

## Engineers bring needles out of haystacks

Story and photo by Sgt. Greg Heath  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – When searching for weapon caches, finding the proverbial “needle in a haystack” isn’t nearly as hard for infantrymen when the engineers of Co. A, 307<sup>th</sup> Eng. Battalion, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division accompany them on combat operations.

Engineers are normally known for their expertise in breaching obstacles and clearing minefields, but in Afghanistan they help infantry soldiers take weapons out of the enemy’s hands as they sweep compounds in remote villages and find hidden caches that would normally go overlooked.

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*Pfc. Corey Wilkens (right), Co. A, 307<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. uses a mine detector over a mound of hay to search for hidden weapons caches. The 307<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. prove to be an asset to infantry units.*

## Ambulance drivers save lives in the fast lane

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – It’s the precious seconds that lie in-between the point of injury and the emergency room that a patient places his life in the safekeeping of the soldiers from the 36<sup>th</sup> Area Support Medical Company, Task Force 44.

“Out here, we pretty much have one job, and it’s to provide emergency care en route to the hospital,” said Spc. Willie D. Ardis, a Front Line Ambulance driver with the 36<sup>th</sup> ASMC. That responsibility can mean the “difference between life and death for a lot of people.”

It’s these soldiers’ responsibility to keep a patient alive from when they load a patient into a U.S. Army ambulance to when they pass the patient to medics waiting at the U.S.

Hospital on Bagram Air Base, said 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jeff K. Robbins, the platoon leader for the five-man team.

They work 12-hour shifts with two soldiers per shift, and very little time off, said Robbins. “They can either be very busy, which they usually are, or they infrequently have some down time,” he said. “They can go on as few as five or six runs, but generally upwards of ten or more a day between the two shifts,” he said.

In this combat environment, the ambulatory team stays busy usually treating local nationals, and “it is intense because 90 percent of the (patients) we pick up are trauma (patients),” said Sgt. Nancy E. Kindle, an FLA driver with the 36<sup>th</sup> ASMC. They usually have “injuries that are recent, and injuries that are usually serious like gunshot wounds and mine blasts,” she said.

These soldiers are trained Emergency Medical Technicians with Advanced Trauma

Life Support training, so they are well capable of providing “the next echelon of care from point of injury,” said Robbins. Patients are usually picked up at an entry control point, on the flight line after a patient has been airlifted from the point of injury to Bagram, or at a local Afghan hospital for a routine visit to the U.S. hospital on Bagram, said Robbins.

But for emergency situations, “we’ll treat (the patient) best we can on site,” said Ardis.

“A lot of them have life threatening wounds and if we don’t treat it right there on the spot and stabilize the patient, they wouldn’t make it to the hospital,” said Cpl. Sean L. Cross, an FLA driver with the 36<sup>th</sup> ASMC. Their reactions have to be “fast and furious,” said Cross.

With the two-man team, there’s always a

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. troops inspect a water main while Iraqis cool off in a flooded highway underpass Sunday.

## Baghdad streets flood after pipeline explosion

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Half of Baghdad is without running water and streets have flooded after a pipeline exploded Sunday from an apparent act of sabotage, military officials said.

The water pipeline burst in the Adamiya neighborhood, coalition spokesman Charles Heatley told reporters.

Two oil pipelines have also exploded and caught fire in Iraq this weekend. Although all three pipelines seem to have been sabotaged, Heatley said military officials don't believe the attacks were the work of an organized group.

The U.S. military is investigating eyewitness reports that the second oil pipeline was deliberately set on fire.

U.S. Central Command said pilots reported the fire northwest of Mosul, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The first pipeline, running from an oil field near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk to the Turkish port city of Ceyhan, was sabotaged and set aflame Saturday, apparently by supporters of deposed President Saddam Hussein.

U.S. administrators say restoring the oil industry infrastructure and getting Iraqi oil to market is vital to jump-starting Iraq's economy.

Iraqi oil minister Thamer Ghadbhan told reporters Saturday that the explosion occurred at 3 a.m. [7 p.m. Friday EDT] about 12 miles [20 kilometers] north of an oil-pumping station in Beji and caused it to rupture.

The fire was under control, but it will take five to seven days to repair the damaged pipeline, Ghadbhan said.

No suspects have been identified in the explosion, he said.

