

## 82nd joins Operation Warrior Sweep



Soldiers from Co. B, 2-505th Inf. Reg., 82nd Abn. Div., set up an overlook position high in the mountains in the Ayubkhel Valley in southeast Afghanistan during Operation Warrior Sweep.

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

*Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series on the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division's participation in Operation Warrior Sweep.*

**AYUBKHEL VALLEY**, Afghanistan – More than 600 soldiers of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division began their part in Operation Warrior Sweep, one of the largest combat operations in Afghanistan since Operation Anaconda, early morning July 23.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Co. A and Co. B, from 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, and Co. C from 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Inf. Regt.,

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## Soldier answers 'To Any Service Member'

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – “Dear Mr. Charles, ...” are the opening words to the treasured letter sent by a curious, dedicated 13-year-old girl from Georgia.

The recipient of these letters, each sprinkled with colorful stickers and drawings, and riddled with question about the military, is Staff Sgt. Charles Horn, a chaplain's assistant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, CJTF-180.

Horn said he first saw her letter at the American Red Cross building in February, his first month on Bagram Air Field. The letter was addressed to ‘Any Service

Member,’ and he picked this particular letter up because the sender's name caught his eye.

“Her name is Victoria,” said Horn. “My oldest daughter's name is Victoria.”

The name was what compelled Horn to write back, and when he did, he included some Afghani currency he acquired at a bazaar.

“I went to the bazaar, and I got some of the Afghani money, and I stuck some of the Afghani money in my letter and wrote her back,” said Horn. He said he was a little surprised when she wrote back. Many ‘Any Service Member’ letters are from children who are just completing a school project, said Horn.

“The first letter I got back from her was three pages long, so she's a writer,” said

Horn. “She has a lot of the same interests as my own daughter Victoria.”

She wrote about her outings with her family and her favorite pastimes, and she sent a picture of her family, said Horn.

“When I saw she had four other kids in the family, I sent her a box, and I sent each of the other kids something as well.”

Horn said he enjoys corresponding with his Pen Pal because, “I'm use to having a big family.”

His own children are about the same ages as Victoria and her siblings, so he finds it easy to talk with his Pen pal.

“I usually talk about the weather, what I do, and how I got to drive a stick shift with the steering wheel on the other side of the

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. soldiers secure the site of Monday's attack in Baghdad.

## Saddam's hometown raided

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — As U.S. troops continued forays into Saddam Hussein's ancestral home of Tikrit, one American soldier was killed and three wounded in an attack Monday in central Baghdad, U.S. military officials said.

"An unknown number of individuals dropped an improvised explosive device from an overpass" onto a 1st Armored Division convoy traveling in Baghdad's al Rashid district, U.S. Central Command said.

The military said two of the wounded were released to their unit and the third was undergoing treatment. Earlier, witnesses said two of the soldiers were killed by what appeared to be a grenade.

The attack was the latest of almost daily guerrilla strikes against U.S. soldiers. Since President Bush declared major combat over on May 1, 49 U.S. troops have died in hostile action. A total of 247 U.S. troops have been killed since the Iraq war began in March.

Meanwhile, soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division searched three homes in a Tikrit neighborhood Monday and found a large arms and ammunition cache.

U.S. officials said troops are closing in on Saddam Hussein and that the raids were important in gaining intelligence on the deposed dictator and his supporters.

## Bob Hope dead at 100

**CNN** — Bob Hope, the legendary comedian whose quick wit, daring personality and ski-sloped nose made him an icon of 20th-century entertainment, has died. He was 100.

Hope died at 9:28 p.m. Sunday (12:28 a.m.

Monday ET) at his home in Toluca Lake, north of Hollywood, his publicist, Ward Grant, told *CNN*. His death came less than two months after his 100th birthday, which was celebrated May 29.

"Dad had an amazing send-off. All of the family was together with him and he died very peacefully last night, just about 9:30," his daughter Linda said at a press conference. "I don't think you could have asked for a more peaceful, beautiful death. And I think all the good vibes that he put out during his lifetime came back to take him up."

"Making people happy, bringing joy to whatever room he came into — I think that was his goal in life, and he shared that with his family as much as he shared that with the world," his granddaughter, Miranda Hope, told *CNN* Monday morning.

Hope's career covered almost every example of mass entertainment of the 20th century. He first earned fame on the vaudeville circuit, starred on the Broadway stage, moved over to movies and radio, then made generations laugh with five decades of television specials.

