

PRT helps advancement of Bamian Province

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAMIAN, Afghanistan – Like any normal classroom, this one has a chalkboard, an array of arranged desks and a pack of third-grade girls settling down to begin a school day filled with fresh knowledge and understanding taught to them by their female teacher.

But it wasn't too long ago that this classroom setting would have been utterly forbidden and the characters involved would have been severely punished under the strict and fanatic Islamic law of the Taliban.

That darkness has since been lifted by the presence of the U.S. and coalition forces, and to erase the remnants of the Taliban's occupation, they have set up Provincial Reconstruction Team sites all over the country.

The PRTs are designed to provide security and stability, facilitate reconstruction efforts and to extend the legitimacy and authority of the national government out into the provinces, said Lt. Col. Mark T. Schnur, who commanded the Bamian PRT, which was officially opened in March.



A classroom of third-grade students await their teacher at a girl's school within the city of Bamian. The desks they wait at were provided with the help of the Bamian PRT.

This PRT has brought a sense of security and stability to the Bamian Province, and with that, a peace of mind that bolsters the prosperity in the region, said Sgt. Daniel J. Essary, 805th Military Police Company who was part of a three-man security force with the Bamian PRT.

"It's pretty obvious that the people in

the Bamian valley feel really secure," he said. There is a visible difference between the Bamian Province and other provinces when "you're out for three days and you come back into the Bamian valley," said Essary. "If you go to (other) provinces, or other

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'Got Milk?' - Konduz PRT helps orphans

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

KONDUZ, Afghanistan – More than 100 children greeted members of the Konduz Provincial Reconstruction Team when they donated cases of milk and juice to the Konduz Orphanage Wednesday.

"We try to get up here at least once a week," said Capt. Matthew Nelson, operations officer of the Konduz PRT.

"It gives us a chance to interact with the children."

Thirty-two cases of chocolate and white milk were given to the orphanage staff. In addition, 20 boxes of orange juice were also donated.

Nelson said the PRT has received a high influx of supplies from Karshi Khanabad (K-2) in the last couple of months. At first, he said, they didn't know what to do with it. Then a visit to the

orphanage changed that.

"Given our small populace at the PRT, we can't consume it all before it spoils," he said. "Rather than that happening, we give it to the orphanage for them to use."

Nelson said the PRT then doesn't have to worry about throwing spoiled supplies away.

"By bringing it to the orphanage, we

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A mortar attack killed two U.S. soldiers and wounded 13 others at this prison just outside Baghdad.

3 U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Three U.S. soldiers were killed Saturday in two separate attacks in Iraq, according to the Coalition Press Information Center.

In the first attack, a soldier from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment was killed after an explosive device ripped through a U.S. military convoy traveling west of Baghdad. The attack happened at 9:30 p.m. (1:30 p.m. EDT) in Ramadi, CPIC said.

Shortly afterward, a mortar attack killed two U.S. soldiers and wounded 13 others at Abu Ghraib prison just outside Baghdad, the CPIC said.

Two mortar shells hit the prison complex according to a press center statement. The soldiers were from the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade, according to Central Command. None of the detainees were injured.

With the attacks, 304 U.S. troops have been killed since the Iraq war began in March — 194 from hostile fire, and 109 non-hostile deaths.

Earlier in the day, a member of the Iraqi Governing Council was wounded in an attack on her convoy.

Akila al-Hashimi sustained severe internal injuries when her convoy was attacked. Doctors operated on Hashimi Saturday to remove a bullet in her abdomen, and she underwent further surgery at midnight. She remained in critical but stable condition Sunday following surgery.

Around midnight, Hashimi underwent surgery at Ibn Sina Hospital, and doctors may have to operate on her later in the day, according to Iraqi police and Entifadah Qanbar, a spokesman for Iraqi Governing Council president Ahmad Chalabi.

Qanbar described Hashimi as conscious and in “very high spirits.”

One of three women on the Governing Council, Hashimi was shot in the abdomen and leg in the attack, which also left her brother, guard and driver wounded.



An injured survivor is taken on a stretcher following an explosion Sunday.

Shelling kills 4 in Kashmir

SRINIGAR, Indian-controlled Kashmir – Indian troops said heavy Pakistani shelling killed an Indian soldier and three others Sunday when one round hit a bus across the Line of Control that divides the disputed Himalayan territory.

In addition, police said four people died in a bombing in a town near the border Sunday.

Indian army sources told *CNN* that Pakistani troops fired at least 100 artillery shells across the Line of Control within two hours Sunday. Three people were killed and five wounded when one shell hit a Jammu and Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation bus, the army said.

