

# Freedom Watch

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Bagram, Afghanistan

## Married on mission: 'Til death us do part



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

*Staff Sgt. Elijah Holliday, imagery analyst, Dragon Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps., and his wife Sgt. Carmen Holliday, imagery analyst, A Co., 313<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion work out together. In their down time, the couple plays games, goes to the gym and enjoys old-fashioned marital conversations.*

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

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – Deployments can be hard and stressful for all soldiers, but particularly for those who are married and have left spouses behind. In some cases, dual-military couples would rather go to war together, than face the pain and hardship of being apart.

Two couples here were fortunate enough to have the opportunity not only to serve their country, but to be with their spouse as well. Even with the pre-deployment hassles, they said the outcome was worth it.

“After being in Korea for a year, I returned to discover my husband was deploying here,” said Sgt. Carmen

Holliday, imagery analyst, A Co., 313<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion. “Rather than being without him for another six months, I volunteered to deploy as well.”

“I had to pull some strings to get my wife to deploy with me, but we preferred it that way than being apart for even longer,” said Staff Sgt. Elijah Holliday, imagery analyst, Dragon Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps.

In addition to being deployed to the same theatre, the Hollidays have the added luxury of sharing quarters.

“Being able to live together was not something we expected,” said Carmen. “That was a plus.”

“It’s nice to have half of a tent all

————— See **MARRIED**, Page 3



Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

### All together now...

*Soldiers from 364<sup>th</sup> Supply Company, 264<sup>th</sup> Logistics Task Force, Fort Bragg, N.C., pull a 1,400-pound fuel bag into place. The 364<sup>th</sup> is expanding the aircraft fuel service point by adding seven bags for a total of 22 that are able to hold approximately one million gallons of fuel.*

## Afghan fire fight kills 18 enemy

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs  
*Army News Service*

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — In a joint effort, soldiers, airmen and coalition forces killed 18 enemy personnel after a small group of U.S. Special Forces came under fire Monday night.

A small group of U.S. Special Forces was clearing a compound with support from Afghan militia forces when they came under small arms fire Monday at 1830Z.

Coalition forces returned fire, killing one, wounding one and detaining a third. The detainee informed the Special Forces that there were several armed men located several kilometers north in their vicinity.

After the information was verified, Army helicopters fired on the enemy forces, who

————— See **FIGHT**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## Bush seeks to rally Americans in speech

WASHINGTON — Promising “focus and clarity and courage,” President Bush sought to assure Americans Tuesday night that his administration could revitalize the economy and improve health care, even as it tackles what he described as a grave threat from Iraq’s Saddam Hussein — one that, he said, could lead to war.

“We will work for a prosperity that is broadly shared, and we will answer every danger and every enemy that threatens the American people,” Bush said in his second State of the Union address, delivered under extraordinary security to a joint session of Congress.

Declared Bush: “Our faith is sure, our resolve is firm, and our union is strong.”

Bush identified strengthening the economy as his “first goal.” Other domestic goals cited by Bush included: improving health care for all Americans and crafting a prescription drug benefit for seniors; providing greater energy independence, while protecting the environment; and “applying the compassion of America” to its deepest problems.

The speech comes at a delicate time for the president, one that he described as a “whirlwind of change and hope and peril.” Polls show a growing concern among the public over Bush’s handling of the economy and a general wariness about the prospect of war with Iraq.

## Blix welcomes U.S. offer

UNITED NATIONS — Chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix said Tuesday he would welcome the release of U.S. intelligence on Iraq’s weapons programs and said inspectors could finish their work “relatively fast” if Baghdad would do more to cooperate.

Blix said U.S. officials already are providing information about Iraq’s efforts to develop nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, “and that is helpful.”

Bush administration officials have said they are likely to declassify some intelligence on Iraq next week. They said the material will



*An Iraqi accompanies U.N. weapons inspectors Tuesday at an agricultural company south of Baghdad.*

show that senior Iraqi officials have been concealing weapons and evidence of weapons programs from inspectors.

