

## Rare French tank being taken to U.S.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

Maj. Charles Boyd, officer in charge for the 326<sup>th</sup> Military History Detachment, Columbus, Ohio, talks with French Maj. Thierry Delbarre, project manager, about the specifications and capabilities of the French Renault FT/17 tank.

Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**KABUL**, Afghanistan — Remnants of other countries lay in ruin covering the Afghanistan landscape. Many countries have passed through this land in their efforts of domination, each leaving something behind. Many of the items are being used, while most litter the sides of the road and decorate various junkyards.

There is one particular item of interest for the United States. It is a French Renault FT/17 tank circa WWI. Before tanks were a part of the Army, this tank helped the U.S. in many campaigns in Europe during the war. On loan

————— See **TANK**, Page 4

## Jag Star makes Afghanistan stop on Middle East tour

Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — “We’re an American band. We’re coming to your town, we’ll help you party it down. We’re an American band.” Pop-rock band, Jag Star performed Grand Funk Railroad’s lyrics along with their own for a full hour Tuesday in a packed clamshell to an entertained camouflaged audience.

The Knoxville, Tenn.-based band submitted a packet a year ago to the Armed Forces Entertainment office, a branch of the Department of Defense that provides free entertainment to troops and their families while in remote locations.

Sara Lewis, singer, songwriter and

keyboardist for the band, said she could not believe the e-mail when she got word that the band was picked to tour in the Middle East.

She didn’t even know entertainment came over here.

“Then I saw J. Lo and Kid Rock on TV and my instant reaction was, ‘no way,’” said Lewis. “Then we started thinking about it and realized this is way bigger than we are.”

“People are over here away from their families, friends and their comfort zones fighting for freedom.

“The least we can do is spend three weeks over here,” said J Lewis, guitarist and Sara Lewis’s husband.

The four-year-old rock group, whose name is an acronym for “Just A Girl Singing

To A Radio,” performed in Kyrgyzstan last week, here Tuesday and in Kabul Wednesday.

They will continue to spend a month touring the Middle East region, covering Pakistan, Bahrain and Qatar.

By choice, fifth band member, violinist, Erin Tipton, stayed behind while the band currently fights jet lag, malaria pill reactions and different environments.

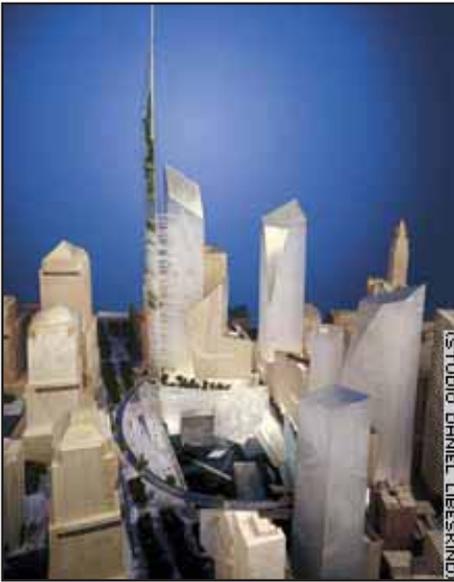
Despite all the cons, they are still enjoying the experience.

With Afghanistan being the second stop on their tour, the band said they feel they have already changed as people.

“I am so happy to be here ... I am so

————— See **JAG STAR**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



The winning plan, shown in an architect's model, includes a 1,776-foot spire.

## New WTC plan approved

**NEW YORK** — A complex of angular buildings and a 1,776-foot spire designed by architect Daniel Libeskind was chosen as the plan for the World Trade Center site on Wednesday, The Associated Press has learned.

Libeskind's design beat the THINK team's "World Cultural Center" plan, which envisioned two 1,665-foot latticework towers straddling the footprints of the original towers.

The new building is planned to be taller than the trade center towers, which briefly stood as the world's tallest at 1,350 feet. Libeskind's tower also would surpass Malaysia's 1,483-foot Petronas Twin Towers, the tallest buildings in the world.

