surprise when it did. I have learned to train hard and when it happens again, you will not have any worries.

Routine ring routes anything but routine



82nd Airborne Division paratroopers load cargo onto a CH-47 Chinook.

Story and photos by
Spc. Jim Wagner
109th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Clearing a mountain ridge, the nose of the CH-47 Chinook dips abruptly to the ground.

The longitudinal cyclic trim computer controlling the twin rotors overcompensates while at the same time the pilot makes incremental adjustments, resisting the impulse to haul back on the stick, causing the nose to swing to the sky, a see-saw act that causes the stomachs of passengers to drop while their hearts simultaneously leap into their throats.

In the back, a soldier retches into a garbage bag. All in all, it's just another day on the yellow ring for C Company, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky.

The downdraft is common in the moun-

tainous regions of Afghanistan during the summertime, said pilot Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tyler Kipp, when air flowing up and over the mountain (called convective air flow) “sucks” the helicopter down the lee side. If uncorrected, the see-saw effect could result in 45-degree swings and a crash onto the desert floor.

With a casual command to the other pilot to switch the LCT from auto to manual, Kipp compensates for the swings and swiftly settles into a level flight again. In the back, you can see the 20 pale-faced soldiers sitting in the cargo seats quietly sigh in relief, although the one soldier continues to throw up into the improvised flight-sickness bag.

Downdrafts like this are just one of many challenges aircrews face when flying the resupply routes from Kandahar Air Field to the fire bases scattered along the Pakistan border.

See **CHINOOK**, Page B3

Cookie's creations beautify Dragon DFAC

Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Kellogg, Brown and Root cooks breakfast and dinner for servicemembers here, but one employee tries to add a little more flare at the Dragon Dining Facility.

Roberto “Cookie” Del Toro carves the garnishings for the Dining Facility. When he first arrived here he worked the garnishes during his free time, but due to their popularity, his boss allows him time during work.

“If the garnishings are not there people ask about them,” said Del Toro.

Del Toro makes animals and flowers regularly, but also creates other items.

“Most of them are just my imagination. I go into the cooler and grab something, look at it and figure out what I can make out of it,” said Del Toro. “My favorite was a bouquet of roses I made out of strawberries. People had to actually go up and look really close to be able to tell they weren’t really flowers.”

Del Toro started carving garnishes about six years ago.

“When I first got into the culinary arts, I went to a chef meeting while I was an intern, and the first thing that caught my eye was that they had really nice garnishings. Seeing that opened a new part of the culinary world for me,” he said.

Now, Del Toro does the garnishes for his family and wherever else he works.

“At home, I usually do them for Thanksgiving and Christmas for family get-togethers. My family expects it now,” said Del Toro.

“Everywhere I’ve worked I’ve done it. People like it — like to see them,” he added.

Del Toro has learned some from other chefs, but credits his imagination with most of his creations.

“Most stuff comes from my imagination. I learn different styles and techniques from different chefs. I improvise with whatever I have,” he said.

Working here with Brown and Root is like a dream come true for Del Toro.

“I wanted to join the military, but I’ve had medical problems so

See **COOKIE**, Page B3

Music Notes (Compiled from MTV.com)



Snoop, 50 Cent join forces; D-O-Double G does song with Marvin Gaye

When you mention hip-hop superpowers, obviously the 50 Cent, Eminem and Dr. Dre holy mic trinity comes to mind. However, the streets will soon be toasting to the teamwork by 50 and Snoop Dogg.

After blazing the mixtapes and radio with the remix to "P.I.M.P." (Snoop rhymes about being a "C.R.I.P." on the record), members of both the MCs' camps have been putting down more work in the studio together. Some of the music they've birthed pops up this week in a handful of new mixtapes put together by 50's turntablist, DJ Whoo Kid.

First there's part two to the G-Unit Radio CD series, *International Ballers*. This mixtape features Lloyd Banks, Snoop and Nate Dogg on "From Southside to Long Beach," and the dirty South's Lil' Flip teams up with G-Unit on "Get That Money, Man." And you know no G-Unit mixtape would be complete without a dis aimed at Murder Inc.

"It Is What It Is" finds 50 freestyling over the track for Talib Kweli's "Get By," sending more shots at the Murder Inc. camp ("You little monkey Irv ...You little jack***," he rhymes before laughing that the fans are not feeling Ashanti), and clarifying that he has no beef with Scarface or Bun B.

