

805th MP Co. keeps Bagram under control

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

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Every day a parade of multicolored trucks, battered cars and local nationals on foot passes through entry control point one leading into Bagram Air Base.

On the worst days the scene outside the control point could be described as controlled chaos, as trucks wriggle for position trying to quickly get their goods inside the base, and it's the job of soldiers from the Army Reserve 805th Military Police Company of North Carolina and field artillerymen from Battery E, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 10th Mountain Division to bring order to the chaos.

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Pfc. Tsu Chu, Btry E, 7th FA, 10th Mtn. Div., checks underneath a vehicle for explosives before allowing it to go into Bagram. Chu's FA unit and the 805th MP Co. act as Bagram's entrance first line of defense.

Radio station brings truth to Afghanistan

Story and photo by Spc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Learning promotes knowledge and knowledge is the key to building a new nation; a stronger nation. One group of soldiers on base has taken on this mission with pride and dedication by reaching out to the Afghan people across the country through radio waves promoting the truth; something the Afghan people are not used to hearing.

Broadcasting of Peace radio began in 2002 after the ruin of the Taliban/al Qaeda reign throughout the country and is currently being produced by troops from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 4th Psychological Operations Group, Ft. Bragg, N.C. and Co. B., 17th Btn., 7th PSYOPS Group, Aurora, Ill.

“Our function is to broadcast information

to the local people of this nation, letting them know exactly what's happening in their country,” said Staff Sgt. Thomas Piña, noncommissioned officer in charge, Co. B., 3rd Btn., 4th PSYOPS.

Information is obtained from Product Development Detachment personnel who gather the information from several different sources to include civil affairs teams, public affairs offices and governmental offices. It is then filtered through the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force. Task Force 180 personnel sort through the chosen information that is later translated into either the Dari or Pashtu language determined by where the information is used.

Though the team currently broadcasts out of Bagram, Piña said they're “looking to expand their reach. Our goal would be to get all of Afghanistan.

“The people themselves, I imagine, are

hungry for information,” he said. “They're hungry for a better way of life so we're trying to do that in our own way.”

They accomplish this mission by going on the air 18 hours a day, seven days a week. A tough task for the small crew, but one they know will greatly affect the progress of the nation.

“Our job is to win the minds and hearts of the Afghan population,” said Piña, who added that it's not always easy due to the remaining influence of the Taliban and al Qaeda. “Old habits are hard to break (and) if you've been under a certain warlord or a certain forceful element, it's hard to break away from that just because there's these guys, knights in shining armor, that come along and say they're the saviors.”

It's hard for the Afghan people to grasp

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Iraqi police participate in a night raid in Tikrit. The 200-member force was backed by U.S. military police.

U.S. soldier dies in Iraq convoy attack near Fallujah Monday

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A U.S. soldier was killed and one was wounded Monday in an improvised explosive device attack on a convoy near Fallujah, west of Baghdad, a U.S. military spokesman said.

Details of the attack in Habbaniya remained sketchy, said Col. George Krivo, and the unit involved remained “in contact with the enemy” at about 3 p.m. (7 a.m. EDT).

The report brought the number of U.S. forces killed in the Iraq war to 309 — 197 deaths in hostile action and 112 in “nonhostile” activity, which includes accidents.

There is no reliable source for Iraqi civilian or combatant casualty figures, either during the period of major combat or after May 1. *The Associated Press* reported an estimated 3,240 civilian Iraqi deaths between March 20 and April 20, but the *AP* said that the figure was based on records of only half of Iraq’s hospitals and the actual number was thought to be significantly higher.

In other violence, at least six U.S. soldiers were wounded overnight in an improved explosive device attack in Fallujah, the U.S.-led coalition said. The soldiers were evacuated to a combat hospital.

In Tikrit, Saddam Hussein’s ancestral homeland, 200 Iraqi police staged a joint effort with U.S. military police to rout out insurgents — members of the Fedayeen Saddam.

The overnight raid targeted a dozen members of the Fedayeen but netted none of the wanted men, the coalition said. Four

Iraqis have been detained for questioning, and the operation uncovered machine guns and ammunition, according to the coalition.



Joe Wilson said he believes the White House is behind the leak identifying his wife as a CIA operative.

White House vows help in CIA leak probe Monday

WASHINGTON – The White House will cooperate with the Justice Department in its initial inquiry into who leaked the classified identity of a CIA operative, but will not launch an internal probe and will not ask for an independent investigation, a spokesman said Monday.

