

Adopt-a-Village program benefits locals

By Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti
11th Public Affairs Detachment

SAYED, Afghanistan — Twenty minutes outside of Bagram Air Base sits the small village of Sayed. The village looks like every other that lines the country side of Afghanistan. The mud-brick family compounds are surrounded by land mines and other remnants of war that have covered the landscape for years. The people have very little — everyday a struggle. To help ease the struggle, the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion has taken Sayed under its care and has adopted the village.

The Adopt-a-Village program is not a new one, said Maj. David McCullen, civil affairs officer, but now the 403rd is determined to make it work. In the past, when other units have taken on a village, problems occurred, he said.

In most instances, the help was not getting to the people who needed it. After the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

Two locals sit on Meals Ready to Eat boxes and 1,500-gallon water drums after they were unloaded by Civil Affairs in the town of Sayed.

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Bagram hospital offers host of medical care

By Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — When a soldier deploys to a combat zone, a main concern can be their health and welfare while away. Many soldiers may question what they should do if they become ill or if there will be adequate care if they are injured. The answers to many of these questions can be answered at the Bagram Air Base Army Hospital, where the 48th Combat Support Hospital, Task Force 44, Fort Meade, Md., offers a wide range of services and

health care to deployed troops and local nationals.

The hospital's mission statement says, the 48th CSH supports a Level III hospital, handling everything from minor colds to surgeries.

Sick call, emergency medical treatment, laboratory and pharmacy, and general, orthopedic and oral surgeries are some of the services provided. The hospital also facilitates a radiology department and dental ward for emergent dental care. The hospital presently houses 28 beds

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Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

Spc. Angela Dinges assists Lt. Col. Carl Temple, M.D. in a tooth extraction at Bagram Air Base Army Hospital. Both belong to the 48th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Meade, Md.

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

Officials weigh cost of Iraq war

WASHINGTON — As officials in Washington consider the cost of a potential war with Iraq, President Bush said Tuesday the U.S. economy could not afford to “stand an attack” from Saddam Hussein.

Speaking to reporters in Crawford, Texas, where he is spending the New Year’s holiday, Bush brushed aside questions on whether war with Iraq could cripple the U.S. economy.

“This economy cannot afford to stand an attack,” Bush said. “And I’m going to protect the American people. The economy’s strong. It’s resilient. Obviously, so long as somebody’s looking for work, we’ve got to continue to make it strong and resilient.”

White House Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels told *The New York Times* in an interview published Tuesday that such a conflict could cost \$50 billion to \$60 billion — the price tag of the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Iraq appears to be cooperating

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Tuesday he saw no immediate need for military action against Iraq, at least until weapons inspectors report to the U.N. Security Council in late January.

“Until the inspectors report, I think we pretty much can’t make any judgment,” Annan said in an interview Tuesday morning with Israel’s Army Radio.

In Baghdad, U.N. inspectors spent the final day of the year searching for signs of an illicit weapons program in Iraq. They are scheduled to report their findings to the Security Council on January 27 after 60 days of inspections.

So far, the monitors have not revealed any evidence that Iraq is developing a clandestine nuclear or biological weapons program.

Annan said Iraqi officials appear to be cooperating. “We will soon figure out what is happening in Iraq,” he said.

Police: Woman was abducted

MODESTO, Calif. — One week after a pregnant woman disappeared in this city, police said Tuesday that Laci Peterson was

taken against her will.

“It becomes more apparent that her disappearance is a result of foul play,” said Modesto Police spokesman Det. Doug Ridenour at a news conference, adding that Peterson’s husband, Scott, and anyone else connected to her remain a suspect in her disappearance December 24.

“Clearly she’s not a person who did this on her own, she did not walk away voluntarily, we have no evidence to believe that,” Ridenour said.

Hundreds of volunteers have joined police and the FBI in the exhaustive search for the 27-year-old mother-to-be, who was last seen by her husband at home around 9:30 a.m. on the morning of Christmas eve.

