

Events spice up palace

By Pfc. Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Friday the thirteenth marked the beginning of an event-filled weekend at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Dragon Palace.

Spc. Rick Robinson and Pfc. Christina Carde both of the 11th Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Polk, La. hosted the weekend's events.

Robinson hosted a spades tournament Friday. This is Robinson's third event.

"I only planned on doing one, but when I knew that I could have the Friday the thirteenth slot, I decided to do it," said Robinson.

The night proved to be a success, according to Robinson.

"Yea, I learned from the previous two. It

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Photo by Pfc. Terri Rorke

Happy birthday...

The oldest soldier here, Staff Sgt. Thomas L. Billings, 56, Aviation Division, Combined Joint Task Force-180 and the youngest, Pfc. Michael Fleshman, 18, CJTF - 180, cut a cake in the Joint Operations Center in celebration for the U.S. Army's 228th birthday Saturday.

Louisiana engineers host fun run

By Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Wearing "5-K Beer Run" T-shirts and carrying company guidons, 186 American and coalition forces lined up on Disney Drive Saturday, to begin the five-kilometer Mine-Field Beer Run.

Knowing that the title "Beer Run" would spark the interest of troops from many different backgrounds, the soldiers of the 527th Engineer Battalion, Ruston, La., thought it would be the perfect way to have some fun and foster good relations with their coalition counterparts.

"Every Louisianan knows one thing — we love our beer," said Sgt. 1st Class Ron

Grafton, battalion personnel and services noncommissioned officer in charge, 527th. "Since alcoholic beverages aren't allowed in theater, we figured some near beer or O'Doul's would be the next best thing as far as refreshments to end the run."

Even though the idea of a beer run seemed like a fun and easy way to get troops to come together, the event still took a lot of thought and planning.

"Capt. Larry Benton, S1 (personnel officer) for the battalion, first had the idea for the beer run about six weeks ago," said Grafton. "After a few meetings, some planning we decided it was a good idea and started advertising."

To ensure the success of the event, the

527th went through different sponsors and had fundraisers for prizes.

"Quality (beer) Brands Incorporated sponsored the 5-K Minefield Beer Run signs for the event, which were posted in different locations around post," said Grafton. "We also made our own flyers and sold more than 200 T-shirts for \$10 a piece sponsored by DHL. The proceeds from the T-shirts went to purchase the O'Doul's and prizes for the event."

In addition to free near beer for all of the competitors, a \$50 Post Exchange gift-certificate, a one-month front-of-the-line PX

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. troops screen people entering and leaving Fallujah.

U.S. begins new operation in Iraq

FALLUJAH, Iraq — American troops in Iraq began a new operation Sunday that targets “Baath party loyalists, terrorist organizations and criminal elements” and delivers humanitarian aid to Iraqis outside Baghdad, according to the U.S. Central Command.

U.S. military officials called Operation Desert Scorpion the largest deployment in Iraq since April 7, the height of the U.S.-led war.

The operation began early Sunday with raids in the town of Fallujah, where elements believed to be loyal to the toppled regime of Saddam Hussein have launched repeated attacks against U.S. troops.

A spokesman for the U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Fla., said the operation would include military actions throughout Iraq.

Capsized boat search ends

CNN — The search for two men missing off the northwestern coast of Oregon after a charter fishing boat carrying 19 people capsized in high surf has been halted, the Coast Guard said Sunday.

Barry Sundberg of Cheney, Washington, and Tim Albus of Madras, Oregon, are presumed dead, Petty Officer Anthony Juarez told CNN. Nine other people died in the accident, which occurred about 7 a.m. Saturday.

“The Coast Guard has saturated the whole area, searching since 7:30 yesterday to about 9:20 today,” Juarez said. “It’s unfortunate, but we have not found the two gentlemen.”

The 32-foot Taki Too capsized when a large wave swept over its side as it slipped into the Pacific Ocean by way of a narrow channel cut through the bar that separates Tillamook Bay from the larger body.

Freedom likely for dozen held in Texas drug sting

TULIA, Texas — At least a dozen people convicted by the testimony of an officer later indicted on perjury charges are expected to be freed on bond Monday while their cases are reviewed.

On July 23, 1999, a high-profile drug sweep in Tulia rounded up 46 alleged drug dealers. All but seven of those arrested that day were African-Americans — 10 percent of the black population of this town of about 5,000 between Lubbock and Amarillo.

Seven of the cases were dropped, and the rest of the accused ended up in prison or on probation. Sixteen remain in custody.

