

Aviation Co. keeps Apache in attack mode

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

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – It has been called the premier attack helicopter in the U. S. Army. It has a 30mm chain gun and carries 38, 2.75 inch rockets. For the infantry soldier who goes out on missions, it has been called a lifesaver. For all who know about it, the Apache has an ominous appearance as it flies through the skies of Afghanistan.

But even one of the Army's most lethal pieces of machinery needs work done on it to keep it in excellent shape. That job belongs to the men and women of Company D, 1st Battalion (Attack), 130th Aviation Regiment.

"The Apache's critical to the mission in Afghanistan," said Capt. John Gerber, Co. D Commander, 1st Bn., 130th Av. Regt. "It's been playing a major role here."

"The Apache is the only offensive attack helicopter in the Afghanistan theater," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Larry Gattrell, Co. A, 1st Bn., 130th Avn. Regt.

The 1st Bn., 130th Avn. Regt. is a National Guard unit from Morrisville, N.C. Besides Co. D the battalion has three attack helicopter companies and a headquarters company.

There are 54 people in Co. D that perform maintenance on the Apache. "Fifteen people are Apache-specific mechanics," said Gerber. "The rest work on specific parts of the helicopter, like electronics and weapons."

With the maintenance company keeping the "birds" in the



A soldier from the 1st Bn., 130th Av. Regt. cleans an Apache attack helicopter. The regiment is responsible for the maintenance of the Apaches on Bagram Air Base.

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MWR wants to create R&R at Bagram

Story by Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – John Senatore is here at Bagram for one thing, and that's to make sure service members are having fun.

As Bagram Air Base's newest Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinator, Senatore's job is to plan and organize events and activities for service members, and to

get inspiration for events Senatore says the most effective strategy is to get it straight from the source.

"Recreation needs to be customer driven," said Senatore. "I can plan things all day long and no one will come, but when people come and say, 'hey I want this', those are the things I jump at."

Well, some service members came with ideas and Senatore heard their call – they wanted more sports.

Gunnery Sgt. Jimmy Sanchez, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, was the first to approach MWR about the idea for a softball tournament.

"I think a sports event was needed to help keep morale up, and unit against unit events develop esprit de corps," said Sanchez.

Senatore quickly went to work and came

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A U.S. soldier watches over Iraqis lined up to receive \$150 aid checks Wednesday.

Sources: Pentagon rushed postwar plan

WASHINGTON – A classified draft military review on lessons learned from the war in Iraq says planners did not have enough time to prepare for the so-called Phase IV operation – the rebuilding and reconstruction of Iraq, according to Pentagon sources.

The review of the lessons is one of several being conducted throughout the military.

This particular assessment is an ongoing project of the senior members of the Joint Staff, which serves the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The project looks at lessons learned in a number of areas: personnel, deployments, intelligence, operations, logistics and planning.

The section on planning suggests that insufficient preparation for Phase IV before the war limited the military's focus on that issue. The review recommends a better structure for planning postwar rebuilding operations.

The review also notes problems in trying to locate weapons of mass destruction, saying insufficient resources were devoted to the problem in the early days after the war.

Pentagon sources emphasized the review will continue, and recommendations may be expanded or dropped in subsequent revisions.

"This is an effort to see how we can do things better," one official said, noting that lessons learned reports are standard military procedure after a conflict.

In a step intended to bring Iraq closer to

self-rule, ministers of the Iraqi Governing Council were sworn into office Wednesday. The council chose a slate of 25 cabinet ministers Monday.

Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator for Iraq, reviewed the list, sources said.

"They will run the ministries, the day-to-day business of government is in their hands," Bremer said Tuesday.



Palestinian leaders Mahmoud Abbas, left, and Yasser Arafat are locked in a power struggle.

Palestinian prime minister ponders next move

JERUSALEM – In the face of a leadership struggle, Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas will ask the Palestinian Legislative Council for more power and could resign if he doesn't receive it, a senior Palestinian official said Wednesday.

