

## Alabama Senator visits hometown troops

Story and photo by Pfc. Kelly Hunt  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – Troops received a special treat Wednesday when Senator Jeff Sessions (R), Alabama, scheduled time in his official business trip to meet with troops from the 441<sup>st</sup> Ordinance Battalion (EOD), Alabama National Guard who are stationed here.

Sessions is a member of the Armed Services Committee in the Senate and his trip overseas was designed as an opportunity to see first hand the current situations affecting these areas and to meet with personnel who live and work here.

“We’re wrestling with what to do next year and if you’re not talking to people who are doing the job, you’re not really able to be as affective in making decisions,” said Sessions.

The Senator spent two days in Iraq, meeting with various leaders including Gen. John Abizaid, CENTCOM commander, where he received a “really good briefing on the regional situation” and also the chance to “see a lot of what’s going on in the northern part



*National Guard troops from the 441st Ordinance Battalion (EOD), Huntsville, Alabama, meet with Senator Jeff Sessions (R) in Bagram, Afghanistan during his week-long trip overseas.*

of Iraq.” Sessions said the visit proved to be very valuable.

Sessions flew into Bagram Wednesday morning and made sure that his last stop was the EOD Battalion headquarters, to meet with soldiers from his home state. The troops welcomed the hometown hero with a cook-out, Bagram style.

The Senator said he has a special interest in the reserves and National Guard, having spent thirty years in the Army Reserve himself. Many of his friends were or still are actively involved in the two components.

“It’s always great to visit with soldiers

————— See **HOMETOWN**, Page 4

## Iowa Guard keeps Bagram ‘engine running’

Story and photos by Sgt. Greg Heath  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – For soldiers at Bagram Air Field, if anything mechanical or electrical breaks down there is only one place to take them.

The challenges of keeping everything up and running falls into the laps of a small army of mechanics, electricians and metal workers from the 3654<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company from

the Iowa Army National Guard.

In their direct service maintenance unit, the 64 citizen-soldiers work on jobs ranging from repairing night vision goggles and Mark-19 Grenade Launchers, to overhauling Humvee engines to bringing offices’ and tents’ broken air conditioners back to life.

“We’re all inclusive; we have all the shops you would have in a peacetime environment in one company,” said 3654<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company Commander Capt.

Chad Stone.

The company encompasses a multitude of different maintenance functions, to include light and heavy wheel-maintenance, an allied trade shop (metal work), communication equipment repair, generator repair and armament repair shops, to list a few.

Basically the maintenance company can lend a hand for almost any type of

————— See **GUARD**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



With a debris fire in the foreground, U.S. troops seal off the road in front of the Jordanian Embassy after Thursday's bomb attack in Baghdad.

## Baghdad blast kills 10 at Jordanian Embassy Thursday

**BAGHDAD**, Iraq – After a brief lull this week, deadly violence aimed at military and associated targets in Iraq resurged dramatically when a car bomb exploded outside the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad Thursday, killing at least 10 people — and a firefight claimed the lives of two U.S. soldiers.

As many as 40 people were wounded in the embassy blast, according to Lt. Col. Eric Nantz, a U.S. military spokesman.

“We had persons unknown, pull a vehicle in front of the embassy — the Jordanian Embassy — stop the vehicle, exit the vehicle and walk away, and the vehicle sometime later was detonated with a large amount of explosives inside,” said Bernard Kerik, former New York police commissioner who is overseeing the reconstruction of the Iraqi police force.

Crowds rushed the embassy after Thursday's explosion, looting parts of the facility and burning pictures of Jordan's present King Abdullah II and his father, the late King Hussein. U.S. officials then cordoned off the area.

The wreckage of six cars burned outside the embassy as makeshift fire crews worked to douse flames at the shattered facade of the compound.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of American ground forces in Iraq said U.S.

forces in the area responded as soon as the attack occurred.