## Cameraman killed by U.S. troops

BAGHDAD, Iraq – *Reuters* cameraman Mazen Dana, an award-winning journalist who had covered some of the world's hottest spots, has been shot dead while filming near a U.S.-run prison on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Eyewitnesses said Dana, 43, was shot by soldiers on an American tank as he filmed outside Abu Ghraib prison in western Baghdad.

His last pictures show a U.S. tank driving towards Dana outside the prison walls. Several shots ring out from the tank, and Dana's camera falls to the ground.

The U.S. military acknowledged on Sunday that its troops had "engaged" a *Reuters* cameraman, saying they had thought his camera was a rocket propelled grenade launcher.

"Army soldiers engaged an individual they thought was aiming an RPG at them. It turned out to be a *Reuters* cameraman," Navy captain Frank Thorp, a spokesman for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told *Reuters* in Washington.

Journalists had gone to the prison after the U.S. military said a mortar bomb attack there a day before had killed six Iraqis and wounded 59 others.

Recounting the moments before the shooting, *Reuters* soundman Nael al-Shyoukhi, who was working with Dana, said he had asked a U.S. soldier near the prison if they could speak to an officer and was told they could not.

"They saw us and they knew about our identities and our mission," Shyoukhi said. The incident happened in the afternoon in daylight.

The soldier agreed to their request to film an overview of the prison from a bridge nearby.

"After we filmed we went into the car and prepared to go when a convoy led by a tank arrived and Mazen stepped out of the car to film. I followed him and Mazen walked three to four meters (yards). We were noted and seen clearly," Shyoukhi said.

"A soldier on the tank shot at us. I lay on the ground. I heard Mazen and I saw him scream and touching his chest.

"I cried at the soldier, telling him you killed

a journalist. They shouted at me and asked me to step back and I said 'I will step back, but please help, please help and stop the bleed'.

"They tried to help him but Mazen bled heavily. Mazen took a last breath and died before my eyes."



West African peacekeepers ask rebels to withdraw behind the Po River near Monrovia

## Liberian rebels to take role in interim government

ACCRA, Ghana – Liberian rebels have reached an agreement with U.N. negotiators that will give them a role in the transitional government that is to take over in October, U.N. officials said Sunday.

The pact likely will be signed Monday — one week after President Charles Taylor stepped down — and might lead to democratic elections, the officials said.

At talks in Accra, rebel groups who had been fighting Taylor's government conceded the positions of president and vice president. However, they asked for the right to advance candidates for deputy speaker of the legislature, and also want that body slightly enlarged, the officials said.

The U.N. and West African peacekeepers in Liberia had told the rebels that they could not hold the presidency and vice presidency.

The rebels contended that unless they get a voice in the government, they might not be able to persuade their supporters to disarm.

Earlier this month, the main rebel group — Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, or LURD — rejected President Moses Blah's offer of the vice presidency. Instead, the rebels said they wanted one of their own to serve as president in the interim government that will replace Blah in October.

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“We’re pretty much infantry guys with demolition skills,” said Co. A engineer Pfc. Corey Wilkens, who’s been on at least 16 combat operations with 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn. Div. infantry units. “Normally (infantry soldiers) clear the building and make sure there’s no bad guys, then we’ll go in and search anywhere there could be weapons or ammunition.”

During combat operations a couple of engineers are assigned to each infantry squad.

“We run the mine detector over (any suspected areas), and if we get any hits then we’ll tear into it,” Wilkens added.

In the past they’ve had to break through walls, false floors, dig through hay stacks to find hidden caches and weapons.

“Wilkens added that most weapons caches are buried under things inside of houses.

Most recently during Operation Devil Fury, the engineers were called to search

through a waist-high haystack. After digging through it they uncovered a disassembled anti-aircraft heavy machine gun.

For the engineers, despite finding large weapons caches in the past, digging through dusty haystacks and grimy stables isn’t the most glamorous or desirable task in the world.

“One time we’ve had to sweep over a pile of (animal waste) and that’s not fun, there could be something hidden in there,” said Wilkens. “But luckily that time we didn’t detect anything.”

“Sometimes we’ll spend a lot of time digging through things being cautious and come up empty handed that’s a big disappointment,” said Co. A engineer Cpl. Jesse Burleigh.

But often, the engineers serve as a lucky charm for the infantry soldiers conducting village searches when it comes to finding big weapons caches.

