

## More than just ordnance blasters



*The ordnance collected for explosion here Thursday included approximately 10,000 23 and 30 millimeter rounds of ammunition, 300 DK82 high explosive anti-tank rifle rounds and multiple rockets, said Staff Sgt. Shawn Prather, 705<sup>th</sup> Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, Fort Polk, La.*

Story and photos by  
Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — After nearly a full day of setting up four truck loads of ordnance for detonation here, the 705<sup>th</sup> Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, Fort Polk, La., watched as 16,000 pounds of rockets, bombs, rifles and small arms rounds exploded Thursday.

The 705<sup>th</sup>, deployed to Afghanistan for more than six months now, does more than just press a button on a receiver and wait for an explosion.

“We handle anything dealing with explosives,” said Capt. Donald R. Weakley, commander, 705<sup>th</sup> EOD.

Weakley’s statement is supported by their responsibilities ranging from doing a post-investigation on a land mine incident to functioning as the secret service’s bomb squad.

The team is in charge of anything explosive-related in all of Louisiana, eastern Texas

— See **EOD**, Page 4

## New weather monitor makes air missions safer

By Pfc. Christina Carde  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — As part of the joint mission to ensure weather prediction accuracy and air-mission safety, Italian coalition forces are working with a new device to guarantee the latest and most precise weather data possible.

The Automatic Tactical Weather Station located in Khost, arrived to Afghanistan from Italy in April, and will be ready for operation within the next few days. This weather system, similar to the one used to predict weather here, will be used to enhance the accuracy of weather data for the safe travel of aircraft going to and from the Forward Operating Bases of Salerno and Khost.

“Presently, the weather system being used in Khost is smaller and much more primitive than the one we brought,” said Italian Air Force Warrant Officer 2 Stefano Battaglini, National Weather Service, Praticasi Mare, Italy, the warrant officer being trained to operate the new weather system. “The old U.S. weather system did it’s job well, but this one is much larger with new software, capable of electronically computing weather data more accurately and on a larger scale.”

Battaglini is part of a five-man team of officers and warrant officers trained to operate this particular weather system. According to Battaglini, accurately operating the system takes a lot of skill and training.

— See **WEATHER**, Page 3

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*A tornado damaged buildings and cars Thursday at a GM plant in Midwest City, Oklahoma.*

## Tornado hits Oklahoma as storms batter Midwest

**OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.** — Another violent outbreak of tornadoes pummeled the Midwest Thursday, wreaking havoc from the suburbs of Oklahoma City northward to the towns of eastern Kansas. There were no reports of fatalities.

At least one tornado swept through the Oklahoma City area Thursday evening, flattening several buildings.

A General Motors plant in nearby Midwest City, Oklahoma, was hit along with a housing subdivision near Tinker Air Force Base, authorities said.

In Thursday's storm, which closely followed the path of a deadly 1999 storm, the Oklahoma Civil Emergency Management, which collects and manages the reporting of data from local agencies, confirmed 73 injuries and no fatalities.

The tornado appeared during rush hour, around 5 p.m. CT (6 p.m. ET) and traveled across two major interstates, dropping debris and crippling traffic, said George Johnson, a spokesman at the Oklahoma Emergency Operations Center.

"Imagine the traffic jam you've got," Johnson said. "We're talking about several miles of debris going down the interstate."

"There are vehicles tossed hither and yon just like throwing pick-up sticks,"

Albert Ashwood, the state director of emergency management, said the GM plant took a "direct hit." The plant was operating at the time but the extent of injuries inside was not immediately known.

A plume of black smoke could be seen

rising from the vicinity of the plant and power was knocked out to more than 26,000 residents in the Oklahoma City area.

Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry said damage to the plant would have a "significant impact on the state and its economy," but he vowed the state would rebound. "We'll be stronger in the end," he said.

Michelann Ooten, an emergency management spokeswoman, said authorities were most concerned about people trapped in buildings and homes.

"We may have people trapped in vehicles. We may have people trapped in trailers," she said.

The National Weather Service issued a bulletin that said: "A large and violent tornado was located over southeast Midwest City, moving northeast at 35 mph. Homes and other large structures have already been flattened by this tornado."

A dispatcher with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office said the city of Moore, Oklahoma, suffered "extensive damage" when the tornado moved eastwards.

State authorities said 300 homes were destroyed and 1,500 damaged.



*Katrina Leung faces up to 50 years in a federal prison if convicted.*

## Alleged Chinese double agent indicted

**LOS ANGELES, Calif.** — A former FBI informant recruited by the U.S. government to spy on China and its intelligence services was indicted Thursday on charges that she illegally obtained secret documents from an FBI agent who was her handler and allegedly her lover.

