

Natl. Guard MPs keeping watch in Afghanistan

Story and photo by Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan – After the attacks of Sept. 11, thousands of soldiers of the Army National Guard and Reserves have been mobilized to do their part in fighting the War on Terrorism, both stateside and abroad.

For the past six months, soldiers from the 747th Military Police Company, Massachusetts National Guard, have been pulling duty in Afghanistan, dispelling any notion that they are simply “weekend warriors.”

These citizen soldiers have had to leave their everyday lives and jobs and quickly integrate into the active-duty lifestyle in order to accomplish the mission.

While in Afghanistan, the 728th MP Co. has been responsible for providing security at the Kabul Military Training Center, the U.S. Army Kabul compound, along with acting as the Quick Reaction Force to respond to local threats within the city, running the Provost Marshal’s Office with 10th Mountain Division at Bagram Airbase, and providing force protection escorts for military convoys.

For nearly all of the soldiers of the unit, this was their first time being mobilized.

“Since Sept. 11 I hoped I would get mobilized to do my part in defeating terrorism,” said Spc. Anthony Markvenas, who’s been with the unit for more than 10 years. “A lot of people lost their lives and I’m doing my part to prevent terrorism from happening again.”



Spc. Noah Amatucci, 747th Military Police Co. stands out of the top hatch of a humvee guarding the rear security for a convoy as it travels through Charakar, Afghanistan.

Most of the unit is situated in Kabul, which is Afghanistan’s capital and largest city. The city has been a prominent target for acts of terrorism since the Taliban regime was overthrown.

As eager as many of the soldiers were to do their part to help, nothing could have prepared them for what they would see and experience fighting the War on Terrorism in Afghanistan, said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Vogelsang.

“This country’s been torn apart by war for years and now we’re coming over here to help rebuild it and support the people,” said Spc.

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DHL makes shipping pain-free for troops

Story by Pfc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

Bagram, Afghanistan – Part of the thrill of deploying to another country is seeing that country, its people and culture. Purchasing local goods helps capture the experience and DHL is making sure that whatever “memories” troops collect here, make it home safely and quickly.

Small items are sure to make it home thanks to the post office. But when it comes

to getting home that large, handcrafted chest that you bought from a local vendor, or the room size rug that would match your living room perfectly, DHL is an expert.

Despite size or shape, most items can be shipped through DHL, said David Crook, Bagram’s DHL station manager.

Troops tend to acquire many possessions on their tour here, said Crook. The problem with that is the limited amount of space they have on their trip home.

“When troops are redeploying back to the

states, (there) tends to be an overspill,” said Crook. “When they leave Bagram they only get a certain amount of space on the plane, so we take the overspill.”

Crook has seen items of all shapes and sizes sent back to the states, he said. One recent large shipment was a Russian motorcycle sent back to the states by one of the troops on Bagram.

We’re happy to help them in anyway that we can, said Crook who took special pride in

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A soldier from the 4th Infantry Division talks to a farmer and his family during a raid in Tikrit.

U.S. raids lead to arrests in hunt for Saddam

TIKRIT, Iraq — U.S. forces have carried out at least 17 raids in northern Iraq in the past 24 hours as part of an operation aimed at killing or capturing Saddam Hussein, U.S. military officials said Monday.

The raids — centered around Saddam's ancestral homeland of Tikrit — netted 80 people, including a local resistance leader and two former midlevel officials in the Iraqi government, officials said.

The operations also were intended to seize weapons and money, according to military officials, and to block Saddam's access to safe houses, cash and Iraqis who may be willing to help the toppled Iraqi leader.

"It's just a matter of time," 4th Infantry Division spokeswoman Maj. Josslyn Aberle told The Associated Press, referring to Saddam's capture. "He can't stay in one place very long."

The U.S. civilian administrator for Iraq — L. Paul Bremer — has said U.S. troops are receiving frequent tips from Iraqis about where to find Saddam loyalists — including the informant who claimed \$30 million for turning in Saddam's sons, Uday and Qusay, and a 14-year-old grandson.

The three were killed in a July 22 firefight with U.S. troops at a house in the northern city of Mosul.

"In the most famous case, someone told us where to find Uday and Qusay," Bremer said Sunday.

"We are going to get Saddam, too," Bremer said. "The only question is who is going to get \$25 million [reward money] and

move to another country."

Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno of the 4th Infantry Division said last week that several suspected members of Saddam's personal security detachment were captured at a house south of Tikrit. The operation Thursday resulted from a tip from an informant, Odierno said.

During another raid Thursday, this time in Baghdad, Abdullah Abbas Khandush, an Iraqi scientist associated with Saddam's nuclear programs, surrendered to U.S. authorities, according to U.S. defense officials. They said he was cooperating with U.S. authorities.

Powell not expected in second Bush term

WASHINGTON — The White House expects that President Bush would have to assemble a new foreign policy team, including a secretary of state, if he were to win a second term, administration officials said Monday.

Secretary of State Colin Powell has long told friends and associates that he planned to serve in the Cabinet no longer than one term, but speculation about his future increased Monday after the Washington Post published an article that said Powell and his top deputy, Richard Armitage, have recently reaffirmed their intentions to step down even if the president is re-elected.

Powell, interviewed on Radio Sawa, the U.S. government's Arabic-language station that broadcasts to the Middle East, called the newspaper report "nonsense" and said it wasn't true that he had told the president of his plans to leave.

"I don't know what they are talking about," Powell said. "I serve at the pleasure of the president. The president and I have not discussed anything other than my continuing to do my job for him, and this is just one of those stories that emerge in Washington that reflects nothing more than gossip, and the gossip leads to a rash of speculation about who might fill a vacancy that does not exist."

An aide to Powell told CNN on Monday that it would not be surprising if Powell and

Armitage were to leave at the end of the term. What would be surprising, the aide said, would be if they agreed to stay or decided to bolt before the end of Bush's first term.

"Anybody who thought Powell would have stayed around for a second term if Bush is re-elected would have to ask the question, 'What's he smoking?'" the Powell aide said.



A Nigerian peacekeeper is carried by a cheering crowd of Liberians.

Liberia's civilians, fighters welcome peacekeepers

MONROVIA, Liberia — Government forces and rebels fighting in Liberia appeared to welcome the arrival Monday of West African peacekeepers, who were received with cheers by hundreds of civilians desperate to see an end to the war.

The first group of 300 peacekeepers took up positions to secure Roberts International Airport, about 40 miles [64 kilometers] outside the capital, Monrovia, as a second helicopter landed with another group of Nigerian troops.

Scores of Liberians braved a driving rain to welcome the multinational force.

As an armored personnel carrier with mounted machine guns rolled off one of the flights, a crowd of civilian onlookers evaded security and ran toward the troops.

"No more war. We want peace," they chanted, at one point lifting a commander onto their shoulders.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the administration is encouraged by Monday's deployment.

"The U.S. continues to be actively involved in the planning and execution of the mission," he told reporters.

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Noah Amatucci.

But as they soon found out, it's a far cry from the suburbs of Massachusetts.

"Initially a lot of us were shocked to see the condition of this country," said Vogelsang. "To actually be here and see this place ... (the seriousness of the situation) sinks in really quick."

Spc. Jason Boas never expected to be sent overseas when he signed on with the unit more than three years ago.

And like the other MPs in his National Guard unit, he doesn't mind having lots of responsibility being placed on the unit.

"I like doing this job. If there's a threat, we're the one's who'll take care of it," said Boas. "We're kind of like the go-to guys that everyone depends on to keep them safe, it's a lot of responsibility but it's also cool."

Markvenas agrees, and adds that serving as the security force in Kabul has helped the unit grow stronger, "I feel like I've learned a lot here, and the experiences I've had here I can take back and use on my reserve weekends to train new recruits coming into our unit."

Before they arrived in Afghanistan, the MPs spent five weeks at Fort Drum, New York, being refreshed on various common soldier tasks and getting acclimated to active-duty life, but it wasn't till they got on the ground that it really began to sink in, said Vogelsang.

"After the first couple of weeks went by people began to realize

we're not going home; this isn't a two-week annual training," Vogelsang said. "So we just hunkered down and did the mission."

So far, the unit's performance in country has been a success. There have been no major incidents during any of their security convoys or in any of the compounds they stand watch over.

It gives us a better image because we've done so well over here," said Amatucci, about the reputation of National Guard units. "We do our jobs and we do them right."

"In this environment, from what I've seen I can't tell the difference between active duty and national guard, and I'm pretty proud to say that," added Vogelsang.