The choice was made by a committee with representatives of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the governor and the mayor. The committee met briefly on Wednesday afternoon and decided on the plan that was favored by Gov. George Pataki and Mayor Michael Bloomberg, according to a source close to the process.

LMDC Chairman John Whitehead telephoned Libeskind with the news, the source said, telling the architect that his "vision has brought hope and inspiration to a city still

recovering from a terrible tragedy."

Libeskind told the chairman that being selected is "a life-changing experience," the source said.

## Bush: Democratic Iraq could be 'inspiring example'

**WASHINGTON** — Creating a "free and peaceful" Iraq will be a difficult task requiring a "sustained commitment" from the United States and other countries, but a new Iraq could serve as "a dramatic and inspiring example of freedom" throughout the Middle East, President Bush said Wednesday evening.

"Any future the Iraqi people choose for themselves will be better than the nightmare world that Saddam Hussein has chosen for them," Bush said in a speech to the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.

The United States, Britain and Spain say Iraq has missed its last chance to disarm peacefully. The three countries are working to line up U.N. Security Council members behind a proposed resolution that could clear the way for a war with Iraq led by the estimated 200,000-plus U.S. and British troops now massed in the Persian Gulf region.

In his speech, Bush compared the rebuilding of Iraq to U.S. efforts after World War II to rebuild war-ravaged countries, including wartime enemies Germany and Japan.

"After defeating enemies, we did not leave behind occupying armies. We left constitutions and parliaments. We established an atmosphere of safety, in which responsible, reform-minded local leaders could build lasting institutions of freedom."

## N. Korea restarts nuke reactor

**WASHINGTON** — The United States says North Korea has reactivated its five-megawatt nuclear reactor at Yongbyon, a sign Pyongyang is going ahead with its nuclear weapons program.

The U.S. warning comes a day after Secretary of State Colin Powell returned from a three-country tour of Asia where he discussed the North Korea nuclear issue, saying Pyongyang had been "wise" to not restart the reactor.

U.S. officials told CNN Wednesday they were not aware of the reactivation before Powell made his statement.

The news also comes as North Korea issued a warning to its military and citizens to prepare themselves for a large-scale attack by the United States that could include a pre-emptive nuclear strike.

## How al-Qaida checks out sites

**WASHINGTON** — The FBI sent to state and local law enforcement officials Wednesday an "intelligence bulletin" designed to help police detect possible surveillance activities by al-Qaida-affiliated operatives.

The FBI told police to remain alert to several possible indicators of al-Qaida surveillance and report any suspicious activity to the nearest Joint Terrorism Task Force.

The indicators included:

- Unusual or prolonged interest in security measures or personnel, entry points and access controls, or perimeter barriers such as fences or walls
- Unusual behavior such as staring or quickly looking away from personnel or vehicles entering or leaving designated facilities or parking areas
- Observation of security reaction drills or procedures
- Increased anonymous telephone or e-mail threats to facilities in conjunction with suspected surveillance incidents, indicating possible surveillance of threat reaction procedures
- Discreet use of still cameras, video recorders or note-taking at non-tourist locations
- Use of multiple sets of clothing, identifications, or the use of sketching materials
- Questioning of security or facility personnel

The FBI sent the information on a routine basis Wednesday through law enforcement channels. It said the information was not prompted by any specific event or intelligence.

FBI headquarters usually sends such bulletins, which reflect the general concerns of top FBI and counterterrorism officials in Washington, to police agencies on a weekly basis.

# Critter of the Week:

## The Asian Cobra, *naja oxiana*

By Capt. Cory Campora  
791<sup>st</sup> Preventive Medicine Detachment

The Asian Cobra, also known as the Oxus Cobra or Russian Cobra, is the more common of two species of cobras that may be found in Afghanistan. It has smooth skin of olive or brown color, reaches lengths of up to five feet, and possesses the trademark cobra "hood," which it will flare when angry or disturbed. Unlike the Indian Cobra, which has a distinctive spectacle pattern on the back of its hood, the Asian cobra's hood is bare and lacks any recognizable dorsal markings. While the Indian Cobra has been reported to occasionally occur in southern Afghanistan along the border with Pakistan, Asian Cobras are more prevalent in the Northeast. Cobras in general may be distinguished from vipers, another group of venomous snakes in Afghanistan, by the elongated shape of their head which is about the same width as their body. Vipers, in contrast, have triangular heads with a narrow neck and are characterized by shorter, thick bodies. Cobras are attracted to areas abundant in rodents, but will also hunt for frogs, birds, and even other snakes in the early evening and morning hours. These snakes do not spit venom like their counterparts in Africa, but they can be very aggressive if provoked and deliver deadly venom in their bite, so extreme caution should be exercised if they are encountered.



