

## Postal Co. simplifies holiday shipping

Story and photos by Spc. Kelly Hunt  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – The Christmas season is quickly approaching and postal personnel on base are doing their best to ensure that troops' packages make it back to the states in time for the holiday.

Thanksgiving is nearing on the radar and personnel are gearing up for the hectic holiday shipping season with increased hours and extended service in hopes of making this holiday season a smooth extension of daily operations.

"We've extended the hours (of the post office) on Wednesdays," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Darrick Wesson, 300<sup>th</sup> Adjutant General Postal Company commander. "We're also going to take over the transient housing building immediately in front so we can inspect packages in there (to) keep the flow of personnel through the office a little faster."

Beginning Nov. 13, office hours in Bagram will be Monday through Sunday 0900L to 1800L/0430Z to 1330Z. The post office hours in Kandahar are extended as well, open Monday through Saturday 0830L to 2030L/0400Z to 0730Z and Sunday 0830L to 1200L/0400Z to 0730Z.

To ensure that packages reach the states in time for Christmas, troops are encouraged to "abide by the dates that are recommended and get the packages out prior to those dates," said Wesson.

Gifts should be sent prior to Nov. 13 for space available packages and by Dec. 4 for priority parcels and first class letters.



*Spc. Corey Stockert, right, and Pfc. Richard Rife, both with the 213th Area Support Group, work together to get mail out to the troops.*

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## Bulldogs to replace the Panthers in AEF change

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Wicke  
455th EOG Public Affairs

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – It's dark outside. Even artificial lights are forbidden here at night. In a single file line, about 20 airmen make their way from the belly of a C-130 Hercules on the flightline. They follow the only visible mark: a

blue glow stick held by their leading guide. Directly to the east is a minefield. Beyond that, the enemy waits on all sides.

Throughout the next few weeks many more will come in this fashion. The airmen come to relieve other airmen in the war on terrorism. They are part of Air Expeditionary Force Silver and the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron out of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. D-

M will set the overall tone based on their numbers.

The 354th EFS Bulldogs will replace the 81st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron Panthers, out of Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, as AEF Silver replaces AEF Blue.

"The biggest challenge with this is to have

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A U.S. Humvee patrols near Baghdad's 'Green Zone' after Tuesday's attack.

## 4 wounded in Baghdad blasts

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – Four Coalition Provisional Authority personnel were wounded Tuesday night when three large explosions shook central Baghdad, the Pentagon said.

Projectiles landed in the heavily secure "Green Zone" that includes a former palace of ousted leader Saddam Hussein where the U.S. occupation headquarters are situated. The projectiles did not land on palace grounds, officials said.

One of the wounded was treated at the site and three were taken to the 28th Combat Support Hospital, the officials said. The Pentagon did not say whether the casualties were military or civilian.

Explosions were heard at the Palestine and Al-Rashid hotels, where many journalists stay. The latter was targeted in an October 26 rocket attack that killed a U.S. Army officer.

Three rockets or mortar rounds hit in the same area Monday night, a coalition spokesman said. No damage or injuries were reported.

One round hit a camp of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment and two others struck areas near central Baghdad, according to the Coalition Provisional Authority.

President Bush, traveling in California, said the wave of attacks on U.S. troops do not mean that Baghdad is becoming a military battlefield.

"Saddam loyalists, the torturers and murderers and thugs that used to benefit from Saddam Hussein's regime, are some of the ones creating the havoc, trying to create the conditions so that we leave, testing our will," Bush said.



Real IRA graffiti in Belfast

## Seven Real IRA suspects held

**PARIS** – Police have arrested seven people in northwestern France and the Republic of Ireland on suspicion of supporting the Irish militant group the Real IRA.

A French police spokeswoman said five French nationals, whose names were not released, were arrested in Brittany and Normandy in the early hours of Tuesday.

Police found a weapons cache, including two submachine guns, one automatic gun and ammunition.

The five had no criminal records, *Reuters* quoted the Paris prosecutor's office as saying.

"We suspect they were creating a logistical support network to the Real IRA," a police official told *CNN*.

Also Tuesday, police in Dublin, the capital of the Irish Republic, said they arrested two men in their mid-20s for suspected involvement with the people arrested in France.

The two suspects, who weren't publicly identified, could be questioned by detectives for up to three days before being charged or released.

