

## Afghan icon's dream sees fruition – teachers' college opens with help of 407th Civil Affairs

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

**KAPISA PROVINCE**, Afghanistan – With the opening of Mir Masjidi Khan Teachers' College Saturday, another brick was laid down in the U.S.-led coalition's ongoing efforts to build a solid educational foundation for future generations of Afghans.

The teachers' college construction was originally started in 1995 by slain Afghan national icon and Northern Alliance commander Ahmad Shah Masoud, but due to the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan it was never completed. Now, eight years after construction began, and two years after Massoud's assassination, his dream of a



*Naseerudlah Habibiulloh, a new student training to teach the English Language, is surrounded by children who he will soon help educate and who will shape the future of Afghanistan.*

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## AAFES Commander visits Bagram PX

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

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service commander, visited the Bagram Post Exchange Friday as part of a tour of the Post Exchanges in the Southwest Asia area of operations. Angela Oliphant, AAFES associate, said Frost loves to take trips to AAFES store locations because it gives her a chance to interact with the troops.

"She is very much a people person," she said. "She will talk to the troops to see what's going on and what is needed here in the store."

Frost and her entourage began their visit Wednesday and ended Sunday. The mission took them to PXs in Bahrain, Qatar, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

As she toured the facility, she took time to shake hands with each local national that worked there and marveled at how many were working there.

"When I was touring the store in Kosovo a couple of years ago, the PX had only one American working in it. The rest were all local nationals," she said as she walked down an aisle. "That's what we want to happen with this store. To be run entirely by the local population."

Frost said she remembered when the old store was in Bagram and how long it took to

get into the store to do your shopping. She said it was a great day when the new store opened.

"I was so pleased to not see people having to stand in lines outside," the general said.

After touring the store, Frost attended a dinner in her honor. She said AAFES is working toward instituting new changes for the Bagram PX. She said other bases have upgraded facilities and it was time Bagram had them too.

"We are working hard to get name-brand restaurants to come here to serve our soldiers in Afghanistan," she said. "Hopefully,

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Colin Powell defended the Bush administration's position Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition."

## Bush officials defend Iraq intelligence Sunday

WASHINGTON – Bush administration officials used Sunday's talk shows to shrug off criticism that going to war with Iraq was based on outdated, "fragmentary" and "circumstantial" evidence, as was asserted in a letter to the CIA director from the leaders of the House Intelligence Committee.

National security adviser Condoleezza Rice said the administration relied on "an enrichment" of 5-year-old intelligence in its claim that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said the administration changed its view of Iraq after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

"I believed then that [Iraqi President Saddam Hussein] had weapons of mass destruction," Powell said on CNN's "Late Edition." "We didn't think it was significant.

"But a lot changed with 9/11," Powell said. "With 9/11, we saw what could happen with the nexus between nations that had weapons of mass destruction and terrorists who might be anxious to get those weapons of mass destruction."

The letter to CIA Director George Tenet was sent last week by Rep. Porter Goss of Florida, the Republican chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, and Rep. Jane Harman of California, the committee's ranking Democrat.

The committee spent the past several months going through 19 volumes of classified material Bush officials used to make their case for war with Iraq, *The Washington Post* reported Sunday.

Porter and Harman told Tenet they found

"significant deficiencies" in the U.S. intelligence community's ability to collect fresh intelligence on Iraq after U.N. weapons inspectors left in 1998, the Post reported.



Clark, left, talks with New York Rep. Charles Rangel at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation awards dinner Saturday.

## Clark: Americans 'embarrassed' by Bush administration

CNN – Democratic presidential candidate Gen. Wesley Clark has attacked President Bush's economic plan as a failure, and said the war in Iraq was "unnecessary" and lacks a way to succeed or end.

Speaking after an event in Washington at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's annual conference, Clark, 58, told reporters that the American people are "really embarrassed" by the administration's leadership.