The Asian Cobra.

# Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Joe Dirt."  
David Spade stars as Joe Dirt, an idiot who works as an oil weller who is on the search for his parents who abandoned him at the Grand Canyon when he was a baby.



Tomorrow's movie will be "The Road to Perdition."

# Local weather

## TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Friday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Cloudy H: 55F L: 38F	Scattered showers H: 59F L: 36F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dust H: 73F L: 50F	Haze H: 68F L: 45F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Rain H: 54F L: 33F	Scattered showers H: 54F L: 30F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Rain H: 49F L: 35F	Rain/Snow H: 45F L: 30F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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CJTF-180 Commander —

Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Roger King

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler

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Commander — Maj. William Mott

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

Editor — Sgt. W. Cullen James

Journalists — Pfc. Christina Carde,

Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw, Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

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To be added to the daily distribution list e-mail [william.james@us.army.mil](mailto:william.james@us.army.mil)

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from the French government, Gen. George Patton, then a captain serving under Gen. John Pershing, was one of the first to learn how to operate this type of tank.

The rusted remnants of two FT/17s lay tattered and disassembled in a junkyard in Kabul and forgotten until armor officer Maj. Robert Redding came across them.

“Being an armor officer, I knew that these tanks were special,” said Redding. After finding them, he did what he thought he should do – he took photos and e-mailed them to the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor, Fort Knox, Ky. — that was Friday. By Monday he had seven responses.

“They were excited and very interested to bring the tanks back to the states,” he said. The museum previously owned a FT/17 tank, but at the request of the French government, sent it back to France, Redding said.

“It’s a very rare tank,” said French Maj. Thierry Delbarre, project manager. “France is interested in getting and keeping whatever intact equipment that we can.”

But this tank will go back to the U.S. The French have agreed to let the U.S. have this tank. They already have a body of a FT/17, and are more interested in finding an engine, Delbarre said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

*(Left) French Maj. Thierry Delbarre, project manager and Maj. Robert Redding, armor officer, closely inspect a FT/17 tank. The French tank was found in a local junkyard and will eventually be moved to the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor, Fort Knox, Ky.*

Only about 5,000 of these tanks were made and the design and capabilities proved invaluable to many different countries in Europe. Their design boasted the first tank with a full traverse 360-degree rotating turret. It is a light vehicle, which weighs approximately 7,000 pounds. A two-man crew – a driver and a gunner, operate the vehicle. The modern configuration of the tank is still used in tanks today; the driver sits in the front and the engine is in the rear.

There are only four or five of these tanks left in existence, said Redding.

Now that the tanks were found, they have to get to the states. The first step was getting permission from Afghanistan. Redding went to Afghanistan’s Deputy Minister of Defense General Abdul Rashid Dostum. Dostum is also the commander of northern Afghanistan.

“He was more than willing,” said Redding. “He considers this as a gift for what we have done for this country.”

Dostum allowed one of the two tanks to be taken out of Afghanistan. With the help of Delbarre and historians from the 326<sup>th</sup> Military History Detachment, a reserve unit from Columbus, Ohio, the best tank was chosen.

Plans are still being discussed how the tank will be removed from the junkyard and transported to the States, but for Redding the odyssey is almost over.

“I have been working on this for five months,” he said. “It has truly been an odyssey for me and now I am ready to get this tank to (Fort) Knox so others can learn about our history of tanks.”