The CIA operative in question, Valerie Plame, is the wife of a former U.S. ambassador who had been critical of the Bush’s administration’s handling of intelligence on Iraq.

“The president believes leaking classified information is a very serious matter and it should be pursued to the fullest extent by the appropriate agency and the appropriate agency is the Department of Justice,” White House press secretary Scott McClellan told reporters.

He said the White House would cooperate with any probe, but said the Justice Department has not made any requests for information.

The Justice Department would not comment on whether it is looking into the case. National security adviser Condoleezza Rice confirmed Sunday the Justice Department was asked to look into the matter.

Former Ambassador Joe Wilson has said he believes the White House was behind the leak of the identity of his wife to newspaper columnist and *CNN* contributor Robert Novak as retribution for Wilson reveal-

ing flaws in prewar intelligence that said Iraq was trying to buy “yellowcake” uranium ore in Africa.

In an interview Monday with *CNN*, he described the administration as “acting like schoolyard bullies, pulling the hair of a little girl.”



Democrats are prepared to use the debate over a spending bill for Iraq as a forum for criticism.

Senate GOP readies \$87 billion Iraq bill that follows Bush request

WASHINGTON – Senate Republicans readied an \$87 billion package for Iraq and Afghanistan on Monday that would give President Bush less flexibility than he wants and bar using the funds to repay Saddam Hussein’s foreign debts.

But the measure, written by Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, closely tracks most of Bush’s request. That sets the stage for a week of political fireworks focusing mostly on the \$20.3 billion portion — the same amount Bush wants — for rebuilding the economy, public works and government of Iraq.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the bill Stevens circulated to colleagues. Stevens hoped to push the bill through his panel on Tuesday, and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tennessee, said he wanted the full Senate to approve the legislation by week’s end.

“We are at war,” Frist said, explaining why he viewed the bill as urgent. “There’s a war against terrorism. We’re talking about security in Afghanistan and Iraq.”

Republicans and Democrats alike seemed uniformly ready to support the near \$66 billion for U.S. military operations in both countries.

CONTROL, from Page 1

This team of soldiers is the first line of defense in Bagram's force protection scheme. It's their job to ensure that more than 500 vehicles that pass through the gates daily are clear of any type of improvised explosive device or any other dangerous material and to ensure the hundreds of people entering base are authorized to do so.

"This is extremely important for Bagram," said Staff Sgt. Ricky McGehee, 805th MP Co. "There are a lot of lives depending on us in there to stop (potential terrorists) before they can get through the front gate."

And during peak times, especially in the mornings, the situations can get pretty stressful for the soldiers at the gate to Bagram. Many of the frustrations come from the language barrier between the soldiers and the local nationals, according to

McGehee, but they have an interpreter working with them to help keep moving things along.

"We try to be as courteous as possible and build some rapport with the drivers," McGehee said, adding "These guys are pretty friendly, and as long as you're courteous to them they are courteous to you."

Most everyone approaching the gate wants to get in and out as quickly as possible, which is what usually leads to huge traffic jams on the road. Because of all the movement, Staff Sgt. David Morin, Btry. E, 7th FA Regt., 10th Mtn. Div., knows through experience that they have to keep their guard up and can't get complacent when working the roads.

"You have to watch the vehicles and look out for yourself and buddies because you can get hit pretty easily with all the traffic moving around," said Morin, having once

been bumped by a truck while on duty.

Although the days are long for the soldiers at the gate, the job has its good parts, said Spc. Joseph Killins, Btry. E, 7th FA Regt., 10th Mtn. Div.

"The kids are the best part," Killins said, referring to the children who visit everyday to talk and joke around with the soldiers and to sell snacks and drinks to the truck drivers waiting to enter base.

"It's like a bazaar everyday with all the people and the little kids coming out selling stuff and trying to haggle with you for your flashlight or pen," said Sgt. Chris Teague, 805th MP Co.

Even with all the activity and distractions at the gate, the soldiers never lose focus of their mission.

"Check point duty isn't the most glamorous duty, but it's necessary," said Teague. "If anything tries to come through here, we will find it."

Engineers teach Iraqis new construction skills

Story by Pfc. Joshua Hutcheson
101st Airborne Division Public Affairs Office

MOSUL, Iraq – National Guard engineers are building the first of five "House of Hope" projects. Along the way, they're teaching former Iraqi soldiers construction skills they can use to find new jobs.

Soldiers of the 52nd Engineer Company — an Oregon Army National Guard unit attached to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) – believe in the adage "It's better to teach a man to fish and feed him for life," or in this case teach him to build a home and house him for life.

