

## PRT opens door to education for Afghan people

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

**BAMIAN**, Afghanistan – From a pile of shattered dreams and debris, a structure slowly retakes its former shape and rises at the foot of one of Afghanistan’s towering mountains. With a little support from the Bamian Provincial Reconstruction Team, each wall of handmade bricks put up is reinforced by local determination to rebuild what was once Bamian Province’s pinnacle of education: Bamian University.

“The Bamian University was a functioning university prior to the Taliban taking over in Afghanistan,” said Lt. Col. Mark T. Schnur, Bamian Provincial Reconstruction Team commander with the Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force.

The university was an institution where Afghan men and women attended to study subjects like agriculture, medicine, language and science.

Governor Muhammad Rahim Aliyar, the current governor of the Bamian Province,



*Yaser Shad Muhamad, hired by local contractor to help rebuild the Bamian University, lays handmade bricks.*

was a student at the university before the Taliban occupied Afghanistan. He said through an interpreter that before the Taliban came the university was continuously growing and people were coming from all over Afghanistan to Bamian just to attend its institution of higher education.

When the Taliban took over Afghanistan and began forcing their ways of thinking on the Afghan people the Bamian people fled, leaving behind their ambitions at the university as well as their way of life, said Aliyar.

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## Bagram carpenters build bonds one board at a time

By Spc. Wes Landrum  
Coalition Joint Task Force 180

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – From the staircases leading to the showers to the wooden floors in the tents, they’ve built just about everything here at Bagram Air Base.

For the carpenters here the days are busy supporting all of Bagram’s carpentry needs. The days would be even busier if they did not have a little help from the outside.

Paul Schmidt, supervisor for the carpentry department, and his crew of 12, seven regulars and five local nationals, pull 12-hour shifts and work seven days a week.

Schmidt was one of the first carpenters to get to Bagram, arriving in Sept. 2002.

Soon after arriving the high demand for carpentry forced them to employ local help. He said working with the locals was a challenge in the beginning.

“We started using the locals soon after I first got here,” he recalled. “When

they first got here, they couldn’t read a tape (measure), use a hammer, and had no knowledge of power equipment.”

Schmidt added not knowing the language was tough too.

“They didn’t know English and I didn’t know their language,” he said

Now, after working with them for more than ten months, he says they can do just about anything.

“I tell them to cut something 50 inches and they will take out their tape and cut it

See **BONDS**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



About 9,000 U.S. soldiers remain in Afghanistan pursuing Osama bin Laden and Mullah Mohammed Omar.

## War in Afghanistan heats up

**ORGUN**, Afghanistan – Two years after the attacks of September 11, 2001, the leaders of the al Qaeda network and its Taliban allies remain at large and there are indications that the remnants of their forces are regrouping in Afghanistan.

With some 9,000 U.S. soldiers pursuing the holdouts and nearly daily battles between Taliban loyalists and Afghan government forces, Afghanistan — the first battlefield in the U.S. war on terrorism — remains a hot zone.

This summer has seen an upsurge of militant activity in Afghanistan. With the most intense fighting in more than a year taking place, U.S., Afghan and coalition forces killed between 150 and 200 Taliban last week in eastern and southern Afghanistan, according to Lt. Gen. John Vines, commander of Combined Joint Task Force 180, the U.S. ground force in the country.

In the months following September 11, the United States and its allies swept into the remote, mountainous country, scattering Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda and driving its Taliban hosts out of power.

But as the second anniversary of the terrorist attacks that killed more than 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar remain at large. U.S. troops continue to pursue them in a difficult search that one American described as "a real cat-and-mouse game."

"We're walking uphill. We've got upward of 50 to 60 pounds on our backs. It's hard to breathe. We're not used to the area,"

Lt. Justin Stoddard of the 10th Mountain Division said after a two-day patrol in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan.



U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is visiting Afghanistan amid a surge of fighting.

## U.S. official says Taliban fighters regrouping Sunday

**KABUL**, Afghanistan – America's top commander in Afghanistan has confirmed that al Qaeda-trained Taliban fighters are pouring into the country from Pakistan.