Katrina Leung was charged in a five-

count indictment of obtaining, copying and retaining documents connected with U.S. national defense without authorization, but does not face an espionage charge.

The indictment was returned by a federal grand jury in Los Angeles where Leung, 49, of San Marino, California, has been jailed without bond since her April 9 arrest.

The indictment listed three counts of unauthorized possession of documents relating to national defense and two counts of copying documents connected with the U.S. national defense with reason to believe that they would be used to the benefit of another country.

## Sharon, Bush to meet in U.S.

**WASHINGTON** — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will travel to the United States later this month to meet with President Bush, Israeli diplomatic sources said Thursday.

Sharon will head to the United States on May 18 and will meet with Bush May 20 to discuss the newly released "road map" for Middle East peace, the sources said.

Sharon's visit will follow a trip to the Mideast by Secretary of State Colin Powell, who is to leave Friday evening. He is scheduled to discuss the road map with Sharon in Israel and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank.

In a meeting Thursday with the emir of Qatar, President Bush said Sharon's visit is a sign of his optimism about the prospect of an Israeli-Palestinian settlement.

"The reason we're going to make progress is that the Palestinian Authority has now got a leader in the prime minister who has renounced violence and (has) said he wants to work with us to make the area more secure," Bush said.

Bush said Abbas "understands what we know — that a peace process will proceed if and when there is a concerted effort to fight violence."

In another positive sign for Middle East peace, Sharon said in a taped interview on Israeli TV that he is ready for peace talks with Syria.

**WEATHER**, from Page 1

“Everyone on the team trained in Italy on how to efficiently work this new piece of equipment and also received additional training upon arrival to Afghanistan,” said Battaglini. “In order to operate the system correctly, we were trained not only by Italian professionals but Americans as well. Only when training requirements from both forces are complete are we able to operate the system.”

Even though the Italian and American forces have their own weather systems with different ways of operating them, they constantly work together to ensure accurate weather predictions.

“The Americans and ourselves are the only two forces here responsible for the prediction, information gathering and encoding of weather data,” said Battaglini.

“The Americans and ourselves are the only two forces here responsible for the prediction, information gathering and encoding of weather data. Once my training is complete I will replace the U.S. personnel and their equipment in Khost so they can be used for other more important operations.”

- Italian Air Force Warrant Officer 2 Stefano Battaglini

“Once my training is complete I will replace the U.S. personnel and their equipment in Khost so they can be used for other more important operations,” he added.

In addition to gathering accurate weather data, the new weather system will help with the safe air travel of all military aircraft.

“Whether it’s a combat, medical or humanitarian air mission, this new system will ensure the latest and most accurate weather information is available so planes can takeoff and land safely,” said Battaglini. “When it comes to predicting weather, the latest technology and a skilled crew can make the difference between an air-mission ending in success or disaster.”

# Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR Building: “Road to Perdition.” Bonds of loyalty are put to the test when a hitman’s son witnesses what his father does for a living.

Tomorrow night: Country Western Dance at 1630Z.



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	Scattered t-storms H: 82F L: 50F	Partly cloudy H: 75F L: 49F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dust H: 93F L: 63F	Partly cloudy H: 93F L: 61F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Scattered t-storms H: 82F L: 50F	Haze H: 73F L: 48F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 86F L: 46F	Mostly cloudy H: 83F L: 42F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# PX, finance improve money systems

Story and photo by  
Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM,** Afghanistan — Servicemembers no longer have to wait weeks for checks to clear or money deducting from their account when they use their debit card.

The Post Exchange recently received



*An Afghan worker uses a new register at the Post Exchange. These new registers process credit and debit transactions automatically if the lines are up.*

new registers that allow credit card and debit card transactions to be completed and charged automatically as long as the lines are operational.

Checks are also cleared electronically now.

“This should help the soldiers. Eventually it will make things go easier and clearing faster may help soldiers better manage their finances,” said Maria Schizas-Price, PX manager.

Due to the new registers, customers may also receive \$20 in cash over their amount.

The new registers are not only helpful to the PX customers; they also make it easier for the employees. They don’t have to input all the data from credit and debit transactions, the computer does it for them automatically.

Another advantage is an increase in inventory control, according to Schizas-Price.

“Now we should know exactly what we need so we are less likely to sell out of something. We will know what we sell a lot more

accurately, before it was estimated. It also helps us know what is selling and what is not,” she said.

Finance has also made it easier for servicemembers with an electronic system to process checks.

The system takes the money out of the servicemember’s account in 24 to 48 hours while the previous system would take two to three weeks to clear. The check is scanned onto the computer so the only thing to input into the computer is the amount of the check.

