

Compensation given to Afghan village

By Spc. LaTorry D. Sidney
300th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

KOHI SAFI, Afghanistan — The blades of the Ch-47 Chinook beat rhythmically as the aircraft descends onto the rocky landscape of the Kohi Safi region. As the soldiers gracefully dismount the craft and take their firing positions for security purposes, one can sense the tension in the air. The untrained eye would perceive this to be a combat mission, but the soldiers on this team serve a different purpose. Their purpose is to pay the dues of the Army to the inhabitants of this village.

Led by Capt. Daniel M. Froehlich, the 82nd Airborne Division Operational Law attorney, the team pushed forward on Dec.

19 to pay claimants who suffered minor property losses because of an explosion. The blast destroyed the Soviet munitions that were discovered in the Kohi Safi region. The team also provided medical care and arranged for humanitarian aid in the form of food and school supplies to be delivered to the villagers.

According to Froehlich, paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne division were alerted by Kohi Safi villagers of Soviet weapons, including an unspecified number of 107-millimeter rockets that were being kept there. In the process of destroying these munitions, some damage was done to the surrounding areas.

“The U.S. was invited by the local Afghans to rid their village of munitions stored in various caves,” said Froehlich. “A



Photo by Spc. LaTorry D. Sidney, 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Under the supervision of 82nd Airborne Division Operational Law attorney Capt. Daniel M. Froehlich, finance specialist Spc. Jyron Pugh, of the XVIII Airborne Corps, pays a claimant in the Kohi Safi region.

former Northern Alliance general coordinated the villages’ efforts to help us destroy the weapons.”

“We went in to destroy these munitions and we did so,” said Froehlich. “We were there be-

cause they wanted us there. Unfortunately some explosions were so large they damaged some Afghan property.”

— See **CLAIMANT**, Page A4

Infantry ‘heroes’ get ‘packaged hugs’

By Sgt. Reeba Critser
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — They have never met Elaine Harmon, but they know she always ends her letters with “Hugs, mom.”

Infantrymen from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., look forward to the comfort Harmon sends them in large packages.

“She sent a box to our sergeant major who he gave it to us,” said Sgt. 1st

See **HEROES**, Page A3

What every servicemember needs to know about customs

By Spc. Alfredo Jimenez
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — It’s no secret servicemembers love to acquire new things during deployments, but there are a few guidelines and regulations that must be followed before they can ship them off to their loved ones.

Here is a brief listing of some of the rules in the Central Command area of responsibility:

♦ General Order 1 states the tak-

ing or retaining of individual souvenirs or war trophies is prohibited. However, units can request retention of historical artifacts by contacting the historian office at DSN 303-587-5699.

♦ Any controlled substances are also prohibited. Any other dangerous drugs, drug paraphernalia, goods made by convict or forced labor, destructive devices, explosives and flammables, white phosphorus

See **CUSTOMS**, Page A3

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

Brutal Christmas for stores

NEW YORK - Procrastinators, dust off your credit cards.

That was the mantra for millions of Americans Thursday as they streamed into malls and stores across the country, hunting for the marked-down items that retailers can't wait to get rid of after what looks like the worst holiday shopping season in at least 30 years.

The latest figures certainly don't look good. Holiday shopping fell 11 percent to \$113 billion between Thanksgiving and Christmas, according to estimates released Thursday by ShopperTrak, which tracks retail sales.

But the comparison isn't fair since there were six fewer shopping days between the two holidays this year than there were in 2001. Still, the shorter holiday shopping period was only one factor contributing to the decline.

"Clearly the economy is not helping," said retail analyst Todd Slater at the brokerage house Lazard Freres in New York. "Consumers are relatively strapped, and they're focusing more of their time and attention on the big discount days, like black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving) and today."

With a disappointing season so far, merchants will be counting even more on the post-Christmas rush, which traditionally accounts for about 10 percent of total holiday sales, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Photographer Herb Ritts dies

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Photographer Herb Ritts, whose access to celebrities, even at their most fragile moments, gave him an edge in a competitive field, died Thursday of complications of pneumonia, his publicist said. He was 50.

Ritts — whose stylish, mostly black-and-white portraits helped define the image-conscious 1980s and '90s — died at the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical Center, publicist Stephen Huvane said.

Ritts gained entree to celebrities' lives even at unglamorous moments. He photographed Christopher Reeve, wired up and

immobile in a high-tech wheelchair. In another photograph, Elizabeth Taylor sported a crew cut and the scar resulting from her brain surgery.

"He could get people to do things that they were reluctant to do, because in the end it would make a great photograph," said David Fahey, Ritts' gallery representative.

Edward Norton, one of Ritts' subjects, once told the Los Angeles Times: "I feel like Herb really does see everything as beautiful. ... It's almost as if he can't help but see it in its idealized form."

West Va. man wins Powerball

HURRICANE, West Va. — Andrew "Jack" Whittaker, a 55-year-old grandfather and owner of several construction companies will take home \$111.7 million in cash for winning Christmas night's Powerball lottery drawing.