Sanchez said he couldn't provide many details about the attack, which he called the most significant against a “soft target” since Baghdad fell. He said the blast shows “we've got some terrorists operating here.”

“We're still in a conflict zone,” he said at a news conference Thursday. “We've got to join together to put an end to this violence that exists here in Iraq.”

## U.S. Forces: Saddam on the move every few hours

**TIKRIT**, Iraq – Saddam Hussein is eluding U.S. forces by moving every few hours, probably in disguise and aided by members of his clan, the general hunting the fugitive dictator around his home town of Tikrit said on Thursday.

Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division, said he could not be certain how close his troops had come to capturing Saddam or that he was definitely in the area. But he had regular intelligence that he was.

“He's on the run. He's moving every three to four hours,” Odierno told a news conference at his headquarters in one of the grand marble halls of Saddam's main palace in Tikrit.

“Every day we get four or five reports that he could be anywhere from Kirkuk to Baquba to Tikrit.”

Citing intelligence data Odierno said: “He is clearly moving three to four times every single day... On some of the raids we've done there are indications that somebody's been moving through there. And somebody extremely important.”

Asked how Saddam was eluding the tens of thousands of U.S. troops seeking him in north central Iraq, he said he imagined the support network was similar to those exposed after the capture near Tikrit of Saddam's private secretary and the killing of his sons Uday and Qusay in Mosul last month.

“There's tribal support that he gets,” Odierno said.

“There's family support and there's

loyalists that are around him that probably enable to move around the area.”

“My guess is he's doing it very covertly,” he said.



U.S. Marines meet with Nigerian peacekeepers in Liberia Thursday.

## Taylor says he will leave Liberia

**MONROVIA**, Liberia – Liberian President Charles Taylor has told *CNN* he will address the nation Sunday, step down Monday and leave the country soon afterward.

He also said Vice President Moses Blah will take over the presidency on Monday, *CNN's* Jeff Koinange reported.

“We have met the provisions of the constitution of Liberia. The vice president will be sworn in on Monday,” Taylor said.

Taylor made the comments after canceling plans to announce his resignation and name a successor before Liberia's parliament Thursday.

Meanwhile, more than 100 Nigerian peacekeepers entered the Liberian capital Monrovia Thursday to cheers from the city's desperate residents.

The peacekeepers traveled from their base at Liberia's international airport some 50 km (30 miles) away in white armored personnel carriers, trucks and sports utility vehicles.

The soldiers blew kisses and waved white handkerchiefs as thousands of Liberians crammed the shoulders of roads and chanted, “We want peace, no more war.”

Taylor refused to say on what day he would leave Liberia for Nigeria, which has offered him political asylum.

# Contractor selected for Pentagon Memorial

**Washington** – The Pentagon Renovation Program has selected Centex Lee LLC, of Fairfax, Va., as the design-builder for the Pentagon Memorial. The Pentagon Memorial Project is a joint effort between various organizations united to construct a memorial commemorating the 184 lives lost in the Pentagon and on American Airlines Flight 77 on Sept. 11, 2001.

Following an intense, best value source selection competition, the Pentagon Renovation Program selected Centex Lee LLC based on the company's superior technical and management approach, past performance and proposed project cost. The Centex Lee LLC design-build team includes the construction firm Centex and the design firm Lee and Associates. Additional team partners are Delon Hampton and Associates, Syska Hennesey, CMS, Light'n Up, LID Center Inc., MC Dean Inc. and Southland Industries.

Centex Lee LLC will further develop the technical aspects of the winning concept design by Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman and construct the Pentagon Memorial. The Pentagon Memorial construction will be funded entirely by private donations. The design and construction will be completed in phases to facilitate the Family Steering Committee's ability to raise funds incrementally, while continuing progress on the project. An extensive study of existing underground utilities on the Memorial site will begin immediately. Construction will be completed approximately 20 months after available funding is received to begin the first phase of construction. The initial contract value is \$50,000 for the utilities study, with phased options for a total contract value of \$11,590,100.