The system also tracks people so finance receives a bad check list in 48 hours rather than a few weeks. For the first bad check a person is taken out of the system for three months, the second offense is six months, the third is nine months and the fourth time that person is taken out of the system completely.

Finance hopes this will eliminate floating checks and reduce stress on people with a tight budget.

## EOD, from Page 1

and wherever the president needs bomb searches done, said Staff Sgt. Shawn Prather, 705<sup>th</sup> EOD.

The training for this job consists of 10 weeks of Army classes and another nine months at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., said Prather.

This training is needed for working in a country with the title “fourth top country with the most mines in the world,” said Prather. Because of this, the 705<sup>th</sup> is always safety cautious in performing their job, said Prather.

The 705<sup>th</sup> uses precise calculations to determine the safe distance from the explosion based on the type of ordnance, said Weakley.

“Our mission is to make the area safe for everybody,” said Prather.

The team has three ammunition storage points in the Bagram Air Base perimeter where they store ordnance that is either captured, bought by counter intelligence from Afghans or found in the Bagram area, said Weakley.

They take a trip to one of their ranges in Bagram once they collect enough unexploded ordnance for detonation. They strategically place all the UXO, lay down detonation cord and C-4 explosives, calculate the fragmentation and blast of the explosion, call the air traffic control tower to clear the air space and then explode the UXO. It usually takes the team two weeks to collect enough explosives, plan a date and calculate the explosion, said Prather.

An EOD specialist has many opportunities waiting in the civilian world because of all the training and experience he receives



*A cloud of fire consumes the air on the East River Range. Firing three blasts, the 705<sup>th</sup> exploded a total of 16,000 pounds of ordnance Thursday.*

through out his military career, said Prather.

“There are so many other jobs we can do when we get out (of the military) ... police, FBI, etc...this is the best job in the Army,” said Prather.



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## NASCAR's safety debate has reopened

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** — Jerry Nadeau's accident at Richmond International Raceway was the most violent wreck NASCAR has seen since installing black box-style data recorders in cars two years ago.

The crash far surpassed the 80 times the force of gravity reading NASCAR got after Kyle Petty's wreck at Bristol Motor Speedway in March, which was the hardest hit the sanctioning body had previously seen.

As Nadeau remains hospitalized with serious head, rib and lung injuries, NASCAR's safety debate has reopened after a relatively quiet period following vast improvements since the 2001 death of Dale Earnhardt.

"There is no question we've made tremendous improvements over the past two years," driver Jeff Burton said. "But it's unrealistic to think that in a dangerous sport, things are immediately better. When a wreck like Jerry's happens, people in our society tend to be impatient and they think the answers should be there tomorrow.

"In most cases it doesn't happen like that. There is no gadget to make our sport 100 percent safe."

Since Earnhardt's death — which capped a span of four fatalities in less than two years — NASCAR has taken an aggressive

safety approach.

The data recorders are in cars, head and neck restraints are mandatory, and medical liaisons are on NASCAR's staff.

But there's still no full-proof way to avoid injury, especially on hits like Nadeau's.

Gary Nelson, NASCAR's competition director, said the angle in which Nadeau hit the wall contributed to the violence.

"It was a very flat hit on the driver side, which is pretty unusual," Nelson said. "It was an almost perfectly flat hit, so there was a tremendous energy spike because he didn't have a bumper or something else hit first.

"This one had no initial impact that would have softened the hit."

There are a few solutions that could help, including installing the Steel and Foam Energy Reduction (SAFER) barrier at Richmond.

So far the soft wall is only used at Indianapolis Motor Speedway and on the inside wall at Talladega Superspeedway.

But NASCAR has found that the shorter tracks are just as dangerous and need the wall. Adam Petty and Kenny Irwin were both killed in wrecks at New Hampshire International Speedway, and Kyle Petty had the hard hit at Bristol.

Nadeau was the latest driver to get hurt at Richmond: Johnny Benson broke ribs there last year, Derrick Cope broke his leg, and the hit that initially injured Sterling Marlin's neck and sidelined him for the season was also at RIR.

NASCAR wants the soft walls installed at New Hampshire and Richmond by this fall, and tested the SAFER barrier Tuesday at the University of Nebraska's Midwest Roadside Safety Facility.

Dr. Dean Sicking, who runs the Nebraska facility, will need up to 30 days to go over the data and determine if the walls are ready for the short tracks.

The drivers are content to wait rather than install something before it is ready.

"I've seen video of what happens with a soft wall before it's ready," Burton said. "It's not pretty. I want soft walls, but definitely not until they're ready."



