

Apache mechanics fight elements

By Spc. Joe Healy
Combined Task Force-82 PAO

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — On a bright winter day at Bagram Air Base, the sight and sound of aircraft arriving and departing is noticed by nearly everybody. But what many don't notice is the expertise of the soldiers who work quietly making sure military aircraft operate properly.

"I love being a mechanic on Apache helicopters," said Specialist Fred Quellhurst, an Apache 64 Attack Helicopter repairman, D Company, 3rd Battalion, 229th Aviation, Fort Bragg, N.C. "Mechanics is interesting to me and I get to work with some great soldiers."

Quellhurst, a native of Coldwater, Ohio, said dirt and dust are two main concerns for the mechanics.

"We wash the Apaches all the time, which keeps the dust away," said Quellhurst.

Inspecting the entire helicopter from the top of the rotor blades to the end of the tail gear ensures the helicopters will operate under harsh conditions, he said.

According to Quellhurst, he has been an



Photo by Spc. Joe Healy, Combined Task Force-82 PAO
Spc. Fred Quellhurst, Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 229th Aviation, Fort Bragg, N.C., prepares an Apache Helicopter for take off. Apache mechanics use hand signals to communicate with one another.

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Rumsfeld: War or peace, choice is Iraq's

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — "The choice between war and peace will not be made in Washington, or indeed in New York," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said today. "It will be made in Baghdad, and the decision is facing the Iraqi regime."

The fact that the inspectors have not yet come up with new evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program could itself be evidence of Iraq's non-cooperation, Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon news conference.

He said the Iraqi government has designed weapon programs with denial and deception in mind.

The programs can continue even as inspections progress. He stated the burden of proof is on Iraq to prove it is disarming and to show U.N. inspectors where the weapons are.

"It is not the responsibility of U.N. inspectors to find the weapons," he said.

"It is not their duty nor do they have the ability to find

weapons of mass destruction hidden in a vast country," Rumsfeld added.

The United States stands ready to provide U-2 surveillance aircraft to the U.N. inspectors and has shared intelligence with them.

Rumsfeld said the United States believes that U.N. in-

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

Bush criticizes 'quota system'

WASHINGTON — Calling it “fundamentally flawed,” President Bush announced Wednesday his opposition to an affirmative action program at the University of Michigan that targets minority students and said his administration will challenge it before the Supreme Court.

“I strongly support diversity of all kinds, including racial diversity in higher education,” Bush said at the White House. “But the method used by the University of Michigan to achieve this important goal is fundamentally flawed.”

Bush called it “a quota system” that rejects or accepts students “based solely on race.”

The president said his administration would file a brief Thursday outlining its opposition to the university’s affirmative action program, which helps African-American, Hispanic and Native American students. The administration is expected to file a friend-of-the court brief, but it is not a plaintiff in the matter.

Lack of evidence could mean Iraq's hiding something

WASHINGTON — The failure of U.N. arms inspectors to find weapons of mass destruction “could be evidence, in and of itself, of Iraq’s non-cooperation” with U.N. disarmament resolutions, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Wednesday.

Iraq says it has abandoned its efforts to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons — a declaration the United States has dismissed.

The chief U.N. weapons inspector, Hans Blix, told the U.N. Security Council last week that his teams had found no “smoking gun” in nearly two months of inspections but urged more “active cooperation” from Iraq.

“The fact that the inspectors have not yet come up with new evidence of Iraq’s WMD program could be evidence, in and of itself, of Iraq’s noncooperation,” Rumsfeld said. “We do know that Iraq has designed its programs in a way that they can proceed in an environment of inspections and that they are skilled at denial and deception.”



U.N. inspectors arrive at Saddam Hussein's main palace on Wednesday.

Rebels guilty of torture, murder

KINSHASA, Congo — A U.N. investigation confirmed systematic cannibalism, rape, torture and killing by rebels in a horrifying campaign of atrocities against civilians in the forests of northeast Congo, with children among the victims, U.N. authorities said Wednesday.

Accused rebel groups include the Congolese Liberation Movement of Jean-Pierre Bemba, one of two key insurgent movements now promised a leading role in Congo’s government under a hard-won power-sharing agreement to end the central African nation’s war.

Rebels called their terror campaign “Operation Clean the Slate,” said Patricia Tome, spokeswoman for the U.N. Congo mission based in the capital, Kinshasa.

“The operation was presented to the people almost like a vaccination campaign, envisioning the looting of each home and the rape of each woman,” Tome said.

The charges are laid out in a preliminary report based on a six-day mission by U.N. investigators last week to remote Ituri province. The investigation was prompted by outcries by clergy and non-profit groups operating in the province.

Scientist who allegedly destroyed plague vials arrested

LUBBOCK, Texas — The university scientist who allegedly destroyed vials containing bacteria samples that could cause bubonic plague was arrested Wednesday, a law enforcement source said.

