

School opening brings renewed hope

Story by Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – A new building brought renewed hope for 4,000 children in the province of Herat as the Injil district community celebrated the opening of the Pul Rangeena Middle School Wednesday.

The opening had more than 600 people in attendance including such dignitaries as the governor of Herat, the mayor of the municipality, the director of the provincial education department of Herat and the deputy director of the education department of Herat.

The Pul Rangeena School, a two-story, 16 classroom building, will moderate the conges-



Courtesy Photo

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Fighting war means making choice for freedom

Story by Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

TOKYO – American and other coalition military forces fighting the war on terrorism are making a choice between living in freedom and living in fear, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told a crowd of service members in Guam today.

Rumsfeld was visiting U.S. troops on the Western Pacific island as part of a weeklong trip through Pacific Rim countries. He arrived in Tokyo later in the day.

“Free people are people who can do what they want and say what they want,” the secretary told some 200 U.S. troops having lunch at an Andersen Air Force Base dining facility. “Free people cannot live in fear.”

He said some people would prefer to ignore the threat posed by the nexus of weapons of mass destruction and terrorist networks.

“But I’m afraid that’s not a choice we have,” he said. “The terrorists can attack at any time, any day in any location, and it’s not possible to protect every place at every moment against every conceivable location. (Ignoring the issue is) just not doable.”

That is why the United States has chosen to go on the offensive

against terrorists, and troops in Guam are playing a vital role.

“It’s a very special thing you do. Each one of you is a volunteer. You put up your hands and said you’d be willing to serve,” Rumsfeld told members from all five armed services, including the Coast Guard. “Your country is grateful. People recognize what you’re doing and value it.”

“The importance of this region really can’t be overstated,” he said. This part of the world includes much of the earth’s surface, nearly 60 percent of the world’s population and “six of the largest militaries on the face of the Earth.

“There are countries emerging into the world in ways that will hopefully be constructive as opposed to destructive,” Rumsfeld said.

The threat posed by North Korea is an overriding security concern for countries in this region. Prompted by a question by an Air Force senior enlisted man, the secretary put that threat into perspective.

On one hand, North Korea has an army that’s more than 1 million strong, a large number of special operations forces, long-range and short-range ballistic missiles, and weapons of mass destruction programs and capabilities. “They have recently made a number of statements as to what their WMD capabilities are,” Rumsfeld said, “some of which we can validate, some of which we can’t.”

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. soldiers remove the wreckage Sunday of one of the Black Hawk helicopters that crashed.

Black Hawks crash victims all from 101st Airborne Division

(CNN)—All 17 soldiers killed when two Black Hawk helicopters collided over Mosul, northern Iraq, were from the 101st Airborne Division, U.S. Central Command said Sunday.

Five soldiers survived and were flown to Landstuhl, Germany, for treatment. All the dead were stationed in Mosul. The 101st Airborne Division's home base is Fort Campbell, Ky.

The cause of Saturday's crash of the UH-60 Black Hawks — each of which costs about \$6 million — was under investigation

A military source told *CNN* that initial reports indicated one helicopter ascended to avoid groundfire. "This caused a rotor strike with the second helicopter," the source said.

L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. civil administrator in Iraq, said the aircraft were flying separate missions and were not in formation.

"The only thing we know is that they collided in air," Bremer said on *CNN*'s "Late Edition." "We don't know much more than that."

One Black Hawk was carrying an aerial quick-reaction force and the other, soldiers on a transport mission to another site in northern Iraq, the coalition said.

Residents said one chopper crashed into a school in western Mosul and another hit a house about 250 meters away. There were no reports of Iraqi casualties. A military official said the crashes set several buildings afire.

Counting another soldier killed in a roadside bombing in northern Baghdad, Saturday's death toll of 18 was the largest single-day loss of life for U.S. troops since May 1, when President Bush announced the end of major combat operations.



Lee Boyd Malvo

Teenager's sanity will be focus of second sniper trial

(CNN) — Although a verdict on the guilt or innocence of sniper shootings defendant Lee Boyd Malvo is likely weeks away, a sentencing option for jurors already has shaped the course of the trial and renewed debate about executing juvenile offenders.

The possibility of a death sentence if a guilty verdict is returned against Malvo has determined the composition of the jury that will judge the 18-year-old, and led to the insanity defense strategy that his attorneys will employ and prosecutors will argue against.