“I don’t think we would have found (the machine gun) if we didn’t have them,” said infantryman Pfc. David Gagne, Co. C, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn. Div., referring to the anti-aircraft machine gun they found during Devil Fury.

“It’s good to have the engineers around; we definitely need more engineers out here with us,” Gagne added.

During Operation Warrior Sweep last month, the engineers uncovered thousands of pounds of explosives, which was more than they’d found total since they’d been here, said Burleigh.

Another important job of the engineers is disposing of the weapons caches after finding them. The engineers get to dispose of caches with C-4 explosives they bring along with them on every mission.

Disposal of the caches is where the engineers get the most job satisfaction, according to Burleigh.

“I could blow smoke up your butt and tell you that it feels good taking (weapons) out of the enemy’s hands,” Burleigh said. “but I just like blowing stuff up, that’s where all the fun’s at.”

**AMBULANCE**, from Page 1

*Spc. Will D. Ardin, 36th ASMC, checks his medical supplies to ensure he is fully prepared for his job as a front line ambulance driver.*

primary medic, but when they get to a scene, they both get out and load the patient in. “The person not driving sits in back and continues treatment if need be,” said Robbins. “They’re all equally qualified, so they do take turns.”

On the dash back to the hospital, the primary medic sustains the patient’s life with an ambulance full of medical tools at his or her disposal, said Robbins. The U.S. Army ambulance they drive is “basically designed like any ambulance you would see in the civilian world” when it comes to the medical tools available, said Robbins. “It’s just the Army version of them.”

“We do life-saving interventions right there” in the ambulance where the medics can give a patient life-saving oxygen, or restart a patient’s heart with the ambulance’s built in defibrillators, said Spc. Devon B. Hutcherson, an FLA driver with the 36<sup>th</sup> ASMC.

Even with all the necessary capabilities on hand, lives can still be lost, and that’s a reality each soldier has learned to deal with on his or her own.

“The hardest part about my job is dealing with the children; seeing them wounded, or hurt, or even killed,” said Cross. “At the time you’ve just got to shrug it off, but later on you talk to people, you talk to your friends and fellow coworkers about it,” he said.

“I just kind of ignore it,” said Hutcherson. “I know that sounds cold blooded, but I have to kind of have to block it out because if I freak out, then they don’t get here, and someone could possibly die,” he said. “So I stay calm; I look past it.” It’s that attitude that gets him through the day, he said.

At the end of each shift, each soldier leaves with a feeling of accomplishment, knowing that the next day is another day to save lives.

“I leave here every night knowing that I did something good; something right,” said Hutcherson.

# Afghanistan leaders and Coalition meet to discuss ANA

**GHAZNI, Afghanistan** – The future success of the Afghan National Army (ANA) depends on educating the people of Afghanistan about the new Army, winning their support, and recruiting quality volunteers from all ethnic groups in Afghanistan.

Recently, numerous members of the Karzai Administration, including Minister of Information and Culture, Minister of Justice, Minister of Transportation, Minister of Reconstruction, Minister of Irrigation and Environment, Deputy Minister of Defense, and Coalition leaders traveled to Ghazni to promote ANA awareness.

This is the eleventh such visit conducted in recent months.

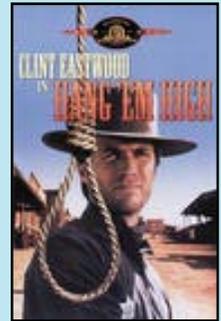
The townspeople and provincial officials, including the Governor of Ghazni, the Honorable Haji Asadullah Khalid, welcomed the guests to their province in a festive manner, lining the streets and applauding as the visitors walked to the outdoor meeting area. After selected verses from the Holy Quran were recited, the meeting began with Governor Asadullah expressing his appreciation and support for this event, as well as for the Central Government, and for the ANA.

During his address to the assemblage, Deputy Minister of Defense, Lt. Gen. Baryalai said “the ANA Central Corps and the three brigade commanders (for the new ANA) have been selected and approved by President Karzai. He reassured listeners “the choosing of soldiers and officers will be fair and impartial and will not be dependent on ethnic background, but rather on merit.” Each of the ministers then expressed their views with one idea consistent throughout their presentations - that there is a definite requirement for having a strong National Army for the peace and future prosperity of Afghanistan.

