

## Humanitarian aid bolsters local government

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – A blazing desert sun makes its daily trek through a cloudless, blue sky as life in the mud-walled villages of the Kohi Safi mountains goes along much as it does every day in this out-of-the-way part of the world hit hard by Afghanistan’s checkered past.

It’s a hot, dusty morning as a young girl in a black and red dress with a bright green scarf over her head notices a line of trucks making their way up the valley’s single dirt road. A few minutes later she has made her way to the local Afghan government building and is standing amidst a small army of her peers to watch as American soldiers meet with Gul Zamon, the local Afghan government commissioner, about how to distribute supplies in the area.

Such was the scene Saturday as Civil Affairs soldiers from Bagram Air Base took a light medium tactical vehicle (LMTV truck) full of humanitarian aid to this austere mountain community.

According to Maj. Carman Oldre, 407<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, the team delivered approximately 100 blankets, four large boxes of tools and three large boxes of winter clothes and shoes along with frozen corn and bagels.

The CA team delivered half of the supplies to Zamon, who will distribute them to the more remote villages, and the other half was delivered to two of the more accessible villages by the CA team.

Working with the Afghanistan government leader in an area helps not only get the humanitarian aid distributed, but also develops



*Maj. Carman Oldre, 407<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, and Gul Zamon, the local Afghan commissioner, pass out corn to local children in the Kohi Safi mountains Saturday.*

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## U.S. service members wage war in Bagram

Story and photo by Spc. Wes Landrum  
Coalition Joint Task Force-180

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – War was declared on Sunday here at Bagram Air Base, but not by two feuding nations; by two military services’ playing a game.

On Sunday, soldiers of the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps squared off in a friendly game of softball.

In a hard fought, seven-inning affair, the Marines emerged victorious over the Army

squad 32 to 21. Even though the Marines won, the boost in the participant’s morale was hard to ignore.

“What better way to spend you day off,” said Gunnery Sgt. Jimmy Sanchez, coach for the Marines. “The game was a great way to boost morale for all who played.”

Sanchez and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Allan Williams of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division came up with the way for service members to forget about the daily stresses of work and have fun.

“Myself and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Williams attend the

base operations meeting every morning,” said Sanchez. “We saw it as an opportunity for the players to come out, release all the tension that was built up and have a little fun along the way.”

The game was sparked by “friendly jostling” from both sides.

“We were at a volleyball tournament at the Marine compound and the Marines made some off-the-wall challenges,” said Williams.

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A U.S. soldier on patrol in Iraq in a Humvee all-terrain vehicle.

## Bomb kills three at home of Iraqi Shiite cleric

**NAJAF, Iraq** – Three people died Sunday when a bomb exploded outside the home of one of Iraq's top Shiite Muslim clerics, authorities said.

The explosion occurred at 3:15 p.m. (7:15 a.m. EDT) at the home of Shiite leader Ayatollah Mohamad Sa'eed al-Hakim in Najaf, a Shiite spiritual center about 100 miles south of Baghdad.

A spokesman for the ayatollah told *CNN* that two guards outside the building and a worker inside the office were killed, and 10 people — mostly pedestrians — were wounded, one seriously.

The ayatollah, who has had fairly constant contact with U.S. officials since before the U.S.-led war in Iraq, was walking through a hallway when the blast went off and received minor injuries from glass shards, his spokesman said.

The spokesman said an explosive device had detonated inside a gas canister that had been left outside an office where the ayatollah's son was working.

The home is about half a mile south of the Imam Ali Mosque, a site sacred to Shiites around the world. Ali was the son-in-law of the prophet Muhammad and the first leader of the Shiite community.

The spokesman also said that the ayatollah and his followers hold the U.S. military responsible for maintaining security in Najaf and therefore hold the Americans indirectly responsible for the attack.



Palestinian rescue workers unload an injured man from an ambulance after Sunday's rocket attack in Gaza.

## Israeli attack kills four Hamas members Sunday

**GAZA CITY, Gaza** – An Israeli helicopter attack Sunday night in Gaza City killed four members of the Palestinian militant group Hamas, Palestinian sources said.

Witnesses said those killed were sitting in a vacant lot near a base housing members of Force 17, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's personal guard, when Israeli helicopter gunships fired at least two missiles at them about 9:55 p.m. (2:55 p.m. EDT).

Sources within Hamas identified the dead as Walid el Hams, Ahmed Eshtwi, Ahmed Abu Halala and Muhammad Abu Lubda. A fifth Hamas member was critically wounded, the sources said. Several bystanders received less serious injuries, hospital officials told *CNN*.

