

Marines host Mujahedeen warrior

Story and photo by
Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Former Afghani Mujahedeen commander, or “Holy warrior,” who at one time fought alongside the current president of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai, and Al Qaida leader Usama Bin Laden for his country’s independence from Soviet occupation, visited Harrier NV-8A pilots and support personnel of Marine Attack Squadron-513 yesterday at their Morale, Welfare and Recreation building.

Walid Majroh, nearly 15 years removed from his days as a military commander, has been living in the United States since 1989, and a citizen since 1997, working as an accountant. But when the U.S. war on terrorism started in



Former Afghani Mujahedeen commander Walid Majroh holds a picture of himself shaking the hand of former president George Bush.

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Army constructs with Air Force

Story and photo by
Air Force Staff Sgt. Russell Wicke
455th EOG Public Affairs

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Six U.S. Army members from the 527th Engineer Battalion here have been busy in Air Force Village and on the flightline providing maintenance and construction services for the Air Force.

Serving as the Army’s handymen, this group of six are responsible for completing a wide variety of jobs while deployed at this base.

“If it has anything to do with construction, we do it,” said Sgt. John Quarles, 527th Eng. Bn. carpentry and masonry specialist.

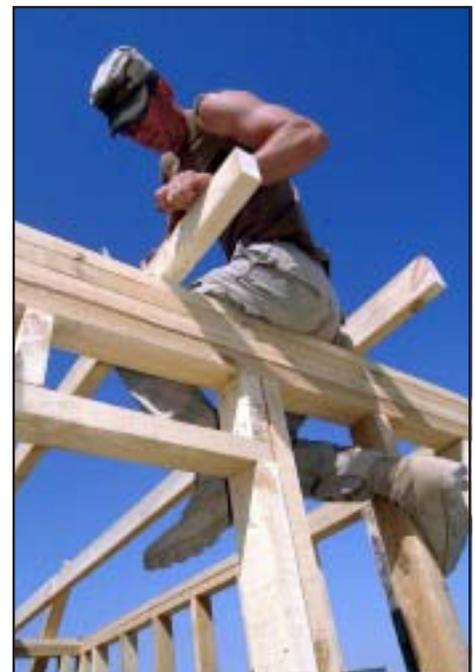
The Air Force was first in need of their assistance when one of the clamshell hangers was found with two broken sup-

port cables.

“We had an A-10 loaded with more than 11,000 pounds of fuel in the clamshell when the cables broke on us,” said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Donny Trostle, 81st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron sortie support specialist. “The broken cables caused the main hanger entrance to close up. Of course this is a fire hazard, so I called for them to fix it and they promptly responded and replaced the cables.”

Not only did the Army respond promptly, but they successfully repaired the structure without any prior experience.

“Before that call, we had never worked on clamshells before,” said Staff Sgt. Nick



Sgt. John Quarles, 527th Engineer Battalion, drives another nail home in the construction of an icehouse for the Air Force maintenance members on the flightline.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A U.S. soldier examines the door of a military vehicle that was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade Monday.

Pentagon delays soldiers' return from Iraq

WASHINGTON — Thousands of U.S. Army troops initially scheduled to come home from Iraq during the next two months are being told they will have to stay for an unknown length of time, U.S. Army officials said Monday.

The delay affects 9,000 men in the Army's battle-weary 3rd Infantry Division, which has been in Iraq since the start of the war. A soldier in that division was killed Monday in Baghdad when his convoy was attacked with multiple rocket-propelled grenades.

With security in Iraq still a concern, Army officials said that U.S. troops are still needed in the country.

The decision will leave two brigades of the 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq for an unknown length of time, Army officials said.

Justice Department refuses to let Moussaoui call witness

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Justice Department refused a federal judge's order to allow terrorism suspect Zacarias Moussaoui access to a captured al Qaeda leader Monday, citing national security concerns.

The government said it recognized U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema could throw out the case against Moussaoui, the only person charged in connection with the attacks of September 11, 2001. Her decision is expected Tuesday.

If Brinkema dismisses the charges, prosecutors said they would automatically appeal to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, which has been monitoring the matter.

Brinkema could instead choose to dismiss some charges, restrict government evidence or block the government's pursuit of the death penalty.