Senator: U.S. force may be needed in Mideast

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces could help target Palestinian militant groups if the Palestinians’ new prime minister is unable to persuade them to end their deadly campaign against Israel, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said Sunday.

Speaking on “Fox News Sunday,” Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Indiana, said it “may be the conclusion” that an international force is needed to stop the violence and if so, “it is possible that there will be an American participation.”

“But having said that, I would just say this is down the trail,” he said. “We have to be very, very careful about the use of American forces, whether they are to be all by themselves, whether with NATO, whether with the U.N., with whoever.”

Four killed in skydiving plane crash

WASHINGTON — Four people were killed when a small plane crashed on takeoff from Greensburg Jeannette Regional Airport in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Sunday afternoon, authorities said.

The plane, a Cessna 205, took off at 1:15 p.m. for a skydiving operation, said Arlene Salac, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration’s Eastern Region.

Salac said four of the five people on board were killed. CNN affiliate KDKA reported that the fifth person was taken to Mercy Hospital.

Wills accused of driving too fast

LONDON — An angry aristocrat on Sunday accused Prince William of driving too fast on his estate, while a royal official separately denied reports the young prince has a long-distance romance.

The driving incident occurred Saturday on Lord Bathurst’s estate in western England where the Cirencester Polo Club plays. William was driving on unpaved roads when he came up behind Bathurst’s vehicle and overtook it, as did the police car with him, a club spokesman said.

Bathurst then hit his horn and set out after the Volkswagen, pursuing it for about 400 yards.

“The rule is 20 mph on the road but he was doing 30-40 when he overtook me,” Bathurst said. “There are rules ... about driving in the estate and people have to stick to them.”

U.S. and Russia at odds over Iran

CNN — The U.N. energy watchdog is to discuss a new report on Iran’s nuclear program this week amid claims from some U.S. experts that Tehran could have a nuclear bomb developed by 2006.

Since 1995, Russia has been helping Iran to build a nuclear power plant near Bushehr — a deal worth at least \$800 million to Moscow.

Both countries say it is purely for civilian purposes, to provide light-water reactors for a power plant. But the U.S. says Iran could use that technology to build a bomb.

The disagreement has become a major stumbling block in U.S.-Russian relations. Now, there are signs coming from Russian President Vladimir Putin that Moscow’s position could be shifting.

At his recent summit in St. Petersburg with U.S. President George W. Bush, Putin said: “The positions of Russia and the United States on the issue are closer than they seem.”

B-ball tournament held for family type atmosphere

Story and photo by
Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The first Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored basketball tournament was held Sunday.

“It was something special for Father’s Day,” said Jimmy Ferrazas, Kellogg, Brown and Root labor foreman/Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff. “This is the type of environment you enjoy with family. It gives (the servicemembers) a chance to escape and feel at home.”

Sixteen teams competed in the tournament playing to 11 points or for 15 minutes, with a two minute half time. The final game had Company C, 27th Engineer Battalion facing the 527th Engineer Battalion. The 527th won, 11-5.

“Our team played hard. We set a goal at the beginning of the tournament to take the tournament for our unit. It was a team effort,” said the 527th center, Spc. James Doaty.

The winning team received socks and a trophy donated by Kellogg, Brown and Root.

In conjunction with the tournament, a barbeque was held and some servicemembers even took some time out to play dominoes.

Originally the event was planned as a flag football tournament, but MWR was not



Sixteen teams competed in the tournament playing to 11 points or for 15 minutes, with a two minute half time. The final game had Company C, 27th Engineer Battalion facing the 527th Engineer Battalion. The 527th won, 11-5.

sure what the interest in that would be. At a previous basketball tournament, they saw the interest was there for basketball so they decided to hold one of their own. The next event will probably be flag football.

“Since it was Father’s Day we figured we’d do something we knew people would show up to. We figured we would have a good turnout because of the previous tournament,” said Ferrazas.

Soldiers volunteered to cook, score keep and referee. MWR appreciated this help as

did many of the soldiers.

“It’s great that on their day off they are willing to come out and support their fellow soldiers. The reactions are all really positive when soldiers see other soldiers helping out,” said Ferrazas.

Overall Ferrazas was happy with the tournament and the barbeque.

“It was a success,” he said. “It was a good atmosphere with people playing games and coming out to watch. It brought people out of their tents and that’s what we wanted.”

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ran more smoothly and there was a fair-sized crowd,” he said.

Fifty-two players in 26 teams competed to win the top prize of a compact disc player with speakers.