Vogelsang, who's been with the unit longer than anyone else in his platoon, said deploying during wartime served as a validation, of sorts, for him and his fellow soldiers.

"I've been in 20 years, and now I've finally done something," he said. "It's something I think brings the unit together. The young guys will come back from this place with a better appreciation of what we have back home and what the Army does. I think they'll take what they saw out here with them for the rest of their lives."

The unit is scheduled to leave this month, and they look forward to getting back to their families, friends and the one-weekend-a-month, two-week-a-year military job.

Everybody's proud of the job they did and of the combat patches they will now get to wear, but they also realize the fight against terrorism isn't going to end any time soon, and it may just be a matter of time before they get another call to duty.

Process in place for Iraqis to Make damage claims

Story by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The United States will pay Iraqi claims for damages that are caused by the negligent or wrongful acts of U.S. soldiers, coalition officials said in Baghdad Aug. 3.

As of July 31, American officials have already adjudicated 1,496 claims and paid 1,168 in the amount of \$262,945. Some 2,517 claims have been made against the United States.

The claims are made under the Foreign Claims Act, which provides that the military may pay claims for the wrongful or negligent acts of its forces to inhabitants of foreign countries who file claims. Military commissions adjudicate these claims. In Iraq, there are 31 Foreign Claims Commissions. At brigade level, a military lawyer or judge can award damages up to \$2,500. At division level, a lawyer or judge can award up to \$15,000 in damages. At

the Combined Joint Task Force 7 level, a three-person panel can award up to \$50,000.

Claims that exceed \$50,000 are sent to U.S. Army Claims Service for adjudication, officials said.

Every claim made is looked at individually, officials said.

The panels examine whether the Foreign Claims Act applies to the claim and ask "is it (the claim) for the negligent or wrongful act of a member of the force; is it in an amount certain, and most importantly, is it for something other than the combat activity of United States forces," said a task force official in Baghdad.

"And this is a very key point," the official continued. "It's what is known as the combat exclusion, because under the Foreign Claims Act, consistent with the law of war and consistent with the practice of other nations, payments are not authorized for damage, for injury, for death that is the result of combat activities of

U.S. forces."

While President Bush declared major combat operations over on May 1, low-intensity combat operations continue. Damage caused by these operations may not be remunerated.

Officials said the claims paid so far are for property loss or damage. They said there are probably "wrongful death" claims in the system that have not been adjudicated yet. Officials will use the traditions of Iraq to set the damages paid for wrongful death.

The burden of proof is on the claimant to prove he suffered a loss and what the value is. "Ways of doing that would be statements from other individuals — if they have receipts, photographs," officials said. "If it's serious enough, there may be a military investigation done on it."

If the claimant is not satisfied with the decision, there is an appeals process, officials said.

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the shipment of the bike because of its difficulty level.

Items like the motorcycle would not make it back to the United States if not for DHL. Though the post office is proficient when it comes to shipping, they can only send items of limited weight and size.

The post office can ship items that weigh 70 pounds or less and are no more than 108 inches in girth. Space available mail can extend to 130 inches. This is sufficient for many objects troops want to send home, but not all.

DHL personnel saw a need for more than that and made a plan to rectify the situation because they are here for the troops, said Crook. "We're not here for any other reason."

The company offers a four-day express service for those who want their new possessions as quickly as possible. The items are trackable as well, so the worry of lost packages is eliminated, and the door-to-door delivery makes shipping easy for recipients.

Though it may seem that the post office and DHL are competing for business, the two actually compliment one another, said Crook.

"The post office and us, we work together," said Crook. "What we offer is two different things."

The two businesses are both doing what they can for the troops, but DHL picks up where the post office services end, extending the already established post office shipping options.

Due to the amount of military personnel DHL serves, the company put together a price package for troops.

"We've put together a really cheap military tariff to help them out because they can't carry all of their items home with them," said Crook.

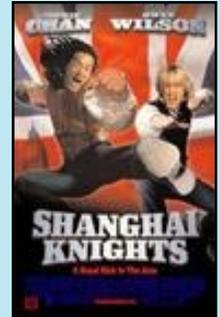
A 22-pound package shipped through DHL will cost troops \$50 and \$5 for each additional 2.2 pounds.

DHL ensures that troops can bring home a piece of Afghanistan to show their loved ones, no matter what they choose to bring back with them.