Under the House of Hope project, the former soldiers initially planned to build a house for a family of displaced locals.

But the project quickly grew in size, blossoming into the Village of Hope, where 100 homes are scheduled to be built for 800 people, said Maj. Christopher Lestochi, operations officer, 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

With new skills in masonry, carpentry, electricity, plumbing and other skills used in building, the ex-soldiers will be useful

in rebuilding Iraq, said division officials.

The Village of Hope will replace an abandoned Iraqi military school in the southern part of the city of Mosul that currently houses at least 200 displaced families living in gutted, half collapsed buildings.

The first house built was a prototype three-bedroom house built by the engineers and Kurdish contractors, said 101st Division officials. That house will be the basis of all other homes.

Though some might have larger or smaller rooms, they'll all look like the prototype, said Sgt. Charles Verbrugge, squad leader, Company B, 52nd Eng. Bn.

The construction is to be done under a three-phase process. In the first phase the American engineers taught the Iraqis basic construction skills. The U.S. engineers also had to learn how building is done in the Middle East. The materials and techniques used in Iraq differ from the wood homes the engineers are used to building in Oregon, Verbrugge said.

In the second phase the engineers will supervise the former soldiers as they construct the 100 homes. The prototype was built in a little over a month and a half.

The process should speed up as people hone their skills, Verbrugge said.

"We're teaching them how to build and as we go along it should go faster and faster," he said.

The third phase, the engineers will leave all of the work to the Iraqis. At this point the Iraqi laborers will train their fellow countrymen in construction techniques.

So far, 30 Iraqis are building the village. With proper funding, another 30 people could be hired, eventually leading to the formation of an independent Iraqi construction company, Lestochi said.

The project has been bankrolled by the division's Commander's Emergency Relief Project fund. But that fund might soon dry up, leaving the engineers looking for a new source of money. They have set up meetings with non-governmental organizations to find more funding, Lestochi said.

If funding continues, the project is scheduled to be completed by May.

"This exceeds what we thought we'd do, we had no idea what engineers would be doing (in Mosul)," Verbrugge said. "Being involved with this is great."

RADIO, from Page 1



Spc. Shawn Watkins, Co. B., 3rd Bn., 4th PSYOPS, prepares copies of the programming for Peace radio, it broadcasts Afghan news to the populace.

the idea that with the wave of our magic wand, all of a sudden we can fix everything, he said.

“It’s a long term situation, a long term goal,” said Piña.

The impact that Peace radio actually has on the people of Afghanistan is hard to track. Though troops know that people do hear them, determining who and when is difficult.

“People sometimes are unwilling to come free with information,” said Piña. “Even though they know we’re the good guys, they’re still trying to feel their way through ‘what can I say to this person.’”

The broadcast team is related to the *Peace* newsletter that’s goal is the same; to distribute the truth throughout the country.

“We’re trying to mirror the two sides,” said Piña. “Whatever we’re speaking about on the radio side is what they’re printing on the print side.”

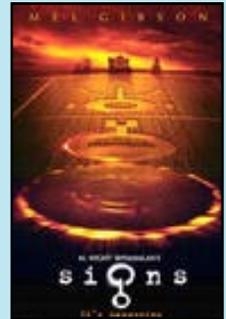
Joining forces helps double the chances that the messages are heard, increasing the possibility for peace and prosperity in the country.

Though keeping the radio station up and running is hard work, Piña says it does have its advantages.

“Looking at it from an American standpoint and looking at these people living in this country, the gap between us and them is tremendously large,” said Piña. “It’s somewhat humbling (doing this job) because you’re making an affect on people’s lives.”

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Signs.” A family living on a farm finds mysterious crop circles in their fields which suggests something more frightening to come.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “Undercover Brother.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Wednesday
Bagram:	Scattered TSTMS H: 73F L: 46F	Scattered TSTMS H: 75F L: 50F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 73F L: 54F	Dusty H: 73F L: 54F
Kabul:	Scattered TSMTS H: 77F L: 43F	Haze H: 77F L: 46F
Uzbekistan:	Partly cloudy H: 80F L: 44F	Partly cloudy H: 82F L: 48F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Packers ruin debut of New Soldier Field with 38-23 blowout

CHICAGO — New Soldier Field or old Soldier Field, it makes little difference. Ahman Green, Brett Favre and the rest of the Green Bay Packers just love to play the Chicago Bears.



Antuan Edwards breaks up a pass intended for Chicago's Marty Booker.