The official denied the request was an ultimatum. Abbas will ask the council for its support and then make a decision about what to do next, the official said.

Abbas has been at odds with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat since before taking office in April.

Abbas is scheduled to appear Thursday before the council to report on his first 100 days in office.

He has been under pressure from Israel and international supporters of the "road map" to Mideast peace to persuade Palestinian militant groups to end attacks on Israeli targets.

The road map — backed by the United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia — aims to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and establish an independent Palestinian state by 2005.

Arafat told CNN on Tuesday that recent

Israeli military action had killed the road map

His statement came as Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz left open the possibility that Israel might move to expel Arafat.



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday said the United States has had discussions about the draft resolution with Security Council members.

U.S. to introduce U.N. resolution

WASHINGTON – The Bush administration said Wednesday it would introduce a draft United Nations Security Council resolution that would authorize a multinational force and encourage Iraqis to set a timetable for holding elections and establishing self-rule.

Under the plan, the United States would keep a "dominant role" in the occupation and be in command of any multinational peacekeeping mission, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said.

But the resolution would give the United Nations a greater role in political and economic reconstruction of the country and establish a Powell termed a "political horizon" for the restoration of self-rule in Iraq.

"There are many roles to be played, and we believe that every peace-loving nation in the world — every nation that would like to see a more stable Middle East, that would like to see a democracy arise in that part of the world — would like to play a role," Powell said.

Powell said he was consulting with other countries about the proposed language. Initial talks with other Security Council members received a "positive response," Powell told reporters Wednesday.

ANA deploys to provinces illustrating country's unity

KABUL, Afghanistan – Over recent months, elements of the Afghan National Army have deployed to Paktia, Paktika, Khowst and Bamian provinces.

The deployments have been giving visibility to the ANA, showing the people of Afghanistan the ANA is a professional, disciplined Army.

The ANA's missions in the deployed areas are diverse. They are conducting security patrols in cities with local police forces, establishing checkpoints to search for criminal, performing combat operations against terrorists, attacking and arresting bandits and thieves and supporting local authorities' efforts to disarm warring factional force.

Despite their limited deployment times in the field, ANA soldiers have left lasting impressions on the citizens, leading them one step closer to becoming a universally accepted, and respected national army.

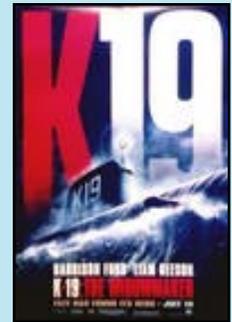
Sgt. Mohammad Mirwais, a 20-year old recent graduate of the NCO course, assigned to 1st Kandak, 3rd Brigade said, "At first when we went into a village the people were nervous and did not know what to expect, but when they realized we were the new Afghan National Army and understood that we were not some outside factional force, they welcomed us. This kind of support from the Afghan people gives us pride in knowing that our efforts are helping to bring about peace and security in Afghanistan."

Providing security and educating the people about the new ANA is a prime example of the steps the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan (ITGA) has taken to ensure a better country. With the support of the international community and the Coalition, Afghanistan is coming together as one nation.

(Information from CJTF-180 Press Release)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "K19 Widowmaker." When Russia's first nuclear submarine malfunctions on its maiden voyage, the crew must race to save the ship and prevent a nuclear disaster.



Tomorrow's movie will be "Sweet Home Alabama."

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 95F L: 57F	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 93F L: 59F
Kandahar:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 99F L: 66F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 97F L: 66F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 93F L: 57F	<i>Haze</i> H: 93F L: 57F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Clear</i> H: 99F L: 59F	<i>Clear</i> H: 98F L: 60F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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CA closes gap to school refurbishment

Story by Pfc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

GARDEZ, Afghanistan – Civil Affairs Team members brought a local community one step closer to beginning rebuilding efforts on their school Aug. 18 as they conducted final preparations for the project.