"We're in there without a strategy to win, and without a strategy to exit properly, and now the president's asked for \$87 billion to prosecute it," said Clark.

"I think the reality is really striking the American people that this is an administration that doesn't have an effective foreign policy, and it doesn't have an effective strategy for prosecuting the war on terror," he added.

Clark, who only joined the race 10 days ago, is a former CNN military analyst who led U.S. and allied forces in NATO's 1999 air war in Kosovo.

Just this week, the retired general unveiled his first major domestic policy initiative, proposing a three-part, two-year \$100 billion economic incentive plan that would be funded from reductions in those parts of Bush's tax cut program that benefit families with high-end incomes.

Clark said the president's tax cuts have made the country poorer.

"I've done more with a better plan for jobs here in eight days than this president's done in two and a half years," Clark said.



A young girl wears a surgical mask as she sits in a bus in Hong Kong on September 16.

## Federal health officials: SARS could come back

ATLANTA – Federal health officials Friday said it's possible that SARS could break out again. The respiratory illness was first identified in February in China and infected more than 8,000 people in about two dozen countries before it seemed to vanish.

"As an infectious disease expert, I've never seen a pathogen emerge and go away on its own," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. "We have to expect that sometime, somewhere, this virus is going to rear its ugly head again."

Gerberding, in a news conference with Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson at CDC headquarters, said "it's a good bet" that if Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome re-emerges it will be in Asia.

Thompson said the disease could recur seasonally, much like flu. "We have no proof that it's going to, but the possibility is there," he said.

Unlike flu, SARS has no known treatment. The National Institutes of Health is working on a vaccine, but none will be ready this year, he said.

More than 1,000 antiviral compounds have been screened for possible effectiveness against the coronavirus that causes SARS. "Some have shown quite a bit of progress so far," he said.

**FRUITION**, from Page 1

teacher's college became a reality with the help of the 407th Civil Affairs Battalion

"The foundation of every prosperous society is a quality education system," said Task Force Dragon executive officer Lt. Col. James Buggy, who was one of the distinguished guests who spoke before the nearly 1,000 Afghans who gathered at the opening ceremony.

Civil Affairs-funded construction for the college began in February and cost more than \$60,000 to complete.

Among the Parwan Province Civil Affairs Team A's numerous civil assistance missions, improving Afghanistan's education system has become their highest priority, according to Staff Sgt. Todd Hartjen, Parwan CAT A, 407<sup>th</sup> CA Bn.

In Kapisa province alone there are over 70,000 students and the number of teachers is no more than 2,500, according to Kapisa province education minister Mohammed Asif Farhad.

But now with the teacher's college, Kapisa province hopes to quickly add to its undersized teachers corps.

"To have one central location for the education of teachers is huge," Hartjen said about



*Teacher and students stand by as the commemorative inscription on the Mir Masjidi Khan Teachers College is unveiled during the school's opening ceremony.*

the college. "It's a central building block in Kapisa's and Afghanistan's education system.

With the opening of the new college 400 students will immediately begin the five-month teachers training course. However many of the new students are already teaching at various schools throughout the province and will continue to teach in the mornings and then attend their classes at the

college in the afternoon, Farhad added.

Naseerudlah Habibiulloh will be one of the first students to attend the new college. He going to learn how to better teach the English language.

He said he is proud to learn in the school that was inspired by Masoud.

"Masoud knew education was a vital part of bringing his country out of its slumber," Habibiulloh said.

**AAFES**, from Page 1



*Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost enjoys a laugh with employees of the Bagram PX. She visited the facility as part of a visit to the PXs in Southwest Asia.*

we can get that solved by the middle of the winter."

Frost also took the time to praise the AAFES staff for a job well done. She said many people stay for six months and some have stayed for longer than two years.

She added the employees endure a number of sacrifices to make

sure the soldiers are taken care of.

"All of the employees at the PX are volunteers," she said. "AAFES civilians have devoted their lives to taking care of people who dress like you and I."

