

Koreans celebrate Independence Day

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – The Republic of Korea forces livened up Bagram Air Base with music, martial arts and food in celebration of the Korean Independence Day at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Civic Center Sunday.

The official Korean Independence Day is August 15, but the ROK military decided to hold the event Sunday so it could be fully appreciated on a day of relaxation, said Sgt. Oh Wooseob, ROK Hospital Headquarters.

The different Korean entities, Marines, engineers and hospital staff, on base rarely get a chance to come together because they have different missions, so Sunday was a good day for the Koreans to come together as a nation, said Ho. “We were having fun, and we were one as a nation,” he said.

The celebration, rich in Korean culture, extended to the coalition forces on Bagram as well.

“If you look around the room, you’ll see soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines from all nations and of all specialties who have

come together,” said Brig. Gen. Byron S. Bagby, director of the Combined Joint Staff, CJTF-180.

The festivities began with traditional Korean drum sounds called Samulnori played by five Korean percussionists.

The instruments and music represented elements leading up to a thunderstorm like from a cool breeze to a roaring thunder.

After that, 26 skilled Korean Marines performed a lively Tae Kwon Do exhibition. Spectators were spellbound as the Korean Marines smashed board after board with accuracy and precision by leaping, flipping and kicking through the air.

“I haven’t seen our Marine Corps put on a Tae Kwon Do exhibition like that,” said Ho. “It was excellent.”

That was all before a grand lunch of traditional Korean food, as well as hamburgers and hotdogs, was served.

After enjoying lunch, spectators were then treated to a demonstration of the art of Nanta, and a skillful Korean art of “mind over body,” said Ho.

Ho said this celebration served as reminder of his country’s freedom from colonization, and everything his ancestors did to ensure that



Republic of Korea Marines put on an exhibition of their Tae Kwon Do skills at the Bagram civic center Sunday. The exhibition was part of the celebration of the South Korean Independence Day.

freedom.

“I call it patriotism,” said Ho. “Patriots fought for our country’s freedom, and we held our freedom from that day on. We celebrate for our independence.”

Vets help keep local town ‘live stocked’



Photo by Spc. Justin Pearson

Sgt. Andrew Canini, 719th Medical Detachment, administers an oral dose of vaccine during the recent veterinary assistance project in Zormat.

By Staff Sgt. Len Butler
CJSOTF-A Public Affairs

ZORMAT, Afghanistan—Kicking and twisting, a young calf tries in vain to escape the grasp of a sweaty American soldier, armed only with a syringe, as a team of veterinarians and their assistants worked to treat the hundreds of animals here recently.

As part of the Cooperative Medical Assistance Program, this team’s combat mission was to fight and destroy diseases in the area livestock, and administer much needed immunizations and

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Flowers are placed at the Marriott hotel during a memorial service at the blast site on Monday.

Al Qaeda claims Marriott blast

JAKARTA, Indonesia — The al Qaeda terrorist network has claimed responsibility for last week's bombing of the Marriott Hotel in the Indonesian capital Jakarta, terror experts have confirmed for *CNN*.

The claim comes amid reports the Marriott bomber may have been a member of a new 15-strong suicide strike brigade who are preparing more attacks.

Indonesian police told the *Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper Asmar Latin San, was a member of Laskar Khos, an Arabic phrase meaning Special Force, whose members were prepared to die in their attacks.

The group is reported to have formed inside the al Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah group believed responsible for the Marriott blast and the Bali attacks of October 12 which killed more than 200 people.

The al Qaeda claim of responsibility was released to Arab media sites over the weekend in an unsigned statement.

"This operation is part of a series of operations that Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri has promised to carry out," the statement said, referring to last Tuesday's blast at the Marriott, which left at least 11 people dead and over 100 injured.

The statement called the attack "a fatal slap on the face of America and its allies in Muslim Jakarta, where faith has been denigrated by the dirty American presence and the discriminatory Australian presence."

Al-Zawahiri is Osama bin Laden's closest adviser, as well as his doctor. He had made frequent appearances at bin Laden's side.

NATO takes command in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan — NATO has taken command of peacekeeping in the Afghan capital, the alliance's first operation outside Europe since it was formed 54 years ago.

NATO took over the 5,000-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul on Monday from Germany and the Netherlands, who have led it since February this year.

A spokesman said the move will bring more continuity to the mission and end the rotation of commanders from a "lead nation" every six months.

About 90 percent of the troops in the 30-nation force are from NATO countries.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, German Defense Minister Peter Struck, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Gen. James L. Jones, diplomats and U.N. officials attended the handover ceremony at a school in Kabul.