Another shell killed an Indian soldier Sunday afternoon in the Uri sector of Kashmir, the sources said.

Sources also said shells hit the towns of Davar, destroying 18 stores, and Achipora, gutting one home. Nine family members in the home had a miraculous escape, the sources said.

Pakistani officials denied the reports.

Maj. Gen. Shauket Sultan said Pakistani troops were observing World Peace Day, as declared by the United Nations, and had not fired.



People wait in line for ice Sunday in Newport News, Va. Hurricane Isabel left 1.8 million without power.

Water, power still in short supply after Isabel hits coast

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – About 1.8 million customers still didn't have power Sunday in areas hit by Hurricane Isabel, three days after the storm changed the landscape of North Carolina's Outer Banks and pushed tidal waters up to 9 feet deep into waterside towns.

At least 31 deaths were blamed on the storm, which crashed ashore Thursday afternoon near Hatteras Island, North Carolina, and roared up the west side of the Chesapeake Bay, eventually falling apart over Ohio.

The loss of power and human tolls were highest in Virginia, home to half of the 1.8 million people who still had no power Sunday morning. At least 16 of the reported deaths took place there, including two attributed to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide poisoning was also the cause of death of two of seven people who died in Maryland, where two out-of-state utility workers died while helping restore power. Isabel also killed three people in North Carolina, two in New Jersey and one each in Rhode Island, New York and Pennsylvania.

President Bush plans to travel to Richmond, Virginia, on Monday to get a briefing on damage and recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Isabel and tour an emergency operations center.

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local areas, they're not doing as much building (and) they're are not as many people out in the streets."

Along with the sense of security, the Bamian PRT has had a physical hand in reconstructing the province. One of the PRT's first projects was the East Bazaar Bridge, which was identified as a project that would open up the East and West side of the Bazaar to traffic and increase economic activity, said Schnur. It's a success because "we've seen the expansion of the bazaar both on the western side and the eastern side because of that bridge," he said.

Schools are also popping up so fast that the PRT "can hardly keep up with them," said Essary. The eagerness for families to send their children to school has overwhelmed the local government, and while it grows in strength everyday, it has fallen behind the growing number of schools and the funding needed to build and furnish them. Many schools are overcrowded with its occupants learning as they sit on the ground, said Maj. Tito S. Martinez, who was the executive officer and Bamian PRT engineer.

Various local and international Non-Government Organizations and the Bamian PRT have all contributed to help the government keep up with the educational needs of its province. "Schools are extremely important because that's where future generations of this country – the future leaders, the future administrators, the future teachers and the future engineers – are going to be coming from in the next 20 years," said Martinez.

Just one of the many projects that the Bamian PRT undertook to help the province's education system was to furnish a girls school with desks, said Martinez. The Markaz Girl's School was built by another organization, but it was the Bamian PRT that provided the

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know it will be consumed," he said.

After unloading the cargo, the soldiers were able to interact with the children. Some soldiers played with the children and others talked to them.

Meanwhile, Nelson and his staff went inside and talked to the staff about what was needed at the small orphanage.

Nelson said they already coordinating their next project with the orphanage staff.

"Our next project is to build an overhang so the children can have some shade while they are outside," he said.

"Myself and one of the engineers will come back Friday and begin work on that," said Nelson. "It shouldn't take us long to build it."

students a place to sit.

"It's all about the health of the students," said Mina, a second grade teacher through an interpreter. Before the desks, the students had been sitting on the floor, which is unsanitary, she said.

The strengthened ties between the local Afghan community and the soldiers at the Bamian PRT help their joint effort to build the province up, and those ties are created by the interactions of the civil affairs team.

"We are the lead in the interaction with the locals and in lead with the government of the province area," said Maj. Randy D. Castillo, Civil Joint Military Operations Task Force.

The CA team goes out into Bamian Province communities to interact with the people, provide humanitarian assistance and to just let the locals know that the U.S. and coalition forces are nothing like the Taliban, said Castillo.

Through those interactions, the CA team helps to build the locals' trust for their own local government by ensuring them that the government plays a large part in the assistance and presence the Bamian PRT provides, said Schnur. The interactions "continue building the capacity of the government to do its job," he said.

Overall, the Bamian PRT has thus far succeeded in its missions within the Bamian Province, said Schnur. Right now, his team looks forward to set up a new PRT site in an area that needs his team's abilities, he said. The Bamian PRT's missions will officially be taken over by a New Zealand military team on Sept. 23.

There are still many goals to be reached before the U.S. and coalition presence should leave Bamian Province, said Schnur. "We know when we're successful when the governor says, 'we don't need you anymore,' to the coalition forces."