The Garda Siochana, Ireland's national police force, said the seven arrests resulted from a joint operation between its Special Detective Unit in Dublin, French police and other European authorities.

In France, a preliminary inquiry into the Real IRA was opened in August by the anti-terrorist division of the Paris prosecutor's office following a tip from British intelligence agents, police said.

French anti-terrorism police, intelligence agents and counterintelligence services took part in Tuesday's operation.



Laci Peterson was reported missing December 24; her husband, Scott, has pleaded innocent to charges of killing her and their unborn son.

## Detective quizzed by lawyer

**MODESTO, Calif.** – A lawyer for Scott Peterson on Tuesday cross-examined one of the first police officials to interview Peterson after his wife was reported missing.

The cross-examination by defense attorney Kirk McAllister came in an abbreviated session of Peterson's preliminary hearing. Lead defense attorney Mark Geragos was in court in Los Angeles on another case.

Detective Jon Evers interviewed Peterson on Dec. 24 last year, the day Peterson's wife was reported missing by her family.

Evers testified he was told by another law enforcement official that although Peterson said he was fishing in the San Francisco Bay that day, he could not specify the kind of fish he hoped to catch.

Peterson is charged with killing his pregnant wife, Laci, 27, and their unborn son. Their bodies washed up from San Francisco Bay in April.

Peterson, a 31-year-old former fertilizer salesman, has proclaimed his innocence. Prosecutors have said they would seek the death penalty if he is convicted.

Evers said that when he went to the Peterson home on Christmas Eve, he noticed a mop and bucket outside the family room door.

He said he also saw that the rug in front of the door on the inside was crushed up against the door, although he did not include that detail in his report.



*Sgt. Diane Lucas, 213th Area Support Group, sorts through boxes to ensure that the troops' mail get to the proper destinations.*

## CHANGE, from Page 1

a seamless transition without mission degradation," said Lt. Col. Richard Johnson, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group deputy commander. "The transition should be complete by mid-November." Johnson is an A-10 pilot deployed from Spangdahlem.

Because this is an Army installation, airmen are the minority. Although the Air Force has multiple responsibilities here, the main mission is providing close air support for soldiers, which is airpower support in close proximity of friendly ground forces. At Bagram Air Base, this responsibility lies with the capable A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft.

"The majority of the personnel here with the EOG are of the fighter squadron," said Col. Thomas Groznik, 455th EOG commander deployed from Spangdahlem. "Because of this, the EOG will reflect the image of the fighter squadron here, which will soon be the Bulldogs."

The airmen arriving from D-M are finding the living conditions to be much higher than expected.

"I thought we were going to be sleeping on cots in tents without air conditioning or heat," said Master Sgt. Allan Kuntz, 455th EOG first sergeant deployed from D-M. "Instead, what I found was people moving into timber huts and sleeping on beds. I was also surprised to find we had hot water for showers and washing machines."

But despite the living comforts available here, the enemy threat is high and the ground

forces are redeemed often by the A-10s.

"The roots of the Global war on Terrorism are right here in Afghanistan," said Johnson. "This is a real mission. We see results every day."

Johnson, who has dropped iron on several occasions during this deployment, said the gravity of killing in mass numbers must be approached without sentiment.

"In the moment of engagement you have to focus on several things at once," he said. "The emotion has to be put to the side when you're employing weapons. I know people die when I drop munitions. But it's the enemy who dies, and that prevents the death of friendly forces."

The airmen serving here all contribute to the final business of dropping bombs. Although not everyone ventures outside the wire into enemy territory, all forces here are still vulnerable to incoming rockets. Because of this threat, bunkers fortified with several layers of sandbags are found at every turn. The military remains on high alert at all times.