Photo by Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

*Knoxville, Tenn.-based band, Jag Star performs Wednesday for U.S. and Afghan National Army troops in Kabul. They were the first Armed Forces Entertainment-sponsored rock band to perform in Kabul.*

**JAG STAR**, from Page 1

happy to be on this trip,” said Sara Lewis.

Not only did the band get to perform for the soldiers, but they got a little touring in as well.

Jag Star slept in tents like soldiers in Bagram, ate the local food with Afghan National Army commandant, General Asifi, in Kabul and signed autographs for the Afghans.

The AFE-sponsored band made sure they let the crowd know they appreciate U.S. soldiers. During each Afghanistan concert Sara Lewis told the audience, “What you do really means a lot to us.” This was right before she said, “If I say anymore, I am going to start crying.”



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## On Burke: 'Phoenix is moving this guy'

ESPN — Less than two weeks until the March 11 trade deadline, here's what's shaking on the NHL grapevine.

The annual Blues goalie search is in hiatus. The Blues called Phoenix about Sean Burke, but hung up when the Coyotes asked for defenseman Barret Jackman, the Calder Trophy candidate.

"The Blues would be nuts to trade Jackman," said one Western scout, "but (Phoenix) would be nuts not to ask for him."

An NHL executive said, "There's no way St. Louis is trading Jackman. If (Chris) Pronger can't play again, this kid's their future."

The Coyotes don't have a No. 1 pick in this June's draft and they are hungry to replace it. But they believe that a top goalie like Burke is also worth a bona fide regular or two, plus futures. The Blues apparently offered forward Cory Stillman, who scored exactly one goal in the season's third quarter and makes \$2.1 million.

Blues minor-league forward Justin Papineau, high on the Phoenix want list last season, has slipped on the ice and dropped in value.

Snubbed out west, the Blues then turned east to Arturs Irbe.

Like the rest of the league, they passed when Irbe was waived by Carolina.

The Blues gagged on the \$5.2 million due him over the next two years. Sources said the Blues asked Carolina to eat some of Irbe's contract.

"Carolina told them, 'You want him, you take him,' " one scout said. "Then they asked Irbe to re-do his deal and take a million dollars less. He told them to forget it."

But starter Brent Johnson, who strained his groin Tuesday, and backup Fred Brathwaite continued to wobble badly.

So the Blues, with a \$63 million payroll, will try to make do with rookie Curtis Sanford, who played his only three NHL games earlier this season before being hurt.

Meanwhile, the Burke deal may not be dead. Nevermind assurances from Phoenix that he is the team linchpin and marquee attraction for the new rink opening next season.

"I don't care what they say in Phoenix," added the NHL exec.

"They need to move his salary. He makes over \$4 mil-

lion next year. Sean Burke is a great kid when he's on. He's 36 and he's not durable. He's got a bad back, a bad hip and a bad knee. And (Brian) Boucher played pretty well in his last four starts," he said.

Phoenix also is high on Zac Bierk, who must stay as the third goalie or risk waivers if demoted.

"Sean Burke is going somewhere," said the NHL exec. "His price will come down as they get closer to the deadline. St. Louis is a logical choice. It won't be for Jackman, but Phoenix is moving this guy."



Injuries have limited Sean Burke to 10 games this season.

## Oilers forward York out with broken wrist

EDMONTON, Alberta — Oilers forward Mike York broke his right wrist and will be out indefinitely.

York was injured during the third period of Edmonton's 4-2 loss at Colorado on Tuesday, and he will be examined in Edmonton on Thursday by team doctor David Reid.

How much time York will miss won't be determined until the Oilers return from a road trip that concludes Saturday in Columbus.