As a result, the trial of Malvo will not focus on whether he shot and killed off-duty FBI agent Linda Franklin, but will focus on the teenager's sanity at the time of the shooting.

Legal analysts also say the Malvo trial is not so much about the defendant's alleged role in last year's sniper shootings as it is about an appropriate sentence. Potential jurors last week were automatically disqualified if they had opinions on two issues: Malvo's guilt or innocence, and whether or not convicted murderers who were juveniles at the time of the crime should be eligible for the death penalty.

"We can't judge on a strict timeline. He (Malvo) was almost 18 when the shootings took place. Some people are more mature at 16 or 17 years of age than others in their 20s," said Sue Blake, public policy director of the Sacramento, California-based Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, an organization that supports the death penalty.

"There's no more fundamentally acknowledged legal norm than barring the execution of children," said attorney Walter Long, who represents Christopher Simmons, a Missouri inmate convicted of killing a woman when he was 17 and who had his death sentence overturned by the Missouri Supreme Court in August.

Testimony in Malvo's trial begins Monday, more than a year after the sniper shootings that killed 10 people and wounded three in the Washington, D.C., area in what prosecutors allege was a plot to extort \$10 million from the government.



Turkish police search the rubble and debris for clues in the bombing near the Neva Shalom.

Video clues to Turkey bombers

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Security tapes shot from cameras mounted outside two Istanbul synagogues showed men driving slowly by the places of worship shortly before their vehicles exploded, killing at least 23 people, a high-level Turkish security officer said.

The bombers were among the 23 dead. More than 300 were also wounded in Saturday's attacks, the officer said. Speaking to *CNN* Turk, the officer also said that tissue samples taken from a body found in the wreckage of one blast matched samples found on the steering wheel of the vehicle used in that attack.

Four men detained and questioned by Turkish authorities were released, he said, although officials had called them suspects.

Intelligence analysts on Sunday discounted two claims of responsibility made on behalf of the al Qaeda terrorist network for the weekend bombings and last week's attack on Italian troops in Iraq, pointing to a history of similar dubious claims. The London-based Arabic newspaper *al Quds al Arabiya* said it received claims of responsibility in those attacks from the Abu Hafsa al Masri Brigade, which claims to be affiliated with al Qaeda.

The group has claimed responsibility for other incidents in the past, including the August blackouts in the eastern United States and Canada, a bombing outside an Indonesian hotel and the attack on the U.N. headquarters compound in Baghdad the same month.

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tion of the 22 United Nation Children's Fund tents and rented building that housed the students in previously. The new facility will split the population of the student, which attend classes in 3 shifts (two morning shifts for girls and an afternoon shift for boys) allowing 2,000 be taught in the school and 2,000 to remain in the UNICEF tents and rented building.

The ceremony began with a prayer and was followed by a speech by Haji Fahim, deputy director of the Ministry of Education. In it, Fahim stated that the new school would bring the students more than just better educational conditions, but also better health conditions. He said the students of Injil were physically in poor health because of the horrendous weather conditions they were previously subjected to while attending classes. He lauded the Civil Affairs team's contribution to Injil saying, "We thank our friends that built

this school for [our] children."

Following the Ministry of Education, Ghulam Rasoul Hadi, the school's principal, spoke about the cost the wages of war had on Afghanistan's future – their children.

"Students are the future of Afghanistan and they [are in need of] special attention," said Hadi. He went on say that two decades of war had destroyed the schools of Injil. Upon closing his speech, Hadi implored the community leaders to build additional facilities to house the remaining students that will still study in the tents.

Hadi noted that he expects an additional 1,000 students to enroll in the middle school next year.

After his speech a group of young girls who attend the school sang a song dedicated to the school's opening. The ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening the new building succeeded the young girls song. Civil Affairs Team Project Manager Sgt. Karla Hansen commended the community's dedication to education saying,

"Education is the future of this country – these children are the future of Afghanistan."

"I have the privilege of working with a group of people from Afghanistan and the United States [that have] one common goal... to reconstruct Afghanistan," said Hansen. "With the help of Garman Rehabilitation Foundation and the local population this building is just one small step in the reconstruction effort (of Afghanistan), but it is a step in the right direction."

The governor of Herat, Ismail Khan, recited a 600-year-old poem written by a Saudi Arabian and Iranian poet that not only seized the moment of the day's celebration, but also emphasized the philanthropic efforts of the coalition forces for Afghanistan.

