

Operation Home Run hits homer in Kabul

Story and photo by
Pfc. Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — The first inning of Operation Home Run began in Kabul Saturday when a mother and her son distributed the first batch of sports equipment during their six week-long stay.

Kim Inks and her son Ben, from Pleasant Grove, Utah, delivered Frisbees, soccer balls, gum balls and baseball equipment to the Jamhuriat Vocational School in Kabul.

“Baseball is an American sport and instead of seeing America as bad people, it sort of softens (the Afghan’s) hearts towards us,” said Inks, who started the



Eagle Boy Scout, Benjamin Inks poses at the Jamhuriat Vocational school in Kabul Saturday during Operation Home Run. Inks and his mother are in Afghanistan to deliver donated baseball equipment and humanitarian aid throughout the country.

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Konduz PRT provides medical, veterinary assistance

Story and photo by
Spc. Steven Marroni
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MIR SHEIKH, Afghanistan — Afghan villagers crowded the mud and straw walls around the school in the village of Mir Sheikh, where the Konduz Provincial Reconstruction Team hosted its first Civil Medical Assistance exercise.

Doctors, nurses, medics and veterinarians — American, Korean and Afghan — conducted the CMA June 24 and 25 in the Konduz area, where there are no hospitals or clinics.

CMAs are open to all area Afghans who could not otherwise receive medical care. Their ailments ranged from viral infections and parasites to heart problems and sore bodies, broken from a hard farm life.

Local police and political personalities were present to show that the Afghan government has a role in the CMA.

“Anytime we do this, our effort is to be seen as facilitators, not providers,” said Col. Dalton Diamond, head surgeon for



Lt. Col. Patrick Phillips, a military veterinarian, gives a vaccination to a local farmer’s cow.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

Legendary actress Katharine Hepburn dies

CNN — Screen and stage legend Katharine Hepburn has died, according to the executor of her estate and Old Saybrook, Conn., authorities. She was 96.

Hepburn's film career spanned seven decades, and she was perhaps the most decorated actor, male or female, in the industry. She won more Academy Awards for lead roles (four) than anyone — and her 12 nominations in the best actress category stood as a record until this year when actress Meryl Streep surpassed her nomination total with 13.

Old Saybrook authorities and the executor of Hepburn's estate, Cynthia McFadden, told The Associated Press that Hepburn died Sunday at 2:50 p.m. She was at her home. Hepburn's health had declined in recent years.



Palestinian Gen. Abdel Razek Majaide, left, shakes hands with Israeli Gen. Gadi Shamani following a meeting in Gaza Sunday.

Arafat's Fatah joins cease-fire

GAZA CITY — Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement said Sunday evening it would stop all military actions against Israel, joining a cease-fire announced earlier by militant groups Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

Fatah released its statement shortly after Israeli troops began to leave northern Gaza, the first step toward handing over security chores in that region to the Palestin-

ians. The Israelis completed their withdrawal from northern Gaza late Sunday, military sources said.

The Fatah announcement would apply to the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, the militant group aligned with it. Earlier, Hamas and Islamic Jihad released a statement agreeing to a three-month cease-fire.

Porch collapse kills 12

CHICAGO — Two wooden porches laden with college students collapsed during a party early Sunday, killing 12 people and injuring 57 others when they plunged into an alley, officials said.

As many as 50 people, mostly college-age partygoers, were crowded onto the second- and third-story porches of an apartment building when the top porch collapsed into the second and they both fell to the ground at around 12:30 a.m., officials said.

Chicago Fire Commissioner James Joyce said it was "a case of too many people in a small space."

U.S. operation targets loyalists

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military has launched a new operation in Iraq in an attempt to crush surviving Saddam Hussein loyalists and "paramilitary elements" believed to be behind a series of lethal attacks, officials said Sunday.

Operation Sidewinder is spearheaded by members of the Army's 4th Infantry Division and includes ground, armor and air elements, according to officials familiar with the operation.

Since President Bush announced the end of hostilities in Iraq on May 1, more than 20 Americans and six British troops have been killed by hostile fire.

The operation was under way in an area of central Iraq from Baghdad to Samarra along the Tigris River, which U.S. Central Command said is "the location of several destabilizing influences in the region."

Leaders demand Liberia peace force

MONROVIA, Liberia — U.N. Security Council ambassadors and West African leaders met Sunday in Nigeria to push for an

international peace force for Liberia, where at least 500 civilians were killed last week in rebels' fiercest assault yet on the capital.