Scores of armed peacekeepers, armored cars mounted with machine guns and bomb-sniffing dogs were on hand to search for any explosives.

Struck said in a speech the handover showed the world's commitment to rebuilding war-shattered Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan must not lapse back into anarchy and chaos and must not again become the home of global terror, as was the case under the rule of the Taliban," Struck said.



A British soldier playfully arm-wrestles an Iraqi man through the gates of the British office in Baghdad.

New U.S. operation target Saddam loyalist

TIKRIT, Iraq — The U.S. military Monday launched a major operation in Iraq against fugitive members of Saddam Hussein's regime,

a spokesman said. The assault came a day after another U.S. soldier died in hostile action.

Operation Ivy Lightning is the largest coalition deployment in the region since President Bush declared the end of major combat in the Iraq war on May 1, according to Lt. Col. Bill MacDonald, a U.S. military spokesman.

The operation aims to capture former regime members who have fled recent U.S. raids in Tikrit, Balad and Ba'qubah, he said. It is centered around 70 miles (112 kilometers) east of Tikrit, Saddam's ancestral homeland.

Ivy Lightning got under way with raids in the towns of Ain Lalin and Quara Tapa, MacDonald said. He said the raids, headed by the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Combat Unit, involved attack helicopters, heavy armor and mechanized infantry.

The Iraqis targeted are believed to be planning additional attacks on U.S. troops, said MacDonald, who also reported that a 4th Inf. Div. soldier was killed and two others wounded Sunday night in an attack unrelated to Ivy Lightning.

The attack occurred when an improvised explosive device detonated as the three soldiers approached an Iraqi police station in Ba'qubah, a town north of Baghdad.

The death increased the number of U.S. soldiers killed in hostile action since May 1.

U.S. soldiers return from Iraq

FORT STEWART, Ga. — The 3rd Infantry Division soldiers who stormed Baghdad flew home Monday, completing a nine-month deployment to the Persian Gulf.

The last of the division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team landed at Hunter Army Airfield to turn in their weapons and the rest of their combat gear before being reunited with their families.

Only the division's 1st Brigade remains in Iraq, and it is scheduled to begin heading home in the next few weeks.

The division's soldiers were the first to cross into Baghdad on April 7, then held the city until they were reinforced by Marines three days later.

The unit's Company A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment was on the next-to-last flight carrying the brigade home. When those soldiers stepped off the plane, many broke into tears.

Bagram performs first American blood donation

Story by Sgt. Stephanie Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Two U.S. soldiers were called upon to donate blood at the Bagram Air Base U.S. Hospital Aug. 8 when the base's blood supply reached a critical shortage.

This is the first time on record any U.S. soldier has donated blood at Bagram, said Capt. Scott R. Cvecko, commander of the medical laboratory team at the 452nd Combat Support Hospital. It's never been done before because of the high risks and lack of blood testing capabilities, he said.

The blood shortage was caused by an unexpected rise in trauma patients needing blood transfusions, said Cvecko.

Maj. Mary M. Brandt, a surgeon with the 452nd CSH, and Staff Sgt. Diane M. Talbot, also with the 452nd CSH, both had the blood type that was needed, so they volunteered, said Staff Sgt. Robert C. Nunez, the medical lab noncommissioned officer.

The influx of trauma patients was mostly local Afghan nationals who had stepped on landmines or suffered severe injuries from gunfights, said Nunez.

From Aug. 3 to Aug. 7, the hospital on a daily basis received one or more patients needing blood transfusions, he said.

The maximum quota of transfusions for the local nationals was reached Wednesday evening when five Afghan soldiers who were wounded in a severe firefight were brought to the hospital, said Nunez. Two of them went into surgery and one

needed a blood transfusion, but by then, the hospital had already depleted more than half of its supply of blood.

The U.S. hospital on Bagram receives approximately 49 units of blood every week, but "for the most part, we may transfuse one unit of blood per week, and maybe six for the entire month," said Nunez. By Saturday, the hospital had already gone through 36 units of blood, he said.

Because blood needed to be reserved for the possibility of U.S. or coalition casualties, a command decision was made to halt all blood transfusions for the local nationals until the supply could be replenished. "It was a tough call on their part," said Cvecko.

"This blood is for the American soldiers because they are our first priority," said Cvecko "So, if some local guy stepped on a landmine and came in here, he just wasn't going to get the blood, and we could have just left it at that," he said.

But the Afghan soldier who had been shot needed a blood transfusion before the next supply of blood was due to arrive, and on Aug. 7 even more local national casualties came in needing blood, said Nunez.