For additional information, visit the Pentagon Memorial Project Website at <http://memorial.pentagon.mil/>.

(Information from United States Department of Defense News Release)

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR Building: "Snatch."

Unscrupulous boxing promoters, violent book-makers, a Russian gangster, incompetent amateur robbers, and supposedly Jewish jewelers fight to track down a priceless stolen diamond.



Tomorrow's movie will be "The Family Man."

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 93F L: 73F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 93F L: 73F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 104F L: 81F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 108F L: 84F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 91F L: 70F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 91F L: 70F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Clear</i> H: 98F L: 57F	<i>Clear</i> H: 96F L: 60F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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## HOMETOWN, from Page 1

and spend as much time with them as you can,” said Sessions.

“And then when there are people like National Guard units from your state, that’s special.”

Troops warmly welcomed the visit and were excited that he made time for the stop, despite his highly important and busy schedule.

## GUARD, from Page 1

mechanical or electrical need a unit would have, according to 3654<sup>th</sup> Maint. Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Larry Kientz.

The company was mobilized in Iowa in March and after spending two months at Fort Riley, Kan., being validated for active duty, they arrived at Bagram Airbase in late June.

Along with 11 planeloads of equipment, the Iowa National Guard soldiers also brought a lot of experience with them to Afghanistan.

“As a National Guard unit, we’re unique in that the jobs that a lot of our people do here are the jobs they do back home in everyday life,” said Kientz.

Many of the soldiers in the unit are full-time technicians who work for the Iowa National Guard maintaining military equipment back at their home stations.

“It’s pretty easy for us to keep on top of things,” said full-time technician Staff Sgt. Scott McKenzie, radio repair and electrical supervisor, adding that with all the other technicians they can help teach the



*Spc. Ed Taggart, 3654<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Co., welds pieces of metal together on a new tool box he created.*



*Iowa Army National Guard Heavy-wheeled mechanics Sgt. Gary Fuller and Spc. Marc Thurman, 3654<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Co., remove the engine from a forklift so they can begin repairs.*

younger soldiers.

Often the only thing holding them back is lack of parts to do the job.

“It’s hard for us to get all the parts we need here because Iraq has higher priority right now,” said Stone.

“Some days we’re busy, but some days we’re just waiting for parts and we can’t do anything,” said Spc. Rowland Valderrama, 3654<sup>th</sup> Maint. Co.

Even with the lack of parts, the unit has completed more than 300 job orders in a little less than a month in country.

Sometimes to finish a job they have to get a little creative.

“Back home you had the luxury of having every tool and every part and everything you needed to get the job done,” said heavy wheel mechanic Staff Sgt. Noel Isaac, 3654<sup>th</sup> Maint. Co.

“Here you have to improvise just to keep things up and running. A lot of people will just put stuff on hold while they wait for a certain part to get in, but

“For him to take time to come by and see us, him being from Alabama and us being here from Alabama, it means a lot,” said Staff Sgt. Shelia Weaver, 441<sup>st</sup> Ord. Bn. (EOD), Huntsville, Alabama.

Sessions next stop is Kosovo, and then back to the United States, ending his week long trip.

“It’s going to be a long, hard trip, but I’m meeting a lot of soldiers and it’s been fascinating,” said Sessions.

our guys will take the initiative and come up with a plan to make a needed part, fabricate it from scratch or plan another way to make it work. It just shows how dedicated these guys are to their job.

As National Guard soldiers, they know sometimes people will have preconceived notions about what they are capable of accomplishing.

“I don’t think we’ve had to prove anything,” Stone said. “I think that there were some people initially that had some misconceptions about what a National Guard unit could do compared to an active duty unit but once our soldiers got in the shops all those stereotypes were thrown to the wayside.”

“If we weren’t a good unit we wouldn’t be over here,” added Sgt. Richard Ford, heavy-wheeled mechanic, 3654<sup>th</sup> Maint. Co. “I know every morning at our formations they tell us that other units are talking about us already and saying we’re doing a good job, and that makes us feel pretty good.”



