

# Freedom Watch

January 22, 2003 ♦ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ♦ Bagram, Afghanistan

## Maintenance mission includes Coalition forces

Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – The roar of an engine, the turn of a wrench and manuals with oil stains are images and sounds of a maintenance company, but here those are not the only things one may see.

The 503<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Company, 264<sup>th</sup> Logistics Task Force, Fort Bragg, N.C. has four shops that repair vehicles, weapons, radios and night vision goggles. They also weld equipment and sew patches and nametags on uniforms.

The company provides direct support and back-up organizational maintenance to U.S. and Coalition forces from here to Kabul.

The environment here makes repairing equipment more difficult.

“The DS mission is more of a challenge here due to facilities and field equipment,” said Master Sgt. Ray Hymbaugh, 503<sup>rd</sup>, first sergeant. “We are in a dusty environment and have a lack of lifting capabilities. We also work in a previously

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Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
Spc. Craig Mitchell, generator mechanic, 503<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Company, 264<sup>th</sup> Logistics Task Force, Fort Bragg, N.C. repairs a fuel truck engine.

## SMA conf. addresses ‘total Army’ concerns

By Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler  
CJTF-180 Public Affairs

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — Combined Joint Task Force-180 Command Sgt. Maj. Steven England joined more than 250 other sergeants major at the third annual Sergeant Major of the Army’s Nominative Command Sergeants Major Conference at Fort Bliss, Texas, Jan. 6 – 10.

Hosted by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley, the forum brought Army noncommissioned officers together to meet with members of the Army staff and to develop solutions to challenges facing the NCO Corps.

Attendees were provided 15 critical topics before attending the conference, according to England. The topics were relevant to soldiers Army-wide.

“Everything is focused on the young NCO, the young soldier,” England said.

Significant issues included safety, and the reduction of vehicle accidents. Another critical discussion centered on the guidelines for an NCO competency test currently being developed. “You need to be able to check your competency against

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Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

## Powering up...

Spc. Christopher Agosta, A Company, 769<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, digs a trench for electrical cables near the Post Exchange. The cables will be used to provide electricity for new structures being built around the post exchange. A Co. is due to re-deploy to Baton Rouge, La., in a few weeks.

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## American shot to death in Kuwait

**KUWAIT CITY** — A camera at an intersection in Kuwait City might have recorded an ambush Tuesday in which an American civilian was shot dead and another was wounded, a Kuwaiti official said.



*Michael Rene Pouliot co-founded Tapestry Solutions, which contracts with the U.S. military.*

Authorities were reviewing the videotape, recorded from a camera that monitors traffic, the official said. Richard Jones, the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, called the incident “a terrorist attack.”

Michael Rene Pouliot, 46, of San Diego, Calif., died at the scene, according to the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait. David Caraway, who was driving the vehicle, suffered six gunshot wounds but is expected to survive, authorities said.

Both men were contract workers for the U.S. military, employed by Tapestry Solutions, a San Diego, California-based company whose Web site says it has “specialized in the area of military modeling and simulation training tools.”

The men were ambushed on the road leading from Camp Doha, the main U.S. Army base in Kuwait.

## Bush: It's clear Iraq isn't disarming

**WASHINGTON** — President Bush said Tuesday it is clear that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is not disarming his nation and again warned that “time is running out.”

Bush repeated his threat to disarm Iraq with a “coalition of the willing” and compared Iraqi claims it has abandoned its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction to “a rerun of a bad movie.”

“He is delaying. He's deceiving. He's asking for time. He's playing hide-and-seek with inspectors,” Bush said. “One thing is for certain, he's not disarming. And so the United States of America, in the name of peace, will continue to insist he does disarm, and we will keep the pres-

sure on Saddam Hussein.”

Bush did not address calls to give U.N. weapons inspectors more time to work, but said Iraq is giving the world community “the runaround.”

The president has threatened military action against Iraq if it refuses to abide by U.N. resolutions calling for it to disarm. Baghdad repeatedly has denied possessing chemical, nuclear or biological weapons.



*North Korea's chief delegate Kim Ryong Song (l) and South Korean Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun at the opening of the talks*

## N. Korea denies nuclear plans

**SEOUL**, South Korea — North Korea has told the South during high-level talks in Seoul that it has no intention of developing nuclear weapons.

“North Korea stressed that it has no intention to develop nuclear weapons,” Reuters reported South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman Rhee Bong-jo as saying after the opening one-hour session of cabinet-level talks.

Resolving the nuclear crisis is essential to establishing stability on the peninsula, he said.

“The South side delivered our position that if the nuclear problem is not resolved, resolving North-South problems will also face difficulties,” Rhee said.

The delegation of senior North Korean officials arrived in Seoul Tuesday for four days of high-level talks with tensions over the North's nuclear program overshadowing the meetings.

South Korean officials have said they are keen to push the issue on to the talks agenda, but the head of the North Korean delega-

tion, Kim Ryong Song, told reporters shortly after arriving that the cabinet-level meetings should focus on efforts to bring about reunification.

## Life plus 30 years sought for Reid

**BOSTON** — A U.S. attorney is recommending a sentence of life in prison plus 30 years for Richard Reid, who pleaded guilty in October to trying to blow up a plane by igniting explosives in his shoes.

American Airlines Flight 63, carrying 197 people from Paris to Miami was diverted to Boston on Dec. 22, 2001 after passengers and crew saw Reid attempting to light a fuse and subdued him by tying him to his seat. A doctor on board administered a tranquilizer.

FBI bomb technicians and explosives experts found explosives in Reid's shoes.

Reid, 29, a British citizen and convert to Islam, pleaded guilty to all eight counts against him — including attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, attempted homicide and placing an explosive device on an aircraft.

“At the end of the day, I know I did the actions,” Reid said when entering his guilty plea last fall.

“Basically, I got on a plane with a bomb. Basically, I tried to ignite it.”

## Code-sharing plan challenged

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of Transportation said Tuesday it will file an unfair methods of competition complaint against three airlines that have agreed to book passengers on one another's flights.

The code-sharing agreement was reached by Delta Air Lines, Northwest Airlines and Continental Airlines, respectively the nation's third-, fourth- and fifth-largest carriers.

The department's decision followed the airlines' announcement that they intend to proceed with the plan, announced in August, without satisfying concerns the department had raised.

“DOT will not abandon our statutory responsibility to consumers nor ignore the clear intent of Congress,” spokesman Chet Lunner said.

# New short-term enlistments coming

By Jim Garamone  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** — A new military short-term enlistment program will begin Oct. 1 aimed at expanding the opportunities for all Americans to serve the country.

Congress authorized the National Call to Service enlistment option as part of the fiscal 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

The program allows the military services a new option to reach a group of young Americans who otherwise might not consider serving because of the length of traditional enlistment options, said Bob Clark, assistant director in the Department of Defense's accession policy directorate.

The program will work like this: A recruit enlists for the option and incurs a 15-month

active-duty service obligation following completion of initial-entry training, for a total active-duty commitment of about 19 months.

Following successful completion of active duty, servicemembers may re-enlist for further active duty or transfer to the selected reserve for a 24-month obligation.

Once this is completed, servicemembers may stay in the selected reserve or trans-

fer to individual ready reserve for the remainder of an eight-year commitment.

"The unique piece of this legislation is that while in the individual ready reserve, these young people will be given the opportunity to move into one of the other national service programs, such as AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps, and time in those will count toward their eight-year obligation," Clark said.

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yourself and your peers," England stressed.

Critical as well is the distribution of The Army Noncommissioned Officer Guide, FM 7-22.7 "This was something we developed last year, and now it's out," England said. "It can be downloaded online (<http://www.adtdl.army.mil/cgi-bin/atdl.dll/fm/7-22.7/toc.htm>). We are now also working on developing a Soldiers Guide," he added. "There hasn't been one for a very long time."

The gathering of senior NCOs from the "total Army" is the key to the success of the conference, according to England. "If we are one Army, we need to pull together all of the Command Sergeants Major together, and make sure we are all speaking

with one voice in the Army."

Speaking with one voice and setting one standard was a recurring theme throughout the conference. To illustrate the significance of "one standard," Tilley did something never done before — he conducted a weigh-in of all the attendees.

"NCOs are the standard bearers," England said. "When a policy is enacted, it is the role of the NCO to lead the way. His intent was to show that if you are going to be the standard bearer, you have to meet the standard yourself," England stressed. "It sends a very clear message to the field that there is one standard, and the NCOs need to be setting and meeting that standard."

Topics covered by the NCOs will be briefed to Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen.

Erik K. Shinseki. The results of the conference may be immediate, or may be long-term, depending on the topic.

To illustrate the success of the conference, England pointed to last year's reduction in interest rates on the STAR Card, used by service members in post exchange facilities. "We asked the question: 'Can we do better for our soldiers on the STAR card,'" England said. "Within months, the interest dropped almost 3 percent. That's significant, and it's significant for our soldiers."

Also significant is the "team building" that occurs between the NCOs attending the conference. "We all go out in agreement, and we stand by the agreement," England stressed. "It really does enact change, and those changes make it better for the Army and the NCO Corps."

## SMA conference topics:

The following are the topics covered during the conference:

- Reduction of Privately Owned Vehicle accidents
- Requirements for sergeant (E-5) selection to Drill Sergeant duty
- Guidelines for an NCO Competency Assessment Test
- NCOES Infrastructure – FORSCOM NCOES University
- Army PDA study
- Mandatory scores for promotion
- Assignment oriented training
- FM 7-22.7, The Soldiers Guide
- Army Development System (ADS) XXI Initiative: Multi-Skilled Soldier (MSS)
- Senior Level course for MACOM Sergeants Major and Command Sergeants Major
- Soldier Readiness Program needs to be improved and conducted semi-annually for deployable units and annually for TDA units.
- Increase the quality of the NCOER and ensure that we maintain the evaluation report's initial intent.
- Government Travel Credit Cards
- How can we ensure troops being mobilized for "routine" missions are notified in a timely manner?
- Recommending soldiers for promotion to sergeant
- Inconsistencies between medical retention standards and NCOES attendance standards
- Elimination/suspension of QMP

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blown-out building.”

But that’s not their biggest problem.

“The biggest maintenance challenge has been getting the right parts to complete the mission,” said Capt. Paul Alessio, commander, 503<sup>rd</sup>.

To remedy this, the 503<sup>rd</sup> works with their support operations and Army Materiel Command for parts.

Besides working on U.S. equipment, the unit also performs repairs for Coalition forces.

“We are trained on U.S. equipment so the foreign equipment is a little different — a little more of a challenge,” said Hymbaugh.

According to Alessio, one of the most difficult jobs is getting the parts and manuals.

The 503<sup>rd</sup> researches online to get technical manuals for the foreign equipment and receives the parts through contracting.

Approximately 100 jobs have been repairs on foreign equipment, according to Hymbaugh.

The 503<sup>rd</sup> only has soldiers here, but missions to Kabul use contractors.

“We go out, fix something and come back,” said Alessio. “On these missions we repair forklifts, recover broken equipment and repair generators.”

In their four months here, the 503<sup>rd</sup> has completed 854 jobs and accepted 865. They complete about 30 jobs a week, according to Alessio.

“It is less than would be performed at home station,” said Hymbaugh. “We have over 230 soldiers in the rear and here we have about 50, so, proportionately, we have more jobs than at home.”

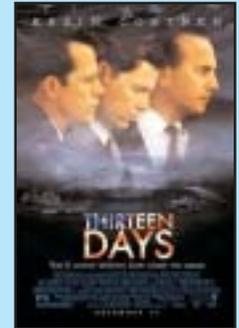
At home station, the 503<sup>rd</sup> performs 60-70 jobs a week, according to Hymbaugh.

“Even with part problems, our highly motivated and dedicated officers, (noncommissioned officers) and enlisted soldiers have accomplished the mission,” said Hymbaugh. “This has been one of the best deployments I’ve been on just because of the people I’ve worked with here.”

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Thirteen Days.” The film is set during the two-week Cuban missile crisis in October of 1962, and it centers on how President John F. Kennedy, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, and others handled the explosive situation.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “Office Space.”



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Haze</i> H: 55F L: 28F	<i>Haze</i> H: 55F L: 25F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 61F L: 43F	<i>Mist</i> H: 61F L: 43F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Haze</i> H: 55F L: 25F	<i>Haze</i> H: 54F L: 27F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 45F L: 29F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 46F L: 32F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## McGrady and Ilgauskas duel, Magic prevail

**CLEVELAND** — Tracy McGrady scored 35 points to spoil Keith Smart's coaching debut with Cleveland, leading the Orlando Magic to a 103-94 win Tuesday night over the Cavaliers.

McGrady came in as the league's leading scorer at 30 points per game, and he had matched that with 6:55 left in the third quarter with a pair of free throws.

At that point, McGrady had outscored the Cavs' starters 30-29. He had 33 points after three quarters, and Orlando coach Doc Rivers planned to rest his star before the Cavs rallied.

Cleveland fell to an NBA-worst 8-35 with its fifth straight loss and first under Smart, who was hired as interim coach on Monday when Cleveland fired John Lucas.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas led Cleveland with a career-high 35 points, but the Cavs, who have lost 11 of 13, didn't play much better with Smart calling the shots as they had with Lucas for the first 42 games this season.

Ricky Davis, Cleveland's leading scorer this season, had just 11 points — 11 below his average.

Pat Garrity added 20 points and Jeryl Sasser 14 for Orlando, which was without forwards Grant Hill and Mike Miller, both nursing ankle injuries.

But as long as McGrady's healthy, the Magic look as if they can compete with anyone. He added 11 rebounds and six assists.

## NBA: Foul was not worth a flagrant call

The NBA on Monday reclassified a controversial flagrant foul call made against Shaquille O'Neal during the Lakers' 108-104 overtime loss to the Rockets on Friday night.

On the play in question, Steve Francis drove to the basket, where O'Neal made contact with the point guard. A flagrant foul was called by referee Monty McCutchen. Lakers coach Phil Jackson was subsequently hit with a technical foul for arguing the call. The technical foul was also reclassified by the NBA.

The sequence helped the Rockets increase their lead from one point to four points.

"The unfortunate thing is it had to be decided by them," O'Neal said after the game, referring to the officials. "A whole bunch of people who paid a lot of money had to see a game that was decided by someone who doesn't make a lot of money. That's unfortunate."

When told of the NBA decision to overturn the calls, O'Neal clapped lightly on Monday, but did not comment otherwise, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. However, O'Neal was saved a point in the NBA's system of overseeing flagrant fouls. When a player accumulates six points, he is suspended for one game.

The game featured the first matchup between O'Neal and Houston rookie center Yao Ming, and lived up to its billing, even though Shaq dominated Yao at times. O'Neal finished with 31 points, 13 rebounds and four assists while Yao had 10 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks.

The star of the game, however, was Francis, who led the Rockets with a career-high 44 points.

## Walker sidelined with injured knee

**WALTHAM, Mass.** — Antoine Walker is expected to miss up to two weeks with a knee injury sustained in the Boston Celtics' comeback victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

An MRI taken Tuesday, one day after Boston's 100-99 win, showed a mild ligament sprain of his right knee. Walker was hurt in the third quarter of the game in which his 3-pointer provided the last points, capping a rally from a 23-point deficit.

Walker finished with 33 points and, on Tuesday, was chosen as the NBA player of the week in the Eastern Conference.

He sat out Tuesday's practice, and coach Jim O'Brien said he would not play against Milwaukee on Wednesday night in Boston.