Lt. Gen. John Vines said Sunday the hardline Taliban have been trying to regain control of Afghanistan after being removed from power in late 2001 by a U.S.-led coalition.

"They have been attempting to (regroup) for nine months," Vines said.

"Every time, we've disrupted them, we've interdicted them, we've denied them sanctuary, and we've killed them."

His comments to reporters traveling with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld were the first confirmation from a top U.S. military official the Taliban are emerging out of Pakistan and moving into Afghanistan.

In the most intense fighting in over a year, U.S., Afghan and coalition forces have been battling as many as 1,000 Taliban fighters in the troubled province of Zabol, south of the capital Kabul.

As many as 200 Taliban have been killed this week alone, Vines said.

Meanwhile Afghan officials say they foiled a Taliban attack near the border with Pakistan, just hours before Rumsfeld arrived in Kabul on Sunday.

As violence shows little sign of abating, U.S. President George W. Bush told Americans in a televised address Sunday night he

will seek an additional \$87 billion from Congress to continue the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The al Qaeda resurgence, along with rumors that leader Osama bin Laden is still on the run, has put Washington under increasing pressure to act.



A pedestrian watches President Bush's address to the nation Sunday evening outside the CNN studios in New York.

## Lawmakers assess Bush's speech to the nation

**(CNN)** – Reactions Monday to President Bush's speech to the nation on Iraq varied among lawmakers — with some Republicans calling it realistic and one Democratic critic "an admission of a gross miscalculation."

In his speech Sunday night, Bush said he will ask Congress to approve an additional \$87 billion to continue military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also said he will ask more nations to help pay the cost.

"This will take time and require sacrifice," Bush said. "Yet we will do whatever is necessary — we will spend whatever is necessary — to achieve this essential victory in the war on terror, to promote freedom and to make our own nation more secure."

U.S. Rep. David Obey, D-Wisconsin, said the Bush administration underestimated the costs and challenges of occupation before launching the war.

"The president's speech was an admission of gross miscalculation," said Obey, the ranking minority member of the House Appropriations Committee who has called for the resignations of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Assistant Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz over the administration's Iraq policy.

# ANA volunteer center to open in Bamian

**BAMIAN**, Afghanistan — In late August groundbreaking on the site that will house the Afghan National Army Volunteer Center occurred. The groundbreaking was in part made possible by the assistance from Coalition forces and members of the international community.

The new NAVC will provide a place for aspiring volunteers to come learn about the Afghan National Army (ANA) as well as providing temporary quarters for those who have signed up but are waiting for further transport to the ANA training center in Kabul. The NAVC is one of nine NAVCs planned to open in different provinces over the next 120 days.

New Zealand's Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), which provides humanitarian and civil assistance to the village, is helping

to construct the NAVC and also serves as a liaison office between the local community and various government agencies helping to build roads in the area.

Bamian Governor Mohammed Rahim Aliyar expressed his appreciation that Bamian is one of the towns selected to receive a NAVC.

"Already, the Ministry of Defense recruiters here have sent 35 new volunteers to join the ANA," said the Governor.

The building of the center, which overlooks the caves of the famous Buddhist statues destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, holds great symbolism in that those volunteering for the ANA will have the chance to bring Afghanistan forward into the future.

*(Information from a CJTF-180 Press Release)*

## EDUCATION, from Page 1

At the time of the Taliban occupation, "I wasn't thinking about my education," he said. "I was thinking about my life," he said, so he fled as well.

Since the Taliban didn't care about the education of the Bamian people they took over the university to use it as a headquarters and ammunition storage, said Schnur.

When the U.S. started its bombing campaign at the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in the fall of 2001 they knew that the Taliban was occupying the university, and it was U.S. military's mission to drive them out. In order to do that the U.S. military had to bomb the university and thus partially destroyed it, said Schnur.

After driving the Taliban out of the area the United States, coalition and international organizations began to filter into the Bamian Province to sort through the rubble that the combat operations had left behind.