"Mankind is intertwined in one body," said Khan. "[His] source of creation is the same. If any event brings pain to one part, the other parts of the body will feel the pain. If you don't feel the other's pain, you shouldn't call yourself human."

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On the other hand, North Korea is a country in which people starve to death and refugees try to flee the country, Rumsfeld pointed out. Others are sentenced to concentration camps.

He called to mind a satellite photo of the Korean Peninsula at night. There is a stark difference on either side of the demilitarized zone. "South of (the DMZ) it's filled with lights and energy and things happening," he said. "North of it, there's not a single light except for a pinprick in Pyongyang, the capital."

The status of military inductees is a telling sign to the nation's well-being. "It is a country that I'm told recently lowered the height that they will allow people to come into the military down to 4 feet, 10 inches because they could not get enough people of normal stature because of the starvation that takes place in that country," Rumsfeld said. "And the weight limits were reduced down to the point (that) people who are accepted into the military look not like they're 17 or 18; they look like they're 14 or 15."

The secretary called it a tragedy that people in the southern part of the peninsula live in a thriving democracy with a booming economy, while people of the same culture, but who live in the north, "are depressed and denied and live in fear."

Rumsfeld noted that the United States has been trying to work with China, Russia, South Korea and Japan to convince the North Korean government to "conduct themselves in a civilized way."

"Time will show how successful that will be," he said. "But certainly that's the hope. That's the president's hope; that's my hope; and that's the path we're on."

Filling up...

Photo by Maj. Matthew Garner

Spc. Chad Jukes (center), 845th Quartermaster Company and Spc. Marcus Mayfield (right), 173rd Quartermaster Company refuel a C-17 at the refuel point on the south end of the airfield as a crew member monitors gauges on the aircraft.

Coalition forces pay their respects to a fallen comrade

Story Tech Sgt. Brian Davidson
455th Expeditionary Operations Group

Bagram Air Field warriors paid final honors Saturday to the second Romanian soldier to die in the aftermath of Tuesday's attack on a coalition convoy in Southern Afghanistan.

Coalition soldiers and airmen lined Blackout Road as the casket of Sgt. Maj. Mihail Anton Samuila was brought to a waiting Romanian C-130 aircraft. The cold, dark and rainy morning reflected the onlookers' mood as the procession of Romanian soldiers passed solemnly in formation, escorting their fallen comrade.

Sgt. Major Iosif Silviu Fogorasi was killed and Samuila was wounded when an unidentified attacker opened fire on the convoy at a checkpoint near the Pakistan border. Fogorasi and Samuila are the first Romanian casualties since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Samuila was transported to Bagram's Combat Army Surgical Hospital where Army and Air Force surgeons treated his wounds. Although he regained consciousness late Wednesday with fellow soldiers standing vigil, he died from his injuries during the night.

Romania has contributed 450 troops to both an international peacekeeping force in capital city, Kabul, and to the U.S.-led force hunting remnants of the ousted Taliban and al Qaeda network.

"The loss of our fellow comrades in arms serves as a stark reminder that we still have work to do," said Col. Thomas Groznic, 455th Expeditionary Combat Group commander. "There is no timetable for completing our mission. We will stay here until terrorists no longer have a place to hide."

The deaths of Fogorasi and Samuila came just as Coalition Forces, participating in Operation Mountain Resolve, were tracking insurgents in a remote, mountainous area populated by suspected Taliban and al Qaeda loyalists.

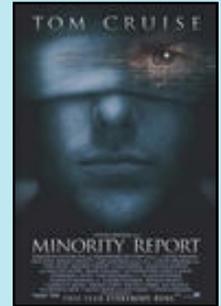
The Romanian soldiers' deaths cast a shadow on the second anniversary of the al Qaeda regime's fall in December 2001.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

"Minority Report"

1530Z at the MWR building:

In the future, criminals are caught before the crimes they commit, but one of the officers in the special unit is accused of one such crime and sets out to prove his innocence.



Tomorrow's movie: "Austin Power's Gold Member"

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
Bagram:	Clear H: 45F L: 32F	Clear H: 46F L: 32F
Kandahar:	Misty H: 48F L: 34F	Dusty H: 45F L: 30F
Kabul:	Misty H: 41F L: 30F	Haze H: 45F L: 27F
Uzbekistan:	Mostly Cloudy H: 42F L: 25F	Partly Cloudy H: 47F L: 27F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)



Rudi Johnson ran for a game-high 165 yards, his third 100-yard effort in the past four games.