Capt. Matthew Nelson, 407th Civil Affairs Team, hands off two cases of milk to another soldier and an interpreter as they unload 32 cases of milk at the Konduz orphanage in Konduz Wednesday.

Rumsfeld praises contributions of Hispanic Americans

Story by Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Vowing to continue working to increase Hispanic representation throughout his department, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld praised the contributions of Hispanic Americans in a speech at the Pentagon recently.

Rumsfeld told Hispanic leaders from academia, business and the Defense Department, as well as representatives of national Hispanic organizations, that Hispanics have played a vital role “in every war and every battle our country has fought from the American Revolution to Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

The Defense Department and the Reserve Forces Policy Board sponsored the session during the first week of Hispanic Heritage Month to commemorate Hispanic achievements and explore ways to increase Hispanic representation within the department.

Rumsfeld applauded the group’s efforts and the many contributions Hispanics historically have made to the country’s defense and to the strength of the United States and its military forces.

Hispanic Americans continue to make a vital contribution toward the nation’s defense, Rumsfeld said, including the global war on terrorism in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere around the world. He pointed toward an important Hispanic role model in that effort, Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of coalition ground forces in Iraq.

Rumsfeld said it is “critically important” that the Defense Department does a better job of tapping into the talents of its growing Hispanic force.

The nation’s Hispanic service members, he said, with their proven “devotion to faith, the community and the country” are critical to achieving that goal.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Resident Evil.” A special military unit fights a powerful, out-of-control supercomputer and hundreds of scientists who have mutated into flesh-eating creatures after a laboratory accident.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “Queen of the Damned..”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
Bagram:	Dusty H: 90F L: 50F	Haze H: 88F L: 48F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 99F L: 59F	Dusty H: 95F L: 59F
Kabul:	Dusty H: 90F L: 52F	Haze H: 88F L: 48F
Uzbekistan:	Clear H: 86F L: 52F	Clear H: 82F L: 43F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Dancing machine; Bucs 'bounce' back against Falcons Sunday

ATLANTA – Warren Sapp needs to work on his dance moves. Beyonce, he's not.



Derrick Brooks helps Warren Sapp celebrate the first offensive touchdown of his career.

That's OK. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are having fun again.

Sapp, the 303-pound defensive tackle, scored the first offensive touchdown of his career on a 6-yard pass and the defending Super Bowl champions bounced back from an embarrassing defeat, routing the Atlanta Falcons 31-10 on Sunday.

After scoring, Sapp cradled the ball in his arms as he hopped and twirled in a giddy circle. He claimed to have borrowed the move from Beyonce Knowles' "Crazy In Love" video, though it was a bit difficult to pick up any resemblance.

"I didn't do it quite like she does," Sapp conceded. "She's got more assets than me."

The Bucs (2-1) were clearly perturbed by the way they lost to Carolina a week earlier, getting two field goals and an extra point blocked before falling 12-9 in overtime. Tampa Bay took out its frustration on the hapless Falcons (1-2), who failed for the second week in a row to give Dan Reeves his 200th coaching victory.

"We felt like we let the team down last week, so we wanted to bounce back," said safety Dwight Smith, who had two of the three interceptions thrown by Falcons quarterback Doug Johnson.

Model of consistency, Maddux makes history with Braves victory

ATLANTA – As usual, Greg Maddux gave the credit to his teammates.

Maddux became the first pitcher in major league history to win at least 15 games in 16 consecutive seasons, leading the Atlanta Braves over the Florida Marlins 8-0 Sunday.

Maddux (15-11) had shared the record of winning 15 or more games in 15 straight seasons with Cy Young.

"Sometimes, you're pretty fortunate on the mound," Maddux said. "It worked out. Probably the most special thing was seeing the other 24 guys on the team really busting it for me. To see your teammates go out of the way, that's pretty special."

He was referring to several outstanding defensive plays by short-



Maddux became the first pitcher in major league history to win at least 15 games in 16 consecutive seasons.

stop Rafael Furcal and a diving catch by center fielder Andruw Jones.

"I had a horseshoe," Maddux said.

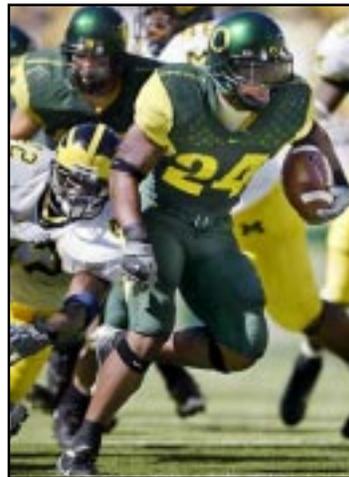
Maddux pitched five scoreless innings and allowed only one hit in his 288th career victory. He tied Tommy John for 22nd place on the all-time win list.