Fat Joe, 'Idol' Ruben Studdard team up

Clive Davis didn't become the most successful executive in pop-music history by talking trash. So when the legendary president of J Records said that he was hoping to add some street appeal to Ruben Studdard's upcoming debut by hooking the "American Idol" champion up with hip-hop heavyweight Fat Joe, you can bet someone, somewhere, was already booking the studio time.

Early last week, the Birmingham-big-boy-meets-Bronx-bomber collaboration became a reality, when Studdard and Joe headed into New York's Quad Recording Studios with R&B/pop producer Harold Lilly to track



Ruben Studdard.

according to J Records.

"Ruben is a gentle giant, and my son loves his work, so that gives me good points with him," Fat Joe said of working with the rising star. "The song is a hot summer banger that will introduce Ruben to the world not as an 'American Idol,' but as a professional."

Linkin Park singer recovers, speaks for first time since hospital admittance

Linkin Park singer Chester Bennington will not need surgery for the chest and stomach pains that caused him to check into a hospital for nine days on May 30, and is feeling much better, a spokesperson at the band's label said.

Doctors have instructed Bennington to rest for the next two to three weeks, after which they expect he should be fully recovered and ready to join the band at a warm-up show for the Summer Sanitarium Tour in Las Vegas on June 27 and at the launch of the tour July 4 in Pontiac, Michigan.

"I plan on ripping everyone's face off this summer on Summer Sanitarium," Bennington wrote in a post on the official Linkin Park Web site.

He also shed some light on the illness that forced the band to postpone its European tour. "Right now it seems like it was some bacteria or virus that spread throughout my intestines and body, putting me in intense pain," he said. "It also would not let me eat for a week. We are working on when

"Can I Get Your Attention?" The song is set to appear on Studdard's as-yet-untitled debut LP, scheduled to hit stores August 19, ac-

we will be making up the missed European headline dates, and I am really bummed we had to miss the festivals."

Dr. Dre working on score for 'Bad Boys II'

Dr. Dre is a bad boy too.

He's not in "Bad Boys II" (rather, he has a cameo in the competing "Hollywood Homicide"), and he doesn't have a song on Bad Boy Records soundtrack, but he's involved in the film and its music. For the first time in his distinguished career, Dre is working on the score of a movie.

The producer behind some of Eminem and 50 Cent's biggest hits is in his studio now, working on music for the Will Smith/Martin Lawrence action comedy, according to his spokesperson.

A spokesperson for the film said Dre is making beats to aid composer Trevor Rabin ("Bad Company," "Armageddon"). It is not known whether the score will be released as an album.

Featuring Nelly, Lenny Kravitz, Beyoncé Knowles and others, the soundtrack is due July 15, three days before the movie hits theaters.

Dre took a break from producing Ice Cube and Eve to score the movie. He's also working on his third album, which he claims will be his last.

"Bad Boys II" is said to be action-packed, but it also finds Smith smitten with his partner's sister, played by Gabrielle Union.

Bagram Air Base
MWR presents

1430Z at the MWR building: Latin Party.

Tomorrow night's movie was unavailable at press time.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tyler Kipp, C Company, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment pilot, looks over the aircraft's cargo manifest on a yellow ring flight through southern Afghanistan Friday.

CHINOOK, from Page B1

The green, yellow and purple rings run once a week each, delivering food, water, mail — whatever is needed.

Chinooks give every impression of being unwieldy, slow-moving troop and cargo transports. It's dubbed by many as a "flying breadbox." In reality, the Chinook is faster than a Blackhawk or Apache — Chinooks need to slow down to allow the escort helicopters to keep up — and anyone who has flown the Chinook on an air assault can testify to the aircraft's mobility when it's flying knap of the earth, the contour-hugging maneuvers used to avoid detection by enemy forces.

The constant flying schedule plays havoc on the CH-47; the combination of dust, heat and flying schedule result in perpetual on-the-fly fixes to unavoidable maintenance problems en route. Despite maintenance before and after every flight, as well as phase maintenance every 200 flight hours, it's unavoidable for little problems to crop up during a flight, said Sgt. Robert Farmer, C Company, 7-101st AR, crew chief.

"Generally, there's always going to be something little to fix," he said. "There are different types of faults — flyable and non-flyable — a very small percentage are non-flyable faults."

Upon their return, crew chiefs consult

with other maintainers to fix the problem.