“I think the more evidence that is placed on the table, if there is some, the better,” Blix said.

“But there is some evidence that has been placed on the table that has been put into doubt, like evidence about the aluminum tubes. So the more on the table, the better.”

## Iraq to chair U.N. conference

UNITED NATIONS — Iraq will chair the United Nations’ most important disarmament negotiating forum during the panel’s May session.

At the rules-minded United Nations, it’s not a country’s status with international weapons inspectors, but the letters in its name which determine which member state chairs the Conference on Disarmament.

“The irony is overwhelming,” a U.S. diplomat said.

Chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Monday delivered their 60-day report on the status of weapons inspections in Iraq. It was a less-than-glowing summary, with both men saying Baghdad is not cooperating with inspectors and is not being forthcoming on disclosing information about its weapons programs.

Iraq will take its turn as the head of the conference, a U.N. spokesman said, because of a “purely automatic rotation by alphabetical order.”

Therefore, joining Iraq as the co-chair for the May 12-June 27 session in Geneva, Switzerland, will be Iran.

The conference chair helps organize the work of the conference and assists in setting the agenda.

This will be the 25th anniversary session since the conference was established in 1979 after a special U.N. General Assembly session.

## Marines deny special handling

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — The U.S. Marine Corps Monday denied that it had kept an enlisted Marine from being sent to the Middle East so that he could sing on the hit Fox reality show “American Idol.”

Lance Cpl. Joshua Gracin, appearing in baggy jeans and a sweater, wowed the judges on last Wednesday’s episode of “Idol” with a crisp salute and a strong performance. He is set to appear on this Wednesday’s episode, in which the 32 semi-finalists will be chosen.

In a statement, the Marine Corps said Gracin’s unit was scheduled to remain at Camp Pendleton near San Diego and had not been set to go to the Middle East as part of a military buildup ahead of a possible U.S. war with Iraq.

“The Marine Corps sees the recruiting value of Gracin’s appearance before a national audience, appreciates the level of talent the Marine possesses, and recognizes the benefits of allowing him to continue competing on the program,” Camp Pendleton said in a statement Monday.



*Lance Cpl. Joshua Gracin will appear on this Wednesday’s episode in which the 32 semi-finalists will be chosen.*



Photos by Pfc. Christina Carde

*Staff Sgt. Joseph Traylor, A Company, 313<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, says goodbye to his wife, Sgt. Amber Traylor, A Company, 313<sup>th</sup>, before he returns to his unit in Kandahar.*

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to ourselves,” said Elijah.

For some couples however, the situation is different.

“I was here for two months before my husband came over,” said Sgt. Amber Traylor, signal analyst, A Co., 313<sup>th</sup> MI Bn. “This is the first time we’ve seen each other in three months because his unit is in Kandahar, but one weekend a month is better than not at all.”

Even though married couples are granted certain privileges, there are still rules and restrictions.

“In Kandahar, there are no provisions for deployed spouses,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph Traylor, platoon sergeant, A Co., 313<sup>th</sup> MI Bn.

“Here, my wife and I have our own quarters apart from everyone else,” he added.

“We still have to abide by the same rules set for everyone else,” said Carmen. “Things like showing affection in public are still not allowed even though we are married.”

For a soldier, having their spouse with them on a deployment may seem ideal, but the couples said there are negative factors as well as positive.

“We had to give up our apartment, and put all of our belongings and vehicle in storage,” said Carmen. “The fact that we presently don’t have a place to live in the states

really bothers me.”

“Right now, there’s no one at home to check on our stuff and let us know if everything is going well,” said Amber. “That is the major downside to us being here together.”

“I’ve been deployed without my wife before, and living with the guys you work with can drive you crazy,” said Elijah. “It’s nice to come home to my wife after work and talk to her about my day. It makes the deployment go by much faster.”

“I spend the duty day as well as my down time with my co-workers,” said Joseph. “Seeing my wife every once and a while is a nice break from that.”

The couples said they get a lot of jealous comments from co-workers whose spouses are at home, but Carmen said there are things married soldiers deployed here alone have that she doesn’t.