Dr. Thomas Butler, 61, was leading a study aimed at developing antibiotics to fight

the plague, other law enforcement sources told CNN.

These sources said they don’t know why Butler, chief of the Infectious Disease Division at Texas Tech University’s Department of Internal Medicine, allegedly destroyed the vials.

It was also unclear whether the FBI has any information on where or how the vials were destroyed.

The university had no immediate comment, saying only that an investigation was continuing.

Malvo may be tried as adult

FAIRFAX, Va. — A judge ruled Wednesday that teenage sniper suspect John Lee Malvo will be tried as an adult, a decision that will make him eligible for the death penalty if he’s convicted.

Virginia Juvenile Court Judge Charles Maxfield ordered Malvo to be tried as an adult in the October 14 shooting death of FBI analyst Linda Franklin, one of four sniper shootings that prosecutors say Malvo carried out.

Maxfield said there is probable cause to believe Malvo, 17, was involved in the shooting.

Malvo will next go before a Fairfax County, Virginia grand jury February 25.

New Potter hits stores June 21

Mark your calendars: Saturday, June 21, 2003.

That’s the day “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix,” the long-awaited fifth volume in J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series, will be released, its publishers announced Wednesday.

“[Rowling] has written a brilliant and utterly compelling new adventure,” said Bloomsbury Chief Executive Nigel Newton and Scholastic President Barbara Marcus in a joint statement.

The new book begins with the words:

The hottest day of the summer so far was drawing to a close and a drowsy silence lay over the large, square houses of Privet Drive ... The only person left outside was a teenage boy who was lying flat on his back in a flowerbed outside No. 4.

Air Force risks losing air dominance without F/A-22

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Without the F/A-22 Raptor, the Air Force could face losing its lead in fighter aviation to other nations, said Maj. Gen. John D. W. Corley, director of Air Force Global Power Programs at the Pentagon.

“We need this aircraft,” Corley said. “It’s the only new U.S. aircraft that will be able to put weapons on target this decade and be capable of defeating next-generation threats.”

The Air Force sees the F/A-22 as the key enabler for joint and coalition forces to be able to operate around the clock without fear of attack.

The Raptor will also enable the service to operate its other stealth assets — the B-2 Spirit, F-117 Nighthawk and Joint Strike Fighter — during the day.

“If we begin to hobble this program and begin to reduce what is clearly the best strike aircraft that has ever been produced, then later this decade we will lose the ability to provide unchallenged air dominance over the battlefield for U.S. and allied forces,” the general explained.

For more than half a century, American ground forces have not had to worry about threats from enemy aircraft. Corley said he worries that without the Raptor to meet and beat the challenges posed by the next generation of foreign aircraft, this could change.

“That would be a dreadful first for us,” he said.

Although there is an estimated \$880 million cost increase to extend the engineering, manufacturing and development phase of the F/A-22 program, Air Force officials remain committed to funding any increase from within the program itself.

“We are confident that with the efficiencies and control measures we’ve put in place, and with better coordination with the contractor, we’ll be able to deliver on a great aircraft within the constraints of the \$43 billion procurement cap for the program,” Corley said.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Bad Company.” When a Harvard-educated CIA agent is killed during an operation, the secret agency recruits his twin brother (Chris Rock), an African-American street-wise hustler with no idea what’s coming for him. The CIA wants the twin to finish a project his brother was working on.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “Men In Black II.”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Haze</i> H: 50F L: 28F	<i>Haze</i> H: 54F L: 32F
Kandahar:	<i>Haze</i> H: 68F L: 41F	<i>Haze</i> H: 63F L: 35F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 54F L: 28F	<i>Haze</i> H: 52F L: 30F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Isolated showers</i> H: 61F L: 40F	<i>Scattered rain</i> H: 55F L: 37F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Photo by Spc. Joe Healy, Combined Task Force-82 PAO

Specialists Fred Quellhurst and Justin Spears, from D Company, 3rd Battalion, 229th Aviation watch an Apache Helicopter takeoff as they perform a maintenance check on another Apache Helicopter.

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Apache mechanic for over two years. Stationed at Fort Bragg for only three weeks, he received orders to deploy to Afghanistan. He has been stationed here for seven weeks.

“On Thanksgiving Day I was on an airplane heading over here,” said Quellhurst. But he didn’t come alone.

He was accompanied by his good friend, Spc. Justin Spears, also an Apache 64 Attack Helicopter repairman, D Co., 3rd Bn., 229th Avn.

Spears and Quellhurst have spent the last two years on similar career paths. They

went to Advanced Individual Training together, and spent one year working together in Korea before being stationed at Fort Bragg.

“We work together a lot,” said Spears. “For example, we like to track the rotor blades together on an Apache helicopters.”