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## 2002 National Hockey League standings

### Eastern Conference

<b>Atlantic</b>	
(2) New Jersey	62 pts
(5) Philadelphia	62 pts
(6) N.Y. Islanders	62 pts
N.Y. Rangers	66 pts
Pittsburgh	63 pts
<b>Northeast</b>	
(1) Ottawa	64 pts
(4) Toronto	63 pts
(8) Boston	62 pts
Montreal	64 pts
Buffalo	62 pts
<b>Southeast</b>	
(3) Washington	65 pts
(7) Tampa Bay	63 pts
Florida	63 pts
Carolina	63 pts
Atlanta	61 pts

### Western Conference

<b>Central</b>	
(3) Detroit	62 pts
(5) St. Louis	63 pts
Chicago	63 pts
Nashville	62 pts
Columbus	62 pts
<b>Northwest</b>	
(2) Vancouver	63 pts
(4) Colorado	62 pts
(7) Minnesota	62 pts
(8) Edmonton	63 pts
Calgary	64 pts
<b>Pacific</b>	
(1) Dallas	63 pts
(6) Anaheim	64 pts
Los Angeles	63 pts
Phoenix	61 pts
San Jose	62 pts

**SPORTS**, from Page 5

The 25-year-old right wing is second on the Oilers with 21 goals and 47 points.

### Holik's return not a winning one

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** — Despite being five points out of a playoff berth with 16 games left, the New York Rangers believe they can make a postseason run now that they're finally returning home.

Petr Nedved scored on a power play with 4:28 left in regulation and the road-weary New York Rangers salvaged a point in a 3-3 tie with the New Jersey Devils on Tuesday night.

The Rangers are 4-4-2 the last 10 games, nine of which were played on the road. New York has 10 home games down the stretch, including the next five.

"Obviously, we are in striking distance," center Bobby Holik said after playing his first regular-season game in New Jersey after 10 seasons with the Devils.

"The only thing we can control is the next game. We cannot control how the other teams play. We can only control how we play on Thursday night," he added.

That game will be against Boston, the team clinging to the final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference. The Bruins, who have played four fewer games than the Rangers, tied Dallas 5-5 Tuesday.

"We can make a run at it," said Rangers center Eric Lindros, who missed the net on a great scoring chance shortly after Nedved scored.

"I don't think that was ever in doubt. I personally believe we can do it. We have to be at a .700 or .800 clip on home ice. We've got to make it a miserable place for teams to come into."

### It's not win, but an important point for B's

**BOSTON** — Bill Guerin was happy with his return to Boston. His coach wasn't so thrilled.

Brian Rolston scored two goals, and Glen Murray added a pair — including a power-play tally with 1:40 remaining in regulation — to lift the Boston Bruins to a 5-5 tie with the Dallas Stars on Tuesday night.

"It's disappointing not to be able to get two points, especially when we were up 4-2 and had a four-minute power play," Dallas coach Dave Tippett said.

"We should have gotten the two points, but we made some mistakes to let them get back into the game," he added.

Murray's one-timer on a cross-ice pass from Joe Thornton beat Dallas goalie Ron Tugnutt. Dallas took a 5-4 lead midway through the third on Claude Lemieux's backhand.

Dallas extended its unbeaten streak to five games. The Stars haven't lost on the road in 10 games and have just two losses in 26 games overall. Boston hasn't won in seven games, but earned a crucial point.

"It was a tough game because it was one of those nights where both teams played well in the offensive zone," Boston goalie Steve Shields said. "But we got the point and it's an important point, especially fighting back and getting it late."

## Black History Month

February is Black History Month. In light of all the accomplishments made by African-Americans, every day this month the *Freedom Watch* will highlight an individual.

### Elijah J. McCoy, inventor

**Born:** May 2, 1843 **Birthplace:** Colchester, Ontario, Canada

The son of former slaves from Kentucky who had escaped via the Underground Railroad to Canada, at 15 years of age Elijah McCoy traveled to Scotland seeking the educational opportunities from which blacks were excluded in the Americas. He trained in mechanical engineering and then moved to the United States, where he was denied engineering employment—again because he was of African descent. He instead took a job as a railroad fireman. At that time, locomotives needed to be shut down periodically to be lubricated to avoid overheating. The frequent stops prevented railroads from being profitable until McCoy developed the "lubricating cup" for steam engines, which kept locomotives constantly lubricated, preventing frequent stops and overheating. He patented the lubricating cup in 1872. It represented the most profitable of his more than 58 patents, which included a folding ironing board and an automatic sprinkler.

**Died:** Oct. 10, 1929

"Give me e-mail, or give me death!"



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

*Laugh Support*