Bengals hand Chiefs first loss, 24-19

CINCINNATI—Pop the corks and make the toast, you '72 Dolphins. The perfect record is safe for one more season.

It's guaranteed.

With a punt return and a long touchdown catch, Peter Warrick eclipsed Kansas City's playmakers and let the Cincinnati Bengals back up their boast Sunday with a 24-19 victory over the Chiefs.

Trying to become the first team to go 10-0 since the 1998 Broncos, the less-than-perfect Chiefs unraveled against the Bengals (5-5), who finished the day tied for first after making Chad Johnson's guarantee come true.

"The worst thing is to have a guy come out and shoot his mouth making a statement, and they stood up to it," Chiefs comeback Eric Warfield said. "This is a good team, but we feel like we shouldn't have lost."

The undefeated '72 Dolphins get together for a toast when the last winless team falls each season, reveling in their distinction. Warrick made this unbeaten team fall hard.

Raptors rookie comes up big in OT

TORONTO—Chris Bosh forced overtime with his first career 3-pointer and scored 10 of his season-high 25 points in the extra periods to lead the Toronto Raptors to a 101-97 double-overtime victory over the Houston Rockets on Sunday.

Bosh, the fourth overall pick in the draft, hit a 3-pointer with 7.2 seconds remaining in regulation to force overtime, and added four points in the first extra period and six in the second as the Raptors improved to 5-0 at home and 5-5 overall. Vince Carter scored 18 points for Toronto, and teammates Lamond Murray and Antonio Davis each added 13.

Steve Francis scored 25 points, and Yao Ming added 20 points and 12 rebounds for Houston. Bosh struggled in his first start of the season in Friday's loss to Sacramento, and Toronto coach Kevin O'Neill used him in a reserve role against the Rockets. "I don't think it's best for Bosh's long

term growth to be a starter right now," O'Neill said before the game.

Bosh shot 7-for-11 from the field and 10-for-10 from the line. He also grabbed six offensive rebounds.

In the second overtime, Bosh's offensive rebound and basket gave Toronto a 96-93 lead with 33 seconds left.

After Cuttino Mobley missed a jumper, Bosh made two free throws.

After Francis made a jumper to cut the lead to three, Bosh converted two more free throws to give the Raptors a five-point lead with 14 seconds left. In regulation, Bosh made a jumper over Yao, cutting Houston's lead to one with 32 seconds remaining. Francis followed with a 19-foot jumper, giving Houston a three-point lead with 15 seconds left, but a double-teamed Vince Carter found Bosh, whose 3-pointer tied it at 83 with 7.2 remaining.

Francis missed an off-balance 3-pointer at the buzzer, forcing overtime.

Francis also missed another potential game-winning 3-pointer at the buzzer of the first overtime.

FSU Seminoles clinch 11th ACC title

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—North Carolina State coach Chuck Amato said he'd do it again.

Passing up a field goal in a second overtime, his Wolfpack failed to score and Florida State's Leon Washington scooted 12 yards untouched into the end zone a couple of plays later to give the 13th-ranked Seminoles a 50-44 victory and yet another Atlantic Coast Conference title.

"I will never play not to lose," Amato said. "We were going to be the aggressors. So be it." North Carolina State (7-

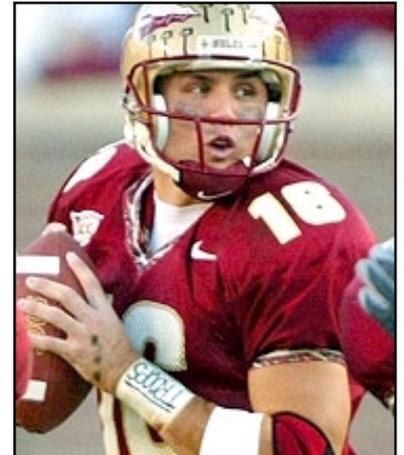
4, 4-3 ACC) had already missed a field goal and extra-point try.

"We were thinking, 'kick it,' but then decided, 'what the heck,'" said Wolfpack quarterback Philip Rivers. "If we had one play to run the rest of our lives, it would be that play."