Tracking rotor blades is a way to ensure the rotor blades follow their correct paths while the helicopter is in flight.

According to Quellhurst, working well with his fellow mechanics ensures the Apache’s are up to standard.

“We all look out for one another,” said Pfc. Curtis McCrosson, an Apache 64 Attack Helicopter repairman, D Co., 3rd Bn.,

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spectors should take Iraqi scientists and their families out of the country for questioning. That proved successful in the past, and he believes it would be the case today.

Still, President Bush has not made a decision on conflict with Iraq, and the United States continues to hope that Saddam Hussein “will change course and that Iraq will disarm peacefully and voluntarily. No one wants war,” Rumsfeld said.

The secretary said the situation is a test for the United Nations.

He stated that the credibility of the organization is at stake and likened the situation the international organization faces today to the one that faced its predecessor organization in 1936 when Italy invaded Abyssinia (today Ethiopia).

(We hope that Saddam Hussein) “will change course and that Iraq will disarm peacefully and voluntarily. No one wants war.”

- Donald Rumsfeld

The League of Nations, formed after World War I, condemned the aggression, but did nothing against Italy. Adolf Hitler took note of the League’s vacillation and remilitarized the Rhineland.

The League of Nations proved a paper tiger. Then-Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King said at the

time, “Collective bluffing cannot bring about collective security.”

Something akin to 1936 is facing the United Nations today, Rumsfeld said.

Iraq freely agreed to comply with 16 U.N. resolutions. U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441, passed Nov. 8, 2002, declared Iraq in material breach of its agreements and declared itself that country’s “last chance” to cooperate with the international organization.

“The lesson is clear,” Rumsfeld said.

229th Avn. “I am part of a group that works on the core of the helicopter. The Apaches are our babies and we love to take care of them.”

Phase maintenance is the company’s main focus, said McCrosson. Cleaning the engine, inspecting the landing gear and servicing the transmission are main priorities.

The work is detail oriented, said McCrosson. When servicing the main transmission, the mechanic must inspect both the intermediate and tail gear boxes to make sure they work properly. Also, it is the mechanic’s responsibility to make sure everything is tightened down.

“If there is something that needs to be clamped down and isn’t, it could endanger the pilot,” said McCrosson.

McCrosson, a native of Benbrook, Texas, had a computer background before joining the military.

“I’ve always enjoyed aviation. Flying or working on airplanes is fun to me. And our team here is great,” McCrosson said.

And the team’s hard work and teamwork doesn’t go unnoticed.

“All the soldiers on our team work hard,” said Sergeant Shane Breedlove, a maintenance phase team leader of D Co., 3rd Bn., 229th Avn. “We’ve got stressful jobs, but our teamwork makes up for it.”

Breedlove said that McCrosson, Quellhurst and Spears are like his other soldiers. They work until the job is done.

“We will stay here for as long as we are asked and do our jobs,” said Breedlove.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

The early envelopes, please ...

At the halfway point of the NHL season, the skating Penguins owner is the pre-eminent on-ice story.

At 37, Mario Lemieux still has the ability to steal your breath as well as a game. If his skills weren't so transcendent, his individual dominance of the sport would be an insulting indictment of the NHL in the early 21st century. At this stage of his life, after all he has been through, and even given his ancillary motives as a businessman protecting his portfolio in a troubled league and a shaky Pittsburgh market, Lemieux shouldn't be able to be so much better than everyone else.

But he is.

Still, and once again, he is.

In the context of his continuing tenancy at the top of the NHL scoring list, his recent bout with that most ubiquitous and nagging of hockey injuries — the groin problem, which sometimes even is a groin problem and nothing more — doesn't seem ominous. At least not yet.

His one-time gaping lead in the scoring race has narrowed, and Markus Naslund and Joe Thornton are legitimate in-the-wings candidates if Lemieux starts sitting out games in bunches. Lemieux's puzzling and counterproductive preference of the Canadian Olympic team over the Penguins (and their paying customers) last season was galling, and the rationalizations were both hollow and inadequate.

Devils' at season-high five wins

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jeff Friesen and Jamie Langenbrunner each had a goal and an assist, and Martin Brodeur made 27 saves for his 60th career shutout as the New Jersey Devils beat the New York Islanders 5-0 Wednesday night.

Patrik Elias, Oleg Tverdovsky and Sergei Brylin also scored for the Devils, who extended their unbeaten streak to a season-high five games (4-0-1).

Friesen, who set a club record with two goals in a span

of 26 seconds Monday, scored the only goal of the opening period.

Joe Nieuwendyk set it up with an excellent pass from the right boards. The puck arrived in time for Friesen to deflect it past Chris Osgood at 16:07.