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Michelle Wie gets a little council from her father, B.J., but still comes up short at U.S. Womens Amateur Thursday.

## Wie ousted at U.S. Women's Amateur

GLADWYNE, Pa. — Teen sensation Michelle Wie was beaten 1-up by Maru Martinez on Thursday in the first round of the U.S. Women's Amateur.

The 13-year-old from Honolulu won the U.S. Women's Public Links in June. Two weeks ago, she was eliminated in the third round of the U.S. Girls' Junior.

She started well this week, finishing second by a stroke to medalist Aree Song. But the player known for 300-yard drives and big galleries couldn't get past Martinez. The sophomore at Auburn was a semifinalist in this event last year and survived a playoff Wednesday

just to reach the match-play field of 64.

Martinez won despite being penalized a hole for accepting a ride in a golf cart.

"That's experience," said Wie's golf coach, Gary Gilchrist. "A lot of these girls have played in these events before. She hasn't. She lost. She has to learn from it."

Martinez held a two-hole lead after the front nine, but was penalized a hole for accepting a ride in an electric cart from the clubhouse to the 10th tee.

Martinez, unnerved after learning of the penalty, bogeyed the 10th hole to fall into a tie, but then regrouped and made a 12-footer on 13 to save par and take a one-hole lead.

"She didn't take advantage," Gilchrist said of Wie. "She let the other girl believe she could win."

Wie evened the match with a birdie on the par-4 16th, but Martinez came right back to take the lead on 17. She blasted out of a sand trap to 4 feet and made the par putt — after Wie had missed a short par putt — to reclaim a one-hole lead.

Wie saved par by knocking in a 5-footer on 18. But Martinez claimed the victory — and shocked the large gallery that followed the pair around all day — by making a 3-foot par.

## McGrady criticizes Bryant on assault

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tracy McGrady is surprised that Kobe Bryant didn't know better.

"If you're married, stick with your wife," McGrady said Thursday. "Don't do anything crazy that's going to cause problems in your household. Keep a happy family."

Bryant is charged with one count of felony sexual assault on a 19-year-old worker at a Colorado hotel on June 30. The Los Angeles Lakers guard has said the sex was consensual.

"I hope he beats this and he can get back on the right track, stay focused and just concentrate on basketball," McGrady said.

Before being accused, Bryant enjoyed a sterling image and was showered with adulation from fans, advertisers and his peers — McGrady included.

"Kobe's a great guy, he really is, and I never thought this would occur," McGrady said. "I just thought he was that perfect guy with a good, clean image."

"One minute, you're on top of the world. And then the next, endorsement people are backing off of you."

Bryant already has lost one of his many endorsement contracts; the maker of Nutella chocolate spread is phasing out ads featuring



Tracy McGrady

### Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

#### Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- PGA Tour: The International 0500L
- SportsCenter 0700L
- Tennis Masters Canada 0830L
- ESPNNews 1030L
- MLB Philadelphia Phillies @ San Francisco Giants 1100L
- Pardon the Interruption 1430L
- NASCAR Truck Series 1600L
- Baseball Tonight 1830L
- MLB Montreal Expos @ Houston Astros 2000L
- Baseball Tonight 2300L
- NFL Live 2330L
- SportsCenter 0000L
- Racing Magazine 0100L
- MLB Atlanta Braves @ St. Louis Cardinals 0200L

#### Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- WNBA Connecticut Sun @Charlotte Sting 0500L
- SportsCenter 0700L
- Tennis Masters Canada 0800L
- PGA Tour: The International1000L
- SportsCenter 1500L
- MLB Pittsburg Pirates @ Colorado Rockies 1600L
- Baseball Tonight 1900L
- Golf Magazine 2100L
- Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel 2200L
- Baseball Tonight 2300L
- SportsCenter 0000L
- EXPN X Games IX 0200L
- The Sports Reporters 0300L
- ESPNNews 0330L

## SPORTS, from Page 5

Bryant in part because of his legal troubles.

