

Army offers compensation for mistakes



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

Maj. Mike Mordue, assistant staff judge advocate, Combined Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force, explains the way claims work to an Afghan.

By Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – When accomplishing a mission, soldiers do whatever they must to get the job done. Unfortunately, due to the nature of many military operations, property damage, bodily injury and sometimes loss of life to innocent bystanders whose homes or businesses are caught in the crossfire are incurred.

Even though many of these incidents can't be avoided, the military does offer compensation through their finance and legal departments to help Afghans restore what they have lost.

"We deal with three types of claims," said Spc. James Merrill,

noncommissioned officer in charge, Combined Joint Task Force-180, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. "The claims we compensate for are non-combat and negligence claims, which can be anything from vehicle and property damage to loss of residence or belongings. These incidents often occur as a result of military training exercises or accidents due to traffic on foreign roads."

The areas of coverage may seem broad and can apply in many situations. However, if the claims filed are due to other causes, they may not be compensated.

"We do not pay for damages caused by combat missions," said

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Bamian civil affairs mission driven by climates

By Valerie Dey-Bolejck
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAMIAN, Afghanistan — The Civil Affairs Team-A assigned to the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamian has learned that working in Bamian Province presents civil affairs challenges unique to Afghanistan.

Bamian's mountainous terrain and ethnic make-up has driven the types of projects they can successfully propose, according to Capt. Billie Cartwright, CAT-A projects officer in charge, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Riverdale, Md.

The local population in Bamian district, which includes the airfield and commercial bazaar area where the PRT is located, is predominately Hazari, a minority in Afghanistan. However, the Tajiks, who make up a signifi-

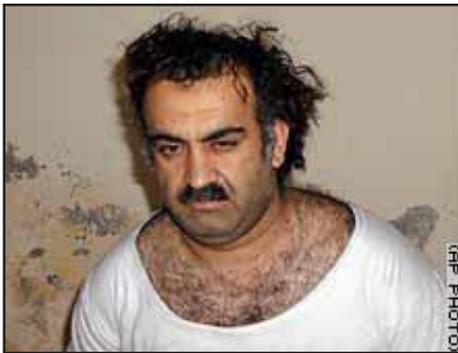


Photo by Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler, CJTF-180 PAO

Maj. Eric Rotzoll and Capt. Billie Cartwright, Civil Affairs Team-A, Bamian Provincial Reconstruction Team, assess a bridge on the northern road of the Bamian district.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Khalid Shaikh Mohammed is pictured shortly after his capture Saturday during a raid in Pakistan.

'Appropriate pressure' being put on al-Qaida leader

WASHINGTON — "All appropriate pressure" is being put on Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the man believed to be the key planner of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 to reveal plots for any future operations, a senior U.S. intelligence official said Sunday.

The capture of the man linked to nearly every al-Qaida attack of the past five years is a "huge win," the official said.

Al-Qaida members must now worry about which plots Mohammed — the group's operations chief — has exposed, and what information he might reveal that could lead to them, the official said.

U.S. officials were practically gleeful Sunday after Mohammed's arrest early Saturday in Rawalpindi, outside the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, a week after he eluded capture during a raid in Quetta, Pakistan, 400 miles away.

U.S. officials were present when Pakistani authorities arrested Mohammed and two other men, but they did not participate, the senior U.S. intelligence official said.

Pakistan held Mohammed "a few hours" before turning him over to the CIA, which immediately took him out of Pakistan, officials said. Mohammed is in U.S. custody at an undisclosed location, they said.

There are no plans to bring Mohammed to the United States, U.S. government officials said.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said it was "hard to overstate the signifi-

cance" of Mohammed's arrest a week after he eluded arrest in Quetta, and the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee called the arrest "huge."

Iraq: Missile destruction depends on peace

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A top Iraqi scientist said Sunday that Baghdad was working with U.N. inspectors on a schedule to destroy more than 100 Al Samoud 2 missiles but warned that could change if it becomes clear the United States intends to go to war.

Presidential scientific adviser Gen. Amer Al-Saadi told reporters that Iraq had destroyed six missiles Sunday, along with a casting chamber used to make their solid rocket fuel.

U.N. officials have not confirmed that the missiles were destroyed.

The inspectors confirmed that Iraq crushed four of the missiles with heavy equipment Saturday, meeting the March 1 deadline set by chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix to begin their destruction.

The missiles were ordered destroyed because inspectors said they have a range beyond the 93 miles [150 kilometers] allowed under U.N. resolutions.

Al-Saadi said Iraq was destroying the missiles as part of its "proactive cooperation" with inspectors, even though they could be used in a war.

"My task, and only task, is to remove all excuses for waging war in the legal way, the legal route, that is, the U.N. route," he said. "If Iraq is not in material breach on that count, then if war takes place, if war happens, it's not because Iraq has not done all it could regarding disarmament."

However, he added: "If it turns out that in early stages during this month America is not going the legal way ... why should we continue?"

NK warns of 'horrifying disasters'

PYONGYANG, North Korea — North Korea warned Sunday that if the United States ignites a war on the Korean peninsula, the world "will suffer horrifying nuclear disasters," according to a newspaper article

released by Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency.

North Korea has issued several warnings through its government-controlled media in recent weeks that the United States is preparing to launch a large-scale attack on the peninsula.

The United States denies it has any plans to attack North Korea, consistently saying it is seeking a diplomatic and political solution to the increasing tensions sparked by Pyongyang's decision to reactivate its nuclear program.



Stylized benches on the Pentagon grounds represent each of the 184 victims in this rendering of the winning memorial plan.

Pentagon memorial chosen

NEW YORK — A pair of New York-based architects has been chosen to design the memorial for the 184 people killed when hijackers crashed a jet into the Pentagon during the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

CNN has learned that a special competition jury unanimously endorsed the design from Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman.

The winners will be officially presented by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld at a Pentagon news conference Monday.

The other five finalists confirmed that their designs were not chosen.

The Beckman-Kaseman design calls for filling the designated 2-acre field on the west side of the Pentagon with a grove of trees and memorial units — a glowing light pool and bench-like marker inscribed with the victim's name — for each victim, arranged in the order of their ages and along the flight path American Airlines Flight 77 took into the building.

BAMIAN, from Page 1

cant ethnic group within the province, predominantly live outside of Bamian district.

The province could be easily and permanently divided. The mountainous terrain makes driving to remote regions of the province to assess and build projects difficult, if not impossible. Tajiks sometimes feel that their needs have not been addressed as much as the Harazi's have.

Sensitive to those concerns, the CAT-A here has directed its efforts to uniting the divided parts of the province through its projects. The team has successfully proposed and completed several major bridge projects with Overseas Humanitarian Disaster and Civil Assistance funding. Because spring snow melt runoff floods low-lying roads that lack proper bridges, many areas in the province are cut off and isolated. By building bridges, areas are opened to easy access, commerce and aid.

"(The bridge projects would) increase and refine movement and access to Bamian," Cartwright said.

The Bamian bazaar is the main shopping area for goods in the valley. The lack of roads has been a huge barrier for the approximately 300,000 people in the Bamian district to buy and sell their goods. Cartwright is also working to get approval for improved road access to the north. One bridge on that road has already been approved and she is preparing four more bridge projects.

"The obstacles to travel have really cut them off from the provincial government and hence the central government," she said. "(Lack of) maneuverability has a huge impact here for the Afghans, the Afghan National Army and the United States."

Clean water is another primary need for the province. Again, geography makes getting well drilling equipment in to dig wells difficult. The CAT-A team has proposed one well project under OHDACA funding, but worries that the cost may escalate for the bidders due to lack of locally available drilling rigs and make the project unfeasible.

Another project Cartwright is looking forward to building for the province is the expansion of the Panjab clinic. Currently, it is a large clinic and is the only medical facility in the region outside of Bamian. She

would like to see it expanded to include a maternity ward and surgical unit.

Winter weather in this mountainous province is brutal on the narrow roads and passes. "The residents of Panjab have no access to Yawkalang or Bamian due to a 13,000-foot pass. So they are really cut off from medical care. Because of the pass even the civil affairs people are cut off," Cartwright said.

Another current project is the \$276,000 rehabilitation of the Bamian University, an OHDACA national impact. For years, the university taught science, medicine, history and education to hundreds of province residents. It was the only university in the Bamian district until it was taken over by the Taliban and used as one of its headquarters and the buildings were destroyed during the war against that regime. There are currently no universities or institutions of higher learning in Bamian Province. The rehabilitation project is set to break ground any day.

One gratifying aspect of working in the Bamian district, according to Cartwright, is that the residents are overwhelmingly pro-American, which makes working here easier for the team.



Photo by Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler, CJTF-180 PAO

Maj. Eric Rotzoll and Capt. Billie Cartwright, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Riverdale, Md., take measurements for the bridge project.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina Bharti

March to the beat of a different drummer...

Sgt. Jonathon Haney, chaplain's assistant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., takes a break from chapel cleaning for a personal jam session Saturday.

CLAIMS, from Page 1

Merrill. "If a civilian loses property due to a military combat operation, it is considered the military doing their job and the civilians must pay for the damage themselves."

"Other factors that can disqualify a claim are fraud or a local purposely creating an incident for compensation," added Merrill. "For instance, if a civilian is claiming damages on his vehicle but was clearly speeding out of control ... he will not be compensated."

Once a claim has been filed, investigated and deemed valid, it could take between a week to several months before payment is made.

"If the claim is something that can be investigated quickly, such as a car accident, the local could receive their money within seven days," said Merrill. "When a large sum of money is requested, or the incident requires further investigation, the process could take months due to the lack of communication."

Even though the OSJA processes the claims, they are not responsible for the actual payment of damages.

"The Air Force is in charge of all currency compensation of foreign claims," said 1st Sgt. Gerald Desoto, finance first sergeant, E Detachment, 126th Finance Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C. "The Army's finance department will take from our funds to pay the civilians' claims and then turn in a voucher to the Air Force for reimbursement."

Once a claim has been approved, the negotiation of the compensation amount will begin.

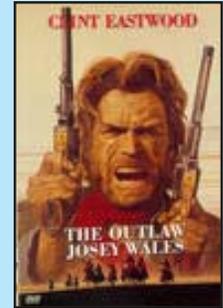
"Most of the time, the civilians will request an unreasonably high payment amount on their claim," said Merrill. "The OSJA will then get U.S. estimates on the damage and offer them another amount. Nine times out of 10, the locals accept our terms."

After all of the paperwork, investigation and payment negotiation, Merrill said OSJA is very lenient on the civilians here.

"Due to culture and communication barriers, it is sometimes harder to conduct claims investigations here than in the states," said Merrill. "However, according to our Foreign Claims Act, it is in our best interest to promote good will in foreign countries. In other words, it is better to give them a few hundred dollars and maintain good relations, than turn them away over a technicality and create new enemies."

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "The Outlaw Jose Wales." A Missouri farmer joins a Confederate guerilla unit and winds up on the run from the Union soldiers who murdered his family.



Tomorrow's movie will be "8 Seconds."

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Dust</i> H: 46F L: 28F	<i>Dust</i> H: 54F L: 27F
Kandahar:	<i>Dust</i> H: 50F L: 32F	<i>Haze</i> H: 55F L: 32F
Kabul:	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 43F L: 27F	<i>Haze</i> H: 50F L: 28F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Snow</i> H: 39F L: 24F	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 45F L: 29F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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CTF-82 CSM battles adversity with positive attitude

By Master Sgt. Pam Smith
CTF-82 PAO

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Some say that with a positive attitude you can achieve anything. Others say there are no secrets to success — it is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

Command Sgt. Maj. Norvel C. Turner, Jr., command sergeant major, Coalition Task Force-82, said he believed both philosophies and added one of his own.

“Having the right attitude can get you far in life, as does hard work,” said Turner.

But he said it has been his faith in God that has seen him through more than 30 years in the military and some of life’s hardest times.

Turner admits that he didn’t always have a good attitude and his faith was often tested, but a series of life-changing events would help mold him into the person he is today.

Turner was just shy of seven when he experienced his first significant brush with prejudice.

“My dad and I went into the drug store,” he said. “When it came time to check out, I hopped onto a swivel barstool by the cash register, and just like every other little kid would do, I started spinning and playing on it. My dad told me to get down. I asked him why. He looked at the cashier, a white man, who was staring at me with a mean look. “‘Just get down,’ my father said. So I did. It wasn’t until many years later that I realized the significance of that event and realized it had left an indelible scar on my life.”

“I had never really thought about my color before that time.”

But Turner never let the hard times get him down.

He grew up the oldest of seven in Gallatin, Tenn. Impoverished best described his family’s financial status, he said.

His family, his grandmother and his aunt and her family all lived in a tiny house. Part of his family would later move into a two-room house. He went to his grandmother’s house often because she had a bathtub and a toilet, two things his house didn’t have.

“In my house, I was responsible for

stocking the wood/coal stove and for cleaning out the ‘slop jars’ (used for going to the bathroom in) every morning before going to school,” explained Turner.

Though his father was there, his mother, a housemaid, was the main provider for the family and a big influence in his life. Still, as the oldest, he said a lot was expected of him.

“I was always expected to take care of everyone,” Turner said.

From the time he was nine, he worked odd jobs to help contribute to the family’s income. “I cut grass and helped neighbors around their homes.”

He also helped in the kitchen at his church. Turner now credits that experience as the beginning of his interest in the culinary arts. Today he boasts, “I am a pretty good chef.”

Turner continued working and going to school, where he met another critical influence in his life at school.

“Ms. Woods was one of my teachers,” Turner said. “She saw something in me that I didn’t see. She felt that blacks could be productive and could contribute more than just being factory workers.”

So, when Turner was 11, Ms. Woods chose him as one of six youth to be the first black students integrated into the Gallatin Junior High School.

Prejudice would rear its ugly head once again.

“I was spat on, called names and generally made to feel that I was anything other than a human being and an American citizen.”

“I was not happy and I didn’t commit or apply myself. I played hooky and finally ended up failing and having to repeat seventh grade.”

Turner returned to his first school, Union High, until 1970 when the schools were integrated. He completed his schooling at Gallatin High.

At 18, Turner joined the Army as a me-



Command Sgt. Maj. Norvel C. Turner, Jr.

chanic. That was in September 1972. He would eventually reenlist as an Infantryman in 1976.

He said his mother cried the day he came back from the recruiter’s office, but ultimately she supported his decision.

“She always wanted a good education for her children,” Turner said. “The Army would provide that for me.”

Twelve years later, in 1984, his mother died. Turner said she had saved enough money to buy a “real home,” which he still owns today.

With three brothers under the age of 18 still at home, Turner was once again called on to take charge.

In the meantime, Turner was still applying himself in the Army and progressing steadily up the ranks. He has found the military to be the most rewarding and equality-based institution.

“If you are a hard worker, you will do well and you’ll be recognized, no matter what your color,” said Turner.

But Turner said one event in Korea in 1993, brought back painful memories from his childhood.

“I was a new sergeant major. I qualified to live in new billeting called the ‘super hooch.’ I had been living there for seven months when I was told that I would have to move out for a white captain. No one came right out and said why I had to move — but everyone knew.”

Although the event made all the events come rushing back, Turner said he refused to let the incident dishearten him.

“I went to talk to the commander and shared with him the stories from my childhood.” In the end, Turner did not have to move.

“I wasn’t always the most popular person because I refused to join one of the ‘cliques’ that were sprouting up in the community.”

He did, however, form a strong bond with the soldiers he shared his quarters with.

“We shared our beliefs and hopes and dreams. We were a mix of races, ages and

TURNER, from Page 5

religions. It didn't matter because when you peel away the skin, we are all the same on the inside."

Still, that incident made him doubt himself.

"I felt that after 20 plus years in the military, I shouldn't have to prove myself. I felt like I wasn't good enough, not smart enough. But I won't let little things hold me back," he said.

"Anyway, look at me now. I am the senior enlisted soldier in the task force, and along with the commander, Maj. Gen. Vines, I am responsible for more than 7,000 U.S. and coalition forces."

Turner almost didn't make it to Afghanistan though.

Before the 82nd Airborne Division was set to deploy to Afghanistan, Turner was planning to retire. At the time, Turner was the 3rd Brigade command sergeant major. His commander asked him to deploy with the unit.

"It was an easy decision," Turner said. "My unit and my country needed me to pro-

vide my leadership."

After a brief discussion with his wife, Turner said yes and arrived in Afghanistan in July 2002 where he served as the regimental command sergeant major for the Panther Brigade Task Force (505th Parachute Infantry Regiment).

After serving three months with his brigade, Maj. Gen. John Vines asked Turner to stay on as his task force command sergeant major.

Although he missed his family, he said he knew it was the right thing to do.

"I've known Maj. Gen. Vines for more than 25 years," Turner said. "He is a great leader and I was honored that he selected me to command beside him."

Over the years, Turner has learned many lessons — lessons that he imparts to other soldiers every opportunity he gets.

"As noncommissioned officers, we need to make sure that we are taking care of our soldiers," Turner said. "Nothing is more rewarding than having a troop come and tell you thanks for listening to him and helping

him. That is the job of the noncommissioned officer — taking care of the soldiers entrusted to us."

"Every night before I go to sleep, I ask myself, 'What did you do today to take care of soldiers?' I know I can answer, I gave my all for them."

He said "Turner's four Cs are the most accurate description of who I am. Those are to be caring, compassionate, considerate and committed.

"You have to have a focus, a purpose and a commitment to yourself and the military. You must know your job and always strive to do your best and work hard every day," he explained.

Most importantly Turner said, "Live up to the responsibilities of the uniform. Always remember that when you raised your right hand and swore to defend the constitution of the U.S., that those were not just idle words that passed through your lips."

"This is one Army. It doesn't matter what the color of your skin is. You can be, do, and have anything with the proper attitude!"

Turner gives the credit for his successes to the guiding lights in his life.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Atrail Cobb was at the Ranger Department where I was an instructor. He taught me the most important leader lesson ever. 'Never let the sun set on a hungry or unpaid soldier and always, always take care of his family.' I have lived by that rule ever since."

His wife of 23 years, Patricia, has also been a strong influence.

"My wife has always been my rock," Turner said. She has helped develop me. She tells me, 'You're good at what you do and I support you because I know you love the soldiers.' It is an amazing woman who is willing to make the sacrifices she has made for 23 years and share me with our extended military family."

Turner's duty here should end around July. He plans to retire then, finish graduate school, work in his church and community and try to be a good role model for young children.

Turner offered one more piece of sage advice.

"With God's help and a positive attitude, there is nothing you cannot be, do, or have. It's that simple."



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

Stepping out...

Faces covered by scarves and goggles to protect against the Bagram dust, about 100 of the Italian forces conducted a foot march on Disney Drive Wednesday.



Coalition Sports Zone

Soccer/European football (Compiled from ESPN.com)



Steven Gerrard, center, scored for Liverpool.

Liverpool earns spot in next UEFA Cup

CARDIFF, England — Liverpool enjoyed one of the most memorable days in its recent history Sunday when it beat rivals Manchester United 2-0 to win the League Cup final and secure a place in next season's UEFA Cup.

Goals near the end of each half at the Millennium Stadium from Steven Gerrard and Michael Owen gave them a deserved victory over United and secured their sixth piece of silverware under French coach Gerard Houllier and a record seventh victory in the competition.

The win also lifted some of the gloom surrounding Anfield following a dramatic slump in their domestic league play over the last three months, which has brought them just two wins in their last 16 league games.

Houllier, who paid tribute to his keeper Jerzy Dudek, told Sky Sports: "We've beaten a good team today, it was a good Manchester United, don't get me wrong.

"Jerzy was the hero at times. I told him before the game 'Today it will be your game.'"

As for the significance of the win, which carries a UEFA Cup spot, he said: "It will probably get us a bit of relief. I think we can play in the Premiership with less pressure on us because we know we'll be in Europe, so let's go now for the best."

Owen told Sky Sports: "That was the first real chance I had in the game — but you have to play until the 90th minute.

"I'm delighted for everyone, for the fans who made the long journey down and the players — we have taken a bit of stick this year, we haven't had a great year."

Liverpool was always more determined and lively than United in what has become a happy "second home" for them. Sunday's win was its third here after victories in the 2001 League and FA Cup finals.

They also beat Manchester United 2-1 in Cardiff in the 2001 Charity Shield game.

Poor start sinks Real Sociedad

MADRID — Real Sociedad failed to regain top spot in the Spanish first division from overnight leader Real Madrid after it was handed a humbling 3-0 defeat by lowly Valladolid on Sunday.

Raynald Denoueix's side, which had led the table for 18 games before this weekend's matches, could not have got off to a worse start as they shipped three goals inside a whirlwind opening 20 minutes.

"We started very badly," said Denoueix. "After that it became mission impossible, but I just hope that this defeat will serve to motivate us even though we have lost the leadership."

Real Madrid moved top on Saturday after a crushing 5-1 away win over a demoralized Alaves, which featured a brilliant hat trick from World Player of the Year Ronaldo and two trademark opportunist goals from Raul.

Real now leads the table on 48 points, one ahead of Sociedad and two ahead of Valencia who were held to a 1-1 draw away at Celta Vigo.

Dutch striker Roy Makaay notched his 19th goal of the season as he helped Deportivo Coruna make up ground on the leaders with a 2-1 win at Racing Santander.

Javier Irureta's side is now just a point adrift of Valencia in fourth place and enjoys a seven-point cushion over fellow Galicians Celta.

Radomir Antic's Barcelona looked on course for their third win in a row against Osasuna, after goals from the in-form Javier Saviola and substitute Luis Enrique gave them a 2-1 lead at El Sadar.

But an injury-time strike from midfielder Gerardo Rivero earned the home side a 2-2 draw and deprived the Catalans of a valuable away win which meant they dropped to ninth place in the table, a point behind Sevilla who sneaked a 1-0 win away to city rivals Real Betis in a late game.

The pressure from Real Madrid finally appeared to take its toll on Sociedad as they self-destructed against an ambitious Valladolid. With just over a minute on the clock young midfielder Oscar fired off a sharp shot after cutting through the middle of the lethargic Sociedad defense.

Keeper Sander Westerveld blocked well, but the Sergio Pachon reacted quickly and back-heeled the loose ball to team mate Nico Olivera who steered home into the far corner.

Celtic, Rangers to play Saturday

GLASGOW — Celtic earned a dramatic 3-2 home win against Hibernian and Rangers won 2-1 at Livingston as the Scottish Premier League title race continued Sunday.

Swedish defender Johan Mjallby earned Celtic all three points

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with an injury time header, while goals by Lorenzo Amoruso and Shota Arveladze helped Rangers maintain their six-point lead at the top.

The Old Firm rivals meet Saturday — the third league clash of the season between Scotland's two biggest clubs.

Rangers have 78 points from 29 games while Celtic have 72 having played one game less. Hearts occupy third place with 49 points after a 2-1 win over Motherwell on Saturday.

"We had a number of chances and we just need that bit of ruthlessness in front of goal, but we did enough to win," Rangers manager Alex McLeish told reporters.

"At 2-0 ahead, we played some scrappy football and I was a wee bit disappointed with our composure. We should have put it out of reach."

Celtic manager Martin O'Neill praised his player's efforts only three days after they beat German side VfB Stuttgart to clinch a UEFA Cup quarterfinal tie with Liverpool.

"The efforts of Thursday night were going to take their toll and I knew Hibs would come out to play very positively against us, which they were, but it was a great effort," said O'Neill.

"They could have decided that Thursday night was a great effort but the lads will not relinquish the title easily.

"It was wave after wave of attack towards the end and it was magnificent."

Celtic looked to be strolling towards the three points after two headed goals from John Hartson in the opening 23 minutes. The Welsh striker was alert to nod home Alan Thompson's cross with a towering leap in the first minutes before doing likewise from Shaun Maloney's corner for his 22nd goal of the season.

Ballack's two goals lift Bayern to win

BERLIN — A double strike from Germany playmaker Michael Ballack presented runaway German first division leader Bayern Munich with a 2-0 win at lowly Energie Cottbus on Saturday.

Ballack, who has just been fined by his club for criticizing coach Ottmar Hitzfeld's tactics, proved his worth with perfect timing, heading home on 33 minutes before sealing victory with a volley from inside the area in the 58th minute.

Bayern, reduced to chasing more domestic silverware since bowing out of Europe, stay 10 points clear of second-place Borussia Dortmund.

Champions Dortmund outplayed mid-table Hansa Rostock 2-0 courtesy of a first-half effort from Brazilian midfielder Dede and a late goal by French defender Ahmed Reda Madouni — his first in the Bundesliga.

Bayern, the wealthiest and most prestigious club in the country, proved no match for Cottbus, a modest side from what was once East Germany, which is surviving on a meager budget with no big name players.

Cottbus had hoped for a big upset after leaving the bottom spot by taking 13 points from its previous five games — the best

Bundesliga record since the winter break.

But Bayern, unphased by possible sanctions after admitting it had received extra cash for marketing rights through a secret deal with the troubled KirchMedia group, was not impressed.

Hitzfeld's men calmly controlled the game and made the most of few scoring chances to send their hosts one spot down to 17th in the 18-strong table.

Monaco first on goal differential

PARIS — Congo's Shabani Nonda put Monaco back on top of the French first division with a last-gasp double as it won 3-1 at lowly Lille on Saturday.

Monaco is top on goal difference with 52 points ahead of Olympique Marseille, which had to be content with a goalless draw at Racing Strasbourg after striker Lamine Sakho hit the post.

The principality team, which is now unbeaten in 13 games, owed its win at Lille to Nonda and captain Ludovic Giuly, who were both instrumental in its three goals.

Giuly opened the scoring for Monaco two minutes into the second half from close range and also set up Nonda's goals in the 86th and 90th minutes.

Lille, which has lost its last seven outings, earned some consolation when Christophe Landrin found the net in between Nonda's two goals.

"We'll keep fighting till the end," said Monaco coach Didier Deschamps. "Every day we're getting closer to the finish line. We'll fight to keep our first place.

"Sir, my drill instructor sent me to pick up my idiot pills."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support