Moreover, he was a tireless stage performer, particularly when it came to military audiences. Hope was synonymous with entertaining U.S. troops, putting on shows during World War II, Korea, Vietnam and on through the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Hope's efforts earned him the monikers of "Mr. Entertainment" and "The King of Comedy." He appeared in more than 75 films, starred in more than 475 TV programs and 1,000-plus radio programs.

## On the road again — Texas Democrats flee state

**AUSTIN, Texas** — Democratic state lawmakers fled Texas on Monday for the second time in three months to thwart a Republican drive to redraw the state's congressional districts.

Eleven of the 12 Democrats in the state Senate left for Albuquerque, New Mexico, as a first special session called by the governor to address redistricting drew to a close and he called a second special session, scheduled to begin Wednesday. The sec-

ond session could last as long as 30 days.

In May, during the regular spring session, the Republicans tried to push redistricting toward a vote in the GOP-controlled state House. But 51 Democrats in that chamber fled across the state line to Oklahoma to block a quorum, killing the bill.

Republicans are pressing for more seats in the state's 32-member delegation in the U.S. House; the Democrats currently hold a 17-15 advantage. Republicans say that ratio does not reflect the state's increasingly Republican voting patterns.



Harvey Milk High School will open in this newly renovated New York City building in the fall.

## First public gay high school to open in New York City

**NEW YORK** — New York City is creating the nation's first public high school for gays, bisexuals and transgender students.

The Harvey Milk High School will enroll about 100 students and open in a newly renovated building in the fall. It is named after San Francisco's first openly gay city supervisor, who was assassinated in 1978.

"I think everybody feels that it's a good idea because some of the kids who are gays and lesbians have been constantly harassed and beaten in other schools," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

The new school's principal, William Salzman, said the school will be academically challenging and will follow mandatory English and math programs.

# 210th FSB and ANA partner to transform DFAC

**KABUL**, Afghanistan – Trainers from the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division’s 210<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion (FSB), working in conjunction with Afghan National Army (ANA) leadership, are ensuring that non-combat losses are kept to a minimum, and morale is kept as high as possible when it comes to meals.

The requirements to feed the ANA soldiers pose not only significant logistical challenges of preparing 18,000 hot meals daily at four different locations around Afghanistan, but also ensuring they are prepared to standard.

Recently, Co. C, 210<sup>th</sup> FSB, taught a basic preventive medicine services class to

the ANA Principal of Logistics and cooks from the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC) Dining Facility.

The class stressed the basics of proper food handling and personal hygiene practices and was well received by all involved.

In addition to the Preventive Medicine training and inspections, new screens on windows, fly bait positioned in proper places, and use of cleaning supplies are all being employed, which in, will lead to higher standards.

Dining facilities now have signs over the new sinks, which now having running water and soap. These improvements also lead to additional cleanliness.

These improvements symbolize the



Courtesy Photo

**Soldiers from the 210th FSB conduct Preventive Medicine classes as part of the ANA dining facility transformation.**

professional, joint commitment of the Coalition and ANA leadership to improving the soldiers’ quality of life.

*(Information from CJTF-180 Press Release)*

## **WARRIOR**, from Page 1

82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division air assaulted into the mountains at elevations topping 10,500 feet in the Ayubkhel Valley in the southeast part of the country.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn. Div. soldiers joined a coalition force of more than 3000 soldiers, which included Italian Task Force Nibbio, out of Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khowst, and six Afghan National Army companies in Zormat, that were participating in their first major combat operation.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn. Div.’s mission was to set up blocking positions to intercept any anti-coalition or anti-government forces that may have been traveling in the valley. The valley was the primary travel route used by the Taliban and al-Qaeda



**82nd Abn. Div. soldiers clear one of caves they find in the Ayubkhel Valley in southeast Afghanistan during Operation Warrior Sweep. No sign of al-Qaeda or Taliban weapons were found in the cave.**

forces during Operation Anaconda last year.

For two days the 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn. Div. soldiers held their blocking positions but didn’t encounter any enemy forces.

On the third day of operation they were given a follow-on mission.

They received intelligence reports that there were al-Qaeda personnel within the valley at a nearby village and so they were sent to move in and intercept them or any military weapons and intelligence, according to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Che Atkinson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon leader, 2-505<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg., 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn. Div.

“The Taliban and al-Qaeda, they’re cowards, and they’re going to hit and run, and as long as they’re running we’re going to follow them,” Atkinson said.

