

Vets ensures Bagram not 'sick as a dog'

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – When soldiers from the 719th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) are not looking after the health of the four-legged troops on Bagram Air Base, they are inspecting the food for the two-legged kind.

These cross-trained soldiers take on the dual mission of treating animals as well as making sure that U.S. troops on Bagram stay healthy by inspecting the mass quantities of food that arrive on Bagram daily.

They inspect about 10 million pounds of food a month, said Lt. Col. Patrick E. Phillips, commander of the 719th Med. Det.

Before the food is taken to the dining facilities, these inspectors pop the locks on the containers to check for seals, temperatures, and the overall condition of the food and the containers, said Sgt. Meghan M. Groth, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 719th Med. Det. Armed to the teeth with a host of regulations and manuals, Groth said that they check what seems like mundane details because the food soldiers eat is vital.

If the temperature is not accurate, many types of pathogens and bacteria can contaminate it, said Spc. Lindsley A. Chattic, a food inspector with the 719th Med. Det. “If that happens, then there’s no real way to control it, and soldiers can get sick,” she said.



Sgt. Meghan M. Groth, 719th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) inspects a shipment of fresh fruits before it is sent to the dining facilities on Bagram Air Base.

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Rangers review Javelin effectiveness during OIF

Story by Pfc. David Foley
Fort Benning *Bayonet* staff writer

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Four Rangers who used the Javelin handheld anti-armor missile system during operations in Iraq and one who fired it while training at Fort Benning spoke

about their experiences during a meeting here July 31.

Sgt. Jason Witmer, Cpl. Jeremy Mumma, Spc. Matthew Pickell and Spc. Michael Kithcart, all with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, told a group of Javelin manufacturers and post officials how the system performed in actual combat situations.

All four soldiers fired the weapon in different situations allowing them to give a broad view of its capabilities.

Each of them said the missile system was one of the most vital pieces of equipment they had during the war in

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A U.S. soldier looks out from the damaged main entrance of the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad.

U.S. to seek OK for Iraq council

UNITED NATIONS – The Bush administration plans to introduce a draft resolution this week to the U.N. Security Council that would bless the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, according to U.N. diplomats.

The move is designed to enhance the legitimacy of the 25-member Iraqi body, which the United States and its military allies established last month to help administer the country.

The proposed resolution also would formally establish a U.N. mission in Iraq to oversee the council's activities. The United Nations already has a mandate to contribute to the relief of civilians, reconstruction and the establishment of a political process leading to an internationally recognized government in Iraq.

But Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the 15-nation Security Council at a luncheon last week that he wants a new mission created to provide a more formal U.N. presence in the country and to aid his special representative to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Bush administration officials hope the resolution will strengthen the perception that the United Nations is playing a vital role in Iraq, diplomats said. But they noted that the text granted little new authority to the United Nations, leaving power in the hands of the U.S.-led military coalition.

The leader of the Iraqi Governing Council

said Monday that the group has chosen a special committee to look at the mechanics of drafting a new constitution. Ibrahim al-Jafari also said the council now has criteria for appointing government ministers.

Once a constitution is in place, there can be national elections. The council, which began meeting in July, is charged with expediting the transition of power from the U.S.-backed Coalition Provisional Authority to Iraqis.



The C-12 Huron crashed with two U.S. military personnel on board.

U.S. plane crashes in S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea — A U.S. military transport plane has crashed south of the capital Seoul, killing two people on board, American commanders say.

The pilot and co-pilot died after the plane crashed at about 2:43 p.m. (0543 GMT) on Tuesday, seven miles (11 kilometers) southwest of Pyongtaek.

The C-12, a 10-seater turboprop plane, was from the 8th U.S. Army's 52nd Aviation Battalion.

Lt. Col. Steve Boylan said the plane went down during a "normal test flight," and there were no casualties on the ground.

It is unclear why the plane crashed and an investigation is underway. But eyewitnesses told *The Associated Press* the plane crashed in a rice paddy near a restaurant, plowing through garlic patches and into a storehouse.

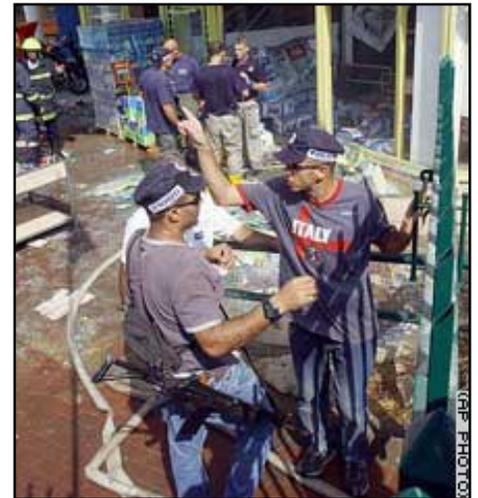
Local TV footage showed the burnt and shattered wreckage of the plane.