At every stop along the yellow ring, cargo and personnel are unloaded or loaded for fire bases along the route. Despite three mission briefs before each ring flight to determine cargo and personnel loads, last-minute modifications seem to be inevitable.

These modifications put a lot of pressure on the crew chiefs to make room for the changes, since they affect the weight being transported by the Chinooks, which can handle only around 12,500 pounds maximum with Afghanistan's altitude and temperatures.

"It can be very frustrating for the flight engineers," said Kipp, "to get everything onto the aircraft."

Despite the challenges, or maybe because of them, Chinook aircrews are close and very loyal to the flying breadbox they fly. Talk exists of the rivalry that exists between Chinook crews and their single-rotor peers, but it's all a matter perspective according to one pilot.

"I think this is the life," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mordichah Thomas, a Chinook pilot for the past three years. "We have an outstanding crew; it's the right community for me. I don't know if the Apache pilots are as close with their crews.

"I'm sure if I was a Blackhawk or Apache pilot, I'd say the same thing," he added with a grin.

The 7-101st AR is currently training their replacement unit from the Connecticut and Pennsylvania Army National Guard to take over Chinook operations at Kandahar.



Photo by Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

Roberto "Cookie" Del Toro carves a garnish for decoration in the Dragon Dining Facility.

COOKIE, from Page B1

I've never been able to join," he said. "I'm doing what I love to do and get to work with the military which is something I've always wanted to do."

Del Toro has even started teaching other employees to carve.

"Other (Brown and Root employees) want to learn. I tell them to just use their imagination. Some turn out wrong and the guys get frustrated, but they just need to keep trying and that's what I tell them," said Del Toro. "It comes easy for me so I think everyone can do it, but you have to be skilled with your knife."

Del Toro thinks this is a great thing for the soldiers and enjoys doing it.

"The soldiers appreciate it and it makes the dining room look better. It makes people feel better with their surroundings and helps morale," said Del Toro. "I'm just trying to do my part."

Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



Roger Clemens finally made it to win 300.

Clemens also joins 4,000K Club

NEW YORK — Roger Clemens got his milestones two at a time.

The Rocket finally reached 300 wins Friday night and entered an even more exclusive club, becoming only the third pitcher with 4,000 strikeouts, as he led the New York Yankees over the St. Louis Cardinals 5-2.

Clemens (7-4) was the 21st pitcher to make it 300, doing it on his fourth try.

Clemens allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings and struck out 10, raising his total to 4,006 on an unusually cool, damp night. He threw 120 pitches before handing a 3-2 lead to New York's bullpen for his third straight start.

This time, Chris Hammond, Antonio Osuna and Mariano Rivera held on.

A sellout crowd of 55,214 cheered while Clemens' teammates hugged him in the dugout after the final out.

Corked bat penalty reduced by one game

NEW YORK — Sammy Sosa's suspension for using a corked bat was reduced Wednesday to seven games by Major League Baseball, which accepted his explanation that he simply made a mistake.

Sosa will begin serving the suspension Wednesday night. His appeal was heard Tuesday in Baltimore, where the Chicago Cubs began a three-game interleague series against the Orioles.

"I am convinced of the sincerity of Sosa's explanation and his contrition," Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, said. "In my opinion, his candor and the promptness of his apology on the night of June 3 were exemplary.

"However, at the end of the day, each player must be accountable for his own equipment complying with the rules, whether the violation is deliberate or inadvertent."

Sosa, one of the game's great home run hitters, was suspended for eight games Friday by Bob Watson, baseball's vice president in

charge of discipline, but the appeal allowed him to play until the ruling was made.

Nelson resigns from umpiring

ESPN — Ralph Nelson, Major League Baseball's vice president of umpiring, resigned Thursday, ending a three-year tenure marred by disagreements between the league and baseball's umpires, most recently over the QuesTec Umpire Information System.

Nelson, whose job it was to coordinate all of the league's umpiring activities, only a week ago had compared baseball's umpires to the children of a dysfunctional family.

"They just don't like being judged," Nelson told the Arizona Republic. "The analogy I use is that of a divorced family. The kids go to dad's house and have ice cream for breakfast. They come home to mom and have to live by stricter rules. So, of course, they want to stay at dad's house. They want to eat ice cream."