The soldiers picked up everything and moved throughout the day, traveling six miles from the original landing zone through rugged terrain to a nearby village.

“The terrain was treacherous,” according to Co. B 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. LaMarquis Knowles, 2-505 Inf. Reg., 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn. Div.

“Soldiers were under pretty heavy loads in addition to having to walk on ‘goat trails.’ I know they weren’t designed for these 12 wides [boot size],” Knowles said referring to difficulty of soldiers walking on the narrow dirt trails that wind around the mountains. Some soldiers carried loads in excess of 100 pounds, Knowles added.

The soldiers would also search Afghan homes and caves they would encounter during their movement, but nothing was found.

On the fourth day the soldiers began the “cordon and search” phase of their mission in the village where they had received reports of Taliban and al-Qaeda activity.

**SOLDIER**, from Page 1



Staff Sgt. Charles Horn, HHC, CJTF-180, reads a letter from his pen pal, Victoria. He started conversing with her in February.

car,” said Horn.

“Sometimes the whole family gets involved,” he said. In June, Victoria’s family sent Horn a care package that included coffee, hot cocoa and other various goodies, he said. “Her little sister also drew a picture for me.”

Horn said that he’s touched that Victoria’s family has stayed in touch with him.

“I’ll probably send them something before I leave,” he said.

So far, Horn has received a letter a month, and says he will continue to write until he leaves Bagram. “Victoria’s a good kid,” he said. “She took the time to write me, so I’m going to take the time to write her back.”

Horn said that he encourages anybody to pick up an “Any Service Member’ letter, and find a new Pen Pal.

“I think being over here helps with corresponding because it passes the time,” said Horn.

And at the end of each letter Horn receives, the girl from Georgia scribbles the sincere words: “Your Pen Pal, Victoria.”

# Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Antwone Fisher.” Antwone Fisher, a young navy man, is forced to see a psychiatrist after a violent outburst against a fellow crewman. During the course of treatment a painful past is revealed and a new hope begins.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “Harry Potter.”



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Wednesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Mostly clear H: 97F L: 72F	Mostly clear H: 97F L: 72F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 108F L: 82F	Dusty H: 108F L: 84F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze H: 99F L: 72F	Haze H: 97F L: 72F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Dusty H: 93F L: 57F	Sunny H: 94F L: 54F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Bill Parcells is looking to teach the young Cowboys how to win.

## Parcells doesn't waste time displaying passion

**SAN ANTONIO** — Twelve years into a brilliant career, one in which Darren Woodson's resume includes more tackles than anyone else in club annals, five Pro Bowl appearances and three Super Bowl rings, the standout strong safety is one of the most recognizable and respected players on the Dallas Cowboys roster.

He is one of few remaining links to the halcyon days of "America's Team." Has actually worked now for five of the six head coaches in franchise history. And owns a perspective that is virtually unique on a roster where only about half the players on the Alamodome playing surface for Saturday morning's first training camp practice had earned the right to wear the trademark Cowboys star on the side of their helmets.

But there was Woodson on Friday night, being called out by a head coach he outnumbers in Super Bowl rings, 3-2, and cautioned in front of assembled teammates in a full-squad meeting that he had better not take his paycheck for granted. And there was "Woody" on Saturday morning, with a thin strip of athletic tape bearing his surname in black marker, stretched across the front of his helmet, as

if he were some callow rookie.

Yeah, the 'Boys are back in town. But, more significantly, Bill Parcells is back again in the NFL. And for a Cowboys team that has taken symmetry to a disastrous extreme, with three consecutive finishes of 5-11, that means everyone, yeah, even Darren Woodson, is subject to scrutiny by a coach with few preconceived notions and even fewer loyalties to the charges now under his stewardship.

## Baylor comes to grips with Dennehy death

**WACO, Texas** — Baylor University officials said Monday they were grief-stricken and trying to come to terms with the death of basketball player Patrick Dennehy and the murder charge against a former teammate.

Dennehy, a 6-foot-10 center, had been missing about six weeks. His body was found Friday night in a field three miles south of town and was identified Sunday.

"This is especially difficult because the grief is compounded by the unbelievable sense of the occurrence and the unimaginable way he came to die," basketball coach Dave Bliss said Monday.

Carlton Dotson, who played basketball at Baylor last season and had been living with Dennehy since spring, was arrested last week in his home state of Maryland on a murder charge from Texas. Dotson, 21, remains jailed without bond, awaiting extradition to Texas.