*(Information from CJTF-180 Press Release)*

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Hang’em High.” When an innocent man barely survives a lynching, he returns as a lawman determined to bring the vigilantes to justice.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Good, The Bad, The Ugly.”

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Dusty H: 99F L: 72F	Dusty H: 95F L: 72F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 106F L: 72F	Dusty H: 104F L: 72F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Dusty H: 97F L: 64F	Dusty H: 95F L: 64F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Clear H: 102F L: 60F	Clear H: 100F L: 62F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

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Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

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In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of Freedom Watch are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Micheel's 164th PGA Tour event produced his first win.

## Micheel wins PGA after remarkable back-nine duel

**ROCHESTER, N.Y.** – Not many knew Shaun Micheel until this weekend. No one will forget the shot that won him the PGA Championship.

Clinging to a one-shot lead, Micheel hit a 7-iron from the first cut of rough that stopped 3 inches from the cup for a tap-in birdie and a two-stroke victory, the final touch to the most surprising season of major championships in 34 years.

From 174 yards away, the ball descended from the blue skies over Oak Hill, hopped three times and trickled toward the cup. Micheel knew it was good from the roar of the crowd.

He didn't know how good until he jogged up the steep slope of shaggy grass in front of the green and saw only 3 inches of grass between his ball and the hole. He removed his cap and waved it in celebration.

Winless in 163 previous starts on the PGA Tour, ranked No. 169 in the world when he arrived at Oak Hill for the final major of the year, Micheel closed with an even-par 70 and won \$1.08 million.

It was a fitting end to a wild summer.

Just one month ago, 26-year-old rookie Ben Curtis, ranked 396th in the world and playing in his first major, captured the British Open.

The victory by Micheel is the first time since 1969 that the four majors were swept by players who had never won a Grand Slam event.

Mike Weir became the first Canadian and first lefty to win the Masters. Jim Furyk picked up his first major at the U.S. Open. Both were proven winners, among golf's elite.

The last two were shockers.

Micheel, who finished at 4-under 276, was playing in only his third major. At times it showed, but not when it mattered.

Micheel became the first person since John Daly in 1991 to make the PGA Championship his first victory.



Michael Vick might not return until Oct. 5 against the Vikings.

## Vick sidelined for at least six weeks

**ATLANTA** – Michael Vick won't be around for the start of what was supposed to be a breakout season for the Atlanta Falcons.

He fractured his right fibula Saturday night in a 13-10 exhibition loss to Baltimore, and Falcons owner Arthur Blank said the star quarterback will be sidelined at least six weeks. "He's upset. He's a very committed guy, and he carries the leadership role of this team on his shoulders very heavily," Blank said. "He's in a lot of personal pain, not in a lot of physical pain, but personal pain and frustration."

Blank said Vick wouldn't have surgery. ESPN's Len Pasquarelli reported that, according to his sources, Vick will be re-evaluated on Sunday.

If he's out six weeks, he'll miss the first four games of the regular season, and would return Oct. 5 against Minnesota.

"I am terribly disappointed," Vick said in a statement. "But this is the ultimate team sport and we will have to keep playing. I have confidence that these guys and coaches can get it done."

The Ravens (1-1) held off Atlanta despite a 67-yard fumble return for a touchdown by Falcons rookie Bryan Scott with 1:51 left. After Atlanta recovered an onside kick, third-string quarterback Kurt Kittner threw an interception, sealing the Falcons' second loss in two games.

Baltimore rookie Kyle Boller, battling Chris Redman and Anthony Wright for the starting quarterback job, threw a 1-yard TD pass to Terry Jones Jr. in the third quarter, and Matt Stover added two field goals.

The Falcons, looking for back-to-back winning seasons for the first time in franchise history, acquired wide receiver Peerless Price in the offseason to give Vick help. Now, Price will work with backup quarterback Doug Johnson.

"We've got to get to practice now and get to work with Doug, get his timing down a little," Price said. "I don't know what to say. You don't want to see anybody get hurt, especially Mike, but we've got to keep it going."

Vick got off to a rough start against the Ravens, getting sacked on the first play and throwing an interception on the next one. He finished 0-for-4, and rushed for 8 yards.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Powell apologise for fire on Pakistani soldiers

**CJTF-180** (*News Australia*) – U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell has apologised for the recent deaths of Pakistani soldiers shot by American troops in friendly fire incidents.