A local resident working in his onion field at the time of the crash, said the aircraft was on fire and seemed to maneuver away from the populated area of the town, a U.S. Army

statement said.

The resident said the pilot appeared to do everything to stop the aircraft from crashing into any buildings.

The C-12 Huron is the military version of the Beechcraft Super King Air.



The first attack took place in a grocery store.

Suicide bombings in Israel, West Bank kills two Tuesday

JERUSALEM – Less than an hour apart, a pair of suicide bombings Tuesday killed two Israelis and wounded at least a dozen others.

The terror attacks occurred six weeks after three Palestinian fundamentalist groups, including Hamas and Fatah, declared a temporary cease-fire on Israeli targets.

Hamas' armed wing — Izzedine al Qassam — claimed responsibility for one of Tuesday's bombings — an attack at a bus stop near the West Bank settlement of Ariel that killed one Israeli and critically wounded two others.

The militant wing of Fatah — Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades — claimed responsibility for the other attack, a grocery store bombing in central Israel that killed one Israeli and wounded at least 10 others.

Fatah is the political organization of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat. Arafat has condemned the bombings, according to Palestinian Cabinet member Saeb Erakat.

Izzedine al Qassam said its bombing was in direct response to the killing by Israel of a Hamas commander in Nablus on Friday.

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They also look for indications of tampering, said Groth. All the containers are sealed with specific seals, and the seals all have numbers on them, she said.

“The numbers have to match the paperwork, so we know that it hasn’t been tampered with, and that the container is still secured,” she said.

“If any contamination got in the food through bio-terrorist activity, it could affect many,” said Groth. “It could take out hundreds or thousands of troops, and would be a quick way to weaken the force here.”

That’s why “security is our main focus for the food inspections,” said Phillips.

A chain of custody is set in place so the food is inspected several times from when it is first packed to when it reaches Bagram.

Bagram’s food inspectors continue the chain from when the food reaches Bagram to when it is delivered to the

dining facilities on base, said Chattic.

“If the chain of custody is broken any where along the line, and if we can’t verify how it was broken, then we have no recourse but to deny the shipment,” said Phillips. “It’s part of the job, and it’s not worth taking the risk.”

Their job doesn’t end when the container doors are shut, said Chattic.

The food inspectors also “go down to the dining facilities to make sure the dining facilities are handling the food properly,” said Chattic.

If they’re not, “then the whole mission that we just did is ruined,” she added.

“The vets do their part in making sure soldiers on Bagram stay healthy when it comes to the food served at the dining facilities, and it’s just taken for granted that people don’t get sick,” said Phillips.

“I’m glad they do take for granted the fact that someone is taking care of them.”

JAVELIN, from Page 1

Iraq.

Mumma and his team were cresting a hill in western Iraq when they spotted a pair of Iraqi tanks positioned about 1,800 meters away dug into U-shaped bunkers at the base of the hill.

Mumma grabbed the Javelin from his team’s Humvee, engaged the target and fired two missiles at the tanks.

Both missiles were direct hits and produced what Mumma called “catastrophic results,” destroying each tank almost instantly.

Each Ranger saw similar results after firing the system.

Kithcart said there was no doubt about whether the target was destroyed when he fired a Javelin because the explosion was so large it could be seen from about a kilometer away.

They also said they were impressed by the range and lethality of the weapon and found additional uses for the Command Launch Unit, which is basically the brain and eyes of the Javelin.

The Javelin sight (CLU) was such an asset that the Rangers said they used them during patrol and surveillance missions.

“As far as surveillance goes, the CLU was better” than the thermal

sights the Rangers carried, Mumma said.

“If we picked up something on the thermal (binoculars) and couldn’t tell what it was, we would pick up the CLU.”

Kithcart said the CLU was the best surveillance device they had when it was dark and during the frequent sandstorms because they were able to see things with much more detail than with the thermal binoculars.

He said the CLU helped with their mission so much he would have carried it even if he didn’t have any ammunition for the system.

“The complete system performed magnificently,” said Col. Mike Beasock, TRADOC Close Combat Missile Systems system manager. “The CLU was the best surveillance device they had. The missiles effectively destroyed each target they shot at, ranging from tanks to light vehicles and bunkers.

“Tanks used to scare us,” he said, “but now we are looking for armored targets to attack.

“Now we can find them, get out of the vehicle and attack on foot,” Beasock said. “To have one infantryman on foot attacking a tank is amazing, and the system is so accurate, if you lock on to



Courtesy Photo

A two-man team fires an anti-armor missile from a Javelin.

a target, it’s an assured defeat of that target.

“People were even locking on to mortar positions,” Beasock continued. “It is a very reliable system.”

The Javelin system has already begun to change the way the Army looks at tanks and other armored vehicles, he said.

The Javelin has proven itself to be so valuable that it is one of the few weapons systems to be designated by name to be in the Army’s Objective Force, Beasock said.

“It has such promising growth potential and such ‘leap-ahead’ compatibility that we must have it in the future,” Beasock said.

101st Airborne helps privatize hotel in Iraq

MOSUL, Iraq – The 101st Airborne Division brought together state and private institutions in a \$14 million deal Aug. 6 to renovate the Nineveh Hotel in an effort to boost Mosul tourism and the regional economy.

In the first postwar effort to privatize Iraqi government facilities, division legal representative Maj. David Ward introduced the Sumer Holdings Group to the Mosul Board of Tourism. The two worked out an operating agreement to share profits generated by the hotel.

Sumer, the first company to pump private capital into state property, will operate the only five-star hotel in the city.

“The agreement will grow the economy and stimulate city life,” said Dr. Sadallah Farjo, Sumer’s chief executive. “Mosul is a major site for tourism, and this is the best hotel in the city.”

Under the agreement, Sumer will split revenue equally with the Mosul tourism board, once expenses and payments on the initial investment are subtracted.

The government in Mosul has been ahead of the rest of Iraq in everything since the end of the war, said Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, Commander, 101st Airborne Division, who helped facilitate the agreement. It was the first to hold elections, the first to form inter-ethnic security forces, and now it is the first to work with private enterprise to rebuild Iraq and restore its economy.

“The Nineveh Hotel will be a symbol — a model for the rest of the country,” said Ambassador Pietro Cordone, the Coalition Provisional Authority’s senior adviser to the Ministry of Culture.

(Information from the 101st Airborne Division Public Affairs Office.)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Last Days of Frank and Jessie James.” This movie looks at the last years (not days, as implied in the title) of famous outlaws, Frank and Jesse James...

Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Outlaw Josey Wales..”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Thursday
Bagram:	Mostly clear H: 95F L: 70F	Mostly clear H: 97F L: 68F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 104F L: 70F	Dusty H: 102F L: 70F
Kabul:	Haze H: 95F L: 70F	Haze H: 95F L: 68F
Uzbekistan:	Clear H: 103F L: 57F	Clear H: 101F L: 60F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



Willis McGahee may suit up for the Bills this season. McGahee, who tore his knee in his last collegiate game, was expected to be the No.1 draft pick.

McGahee agrees to contract with Bills

PITTSFORD, N.Y. – First-round draft pick Willis McGahee agreed Tuesday to a contract with the Buffalo Bills, but that still doesn't get the injured running back closer to playing his first game.

In announcing the agreement, Bills president Tom Donahoe said he still hasn't determined whether McGahee will open the season on the active roster. One option, Donahoe said, is placing the running back on the non-football injury list, allowing him to continue rehabilitating his injured left knee.

"I don't anticipate that he'll be on the field right away," Donahoe said. "The most important thing is for us to get him healthy. When he can endure the rigors, we'll put him out there."

McGahee agreed to a five-year deal that could potentially be worth \$15.53 million. The contract includes a guaranteed two-tiered \$4.15 million bonus, the second part to be paid at the end of the season. The deal is also heavily laden with incentives that more than double a base contract worth just over \$7 million, including bonuses.

As part of the agreement, the Bills hold the option to keep McGahee for a fifth season.

"We're very pleased," McGahee's agent, Drew Rosenhaus said. "They were very fair to Willis by structuring a deal that, including incentives, will give him the chance to be paid as a top 10 pick."

McGahee, the 23rd player selected, has spent the last month in his native Miami and is scheduled to travel to the Bills training camp facility in suburban Rochester today.

If placed on the non-football injury list, McGahee could begin practicing between the sixth and 10th weeks of the season and, if deemed healthy, cleared to play. There's also a chance the former Miami star could miss the entire season, recovering after tearing three ligaments in his left knee during the Hurricanes' loss to Ohio State in last January's Fiesta Bowl.

Detroit signs Hamilton to seven-year deal

AUBURNHILLS, Mich. — Richard Hamilton will be with the Detroit Pistons for a while.

The Pistons said Tuesday they re-signed the restricted free-agent guard to a seven-year, \$62 million contract that was agreed upon last month.



Richard Hamilton

"I wanted to be here and they wanted me here," Hamilton, 25, said. "The big thing was feeling like a family here, feeling wanted. It feels like home."

Pistons president Joe Dumars, who traded Jerry Stackhouse to Washington last summer for Hamilton, said it was a good day for the team to be able to secure Hamilton to a long-term contract.

"Rip came here last year and he felt like he had a lot to prove," Dumars said. "We traded away a guy who had been established here for a while for Rip, and there were a lot of questions surrounding Rip when he came here. I think it is safe to say that he answered all of those questions that everyone had about him."