*Jerry Nadeau was pulled out of the roof of his car on a backboard after a hard crash at Richmond.*

### Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

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

- ❖ NBA Playoffs Second Round - Conference Semifinals Gm 3: New Jersey Nets @ Boston Celtics (live) 0000Z
- ❖ NBA Playoffs Second Round - Conference Semifinals Gm 3: San Antonio Spurs @ Los Angeles Lakers (live) 0230Z
- ❖ Inside the NBA (live) 0500Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0600Z
- ❖ Friday Night Fights - Heavyweights: Jameel McMcline vs Charles Shufford (tape delayed) 0700Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ MLB: Baltimore Orioles @ Kansas City Royals (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ Indianapolis 500 Time Trials: Indy 500 Pole Day (live) 1600Z
- ❖ Indianapolis 500 Time Trials: Indy 500 Pole Day (live) 1700Z
- ❖ NHL Playoffs - Eastern Conference Finals Gm 1: New Jersey Devils @ Ottawa Senators (live) 1900Z

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

- ❖ NBA Playoffs Second Round - Conference Semifinals Gm 3: Dallas Mavericks @ Sacramento Kings (live) 0130Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (live) 0400Z
- ❖ NHL 2Night (live) 0500
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0600Z
- ❖ NASCAR Busch Series: Charter Pipeline 250 (tape delayed) 0700Z
- ❖ NBA 2Night (tape delayed) 0930Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1000Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ PGA TOUR: Wachovia Championship: Third Round (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ NBA Playoffs Second Round - Conference Semifinals Gm 4: Dallas Mavericks @ Sacramento Kings (tape delayed) 1230Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (live) 1630Z
- ❖ MLB: San Francisco Giants @ Atlanta Braves (live)

**SPORTS** from Page 5

NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter said Sicking won't sign off on the walls until they are ready.

"He's getting a lot of pressure from us and the IRL and everybody in the sport to move quicker," Hunter said. "But he says in scientific projects you don't want to move faster because you might overlook something."

Although cockpit improvements have been a priority, there's little room left to add any energy absorption material in the driver's door. Through adjustments in the transmission, it's possible to eventually shift the driver over to the center of the car.

"The cockpit has been the issue the last couple of years and we have come leaps and bounds from where we were," said Mike Ford, crew chief for Bill Elliott. "Not to say there isn't more work to be done there — there are already several issues that have come about."

"Seats have improved, leg support has been improved, but nothing has been done to the chassis."

NASCAR is testing crushable metals, such as aluminum foam, which could help absorb some of the shock of a crash. But until there's more room in the cockpit, Burton doesn't think much more can be squeezed inside.

### Nadeau's vital signs are normal

**RICHMOND, Va.** — Jerry Nadeau was upgraded to fair condition and moved out of the intensive care unit Thursday, six days after he was critically injured in a crash at Richmond International Raceway.

A team spokesman said Nadeau's vital signs are normal.

Nadeau sustained head, lung and rib injuries in an accident during practice last Friday when his car slammed driver's side first into the concrete wall at the track.

Meanwhile, Mike Wallace was hired to fill in for Nadeau while he recuperates. Wallace will begin driving the No. 01 Pontiac in The Winston Open on May 17.

### Sharp went first to last in '01

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Scott Sharp has been among the fastest drivers in practice this week, and he's a favorite again to win the pole for the Indianapolis 500.

If he accomplishes that Saturday, Sharp would have two poles to go with two top-10 finishes in the race.

Nothing he does, though, can ever make up for his monumental first-lap blunder of two years ago — except winning the race.

"It was awesome, at the time my greatest accomplishment, running four perfect laps," he recalled of his 2001 pole effort. "But we're all here for a great race day."

"Certainly I had one of the worst days you could have. The qualifying doesn't begin to make up for it."

Sharp was second-fastest in practice Wednesday, going 230.110 mph. Kenny Brack, the 1999 Indy winner, was the fastest in practice Wednesday at 231.039.

"The car ran really well," Brack said. "We keep working away on our program and getting better and better. But we're going to try to have to get even faster."

After Sharp came Gil de Ferran at 229.884, Greg Ray at 229.539, Tony Kanaan at 229.455 and rookie Tora Takagi at 229.347.

Sharp's Kelley Racing teammate, two-time Indy 500 winner Al Unser Jr., had a top lap of 226.264 in his backup car.

Brack was working in race trim for the first time.

"It's a process that takes several changes, several days sometimes if the weather changes," Brack said. "I don't think the speed was surprising. We expect to be good, but there are other teams out there that are good as well."