Whittaker, from Scott Depot, West Virginia, is the largest single-ticket winner in international lottery history. He said Thursday that his first three checks will be written to three church pastors. As a member of the Church of God, he said he wants to tithe 10 percent before he spends any of the money.

"I'm very blessed. I've been blessed my whole life," Whittaker said. "It's really going to excite my daughter and granddaughter. They're going to be spending the money."

The advertised jackpot amount was \$314.9 million but Whittaker chose the cash payout instead of annual payments.

The lump sum is more than \$170 million before federal and state taxes are taken out. He received a \$10 million check Thursday and will receive the balance of his winnings — \$101.7 million — in two weeks, as required by Multi-State Lottery rules.

Israel putting services in place in West Bank, Gaza

JERUSALEM — Israel has quietly begun establishing new measures to provide services for Palestinian civilians in parts of the West Bank and Gaza, a government official acknowledged Thursday.

Under the plan, Israeli officials would take back 41 areas of administration that had



Photo by Spc. John Slosser, public affairs specialist
LTC Stephen White, Deputy Current Ops Officer, shows off his new rock while playing a gift giving game Christmas night in the JOC.

been turned over to the Palestinian Authority.

According to Israeli government documents obtained by CNN, the plan would provide Palestinians with better educational services, health care and social welfare services. Israeli administrators would also grant, for example, travel and building permits.

A first tangible sign of the strategy was visible a few days ago when Israel allowed bus services to resume operations between the West Bank towns that its army now controls.

NATO: 'Moral obligation' to U.S.

LONDON, England — NATO has a "moral obligation" to support the United States if it launches military action against Iraq, the alliance's chief says.

Secretary-General George Robertson told the BBC that Washington has offered NATO a series of options for member nations to contribute to any war.

But among NATO members there are still widely differing views on a possible war in Iraq, with Germany having ruled out military participation and Turkey, the alliance's only Muslim member, yet to commit itself. France has expressed serious reservations and



Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser

Staff Sgt. Joseph Facilla (left), native of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Sgt Mark Finney, native of Phoenix, both from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., open a box they received from their sponsor at a forward operating base in Southeastern Afghanistan.

HEROES, from Page A1 —

Class Wylie Hutchinson, from Chino, Calif., “and we’ve been writing her ever since.”

He said Harmon sends them packages in themes. For example, for the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks, Harmon sent them flags.

On Halloween, she sent them items like pumpkin plates, napkins, cups, candy, movies and popcorn.

“She must have spent more than \$1,000 on us,” Hutchinson said.

Harmon, from Lawrenceville, N.J., makes them feel appreciated said Sgt. Mark Finney, from Phoenix.

“She’s great because she gives us a time out,” he said. “She thinks we’re heroes.”

In addition to the regular packages they receive, Harmon elected to do more for the troops.

“The single guys got letters from older women,” Finney said.

Harmon also sends individual packages to soldiers on their birthday’s.

“I get more from her than my family,” Finney said.

In return, he said his company will present her with a gift for all her hard work.

“We’re getting her a plaque with an American flag enclosed,” Finney said. “We took the flag on every mission.”

CUSTOMS, from Page A1

matches, counterfeit coins, securities, obligations, postage or revenue are among other banned items. Lottery tickets and advertisements for any lottery are also on the list.

❖ Servicemembers can get into hot water by obtaining obscene or immoral articles, books, pictures, films or publications, articles of medicines for the introduction of abortions, articles originating in embargoed countries. Updated lists of embargoed countries may be found at www.treas.gov/ofac.

❖ Certain wildlife parts and products that are prohibited by federal law and the convention on international trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora are also off-limits.

❖ Firearms, ammunition and implements of war, trademark items, foreign reprints of U.S. copyrighted material, provided that they are intended for personal use, are also on the list.

❖ Switchblade knife or any knife with a blade that opens automatically by the action of inertia or gravity, alcoholic beverages, as permitted by law of the U.S. state of destination. Prescription drugs provided they are hand carried and must be in the original labeled container and not loose, will be acceptable.

❖ Wildlife and wildlife parts and products, animal and animal prod-

ucts, plant and plant products, importation of animals and insects that present a hazard to the indigenous U.S. life are also prohibited.

❖ Commercially dried, cured or processed fruits and vegetables, such as cured figs and dates or dried peas and beans, are unrestricted.

❖ Any firearm manufactured in or before 1898, or any replica is unrestricted. Antique firearms do not fall within the purview of the Federal Gun Control Act. Therefore, antique firearms may be imported into the U.S. without obtaining an import license.

It’s important to note the definition of antique firearms does not include AK-47s, AK-74s, RPK machine guns and many other firearms available in Afghanistan, and therefore, those weapons may not be transported in the U.S. as antique firearms. They may be imported in to the U.S. as historical artifacts.

Questions regarding firearms may be addressed to the Provost Marshal Office section at DSN 303-587-6095.



CLAIMANT, from Page A1

This incident resulted in structural damage to a few houses and a manger, as well as the death of one villagers' donkey that wandered too close to the site.

Froehlich said that the villagers were prepared to accept the damages, when they were informed that they would be rewarded for their cooperation. "We went back to compensate locals for the loss of their property, and we paid out roughly 15 thousand dollars to 12 claimants," he said.