Manhunt for terror suspects

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine authorities have launched a manhunt for three Islamic militants, including an Indonesian man with links to the regional Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) terror network, who escaped from their Manila jail.

Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, a self-confessed JI operative, along with two suspected Abu Sayyaf members were found missing from their cells early Monday, police said.

The escape took place before dawn from the heavily secured intelligence command building at Camp Crame, the national police headquarters in central Manila.

Three policemen guarding the men during the period of escape have been placed under investigation, a police spokesman said.

The escape is a serious blow to Philippines counter-terrorism efforts.

Claudette prepares to hit Texas

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Tropical Storm Claudette Monday crept closer to Corpus Christi and forecasters were warning local officials on the Texas coast to be prepared for a Category 1 hurricane ahead of the storm's landfall, predicted for Tuesday evening.

If the forecast proves correct, Claudette will become the first hurricane of the season.

With a hurricane warning in effect from

Baffin Bay south of Corpus Christi to High Island, east of Galveston — and a tropical storm warning extending to Intracoastal City, Louisiana — National Hurricane Center (NHC) director Max Mayfield said everyone on the coast should take heed.

"Most of that Texas coast is going to feel the impact," Mayfield told CNN. "We're telling (local officials) to get prepared for a Category 1 hurricane."



Rubin Tamba, 19, displays wounds to his arms which he claimed were caused by being tied up.

Prison horrors of Taylor's regime

MONROVIA, Liberia — They staggered out of jail as scarred stick figures. A few slumped on the pavement in exhaustion — too ill to show any emotion about their newfound freedom. One was so traumatized he no longer recognized his sister.

The men and boys, some as young as 13, were among 51 political prisoners unexpectedly released Friday from three jails in Monrovia — bearing witness to a brutal system of punishment and terror meted out by President Charles Taylor, whose regime now appears to be crumbling.

"My people must think that I am dead," Junior Mulbah, 13, said weakly as he gazed around him, looking vainly for signs of a familiar face among the crowd outside the jail.

The sudden and unexplained release comes amid growing international pressure for Taylor to step down after years of sanctions against his regime.

New Mini Mall coming soon to PX

Story and photo by
Pfc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – The construction currently going on near the Base Exchange will soon be a new mini mall. The expansion is intended to reach out to troops, raise morale of base personnel and give Bagram a touch of home, said Tom Simonides, acting store manager.

The ground breaking began last week for the facility and Simonides said construction for the new Mini Mall is expected to be completed within the next few months.

The facility will be home to a Subway, Anthony's Pizza and an alteration shop, he said.

The gift shop, currently located near the BX, will also be joining the food shops in the mini mall upon completion, Simonides added.

"We've made a lot of strides since I've been here," said Simonides, who's been in Bagram for nine months. During that time, he has seen major changes to the BX facility.

Prior to Christmas, the BX was contained within a much smaller building and was not equipped to handle the number of troops on Bagram. The current BX was introduced to the troops on Christmas Eve and is a major

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Nunn, 527th Eng. Bn. carpentry and masonry specialist, "but we figured it out and now we're the only ones here who know how to fix them."

Since then, Trostle said other cables have broken on the clamshell and each time the group of six brought in good attitudes with their handiwork."

The Army also built two icehouses used for sheltering ice machines for the Air Force.

"Before the Air Force had ice machines the Army had a few, but they had trouble keeping the ice from melting in them from the heat," said Trostle. "So these guys built icehouses for them to



Local workers continue construction for the new Mini Mall expected to be completed soon.

improvement to the base, said Simonides. "You really can't even compare the two facilities."

With a larger store came more merchandise and more options for the troops to choose from.

"There is a tremendous difference (in the amount of merchandise available)," said Sgt. Heather McGuffee, 527th Engineer Battalion.

The changes are welcomed by troops who appreciate the improvements. "At one

time there was one line, one register," said McGuffee. "Now they have multiple ones so it's definitely getting better. Anything helps."

time there was one line, one register," said McGuffee. "Now they have multiple ones so it's definitely getting better. Anything helps."