The winners were Sgt. Michelle Jones of the 126th Finance Battalion and Staff Sgt. Keith A. Williams of the 229th Aviation Regiment, both from Fort Bragg, N.C. Staff Sgt. Adrian B. Thompson and Staff Sgt. Michael Hodnett both of the 159th Aviation Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C. won second place and each received a 100-minute phone card.

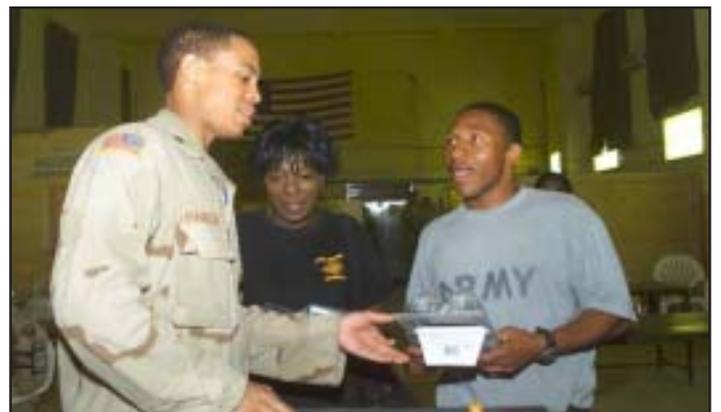
Saturday, the volume was turned up and salsa and merengue music shook the walls as dancers cleared the floor, partying the night away.

“The first one went well. I had a lot of people ask me to have another one so I decided to do one more before I left. I hope someone carries the tradition on,” said Carde.

The crowd not only included U.S. servicemembers but coalition members also.

“It was good to see all the coalition there,” said Carde.

“The 11th (Public Affairs Detachment) hosted an entire weekend



Spc. Rick Robinson, 11th Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Polk, La., hands the spades tournament winners, Sgt. Michelle Jones, 126th Finance Battalion, and Staff Sgt. Keith Williams, 229th Aviation Regiment, both from Fort Bragg, N.C., their first place prize of a compact disc player with speakers at the Morale, Welfare, Recreation’s Dragon Palace Friday.

of MWR’s events,” said Andrew Solomon, MWR coordinator. That’s impressive for a very small section, he said of the eight-person unit. “I really appreciate that.”

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pass, and free T-shirts were given to the first four runners to cross the finish line. A prize was even reserved for the last person to finish the race for a special reason.

“One of the soldiers from our battalion and his wife walked the whole way instead of running because she had an injured knee,” said Grafton. “He was the last person to finish the race because he let his wife cross the finish line in front of him. We thought he deserved a \$25 gift certificate and as a joke, we gave him a sign to wear the next time he runs that says ‘Caution: Slow runner ahead.’”

Approximately 20 minutes after the fog horn was heard to begin the run, Mike Franzak, VMA 513th, Marine Support Squadron, Yuma, Ariz., crossed the finish line with a time of 20:15 winning 1st place for the males in the over 30-category. About two minutes later, Matthew Luzzatto, base operations engineering, came sprinting in, finishing at 22:46 placing 1st for the males in the under 30-category.

Lea McLamore, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 527th took 1st place for the females over 30 with at time of 31:25 and Heather McGuffee, HHC, 527th, placed 1st for the females under 30 with 33:16.

Of the 186 competitors, one soldier took the term “beer run” perhaps a little too literally.

“It’s been so long since I’ve had a beer, I almost forgot what one tasted like,” said Jason Klump, engineer, HHC, 527th, as he crossed the finish line holding two empty cans of O’Doul’s. “Drinking this stuff while running isn’t the best feeling in the world, but it was a good kind of pain.”

At the end of the event, competitors and spectators, came together to socialize and relax with some free non-alcoholic beverages.

“This event was a good chance to get to know the other services and coalition forces and for them to get to know us better,” said Grafton. “Sometimes people misconceive what we’re about because we’re a National Guard unit. We just wanted to show them that whether active, reserve or National Guard, we put the uniform on just like they did to come out here and serve our country.”



At the sound of the fog horn U.S. and coalition servicemembers began the five-kilometer Mine-Field Beer Run Saturday.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 91F L: 57F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 97F L: 57F
Kandahar:	<i>Clear</i> H: 106F L: 68F	<i>Dust</i> H: 106F L: 72F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 91F L: 54F	<i>Haze</i> H: 90F L: 57F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 94F L: 58F	<i>Sunny</i> H: 97F L: 56F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Real Madrid leads Spain by two points

MADRID, Spain — Real Madrid gained the upper hand in the Spanish title race when it went top with one game to play after thrashing Atletico Madrid 4-0 while rival Real Sociedad slipped to a 3-2 defeat at Celta Vigo on Sunday.