McGrady and Bryant, each a superstar at age 24, engaged in a season-long duel for the league's scoring crown.

Bryant racked up nine consecutive games in February with at least 40 points. But McGrady rose to the challenge, averaging almost 36 points that month and the next to capture the title with 32.1 points per game to Bryant's 30.

"You'd hear everywhere, 'Who's the better player out of Kobe and T-Mac,'" McGrady said. "It just so happened you had those guys going for the scoring race, just competing every night at a high level. I thought it was good for the league."

The two were to play together on the U.S. Olympic qualifying team later this month, but Bryant pulled out of the tournament less than a week after the charge was filed against him July 18. He still plans to play for the U.S. team at the 2004 Olympics.

"Hopefully, a lot of fans tune into what we're doing over there in Puerto Rico and not so much worrying about what Kobe's going through," said McGrady, who will be making his debut in international competition. "Every time you turn on the channel, it's Kobe this, Kobe that. Hopefully, we can draw some of that attention to us."

## Milicic almost certain he'll sign with Detroit

**BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro** — Darko Milicic has left for the United States, determined to sign with the Detroit Pistons despite a lawsuit contending he is under contract to his European team.

The 18-year-old 7-foot forward was the No. 2 selection in the NBA draft in June behind LeBron James of Cleveland.

Milicic said in the Dnevnik daily on Thursday he is "99-percent certain" he will sign with the Pistons despite last month's suit in New York by his team against his agent. The club is demanding at least \$10 million in punitive damages.

The Pistons said they will not proceed with negotiations until the situation with Milicic's former team is resolved.

"He needs to take care of that stuff before we can move forward," Pistons spokesman Kevin Grigg said Thursday.

Milicic's club, Hemofarm Vrsac, says agent Marc Cornstein and Pinnacle Management Corp. interfered with the player's European contract. Milicic has played for Hemofarm in Serbia since 2000, and the club says he is under contract through 2009.

By signing with the Pistons, Milicic hopes "to end this mess that has emerged around my dream to play in the NBA."

"The problems are about to be solved and now I want to concentrate on my NBA season," Milicic said before leaving Vrsac for Detroit this week.

NBA teams are not prevented from drafting players under contract to foreign teams, but league rules stipulate an NBA team can pay no more than \$350,000 toward buying out a contract. Under the pay scale for rookies, Milicic would earn about \$11 million over three years in the NBA.

Last month, Milicic angered Serbia-Montenegro basketball

officials for refusing to play for the national team at next month's European Championships. The team, formerly known as Yugoslavia, is defending the title.

## Carolina comes up short to Boston

**BOSTON** — Dagny Mellgren scored in the 79th minute as the Boston Breakers set a team record for victories and clinched a home playoff game by beating the Carolina Courage 1-0 Wednesday night.



*Carolina goalie Kristin Luckenbill corrals the ball from Boston's Maren Meinert.*

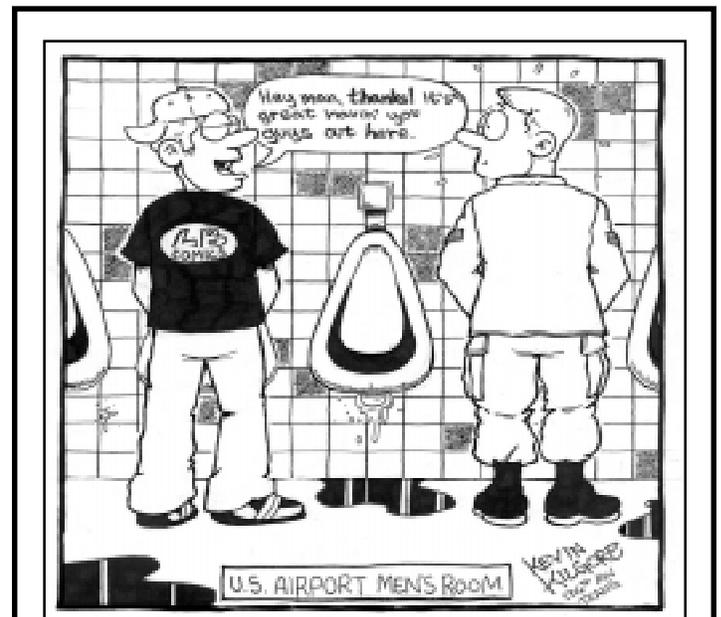
Boston's win, combined with Washington's 2-0 loss to Philadelphia on Wednesday, ensured the Breakers will finish in at least second place in the WUSA and host a semifinal game on Aug. 16.