Green ran for 176 yards on 19 carries, and Favre threw three touchdown passes, leading the Packers past the Bears 38-23 Monday night.

The Packers (2-2) won for the 17th time in the last 19 meetings between the NFL's oldest rivals, building a 24-6 halftime lead against the winless Bears (0-3).

Favre improved his career record against the Bears to 19-4 and has now directed 10 straight road wins against Chicago. He also reached another milestone, jumping ahead of Dan Fouts to No. 5 on the career passing yards list with a total of 43,089.

Favre completed 21 of 30 passes for 179 yards. Green ran for two TDs — one an early 60-yarder.

When the Bears got within eight points in the final quarter, Favre put it away with a pair of TD passes, a 9-yarder to Javon Walker with 8:51 remaining and a 1-yarder to Bubba Franks with 4:21 left.

Favre also connected with William Henderson on a 14-yard scoring pass in the first half and now has 47 career TD passes against the Bears — his most against any team.

The Bears, booed in their new-look stadium that is part of a \$606 million lakefront beautification project, appeared to get back in the game with 12:36 left when Anthony Thomas broke off a 67-yard TD run to make it 24-16.

But then the Packers responded, moving 64 yards in seven plays. Green's 32-yard run through the porous Chicago defense move the ball to the 13. Minutes later, Favre rolled right and found Walker alone in the corner of the end zone.

49ers' slide worsen, Owens and Garcia openly fued Monday

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Though Terrell Owens has feuded with coaches and criticized teammates during his tumultuous tenure with the San Francisco 49ers, he had always stayed on his quarterback's good side — until now.

The relationship between Owens and Jeff Garcia appears strained after a disastrous weekend trip to Minnesota for the 49ers, who fell

to 1-3 with a 35-7 loss to the Vikings.



Terrell Owens

Owens directed blame and shame at his entire team during a postgame diatribe at the Metrodome — and for the first time, Garcia was a target. Owens stopped just short of suggesting the three-time Pro Bowl quarterback should be benched after finding his All-Pro receiver for just five catches for 55 yards and no touchdowns.

On Monday, the 49ers' quarterbacks and receivers watched film together as usual. Garcia and Owens didn't say a word to each other.

"Either we're all in this together, or some changes have to be made," Garcia said. "This is a team effort, and there's not any one individual that is above the team."

Coach Dennis Erickson met with Owens in the morning, but he didn't discipline his star receiver for the latest in a long line of questionable behavior. Owens didn't speak to reporters Monday.

Owens' oblique criticisms of Garcia were grounded in fact. Garcia might have played his worst game for San Francisco, going 11-of-23 for 108 yards and three interceptions before giving way to backup Tim Rattay in the fourth quarter.

"That's not my position to say we need a quarterback change, but Rat did a good job when he was in there," said Owens, who also admired Rattay's 37-yard TD pass to Tai Streets. "It's been a long time since I've seen that. He threw it deep and gave us a chance. That's all you can ever ask as a receiver."

Hell hath no fury, Warner's wife criticizes Rams Monday in radio interview

ST. LOUIS — The wife of benched St. Louis Rams quarterback



Kurt Warner

Kurt Warner sounded off again Monday, saying in a radio interview that a trade would be welcomed after the season if the situation stayed the same.

Last season, Brenda Warner called a radio show to complain that she — and not coach Mike Martz — had suggested that the two-time MVP have his injured hand X-rayed. The X-ray revealed a broken hand that Warner had been playing with.

On Monday, Brenda Warner told "Steve and D.C." on The Mall that her husband wouldn't mind changing teams.

"Probably, just from the point that we want to play, he wants to play, plain and simple," Brenda Warner said. "So, if he's not going to play here, then he wants to play somewhere."

"You just want to be wanted, like anybody, whether you're a D.J. or whatever you do."

Marc Bulger has started ahead of Warner the last two weeks, although Martz said at the time of the change that it wasn't necessarily permanent. Brenda Warner reiterated that a new city would be fine if her husband doesn't get his starting job back.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Afghans, U.S. troops know where terrorists are

Story by Paul Hornak, Times Staff Writer

AFGHANISTAN (*Watertown Daily Times*) – On a knob of wind-blown earth between Orgun-E and the Pir Kotay Valley, a caravan of Humvees came upon an unlikely sight: beehives row upon row, and by the roadside in recycled plastic water bottles, fresh honey for sale.

Sgt. 1st Class James D. Gannaway, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, was willing to buy. But the apiary owner refused his dollars. Only Pakistani money accepted, he was told.