The medical lab team has both the capabilities and combined experience to draw blood, so Cvecko asked his command for authorization to respond to this emergency, he said.

Because U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan are on anti-Malarial medication, they would normally be deferred as blood donors, but this situation was unique because "we had been hit with so much trauma," said Nunez, "and we needed the blood."

Early Aug. 8 morning, the hospital command gave the medical lab team the go-ahead. Spc. Kyle P. Ziegler, a medical lab technician with the 452nd CSH, gathered the supplies that the lab had, but also "had to [borrow] some from EMT because we weren't quite prepared with all the supplies that we needed to draw these units," he said. Then he took two stretchers to make a quick donor center and drew two units of blood from two volunteers.

"The last time I drew a unit of blood was probably back when I was in training at Walter Reed Medical Center right after Sept. 11, 2001," said Ziegler. "I kind of had to refresh a little bit on the standard operating procedure, and read up on it, but it didn't take much," he said. "[I] got them both on the first stick."

Cvecko said the reason U.S. soldiers were called on was because their blood falls into a lower-risk category than an Afghan person's blood does, and the blood couldn't be tested before being transfused. "They fall under a different set of rules than the U.S. and coalition soldiers," said Cvecko. "It's better to give them some blood instead of nothing."

The Afghan soldier who was shot received the two units of donated blood, and is doing fine, said Nunez.

"Our whole purpose here is to provide health care," said Cvecko. "If we're not doing that, then we're not accomplishing our mission."

He said that if his team has the option to save a life, whether or not the option has been explored before, his team will do it.

DOD cancels Bright Star 2003 exercise

WASHINGTON – The Department of Defense announced today that the United States has decided it will not be able to participate in this year's Bright Star exercise scheduled for next month. The decision was made in view of continued operations in the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere by the United States and other nations. The Bright Star exercise will not be held this year.

"This was an extremely difficult decision," said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. "Given our current worldwide commitments, it seemed best to take a temporary break from this exercise, as we did after Operation Desert Storm. Bright Star is one of our most important

exercises and reflects the value we attach to our strong relationship with Egypt," he said.

Bright Star is a combined exercise conducted bi-annually since 1981 in which more than 70,000 troops from more than 10 countries normally participate.

The Department regularly evaluates the potential impact of scheduled exercises on real world operations. To date, for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, 2002, 49 of 182 exercises originally intended have been canceled or rescheduled.

(Information from U.S. Department of Defense News Release)

VETS, from Page 1

veterinary healthcare.

1st Lt. Tammy L. Stevenson of the 719th Medical Detachment, said all animals, from barnyard variety to the family pet, were welcome for care.

The turnout for the three-day event was high, as dozens of herds and hundreds of animals, including camels, converged for treatment.

At the small treatment site, owners watched carefully over their animals while vets and their assistants went from animal to animal, delivering vaccinations and antibiotics.

The townspeople welcomed the vets presence, and appeared with staggering numbers of livestock.

The effort, however, went without a hitch. "I was a little surprised of how well this has gone with regard to the huge numbers," said Spc. Kelly E. Kovacs, 719th Med. Det., eyeing the massive amount of animals that waited their turn. "The difficult part is keeping the herds from getting mixed in with one another."

While the turnout of the project remained high throughout the event, some farmers in the outlying villages couldn't make the trek to the vets in town. So with the help of a civil affairs team, the vets went on the road to neighboring villages to treat the animals there.

Many of the animals had never been treated, with some acting docile and looking through clouded eyes, their bony skeletons sticking from their hides.

"Parasites and lesions can decimate an animal's health," Stevenson said.

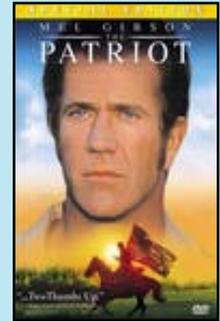
"Compound that with injuries sustained by their environments, and you have the potential for losses that the farmers cannot afford to replace."

Still, she remained confident of the animals' recovery and their potential to resume much healthier lives; thereby, giving their owners a healthier return on their investments. "We were prepared for what we've seen," she said.

"We have what it takes to put most of these animals back to the level of productivity the farmers intended them to be."

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "The Patriot." Benjamin Martin is drawn into the American revolutionary war against his will when a brutal British commander kills his son.



Tomorrow's movie will be "Last Days of Frank and Jessie James."