The 82nd Airborne Division Staff Judge Advocate office made an assessment of the damage and identified the claimants. For identification purposes, pictures were taken, and Afghans that could not print their name submitted a thumbprint in lieu of a signature.

The compensation to the locals was a step in the direction of gaining their continued support, said Froehlich. "We're not required to do this; it's a tool a commander can use to maintain good relations with a community. Had the damage been caused during a combat mission, we would not have been able to pay for these damages under the Foreign Claims Act. However, this was not a combat mission, and we want to encourage the locals' future cooperation."

The 82nd Airborne Division also provided medical care and humanitarian aid to the villagers. "The people of this village are about as healthy as those in any other village in Af-



Photo by Spc. LaTorry D. Sidney, 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Capt. D.J. Doyle and Sgt. Jamelia D. Carter, both medics with the 82nd Headquarters, Headquarters Company, provide medical care for a child in a Kohi Safi village.

ghanistan," said Capt. D.J. Doyle, a surgeon with the Headquarters, Headquarters Company 82nd Airborne Division. Their ailments varied from minor infections and body aches to what seemed to be advanced Parkinson's disease.

The 450th Civil Affairs Battalion of Riverdale, Md. also delivered school supplies and food to some of the children.

A lot of coordination is required to carry out the process of compensating claimants, said Master Sgt. Norm A. Farnsworth, the Coalition Task Force 82 chief paralegal non-commissioned officer. "Our job is to gather information, investigate the site, and ensure it's a proper, payable claim," he said. "Once it's approved through our system, we send a team out to actually pay the claims. It's a three-

part process."

Situations such as these provide an opportunity for coalition forces to show Afghans that our presence is to rebuild their country. "It's a tool of diplomacy for us (U.S. and coalition forces)" agreed Froehlich. "These Afghans have been graceful and courteous, and they've pledged their allegiance to the U.S."

Although this was a peaceful mission, the security of those carrying out this mission was key, said Froehlich. The 1st Platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 17th Cavalry carried out the majority of the security detail with the eyes and ears of every soldier involved at the ready.

"I was very proud of the job the soldiers did," he said, "especially since a lot of these troops had never worked with each other before. I credit the success to every individual on the mission that performed his or her job. If every claims mission goes this way, we'll be pleased."

"I just think it's the right thing to do," Farnsworth said about paying claims. "We plan on going out again to other areas to pay claims in the future. This was a good thing for the villagers, because not only did we compensate them, this mission also gave us the chance to get humanitarian aid and supplies to them."

To ensure prompt delivery of your mail...
 Make sure your loved ones are using the following format:

NAME
UNIT
APO AE 09354

Do not put Bagram, Afghanistan in the address as it changes the class of mail.



Breakfast		D F A C hours
Bagram Viper City	0600 to 0900	
Bagram Hanger	0700 to 0900	
Bagram Dragon City	0600 to 0900	
Kabul	0630 to 0800	
Kandahar	0630 to 0930	
K2	0600 to 0900	
Lunch		
MREs for lunch		
Dinner		
Bagram Viper City	1630 to 2030	
Bagram Hanger	1630 to 1830	
Bagram Dragon City	1700 to 2100	
Kabul	1700 to 1845	
Kandahar	1630 to 1930	
K2	1600 to 2000	

FREEDOM'S VOICES

Bagram exceeds expectations

Just my Opinion

Maj. William Mott
11th Public Affairs
Detachment



What images ran through your mind when you were told that you were going to be deployed to Afghanistan? From the daily CNN reports on the death and destruction; famine and drought you probably thought the worst.

The war stories from your buddies about random mortar fire and snipers in the mountains taking pot shots at American troops most likely confirmed what you thought was going to be the worst deployment you were ever going to be on. Add the mine awareness briefings, talk about malaria pills and anthrax shots and you were definitely starting to dread it.

Don't forget the sub-zero temperatures and the 100-degree summers with unrelenting dust and sand storms, and mosquitoes and snakes and rats oh my! What was the military asking you to do?

Those conditions and stories may have applied six or 12 months ago. Deploying into Bagram Air Base today is almost better than a field exercise at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. or the Joint Readiness Center in Fort Polk, La. Not only because the opposing force isn't highly trained, well armed, and doesn't know every inch of the box, but because Bagram has been built into a solid, well-

fortified, well-stocked operating base.

The hard work of the Coalition Joint Task Force has made Bagram Air Base a quite comfortable home away from home. Coordination on numerous levels from political to electrical has built the air base into a world-class life and logistical support center capable of defending itself and supporting thousands of international and American troops and civilians. Not only is CJTF supporting and defending itself, it is rebuilding Afghanistan.

The list of contributors who have made Bagram Air Base what it is today could go well into the thousands. Think especially of Spc. Jason A. Disney who gave the ultimate sacrifice in an industrial equipment accident rebuilding the foundation of the base. Think of the 24-hour operations of the quick reaction force that allow us to do our jobs and sleep 'peacefully' at night or the night shift that watches over us and barely gets any sleep during the day while we pound and build around them. The fuel handlers, who pump fuel in the freezing night to keep us warm in our tents. The explosive ordnance teams, who labor tediously defying death inch by inch. The parents and the young troops who all have to cope with separation all work to make Bagram what it is today. The list goes on.