Oliphant noticed the AAFES patch she wears on her shoulder is respected wherever she goes.

"You have no idea how much respect our logo has gotten from soldiers," she said. "While I was inprocessing at Fort Benning before deploying over here, I had more people tell me 'thank you' [than one could imagine]. That gave me a great feeling."

Frost said being the head of a \$7 billion corporation gives people the impression that all AAFES does is take the soldier's money and pay stockholders. She said AAFES does pay their stockholders – the soldiers and airmen they serve.

"We gave a dividend back to the Army and Air Force last year that averaged \$258 per soldier and airman," she said. "\$220 million we gave back to the services so Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) can build facilities, do maintenance and take care of all the recreation programs that serve you and your family."

The AAFES General said the future looks bright for the military and AAFES. She said as long as the military deploys in defense of America, AAFES would be right there beside them.

"We truly do go where [the soldiers and airmen] go," she said.

# Congress sends \$368 billion bill to President

Story by Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** – Congress has sent the fiscal 2004 Defense Appropriations Bill to President Bush for his signature.

The \$368.2 billion bill funds the basic necessities for the department through Sept. 30, 2004. The administration already has submitted separate, supplemental bills to cover the cost of the global war on terrorism.

The average military pay raise is set at 4.1 percent. However, the pay raises are targeted, with raises ranging from 2 percent to 6.25 percent. The lowest-ranking service members would receive the 2 percent raise. Noncommissioned and commissioned officers at middle levels of their respective pay scales will receive the higher numbers.

The bill also increases the basic allowance for housing to reduce current 7.5-percent out-of-pocket expenses to 3.5 percent. The change puts the housing allowance on the slope to eliminate out-of-pocket expenses in fiscal 2005. When then-Defense Secretary William Cohen announced this housing initiative on Jan. 6, 2000, out-of-pocket expenses averaged 19 percent.

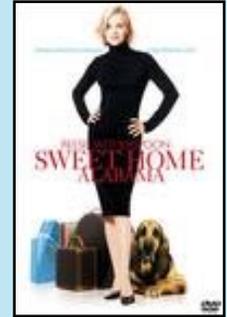
Overall personnel accounts are pegged at \$98.5 billion. The bill supports an end-strength of 1.388 million active duty military personnel and 863,300 selected reserve personnel.

The bill provides \$128 million for the continuation of increased rates for imminent danger pay and family separation allowances, and provides \$88.2 million for 12 additional weapons of mass destruction civil support teams. The bill also provides \$15.7 billion for the Defense Health Program.

The bill also fully funds the president's \$115.9 billion operations and maintenance request. It also supports the Defense Department's goal to fund facilities sustainment at not less than 93 percent in all branches of the armed forces.

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Sweet Home Alabama." A young woman with a white trash background runs away from her husband in Alabama and reinvents herself as a New York socialite.



Tomorrow's movie will be "Signs."

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 81F L: 52F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 79F L: 48F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 73F L: 50F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 75F L: 50F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Scattered TSTMS</i> H: 73F L: 43F	<i>Haze</i> H: 75F L: 46F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Clear</i> H: 75F L: 43F	<i>Clear</i> H: 77F L: 46F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Final curtain call, Vet stadium closes with Phillies loss Sunday

**PHILADELPHIA** – The Atlanta Braves closed out the Philadelphia Phillies' park by ensuring the road to the World Series in the National League will go through their home, Turner Field.



Phillies' Jim Thome takes a final curtain call in the ninth inning of the Phillies 5-2 loss to the Atlanta Braves Sunday.

The NL East champion Braves clinched home-field advantage throughout the playoffs with a 5-2 victory Sunday over the Phillies in the final game at Veterans Stadium.

The Phillies are moving into the new Citizens Bank Park next year after 33 mostly losing seasons at the Vet,

which opened with a victory over the Montreal Expos on April 10, 1971.