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
<u>Bagram:</u>	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 93F L: 70F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 95F L: 70F
<u>Kandahar:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 104F L: 68F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 104F L: 70F
<u>Kabul:</u>	<i>Haze</i> H: 91F L: 64F	<i>Haze</i> H: 95F L: 70F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	<i>Clear</i> H: 102F L: 62F	<i>Clear</i> H: 103F L: 56F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

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Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

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In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Clijsters grabs women's top ranking

CARSON, Calif. — Her mind was racing. Her cell phone was ringing. And in 95-degree heat, Kim Clijsters had goosebumps.

Clijsters became the new No. 1 in women's tennis Sunday, outlasting Lindsay Davenport 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 to win the JPMorgan Chase Open for her tour-high sixth title of the year.



Kim Clijsters, who has won six times this year, is the first Belgian to be ranked No. 1.

“This is a day I'll never forget,” she said, smiling.

While talking about being No. 1, Clijsters still hadn't come to grips with her status.

“Oh, it sounds funny saying that,” she said, giggling.

Clijsters takes over the top spot

from injured Serena Williams, who will trail by less than 45 points when the WTA Tour rankings come out Monday.

“It's a feeling I cannot really describe,” Clijsters said. “On the court, I had all these butterflies in my stomach and goosebumps. There were so many things going through my mind.”

Clijsters, who moves up from No. 2, is the first Belgian and the 12th woman to be No. 1 since the rankings began in 1975.

“She's got a lot of game,” Davenport said. “I think she can get better. She hits the ball hard, and she plays offense and defense extremely well.”

Clijsters is also the only player to be No. 1 without first winning a Grand Slam title, although she will be among the favorites to win the U.S. Open, which begins Aug. 25.

Heat index: Odom signs deal with Miami

ESPN — The Heat is officially on the Clippers. Lamar Odom signed a six-year offer sheet worth almost \$67 million with Miami on Monday, ESPN has learned. The deal includes a “hefty” signing bonus.

A restricted free agent, Odom, who has said he wants out of Los Angeles, told ESPN Monday that he plans to meet with the Clippers — his current team — by Wednesday in hopes of persuading them not to match the Heat's offer.

Odom has played his first four NBA seasons with the Los Angeles Clippers, who have 15 days to match the offer sheet or lose Odom to the Heat without compensation.



Lamar Odom

The Heat didn't make an immediate announcement concerning the signing, but the Clippers did, saying they had received a copy of the offer.

“We will evaluate this offer during the 15-day period before announcing our decision,” the Clippers said, adding that during the 15-day period they would not issue status reports.

It's believed the Clippers will match the offer sheet and keep Odom, just as they did with Elton Brand and Corey Maggette earlier this summer.

Brand signed a six-year offer sheet worth a reported \$82.2 million with the Heat and Maggette signed a six-year offer sheet worth \$42 million with Utah.

The Clippers chose to allow Andre Miller to leave after he signed a six-year, \$51 million offer sheet with Denver.

At the time Brand, Maggette and Miller signed their offer sheets, Clippers executive vice president Andy Roeser said it was the team's intention to match “any and all offers as we see fit with the goal of maintaining the nucleus of our team.”

It's believed the Clippers consider Odom part of their nucleus.

Not like Mike, Gatorade passes on James

ESPN — LeBron James grew up emulating Michael Jordan, but the 18-year old — who has already signed two endorsement deals worth approximately \$100 million — won't “Be Like Mike” in the sports drink category.

On Monday, Gatorade, which named James as its Boys' High School Basketball Player of the Year for the last two years, announced it was pulling out of the race to ink LeBron to a deal.

“We decided last week that we were taking ourselves out of LeBron sweepstakes,” said Gatorade spokesman Andy Horrow. “Pretty simply, the value that we place on individual athlete marketing is very, very far from where his people think he should be.”

James' agent, Aaron Goodwin, declined to comment on the state of negotiations.

“One person does not define this brand,” Horrow said. “The time when Michael Jordan was the only spokesperson is well behind us.”

Gatorade, which has been an NBA sponsor since 1984, has signed a host of athletes since making Michael Jordan its first endorser in 1991. Jordan, Houston Rockets center Yao Ming and Vince Carter of the Toronto Raptors are the three NBA players the brand currently has under contract.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Border incident leaves two dead, one wounded

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (CJTF-180 Press Release) – Yesterday at approximately 10:00 local, coalition forces on patrol in the vicinity of Orgun-E, in the Paktika Province, were fired upon by several individuals.

Coalition close air support was called in and responded to the enemy forces that were identified and fleeing towards the Pakistani border.

The incident resulted in the unfortunate and unintended engagement of Pakistani security forces in the area.

Initial reports indicate that two persons died and one was wounded as a result of the incident.

The incident is currently under investigation.