Earlier Sunday, Maj. Gen. Abdel Razek al Majaydeh, Arafat's security chief in Gaza, ordered his forces to stop militant groups from firing rocket and mortar attacks at Israeli towns and settlements.

Palestinian security forces over the weekend closed four tunnels that been used to smuggle contraband from Egypt, Palestinian sources said.

Israeli authorities said the contraband was being used by the military wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad and vowed that if the Palestinians did not stop their access to supplies, the Israelis would.

The latest developments followed a meeting between John Wolf, U.S. envoy to the Middle East, and Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erakat in an attempt to salvage the American-backed road map to peace.

The peace process was set back Tuesday

by the Palestinian suicide bombing of a Jerusalem bus that killed 20 people and wounded more than 130. Hamas and Islamic Jihad both claimed responsibility for the attack.

## Justice Department: Crime rate at lowest since 1973

**WASHINGTON** – Violent and property crimes dipped in 2002 to their lowest levels since records started being compiled 30 years ago, and have dropped more than 50 percent in the last decade, the Justice Department reported Sunday.

The annual survey by the Bureau of Justice Statistics identified about 23 million crime victims last year, down slightly from the year before and far below the 44 million recorded when studies began in 1973.

The rate of violent crimes — rapes, robberies and assaults — was about 23 victims for every 1,000 U.S. residents 12 or older last year. That compares with 25 victims per 1,000 in 2001 and 50 in 1993.

For property crimes such as burglary and car theft, the rate was 159 crimes per 1,000 last year, down from 167 the previous year and 319 in 1993.

Attorney General John Ashcroft credited citizens for being more willing to report crimes and said the numbers are a tribute to the work of police, prosecutors and judges across the country.

“But lower crime rates must not lead to complacency,” Ashcroft said. “We must continue our vigilance and renew our firm commitment to protect all Americans, bringing swift and certain justice to all those who would inflict pain and harm.”

Experts say a number of factors have driven the crime rate down, including a more mature, less violent illegal drug trade, a drop in gang membership and even improved home locks and alarms that deter would-be burglars.

Some criminologists think tougher prison sentences and more prisons are key factors, because they take more criminals off the streets longer. The Justice Department reported last week that at the end of 2001, more than 5.6 million adults — one in every 37 U.S. adults — were either in state or federal prison or had done prison time during their lives.

# Two U. S. service members killed in incidents in Iraq

Story by Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** – One American soldier was killed and six were injured in Iraq Aug. 21 during a fire at a Baghdad small-arms shooting range, according to a U.S. Central Command press release.

Also, CENTCOM reported that a gunman shot and killed a U.S. Marine the same day in Al Hillah.

The fire victims were members of the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division according to CENTCOM. The injured soldiers were evacuated to local military medical facilities for treatment. One soldier died due to burns and smoke inhalation.

The deceased Marine was a member of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force who was a passenger in a sport utility vehicle stopped in heavy traffic. According to initial reports, an unidentified man approached the vehicle, shot the service member and escaped into a nearby crowded market area.

The wounded Marine was taken to a military medical facility where he was pronounced dead, according to CENTCOM.

Meanwhile, CENTCOM reported that U.S. forces in Iraq continue the search for illegal weapons. Acting on a tip, soldiers

from the 4th Infantry Division operating near Abu Huraybish on Aug. 20 seized 200 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, two 60 mm mortar tubes, six 60 mm mortar rounds, artillery propellant, one AK-47 automatic rifle, one rocket-propelled grenade, one RPG sight, two mortar sights, one sniper scope and four bayonets.

Three people at the seizure site were detained for questioning, according to CENTCOM.

The command also noted that 1st Armored Division soldiers confiscated an AK-47 automatic rifle, assorted ammunition and ammo magazines in the Baghdad area after spotting an individual on a rooftop.

Also, 1st Armored Division troops recently found two improvised explosive devices in Baghdad, according to CENTCOM. Explosive ordnance detachment troops safely removed them. And thanks to another tipster, an EOD team removed another explosive device found near an Iraqi government building.

1st Marine Expeditionary Force members, again acting on information provided by a tipster, CENTCOM officials said, recently seized another weapons cache in Babil Province. That cache contained enough materials to make 200 improvised bombs. Items seized included 300 pounds of dynamite,

blasting caps, wire and eight RPG launchers. In another raid, Marines confiscated 50 anti-tank guided missiles, multiple cluster bomb units and rockets.

During a 24-hour period from Aug. 20-21, coalition forces in Iraq conducted 20 raids and 879 day patrols and 656 night patrols, according to CENTCOM. Coalition units also conducted 216 day patrols and 189 evening patrols jointly with Iraqi police.