Philadelphia manager Larry Bowa got the first hit at the Vet.

"It's a pretty special place," Bowa said, wiping away tears. "Playing here, defying the odds, winning the championship."

Greg Maddux got his 289th career victory and Robert Fick drove in two runs for the Braves, who open the playoffs against the Chicago Cubs on Tuesday night.

The Braves, who earned their 101st victory, entered with a half-game lead over San Francisco for the best record in the NL.

## McNabb shines, Eagles crush Bills 23-13

**ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.** – Donovan McNabb finally played like Donovan McNabb.



Donovan McNabb

McNabb played a mistake-free game and Brian Westbrook provided a jolt to the running game as the Philadelphia Eagles won for the first time this season with a 23-13 victory over the Buffalo Bills.

After reaching the NFC championship game in each of the last two seasons, the Eagles managed just 10 points in losing their first two games. McNabb had completed just 45 percent (37-of-82) of his passes with three interceptions.

But McNabb looked more like the NFL's highest-paid quarterback in this one. He led scoring drives on the Eagles' first two possessions and completed 18-of-29 passes for 171 yards while rushing for 49 yards on seven attempts.

"Donovan came back from the first play on, he showed what Donovan's all about," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "He did a nice job."

After the Bills scored twice in the fourth quarter, McNabb made perhaps his biggest play with just over two minutes when he found James Thrash for 14 yards on a 3rd-and-7 play.

"Offensively we were on the sideline, we got together and said, 'We get a couple of first downs, get the ball in the end zone, this game is over,'" McNabb said. "James (Thrash) did a wonderful job of peeling away from the defender. I just tried to put it in a position where he could catch it, get the first down."

Two plays later, Westbrook sealed the win by busting up the middle and racing 62 yards for his first career touchdown. He carried 11 times for 96 yards.

Led by Westbrook, the Eagles rushed for 177 yards.

Drew Bledsoe passed for a touchdown and ran for a score in the fourth for the Bills (2-2), who lost their second straight game.

## Alterations needed, AP poll sees major changes after Saturday upsets

**NEW YORK** – Southern California and Oregon had the biggest drops in *The Associated Press* college football poll after losing their Pac-10 openers.

The Trojans fell from third to 10th following a 34-31, triple-overtime loss at California. The Ducks dropped nine spots to 19th after a 55-16 home loss to Washington State.



Hershel Dennis and the Trojans couldn't get their running game going in an upset loss to Cal.

Oklahoma and Miami remained in the top two spots for the fourth straight week when the Top 25 was released Sunday.

The Sooners, who have been No. 1 all season, received 57 of the 65 first-place votes and 1,615 points in balloting by the panel of sports writers and broadcasters. The Hurricanes got three firsts and 1,554 points.

Ohio State moved up a spot to No. 3 after USC's loss and received the remaining five first-place votes. The third team in the country lost the previous two weeks, with Michigan falling 31-27 at Oregon on Sept. 20, and the Trojans losing at Cal.

Virginia Tech, Florida State, LSU, Tennessee, Arkansas, Michigan and USC round out the Top 10. The Razorbacks, who were unranked before beating then-No. 5 Texas on Sept. 13, have their highest ranking since they were No. 7 in 1989.

The Coaches poll had the same top seven teams as the AP.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Afghan Constitution Seeks Balance

Story by Pamela Constable

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (*Washington Post*) — It is full of grammatical errors, legal lapses and overloaded sentences designed to please too many critics. But the drafters of Afghanistan's proposed constitution — completed last week and delivered to President Hamid Karzai for review — say it comes close to achieving the impossible.

In 182 brief articles and 39 pages, the draft — a copy of which was obtained by *The Washington Post* — manages to balance the competing demands of a confused postwar society that is struggling to chart a course between Islamic and secular values, domestic tradition and international norms, immediate political needs and permanent legal standards.