Security Council diplomats continued to look toward the holdout in the growing drive for an international force in Liberia — the United States, which European and African diplomats say should be taking a larger role in efforts to end the escalating three-year war in the American-founded nation.

"It's their baby, and they have a responsibility there," Cameroon U.N. Ambassador Martin Chungong Ayafor said of the United States, echoing earlier comments of British and French diplomats and others.

UK presses Iran on nuclear issue

LONDON — British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw is urging Iran to open up its controversial nuclear program to international inspectors "as soon as possible."

Straw arrived the Iranian capital Sunday with a warning for the country's leaders that failure to co-operate on the nuclear issue could damage its chances of a lucrative trade deal with the European Union.

His call comes amid growing international concern that Iran's civil power program is a cover for the development of nuclear weapons.

Earlier this month the International Atomic Energy Agency issued a report calling on Iran to sign up to a new protocol to the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty.

2 U.S. soldiers wounded in attack

BAGHDAD — Two U.S. soldiers were wounded and an Iraqi civilian killed Sunday morning when a military convoy was attacked on a highway in Baghdad, U.S. military officials said.

The Americans were assigned to the U.S. Army's 18th Military Police Brigade, the official said. The extent of their wounds is unknown.

The convoy was hit by an unidentified explosive device as it traveled along Highway 8, a main road between Baghdad and the airport, the official said.

Bagram MWR hosts second talent show

Story and photo by
Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The second Morale, Welfare and Recreation Bagram talent show made an appearance Saturday kicking off at 0300Z at the Civic Center.

There was a packed house and 12 contestants. Five finalists were chosen and put to an audience vote ending in a tie between the defending champion, Spc. Jeanne Ferrell, mechanic, 372nd Maintenance Company, Cleveland and the Shytown dance team, made up of Spcs. Jessica Antia, Latoya Locket, Latesha Taylor and Jasmine Tucker, all from 327th Military Police Battalion, Arlington Heights, Ill.

In a tie-breaking round, the Shytown dance team won the cash prize of \$100 as



Spc. Jason Jaques, postal worker, 300th Adjutant General Postal, Homewood, Ill., performs at the second Bagram Talent Show. Jaques was one of the five finalists.

well as a t-shirt and two phone cards apiece. All other finalists received two phone cards and a t-shirt and all other contestants as well as the three judges chosen from the audience received a phone card and a t-shirt.

The first talent show had a turnout of approximately 75 servicemembers and coalition

forces while the second had more than 200.

“We advertised differently. This time it was more extensive and the fliers were spread out more,” said Jimmy Ferrazas, MWR coordinator. “I didn’t think this many people would show up so we had an after party.”

MWR is planning another show.

According to Ferrazas, this show was more organized with better equipment and a larger crowd.

MWR staff thinks events like this are beneficial to the servicemembers here.

“This is different than other events. The audience has as much fun as the people performing,” said Ferrazas.

Gregg Crosby, the master of ceremonies for the evening agrees.

“Anytime (servicemembers) can get together and have fun where they are — forget they’re in Afghanistan, it’s a good thing.

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project eight months ago as his Eagle Boy Scout project.

The project that he said makes him feel happy also benefits relations between the U.S. and Afghanistan.

“The pictures that have been painted (of Afghanistan) were really dirty. It’s cleaner than we were told,” said Inks.

Inks said he never expected the project to be this big. The original project was to collect enough baseball equipment to outfit five teams.

“I was thinking maybe five teams and have the military distributed it, but we collected for 31 teams and we’re distributing it. We also have 2,500 pounds of humanitarian aid ... baby kits, hygiene kits and school kits, coloring books,” said Inks.

Inks said he didn’t think he would spend his summer vacation in Afghanistan either.

“I thought of (distributing the goods) but most people said we couldn’t, so that’s why we didn’t (proceed) in the first place, but I’ve always wanted to see other places other than the U.S.,” he said.

For a civilian mother and son to come to a combat zone is highly unlikely.

“We’re pretty unique. We were told by our congressman that we are one of a kind. We’re the first American teenager and single mom to come to Afghanistan,” said Kim.

Inks had a lot of help from his mother, who never thought this project would be this big also.