The Rod School, Paktya Province, will offer girls an opportunity for an education that, as of now, is only an option for the boys of the community. With this project, will come change in the communities education system.

“One of the criteria that we have is that if

we build a school or refurbish a school, they will make it available to girls,” said Capt. Brad Domby, Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineer. “That’s why it’s important that we do this.”

Currently, school is being conducted in tents located outside the project location.

“If we build this school, they will not only (bring in) the boys that are currently out in tents, they’ll also start having school for the girls,” he said.

The security wall is already under construction to establish the school’s perimeter and the next step is the actual school.

“The first thing we were going out there

to do was a quality assurance, quality control assessment (to) make sure (the project) is going as planned,” said Domby.

The second step is to measure the area located inside the established perimeter to determine if the submitted plans for the school need to be reevaluated due to size constraints.

“We had a design that the previous team had submitted (and) we went out there to verify that the space was suitable for that design,” said Domby. “It was.”

The start date for construction to build the school is unknown, but Domby is excited for the process to begin for the betterment of the community and their education system.

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air, the Apache has been able to perform a number of missions here in Afghanistan.

“They fly escort for all missions, combat and re-supply,” said Capt. Mark Pickett, Battle Captain for Task Force Panther. “They are important for all missions that go on here.”

The people of the maintenance department work 12-hour shifts. According to Gatrell, a lot of man hours are put into making the Apaches operational.

“The sand here is a real fine, powdery type sand,” he said. “It gets into the circuitry and the engines and can cause a lot problems.”

But even a little sand doesn’t stop the maintenance department

from making sure the Apaches are up and running for the various tasks that has been set for them.

“We are working pretty much around the clock,” said Staff Sgt. Carl Glover, 1st Bn., 130th Avn. Regt. “We know we have to keep the Apaches in tip-top shape.”

And the soldiers reap the rewards from their hard work.

“The soldiers see a direct result from their work,” said Gerber. “They know their efforts to get the aircraft up has an impact on the missions in this theater.”

“It’s a big responsibility,” said Gatrell. “Maintenance has been really good in keeping this aircraft dependable.”

For the guys in maintenance, it’s just another day on the job.

“We take a lot of pride in what we do,” said Glover.

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up with an eight-team, double elimination softball tournament. The game is set for Sunday, Sept. 7 at 1030 L on the field across from Marine compound and Class IV yard.

The response from service members to the event was overwhelmingly positive, said Senatore, noting that all eight team slots were filled within 24-hours of the announcement of the tournament.

The teams scheduled to play represent an array of services from Bagram, including three U.S. Army teams, two U.S. Air Force teams, a Marine team, Brown and Root civilian team, and softball newcomers, the Polish Army team.

Although the teams have been set, everyone is encouraged to come out and “break up your routine,” said 1st Sgt. Allan

Williams, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division. “It’s a day of relaxation, come out and cheer for teams you like or people you know, and see a team that’s never played the sport.”

Spectators are encouraged to come out, watch the game and have a bite to eat at the barbeque, which MWR is having in conjunction with the tournament.

According to Senatore, his goal is to have a social event for service members every Sunday, whether it is sports or something else.

Other sport-related events scheduled for the upcoming Sundays are MWR’s Sports Trivia Contest at the Bagram Civic center, and for the football fanatics, the MWR Quarterback Challenge where service members face off against each other testing their football throwing ability in three categories: distance,

accuracy and ability to throw on the run.

For anyone interested in participating, sign-up is at the Dragon Palace located next to the Enduring Faith Chapel. The cut off date for the Trivia Contest is Sept. 12 and for the Quarterback Challenge is Sept. 19. The events will be held on the Sunday following their sign-up dates.

MWR sponsored events aren’t limited to sports only, said Senatore, his job is to provide activities that suit all service members.

