

Vines takes Afghanistan combat lead

Story and photo by
Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
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BAGRAM, Afghanistan — After Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill stepped down as commanding general of U.S. and coalition forces here Tuesday, Maj. Gen. John Vines officially took his place.

A transfer of authority and reception was held here Tuesday morning.

McNeill had a few things to say to servicemembers after commanding operations here since late May of 2002.

“...I don’t have to stand before you and give you a lot of words to prove the point that this coalition task force has made a difference.

“You can see it all around you ... soldiers sailors, airmen, Marines and civilians of the combined joint task force, thank you for your loyalty, faithfulness and service to the cause of freedom. Your countries are proud of you,” said McNeill.

The former commander didn’t forget to



Maj. Gen. John Vines assumes command of the coalition and U.S. forces here Tuesday from Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill (center).

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Bagram PX installs 30 new phone lines

By Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — By Sunday, servicemembers here should have another way to contact loved ones.

AT&T and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are installing commercial grade call centers with 30 phones for servicemembers at the Post Exchange.

Phones are also being installed in Kandahar and are planned for Kabul as well.

The phone centers will be open 24 hours and will allow servicemembers to call back to the U.S. without operator assistance.

“I think it is important for troops to understand this is not a

replacement for the (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) call center, but a supplement to call home,” said Bob Schmidt, regional manager for Navy marketing in Europe and the Middle East and temporarily for the Army and Air Force.

To use the phones, servicemembers may purchase an AT&T prepaid calling card which is the preferred method of using the phones, but servicemembers may also use a major credit card or call collect.

According to Schmidt, calling collect is the most expensive method of calling so it is not recommended except in an emergency.

Schmidt thinks these phones will benefit many people.

“It’s a win-win for everyone,” said Schmidt. “For the command it addresses quality of life issues, for soldiers it adds a method of calling home that they can budget for, AAFES benefits from the sale of their phone cards and AT&T can bring in more call centers.”

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Derrick Todd Lee is wanted in connection with five killings in Louisiana.

Suspect in Louisiana serial killings arrested

ATLANTA, Ga. — Late Tuesday, acting on a tip from the public, Atlanta police arrested Derrick Todd Lee, the suspect in five serial killings in Louisiana, authorities said.

Members of the Atlanta Police Department's Fugitive Squad apprehended Lee about 8:45 p.m. at a tire shop in southwest Atlanta. He did not resist and was carrying his Louisiana identification.

"He just said he was the person," Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington told CNN.

Pennington said Lee has been taken to Atlanta police headquarters and booked. He is expected to be taken to Fulton County Jail overnight.

Lee will be booked on first degree murder and aggravated rape charges, said Pat Englade, the police chief of Baton Rouge. Lee will appear in court in Atlanta on Wednesday morning for extradition proceedings, he said.

Lee "hasn't said much" to investigators since his arrest, Pennington said.

"I know now that we have taken a very dangerous person who's a serial murder suspect off the streets of Atlanta, and I'm sure the citizens of Louisiana are proud as well that we've taken this very dangerous person off our streets," he said.

Minutes before the arrest, Pennington said police had received a call from "an informant" who might have spotted Lee. Officers went to the location and found a man fitting his description at the rear of the tire shop.

"Sure enough, he was the person," Pennington said.

Mike Richards, a supervisory deputy with

the U.S. Marshals Service, said, "He was actually sitting behind the tire store talking to a young lady when they arrested him."

Phone calls must be turned over to Peterson defense

MODESTO, Calif. — A California judge ordered prosecutors to turn over to the defense records of 69 phone calls between murder suspect Scott Peterson and his lawyer that were intercepted by investigators after his pregnant wife's disappearance.

Judge Al Girolami did not, however, rule on a request by California newspapers to release autopsy reports, the arrest warrant, a search warrant and the affidavits that accompany them — and he suggested he might impose a gag order on participants in the case.

Peterson, 30, is awaiting trial on two counts of murder for the deaths of his 27-year-old wife, Laci, and their unborn child. Prosecutors have said they will seek the death penalty if he is convicted. Peterson insists he is innocent.



A U.S. soldier sits atop a Bradley fighting vehicle in Fallujah on Tuesday after a firefight left two U.S. soldiers and two attackers dead, according to U.S. Central Command.

Two U.S. soldiers die in Fallujah

FALLUJAH, Iraq — A U.S. Army unit was attacked in the Iraqi city of Fallujah early Tuesday in a firefight that killed two soldiers and wounded nine, U.S. Central Command said.