Although it's a dangerous business, it is necessary for the Air force to be here. Operation Enduring Freedom would not be a suc-

## X-MAS, from Page 1

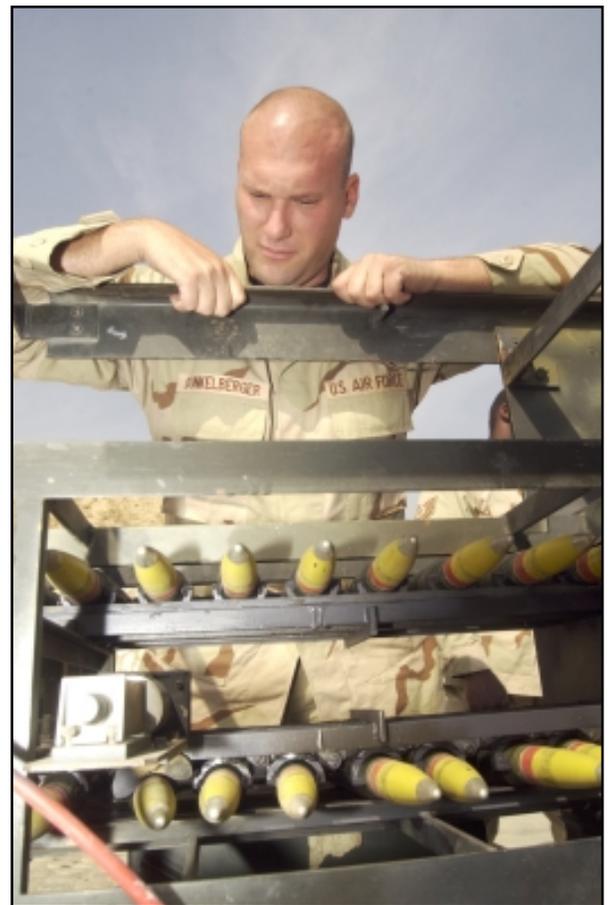
If sent by these dates, packages should reach their destination in time for the holiday, as long as troops make sure that they not sending any gifts that are on the contraband list.

"Illegal contraband is posted up on the wall of the post office (and) includes guns, knives (and) anything flammable," said Wesson. "Those items could hold up your package."

Another situation that could slow down package delivery time is wrapped gifts. To ensure a smooth flow of traffic, postal personnel ask troops not to wrap packages before they are approved for shipping.

"You have to have them inspected prior to wrapping them," said Wesson. After inspection, troops are free to wrap their gifts before sending them home for the holiday.

For more information on holiday shipping and questions on illegal contraband, contact the Bagram Post Office at (318)231-4602 or the Kandahar Post Office at 841-1117 or 582-0758.



*Tech. Sgt. Duren Dunkelberger, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group, inspects 30mm ammunition rounds for defects and damage before they are loaded on an A-10 Thunderbolt II for combat here.*

cess without airpower said Groznik.

"AEF Blue and the Panthers set a high standard," he said. "I have no doubt that AEF Silver and the Bulldogs and will raise that bar. That's just our military nature. We're competitive."

## ANA begins literacy classes

Thanks to new classes, designed to teach Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers to improve their reading, writing and communication abilities, members of the ANA are reaching new levels of understanding. Five days a week, ANA soldiers are able to take instruction on Dari literacy either at the local German high school or Pol-e-Charkhi High School.

The course is separated into three levels of training: beginning, intermediate and advanced. "Without knowing how to read, they are like the blind," said one of the ten instructors who teach the classes. "This program helps them see." The courses are growing weekly, and through these courses, soldiers are reaping the benefits. "My quality of life has improved immensely," said Sgt. Mohammed Afzal, an infantry squad leader for the 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Kandak. "My course is helping me to communicate better professionally with my leaders and soldiers, and in my personal life. It is now possible for me to write better letters home."

As writing is important to the soldier who feels it's important to keep his family informed, reading is important for the leader who likes to keep his soldiers informed. "Clearly this course helps to prepare soldiers for leadership positions," said Capt. Ahmadullah, company commander for 1<sup>st</sup> Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Kandak. "A soldier must be able to read, so he can know the rules and regulations that apply to his job."

In the two months as company commander, Ahmadullah, who attends the classes to support the soldiers' efforts to improve upon themselves, sees the class is making a difference in his soldiers and the way they're performing. "In our job, as with most jobs, communicating with one another is extremely important. Increasing our knowledge is helping us to problem solve, which in turn, leads to further opportunities.

The value of this class is irreplaceable. Without the ANA, we would never have had this opportunity," said Subhanullah Durakhshan, another of Ahmadullah's soldiers.

Through classes such as these, the ANA constantly strives to increase the professionalism of the Army as it continues to grow in order to provide for the security of Afghanistan.