The DHL office is located in the Logistics Support Area for the time being, but will soon be relocating to a new building near the main post office for customer convenience. The office is open from 0900 L - 1000 L and then reopens from 1330 L-1630L.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Shanghai Knights." When a Chinese rebel murders Chon's estranged father and escapes to England, Chon and Roy make their way to London with revenge on their minds.



Tomorrow's movie will be "Life of David Gale."

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Wednesday
Bagram:	Dusty H: 93F L: 70F	Haze H: 93F L: 70F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 104F L: 84F	Dusty H: 108F L: 86F
Kabul:	Dusty H: 93F L: 70F	Haze H: 93F L: 70F
Uzbekistan:	Clear H: 97F L: 54F	Clear H: 98F L: 56F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Co-worker says victim was disheveled and had marks

EAGLE, Colo. — Bobby Pietrack, a bellman at the Lodge & Spa at Cordillera, told police that he saw his 19-year-old co-worker shortly after she left Kobe Bryant's room on the night of the alleged sexual assault, *ESPN's* Shelley Smith reported Monday.



Kobe Bryant

Pietrack (pronounced pee-track) reportedly told police that the woman was visibly upset, disheveled and had red marks on her neck and face, according to Smith.

Sources close to the investigation say Pietrack is considered the first link in the chain of what is called "immediate outcry," meaning he is the first person the alleged victim cried out to immediately following the alleged incident.

The alleged victim went to police the following day, approximately 13 hours after the alleged assault. Sources also said that photos taken of her at that point show the marks. Those photos are considered part of the prosecution's evidence.

Pietrack has not spoken to reporters and has declined repeated requests by *ESPN*.

Bryant is scheduled to attend a preliminary hearing on Wednesday at the Eagle County Justice Center at approximately 6 p.m. ET. Bryant will be read the charges against him and may enter a plea.

Financial KO, Tyson files for bankruptcy

NEW YORK — Mike Tyson has filed for Chapter 11 protection in U.S. Bankruptcy Court, claiming his finances are in disarray.

The former heavyweight champion has squandered nearly \$300 million in ring earnings through lavish spending and bad advice. Tyson's handlers said in a news release on Friday that Tyson has taken control of himself and wants to resolve his financial problems.

They blamed his out-of-control spending habits and subsequent mounting debt on mismanagement by others.

"As a professional fighter, who relied on others to manage his affairs, he discovered that his debts far exceeded his assets," Tyson's attorney Debra Grassgreen said. "Now, he has taken the lead in bringing order to his financial affairs."

The fighter frittered away millions on mansions, Bentleys, jewelry, and even Bengal tigers while buying extravagant gifts for his entourage. Don King also took a huge chunk.

Tyson has a \$100 million lawsuit pending against King that goes to trial in September. The suit claims King cheated Tyson out of millions after he got out of prison in 1995 and went back to fighting for the promoter.

Earlier this year, as part of a divorce settlement, Tyson agreed to pay his ex-wife, Monica, \$6.5 million from future earnings.

Besides his financial problems, Tyson is also facing possible jail time again.

He pleaded innocent last month to misdemeanor assault, harassment and disorderly conduct charges for pummeling two men during a brawl at a Brooklyn hotel on June 21. Tyson's lawyers claimed his actions were justified because the two men allegedly menaced the boxer first by telling him they were armed. Prosecutors say the assault went too far.



Strong Hope edges Empire Maker (left) by a neck in the Jim Dandy, but Empire Maker owner Bobby Frankel recovered with Peace Rules at the Haskell Invitational.

Empire Maker comes up short as Peace Rules at Haskell Invitational

OCEANPORT, N.J. — Just minutes after losing Saratoga's Jim Dandy Stakes with odds-on favorite Empire Maker, Bobby Frankel made amends by knocking off Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Funny Cide as Peace Rules rolled to an easy wire-to-wire win in the Grade 1, \$1,000,000 Haskell Invitational at Monmouth Park on Sunday afternoon.

Peace Rules and jockey Edgar Prado got out to an unexpectedly easy lead and were never seriously challenged on the front-end as Funny Cide and the rest of the field tried to play catch-up throughout the race. Peace Rules got the Haskell's 1 1/8-mile distance in a time of 1:49.1 en route to the open-lengths score over Sky Mesa, who finished second. Peace Rules paid \$6.80 to win, and the exacta with Sky Mesa returned \$28.20. It was several more lengths back to Funny Cide in third.