After nearly a year of contentious private deliberations, conflicting public comment and clashing expert advice, the draft has finally been approved by a 35-member constitutional commission. Now, with Karzai's endorsement, it is scheduled to be debated and ratified at a national assembly in December, paving the way for Afghanistan's first direct national elections.

In a visit to New York last week, Karzai told an audience at Columbia University that the draft constitution will be released to the Afghan public within two weeks. He also told a session of the U.N. General Assembly that the Afghan people want a constitution that reinforces Islamic values, national unity, human rights and security.

According to commission members and others who have seen the unpublished document, the draft is a legally imperfect but politically balanced charter that provides for both a president and prime minister, protects minority rights while bowing to majority wishes, and acknowledges the primacy of Islamic values in Afghan life without making Islamic law paramount.

"We tried to come up with a formula that paid attention to Islamic concerns but also paid attention to international rules," said Sarwar Danish, a legal scholar on the commission. "The most important thing was to preserve unity. By the end, we all agreed on 99 percent of the text, and even the most conservative people who read the draft should not find it objectionable."

It is far from clear, however, whether this compromise will hold between now and December, and whether the national assembly, or loya jirga — already delayed by two months — will be able to agree on a new charter or will degenerate into the same chaotic debate and private deal-making that undermined a previous loya jirga last June.

While the question of how far the new constitution should tilt toward religious or secular concepts has dominated most public speculation and debate, experts said a more urgent and volatile issue is what form of government Afghanistan should have and how power should be shared at the top.

The great majority of Afghans, whose views on the constitution

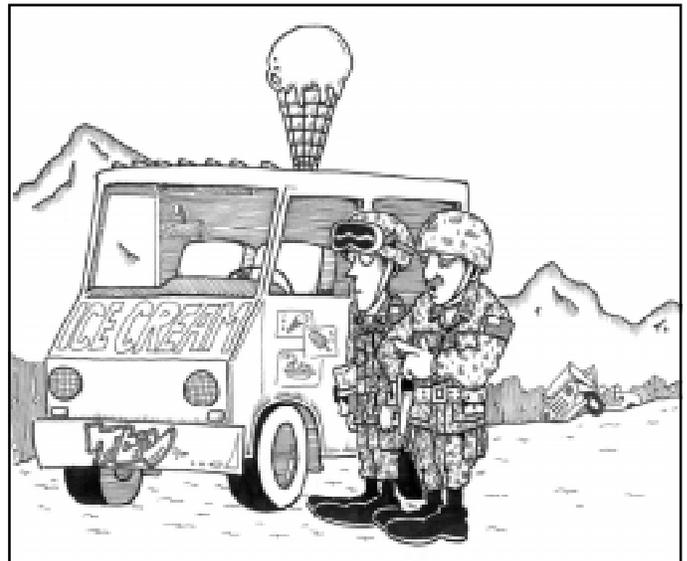
were solicited last summer in nationwide surveys, want direct presidential elections but also favor a parliamentary system, which the country briefly enjoyed in the 1970s before it collapsed into a 25-year maelstrom of Cold War conflict, destructive civil war and repressive Islamic rule.

In seeking the soundest political formula, commission members and U.N. advisers have expressed concern that a president with too much power could become a dictator, while a full-fledged parliamentary system could lead to chaos because the country has no large or developed political parties.

Even more worrisome is the prospect that an irreconcilable conflict between two strong leaders, probably representing the country's two major ethnic groups, could lead to a reprise of the brutal factional bloodletting that decimated Kabul in the early 1990s after the government split between President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

"Nobody wants too much power concentrated in one person's hands. We need a division of political power, but we also don't want a conflict in the core of the government," said Abdul Hai Ellahi, a psychiatrist and legal philosopher on the commission. "Afghanistan is going through a transitional stage, and the most important thing is for the government to be conciliatory."

**"The next time you commandeer a vehicle try to get something a little more tactical."**



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support