In other Iraq news from the command, U.S. and coalition forces are asking Baghdad vendors to move their booths away from city streets and back to designated market places. The Iraqi vendors had moved their booths into the streets after the fall of the Hussein regime, causing considerable traffic congestion.

CENTCOM noted that 1st Armored Division officials have arranged for contractors to rebuild damaged portions of the market places. Also, U.S. military officials plan to clean up trash and debris in the streets after the market booths are moved.

The command also reported that the U.S. Army is accepting claims from aggrieved Iraqis for actions caused by American forces under the Foreign Claims Act. The purpose of the act, according to a CENTCOM release, is to develop positive relations and goodwill between the United States and Iraq's people.

## AID, from Page 1

credibility for that Afghan official, Oldre said.

"Our mission as Civil Affairs is to put stability in the appointed positions in the government," said Oldre.

By having a local leader involved, the distribution of supplies can go much more smoothly by having them act as a link between the community and the civil affairs team, she said.

"This was one of the smoothest missions we've had," said Oldre.

The delivery not only brought much needed assistance to this economically depressed part of the country, it brought the satisfaction that comes with helping rebuild a country.

"It's nice to come out on these missions," said Staff Sgt. Martin Jones, Combined Joint Task Force 180 CJ-9 operations noncommissioned officer, and driver of the supply truck for the mission. "I came here straight from Iraq, and this (humanitarian aid) is definitely more fulfilling."

"It's good for them to see that we're out here doing something other than blowing up their country," said Jones. "We're out here helping."



*Staff Sgt. Martin Jones, CJTF 180, CJ-9, and Spc. Chris Moore, 321st Civil Affairs Brigade, hand out a box of tools as a part of a Humanitarian Aid delivery Saturday in the Kohi Safi mountains.*

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1st Sgt. Allan Williams, HHC 10th Mountain, swings for the fence during the Army-Marine softball game at Bagram Air Base Sunday.

“We accepted the challenge, got up a team, and played them.”

“There was a lot of trash-talking, Marines versus Army, so it was one safe way to settle it,” said Sanchez.

Williams said even though the Army lost Sunday, the benefits heavily outweighed the sting of defeat.

“I guarantee you, after playing the game and attending the cookout afterwards, most of these guys will say it’s the best time they’ve had since they got here two months ago,” he said.

Both sides agreed that the game shouldn’t be a one-time deal.

“We’ve done this before with several other Army units so we’d like to see it continue,” Sanchez said. “It would be great if it was a weekly thing.”

“It’d be great to play once a weekend like we did today,” Williams added.

Williams said the only problem he sees is getting the chain of command to release their soldiers to play in the games.

“They (the players) are only gone for an hour, maybe two tops,” Williams continued. “If the chain of command supports it, then we can pick up a permanent team and play ball every weekend.”

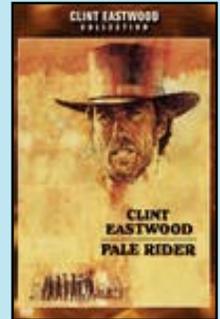
But for now, to the victors go the spoils; for the Marines, that means bragging rights.

“We were victorious today,” said Sanchez. “So now we have the right to talk trash for the next week or until the next time we play.”

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Pale Rider.”

A small mining town is terrorized by a local gangster, and salvation arrives in the form of a gun-toting preacher.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “High Plains Drifter.”

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Mostly clear H: 95F L: 64F	Mostly clear H: 93F L: 72F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 104F L: 70F	Dusty H: 104F L: 72F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Mostly clear H: 91F L: 63F	Mostly clear H: 91F L: 66F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Clear H: 97F L: 58F	Clear H: 96F L: 61F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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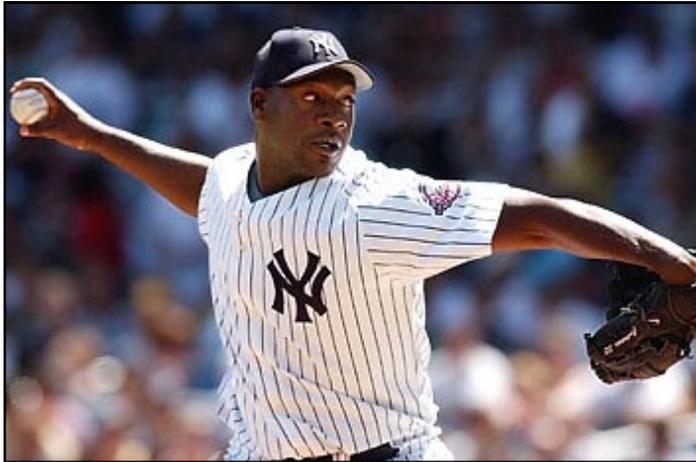
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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Jose Contreras allowed just three hits in his first start since June 5.