Fireworks blast kills 15

MEXICO CITY — A New Year’s Eve fireworks explosion killed 15 people and injured more than 50 in the Mexican port city of Veracruz on Tuesday, local television reported.

“We have a report of 15 dead and they’ve told me there are more than 50 people injured, mostly from smoke inhalation,” senior Veracruz municipal official Jose Ramon Gutierrez told Televisa television network.

The explosion in a street market full of fireworks stalls sparked a blaze that firefighters were still struggling to extinguish four hours later, the television said.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Adam Johnston, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group

How long have you been cutting hair?

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Adam Johnston, public affairs chief of the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, eyes the clippers of Air Force Staff Sgt. Rodney Robinett, the volunteer official barber of Air Force Village, during a haircut Saturday at this base north of Kabul. To date, Robinett has provided free haircuts for about 25 people here in a supply closet converted into a barber shop that opens daily at 3 p.m. Robinett does the duty voluntarily to help improve quality of life at this military outpost. Robinett is normally assigned to the 16th Medical Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla. and Johnston is based out of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan with the 18th Wing.

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items were delivered, they were either being sold or hoarded. The units were also not making visits frequently enough to establish the kind of rapport needed to make sure that was not happening.

To remedy that problem, McCullen and his team plan to be more involved with Sayed as well as visit at least once a month with aid.

“We want to really show them that we care,” he said. “These are the people who fought the war, it is up to us now to do something for them.”

“The first humanitarian visit to Sayed was Monday. The U.S took five 1,500-gallon drums for water and boxes of Meals Ready Eat. The village

has no water and they would have to dig too deep for a well, McCullen said.

The Adopt-a-Village program is open to any unit who is willing to take on the task,



Soldiers from 1st COSCOM, Fort Bragg, N.C. unload 1,500-gallon water drums in Sayed.

McCullen said.

“All the unit has to do is write back to the states for donations of items the village needs,” he said. When the boxes are collected his unit will assist in the distribution.

“Every little bit helps,” McCullen said. “All of the

small boxes people send can really add up.”

McCullen’s goal is to have 1 million items donated. “I want the items to get out to everyone possible,” he said.

It is a good program and I hope it continues after the current people leave, he said.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

Two locals roll a 1,500-gallon drum after it is unloaded in Sayed.

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with the ability to expand to 44, divided between the life support, intensive and intermediate care units.

Although the hospital provides services on many different levels, it would mean nothing without sufficient staff to meet the needs.

According to the mission statement, the hospital is staffed by 25 nurses, 23 technicians, five surgeons, four medics, two family practitioners, a radiologist, pharmacist and physician’s assistant to provide optimum patient care. Each of the staff members are divided among the various departments based on need and their area of expertise.

Even though the hospital is dedicated to the care of the troops, they also care for local

nationals.

The locals suffer from malnutrition and more serious problems such as injuries from unexploded ordnance, said Sgt. First Class Tina Matthews, Chief Ward Master, 48th CSH. Other problems such as viruses and infections due to minor injuries, are seen more frequently in the locals than soldiers. This is due to the

lack of health care available in their areas, said Matthews.

Even though there are hospitals in other cities in Afghanistan, this is the only one that offers a wide range of surgical capabilities, said Matthews.

Soldiers with serious injuries are transferred here from many different locations to ensure their medical needs are met adequately, she said.

Whether minor or acute, soldier or local, the hospital was created to provide the best care possible to everyone who enters its wards both now and when the U.S. troops leave.

Even though the hospital was established by U.S. servicemembers, it will remain after their mission is complete, said Matthews. The hospital was established to help people and it will remain as a permanent resource for the people of Afghanistan.

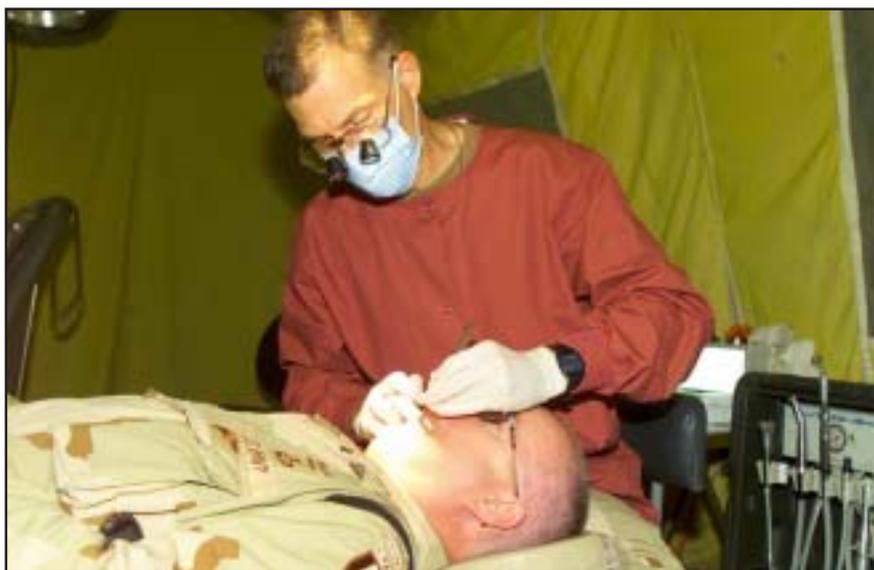


Photo by Plc. Christina Carde

Col. John Uphoff, dentist, examines Command Sgt. Maj. Walter Talbott's teeth in the dental ward at Bagram Air Base Army Hospital. Both are from the 48th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Meade, Md.

Personal info taken in computer theft

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Thieves made off with computer equipment and files from the Arizona office of a military health care contractor Dec. 14, gaining access to some clients' social security numbers, according to DoD's health care management organization.

The TRICARE Management Activity noted in a Dec. 23 news release that TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp., a TRICARE contractor, provides services to military members, their families and retirees living mostly in the central and western United States.

Data files embedded within equipment missing from the Phoenix facility "contained sensitive and personal TRICARE Prime beneficiary information — including claims history and social security numbers," according to documentation provided by TriWest.

The TriWest document went on to say that officials could account for no motive for the alleged thefts.

The Defense Criminal Investigative Service, FBI and other law enforcement organizations are investigating the incident, according to the TMA release.

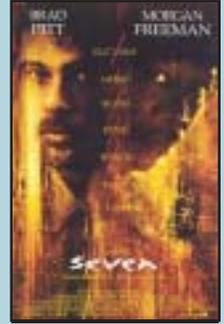
The department had been notified of the theft Dec. 20, and DoD has since been working with TriWest, according to TMA, to ensure uninterrupted service for beneficiaries.

TriWest covers TRICARE beneficiaries living in Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and extreme western Texas, according to the TMA release.

Affected TRICARE beneficiaries can call a toll-free number, 1-888-339-9378, for more information, or visit TRICARE on the Web at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

2000 hrs. at the MWR building: "Seven."
A film about two homicide detectives' hunt for a serial killer who justifies his crimes as absolution for the world's ignorance of the Seven Deadly Sins. The movie takes us from the tortured remains of one victim to the next as the sociopathic "John Doe" sermonizes to Detectives Sommerset and Mills. Tomorrow's movie will be "The Mummy Returns."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	Today	Thursday
Bagram:	Haze H: 43F L: 23F	Haze H: 45F L: 28F
Kandahar:	Haze H: 57F L: 32F	Haze H: 57F L: 35F
Kabul:	Haze H: 46F L: 21F	Haze H: 43F L: 23F
Uzbekistan:	Fog H: 40F L: 15F	Fog H: 44F L: 17F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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To be added to the daily distribution list email william.james@us.army.mil

Happy New Year 2003



Photos by Sgt. W. Cullen James



Above: Kellog, Brown and Root contractor Shannon Stewart was the master of ceremonies for the New Year's Eve bash held at the Dragon Palace. Bagram's biggest year-end party saw coordination between Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Air Force disc jockeys.



Left: Staff Sgt. David Dickson and Spc. Stanley Hettler, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Coalition Joint Task Force-180, tie off the New Year's ball to the cherry picker that lowered the ball at midnight.



Right: Staff Sgt. David Dickson lowers the New Year's ball as onlookers count down to midnight. Dickson, an Army National Guard soldier with the 332nd Support Center (Rear Area Operation Center), Wis., spent the day creating the ball.



Above: Staff Sgt. Guillermo Ravelo, Co. A, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, holds his soldier bear and microlight door prizes. Drawings for prizes were held throughout the evening.

Right: Jerry Nadeau, U.S. Army Car driver, Gary Lewis, "Car 73" driver in 2002 Raysbestos Northwest Series, and Gen. John M. Keane, vice Army chief of staff, watch for the ball to drop on New Year's Eve. Keane and the NASCAR drivers joined soldiers to help ring in the New Year.





Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Chandler has career night as Bulls cruise

CHICAGO — Before the game started, Tyson Chandler was pumped up. “I was pacing back and forth. I really wanted to be on the floor,” the 20-year-old Chicago Bulls center said.

Once there, Chandler channeled that energy and enthusiasm into his finest performance since he jumped to the NBA right out of high school.

He had 27 points and 18 rebounds — both career highs — as the Bulls beat the Portland 102-87 Tuesday night, snapping the Trail Blazers’ eight-game winning streak.

“It makes me want to work on my game all the more,” Chandler said. “Hopefully I can come back and have another game like this.”

Jalen Rose scored 32 points, 11 in the final quarter, as the Bulls snapped a three-game losing streak against the weary Trail Blazers, who were playing their fourth game in five nights.



Chandler

Miller’s second-half surge fuels Pacers’ rally

NEW ORLEANS — Reggie Miller scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half as the Indiana Pacers overcame a 10-point halftime deficit for a 89-86 victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Tuesday night.

Brad Miller added 20 points and 10 rebounds for Indiana, which handed New Orleans its fifth straight loss and third straight at home. The Hornets had won their first 11 games at home.

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MJ pushes for one more playoff run

This being the time of year when everyone assesses the past to portend the future, I can’t help but turn an affectionate gaze toward the ol’ bald guy in D.C., who is straining every fiber to make one last visit to the postseason.

Have you seen the minutes he’s playing? The last nine games have been 40, 40, 38, 35, 41, 36, 41, 34 and 39. Those should be the ages of the people he’s hanging out with, not the time he’s spending every night on an NBA floor. If Jordan were doing to someone else what he’s doing to himself, a human rights group of some kind would launch an investigation.

The real crux, for those who remember the arduous years he futilely labored against the dark forces out of Detroit before finally basking in the golden gleam of the Larry O’Brien trophy, is deciding which poses a worse ending — Jordan walking away after usurping the Wizards’ development for another failed run at a playoff spot or seeing him get there, only to be vanquished by the offspring of the dragon he slayed a decade ago.

It goes without saying that his originally stated purpose for coming back — teaching and developing the Wizards’ young talent — has been a farce. The only young talent not shunted aside by last year’s push, Rip Hamilton, is in Detroit. Second-year center Brendan Haywood is starting but playing limited minutes, Kwame Brown doesn’t know when or how much he’ll play on any given night and Etan Thomas has been practically mothballed. But all that’s beside the point.

The focus isn’t on developing talent and never has been. This is a team operating, once more, to accommodate a perimeter attack orchestrated by a soon-to-be-re-re-retired 40-year-old singular talent.

Even if Jerry Stackhouse doesn’t opt out of his contract or gets signed to a bigger one, the playbook and approach gets overhauled the minute Jordan returns to the front office.

2002 NBA standings



Eastern Conference

Atlantic

- (2) New Jersey 23-9
- (4) Philadelphia 19-12
- (5) Boston 19-12
- (6) Orlando 18-15
- (8) Washington 14-17

Central

- (1) Indiana 23-8
- (3) Detroit 20-10
- (7) New Orleans 18-15
- Milwaukee 13-17
- Atlanta 12-18

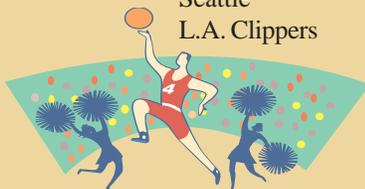
Western Conference

Midwest

- (1) Dallas 25-5
- (5) San Antonio 19-13
- (6) Utah 17-13
- (7) Houston 16-13
- (8) Minnesota 17-14

Pacific

- (2) Sacramento 23-9
- (3) Phoenix 19-12
- (4) Portland 18-12
- Seattle 16-15
- L.A. Clippers 13-19



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Reggie Miller hit three 3-pointers, the last coming with just over a minute left.

Jamal Mashburn responded with a pair of 3-pointers to cut Indiana's lead to 88-86. But Mashburn missed a mid-range jumper with two Pacers in his face, and after a free throw by Brad Miller, Stacey Augmon missed a desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Mashburn finished with 24 points, while Jamaal Magloire had 15 points and 10 rebounds. Elden Campbell added 14 off the bench for New Orleans and David Wesley scored 11, including three 3-pointers. But the Hornets were without guard Baron Davis, their best penetrator, who left with back spasms nine minutes into the game.

In the fourth quarter, New Orleans had trouble getting inside and never went to the foul line. They settled for outside shots but hit only three of their first 14.

Walkers helps Boston end three-game losing streak

BOSTON — Antoine Walker showed his play can dictate the team's future.

Walker, battling the flu the past few days, had 33 points, 11 rebounds and six assists

as the Celtics snapped a three-game losing streak with a 96-89 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Tuesday.

"I felt very good once I got going," said Walker, who was sidelined for the second half of a defeat in Orlando on Saturday by the flu. "I just felt good running the court, and I was in a rhythm."

Walker scored nine points in a decisive 18-4 run that punctuated the third quarter, including a 3-pointer on a buzzer-beater from the top of the key.

Boston, which lost by 36 points at New Jersey and by 20 at Miami before falling to the Magic, overcame a slow start.

"We caught ourselves earlier this time," Paul Pierce said. "We have to pick ourselves up from the start. I hate to see us go down by 10 points in the first quarter."

Sharks to retire Yao's No. 15

HOUSTON — Rockets center Yao Ming is slated to be the first athlete in Chinese history to have his jersey number retired.

Yao's former team, the Shanghai Sharks, will retire his No. 15 on Jan. 5.

"There are a lot of athletes in the history of China that are qualified to have their numbers retired as well. So I feel fortunate to be

the first," Yao said in an interview Sunday with Houston television station KRIV.

But Yao did find one downside to the honor.

"My father also wore the No. 15 when he played. I guess the only thing I feel sorry about is that my son might not be able to wear the number," Yao said through an interpreter.

Woods suspended for conduct detrimental to team

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Timberwolves forward Loren Woods was suspended indefinitely Monday night for conduct detrimental to the team.

Woods was told about the suspension following the team's 104-98 win over Phoenix. He left the coaches' office cursing, told teammate Kevin Garnett he was suspended and left without further comment. Garnett then had a 20-minute, closed-door meeting with the coaches.

"Loren said a couple of things and did a couple of things. He'll have to sit back and think about it, hopefully get his head right, come back and play," Kevin McHale, the Timberwolves' vice president of basketball operations, said.



Tennessee Titan fans ...

Come and help cheer your team on Sunday at 1000 hrs. at the Joint Operation Center gate.

Videographers will be filming fans making spirit videos.

The video will air the weekend of Jan. 11 and 12.

"Go Titans!"

"The next time you commandeer a vehicle try to get something a little more tactical."



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support