Instead of trying a field goal, the Wolfpack went on fourth-and-1 at the Florida State 16 and Rivers' pass for Jericho Cotchery was broken up by Allen Augustin at the 5.

"I guess I disrupted him enough that he lost his concentration," said Augustin, a former walk-on who won the starting middle linebacker position last season midway through his junior year.

Washington's 12-yard touchdown run wrapped up the Seminoles' 11th Atlantic Coast Conference title in 12 years and ended a two-year losing streak to Amato, a former longtime assistant at Florida State.



Chris Rix heard boos and was nearly benched but threw three TD passes for the Seminoles, who are 90-6 all-time in the ACC.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

No end to insecurities for Afghan town

By Carlotta Gall

BALKH, Afghanistan – For the people of this ancient, sleepy town, more than 20 years of war and insecurity have still not ended.

One night last month, mortar shells suddenly crashed down on the center of town and shooting rang out as fighters swarmed through the streets. The battle raged all night and left 11 civilians wounded, three of them seriously.

Dr. Yusuf Ansari, 38, a local surgeon, treated eight people for shrapnel wounds and sent three others — a boy, a woman and an old man — to the provincial hospital for amputations. “It was senseless fighting — just for power,” he said.

The violence was a striking illustration of how volatile the situation remains in many parts of Afghanistan two years after the United States went to war to oust the Taliban government, which had given shelter to Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda terrorists.

Armed men and heavy weapons are so prevalent in the general community that civilians are at immediate risk when arguments break out. [This week, a high-ranking United Nations delegation warned after visiting Afghanistan that the country remained at high risk from warlords and their followers.]

“It’s been like this ever since the Communist revolution” in 1978, said Abdul Hakim, 78, keeper of the 15th-century Timurid shrine, which lost some of its dazzling turquoise tiles in a mortar hit. “You never know what is going to happen next.”

In Balkh, as in many other parts of the north, the fighting involves men loyal to two fierce rivals, Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, an ethnic Uzbek, and Gen. Atta Muhammad, commander of the 7th Army Corps and the Tajik-dominated Jamiat-e-Islamie faction.

For the past two years, troops of the Junbish-i-Milli faction, loyal to Dostum, have occupied part of the hospital compound. Jamiat-e-Islami controls the police station 300 yards farther into town.

Clashes between these rival militias have caused some 70 deaths this year in the five northern provinces. At the same time as the fighting in Balkh, Junbish troops seized control of a Jamiat base in Fariab Province. At least 8 people were killed and 25 wounded, according to British troops based here.

The factionalism has reached its most dangerous proportions in the capital of the north, Mazar-i-Sharif, the main prize sought by Dostum and Muhammad.

Police officials say there are 80 to 90 irregular militia manning illegal checkpoints in the city. Unlike other Afghan cities, Mazar-i-Sharif shows little sign of rebuilding or investment.

“There are enough low-level incidents to make sure the good times have not arrived,” said Bruce Koepke, United Nations political officer in Mazar-i-Sharif.

The scars of the Taliban era still sit deep with the population, but there is also mistrust that things will ever change, and uncertainty

about the future, he said.

Muhammad has controlled the city since the fall of the Taliban two years ago, but Dostum has been steadily gaining power in Balkh Province and seeking a stronger foothold in the city. As their confrontation has grown, armed men have filtered in, and can be seen everywhere, lounging on chairs outside compounds or driving around, heavily armed. When Dostum comes into town he is accompanied by dozens of well-armed guards in a stream of pick-ups and S.U.V.’s.

Muhammad, who says his only aim is to protect the mainly Tajik population of Mazar-i-Sharif from domination by the Uzbeks, accused Dostum of an attempt to seize the city. “Dostum is to blame for all these tensions,” he said in an interview at his military base outside the city. “This time he had the intention of capturing Mazar.”

Dostum’s deputy, Said Nurullah, denied that he had had any such plan. Dostum was not even in the region at the time, but in Kabul, he said, and the fighting had only been a clash between local commanders. This has been the stock response from the Dostum camp for the past two years.

Whatever was really going on, the violence finally forced the central government to pay attention. Interior Minister Ahmed Ali Jalali traveled to Mazar three times in two weeks and late last month announced sweeping changes in the local leadership, replacing the governor and deputy governor of Balkh Province and several other officials.



"Fill 'er up, mac."

kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support