“The project was his Eagle Scout project. It started that way and blossomed into this monumental project that has gotten hundreds and hundreds of people in different places in-

involved,” said Inks.

All of the donations poured from throughout the U.S. With the help of the military, Kim and Inks will attempt to distribute everything throughout Afghanistan and also meet a few people along the way.

“We’re meeting with the ministry of health and education and other government officials and trying to build better relations in that way,” said Inks.

Kim said what she and her son are doing is important for different reasons.

“I just wanted to thank the troops for what they are doing. They are not forgotten ... it’s a good feeling to reach out and help relations between U.S. soldiers and Afghans. Basically that’s what it’s all about is helping (U.S. soldiers) build friendships in the villages with the villagers so they can do their jobs easier,” she said.

“I wanted initially for my children to see Afghans other than the eyes of Sept. 11, (2001) ... to see them as people who play and have fun and have feelings just like he does. I wanted to build friendship in that way.”

“I’m really proud of him. It’s just blossomed. We all kind of grew in it. He’s a neat kid and I’m glad that he’s actually doing this and reaching out to people beyond his own borders,” Kim said.

According to Kim, the project will turn into an annual event.

“We’ve already had requests to do it again. It won’t be an Eagle Scout project, but we’re going to be doing this again. We’ve actually started collecting for Operation Home Run Part 2. I would like to deliver in the Spring when the season starts and then collect through the summer,” she said.

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the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force. “We try to get as much local help as possible.” He pointed out the patients seeing the new, Afghan government at work is important in building confidence and trust.

When patients arrived at the site, they were separated into groups of men and women. They filed through several stations, starting with a class on preventative medicine.

“Preventative medicine here is basically making sure the food and water is clean and avoiding bugs,” said Sgt. Joseph Stanis, 1469th Medical Detachment, Gainesville, Fla. He conducted a brief class concerning the importance of cleanliness, which can deter many of the diseases common to Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Adrian Garcia, 321st Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne), San Antonio, Texas, worked in one of the treatment rooms. Many patients passed through with stomach pains and a variety of sprains, cuts, skin diseases and infections. Garcia and the physicians passed out many medications, as well as prescribed antibiotics from the pharmacy next door.

“With the doctors we have here, we can do something for some of the more serious cases,” Garcia said. Dr. Hommayeen Sina, a local doctor from Kabul, saw many patients with Garcia and American and Korean physicians.

“It’s important not only to give standard health treatment, but to build faith in their government,” Garcia said. “It helps in nation building.”

The CMA also featured a dentist, pharmacy, a measles vaccination station and separate treatment rooms for women and children.

Four-legged patients had their own doctor to visit. Amid a bovine sea, a contingent of military and Afghan veterinarians waded, shooting vaccinations and de-worming medication into herds of cattle.

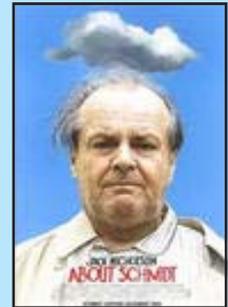
Vets treated everything from herds to lone stallions ridden in by their owners for vaccinations. Most of the shots were given to fulfill vaccination requirements set by the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture.

The vets treated 2,700 animals, and 1,500 biped patients were treated by the rest of the CMA staff during the two-day exercise.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “About Schmidt.” Warren Schmidt is a man in his 60’s. While trying to run his daughter’s life, he realizes that he wasted his.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Hunted.”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 95F L: 57F	<i>Haze</i> H: 95F L: 64F
Kandahar:	<i>Haze</i> H: 106F L: 72F	<i>Dust</i> H: 108F L: 73F
Kabul:	<i>Dust</i> H: 95F L: 64F	<i>Haze</i> H: 97F L: 66F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Dust</i> H: 99F L: 65F	<i>Dust</i> H: 101F L: 66F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



One great's opinion: Albert Pujols is not a complete player.

Pujols powers Cardinals past Royals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Shut down Albert Pujols once? Maybe. Twice? Unlikely, but possible.

Three times in a row? Uh-uh.

Pujols, 1-for-9 in the first two games of St. Louis' series against Kansas City, hit two solo homers and drove in three runs as the Cardinals beat the Royals 13-6 on Sunday.

Pujols went 4-for-6, raising his major league-leading average to .391.

He opened St. Louis' two-run fourth inning with his first homer of the day, giving the Cardinals a 6-2 lead, and made it 8-2 with a leadoff shot that sparked St. Louis' six-run sixth.