What the U.S. military found was that the path to Bamian's higher education was not completely wiped out. On March 14, 2002, a U.S. civil affairs team conducted a survey of the university and concluded that the structure was salvageable. They then requested financial aid from the Overseas Humanitarian Direct and Civil Aid foundation, which was approved, but they ran into a delay.

Because the university was used as a munitions storage area for the Taliban there was believed to be mass quantities of

unexploded ordnances around and within the bombed structure making it too dangerous to start the rebuilding right away, said Maj. Tito S. Martinez, the executive officer and Bamian PRT engineer.

After the UXO was cleared out and disposed of by a U.S. explosive ordnance disposal team the reconstruction of the university's four buildings was able to begin March of this year.

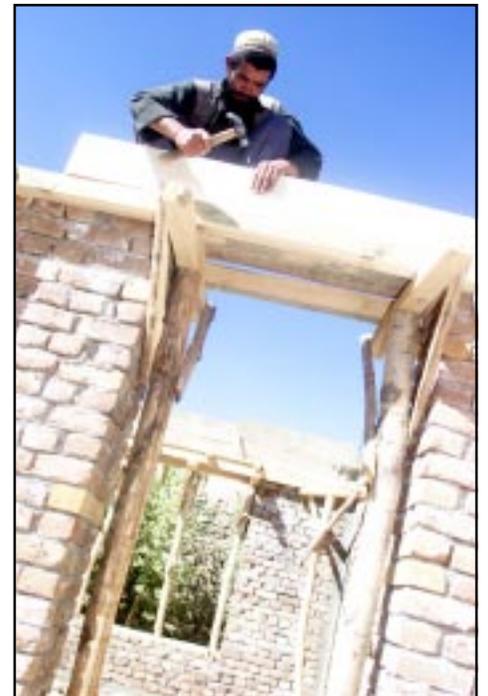
A local contractor was hired by the U.S. Army to do the hiring of local labor and oversee day-to-day operations, said Schnur. "We just come in and do the overall professional engineer supervision and quality assurance."

The locals do all the rebuilding and they do it by hand, said Schnur. "There are no power tools; certainly no cranes or anything like that," he said. Despite the lack of equipment, Schnur said that without close inspection, you wouldn't know that each brick added to the university was hand made.

The university should be completed in January or February, said Martinez, and once it is, "it is our hope that Bamian University will become a full-fledged university," he said.

"The Bamian Province is one of the poorest in the nation so they need higher education to spur further progress," said Schnur. The progress will then trickle down to have more of an economic impact on the region, he said. "It's important to help them pull themselves out of their economic slump," he said.

It is Aliyar's hope that in the next two



*Haji Ahmad, hired by a local contractor to help rebuild the Bamian University, hammers in a nail to strengthen the structure.*

years the boys and girls currently in high school will be able to attend the university to continue their education. He said the young adults are excited about the reconstruction.

"They ask about the university all the time," he said.

It's those young minds that makes reconstructing the university important said Schnur. "It's our mission to help Afghanistan get back on its feet so that it can be a self-sustaining country."

**BONDS**, from Page 1



Local national and Brown and Root employees work together in the Carpentry department on a bookcase that will go in the Morale Welfare and Recreation Library.

50 inches,” he said.

And the language barrier — Schmidt said working without an interpreter for more than eight months solved that problem.

“We have gotten to know each other pretty well,” he said. “I can explain something and they know what it is without the interpreter telling them.”

Schmidt also said he is teaching the locals something that will last them the rest of their lives.

“By them working with us here they are learning a skill that they can take and use long after we are gone from here,” he said.

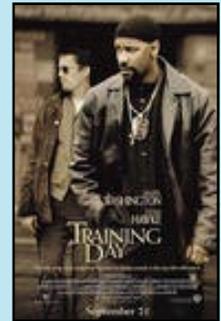
Schmidt said working with the locals has made his tour here worthwhile. He said their dedication to the job makes him eager to tackle the day’s assignments.