A hostile force "of unknown size" fired on the unit with rocket-propelled grenades and

small arms, a Central Command statement said.

The U.S. troops responded with heavy fire from Bradley Fighting Vehicles and other weapons. Two attackers were killed in the firefight and six were captured, Central Command said.

An Army medevac helicopter was damaged during the Fallujah firefight when a Bradley accidentally ran into it while trying to move into a position to return fire.

Wounded soldiers were evacuated to military aid stations in the area.

According to Central Command, initial reports are that the attackers fired from a mosque in the city, which is 43 miles (70 kilometers) west of Baghdad.

Last Wednesday, at least two Iraqis were killed in Fallujah when gunmen opened fire on a U.S. patrol in the city center with rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles.

At the end of April and the beginning of May, 17 civilians were killed and seven soldiers wounded in three days of anti-American protests in the city.

Separately, a U.S. Army soldier was killed and three soldiers were wounded near Baghdad International Airport Monday when the vehicle they were riding in was blown up by an explosive device known as a "satchel charge" thrown under their Humvee.

A man who "came up out of a ditch and threw the charge," said Capt. David Connolly, an Army spokesman.

Another soldier was killed and one was wounded Monday when their convoy was ambushed early Monday near Haditha, about 120 miles northwest of Baghdad, Central Command said.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said Tuesday that his government was concerned that weapons were being smuggled into the country from Iraq.

Earlier this month, before Riyadh was struck by suicide bombs at three residential compounds, Saudi officials in the city found a large cache of weapons that they said was linked to an al-Qaida cell. Saudi officials have not said if they know where the cell obtained those weapons.

Taking care of their own: MP K-9 evac'd to Germany

Story and photo by
Spc. Travis Edwards
1st COSCOM PAO

CAMP STRONGHOLD FREEDOM, Uzbekistan — Military policemen Staff Sgt. James Coker and Staff Sgt. Bryan Reed, 91st Military Police Detachment, Camp Stronghold Freedom, escorted a special U.S. servicemember to Germany Friday for medical treatment.

The servicemember, Berry, a five-year-old Belgium Malinois police dog, was medically evacuated from Camp Stronghold Freedom after being diagnosed with possible inflammatory bowel disease.

“Berry has been vomiting lately and has a very low protein level in his blood,” said canine handler Reed. Reed has been Berry’s handler since September 2002.

“We work together everyday. We are never apart. It’s just as important to me to go with him to Germany as if a fellow MP was injured,” said Reed. “I care for his safety very much and the whole company wants the best medical treatment possible for him.”

Berry is trained as a force protection dog and spends most of his workday at the main gate of Camp Stronghold Freedom.

“We use Berry as backup when we search personnel coming on and off the post. He is trained to smell explosive devices and attack and apprehend when ordered,” said Reed. “He follows verbal commands no mat-



Dog handler Staff Sgt. Bryan Reed (right) leads Berry, a military police dog, around a pallet while waiting to be medically evacuated from Camp Stronghold Freedom, Uzbekistan May 23. Berry assists in force protection and explosive detection.

ter what is going on around him.”

Berry has made one discovery since being deployed to Camp Stronghold Freedom.

Some liquid nitroglycerin used by the medical task force was detected in a cargo pallet during a random inspection. While the substance was legal and legitimate it did prove that Berry’s training had paid off, said Reed.

“Had the substance been dynamite, another substance with nitroglycerin, we would

have detected and removed the ordnance before it could be detonated,” said Coker.

The explosive-sniffing, force protection dog is being transferred to Kaiserslautern, Germany, for medical treatment and recovery. The military detachment is confident he will make a full recovery.

(Editor’s note: Spc. Travis Edwards is the public affairs NCOIC for the Joint Logistics Command.)

A mass mass...

Italian Coalition Choir sings "Hallelujah" to begin the Sunday morning's Catholic service. The Italian forces normally go to Sunday morning mass. This was their first time they came together to sing as a choir, according to Capt. Lawrence Bleboo, chaplain. (Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde)



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thank the Afghan allies either.

“To our Afghan allies, you will always have my gratitude for the hospitality you have shown to the members of the coalition. I wish you peace, security and prosperity.

“The future of your country is in your hands. Only by working together will you guarantee your future. Your friends around the world expect that of you and I know you won’t disappoint them,” said the lieutenant general returning to his home and family in North Carolina.