The Breakers (9-4-7) also extended their franchise-best unbeaten streak to nine games.

Heather Aldama and Kristine Lilly set up the game-winner by Mellgren, her league-leading 14th goal of the season. Aldama curled

a crossing pass to Mellgren, who was waiting 20 feet from the net. Carolina keeper Kristin Luckenbill initially stopped Mellgren's shot, but the ball rolled away and through to the net.

Breakers keeper Karina LeBlanc made two spectacular saves in the game's opening minutes, stopping Danielle Slanton in the 13th minute and Brooke O'Hanley in the 24th en route to her third shutout of the season.



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support

# Prison crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

Across

- 1. Knocked over
- 6. TV handyman Bob
- 10. Kennel cry
- 14. The rite place?
- 15. Hieroglyphics bird
- 16. Home to most Turks
- 17. Kama \_\_
- 18. Hoover et al.
- 19. Blue shade
- 20. Prison food?
- 23. Xenia's state
- 24. Paltry amount
- 25. Some patients' outlays
- 28. Arrays of numbers
- 33. Eggs order
- 34. Play the ponies
- 35. Tooth care org.
- 36. Prison food?
- 40. Prefix meaning "ear"
- 41. Made louder
- 42. Some House votes
- 43. Password requesters
- 45. Kind of tomato or bomb
- 47. Triage locales, briefly
- 48. Swedish import
- 49. Prison food?
- 55. Knee-slapper
- 56. Borodin prince
- 57. Heckles
- 59. St. Louis sight
- 60. "... in this \_\_ of tears."
- 61. Coastal recess
- 62. Toy dog, for short
- 63. \_\_'acte
- 64. Depot postings, informally

Down

- 1. KLM rival

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
	20					21					22			
			23						24					
25	26	27					28	29				30	31	32
33						34						35		
36					37	38						39		
40					41							42		
43			44						45	46				
				47					48					
	49	50					51	52					53	54
55						56					57			58
59						60					61			
62						63					64			

- 2. Jack Horner's find
- 3. "What's \_\_ you?"
- 4. Left side of a vessel
- 5. Of low quality
- 6. MTV airing
- 7. Construction beam
- 8. An arm or a leg
- 9. Gave aid to
- 10. You or I, to Fidel
- 11. Jacob's twin
- 12. Like most early television
- 13. Pony up
- 21. Frank McCourt memoir
- 22. "My bad!"
- 25. Pacific salmon
- 26. Football-shaped
- 27. Eva of Argentina
- 28. About half of us
- 29. Got mellow
- 30. Hoopster
- 31. Mystery writer's prize
- 32. Fresh-mouthed
- 34. Use a doormat
- 37. Wilkes-\_\_, Pa.
- 38. Tending to overlook
- 39. Wink, e.g.
- 44. Cut one's choppers
- 45. Wheels, so to speak
- 46. Scottish pudding
- 48. Not so risky
- 49. Reactor part
- 50. Take to the pawn shop
- 51. Big Apple cardinal
- 52. Nut's partner
- 53. Up to the task
- 54. Harmonica part
- 55. General Arnold
- 58. Peter, Paul and Mary: Abbr.

*Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch*