

# Freedom Watch

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Photo by Spc. Steven Marroni, 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

## School's open...

*A class of Afghan students try out their new desks at their new school. These students are among the 1,000 Afghan boys who will have a new structure when classes begin Friday at the new elementary school in Baba Quachar. An opening ceremony was held March 12. The original school was severely damaged during Afghanistan's years of conflict, war and unrest. The one-story structure was reconstructed in about four months, with masonry, brick and plaster, new doors, windows, desks and chairs.*

## CA team helps to rebuild country

By Sgt. David Mann  
CAT-A Jalalabad

**JALALABAD, Afghanistan** — Meeting UN representatives, non-governmental organizations, visiting remote villages that have been devastated by centuries of warfare and working with a determined people who are trying to rebuild their country is all in a day's work for the Jalalabad civil affairs team.

The team is comprised of thirteen reserve soldiers from the 360<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne), Fort Jackson, S.C. and the 414<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, Utica N.Y.

They coordinate operations between the civilian and local government and the U.S. military, and assess the needs of the local populace.

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## SERE training: Return home with honor

By Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – It was Oct. 3, 1993 during Operation Restore Hope. UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Durant crashed in Mogadishu, Somalia.

The Special Forces officer was captured and held in captivity. When taken prisoner, Durant remembered techniques he learned from a survival-training course and applied them. Eleven days later, he returned home with honor.

Before soldiers are deployed anywhere, they need to be trained on how to survive in the specific theater of operation they are destined to. They need to be skilled on how to avoid possibilities of the alternative –

being captured as a prisoner of war.

That's why the Department of Defense directs personnel deploying in theater to be trained on High Risk of Capture Theater Preparation, said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Peter Kalogris, Rescue Coordination Cell, Combined Joint Task Force-180.

But since the policy states "if possible," personnel are being deployed without any training.

So, it remains the duty of the Rescue Coordination Cell to ensure servicemembers are properly skill-level-A trained on Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape, when they should have been trained pre-deployment. The RCC held four four-hour classes here Monday to teach skill level A SERE training to willing personnel.

According to the U.S. Air Force Acad-

emy Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Program, the training is designed to prepare high risk of capture personnel who are vulnerable to greater than average exploitation by a captor during combat or during peacetime detention and hostage situations to survive, evade, resist and escape.

"The average soldier may not be put into a situation where they have to avoid becoming a prisoner, but it does happen," said Staff Sgt. Mike Haight, SERE course instructor. "When the situation is real, the threat is real, so those who are in the high-risk positions need to be ready to handle it."

According to Army Regulation 350-30 covering Code of Conduct, Survival, Resistance and Escape Training, there are three

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## U.S. troops ready to attack Iraq

**WASHINGTON** — President Bush has been told by senior Pentagon officials that U.S. troops are ready to attack Iraq on his orders, and senior officials say those orders could come as early as Wednesday night.

Bush has demanded that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his sons Uday and Qusay give up power and go into exile by 8 p.m. ET Wednesday — 4 a.m. Thursday in Baghdad.

But two senior officials noted that in Bush's televised ultimatum he said the United States would attack "at a time of its choosing."

And they took pains to draw attention to the fact that the United States did not launch attacks in Afghanistan until more than two weeks after Bush used those same words in the ultimatum he gave to the Taliban.

## Blair wins Parliament vote

**LONDON** — British Prime Minister Tony Blair, facing one of his toughest challenges as party leader Tuesday, won a controversial vote in the House of Commons supporting his nation's military participation in a possible U.S.-led war on Iraq.

In a 412 to 149 vote, Blair staved off a major revolt by members of Parliament unhappy about British involvement in Iraq without backing from a second United Nations resolution.

Blair does not need parliamentary approval to take Britain into war. But observers said another rebellion in his ranks would be a major political embarrassment.

## Al-Qaida attacks a 'near certainty'

**WASHINGTON** — The State Department's top counterterrorism official said Tuesday there is a "certainty" terrorists will try to "launch multiple attacks" and a senior intelligence official told CNN there is "a near certainty of small-scale al-Qaida attacks" against U.S. targets.

Intelligence officials also said there is some evidence that al-Qaida could be "in the last stages of planning for large-scale attacks," though one added "it is not clear" whether al-Qaida is still capable of large-

scale action.

Cofer Black, the State Department coordinator for counterterrorism, told the Senate Foreign Relations committee Tuesday that al-Qaida is "still dangerous, still vicious, but I would say things are not going well for the terrorists." He said leaders from Osama bin Laden down currently "spend more time trying to figure out how to keep from getting caught than they do trying to launch operations."



*British soldiers in northern Kuwait.*

## World braces for Iraq war

**LONDON** — A picture of the coalition poised for an imminent attack on Iraq has come into focus as Saddam Hussein refuses a U.S. ultimatum to leave Baghdad and the world braces for war.

Washington said its coalition consisted of 30 countries plus 15 others that did not want to be named. Spain was among the coalition members listed, but Madrid said Tuesday it would not take an active combat role.

And in Britain, embattled Prime Minister Tony Blair has won backing from the House of Commons to take "all means necessary" to disarm Iraq despite a rebellion of many members of his ruling Labor Party.

## U.S.: Iraqi forces may have mustard, VX gases

**WASHINGTON** — Iraqi Republican Guard military units south of Baghdad may now have chemical munitions filled with a form of VX nerve agent as well as mustard gas, U.S. military officials Tuesday told CNN.

Officials base the possibility on intelligence reports that include the monitoring of Iraqi military communications.

The United States also has indications of sabotage against oil fields in the southern Iraqi region of Rumailah, where at least one oil well has been spilling crude into the desert for over 24 hours. The United States believes the spill is deliberate, and that it is an effort to create a physical obstacle in the desert to hinder the movement of U.S. troops.

## France may help in chemical war

**WASHINGTON** — Despite French opposition to a war in Iraq, the French military could assist a U.S.-led coalition should Iraq use biological and chemical weapons against coalition forces, the French ambassador to the United States said Tuesday.

"If the war starts and if (President) Saddam Hussein uses chemical or biological weapons, it would change completely the situation for the French president and for the French government, and President (Jacques) Chirac will have to decide what we will do to help the American troops to confront this new situation.

"But I confirm it would change completely the perception and the situation for us," said Jean-David Levitte, who told CNN he hoped that biological and chemical weapons would not be used.

## Iraqi troops not eager to fight

**WASHINGTON** — Intercepts of Iraqi military radio traffic indicate that some Iraqi troops do not feel driven to defend their country's regime.

A well-placed U.S. official said Tuesday that those transmissions suggest a number of Iraqi military units "are not going to hold it together" during a U.S. military attack.

The radio communications suggest a great deal of "consternation" within some of the units — including Republican Guard units, the official said on the condition of anonymity. Those units are considered to be the best trained, best equipped and most loyal to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

He cautioned that the intelligence does not mean Iraqi troops will not fight for Baghdad, the capital.

**CA**, from Page 1

According to Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Frank Mathias, noncommissioned officer in charge, Civil Military Operations Center, civil affairs teams have six primary activities that include foreign national support, populace and resource control, humanitarian assistance, military civic action, emergency services and support for civil administration.

The Jalalabad team works daily to help the people of the Nangahar Province and the city of Jalalabad.

Located at an altitude of 569 meters and in the most fertile plain in Afghanistan, Jalalabad is flanked by both the Kabul and Kunar Rivers.

With the Hindu Kush mountain range rising to the north and the Spinghar to the south, Jalalabad is an oasis in a country devastated by more than 20 years of warfare.

Days begin in the early morning hours with the Civil Affairs Team-A leaving for a village assessment.

The Jalalabad team completed 74 assessments of villages, schools and wells in the province. This number is more than the current Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force goal of 60 by April 1.

While the CAT-A has shown its ability to set the pace among other CAT-A teams in Afghanistan, the Jalalabad Civil Military Operations Center led the way, said Maj. Andrew Santa-Pinter, officer in charge, CMOC.

The Jalalabad CAT-A established a remote CMOC at the Jalalabad airport that allows for a common meeting ground for NGO's, contractors, UN representatives and others to meet with and discuss issues related to the redevelopment of the province.

The civil affairs team in Jalalabad supported the civil administration through its continued coordination with the governor of Nagarhar Province and his 47 governmental ministers.

Working with the Nagarhar Technical Advisory Group, which is a steering committee for the rehabilitation and reconstruction in the province, the team focused on the development of educational



Courtesy photo

*Sgt. Anthony MacMillon, 360<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne), Fort Jackson, S.C. hands out Blue Packs of school supplies at a grade school in the Nagarhar Province.*

services and the role which women play in the region.

The team started a Women's Development Center for the province and has supported the International Women's Day Fair.

They also supported education through the distribution of book bags to 11,000 first and second grade students in the Nagarhar province. The book bags, provided by Academy for Educational Development based in Washington D.C., contained pens, pencils, a small chalkboard, and writing paper.

The Jalalabad CA team broke ground on a new elementary school for the village of Chaparhar. The Rotary Club International made the construction of the school possible through a \$96,000.00 donation. The school will have 22 classrooms and have a capacity for 1100 students. The students are taught in tents provided by United Nations Humanitarian Council for Relief.

The U.S. Army is digging a well for the school and a nomination has been submitted for desk and chairs for the grade school. The school is scheduled to open in June.

The Civil Affairs team in Jalalabad as-

sessed 71 villages in a 3,480 square kilometer operational area. Villages in such remote areas as Tora Bora, Shinwar Valley, and the Wazir Valley — most located along the Pakistan border and the Spinghar Mountain range.

Many of these villages haven't seen Americans or their own people from Jalalabad. Many villages are still littered with the rusting hulls of Soviet armor, which children now use as a playground.

Most schools in these areas lack windows, desk, carpets, blackboards, or bathroom facilities. Many classes are held in tents.

The structures that do exist are mainly used to educate boys; female students are typically relegated to attend school on mats outside.

"The work of Civil Affairs has only begun in the country of Afghanistan and there is much to do," said Santa-Pinter.

"The Jalalabad team has, and will continue to work diligently to set the pace for the continuing effort in the country, he added. "To rebuild, restore, and reconstruct the infrastructure of a country torn by war."

**SERE**, from Page 1

levels of SERE Level A covers not only environmental facts, understanding the Code of Conduct and how to survive in captivity but many other subjects.

Level B includes topics like hostage situations, countermeasures that can be used to avoid capture and advanced Code of Conduct training.

Level C training is for soldiers whose position, rank or seniority makes them vulnerable to hostility.

To be level C SERE trained, a student must go to a three-week long survival-training course, which deals more with the problem solving aspect of the first two levels.

The course teaches soldiers how to live off the land when isolated from friendly forces and how to avoid being captured. And if captured, it teaches how to get through alive and return home with honor.

Special Forces, Rangers, selected aviators and aircraft crew members and Pathfinders are examples of soldiers who are eligible for level C SERE training.

"Soldiers in these units are more at risk than the average soldier," Haight said. "Special Forces and Rangers are required to perform many missions which put them in hostile environments."

The hostile environment Durant was held captive in was displayed on his battered face, which ran on the front cover of several magazines that first week of his captivity.

Despite everything Durant went through, he did return home with honor.

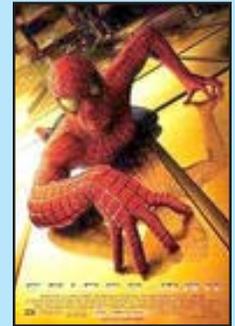
"He swears by the course. Because of what he learned in it, he was able to stay alive.