Just before he passed the microphone to his successor, he said, “Every day I will think of the members of the coalition, the people of Afghanistan and all those here who are working and indeed sacrificing to rebuild Afghanistan and to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism. It has been my privilege to be part of that noble cause.”

After accepting the new assignment, Vines spoke to servicemembers.

“Some 25 years ago, as Afghanistan was wracked by war, the world looked the other way. Your presence here today represents the commitment not to repeat that mistake.”

But in order for Afghanistan to not suffer again, Vines reminded servicemembers that the task will not be easy.

“Many of us think of our homes and families many of thousands of miles away in many countries. But the reality is we are needed here. What we’re doing is a noble enterprise. It is an honor to serve with you,” he said.

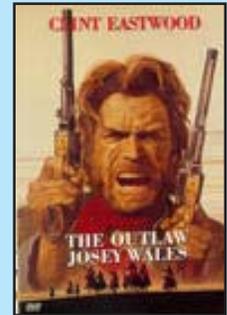
Vines has been in Afghanistan for nine months and is due to take over command of the XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C. this summer, said McNeill.

Working the link

The link to the CJTF-180 videos published in yesterday’s Freedom Watch is currently under construction. We will republish the link when it is fully functional.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “The Outlaw Jose Wales.” A Missouri farmer joins a Confederate guerrilla unit and winds up on the run from the Union soldiers who murdered his family.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “Blade II.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Thursday
Bagram:	Scattered t-storms H: 79F L: 52F	Mostly cloudy H: 79F L: 52F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 90F L: 64F	Mostly clear H: 90F L: 66F
Kabul:	Partly cloudy H: 72F L: 45F	Mostly cloudy H: 75F L: 45F
Uzbekistan:	Partly cloudy H: 90F L: 57F	Mostly cloudy H: 86F L: 55F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



Nick Van Exel, right, had 21 points in the crucial road win.

Nowitzki not yet ready to return for Mavs

SAN ANTONIO — Dirk Nowitzki's knee was not feeling any better Tuesday, keeping him out of Game 5 of the Western Conference finals as the Dallas Mavericks tried to avoid elimination.

Nowitzki sprained ligaments in his left knee late in Game 3 and has not played since. Dallas trailed the San Antonio Spurs 3-1 in the best-of-seven series entering Tuesday night's game.

Mavs coach Don Nelson said Nowitzki's condition had regressed.

On Sunday, Nowitzki received treatment right until game time in hopes of playing. A day later, the knee was still so sore than he decided to sit rather than stand through his interviews.

"The injury is about the same, certainly better than it was immedi-

ately after he hurt it on the court," Mavs team physician Dr. T.O. Souryal said. "The risk of re-injury is never zero, and our decisions always revolve around a risk-reward basis."

Shawn Bradley (sprained right knee) and Evan Eschmeyer (sore right knee) also missed Game 5, leaving the Mavs with only nine players in uniform.

Nelson was expected to go with the same starting lineup he used in Game 4: Michael Finley, Steve Nash, Nick Van Exel, Raef LaFrentz and Walt Williams.

Souryal said the prognosis for recovery remains the same, meaning there was still a possibility Nowitzki could return for Game 6 and/or Game 7.

"The team dodged a bullet. A few more degrees and he would have torn his ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) or his MCL (medial collateral ligament). Then we'd be talking about a different story," Souryal said.

Kidd says ankle coming along well

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jason Kidd walked on to the floor of the New Jersey Nets' practice facility Tuesday without a limp.

The right ankle Kidd sprained Saturday night late in Game 4 of the Nets' sweep of the Detroit Pistons was taped, at least above the sock. While the All-Star point guard wasn't showing off his ankle, Kenyon Martin described it.

"It's pretty. It's gorgeous," the power forward said.

And when the ankle is healthy, it helps Kidd make the Nets one of the best teams in basketball.

That's why the Nets are taking every precaution to make sure Kidd is ready when the NBA Finals start next Wednesday.

New Jersey has won 10 straight games in reaching the final round for the second straight year, and every player thinks this team is capable of winning it all no matter who it faces — San Antonio or Dallas.

"We understand what it takes to win," Kidd said. "We learned a lesson from the Lakers being there three years in a row. It never fazed them. They just went out there and took care of business. They were always businesslike. So that's the way we have to be."

The Nets don't expect Kidd to practice until the end of the week.