The construction for the Mini Mall is another way to make troops feel more at home, said Simonides. "The main reason that we're here is to serve the service men and service women," he said. "It's hard for all of them being away from home and anything we can do to give them that touch of home (is) our mission."

keep the ice machines shaded." Command Chief Master Sgt. Les McPeak, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, didn't want to run into the same dilemma.

"It's really hot out and there are very few places to get ice," said the chief. "It's always been a goal of mine to get ice machines. Now that we have them we need the icehouses."

McPeak said he saw the icehouses the Army had for their ice machines so he arranged for them to build two for the Air Force. The Army team didn't seem to mind doing the extra work.

"We like hanging out with the Air Force," said Spc. Jeremy Roberts, 527th Eng. Bn. carpentry and masonry specialist. "With all the jobs there are on

Bagram, Sergeant Trostle is one of the best people to work for." It's not just Trostle who has made the Army guests feel welcome.

"The hospitality of everyone in the Air Force here is awesome," said Nunn. "Everyone wants to make sure we're taken care of. People just randomly stop by to make sure we have cold drinks and the supplies we need." Moreover, the good impressions go both ways.

"They are good people and great workers," said Trostle about the Army team. "They're anxious to get to work and do a good job."

McPeak said he believes unity between the military services is essential to the mission.

"We're all in this together and we can't forget that," he said.

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Afghanistan Majroh was contracted by the U.S. government as an interpreter.

With Majroh's extensive knowledge of fighting in and around Bagram, VMA-513 commander Lt. Col. Jim Dixon thought Majroh's visit would be an excellent opportunity for his Marines to receive a first-hand account about the technical side of the threats they are facing now. Dixon added the briefing was especially important considering the enemy in Afghanistan uses similar techniques in the same environment and those tactics still apply today.

"It was an enlightening military education opportunity to listen to somebody who had so many years experience fighting ... in the Bagram valley," Dixon said.

Under Majroh's command during the Afghani resistance from 1978 to 1989, his soldiers were extremely successful at shooting down Soviet helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, destroying three-quarters of the airborne targets they fired upon.

Majroh spoke to the Marines for over an hour, and many of them got much more than they expected from the experience.

Along with giving them his technical expertise, Majroh gave the Marines a brief account of his country's history; from its passive stance during World War II, its 20-year resistance against communist occupation, and up through its oppressive rule by the Taliban.

For Capt. Ryan Flanagan, he came expecting to hear some "sea stories" from a seasoned war veteran, but it turned into a humbling experience.

"It's easy to get into that rut here, same old chow, winds blowing today, groundhog day over and over," Flanagan said. "But the hardships we face on a daily basis probably pale in comparison to what he experienced for over a decade."

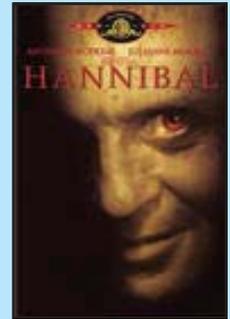
The sacrifices and hardship that Majroh and his people have faced is not over yet, and progress has been slow coming, he said. But he and the service members of his adopted home are optimistic that things are moving in the right direction.

"For me it's a clear cut," Majroh said. "We're doing the right thing ... and every one of us; we are ambassadors of a great nation. We can pass on this legacy we got from our founding fathers and can make the rest of the world a better place."

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Hannibal." Hannibal returns to America and attempts to make contact with disgraced Agent Starling and survive a vengeful victim's plan.

Tomorrow's movie was unavailable at press time.



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 97F L: 61F	<i>Mostly Clear</i> H: 99F L: 72F
Kandahar:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 108F L: 81F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 108F L: 79F
Kabul:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 99F L: 70F	<i>Haze</i> H: 99F L: 68F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Sunny</i> H: 102F L: 65F	<i>Sunny</i> H: 103F L: 68F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

James scores 25 in summer game

BOSTON — Two dunks, two airballs, two 3-pointers and two blocks were among LeBron James' stats. Now, he's taking two days off to attend the ESPYs.

James scored 25 points with nine rebounds and five assists Monday night as the Cleveland Cavaliers played their first game of the Boston summer league, losing to the Celtics 87-84.

James plans to leave Tuesday to fly across the country for ESPN's awards show and then "hopefully" return to Boston in time for the Cavs' game Thursday evening.