Two years ago, Sharp was by far the fastest qualifier and won his first Indy pole with a four-lap average of 226.037.

But starting from the inside of the front row, he let the left-side wheels of his car get below the white line separating the track from the apron on the first turn of the first lap. His cold tires lost traction, and the car veered into the outside wall between the first and second turns.

From his car, Sharp radioed an apology to his crew, then went to the infield hospital for a mandatory checkup and finally retreated behind closed doors in his garage to think about what might have been.

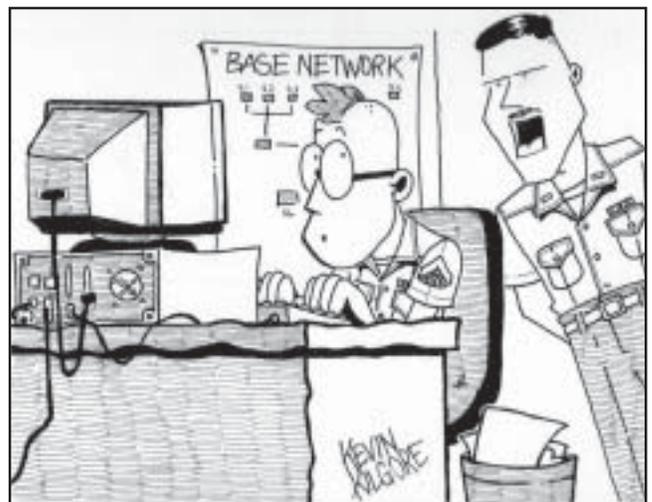
Last year, he started eighth and led three laps before a mechanical problem ended his race after 137 laps for a 27<sup>th</sup>-place finish. This year, after a victory in Japan last month, he leads Tony Kanaan by four points in the IRL standings.

"We've stayed with our plan, and things are going very smoothly," the 1996 IRL co-champion said of practice this week.

He has consistently been among the leaders with his Toyota-powered Dallara.

He was the fastest on the opening day of practice Sunday — in his backup car — and was the second-fastest Monday. Wednesday's quick laps were his best of the week.

**"Perkins, send out an E-mail to let everyone know the LAN is down."**



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

*Laugh Support*

# 3 Strikes and You're Out

## crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

### Across

- 1 Explorer John or Sebastian
- 6 Give a hoot
- 10 Prefix with physics
- 14 On top of
- 15 Stratford's river
- 16 Love personified
- 17 STRIKE
- 20 Use a spyglass
- 21 Astronomical bear
- 22 One less than hexa-
- 23 Ruination
- 25 "Barney Miller" star Hal
- 26 Packing a punch
- 29 Swatter's victims
- 31 Heavenly hunter
- 32 Hecklers' chorus
- 33 "Shame!" syllable
- 36 STRIKE
- 40 Weed whacker
- 41 Long ago
- 42 Rich kid in "Nancy"
- 43 À la \_\_
- 45 Candle material
- 46 Kind of melon
- 49 Monk's hood
- 50 Unescorted
- 51 Got taller
- 53 Karmann \_\_ (old Volkswagen)
- 57 STRIKE
- 60 Black, in poetry
- 61 Salty septet
- 62 Bikini blast
- 63 Ding-a-\_\_ (airhead)
- 64 '60s talk how host Joe
- 65 Family car

### Down

- 1 Sleep in a tent
- 2 Irish Rose's guy
- 3 Tibia or fibula

	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				65				

- 4 Sell too many tickets for
- 5 Thrive, in prescriptions
- 6 Military training unit
- 7 Hertz rival
- 8 Civil rights figure Parks
- 9 SASE, e.g.
- 10 Experts
- 11 Make corrections to
- 12 Rich cake
- 13 Indo-\_\_ languages
- 18 Vocalized
- 19 Mayberry moppet
- 24 One of the Brontës
- 25 Actress Kudrow
- 26 Frosh, in a year
- 27 Small combo
- 28 Red beans go-with
- 29 Coerce
- 30 Get beaten
- 32 Needing straightening
- 33 Use a plow
- 34 Fly like Lindbergh
- 35 Be sure of
- 37 When tripled, a WWII film
- 38 Stick in one's \_\_
- 39 Tunnel-entrance structure
- 43 Chair repairer's work
- 44 Help in a heist
- 45 Pulls along
- 46 Caravan beast
- 47 Suspect's excuse
- 48 Wise old head
- 49 Put a stop to
- 51 Western writer Zane
- 52 Strikeout king Nolan
- 54 Tinted
- 55 Rick's "Casablanca" love
- 56 Abbr. on a business envelope
- 58 Nile snake
- 59 Airline to Stockholm

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