“If you are deployed and you’re spouse is home, you have the peace of mind knowing at least one of you

is safe,” she said.

“If something goes wrong here, there is a good chance both my husband and myself could be gone,” Carmen said.

“We can’t just call back to the states and have someone send us something like we could if one of us was home,” said Carmen.

“Sometimes having someone at home to look after things and send you what you need is an advantage,” she added.

Since the Hollidays have no children together, they have extended their tour for another three months. They said financially it is a great opportunity.

Sgt. Amber Traylor will return to the states in a few months with her husband about two months behind her. Amber had a suggestion for soldiers deployed here alone.

“You need to keep yourself occupied while you’re here,” said Amber. “If you do nothing but think about what your spouse is up to back home you’ll go nuts. Develop a hobby.”



*Sgt. Carmen Holliday, imagery analyst, A Co., 313<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, spots her husband, Staff Sgt. Elijah Holliday, imagery analyst, Dragon Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps. Carmen volunteered for this deployment so she could be with her husband.*

# Soldiers Radio debuts 'Sergeant's Time'

By Gary Sheftick  
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley was the guest on the debut program Jan. 21 of "Sergeant's Time" a new show airing every Tuesday on SoldiersRadio.com and the Soldiers Radio Network.

"With the new technology, I think sometimes we don't talk to our soldiers enough," said Tilley, speaking on Soldiers Radio. "A sergeant has to get out and talk to his soldiers ... and understand what's going on with them, to include their family members."

SoldiersRadio.com is using the World Wide Web to help senior enlisted leaders communicate to the entire Army community with its new 30-minute "Sergeant's Time" show.

In addition to the sergeant major of the Army, guests will include command sergeants major and sergeants major from every part of the Army, according to the show's producer.

"Our goal with Sergeant's Time is twofold," said Staff Sgt.



Photo by Gary Sheftick, Army News Service

*Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley was the guest on the premiere of "Sergeant's Time" a new program on SoldiersRadio.com.*

Matt Howard, the show's producer. "First, we want to give our audience a look into the many different commands of our Army, from an enlisted perspective."

"We also want to be a source for professional development of NCOs, and future NCOs. When it comes to leading troops, nobody has more experience than a sergeant major, and we want to mine that wealth of experience and knowledge."

Tilley was the first guest on Sergeant's Time. Among the topics he talked about were his recent travels to Southwest Asia,

the dangers of complacency in the War on Terror, and his concerns about the rising number of off-duty accidents.

"Don't rush. Don't speed. Don't get off on a Friday night and try to drive 500 miles," cautioned Tilley. "Part of the responsibility of a non-commissioned officer is to check soldiers."

"It was an honor having Sergeant Major Tilley here for the debut," said Sgt. 1st Class Jose Velazquez, NCOIC of Soldiers Radio and Television and the host of Sergeant's Time.

"He's one of those people

that, as soon as he starts speaking, people listen. We hope to have him on the show once a month."

Sergeant's Time also allows guests to answer soldiers' questions they've received via e-mail and during their travels.

"You've got to figure for every person who asks a question, there's a bunch of people out there with that same question who didn't have the opportunity to ask it or maybe were afraid to," said Velazquez.

"Sergeant's Time is a chance for those questions to be answered for a worldwide audience."

With the first show of Sergeant's Time under their belt, the staff of SoldiersRadio.com said they hope "Sergeant's Time" will be helping to share the knowledge and experience of the Army's senior enlisted leaders for years to come.

"Sergeant's Time" airs Tuesdays at 1830Z, 0030Z and 0630Z on SoldiersRadio.com and the Soldiers Radio Network.

*(Editor's note: Information provided by SRTV.)*

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were located near a series of caves, and a Quick Reaction Force from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division was launched. Close air support was provided by Army Apaches, U.S. Air Force Bombers, a USAF AC130 Gunship and coalition F-16s, officials said.

Enemy forces were engaged throughout the night, officials said. At least 18 enemy have been killed and no coalition casualties have been reported, officials added.