Funny Cide got off to a rocky start for jockey Jose Santos, breaking a half-step behind the rest of the field. It was the second time this weekend Santos had trouble getting his mount out of the gate in a Grade 1 race. He also broke slowly aboard Volponi in Saturday's Whitney Handicap at Saratoga. Santos then had to work hard to motivate Funny Cide on the backstretch. Despite a vigorous ride, Funny Cide could do no better than a well-beaten, one-paced third-place effort.

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Staley holds out until future is discussed

PHILADELPHIA — Running back Duce Staley is blaming his absence from the Philadelphia Eagles' training camp on a lack of communication from the team's front office.



Duce Staley

Staley released a statement Monday addressed to his teammates, coaches and Eagles fans to discuss his absence from the team.

He says Eagles management has not been willing to discuss his future with the team.

Staley is scheduled to make \$2.2 million dollars this year, his seventh with the Eagles, and is seeking a contract extension. He has been absent from the team's training camp in Bethlehem — which began more than a week ago — and also skipped an optional minicamp in June.

The Eagles' primary running back, Staley led the team with 1,570 total yards last season. Staley is being fined \$5,000 for each day he misses training.

Umpires' call causes stir in Pittsburg

PITTSBURGH — Umpire Tim Welke admitted Sunday he probably missed a call at first base that cost the Colorado Rockies the tying run in a loss to the Pittsburgh Pirates the day before.

Welke, the crew chief, called Colorado's Jay Payton out at first base to complete a game-ending double play in Pittsburgh's 1-0 victory Saturday. There were runners at first and third and one out when Payton came to the plate.

Replays appeared to show Payton beat the throw from second baseman Abraham Nunez. Welke said Payton probably was safe.

"Now I looked at the replays, and I know the replays aren't very good, but I don't get a second chance at it. It was a tough night sleeping last night," said Welke, a major league umpire for 21 years.

"Sure, I would have liked another whack at it. It was a close play, and I understand the situation. But every day you turn a new page. You have to."

The Rockies were livid Saturday, arguing that Payton was clearly safe. Colorado general manager Dan O'Dowd said Sunday he filed a complaint with Major League Baseball.

"You hear people say that umpires don't care — that was living proof," Rockies star Larry Walker said. "(Country singer) Ronnie Milsap could have made that call, and he's blind."

Welke, who was behind the plate Sunday, objected to Walker's comments.

"I totally disagree with that," Welke said. "Games are full of close plays and close pitches. As umpires, we get one shot at it, and you have to call it the way you see it. At the time, I thought absolutely it was the correct call. There was no doubt in my mind."

After the game, Colorado first-base coach Dave Collins said he could have made the correct call "from my hotel room."

"I don't know what happens when umpires make bad calls," Rockies manager Clint Hurdle said, "but I know what happens to us: We get fired and sent to Triple-A."

Rain spoils NFL exhibition opener

CANTON, Ohio — Priest Holmes looked fine in a brief appearance, and so did Brett Favre as the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Green Bay Packers 9-0 in the Pro Football Hall of Fame game, shortened Monday night by lightning and torrential rain.

The exhibition opener for both teams also had a sobering moment when Chiefs offensive tackle Willie Jones sustained a head injury late in the second quarter.

A Chiefs spokesman said Jones sustained a head trauma and was being evaluated at Aultman Hospital.

Kansas City had just taken a 9-0 lead on a 27-yard field goal by Jose Cortez with 5:55 left in the third quarter when several lightning bolts hit near Fawcett Stadium.

Play was halted for nearly one-half hour before NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue decided to cancel the remainder of the game with 5:49 remaining in the third.

Both teams have been involved in similar weather-related exhibition cancellations.

In 1996, the Chiefs had a 14-10 win over Chicago shortened by second-half lightning.

At the Hall of Fame game in 1980, the Packers and San Diego Chargers were tied 0-0 with 5:29 left when then-commissioner Pete Rozelle called it because of lightning.

Morten Andersen, the second-leading scorer in NFL history, kicked two field goals for the Chiefs on Monday.

Holmes ran for 15 yards on five carries in his biggest test since sustaining a season-ending injury to his right hip in December.

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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support