## Yankees shut down Orioles 7-0 in Contreras' return Sunday

**NEW YORK** – The New York Yankees have found their fifth starter, although Jose Contreras looked more like an ace.

Contreras made a rousing return from the disabled list, shutting down the Baltimore Orioles on three hits over seven innings in New York's 7-0 win Sunday.

"I'm happy because I was able to help the team achieve victory and also demonstrate what kind of pitcher I am," Contreras said through a translator. "I was able to pitch comfortably with the great lead that my teammates gave me."

Jorge Posada hit a three-run homer in the first and Derek Jeter added a two-run single for the Yankees, who cruised to an easy win after dropping the first two of a four-game series.

Out since June 7 with a strained right shoulder, Contreras replaced a struggling Jeff Weaver in the starting rotation and picked up right where he left off before he was hurt.

After struggling as a reliever early this season, Contreras moved into the rotation in late May with impressive results. He won twice in two starts, at Detroit and Cincinnati, and now is 3-0 with a 0.86 ERA as a big league starter — with 17 strikeouts in 21 innings.

"When you get around him he just has a feel and a lot more self confidence than he had before," Yankees pitching coach Mel Stottlemyre said.

"Certainly this game should give him a big, emotional lift as far as what he can do for us. You have to be excited about what this guy can do not just down the stretch in the regular season but maybe more than that. I don't think this is a guy that's going to melt under pressure."

Contreras, who signed a three-year, \$27 million contract with the Yankees after defecting from Cuba last year, walked one and struck out five.

## Jets' Pennington out for 12 weeks

**ESPN** – Jets quarterback Chad Pennington, who suffered a fractured and dislocated left wrist during a Saturday night preseason game, will likely miss 12 weeks, coach Herm Edwards said Sunday.



Chad Pennington

But a source within the organization acknowledged to ESPN.com that Pennington, an emerging star who took over the offense from Vinny Testaverde last season, possibly could be out the entire season. Edwards did not deny such a scenario, but said the team hoped to have Pennington back possibly in as short a period as 10 weeks.

The injury is to Pennington's non-throwing hand. Edwards allowed that, with such wrist injuries, the recovery time often depends on the individual.

"Yeah, yeah, I'm optimistic," Edwards said during a conference call, when asked if he believed Pennington would return at some point this season. "I think if anyone can do it, then Chad certainly has the will to do it. But we're not going to put him in harm's way. ... We're going to make sure he's ready to go. We're not just going to rush him in there."

Pennington was tackled from behind by Brandon Short after throwing away a pass with less than two minutes remaining in the first half and landed awkwardly on his wrist.

Pennington had surgery Saturday night in New York. To set the fracture, doctors inserted seven surgical pins into his wrist. Edwards said Pennington had broken carpal bones 2 through 7. He also allowed that, even after rehabilitation, Pennington might have to work through some residual stiffness in the wrist.

## Barry Bonds' father dies at age 57

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Bobby Bonds, one of the first major leaguers to blend home-run power with base-stealing speed and the father of one of baseball's greatest sluggers, died Saturday. He was 57.

Barry Bonds' father had been ill for nearly a year with lung cancer and a brain tumor, but he never lost his love for baseball. He was at Pacific Bell Park on Wednesday night, watching his superstar son and the San Francisco Giants.

Bobby Bonds died shortly before noon ET, a Giants spokesman said.

Barry Bonds, who leads the majors with 39 homers, will be away from the Giants indefinitely. He left the team for five days during a road trip last week to be with his father.

"It's a very sad day, but I want to remember him the way he used to be, having a good time and making jokes," said Hall of Famer Orlando Cepeda, Bonds' longtime friend and former teammate. "I'm happy that he's resting in peace."

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Taliban Attack Kills at Least five Afghans

Story by Noor Khan

**KANDAHAR**, Afghanistan (*Associated Press*) – Taliban fighters ambushed a truck full of government soldiers in the southern province of Zabul, killing several, the provincial governor and a Taliban spokesman said Sunday.

The sides gave differing death tolls from Saturday's attack. Mohammed Hanif, a Taliban spokesman who contacted *The Associated Press* by satellite telephone, said 12 government soldiers were killed and that no Taliban fighters had died. Gov. Hafizullah Khan said five soldiers and three Taliban were killed.