Though 20 rugged miles away from the international border, Pir Kotay, like much of eastern Afghanistan, looks for income - and, U.S. officers say, political and religious guidance - to a doubtful American ally in the war on terror. Pakistan claims to support Washington's hunt for al Qaeda and the Taliban. But U.S. troops on the ground tell a different story.

"Sanctuary" is how Maj. Paul Willie of 1/87 characterized what Pakistan means to terrorists.

Though he was careful to distinguish between the lawless Northwest Frontier Province from the rest of the country, he minced no words in describing the lay of the land. There is, for him, Afghanistan's displaced terrorists hiding in western Pakistan, and their target the Karzai government in Kabul, with the United States - specifically, the 10th Mountain Division - in the middle.

"Our presence creates a buffer," he said. "We're buying the Afghan army time to train up and get into these areas."

The military has been pointing fingers at Pakistan at least since the 2001 battle at Shah-e-Kot, near the eastern city of Gardez, which officials say probably drove most Taliban and al-Qaida across the border. Maj. Gen. Franklin L. Hagenbeck, coalition ground forces commander at the time, contemplated hot pursuit of escaping enemy in the days following the fight, but diplomatic hurdles proved formidable.

U.S. officers continue to speak respectfully of the government of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf while voicing unmistakable frustration that tribal lands along the border remain militarily out of bounds.

"The Pakistani government is doing its best to eliminate the sanctuary," Maj. Willie said of the tribal areas, which he said include a nebulous, disputed territory called Waziristan. "They're almost their own independent country. The Pakistan government has to ask permission to bring in government forces there."

Civil affairs troops familiar with the region say "terrorist bazaars" in western Pakistan deal in guns, bombs and, lately, satellite phones. These find their way across the dusty passes into Khost, Paktia and Paktika provinces where the 10th Division is responsible for keeping the peace.

Provincial leaders take blame a step further, saying that if you want to find the Taliban's supermarket, drive directly east.

"Pakistan is providing them weapons, satellite phones and motorbikes," said a deputy governor who declined to be named.

Gannaway leads patrols into the hot spots around Orgun-E firebase. He said local coordination with Pakistan-based "bad guys" is blatant. "You'll see a shop owner pick up a cell phone after we go by. Out here there's no other reason for having them," he said.

Another soldier in 1/87, Staff Sgt. Brian T. Wood, is familiar with Afghanistan's eastern provinces from the 10th's earlier tour, 2001-02. He noted a key difference.

"Last time, they were on the mountain," he said, referring to Shah-e-Kot. "This time, they're in town too. Like the North Vietnamese, they blend in with the populace."

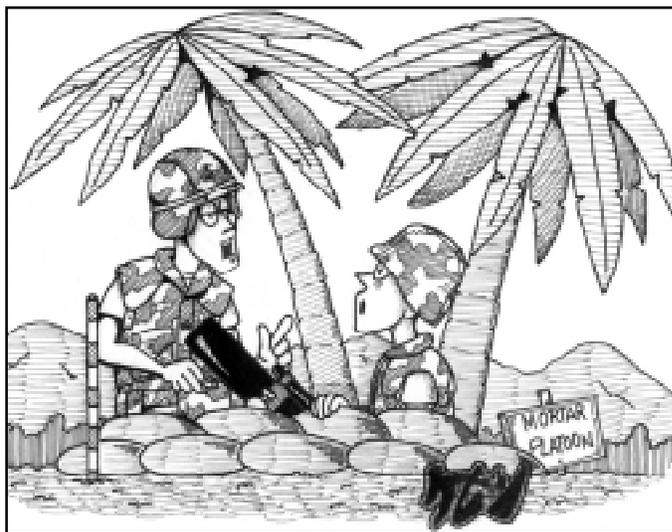
He wasn't the only one to see parallels with Vietnam. Maj. Kevin Harvill, who is based in Kandahar with the 10th Forward Support Battalion, compared the Taliban's cross-border incursions with the Vietnamese in Cambodia.

"There's no jungle, but they have caves and mountains, so it's very similar," he said.

An Afghan interpreter for the U.S. forces who identified himself only as Abdullah said that in addition to the Taliban, the Pir Kotay Valley is home turf to a warlord openly opposed to President Hamid Karzai. The warlord makes periodic raids, hiding out in Pakistan, Abdullah said.

Army officials say, not unsympathetically, that villagers in the valley get hit coming and going.

"Due to ammo shortages, battalion wants us to use MRE brownies instead."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support