So when you go to take a shower and the tank is empty and you have to wait for the water truck to arrive, or a porta potty gets knocked over, just patiently count your blessings and think about what it was like before.

STREET TALK

Who exudes patriotism and why?



"All the soldiers who volunteered to come here in freedom's defense."

**Sgt. 1st Class
Ramon Diaz**
48th CSH
Fort Bragg, N.C.

"Everybody over here, especially people serving here in a non-military capacity."

Tyrone Whittaker
Brown & Root
Killeen, Texas



"The children and schools who support us by sending cards and care packages."

Pfc. Cory Hoag
XVIII Airborne Corps
Fort Bragg, N.C.

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To be added to the daily distribution list email william.james@us.army.mil

82nd family gives online support

By Sgt. Reeba Critser
28th Public Affairs
Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Michael Cain's son is supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, along with other soldiers in the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. He and others not only support their soldiers, but each other as well.

But unlike support to their soldiers, theirs doesn't come in packages or phone calls. Instead, it's on *Yahoo! Groups*.

"Nan (Kent) saw the families of Fort Bragg soldiers struggling with little information about their sons and daughters and with a need to share their frustrations and fears with someone who would actually understand what we're going through," said Cain, whose son is Spc. Jason Cain with 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. "She contacted people who had posted to a discussion forum at the Fayetteville newspaper and invited us to join a group that would be private and hopefully helpful in some way."

To date, the group has more than 80 members. The e-mail traffic is incredible to watch, Cain said. The group exchanges close to 1,000 e-mails a month.

"Whenever someone hears from his or her soldier, we all hear about it," said Cain, from Atlanta. "Phone calls are best. Letters and packages can start a flurry of contact that is something to witness. We all miss our soldiers terribly and never hear from them as often as we'd like, but a contact from any in the group is uplifting for us all."

Topics discussed in the group vary every day.

For example, Larry A. Smith, from Austin, shared his joy in receiving his son's e-mail for the first time to the members of the group. Spc. Robert Smith, 82nd Abn. Div., is currently supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

A Hero's Poem

My hero is someone that I could look up to and who could be my role model. A hero is caring and a brave person. My hero is my godfather Steve. He's brave because he is in Afghanistan protecting people's lives. He is caring because he calls his mom every week.

Steve has brown hair and blue eyes, 22 years old and he is 6 feet 2 inches tall. His favorite sport is snowboarding. He used to play hockey on the ice and off. I went to one of his games once. I like to write to him and he likes to write back to me in his spare time.

He is brave because he is in Afghanistan to protect our country from Osama bin Ladin. He is in the Army as a paratrooper. He is one of the tallest guys in his unit. He searches caves for dangerous weapons.

A hero is a caring person who is loving and honest. He is nice to me and always plays with me when he visits. He tickles me and uses me as a weight by picking me up with his arm.

My hero is my godfather Steve. I love him and I wish he were here in California with me!!!!

—By Cory Pawar
Age 9

"Peggy jumped a foot off the floor when I saw his (Robert) e-mail and yelled 'I GOT AN E-MAIL FROM ROBERT!' God bless you my son ... you have made my day!"

Through thick and thin, members share in the joys and sorrows of each other.

"We've celebrated a couple of births and witnessed the compassion the Army shows in tracking down 'dad' in the middle of a war zone," Cain said.

Cain said knowing that someone else is having the same feelings as he is, and sharing it, is

what the group is all about.

"The biggest benefit this group brings to each of us is the ability to discuss our fears and our pride with people who know," he said. "It gives us a chance to vent and it gives us a chance to reach out and help someone else get through this thing."

"It's hard knowing our kids are in harm's way. This group helps us to cope and brings a smile to our collective faces every time we see the delight people have when they can share those most precious of words ... 'my soldier called me today.'"

NEWS, from Page A2

played a key role in securing the tough new U.N. resolution that returned weapons inspectors to Iraq after a four year hiatus.

The UK meanwhile has so closely allied itself to Washington that some London newspapers — notably the *Mirror*, a traditional supporter of the ruling Labour Party — are questioning Prime Minister Tony Blair's independence.

Robertson told the BBC on Thursday: "The decision (on military action) won't be taken by America, the decision will be taken by (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein.

Bush, Clinton and J. Lo?

ATLANTA, Ga. — President Bush and Hillary Rodham Clinton may have little in common politically, but they're both considered the most-admired people by Americans.

As usual, in a poll conducted by CNN, USA Today and Gallup, Americans chose the sitting president as the man they admire most. But President George W. Bush has an unusually large lead over other admired men.

Bush was the first answer for 28 percent of respondents. Second on the list is former President Jimmy Carter, who won the Nobel Peace Prize earlier this year. He was named by 9 percent of respondents.

Rounding out the list of men are Secretary of State Colin Powell, 4 percent; Pope John Paul II, 3 percent; and former President Bill Clinton, 3 percent.

The survey also asked Americans which woman they most admire. Former first lady and current New York Sen. Clinton was named by 7 percent of those responding.

Mrs. Clinton bested current first lady Laura Bush by one percentage point. Also on the list are talk-show host and businesswoman Oprah Winfrey, 6 percent; former first lady Barbara Bush, 3 percent; and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, 3 percent.

Soldiers at Kabul get Yoga lessons

By Sgt. Eric C. Barker
300th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — Developed in India, Yoga is a psychophysical discipline with roots going back about 5,000 years. Today, most Yoga practices in the west focus on the physical postures, breathing exercises and meditation.

At Kabul, one can find a group of soldiers focusing on the more down-to-earth benefits of Yoga, including improved physical fitness and general well being.

“During our sessions, we use Ashtanga-Yoga, which focuses on strength and balancing,” explained the Yoga session leader, Maj. Kevin Lanigan, command judge advocate, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Riverdale, Md. “Being in the military, you only have so much time to work out. Yoga is a great one hour workout.”

According to Yoga basics, most schools advise a practice session that lasts 60-90 minutes everyday. If not, try and do that much over a few days a week. Lanigan said any Yoga is better than no Yoga, and 20 to 30 minutes a day is better than 90 minutes once a week.

“We get together at the (Morale, Welfare and Recreation building) for our yoga sessions about three times a week,” said Lanigan. “At home I never did it more than two times a week.”

Western science has been



Photo by Sgt. Eric C. Barker, 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Anthony M. Falcone, head mechanic, and Spc. Brenda M. Singer, motor clerk, both with the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, keep their heads up during a Yoga session.

studying Yoga for nearly 50 years and “The Yoga Therapy Report” shows numerous physical and psychological benefits from Yoga.

“I’ve been participating in the sessions since I got to Kabul and I can already tell the difference in my endurance and strength,” said

Master Sgt. Louis Episcopo, mess-hall sergeant, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, Utica, N.Y.

“I originally started Yoga as part of the rehab of my left knee injured at Airborne School,” explained Lanigan. “I liked it so much, that I continued to do it.”

For most of the soldiers at the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force, Yoga is a new experience for them.

“I mean I am not a certified instructor, but I was talking to a few people and they were interested in getting together for some Yoga sessions,” said Lanigan.

“Everybody has a different level. Since we started, we probably have driven a few people away but we also have a gotten a good number of people to come out,” he added.

“This is my first time doing Yoga. I didn’t think it would be this hard though, having to stand on one hand. I have been to 12 sessions and it gets harder as we go,” said Staff Sgt. Anthony M. Falcone, head mechanic, 414th CA Bn.

Yoga has been proven to be very beneficial to one’s health. A recent study with heart patients showed that those who followed a stress reduction program that included many Yoga practices did better than patients who exercised or did nothing.

“These Yoga sessions help me to stay healthy, stay in shape and stay feeling young,” said Episcopo.

“At this time in my life, I get far more from an hour of Yoga as opposed to weightlifting. Still, Yoga should be done in conjunction with other things, like running and weightlifting,” explained Lanigan. “If this means more people will stay in shape then it’s a great thing.”

Afghan Info

Compiled by the 11th Public Affairs Detachment

Afghanistan is a beautiful picturesque country with natural wonders from glacial mountains to barren deserts.

With its three distinct geographic regions the central highlands, the northern plains and the southern plateau, it is quite similar to Americas Rocky Mountain area in northern New Mexico where the Pecos and Rio Grande rivers run through to Texas and Mexico.

The similarities end as it has a general elevation of 15,000 feet where in America, Mount Whitney is our highest peak at 14,494. We are reminded of those towering peaks here at Bagram Air Base every day when the sun lights up the snow-capped mountains that surround the valley.

Afghanistan's outstanding geographic feature is the 599-mile Hindu Kush mountain

range, which is an extension of the Himalayas. It stretches southwest-erly boasting peaks of 21,000 feet and forms the backbone of Afghanistan. Nawshak Mountain is the highest peak at 24,557 feet. Mount Everest is 29,035 feet.

The central highlands in the Salang Pass of Hindu Kush are subject to extremes of rain and snow, and along the Pakistan boarder the weather is influenced by monsoons from India between July and September. Kabul, at an altitude of 5,900 feet, has temperatures ranging from five to 88 degrees Fahrenheit (-15 to 31 Celsius).

The northern plains are similar to the



Photo © Richard McGuire

Mountain ranges such as this one near Murghab Valley are prevalent throughout Afghanistan.

central highlands, however, the southern plateau is a drought-ridden area that is subject to sand storms from the "Wind of 120 Days."

Unfortunately, Afghanistan's underlying beauty is scarred and hidden by years of war and the recent drought. Hopefully, the country and its people will recover.

Afghan Info is a new weekly column outlining little known and interesting tid-bits about Afghanistan.



Music Notes (Compiled from MTV.com)

J a y - Z , Nelly, other MCs do movies — so where are all the rock star actors?

Elvis Presley, Jon Bon Jovi, Courtney Love ... rock stars have long been staples of the big screen. Lately, though, it's the hip-hop world that has Hollywood on lock, from Ice Cube to Ja Rule, DMX and of course, Eminem.