The Devils dashed the Islanders' comeback hopes with a power-play goal by Tverdovsky at 4:28. The defenseman fired a shot from the right point through a screen to give the Devils a 3-0 lead.

Brylin scored at 9:23, and Langenbrunner made it 5-0 with 3:50 remaining.

Nurminen notches second career shutout

ATLANTA — Bob Hartley has been a winner everywhere he's coached. For one game at least, he kept his reputation intact with the woeful Atlanta Thrashers.

Marc Savard scored with 4:29 left, Pasi Nurminen recorded his second career shutout and Hartley won his debut as Thrashers coach, beating the Montreal Canadiens 1-0 Wednesday night.

"It felt a little strange to see the different-colored jerseys," Hartley said. "But once the puck dropped, it was back to business."

Hartley was hired by the Thrashers on Tuesday, taking over the NHL's worst team after coaching one of the best, the Colorado Avalanche.

His new team was eager to make a good impression.

Hartley guided Colorado to four straight Western Conference finals and the 2001 Stanley Cup championship.



Mario Lemieux is on his way to another Hart Trophy — if he can stay healthy.



2002 National Hockey League standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic	
(2) New Jersey	43 pts
(4) Philadelphia	43 pts
(7) Pittsburgh	45 pts
N.Y. Rangers	48 pts
N.Y. Islanders	44 pts
Northeast	
(1) Ottawa	44 pts
(5) Toronto	45 pts
(6) Boston	44 pts
Montreal	45 pts
Buffalo	43 pts
Southeast	
(3) Washington	45 pts
(8) Tampa Bay	44 pts
Florida	45 pts
Carolina	45 pts
Atlanta	44 pts

Western Conference

Central	
(2) Detroit	45 pts
(4) St. Louis	45 pts
(5) Chicago	45 pts
Columbus	45 pts
Nashville	44 pts
Northwest	
(3) Vancouver	44 pts
(6) Minnesota	45 pts
(7) Edmonton	45 pts
(8) Colorado	44 pts
Calgary	45 pts
Pacific	
(1) Dallas	46 pts
Anaheim	44 pts
Los Angeles	44 pts
San Jose	43 pts
Phoenix	45 pts

Even in defeat Team USA wins big

By Spc. Jim Wagner
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KONDUZ, Afghanistan — Playing before a crowd of more than 2,000 fans – broadcast live over the local radio station – Team USA was soundly defeated by the Konduz National soccer team, 8-3, in an exhibition match Jan. 10.

But the Coalition Humanitarian Liaison Cell in Konduz considers the loss to the Konduz television station a big victory for their unit. Really, they do.

According to Capt. Patrick Pascall, the operations officer in Konduz, the soccer match was more about building relationships than about winning a game. The results, he said, are what counted.

“I believe it was a huge success,” Pascall said. “The next day people on the street were yelling, ‘CHLC football players!’ And they were smiling.”

For months, civil affairs in Konduz had been looking for a way to get the local TV and radio stations to cover their work in the community, such as school rebuilding and other rehabilitation projects. The purpose of the soccer match, he said, was twofold: show the Afghan people they were friendly and that Americans have the same common interests.

While both sides will claim no ringers were employed on their teams, both included more than the regular mix of TV station employees and civil affairs soldiers. Pascall said he heard rumors the TV station was scouring the province looking for players, while he was doing a little hunting of his own.

Eventually, Pascall “appropriated” two players from Gen. Muhammad Daoud, Afghan 6th Army Corps commander, who was providing security for the exhibition match. The two teams were dubbed Konduz National and Team USA.

Although outmatched from the beginning, Pascall insists the three points Team USA garnered were “hard-earned.” After the match, the TV station said it was an even match, with the spectators the true winners of the match.



Photo by Capt. Donald York

Konduz residents line the sidelines to witness the exhibition match between Team USA and the Konduz National soccer teams Friday. More than 2,000 Afghans attended the match, which was aired live by the local radio station.

It’s too early to tell what long-term affects the match had on the local community, but Pascall said the game was a great morale booster for his unit.

“It was great for troop morale, they were very excited in anticipation of this event,” he said. “They were talking about it for days before, and days after. And since we have no Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities available to exercise, this was a great oppor-

tunity to get some exercise.”

What’s next for Team USA? Daoud’s operations officer has since contacted the unit for a match of their own.

Considering two of the players on Team USA were from Daoud’s staff, it’s likely another loss is in the works. But regardless of the score, it will result in another victory for CHLC soldiers and civil affairs in Konduz.

Something to think about ...

Before you mail a package, be aware that there are size and weight restrictions when using the United States Postal Service.

Packages cannot:

❖ Weigh more than 70 pounds.



❖ Be bigger than 130 inches in length and width for Space Available Mail and Military Postal Service.

❖ Be bigger than 108 inches in length and width for Priority Mail.