“I hope that I make soldiers happy and give them things they want to do, and if I’m not then come tell me and I’ll get them done.”

For more information on upcoming events or to offer suggestions, visit the MWR coordinator’s office, located at Dragon Palace in the morale call phone room.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



Making a run for the post season, Chicago began Wednesday 1½ games behind the NL Central-leading Cardinals.

Chicago Hope, Cubs rally from deficit to win 8-7 over Cardinals Wednesday

CHICAGO – Moises Alou was angry when he arrived at Wrigley Field on Wednesday and took it out on the St. Louis Cardinals.

Alou had a career-high five hits, including a go-ahead single in the eighth inning that capped a comeback from a six-run deficit and led the Chicago Cubs over the Cardinals 8-7.

“Against St. Louis, right in the middle of a pennant race, for me to come up clutch and get the game-winning hit was awesome,” he said. “It was a huge game. Down 6-0 this team really showed a lot of heart.”

Before the game, Alou said he was still upset over an umpire’s call that the Cubs believed cost them the second game of Tuesday’s doubleheader. A bases-loaded drive down the line by Alou was called foul — even though a photo appeared to show it hit the line — and the Cubs lost 2-0.

Alou then went out and drove in four runs to lead the Cubs to a big win in a tension-filled game that included a shouting match between managers and the two starting pitchers hitting each other with pitches.

“That was a great, great victory for us,” Cubs manager Dusty Baker said. “We were hitting the ball hard all day long and had nothing to show for it. The guys kept battling and fighting and grinding and grinding.”

“This was the ultimate comeback in a big game and a big series,” Baker added.

Chicago trailed 6-0 before scoring three runs in the sixth, then allowed a run in the seventh before closing to 7-6 with three more runs in the bottom half.

Chicago began Wednesday 1½ games behind the NL Central-leading Cardinals.

Change of pace, Indiana signs Carlisle

INDIANAPOLIS — Rick Carlisle was hired Wednesday as the Indiana Pacers’ new coach, three years after the former assistant was bypassed in favor of Isiah Thomas.

Carlisle, coach of the Detroit Pistons the past two years, was fired by the Pistons in May. He was the first choice for the Pacers after new president Larry Bird, his former Boston teammate, fired Thomas last month.

“I know our fans are familiar with him, and I look forward to a great year,” Bird said in a statement. “He has tremendous knowledge of the game, and I firmly believe he is the right coach for this team.”

The Pacers last season got off to the best start in their 27-year NBA history but faded after the All-Star break, losing in the first round of playoffs for the third straight year under Thomas.

In announcing his decision to fire Thomas on Aug. 27, Bird said he did not feel comfortable with the Pacers’ direction because of their collapse after a 37-15 start last season.

Carlisle played with the Celtics for three years and was Bird’s teammate on Boston’s 1986 NBA championship team.

Bills sign ex-Patriot Milloy to four-year deal

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Lawyer Milloy agreed to sign with the Buffalo Bills on Wednesday, a day after being cut by the New England Patriots.



Lawyer Milloy

The move adds to an intriguing season opener — the Bills host the Patriots on Sunday. In addition to Milloy, Drew Bledsoe, Buffalo’s quarterback, is a former star in New England.

Besides significantly upgrading a young Buffalo defensive backfield, Milloy could provide insight into the Bills plans as they prepare for New England.

Milloy was expected to join the team for his first practice Thursday.

Coach Gregg Williams said he would have to first speak with Milloy before determining whether he would be ready to play this weekend.

Milloy was released by the Patriots for salary-cap reasons on Tuesday. The move created a stir, in part because Milloy was a team leader and had started 106 consecutive games over his seven NFL seasons.

Adding the bonus to his \$4.4 million salary for this season, Milloy was to count \$5.25 million against New England’s cap.

The Bills, projected to have \$4 million of room under the cap, were one of a handful of team that had made offers to sign the player.