“It’s nice to sit back and see what you’ve accomplished from a year ago until now,” he said.

“It’s good to come into a place that has been torn by war for 20 or 30 years and help them make their lives 100 percent better.”

# Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Training Day.” On his first day on the job as a narcotics officer, a rookie cop works with a rogue detective who isn’t what he appears as. And the only thing more dangerous than the line being crossed, is the cop who will cross it.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “Men of Honor.”

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 86F L: 54F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 88F L: 57F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 97F L: 66F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 97F L: 66F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 82F L: 52F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 82F L: 54F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Clear</i> H: 100F L: 62F	<i>Clear</i> H: 100F L: 63F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



John Lynch and the Bucs put the heat on Eagles QB Donovan McNabb all night long, sacking him three times in the 17-0 shutout Monday.

## Bucs' D shuts down Eagles 17-0 to spoil Philly stadium opener Monday

**PHILADELPHIA** — At the Vet or the Linc, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers still own Philadelphia.

The Super Bowl champions began defense of their title Monday night with, what else, a suffocating defense. They also got some sharp passing from Brad Johnson and two spectacular touchdown catches by Joe Jurevicius in a 17-0 victory over the Eagles that sent a message to the rest of the NFL: We're at home anywhere.

Less than eight months after they marched into Philadelphia and throttled the Eagles for the NFC championship in the final game at Veterans Stadium, the Bucs moved their act across the street to Lincoln Financial Field. Led by defensive linemen Simeon Rice, Warren Sapp and Greg Spires, the Bucs were as impressive as the \$520 million stadium that made its regular-season debut.

Never allowing Donovan McNabb and the Eagles any breathing room, the Bucs showed the kind of balance that made them champions for the first time. They shut down the running lanes and befuddled McNabb, who finished 19-for-36 for 148 yards. Philadelphia gained 245 yards overall, much of it in garbage time.

It was the second straight regular-season shutout for Tampa Bay, which ended the 2002 season with a 15-0 win at Chicago.

Sapp even got into the act on offense, making a 14-yard fourth-quarter reception on which he faked out two Eagles to get to the Philadelphia 11-yard line. After his first career catch, Sapp made an exaggerated first-down signal, the final insult to the quiet fans who expected so much more from their team.

## Roster shuffle: Delhomme named Panthers' starting quarterback

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** — Jake Delhomme will be the Carolina Panthers' new quarterback, replacing Rodney Peete just in time to face defending Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay.



Jake Delhomme

"Every game is so tough in this league, but what better way to get your first start than to go against the world champions," Delhomme said Monday. "They have certainly made a lot of good quarterbacks look bad."

Delhomme earned the start after replacing Peete in the second half of Sunday's 24-23 victory against Jacksonville.

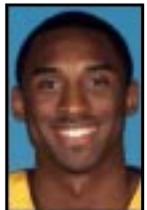
Down 17-0 when he entered the game, Delhomme threw three touchdown passes, including the game winner on fourth-and-11 with 16 seconds to play, to rally Carolina.

"It would have been tough not to start him," head coach John Fox said. "It was very evident that he sparked our offense."

Delhomme, who spent the past five years as a backup in New Orleans, signed a two-year contract worth \$4 million during the offseason for the right to compete with Peete for Carolina's starting quarterback job.

## Judge bans cameras from Bryant's hearing

**EAGLE, Colo.** — Cameras will be banned from the courtroom during a preliminary hearing in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case, a judge said Monday.



Kobe Bryant

Court rules specifically prohibit video and still cameras at pretrial hearings in criminal cases except for initial advisements and arraignments, Eagle County Judge Frederick Gannett said in a one-page decision.

Court TV, *The Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News* had requested permission for cameras in the courtroom during the Oct. 9 hearing.

Court TV attorney Richard Holme declined comment Monday. He said the judge's order cannot be appealed under court rules.

Denver attorney Chris Beall, who represents media organizations including CNN, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Denver Post* and NBC, said he wasn't surprised by the ruling and declined further comment.