Walker's 21.8-point average ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the NBA and  
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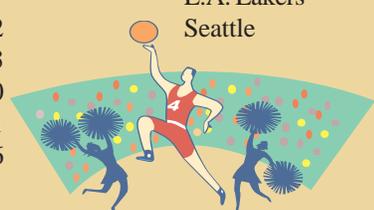


Walker



## 2002 NBA standings

Eastern Conference		Western Conference	
<b>Atlantic</b>		<b>Midwest</b>	
(2) New Jersey	28-12	(1) Dallas	32-8
(4) Boston	24-17	(3) San Antonio	26-14
(6) Orlando	22-21	(4) Utah	25-15
(7) Philadelphia	21-20	(7) Houston	23-17
(8) Washington	21-20	(8) Minnesota	23-18
<b>Central</b>		<b>Pacific</b>	
(1) Indiana	29-12	(2) Sacramento	30-11
(3) Detroit	27-13	(5) Portland	24-15
(5) New Orleans	22-20	(6) Phoenix	25-17
Milwaukee	19-21	L.A. Lakers	19-21
Chicago	15-26	Seattle	18-21



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second among the Celtics, who have won four straight games.

**Rookie game has last classes of rookies**

**NEW YORK** — Former NBA coaches Mike Fratello and Cotton Fitzsimmons will coach the Rookie Challenge game on Feb. 8 as part of the league's All-Star weekend.

They will be assisted by former Hawks stars Bob Pettit and Lou Hudson.

The All-Star Game is Feb. 9 in Atlanta; the coaches and assistants all have ties to the Hawks.

The game features the last two classes of rookies. Nine of the best second-year players will square off against the top rookies from this season.

This is the fourth year of the rookie vs. sophomore format. The game is known as the 2003 got milk? Rookie Challenge.

**Malone's last shot keeps Jazz going**

**SALT LAKE CITY** — The Utah Jazz's fourth straight win was a close one.

Karl Malone's putback with 0.6 seconds left forced overtime and the Jazz outlasted the New Jersey Nets 106-103 Monday night in a physical game that lasted nearly three hours and featured 63 personal fouls, including two flagrants, and three technicals.



Malone

"It took some tough defensive stands to win this game. It felt like June," said Tony Massenburg, who scored 13 for the Jazz. "There was a lot of stuff going on in there, but that's the NBA. It's physical — a man's game."

John Stockton finished with a season-high 25 points, including eight in overtime when he was 5-for-6 from the free-throw line. Malone scored 24, getting four in OT, and had 11 rebounds.

"It was a tough game. They don't lose too many," Stockton said. "But we can't make too much of it. We've got to continue to try to keep it even for each team."

The Nets had a chance to force a second overtime, but Jason Kidd's 3-point attempt just before the buzzer missed. Kidd felt he was fouled by Malone on the play and he and several other Nets stood on the floor in dismay after no call was made.

"If Karl or John were shooting that it would have been a foul. I've been here too long and I've seen that happen," said Kidd, who finished with 33 points.

**Shaq, Kobe help put down Clippers**

**LOS ANGELES** — The Lakers found a way to win late in a game they might have blown a month ago.

Shaquille O'Neal had 32 points and 15 rebounds, Kobe Bryant added 26 points and 11 assists and Los Angeles defeated the Clippers 96-92 Monday night to win their sixth in a row at Staples Center.

"I'm glad the clock ran out finally. It was a very unusual

night for us," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "We stumbled, kind of fumbled into that win."

Jackson earned his 200<sup>th</sup> victory as Lakers coach in his 286<sup>th</sup> game, the quickest to do so in franchise history.



Bryant



O'Neal

The Lakers improved to 14-6 at home and have won six of their last seven overall.

"That's more indicative of the type of basketball that's won us championships," said Rick Fox, who hit two 3-pointers in the fourth after going 1-for-7 through three quarters. "We're improving and it's starting to show with some wins."

Neither team led by more than six points in a game that wasn't decided until the final two minutes. Even then, the Clippers had a late chance to win when the Lakers' Robert Horry turned the ball over with the Clippers trailing by two.

Lamar Odom came down the middle with a defender on him and could have driven to the basket or pulled up for a short jumper, but he swung the ball to his right where he didn't realize Corey Maggette was being tightly defended.

Maggette was called for an offensive foul and Bryant made both free throws to seal the win.

"On a play like that, all kinds of stuff is running through your head," Clippers guard Andre Miller said. "I thought he was going to go straight to the basket, but he kicked it out."

**"Please insert another 50 cents to continue your phone call. Thank you."**

kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com By Kevin Kilgore

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