*(Editor's note: Information provided by the Coalition Joint Task Force-180 Public Affairs Office.)*

## Mailing Antique Weapons

Anyone wishing to send an antique firearm home needs to understand the rules before mailing it.

The Domestic Mail Manual 57, section C024.2.0, states "Antique Firearms sent as curios or museum pieces may be accepted for mailing." The weapons must include proper documentation signed by U.S. Customs officials.

Since each weapon is unique, each requires certain forms. It is the responsibility of the individual to obtain all the required forms for their particular weapon before shipment

or it will prevent the mailer from making a claim against the United States Postal Service, if the weapon is confiscated.

According to DMM 57, section C024.4.0, "postmasters are not authorized to give opinions on the legality of any shipment of rifles or shotguns."

Post office personnel are not trained Customs officials, and will not question anyone mailing home what looks like an antique weapon. It is not the responsibility of the post office to ensure you have all the required documents.

To import a firearm, visit the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Web site at [www.atf.treasury.gov](http://www.atf.treasury.gov) and download the ATF F-6 Part II (5330.3B) application form. This form also includes details on the application process.



# Critter of the Week: Rhesus Monkey

By Capt. Cory Campora  
791<sup>st</sup> Preventive Medicine Detachment

Afghanistan may seem like an unlikely place to see monkeys, but in fact the natural range of the Rhesus Macaque, a monkey commonly used in medical experiments, includes Eastern Afghanistan as well as parts of Pakistan, much of India and Nepal and across to Northeastern China and South Asia.



**A Rhesus Monkey at Forward Operating Base Salerno.**

It is yellowish brown with a pale, naked face and a tail about half as long as the body. Males can measure up to 2 feet in body length. Rhesus monkeys live in social groups and have adapted to a wide range of habitats such as high mountains, snow, deserts, and dense forests.

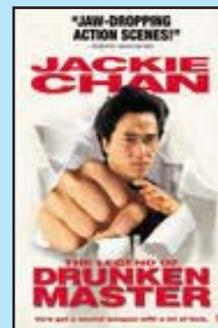
In India some groups may actually be found living among people in cities where culturally they are protected from harm. They eat just about anything and often raid crops and gardens for food. These monkeys are sometimes captured and sold as pets in Afghanistan.

While they may seem like novel pets, monkeys can carry potentially fatal diseases such as rabies and simian B herpes virus, so they should never be kept by military personnel. Additionally, General Order Number 1A prohibits adopting as pets or mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal.

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Legend of the Drunken Master." Returning home with his father after a shopping expedition, Wong Fei-Hong is unwittingly caught up in the battle between foreigners who wish to export ancient Chinese artifacts and loyalists who don't want the pieces to leave the country.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Tombstone."



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Rain</i> H: 48F L: 28F	<i>Rain</i> H: 48F L: 28F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 57F L: 34F	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 57F L: 39F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Rain</i> H: 54F L: 28F	<i>Rain</i> H: 55F L: 25F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 43F L: 36F	<i>Cloudy</i> H: 37F L: 30F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Jordan in 14<sup>th</sup> game; Malone left off roster

**NEW YORK** — Michael Jordan is an All-Star for the 14th time, while Karl Malone won't be for the first time since 1987.

"I don't think it matters," Malone said before the Jazz played at Sacramento on Tuesday night. "You don't control it, and there ain't nothing you can do about it. I got nominated 14 times, but they don't pick you now, what can you do about it?"

Jerry Stackhouse and Jalen Rose also aren't going to the league's showcase event Feb. 9 in Atlanta — and both felt snubbed.

"I can't sit here and say it's not disappointing," Stackhouse said Tuesday.

The 29 NBA coaches voted for seven reserves from each conference. Chosen from the East along with Jordan were Jason Kidd of New Jersey, Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker of Boston, Brad Miller of Indiana, Zydrunas Ilgauskas of Cleveland and Jamal Mashburn of New Orleans.