Sandy Alderson, baseball's executive vice president, was not available for comment Friday afternoon. But Rob Manfred, baseball's vice president of labor relations, told *ESPN.com* that Nelson "was not terminated and this has absolutely nothing to do with QuesTec or any other issue related to the supervision of umpires."

Devil Rays manager offers incentive

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS — Lou Piniella is dyeing for a three-game winning streak.

The Tampa Bay manager said Friday that he will dye his hair any "legitimate hair color" the players want if the struggling Devil Rays put together three straight wins.

"I told the players if they can win three games in a row at any time this year, I'll dye my hair any color they want," Piniella said. "How about that one? I told them no purple. It's got to be a legitimate hair color."

Tampa Bay started Friday mired in a seven-game losing streak. The Devil Rays have won a season-high two straight games six times.

The longest losing streak in Piniella's 2,519 game managerial career is 10 while with the Cincinnati Reds in 1991.

Phillips fired with Mets in last place

NEW YORK — Steve Phillips was fired Thursday as general manager of the New York Mets, who are mired in last place despite one of highest payrolls in the major leagues.

The Mets reached the World Series in 2000 under Phillips, but have been unable to come close to matching that success. The team has been plagued by poor play and clubhouse rifts ever since.

The team had hoped to turn its fortunes around this season with

SPORTS, from Page B4

new manager Art Howe and several high-profile signings, including pitcher Tom Glavine and outfielder Cliff Floyd. The team had the second-highest payroll in the majors on Opening Day (\$116.9 million) behind the Yankees (\$149.7 million).

The Mets (28-35) got off to a bad start and never recovered, hurt by injuries and inconsistent play by their stars.

Knee surgery puts Vizquel out at least three weeks

CLEVELAND — Cleveland Indians shortstop Omar Vizquel had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee Thursday and was placed on the 15-day disabled list by the Indians, who hope their best fielder and most popular player won't be out for long.

Vizquel, who tore cartilage in his knee while making a slide into home plate last week against the Arizona Diamondbacks, will be sidelined for at least three weeks. It's his first trip to the DL since 1994.

To fill Vizquel's roster spot, the Indians called up infielder John Peralta from Triple-A Buffalo.

Vizquel, a nine-time Gold Glove winner, got hurt last Friday when he jammed and twisted his knee while sliding into the soft dirt near home plate at Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix.

The Indians complained about excessive sand around the plate and the area was watered and tamped for the final two games of the series.

"The dirt around home plate was terrible," Vizquel said. "I dove in and got stuck."

Third baseman retires

PHOENIX — Five-time All-Star Matt Williams, who had been the last of the original Arizona Diamondbacks until recently being released, announced his retirement Thursday.

Williams, who had 378 career home runs, spent the past 5-1/2 seasons with the Diamondbacks. Though he still had a year left on his contract, he was designated for assignment by the team June 1.

"I know for a fact Matty went out there on that playing field many, many times when he was way less than 100 percent because he expected it of himself and he knew his teammates expected him to do it," Arizona manager Bob Brenly said.

Williams agent, Joe Longo, said Thursday that the player had talked to several teams but ultimately decided to stay home with his family.

"It was more a matter of his family. He couldn't find a reason to continue playing," Longo said.

Solution from Friday's Step On It Crossword in the Freedom Watch

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

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By Mark Baker

Pvt. Murphy's Law

Kandahar chapel hours

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Bagram chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1400Z — 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

- ❖ 0300Z- Liturgical Service
- ❖ 0400,0730,1130Z-General Protestant Service
- ❖ 0530Z-Roman Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1230Z-Latter Day Saints

Monday

- ❖ 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

Tuesday

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Biblestudy

Wednesday

- ❖ 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Midweek Praise Service

Thursday

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

Friday

- ❖ 1400Z-Jewish Service
- ❖ 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

- ❖ 1400Z-Biblestudy

Saturday

- ❖ 0400Z-Jewish Service
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

CJCMOTF
chapel
hours

Sunday

- ❖ 1100Z — Christina service
- ❖ 1430Z — U.S. Embassy service
- ❖ 1900Z — Christina service

Wednesday

- ❖ 1900Z — Bible study

2nd & 4th Thursdays

- ❖ 1900Z — Roman Catholic mass



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<i>e</i>	Hi — 93F Lo — 57F	Hi — 97F Lo — 51F	Hi — 79F Lo — 55F	Hi — 102F Lo — 70F
<i>r Monday</i>				

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.