Real will go into its final game of the season against Athletic Bilbao at the Bernabeu next weekend knowing that if it wins or match Sociedad's result at home to Atletico Madrid it will be assured of its 29th league title.

The title appeared to slip from Real Sociedad's grasp when doubles from Ronaldo and Raul gave Real Madrid its comfortable win against Atletico while the Basque fell to two neatly taken goals from Celta midfielder Alexander Mostovoi and another from Egyptian striker Mido.

With just one game left to play, Real Madrid lead the table on 75 points, Real Sociedad follow on 73 and Deportivo Coruna, who lost 3-2 at Athletic Bilbao, is safe in third on 69.

With Barcelona claiming a 3-1 win over nine-man Valencia at the Mestalla, Celta's victory assures them of fourth place and a first-ever berth in the Champions League. Celta has 61 points to fifth-place Valencia's 57.

Barcelona's victory keeps it in with a chance of a place in the UEFA Cup, but it must hope that six-place Athletic Bilbao lose to Real Madrid and it win its last game at home to Celta.

Derlei delivers again for Porto

LISBON, Portugal — A goal by Brazilian striker Derlei Silva gave Porto its 12th Portuguese Cup win with a 1-0 win over Uniao Leiria in the final on Sunday to add a domestic league-cup double to their UEFA Cup triumph.

Derlei, who was top scorer in the UEFA Cup last season and struck the winner when Porto beat Celtic 3-2 in the Seville final last month, was doubtful until the last minute due to injury.

But the Brazilian was on form and beat his marker inside the area to receive a neat backward cross from playmaker Deco Souza on the right and score with a first-time right-footed shot in the 63rd minute.

Porto had trouble in the first half due to Uniao Leiria's defensive tactics, and Russian midfielder Dmitri Alenitchev was denied at close range by Brazilian defender Gabriel Atz.



Ronaldo, left, and Real Madrid are in control.

But Uniao Leiria played a more open game in the last half hour in a desperate attempt to grab an equalizer, which almost paid off in injury time when Silas Fernandes — who won his first Portuguese cap last week — hit the bar with a powerful left-footed shot from the edge of the area.

Leiria finished the league in fifth place, 37 points behind Porto, but can console itself with a berth in the UEFA Cup next season because Porto will play in the Champions League.

At least two die in Monterrey reveling

MEXICO CITY — Thousands of fans flooded the streets of Monterrey to celebrate their team's first soccer title in 17 years, leaving at least two people dead and about 200 arrested Sunday.

The violence came after Rayados played Morelia to a scoreless tie to capture the championship.

The game ended just before midnight Saturday in Morelia, more than 850 miles from Monterrey. Thousands of fans rushed to the central plaza in Monterrey before the finish. Within a few hours, authorities said close to 15,000 fans had thronged the area.

A man died after being run over by a taxi and a teenager was stabbed to death by a group of people, Monterrey's police department said.

There were 194 arrests, most for public drunkenness or violating the city's open-container law, police said.

Mols helped Rangers win treble

GLASGOW, Scotland — Dutch striker Michael Mols has signed a new one-year contract with Scottish champions Rangers, the club said on Sunday.

"The club are delighted Michael has signed a new contract," Rangers director Martin Bain told reporters. "He brings a lot of experience, especially at European level, and that will be important for the squad next season."

The 32-year-old Mols, who joined Rangers from FC Utrecht in 1999, scored 14 goals as Rangers lifted the domestic treble of League Cup, league title and Scottish Cup for only the seventh time.

He also scored in the 6-1 final-day rout of Dunfermline Athletic

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that handed Rangers the championship on goal difference from Glasgow rivals Celtic.

Rangers fans will be happy that Mols has signed a new contract after the recent departures of Arthur Numan and Claudio Caniggia.

Media reports suggest Italian defender Lorenzo Amoruso will also leave to join Blackburn Rovers while Bert Konterman is likely to be released from his contract during the close season.

Fire beat old coach in first meeting

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Ante Razov scored two goals and Andy Williams added three assists against his former team to lead the Chicago Fire to a 3-2 victory over the MetroStars on Saturday.