Pakistan lets Taliban operate unimpeded

Story by Liz Sly

ISLAMABAD (*Chicago Tribune*) — With attacks against U.S. and Afghan targets on the rise across southern and eastern Afghanistan, suspicions are mounting that Pakistan once again is lending support to the remnants of the Taliban movement it helped to create.

In recent weeks, Kabul and Washington have urged Islamabad to do more to prevent a resurgent Taliban from using Pakistani territory to launch the hit-and-run raids that have turned swaths of southern Afghanistan into areas too dangerous for foreign aid workers and Afghan officials.

At the very least, Afghan officials charge, Pakistan is turning a blind eye to the use of Pakistani territory by Taliban commanders to regroup, recruit and challenge the administration of President Hamid Karzai.

And many suspect that Pakistan's military establishment has resumed covertly supporting the Taliban, violating the promise President Pervez Musharraf made after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, to abandon the fundamentalist movement and back America's war against terrorism.

The border towns of Chaman and Quetta, in the Pakistani province of Balochistan, are swarming with former Taliban officials who have access to vehicles with fake plates provided to them by Pakistan's military, according to Feda Mohammed Achakzai, who commands Afghanistan's border forces in the neighboring province of Kandahar. Taliban attackers cross the border in broad daylight and are seen escaping back across the border, he said.

"They have the full support of the ISI," he said, referring to Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence.

U.S. officials say they have no evidence that Pakistan is actively supporting the Taliban, and they praise Pakistan's cooperation in the hunt for Al Qaeda fugitives. Last month, however, Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan, said Pakistan

also needs to take action against the Taliban members operating from Pakistan.

"We need 100 percent assurances from Pakistan on this, not 50 percent assurances," he said in Kabul.

"We know the Taliban are planning in Quetta," he added.

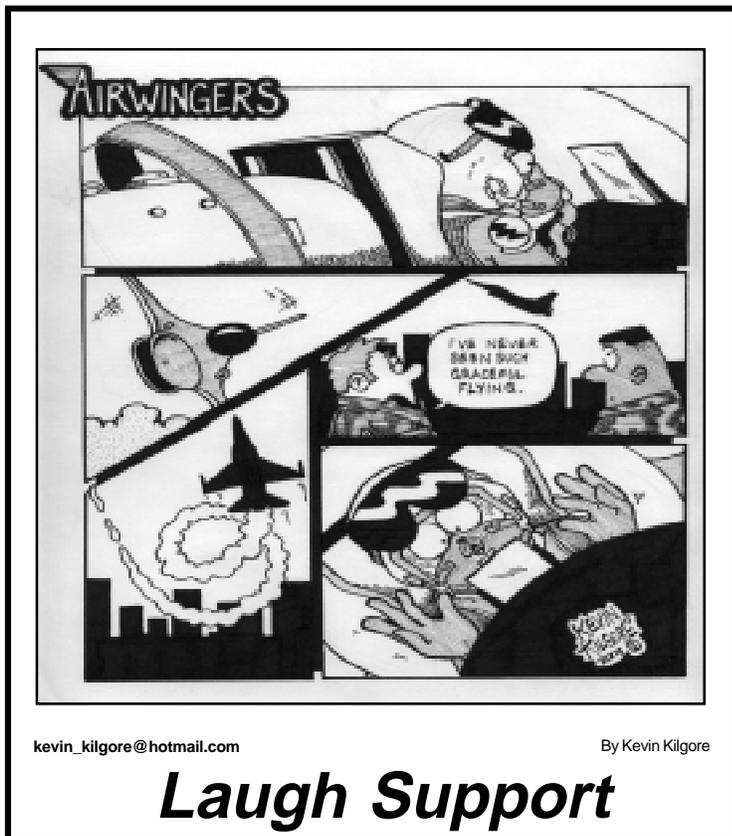
Pakistan strenuously denies it is helping the Taliban.

"Pakistan does not allow anyone, any group, any individual or any organization to operate from its soil," Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat told reporters in Islamabad. "We will come down with a very heavy hand against anyone trying to do so."

But that, according to Afghan officials, is what Pakistan has failed to do. While Pakistan boasts that it has captured and handed over to U.S. authorities nearly 500 Al Qaeda suspects, no Taliban leaders or officials have been detained in Pakistan, even though most members of the former Taliban government took refuge there, said Omar Samad, spokesman for Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry.

"There is infiltration across the border, of men and of arms, and they have to put a stop to that," Samad said. "We're seeing a sort of double game here. They say one thing and do something else."

Pakistan insists it is doing its best. The 1,500-mile border is mountainous and cuts through tribal areas that are impossible to control, officials say.



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support