Dennehy's funeral is to be held at Jubilee Christian Center, a Pentecostal church in San Jose, Calif., later this week or early next week, said pastor Dick Bernal. Dennehy's mother wanted his funeral and burial to be in San Jose because he was at his happiest there and it was his home, Bernal said.

A campus-wide memorial service for Dennehy is being planned for September at Baylor, the world's largest Baptist university with 14,000 students.

In a statement, Baylor President Robert B. Sloan Jr. said the school was in a period of "unspeakable grief." He said the university has suffered the "heart-wrenching loss" of student deaths in the past "but never in such a startling and perplexing manner."

## Hemofarm Vrsac says it has Detroit Piston's Darko Milicic through 2009

**DETROIT** — Darko Milicic's European team has sued his agent, seeking at least \$10 million in damages for encouraging the Detroit Pistons' draft pick to pursue an NBA career.

In the lawsuit, Hemofarm Vrsac claims agent Marc Cornstein and Pinnacle Management Corp. interfered with Milicic's European contract. Milicic has played for Hemofarm since 2000, and the club says it has him under contract through 2009.

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“Despite their knowledge of Milicic’s contract with Hemofarm (Cornstein and Pinnacle) began advertising Milicic to NBA teams and the public at large as a player available to be selected in the 2003 NBA draft,” according to the lawsuit filed Friday in New York.

Natasha Cornstein, the wife and spokeswoman of Milicic’s agent, said Monday evening they had not seen the lawsuit.

“We’re shocked by this development,” Cornstein said. “We have worked tirelessly with Hemofarm and the Pistons to reach an amicable solution and we remain optimistic that this will resolve swiftly.”

Pistons spokesman Kevin Grigg said the team had no comment.

Hemofarm says it trained Milicic in its youth basketball program, paid for the player’s room and board, and arranged employment for his mother at pharmaceutical company Hemofarm Group, which sponsors the team. It claims Pinnacle ignored those investments in Milicic.

“Hemofarm has attempted to negotiate with Pinnacle and clear the way for Darko to start his NBA career,” Robert Lanza, one of the lawyers representing Hemofarm, said in a statement. “But Pinnacle refused to join in a good faith effort toward a resolution.”



*Sergio Garcia tees off as his Phil Mickelson watches. The pair beat out Tiger Woods and Ernie Els in the “Battle of the Bridges.”*

### Mickelson, Garcia best Woods, Els

**RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif.** — Phil Mickelson and Sergio Garcia saved their best golf for the bright lights.

Mickelson and Garcia, both winless this year in tournaments that count, stole the spotlight from the world’s best two players Monday night by beating Tiger Woods and Ernie Els, 2 and 1, in the “Battle at the Bridges.”

It was the fifth version of Monday Night Golf, the made-for-TV exhibition designed to bring golf to prime time. This one featured the best golf and the least amount of fun.

All four of them were grinding, halving seven straight holes on the back nine as Mickelson and Garcia, who never trailed, clung to a 1-up lead.

When the sun dropped behind the foothills and the lights came on, Garcia and Mickelson shined. Both hit their second shots over the water to the 571-yard 16th hole.

Els hit his approach into the water, while Woods caught a bunker left of the green. Garcia, who had missed several birdie putts that could have given his team a big lead, finally came through with a 30-footer that was true as soon as it left his putter. That gave them a 2-up lead, and they closed out Woods and Els on the 17th hole when the Nos. 1 and 2 players in the world failed to come close to a birdie.

### Reds send Bowden, Boone packing

**CINCINNATI**— General manager Jim Bowden and manager Bob Boone were fired Monday by the Cincinnati Reds, who failed to live up to expectations in a new ballpark.

The clubhouse was closed and the moves were announced shortly before an afternoon makeup game against the Philadelphia Phillies. Bench coach Ray Knight ran the team for the day.

Triple-A Louisville manager Dave Miley will run the Reds on an interim basis for the rest of the season.

The Reds also fired hitting coach Tom Robson and third base coach Tim Foli, who were brought in by Boone. The Reds are last in the NL in pitching and have the worst defense in the majors.

Bowden and Boone were in the final years of their contracts and were under pressure to win in the first season at Great American Ball Park. Bowden was in charge of a rebuilding that was supposed to bring a winner in 2003, but the team was 46-58 when he was fired.

Allen said the club won’t hire a general manager until after the World Series.

**"Now for the real miracle in modern technology, getting all of this stuff to fit in your ALICE pack."**



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support