The four-year contract is worth \$15 million, nearly two-thirds of that in the first two seasons of the deal. Milloy will receive a \$5 million signing bonus and base salaries of \$2 million for 2003 and \$2.75 million for 2004.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Troops siege Taliban retreat after 9 days

Story by: Noor Khan

QALAT, Afghanistan (*Associated Press*) – Afghan officials claimed victory Wednesday after a 9-day siege by U.S and Afghan troops against suspected Taliban fighters holed up in a region of mountains and caves of southern Afghanistan.

Scores of Taliban guerrillas were killed and others retreated in Zabul province, local officials said.

In a sign that major fighting is over, about 600 Afghan troops have pulled out of Dai Chupan, a remote district of Zabul province, said Khalil Hotak, the province's intelligence chief. That area has been the scene of the heaviest fighting since the Taliban's fall from power in late 2001.

Afghan troops found bodies along gorges, in caves and scattered across the front lines, Hotak told *The Associated Press* from a command center in Qalat.

Troops found the bodies of at least 124 rebels since the joint offensive by Afghan government and U.S.-led forces began early last week, Hotak said, while most of the other Taliban fighters were believed to have slipped away. Five Afghan government troops were killed in the fighting, he said.

It was impossible to independently verify Hotak's account. U.S. officials have put the confirmed death toll among the insurgents at just 37, but have not updated that figure for two days.

"The siege has ended. We had thought there were Taliban fighters left but they have left the area," Hotak said. "We defeated the Taliban in Dai Chupan."

Earlier, Hotak told the *AP* that 80 percent of Zabul province was loyal to the Taliban. Deeply conservative and religious rural residents have been told by the Taliban that the U.S. troops are infidels fighting Islam and most people believe this, giving the guerrillas the ability to move freely.

The hostilities, triggered by a wave of Taliban attacks on Afghan officials, police and aid workers in the south and east of the country, have underscored the security problems faced by the administration of President Hamid Karzai that took power soon after the Taliban's ouster by U.S.-led forces in 2001.

While Kabul-based diplomats and Afghan officials say there is little threat to the government, the capacity of the Taliban to mass hundreds of fighters in one place has shown how precarious its control is over parts of the country.

Afghan officials have said the Taliban used the mountainous district as a base for attacks.

After offering stiff resistance to coalition forces despite repeated bombing of their positions in the past week, Hotak said the Taliban had escaped from Dai Chupan to neighboring provinces in small groups.

The latest fighting involved U.S. special operations forces and soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division, with close air support. They are among the 11,500 forces of the U.S.-led coalition posted in Afghanistan to hunt down Taliban and remnants of the al-Qaida terror group.

Earlier Wednesday, U.S. and Afghan troops stormed a cave in Dai Chupan where several insurgents were believed to be holding out, as U.S.

jets continued their assault from the air, Afghan and U.S. officials said.

The raid did not net any major Taliban commanders, and most of the rebels had slipped away by the time the troops moved in, Hotak said.

Some 100 Afghan soldiers and an unknown number of U.S. troops remained in the area in case of renewed Taliban attacks, Hotak said.

The U.S. military gave no immediate sign that "Operation Mountain Viper" in Dai Chupan had ended.

Spokesman Col. Rodney Davis said Wednesday that allied troops had come under fire, but there were no reported casualties. The military also said that five rockets were fired Tuesday at its base in Gardez, in eastern Afghanistan near the border with Pakistan, but there was no damage or injuries.

American fighter jets and attack helicopters bombed several suspected Taliban positions in the Larzab and Sairo Ghar mountains in Dai Chupan, said Haji Saifullah Khan, the main Afghan commander in the area.

Khan said one rebel fighter who had lost a hand in earlier combat was captured and turned over to American forces. He said the Taliban had used the rough terrain as a shield to make their escape.

*"Can I call you back honey,
I'm kinda' busy right now."*



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support