"It's an honor to be recognized for the awards I might be receiving out there, so I'm going to pay my respect, thank the fans," James explained. "The fans (are) a big part of me winning one of the things I might win out there, so I'm just giving back to the fans."

Former coach argues he was denied due process by university

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Former Alabama football coach Mike Price on Monday filed a \$20 million lawsuit against the university, contending he was wrongfully fired after allegations arose about his conduct at a golf outing in Florida.

The lawsuit alleges Price was denied due process, his civil rights were violated, breach of contract, wrongful termination and fraud.

Price is seeking \$10 million in punitive damages and \$10 million in compensatory damages. He is seeking the same amounts in a lawsuit against Sports Illustrated, which published an article detailing Price's alleged actions at a topless bar and hotel in Pensacola, Fla., that led to his dismissal.

University President Robert Witt, the Alabama Board of Trustees and the University of Alabama all are named as defendants in the suit. Witt said Monday he had not seen the lawsuit and could not comment.

Price had appealed his firing, but a faculty panel rejected his request for a hearing.

Webber pleads guilty

DETROIT — On the eve of his federal perjury trial, Sacramento Kings forward Chris Webber pleaded guilty Monday to a lesser charge of criminal contempt in a deal that is expected to allow him to avoid prison time.

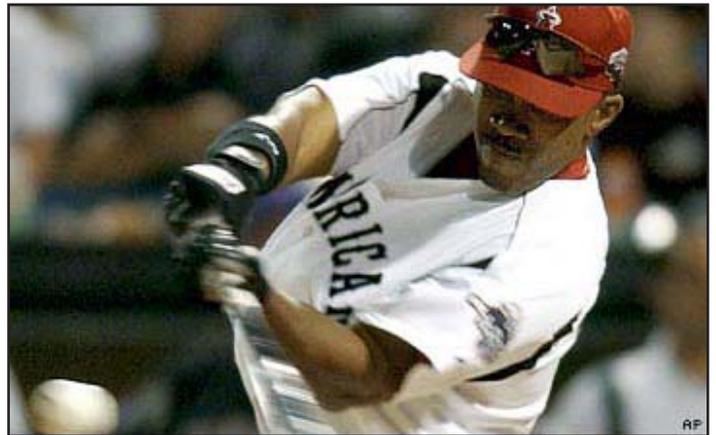
Webber had been charged with lying to a grand jury about money authorities say he received from former Michigan basketball booster Ed Martin. He could have faced up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

During Monday's hearing, the former Michigan player admitted that in 1994 he gave Martin about \$38,000 in cash as repayment for past expenditures the former booster made on his behalf.

"I'm relieved that it is in the process of being over," Webber said after the hearing.

In the agreement with prosecutors, Webber will face a fine.

ESPN.com's Marc Stein reports that NBA players who plead guilty to any crime, even a misdemeanor, place themselves at risk for a league suspension, generally served at the start of the season.



Garret Anderson hit 22 homers en route to the title.

Hammerin' Halo wins HR Derby

CHICAGO — Another big event, another win for the Anaheim Angels.

Garret Anderson was a surprise winner at the All-Star Home Run Derby, just as he was at the World Series, edging the St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols 9-8 Monday night to win the title for the first time.

"I don't look at myself as a home-run hitter, but I know I'm capable of hitting some balls out of the park, and it's just another platform to go out and show America what I can do," Anderson said.

Tino Martinez, then with the New York Yankees, was the only other player from a defending World Series champion to win the derby, accomplishing the feat in 1997 at Cleveland's Jacobs Field.

Some of the drama was lacking this year.

Barry Bonds and Sammy Sosa weren't among the eight players in the competition, which has become a highlight of the All-Star break.

'Scared' Lance avoids spill, keeps lead

GAP, France — Lance Armstrong was rattled. He kept his lead in the Tour de France on Monday and got rid of his closest rival, but he can do without these harrowing close calls.

Joseba Beloki, runner-up to the four-time champion last year

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Joseba Beloki was out of the race after Monday's crash.

and in second place entering the day, is finished with this Tour. He broke his right leg, wrist and elbow in a crash that nearly took out Armstrong, too.