Hamilton led the Pistons by averaging 22.5 points during their postseason run to the Eastern Conference finals. He led Detroit with a 19.7 average during the regular season and averaged 3.9 rebounds and 2.5 assists. Hamilton has averaged 16.7 points in four NBA seasons.

Racists target Eagle; linked to Bryant case

EAGLE, Colo. — A white supremacist group acknowledged Tuesday it left fliers around this mountain community telling whites not to have sex with blacks, and said the fliers were in response to the sexual assault case against NBA superstar Kobe Bryant.



Kobe Bryant

The fliers were mailed or left on lawns and windshields by the West Virginia-based National Alliance. National Alliance spokesman Erich Gliebe said in a telephone interview the Bryant case was "absolutely" the motivation.

"We're concerned about areas such as Eagle County, where they have a relatively small number of blacks," he said.

The Los Angeles Lakers star, who is black, is charged with assaulting a white 19-year-old hotel worker at a resort in nearby Edwards in June. He has said the sex was consensual.

He said the group plans to distribute more fliers as the case continues.

Eagle County sheriff's spokeswoman Kim Andree said deputies were investigating, but the only crime that may have been committed was littering.

Earlier Tuesday, Andree said authorities knew of no connection between the fliers and the case against Bryant. She did not return a telephone message Tuesday night after Gliebe's comments.

The fliers were headlined "Don't have sex with blacks."

They listed the names of three black men and accused them of lying about carrying HIV when they slept with white women.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Karzai vows death for Taliban who attacked clerics

KABUL, Afghanistan (*Reuters*) - Afghan President Hamid Karzai vowed on Tuesday to execute Taliban guerrillas involved in the murder of pro-government clerics.

"I have no pity...no compassion, nor any feeling for these people," he told a gathering of religious scholars in Kabul. "I will not allow them to escape execution."

Taliban guerrillas have shot dead two pro-government clerics and wounded a third from the Ulema Shura, or clerics' council in the southern province of Kandahar, in recent weeks.

The attacks came after the council declared Afghanistan's "jihad," or holy war, over and said Muslims should support the U.S.-backed government that replaced the Taliban in 2001.

Karzai did not make clear if any guerrillas involved in the attacks had been caught, but said he had ordered provincial authorities in southern Afghanistan to send them to Kabul.

He said he had information that more attacks on pro-government clerics were being planned, but did not elaborate.

Karzai also said that authorities had recently arrested two young men sent from outside the country to carry out attacks on aid workers rebuilding a vital highway from Kabul to the southern city of Kandahar near the border with Pakistan.

"They were told to kill those who build the road as they were enemies of Afghanistan," Karzai said.

"They are trying to make sure Afghanistan does not rebuild and stand on its own feet," he said. "We will protect this country and will not allow this to happen."

Officials say the pair were among dozens especially trained by Islamic militant groups in neighboring Pakistan to disrupt rebuilding projects and attack government targets and soldiers from the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan.

One local deminer has been killed and five others wounded in several suspected Taliban attacks on workers on the Kabul-Kandahar road in the past few months.

The government has recently deployed hundreds of police to protect the project, one of the main reconstruction efforts to be launched following the overthrow of the Taliban.

Death threatens free speech in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (*Pak Tribune*) - The fatwa department of Afghanistan's supreme court has recommended that two journalists from a weekly newspaper that published articles some people consider blasphemous be put to death.

After protests by religious students in Kabul targeting the Aftab paper, the highest court in the land ordered its fatwa department - which employs Sharia religious law and deals with important religious issues - to look into the case. Its members overwhelmingly backed the proposed death penalty for Aftab

chief editor Mirhassan Mahdawi and his colleague Ali Raza Payam.

The 10-page recommendation to the judiciary, seen by IWPR, gives detailed citations from the Koran and hadiths to support its ruling, and quotes from portions of the two articles that criticized Islamic practice. The decision also cites a cartoon illustration to one of the articles, which shows a monkey evolving into a man slumped over a computer, accompanied by the words, "Government plus religion equals cruelty."

Showing humans as evolving from apes is against the Koran, the ruling said. The proposal ends with the declaration, "The Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan is obliged to give the death penalty to the people who have abused or made fun of Islam, and also to the ones who cause public disruption."

The Bonn Agreement requires the government to adhere to the essentially secular 1964 constitution - at the time viewed as the most advanced for a Muslim country - but it is debating a new one, which is to be approved by the Loya Jirga in October.

This constitution must resolve the difficult issue of whether Islamic or secular law will have precedence. The fatwa department's ruling appears to be its attempt to draw a clear line in the sand on that issue.

"Do you think they make these in bifocal?"



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By Kevin Kilgore

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