So what happened to all the rock stars? Why aren't Papa Roach, Puddle of Mudd or Sum 41 cruising the celluloid strip?

"Because we can't act," Sum 41's Deryck Whibley answered.

"Because we can't act," Trust Company's Kevin Palmer reiterated.

"I don't know," the Used's Branden Steineckert pondered. "The Red Hot Chili Peppers used to get in quite a few movies."

How can one forget Anthony Kiedis' powerful portrayal of a surfer in "Point Break"? Or Flea's memorable performance as

a tattoo artist in "Son in Law"?

So maybe some rock stars can't actually act. For every Meat Loaf, who was lauded for his role in "Fight Club," there's a Stephan Jenkins, who didn't exactly garner acclaim as a singer in "Rock Star."

But then there's Vanilla Ice's disastrous "Cool As Ice." And Coolio's resume of movies. Obviously, not all rappers are Oscar candidates either. Yet, that isn't stopping just about every MC from vying to be the next Will Smith.

Britney sues Skechers

Britney Spears' relationship with Skechers USA to promote a line of roller skates has taken a major tumble, and she's suing the footwear company for \$1.5 million, the singer's manager said.

Spears hooked up with Skechers in 2001 to plug the Skechers 4 Wheeler skates and to create and market her own line of the skates and accessories. The deal initially went so well that Spears and Skechers renegotiated a three-year licensing agreement in January, and Spears was credited with helping to boost the line's 2001 sales by 50 percent.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

2000 hrs. at the MWR building: 1878 in New Mexico: A stylized tale of William "Billie the Kid" Bonney and friends. Bonney takes revenge on those who killed a friend. The people honor him as a fighter for justice.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Star Wars II."



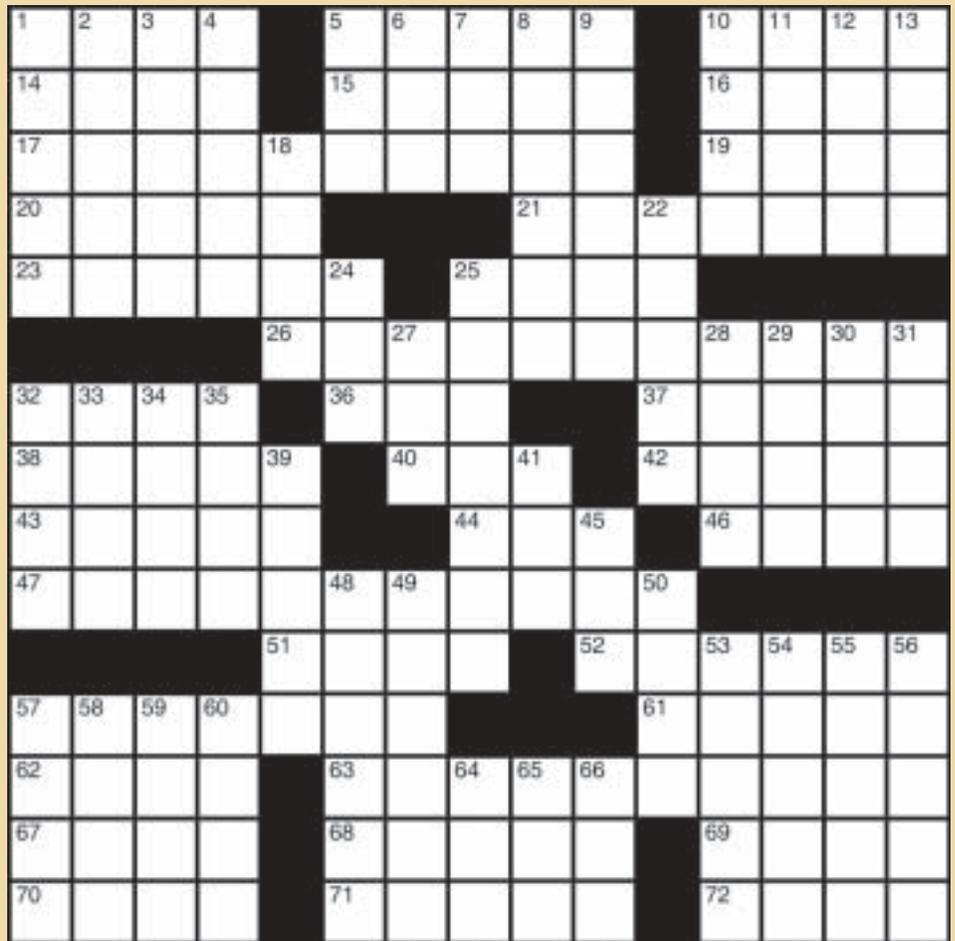
Boxing day crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

Across

- 1 Baseball's "Say Hey Kid"
- 5 Affectionate nickname
- 10 "Pygmalion" playwright
- 14 "__ Plenty o' Nuttin'"
- 15 Arctic, for one
- 16 Mexican snack
- 17 Sweet quaff
- 19 Sailors' saint
- 20 Guy, informally
- 21 Cause of hay fever
- 23 Jennifer Lopez title role
- 25 Frosted Flakes-pitching tiger
- 26 Butcher shop purchase
- 32 Back talk
- 36 Barbie's beau
- 37 Jack, master of the "double take"