"The course is here to teach someone how to survive and make it back alive. The danger is real out there. If you are going to be in the middle of that danger, SERE is a good thing to have under your belt. It could save your life," Haight said.

"Durant survived with honor by using the techniques he learned in the course," he said. "Being able to learn from his and other people's experiences from the past gives us an invaluable teaching tool for the future."

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Spider-Man." When bitten by a genetically modified spider, a nerdy high school student gains spider-like abilities which he must eventually use to fight evil as a superhero.



Tomorrow's movie will be "Gladiator."

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 59F L: 41F	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 64F L: 39F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 66F L: 48F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 70F L: 46F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Fog</i> H: 61F L: 39F	<i>Haze</i> H: 64F L: 37F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Isolated showers</i> H: 66F L: 45F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 74F L: 46F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## No bracketology needed

**ESPN** – In some minds, the tournament is already over. All too typically, it was over before it started. Our beloved Cal State Fullerton dragged Utah State to overtime in the first round of the Big West Tourney, wound up losing by six after going 5-0 in OT league games, then watched as the Aggies inevitably won the next two rounds to claim the automatic Big Dance bid that has eluded us since 1978.

It was all more maddening than our Marches normally are. It proved a rather torturous way to commemorate the 25th anniversary of my Titans' only trip to the NCAAs, when they shocked Michael Cooper's New Mexico and Bill Cartwright's San Francisco to reach the Elite Eight and become *Cal State Who?* It is why we proceed straight to a question that will actually have an impact on the NBA Draft, because the Field O' Sixty-Five — with no obvious must-see teams or players and without the Titans — offers little to hold the Line's interest.

Question is ...

Is there any scenario that could materialize in the next few months that would make Darko Milicic the No. 1 overall pick in June's NBA Draft?

Ahead of LeBron James?

It's a more reasonable question, surely, than asking general managers which collegians can really help themselves between now and New Orleans. As so aptly described on ESPN's "Sports Reporters" on Sunday morning, you haven't heard of most of the guys who will decide the office pool and you will forget the majority of them as soon as the tournament ends. That is the state of today's scholastic



*Darko Milicic could be the next Dirk Nowitzki.*

game, with the bulk of the college-aged NBA talent already playing in the NBA and the charm of the bracket sitting on your desk forced to make up for what's lacking on the floor. There likewise isn't a lot of scout-based excitement about what the next few weeks hold, with no one on display on par with LeBron and Darko. Syracuse freshman Carmelo Anthony is next on teams' lists but hasn't totally committed to leaving school.

"You pretty much draw a line after the top three, because there doesn't seem to be a whole lot there," said one Western Conference executive, referring to the trio of aforementioned studs he's not allowed to discuss by name.

## Cavs fine Davis undisclosed amount

**ESPN** — Cleveland Cavaliers guard Ricky Davis will play Tuesday night in his first game since his misbegotten attempt to record a first career triple-double, but the Cavaliers have decided that the stunt won't go unpunished.

ESPN.com has learned that Cavaliers management will fine Davis an undisclosed amount for the incident Sunday against Utah, which saw Davis purposely miss a shot at the wrong basket in an attempt to claim the rebound as his 10th.

Davis was suspended for two games earlier this season by former coach John Lucas after multiple clashes with teammates in practice.

"We choose not to discuss team business, such as fines, in public," Cavs spokesman Ed Markey said Tuesday when asked about Davis' fine.

Cavs coach Keith Smart originally said Monday that Davis would not be suspended or fined, suggesting that the shame attached to Davis' actions was punishment enough.

"He has to live with what he did," Smart told reporters on Monday. "Wherever he goes, people will remember it."

Davis, expected to start in Dallas on Tuesday, has yet to discuss the incident, which led to widespread ridicule and criticism of the player and his team.

In Tuesday's editions of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Davis said: "...I'm not going to comment on any of this."