The Western Conference reserves are Shaquille O'Neal of the Lakers, Stephon Marbury and Shawn Marion of Phoenix, Steve Nash and Dirk Nowitzki of Dallas, Gary Payton of Seattle and Chris Webber of Sacramento.

Jordan called it a privilege to be able to return to the game in what he says will be his last season.

"It gives my kids a chance to go and see some of the up-and-coming stars," Jordan said.

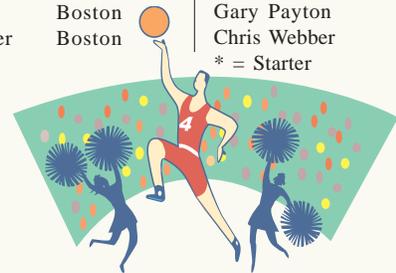
He moved into a tie with Malone and Jerry West for the second-most All-Star selections in NBA history behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's 19.

Jordan has the highest career scoring average in All-Star history at 21.3 points. He was voted in as a starter in his 13 previous selections.

## 2003 NBA All-Star roster

East Roster		West Roster	
Player	Team	Player	Team
Vince Carter*	Toronto	Shaquille O'Neal	Lakers
Allen Iverson*	Philadelphia	Stephon Marbury	Phoenix
Tracy McGrady*	Orlando	Shawn Marion	Phoenix
Jermaine O'Neal*	Indiana	Steve Nash	Dallas
Ben Wallace*	Detroit	Dirk Nowitzki	Dallas
Zydrunas Ilgauskas	Cleveland	Yao Ming *	Houston
Michael Jordan	Washington	Steve Francis*	Houston
Jason Kidd	New Jersey	Kobe Bryant *	Lakers
Jamal Mashburn	New Orleans	Kevin Garnett *	Minnesota
Brad Miller	Indiana	Tim Duncan *	San Antonio
Paul Pierce	Boston	Gary Payton	Seattle
Antonie Walker	Boston	Chris Webber	Sacramento

\* = Starter



## 2002 NBA standings



### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic

(2) New Jersey	30-14
(4) Boston	26-19
(5) Philadelphia	24-21
(9) Orlando	23-23
Washington	22-23

#### Central

(1) Indiana	33-12
(3) Detroit	29-15
(6) New Orleans	23-22
(7) Milwaukee	22-22
Chicago	17-27

### Western Conference

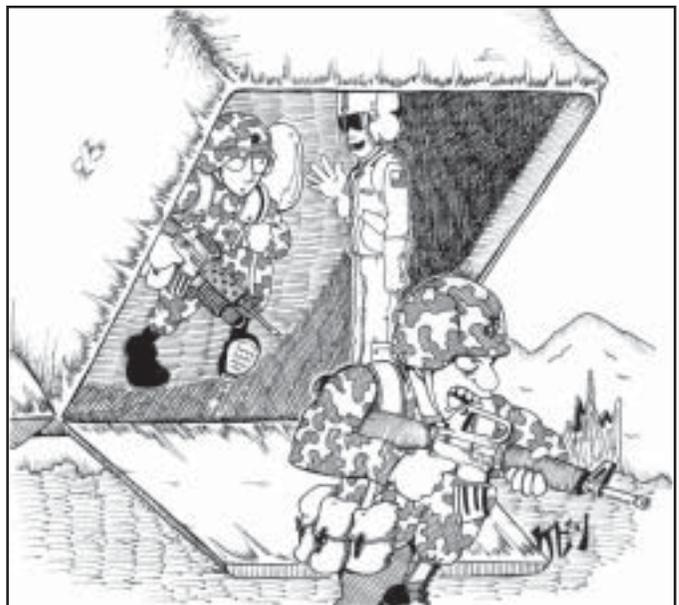
#### Midwest

(1) Dallas	34-9
(4) San Antonio	28-16
(5) Minnesota	27-18
(6) Utah	25-18
(8) Houston	24-19

#### Pacific

(2) Sacramento	32-13
(3) Portland	27-15
(7) Phoenix	26-20
L.A. Lakers	20-23
Seattle	19-23

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By Kevin Kilgore

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