"I was scared like never before," Armstrong said. "When you see something like that happening, the first thing you do is to say, 'OK, where am I going to go?' I couldn't make it to the right, I couldn't go over him, I could only go left. ... Then I found a little path there into the field and just continued on."

The cyclists were speeding down the day's last mountain, trying to catch leader Alexandre Vinokourov. Then Beloki braked, skidded on the slick and melting tarmac and hit the deck hard.

Armstrong was just behind and drove off the road into a field to avoid hitting the Spaniard. He recovered to finish fourth in the stage on Bastille Day.

Perry rallies on final two holes

MILWAUKEE — Kenny Perry isn't about to analyze the hottest streak of his career.

"I don't know why all of a sudden I'm winning golf tournaments," Perry said after his victory Sunday at the Greater Milwaukee Open, his third win in four starts. "It's just my time, and I believe in my heart I'm going to win."

Perry sank a three-foot birdie putt for a one-stroke victory over Steve Allan and Heath Slocum at the GMO.

He won the Colonial and Memorial tournaments and finished third at the U.S. Open before taking three weeks off leading up to the GMO at Brown Deer Park, where he shot a 4-under-par 66 Sunday for a 12-under 268 total.

Top Tennis females missing

ESPN — The United States has five women in the top 10, but only one of them, eighth-ranked Chanda Rubin, will be at this weekend's Fed Cup tie in Washington, D.C.

Chanda Rubin has made it back into the top 10.

Venus Williams was supposed to lead the team, but there is speculation that she'll miss most of the summer hard-court season leading into the U.S. Open after aggravating an abdominal muscle at Wimbledon. That left longtime Fed Cup player Monica



Chanda Rubin has made it back into the top 10 since recovering from knee surgery.

Seles, who pulled out after a lingering foot injury.

"We understand Venus' need to recuperate and her decision not to compete in this Fed Cup quarterfinal in Washington, D.C.," Billie Jean King said in a statement last week. "Monica has been a stalwart contributor to the U.S. Fed Cup effort, but she too has been playing hurt and her need to fully heal from foot injury supersedes this Fed Cup commitment.

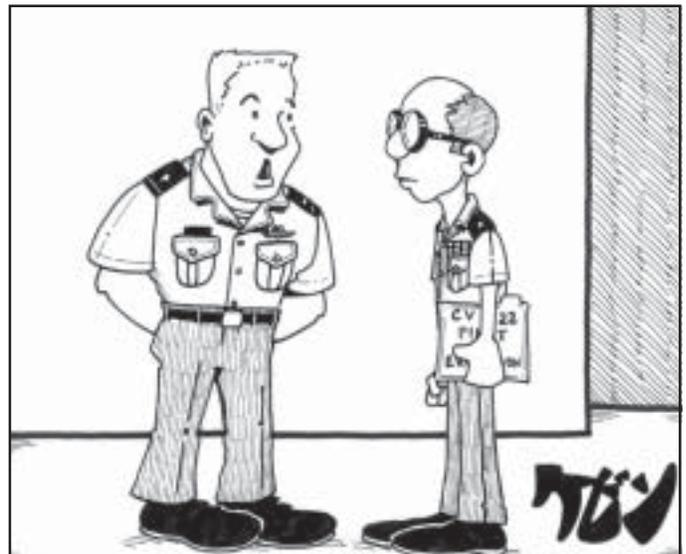
"We look forward to fielding the most competitive team of U.S. players to face the formidable Italian opponent and anticipate the fervor and enthusiasm of the fans in our nation's capital."

The most competitive? Not exactly. The No. 1 player in the world, Serena Williams, had previous commitments — one of them the ESPY Awards. A year ago, Jennifer Capriati, currently ranked seventh, was kicked off the team by King.

So, that leaves Rubin, who is making an incredible comeback after knee surgery, No. 18 Meghann Shaughnessy, No. 26 Lisa Raymond and No. 28 Alexandra Stevenson.

It's been four years since Rubin has played in Fed Cup. She reached the quarterfinals at the French Open and recently defended her title at Eastbourne, England.

"Doc, is the CV-22 fixed wing or rotary? My pilots are having an identity crisis."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support