- 38 Hydrox lookalikes
- 40 Checkers side
- 42 Place for knickknacks
- 43 Cinema name
- 44 Brillo rival
- 46 Plays for a sap
- 47 Scrappy
- 51 Algerian port
- 52 Degraded
- 57 Word before clear or ball
- 61 Houston ballplayer
- 62 Smee's boss
- 63 Visa competitor
- 67 Sommer of film
- 68 Put a stop to
- 69 Bug-eyed
- 70 Move smoothly



- 71 April forecasts
- 72 One-named soccer legend

Down

- 1 Offends
- 2 Be in accord
- 3 "__ pay for this!"
- 4 Metro entrance
- 5 Keystone comic
- 6 Post-OR place
- 7 Scout unit
- 8 Wrinkle-resistant fabric
- 9 In stock
- 10 Stereotypical hobo fare
- 11 Patriot Nathan

- 12 High point
- 13 Whittler's material
- 18 Zingy taste
- 22 Greek sandwiches
- 24 Two-by-two vessel
- 25 Selects, on the radio
- 27 Bard's above
- 28 Honolulu's island
- 29 Luau strings
- 30 Khartoum's river
- 31 Dict. offerings
- 32 Screwup
- 33 Pakistani language
- 34 Have a hunch
- 35 April 1 victim
- 39 Uppity sort
- 41 Borzoi, for one
- 45 __ Na Na

Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch

Is your unit, activity or section doing anything that you think should be in the Freedom Watch? Then contact us at 318-231-5239 or by e-mail: william.james@us.army.mil

COALITION SPORTS ZONE



2002 Bowl Championship Series

TEAM	TOTAL
1. Miami	2.93
2. Ohio State	3.97
3. Georgia	8.37
4. USC	10.51
5. Iowa	10.79
6. Washington St.	16.14
7. Oklahoma	16.79
8. Kansas State	20.13
9. Notre Dame	20.93
10. Texas	21.08
11. Michigan	23.91
12. Penn State	26.97
13. Colorado	33.27
14. Florida State	33.95
15. West Virginia	35.97

It appears law will take no action

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — A golf fan may have gotten the mulligan of his life.

The unidentified man is suspected of stealing golf equipment — including three wedges belonging to Tiger Woods — during the Target World Challenge earlier this month. The clubs were returned after the man was identified by security guards. But it appears sheriff's deputies will take no legal action, although there is some confusion.

Ventura County sheriff's Detective Brian Richmond said officials from Tiger Wood's camp told him he didn't want the case prosecuted. "I was informed the victims had received their property and they are no longer interested in prosecution," Richmond said. "Case closed."

Tournament officials said that during the pro-am on Dec. 4 some uninvited guests slipped into the locker room while the players were on the Sherwood Country Club course.

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Changes could be coming for Britain's Royal & Ancient Golf Club.

R&A weighing separation of all-male club

Martha Burk hasn't yet taken her beef with single-sex golf clubs overseas, but the sport's most prominent ruling body is weighing a big change that may possibly prevent the kind of firestorm that Burk has helped ignite at Augusta National.

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club, which runs the British Open and governs golf outside of the United States, is considering separating the ruling body from the club's all-male membership, R&A chief Peter Dawson told The Scotsman.

In essence, the R&A could possibly reorganize so that the private club — currently under much less public scrutiny for its all-male membership policy than Augusta — would be separate from the governing side of the organization, which could be opened up for non-members — including women.

"... the question can be asked — do we have a problem as an all-male club filling the governance role for both sexes?", Dawson told The Scotsman.

"While it's generally accepted we do the governance job quite well, there might be an issue," Dawson said. "All our governance committees have co-opted members from outside, some of whom are women. But maybe we need to look again at that mix and balance to see if it's right. And we do have people looking at it right now."

International tourney switches to Houston

HOUSTON — The LPGA's Samsung World Championship is relocating to The Woodlands, golf course officials said Monday, citing a verbal agreement.

"It brings the winners of the four major championships. It brings the leading money winner. It brings the leader from Korea. The leader from Japan. The top 20 women golfers in the world will be coming here to The Woodlands,"

SPORTS, from Page B4

Paul Lazzaro, the golf course's operating vice president of marketing and public affairs, told Houston television station KRIV.

The Samsung World Championship had been played in Vallejo, Calif. It will take place at The Woodlands from Oct. 9-12 with a \$800,000 purse, The Woodlands officials said.

The Woodlands had been the host of the PGA's Shell Houston tournament for 28 years, until losing the tournament to another Houston site. The PGA tournament was last played at The Woodlands in April.

"We think this is a perfect match for us. We recovered quickly getting the Samsung World Championship," said Bob Nelson, Woodlands operating vice president of hospitality and golf operations.

LPGA Hall of Famer and Woodlands resident Carol Mann said she is thrilled about the tournament's move.