## 2002 NBA standings

Eastern Conference		Western Conference	
<b>Atlantic</b>		<b>Midwest</b>	
(2) New Jersey	41-26	(1) Dallas	50-16
(3) Philadelphia	40-26	(3) San Antonio	47-18
(5) Boston	38-29	(5) Minnesota	44-26
(7) Orlando	34-33	(7) Utah	37-29
Washington	32-35	(8) Houston	35-30
<b>Central</b>		<b>Pacific</b>	
(1) Detroit	42-24	(2) Sacramento	46-21
(4) Indiana	39-28	(4) Portland	43-24
(6) New Orleans	38-30	(6) L.A. Lakers	38-28
(8) Milwaukee	32-35	Phoenix	35-31
Atlanta	27-40	Golden State	32-34



**SPORTS**, from Page 5

## Hall of Fame asks for LeBron jersey

ESPN — Months away from receiving his high school diploma, LeBron James already is headed for the Basketball Hall of Fame.

At least, his gear is.

The Hall of Fame has asked James, a senior at Akron's St. Vincent-St. Mary, to donate one of his game-worn jerseys in recognition of what has been an outstanding, unprecedented, highly scrutinized prep career.

Matt Zeysing, an assistant curator of the hall, told the Akron Beacon Journal on Monday that it would be receiving a No. 23 St. Vincent-St. Mary jersey, a pair of shorts and tennis shoes for a display that might be showcased by mid-April.

"We would have been dropping the ball had we not asked for it," Zeysing said. "LeBron James has been the biggest story of the basketball season and we wanted to be a small part of that ... He has taken high school basketball to a whole other level."

## Hill undergoes surgery

DURHAM, N.C. — Orlando Magic forward Grant Hill can only hope a fourth operation on his left ankle will save his career.

Hill underwent surgery Tuesday morning that will likely require his most arduous rehabilitation stint yet and could make his availability for the beginning of next season questionable.

The procedure, performed by orthopedic surgeon James Nunley at Duke Medical Center, consisted of the removal of three screws that had previously been placed in Grant's ankle, removal of the entire non-union bone, and application of a steel plate with screws to reinforce the stress fracture.

In addition, a genetically engineered material, which helps make bone form, was added to his ankle to assist in the healing process. Also, an osteotomy of the heel was performed simultaneously to realign Hill's left leg.

"We found no reason why Grant Hill will not be able to play basketball again for the Orlando Magic," Nunley said. "His bone had good strength and good blood supply and we felt good about how the surgery was proceeded. Although I feel like he will play basketball again, there is no timeframe at the present to when he will be able to return to play."

## Colangelo says two have buried past

PHOENIX — Suns Chairman Jerry Colangelo and former star Charles Barkley have ended their long-running feud.

A dispute between Colangelo and Barkley has simmered since the end of the 1995-96 season when Barkley publicly ripped the organization for allegedly shopping him around the league "like a piece of meat."

Barkley was traded that August to the Houston Rockets.

Colangelo and Barkley met Monday to discuss the past.

Colangelo was reluctant to provide details on the meeting Monday because Barkley was headed to tend to his ill brother.

"The bottom line is, we did meet and we agreed to bury the past and move forward," Colangelo told *The Arizona Republic*. "Charles said it has been a burden on his heart for some time, and he really missed the feeling of being welcome and comfortable here."

The reconciliation meeting was something that had to take place, Colangelo said.

"I think we both feel a lot better about things now," he said.

## Pippen out at least three weeks

PORTLAND, Ore. — Scottie Pippen had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Tuesday and is expected to miss the next three weeks as the Portland Trail Blazers try to catch Sacramento in the Pacific Division.

Pippen, 37, has missed the last four games with swelling in his left knee. It was unclear how Pippen originally injured it.

The surgery was performed Tuesday morning by team doctor Don Roberts at Southwest Washington Medical Center in Vancouver, Wash.

**"Someone in your shop called and said they had a broken E9 or something."**



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By Kevin Kilgore

**Laugh Support**