Powell also reiterated the importance Washington attaches to its relations with Pakistan.

He said that America was investigating the killing of the two Pakistani soldiers last Monday along the Afghan-Pakistan border, the Pakistan Foreign Ministry said in a brief news release.

The U.S. military has said its troops - patrolling the Afghan side of the border - were shooting at unidentified assailants when they fired on the Pakistanis.

The Pakistani troops were at the Imal Khel post in the North Waziristan tribal region in northern Pakistan, the Pakistani military has said.

Taliban and al-Qaida fugitives are believed to be hiding out in Pakistan's tribal region bordering Afghanistan.

Pakistani troops patrol the area searching for the fugitives, while American forces operate along the border on the Afghan side.

Last Thursday, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf met with US Ambassador Nancy Powell and demanded that an immediate inquiry be conducted into the killings.

The diplomat, who is not related to the Secretary of State, also expressed regret and said a probe was underway.

## Abdulla Al Madani: Afghanistan takes another step in the right direction

**CJTF-180** (*Gulf News*) – In April 2003, Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai announced the formation of a commission consisting of 35 prominent Afghan figures to draft a new constitution for the country. Since then the commission has been secretly working round the clock to get its task done.

Its chairman and members have fanned out across the country in recent weeks to get acquainted with public views and demands for the final draft of the constitution which will be considered at a loya jirga (grand council) in October.

It seems that apart from the remnants of the former Taliban regime and its supporters, the majority of Afghans look at the commission with a sense of satisfaction and hold its chairman, Vice President Nematulla Sherani, in esteem, describing him as the man who draws the features of future Afghanistan.

This is not surprising given the fact that Sherani combines the conservatism that does not rise to the level of Taliban extremism and the modernity that does not challenge the traditional values of Afghan society.

With his traditional long coat, his white turban, and grey beard, Sherani gives the impression that he is one of Afghanistan's fundamentalist mullahs. But in fact, he conceals

behind such an appearance a moderate and realistic personality, in addition to extensive knowledge and experience acquired from studying Islamic law (shariah) and corporate law at the universities of Kabul, Al Azhar University in Cairo, and George Washington University in Washington.

Of course, the assignment given to Sherani and his colleagues is not an easy one. They face the task of crafting a constitution that meets the conditions prevailing in the modern democracies on the one hand, and the peculiar nature of a conservative society dominated by bitter tribal, ethnic and sectarian divisions and conflicts on the other.

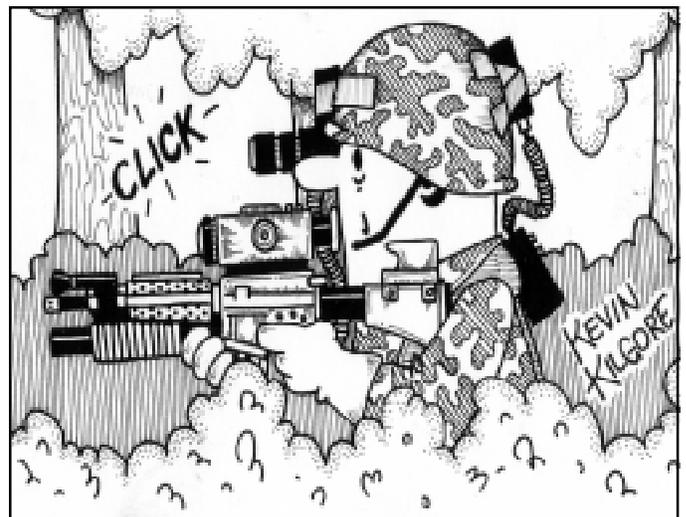
So far nothing has leaked out about the contents of the new constitution.

It is unclear how the commission will deal with such issues as Afghanistan's future identity, its political system and its administrative divisions.

Equally unclear is the commission's treatment of the principal predicament that has always caused disputes and tensions among Afghans: ambitions of the country's ethnic minorities to manage their own affairs in isolation from a Pashtun-dominated central authority.

The Pashtuns are known for their support of a powerful central state as opposed to the concepts of federalism and maximum autonomy which are advocated by the Tajiks, Uzbeks, Turkmans and other ethnic groups.

**"SYSTEM ERROR: SHUT DOWN  
WILL OCCUR IN FIVE SECONDS,  
THANK YOU."**



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By Kevin Kilgore

**Laugh Support**