The victory was the third in four games for the Fire (4-2-3, 15 points) and pulled the team within two points of the first place MetroStars (5-3-2, 17 points), who lost for the second straight time.

It marked the first time that MetroStars coach Bob Bradley faced the Fire, which he coached for five years. Bradley won the 1998 MLS Cup title with the club.

Razov scored a goal in each half. The first goal, which came in the 31st minute, was set up by Williams on a perfect give-and-go, hitting Razov in stride. The shot went through the legs of MetroStars goalkeeper Paul Grafer, who made his first start of the season.

Damani Ralph scored the game's second goal in the 61st minute, successfully eluding two defenders to beat Grafer.

Williams and Razov hooked up one last time, with Williams making a 45-yard pass ahead to Razov, who beat defender Steve Jolley to the ball and knocked in his sixth goal of the season.

Williams was traded to Chicago right before the start of the season for a 2004 conditional draft pick.

Eskandarian scores twice as D.C. rolls

WASHINGTON — Nick Rimando set a team record with his third consecutive shutout, and No. 1 overall draft pick Alecko Eskandarian scored his first two MLS goals as D.C. United beat the Columbus Crew 3-0 Saturday night.

Rimando made four saves for his league-leading fifth shutout, even though it was just the second victory this season for United (2-3-5). Rimando hasn't allowed a goal since the 75th minute of a 3-2 loss at Dallas on May 31.

Defender Mike Petke scored in the 43rd minute, and Eskandarian added goals in the 79th and 85th minutes as United got more than two goals for the first time this season.

Eskandarian, who entered the game as a substitute for Hristo Stoitchkov in the 69th, became just the second forward to score for United all season.

Rimando had just one difficult save, but it was spectacular. In the 28th minute, he leaped to his left to catch Freddy Garcia's curling free kick just inside the post. The Crew (4-4-3) were shut out for the second time this season.

Welsh doubles up

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Christie Welsh scored two goals as the New York Power beat the San Jose CyberRays 3-1 on Saturday night to extend their winning streak to three games.

Emily Janss opened the scoring for the Power (5-5-1) in the 21st minute, and Welsh added her fifth and sixth goals of the season in the second half.

Katie Antongiovanni scored for San Jose (4-6-0).

Saskia Webber made three saves for the Power. She is 2-0-1 with a 0.33 goals-against average since returning from a calf injury.

England won't sell tickets to qualifier

NYON, Switzerland — The Football Association said on Friday that it would not be taking any tickets for England's Euro 2004 Group Seven qualifier away to Macedonia on September 6.

England, fearful of heavy punishment from UEFA in the case of any further crowd trouble, has already said it will not be taking any tickets for its final qualifier against Turkey in Istanbul on Oct. 11.

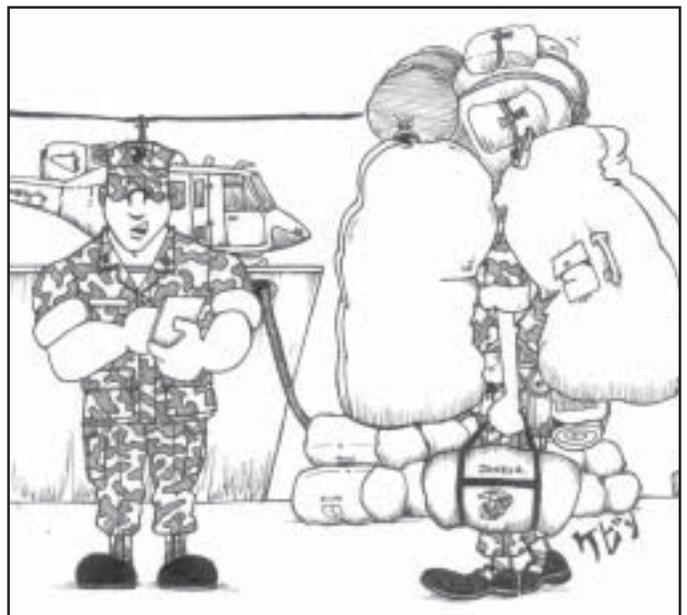
Last month England was fined and warned about its future conduct following incidents of racism and violence in the April qualifier against Turkey in Sunderland.

However, England will be making tickets available for two away friendlies next spring, one against Portugal and one against an opponent yet to be confirmed but likely to be Sweden.

"We have taken this decision, we believe it is the right thing to do," David Davies the FA's head of international development told Reuters.

"We are urging English fans not to travel to Macedonia.

"Has anyone seen Pvt. Jones?"



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support