"It's still a little swollen," coach Byron Scott said of Kidd's ankle, adding that trainer Tim Walsh "said it has great strength."

Kidd rode a stationary bike, took treatment in a pool, lifted weights and was to watch the rest of the team play



2003 NBA standings

Eastern Conference		Western Conference	
Atlantic		Midwest	
(2) New Jersey	50-32	(1) San Antonio	60-22
(4) Philadelphia	48-34	(3) Dallas	60-22
(6) Boston	44-38	(4) Minnesota	51-31
(8) Orlando	42-40	(7) Utah	47-35
Washington	37-45	Houston	43-39
Central		Pacific	
(1) Detroit	50-32	(2) Sacramento	59-23
(3) Indiana	48-34	(5) L.A. Lakers	50-32
(5) New Orleans	47-35	(6) Portland	50-32
(7) Milwaukee	42-40	(8) Phoenix	44-38
Atlanta	35-47	Seattle	40-42



SPORTS, from Page 5

five-on-five in practice, which was closed to the media.

"My ankle is fine," Kidd insisted. "As a team, we'll be ready to play come (next) Wednesday.

The only question that annoyed Kidd concerned his upcoming free agency and whether winning or losing in the final round would affect his decision.

Johnson, Jordan to meet again in June

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Bob Johnson plans to talk with Michael Jordan again June 2 to gauge Jordan's level of interest in joining Charlotte's expansion NBA franchise.

"Michael is aware that I am going to be reaching out to him to do a gut-check, an analysis of where he is," Johnson said Friday. "He knows what is available to him here in Charlotte."

Johnson made his debut as owner of a professional franchise Friday night when the Charlotte Sting opened the WNBA season against the Washington Mystics. He met with the players in the locker room before the game, addressed the crowd of 10,000, and sat courtside with Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory.

But at halftime, the focus quickly turned to his pursuit of Jordan, a longtime friend of Johnson.

Johnson has spoken to Jordan twice since the Washington Wizards declined to bring him back in a front office role earlier this month.

The two talked briefly the day the Wizards and Jordan parted, and one other time, when Johnson made his sales pitch. Johnson said last week he could wait until July, or even longer, for Jordan to decide what he wants to do. But he will try to determine which way Jordan is leaning when they speak in June.

"He's doing what anybody would do — evaluating what his best opportunity in the league is," Johnson said. "I understand that. He needs to decide if he wants to pursue majority ownership somewhere else, part-owner here, whatever he wants to do."

Johnson paid \$300 million for the rights to Charlotte's yet-to-be-named expansion team, which will replace the New Orleans Hornets and begin playing in 2004-05.

Johnson wants to remain majority owner but sell a portion of the team to Jordan. He also is willing to make Jordan team president and give him total control over all basketball decisions.

"I've said before that Michael is best served in any capacity he wants here," Johnson said.

Tomjanovich ends 12-year coaching run

HOUSTON — Rudy Tomjanovich stepped down as coach to take another job with the Houston Rockets on Friday after 12 seasons that included the franchise's only two NBA championships.

Tomjanovich, who had cut his season short for treatment of bladder cancer, said he looked forward to resuming a more normal lifestyle. "Just to be one of the people in this city, being a soldier instead of a general for a while, I look forward to that," Tomjanovich



Tomjanovich

said, choking back tears as he announced his decision.

"I just think at this stage, with the health situation, that the best thing is to back off and try to be just a regular guy for a while."

Tomjanovich, appearing at a news conference with longtime friend and general manager Carroll Dawson, confirmed news reports about his negotiations with owner Les Alexander to take another position despite having two years and \$12 million remaining on his contract. ESPN's David Aldridge reported that while health considerations were a factor in Tomjanovich's decision to step down, Alexander has been unhappy for months with the development of some of the team's young players, like Steve Francis and Cuttino Mobley.

Discussions about Tomjanovich's future began before he was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor on his bladder on March 18 and continued after the season ended. "This is a very difficult day for the entire Rockets organization," Alexander said in a statement. "I know this was a hard decision for Rudy, but I respect it. Rudy is a great championship coach.

While I am saddened to see him move from the sideline, I look forward to working with him to make this a championship team again."

Tomjanovich led the Rockets to the NBA title in 1994 and 1995 but the team hadn't made the playoffs the past four seasons.

"The next time you commandeer a vehicle try to get something a little more tactical."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support