"What we're going to see is a comparison in the total score that the men were able to generate and then we are going to see what can the women do there," she said. "I think it is going to be very comparable."

Navratilova to play Gold Coast

GOLD COAST, Australia — Martina Navratilova will pair with Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova in doubles at the Australian women's hardcourt event. Tournament officials made the announcement Thursday.

Navratilova, 46, became the oldest player to win a WTA Tour doubles title when she paired with Belarus' Natasha Zvereva in May in Madrid. Navratilova has a record 167 singles titles and 165 in doubles.

Patty Schnyder, the 1999 Gold Coast champion, is likely to be named the top seed when the draw is released Saturday before the start of first-round play at Royal Pines on Dec. 30. Japan's Ai Sugiyama, who won in 1998, also will play.

France's Nathalie Dechy, 1997 French Open champion Iva Majoli, Russian Elena Likhovtseva, American Meghann Shaughnessy, Russian Elena Bovina and Austrian Barbara Schett also are in the field.

Tennis Channel to air 5 Masters tourneys

LOS ANGELES — The Tennis Channel will air full coverage of five Tennis Masters Series tournaments in 2003.

It is the first time that the events in Monte Carlo, Rome, Hamburg, Madrid and Paris will be televised in their entirety in the United States. The first three are clay-court tuneups for the French Open. The men's Masters Series circuit is one notch below the four Grand Slam tournaments.

The 24-hour, ad-supported network, a basic cable service, has deals to be in 38 percent of the country's cable households. It was supposed to launch last fall but now is slated to start early next year.



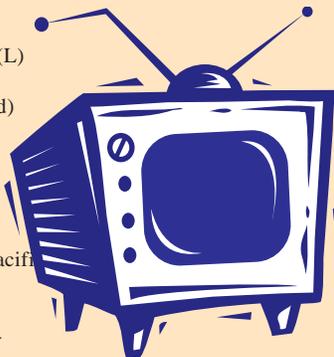
By Mark Baker

Pvt. Murphy's Law

Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Independence Bowl, Nebraska vs. Ole Miss (live) 0230(L)
- ❖ Milwaukee Bucks at New Jersey Nets (live) 0600(L)
- ❖ New Jersey Devils at Washington Capitals (tape delayed) 0830(L)
- ❖ Holiday Bowl: Arizona St. vs. Kansas St. (tape delayed) 1100 (L) AFN-Pacific and AFN-Korea
- ❖ Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Colorado (tape delayed) 1500 (L)
- ❖ Tire Bowl: West Va. vs. Virginia (live) 2100(L) AFN-Pacific and AFN-Korea
- ❖ Kentucky at Louisville (live) 2200(L)
- ❖ Philadelphia Eagles at N.Y. Giants (live) 2330(L) AFN-Atlantic



Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Texas Tech at Minnesota (live) 0000(L)
- ❖ Kansas City Chiefs at Oakland Raiders (live) 0300 AFN-Pacific and AFN-Korea
- ❖ Illinois at Memphis (live) 0400
- ❖ Colorado vs. Charlotte (tape delayed) 0730(L)
- ❖ SportsCar Championship (tape delayed) 1100(L)
- ❖ Mississippi St. at Oklahoma (tape delayed) 1300(L)
- ❖ Alamo Bowl: Wisconsin vs. Colorado (tape delayed) 1630(L) AFN-Atlantic
- ❖ Miami Dolphins at New England Patriots (live) 2300 (L) AFN-Atlantic
- ❖ Baltimore Ravens at Pittsburgh Steelers (live) 2300 (L)

Kandahar chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 1130Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel choir practice

Tuesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox/Catholic Bible study
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice

Bagram chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers

Tuesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice
- ❖ 1500Z — Rosary and prayers

K2 chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0330Z — Liturgical service
- ❖ 0430Z, 1200Z — General protestant service
- ❖ 0600Z — Roman Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1300Z — Latter Day Saints

Monday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass

Tuesday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Midweek Praise service

Thursday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass

Friday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study

Saturday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1200Z — Roman Catholic Mass

C/MOTF

chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0630Z — Nondenominational service

Tuesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Catholic service (every other Tuesday)

Wednesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study



	Bagram	K2	Kabul	KAF
W Today	 Hi — 52F Lo — 23F	 Hi — 37F Lo — 23F	 Hi — 50F Lo — 25F	 Hi — 63F Lo — 32F
e				
a				
t Saturday	 Hi — 54F Lo — 23F	 Hi — 37F Lo — 24F	 Hi — 41F Lo — 28F	 Hi — 63F Lo — 32F
h				
e				
r Sunday	 Hi — 50F Lo — 27F	 Hi — 36F Lo — 19F	 Hi — 43F Lo — 23F	 Hi — 63F Lo — 34F

KMTC chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0430Z — Protestant Service
- ❖ 0530Z — Roman Catholic Mass/Eucharist
- ❖ 0630Z — Latter Day Saints
- ❖ 1630Z — Protestant Service

Wednesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Bible Study

Friday

- ❖ 1530Z — Thank God It's Friday fellowship and singing

All events are held in FOB195 Chapel/Conference Room area.