Bryant, 25, is charged with sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman June 30 in his suite at a mountain resort where she worked and he was a guest. Bryant has said the two had consensual sex.

The Los Angeles Lakers star, who is free on \$25,000 bond, is scheduled to return to Eagle for the hearing, where Gannett will determine whether there is enough evidence to order a trial.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## U.S. general Taliban streaming from Pakistan into Afghanistan Sunday

**GARDEZ, Afghanistan** (Associated Press) — Taliban fighters, paid and trained by al-Qaeda, are pouring into Afghanistan from Pakistan, the top American commander in Afghanistan said Sunday.

Lt. Gen. John Vines said the Taliban were trying to regroup and regain control of the country they ruled until ousted by the United States in late 2001. His comments to reporters traveling with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld were the first confirmation from a top U.S. military official of reports of a Taliban resurgence out of Pakistan into Afghanistan.

American, Afghan and coalition forces have responded with military operations against the radical Islamic fighters. As many as 200 Taliban have been killed this week alone, Vines said.

"They have been attempting to (regroup) for nine months," Vines said. "Every time, we've disrupted them, we've interdicted them, we've denied them sanctuary, and we've killed them."

The most intense fighting in Afghanistan in a year has come during what the U.S. military calls Operation Mountain Viper. Starting in late August, teams of American troops and local Afghan militia have pounded Taliban fighters in the mountains of Zabol province south of the capital, Kabul.

Vines said perhaps as many as 1,000 Taliban were in and around the area. They are among Taliban fighters who have either hidden out in Afghanistan or crossed into Afghanistan from Pakistan, Vines said.

"They're attempting to regain power," Vines said. "They've been attempting to do that for a year and a half."

American military officials have indications the recent Taliban resurgence is spurred in part by operatives of the al-Qaeda network, who have been giving the Taliban training and funding, Vines said. Apparently frustrated with the Taliban's lack of success, their al-Qaeda sponsors have urged the Taliban on or risk losing al-Qaeda's support.

Vines called it a "use it or lose it" ultimatum from Osama bin Laden's network.

Three American soldiers have died in Afghanistan in the past month, two in a gunbattle with Taliban militants near the border with Pakistan. The other died in a fall from a helicopter during a Mountain Viper operation.

Rumsfeld and Vines said the Taliban are not a serious threat. The defense secretary said this week the Taliban's regrouping gave the U.S. an advantage, since larger groups of Taliban fighters are easier to find and attack.

Vines said he sees no reason to dispatch more soldiers into Afghanistan. About 8,500 Americans are among the 11,500 international troops in Afghanistan. Separately, 5,000 troops under NATO command act as peacekeepers in Kabul.

Still, an administration official, speaking Sunday on condition of anonymity, acknowledged that the Taliban and al-Qaeda pose the most serious threats to the government of interim Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

Rumsfeld met with Karzai Sunday and told him the United States

plans to increase significantly its spending to reconstruct the country.

U.S. officials have said President George W. Bush is considering an additional US\$1 billion in spending on rebuilding Afghanistan, roughly double the current level.

Karzai, in a news conference with Rumsfeld outside the presidential palace, spoke of the Taliban threat with a defiant tone.

"We will be working together to fight terrorism to the very end," Karzai said. "This is not something we are going to be soft on, even for a fraction of a second."

Karzai said he speaks frequently with Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, about the problem of Taliban and other terrorists crossing into Afghanistan.

"He promised everything would be done to stop it," Karzai said. "We hope this cooperation will increase." Vines said he, too, was in frequent contact with his counterparts in Pakistan.

Border security is a touchy subject between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Though Pakistan joined the anti-terrorism coalition shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, it previously had been a longtime backer of the Taliban.

Some Afghans have said Pakistani officials still sympathetic to the Taliban have allowed the group to operate in the remote and largely lawless area along the border with Afghanistan.

Rumsfeld touted the progress Afghanistan has made since the Taliban's ouster. He visited a U.S. "provincial reconstruction team" in Gardez, in a mountain valley south of the capital.

**"Um, can someone put me through to maintenance?"**



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support