"We got it done in great fashion. Greg pitched great, the offense did its job, and the bullpen slammed it," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "It was a great way to accomplish such a great feat."

The NL East champion Braves scored four times in the fifth for a 6-0 lead as Maddux left the game for the bullpen to close.

Saturday upsets shake up top 10 poll

NEW YORK – A weekend full of upsets caused plenty of movement in *The Associated Press* college football poll.



Terrence Whitehead helped push Oregon into the AP top 10 poll with 31-27 upset over Michigan.

Oklahoma and Miami remained in the top two spots for the third straight week when the Top 25 was released Sunday, but four other teams dropped out of the Top 10.

Michigan became the highest-ranked team to lose this season when the Wolverines fell 31-27 at then-No. 22 Oregon. Michigan dropped from third to 11th and Oregon moved up to No. 10.

Kansas State and Pittsburgh lost to unranked teams from the Mid-American Conference. The Wildcats fell from sixth to 16th after a 27-20 loss to Marshall. The Panthers dropped eight spots to 17th after a 35-31 loss to Toledo.

Georgia was the other Top 10 team to lose, going down 17-10 at LSU. The Bulldogs fell five spots to 12th, and the Tigers moved up four places to No. 7.

Southern Cal moved up one spot to No. 3. Ohio State also moved up one spot to No. 4 after its 18th straight win.

Virginia Tech was fifth, followed by Florida State, LSU, Tennessee, Arkansas and Oregon.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Taliban presence waning: Kandahar progress seen

By Liam Plevin

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (Kabul Daily) - Like many guerrilla strikes that authorities have linked to the Taliban this summer, the bomb blast that scarred Maulavi Abdullah Fayaz could be seen as a sign that the fundamentalist movement is staging a comeback.

But Fayaz thinks the opposite is true. The leader of the religious council in this city that was once the Taliban's spiritual base, Fayaz believes a recent resurgence of violence is misleading.

"We think that their strength is decreasing," Fayaz said of the Taliban, whose harsh rule remains etched in the memories of Kandaharis. "... No one likes that 28 people are injured when praying at a mosque."

Throughout Kandahar, the spiritual center of the Taliban and source of its earliest and most fervent support, residents say the medievalist Islam movement is no longer welcome and its return unlikely, and not only because U.S.-led forces are hunting them throughout the country.

That hardly means the battle to eliminate Taliban opposition in Afghanistan is over, as a wave of recent attacks in rural provinces between Kandahar and Kabul, the capital, demonstrates. Last week, government troops based here headed once again to the hinterlands in pickup trucks bristling with rocket-propelled grenades and Kalashnikov rifles, to do battle with Taliban fighters.

Despite these repeated clashes, there is little evidence of fear or tension on the streets where Mullah Omar, the Taliban leader, once reigned.

Some streets, in fact, are recently paved, one sign of ongoing reconstruction in the city. The building that housed the Taliban's notorious virtue police - which was razed by American bombs nearly two years ago - is now being replaced by a structure that will contain doctors' offices and a restaurant, according to a government official.

The social rules also have changed. Girls, forbidden from attending classes by the Taliban, now cluster in small classrooms at a school in central Kandahar, dressed in black gowns and white headscarves and reciting the Pashto alphabet or studying math.

"Things are getting better," said Mohammed Salim, a 19-year-old tailor. "For example, when I came four months ago, I was jobless for five days, but then I started working."

Salim himself is an example of the transformation that is taking place in Kandahar. He lived in neighboring Pakistan for years, but four months ago, he and 11 family members moved back to the city of his birth. Kandahar, he found, was different from the city he had visited for a month during Taliban times.

Many other families are making similar journeys, and the returnees are one reason that Kandahar has become less fertile

ground for the Taliban's strict theology. Forty families are returning daily, and the city's population has roughly doubled since the Taliban was ousted, to between 600,000 and 700,000 people, said Khalid Pashtoon, a regional representative for President Hamid Karzai's government.

"The more people return, the more kids go to school, the more people go to offices, the harder it becomes" for the Taliban to come back, Pashtoon said.

Memory of life under the Taliban also poses an obstacle to the movement's return. The Taliban's rise in the mid-1990s was aided by what had been, at the time, about 15 years of chaos and warfare, sparked largely by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Dominated by ethnic Pashtuns, the Taliban established a base in Kandahar, where Pashtuns are the majority.

"People were happy with the Taliban when they came," said Maulavi Wali Mohammed, whose family has long tended to the Kharqa Mubarak, a famous Kandahar shrine. "They were very simple people, honest people."



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By Kevin Kilgore

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