It was impossible to immediately confirm the number of dead.

Khan said the attack occurred in the Dai Chupan district of Zabul province.

"Our forces were going to Dai Chupan district when the Taliban ambushed them," Khan said in a satellite telephone interview from southern Kandahar.

Hanif said the bodies of the dead government soldiers were left behind, but Taliban attackers took 17 automatic rifles from the vehicle before leaving the scene.

He said Abdul Rahim, a former Taliban commander of the border region of Spinboldak, led the attack. Rahim is one of several former Taliban being sought by the Afghan government. In talks with neighbor Pakistan, the Afghan government of President Hamid Karzai has expressed concern that Rahim and other former Taliban have found refuge in Pakistan's conservative tribal regions.

Attacks against the government soldiers and police have been stepped up in recent weeks. Dozens of police have been ambushed or their police stations attacked by suspected Taliban.

There are reports from former Taliban that Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Taliban's leader, has reorganized his religious militia, appointing military commanders to areas of control. Rahim is well-known in the southeastern regions of Afghanistan.

Hanif said he is the spokesman for Mullah Dadullah, a one-legged Taliban commander who was well-known during the Islamic militia's rule. Dadullah is believed to be working with Rahim.

## Iran Extradites Qaeda Members to Saudi Arabia

**LONDON** (*Reuters*) - Iran has extradited a number of Saudi members of al Qaeda to Saudi Arabia, the official Iranian news agency IRNA, monitored in London by the *BBC*, reported on Saturday.

IRNA quoted Tehran's ambassador to Riyadh as saying the al Qaeda members had been arrested in Iran after the U.S.-led war on Afghanistan, but did not name them, or say how many had been extradited or when they had been handed over to Saudi Arabia.

The envoy, speaking to IRNA on the sidelines of a conference in Tehran, said Iran and Saudi Arabia, leading oil producers and

both Muslim nations, had signed a security pact and "have shown a firm resolve to improve ties in all areas," the *BBC* said.

Last Sunday IRNA quoted Hassan Rohani, secretary-general of the Supreme National Security Council, as saying that Iran had foiled a number of attacks al Qaeda had been planning to carry out on its soil.

"Their (al Qaeda's) plans for a wide range of terrorist acts inside Iran were neutralized by our intelligence organizations," IRNA quoted Rohani as saying, though he gave no details.

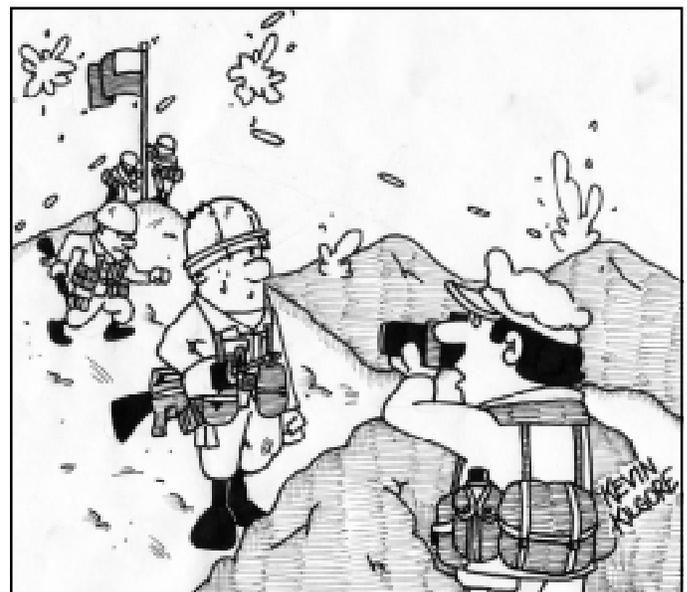
Although a staunch political enemy of Washington, Iran condemned the September 11 attacks on the United States which were blamed on al Qaeda and was fiercely opposed to the rule of al Qaeda's former sponsors, the Taliban, in neighboring Afghanistan.

Tehran has said previously that it has arrested a number of al Qaeda members, including some senior figures in Osama bin Laden's organization. But it has declined to name them and has refused to hand them over to U.S. officials for questioning.

The Islamic Republic has also acknowledged that its extensive eastern border with Afghanistan is hard to police and some fleeing al Qaeda members may have been able to slip into the country undetected.

Intelligence sources and media reports suggest Iran may be holding Saad bin Laden, a son of the al Qaeda leader, al Qaeda's security chief Egyptian Saif al Adel and its Kuwaiti-born spokesman Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, among others.

**"Can you guys put the flag up again, I ran out of film."**



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By Kevin Kilgore

**Laugh Support**