*(Information is provided by Spc. Douglas DeMaio, OMC-A.)*

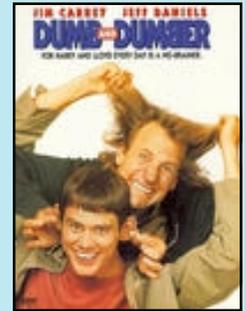
## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

### "Dumb & Dumber"

1530Z at the MWR building:

The cross-country adventures of two good-hearted but incredibly stupid friends.

**Tomorrow's movie:** "2 Fast, 2 Furious"



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 48F L: 21F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 48F L: 21F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 82F L: 50F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 79F L: 46F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 55F L: 21F	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 54F L: 21F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Rain</i> H: 50F L: 38F	<i>Rain</i> H: 43F L: 33F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *SI.com*)

## Patriots rally to beat Broncos 30-26



*Tom Brady drove the Patriots 58 yards in 1:45 for the game-winning touchdown.*

**DENVER** – The New England Patriots overcame their injuries with a healthy quarterback and a coach who made one of the shrewdest calls of the NFL season.

The Denver Broncos, equally banged up, couldn't overcome their problems.

Tom Brady threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to David Givens with 30 seconds left Monday night to give the Patriots a 30-26 win over the Broncos and their fifth straight victory.

It came after coach Bill Belichick's call for a deliberate safety with his team, trailing 24-23, backed up on their own 1 on fourth down with 2:49 left.

The safety made Denver's lead 26-23, but it gave New England punting room and Ken Walter's free kick put the Broncos back to their own 15. The Broncos went three and out and New England had to drive just 58 yards after getting the ball back with 2:15 left after using two timeouts.

"I think that was the best call of the game," Givens said. "Our coaches knew that we have a great field-goal kicker. The offense was moving the ball all game and either we were going to get three and go to overtime or score a touchdown."

Belichick, who took an intentional safety in a 28-19 win here in 2000, said he took the safety because he figured he'd lose any chance at good field position if he punted from the end zone.

"We were hoping to get the ball back in decent field position and still have some time to at least try for a field goal to tie it," he said.

It worked.

Brady, who completed 20 of 35 for 350 yards, drove New England down the field easily, hitting Kevin Faulk for 16 yards on the play before the TD. On the touchdown, Givens beat Deltha O'Neal, whose 57-yard touchdown return late in the third quarter gave the Broncos a lead they didn't surrender until the final minute.

Both teams entered the game with all sorts of injuries. Denver (5-4) was without two starting linebackers, and its starting left tackle as well as Ed McCaffrey, the third wide receiver.

Danny Kanell, Denver's third-string quarterback, was making his second straight start because of injuries to Jake Plummer and Steve Beuerlein. And kicker Jason Elam pulled a groin muscle during the game, the Broncos' third straight loss.

The Patriots (7-2) had started 40 different players in their first seven games and added defensive tackle Richard Seymour, having a Pro Bowl season, to their injury list just before the game with a leg injury.

## Nine AL Gold Glove winners announced



*Ichiro won his third award in as many years.*

**NEW YORK** – Seattle outfielders Ichiro Suzuki and Mike Cameron and Mariners infielders Bret Boone and John Olerud won AL Gold Gloves on Tuesday.

All nine winners had previously earned the honor for fielding excellence. There were seven repeat winners from last season — New York Yankees pitcher Mike Mussina and Cameron re-joined the list this year.

Texas shortstop Alex Rodriguez, Oakland third baseman Eric Chavez, Minnesota outfielder Torii Hunter and Anaheim catcher Bengie

Molina also were chosen.

A-Rod won for the second straight season. Last year, he broke Omar Vizquel's string of nine consecutive Gold Gloves.

"I worked very, very hard," Rodriguez said, "to back it up this year with my second one."

## Dennehy's father says Dotson is innocent

**FORT WORTH, Texas** – An attorney for the father of slain Baylor University basketball player Patrick Dennehy says his investigation shows that Dennehy was killed by someone other than Carlton Dotson, the former player charged in the crime.

"It is our belief, based on our investigation, that Dotson is innocent," Daniel Cartwright told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

Cartwright is one of two Houston-based attorneys representing Dennehy's father, Patrick Dennehy Sr., who lives in Tacoma, Wash., in his lawsuit against former Baylor coach Dave Bliss and others.

The lawsuit was filed Aug. 22 in Houston. A hearing was scheduled for Monday to deal with motions by the defendants seeking to transfer the lawsuit to Waco.

"There are certain people at Baylor who know that, and they have been working very hard to cover that up, according to our investigation," Cartwright said.

Noley Bice, Baylor's general counsel, said Cartwright's statements do not merit a response because they do not include details or named sources.

Cartwright declined to reveal the evidence or identify potential suspects, saying he does not want to scare off witnesses who will be asked to provide depositions for the lawsuit.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## More soldiers bound for Afghanistan

(*Aftenposten*) – Norway’s coalition government has support in parliament to send around 200 soldiers from the country’s famed Telemark Battalion to Afghanistan. Their mission will be to protect the country’s interim government.

Kristin Krohn Devold is sending troops to Afghanistan just three weeks after NATO asked for them.

Defense Minister Kristin Krohn Devold said the troops will be sent in response to a request that NATO boss Lord Robertson made at the last ministerial meeting in Colorado Springs in October. She said she’s pleased Norway could react quickly to NATO’s need for reinforcements.

“We understand that this will be a demanding and risky assignment,” Krohn Devold said in a prepared statement Tuesday. “We will emphasize the best possible security measures for the force we send.”

The Telemark unit is expected to be ready to travel to Afghanistan by the end of this month, and will remain there until next summer.

They will be attached to the government leaders now in the process of writing a new constitution for the war-torn country.

## U.S. Afghan emergency aid welcomed

By Sanjoy Majumder

(*BBC*) – The Afghan Government has welcomed an emergency aid package for the country passed by the U.S. Senate.

It says that it would like to see this commitment every year, and from other international donors. The U.S. Senate has approved over \$12 billion for Afghanistan, but critics say the money will not meet the country’s security and humanitarian needs.

Afghanistan badly needs funds to create jobs and build its shattered infrastructure, and only a quarter of previously pledged aid has actually been delivered.

Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman Omar Samaad told the *BBC* that the American aid package was welcome and timely.

“We hope that this assistance will continue until Afghanistan can get back on its own feet,” he said. “However, Afghanistan needs a multi-year commitment not only from the United States but also Europe, Asia and the Middle East.”

The U.S. Senate approved the aid package on Monday, the same day that a new draft constitution was unveiled, setting out Afghanistan’s new political system - an Islamic republic with the president as its head.

The bulk of the U.S. package will go towards strengthening security. That will be welcome, with almost daily attacks on coalition forces in the south blamed on the Taliban, and factional fighting in the north.

But critics say the \$1.2 billion offered as development aid is a fraction of the country’s reconstruction and humanitarian needs.

“Reconstruction and job security can only be created through stability, disarmament of militias and an effective government apparatus,” Vikram Parekh of the non-governmental organization, the International Crisis Group, said.

## Pakistan troops kill two in shootout

WANA, Pakistan (*Reuters*) – Pakistani troops killed two unidentified foreigners in a shootout in a tribal region close to the Afghan border, where last month eight suspected al Qaeda and Taliban guerrillas were killed, officials said on Tuesday.

The gunbattle erupted on Monday after three foreigners, whose identity could not be established, opened fire when stopped by a Pakistani army patrol in Angor Adda border town.

“Two of them were killed when our troops returned fire, while the third one fled to Afghanistan,” a local administration official, Rehmatullah Wazir, told *Reuters*. “They are not Pakistanis. They came from Afghanistan.”

He said a video camera and an assault rifle were also recovered from the possession of the slain men.

He said there was no casualties on Pakistani side.

Eight suspected al Qaeda and Taliban guerrillas were killed and 18 others were arrested in a raid by Pakistani troops last month in Angor Adda that lies across the border from a small U.S. base at Shkin in Afghanistan.

A Pakistani minister said two important members of Osama bin Laden’s al Qaeda group, including one with a bounty on his head, were among those killed in that operation.

Pakistan, a key ally in the U.S.-led war on terror, has deployed thousands of troops along its 2,450-km (1,520-miles) long and porous border, hunting remnants of the ousted Afghan Taliban regime and the al Qaeda network it sheltered. It says it has arrested more than 500 al Qaeda and other militants in the past two years.

“Give me five bucks, and I’ll get you the answers to the test.”



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support