"So I went 1-for-9 before — so what?" Pujols said. "I knew I was going to get my at-bats today, and I wasn't going to give any at-bats away."

'Detailed discussions' with Jordan prove fruitless

ESPN — Michael Jordan wanted to buy the Milwaukee Bucks. But in the end, Herb Kohl wasn't ready to sell.

Kohl, the Bucks owner and U.S. senator from Wisconsin, announced that he is pulling his team off the market.

In a statement released Sunday, Kohl said: "I have decided not to sell the Milwaukee Bucks at this time, and will continue to own them, improve them, and commit them to remaining in Wisconsin."

Kohl, a Milwaukee native who has owned the team since 1985, acknowledged that he had "detailed discussions" with Jordan, who wants to own a team after retiring in Washington as a player two months ago.

The deal apparently was close to getting done, although it still would have needed the NBA's approval, a process that could have taken several weeks.

Rookie's 10th-inning homer keeps Arizona on roll

DETROIT — The Arizona Diamondbacks have several key players on the disabled list, which has created a problem for manager Bob Brenly.

He has no idea how he's going to get their replacements out of the lineup.

Rookie Robby Hammock drove in three runs, including a two-run homer in the 10th inning that lifted Arizona to a 5-3 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Sunday and extended its franchise-record winning streak to 11 games.

Fellow first-year players Lyle Overbay and Matt Kata also played well in Arizona's three-game sweep of Detroit.

"It seems like our rookies are in the middle of everything right now," Brenly said. "Not to overlook Gonzo (Luis Gonzalez) and Fins (Steve Finley), but the rookies are getting on base and coming up with big hits to drive in the go-ahead or winning runs. They don't get rattled and they don't get awed by the situation — they just go up and do their job."

Doctor: 'We're very happy with the response'

ESPN — Rudy Tomjanovich is accustomed to winning. Two NBA championships. An Olympic gold medal. His recovery from alcoholism.

Now it appears the former Houston Rockets coach is winning his battle against bladder cancer.

According to the Houston Chronicle, topical treatments Tomjanovich has received the past three months have been so effective that doctors are optimistic about his future.

"He'll definitely be OK," Rockets physician Dr. Jim Muntz told the Chronicle. "He's responded in a very good way to the treatments. We're very happy with the response. This is very good news. It shows the treatment works."

Baby Tim Montgomery born with dad away

RALEIGH, N.C. — The world's fastest baby came much quicker than expected.

Olympic champion Marion Jones and world record holder Tim Montgomery announced the birth of their son, Tim Montgomery. The baby was born Saturday at about 10 p.m. at Duke University Hospital in Durham and weighed just 5 pounds, 14 ounces but was healthy.

Jones, who won five medals at the 2000 Olympics, was due to give birth in July.

"I am so happy," Jones said in a statement released by her publi-

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cist, Lewis Kay. "This is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. He's a beautiful baby, and Tim and I could not be more excited."

Lietzke wins first major on 53rd try

TOLEDO, Ohio — The first major championship of Bruce Lietzke's career came on a day when he couldn't find the fairway.

Lietzke struggled with his swing throughout the final round of the U.S. Senior Open on Sunday, but made the four-shot lead he started the day with stand up.

Lietzke's 2-over-par 73 was a far cry from his round of 64 Saturday but it was enough to give him his first major championship in 53 tries. He finished with a 7-under 277, two shots better than Tom Watson, who had an even-par final round.

"It's not the person who finished second or third, or the strength of the field, it's did you survive a week on a golf course that tests every part of your game?" Lietzke said.

Geppi-Aikens coached despite brain tumor



Loyola coach Diane Geppi-Aikens, coaching from her wheelchair, greets midfielder Stephanie Walker during a practice last season.

BALTIMORE — Diane Geppi-Aikens, who led the Loyola College women's lacrosse team to the NCAA semi-finals despite an inoperable brain tumor, died Sunday. She was 40.

Geppi-Aikens died at her Baltimore home, surrounded by family members and her four children, said David Rosenthal, a spokesman for Loyola's athletic department.

Geppi-Aikens coached all but one game of the Greyhounds' 2003 season from a wheelchair after treatment for the tumor partially paralyzed her left side.

Loyola entered the NCAA tournament as the No. 1 seed with a regular-season record of 17-2 and lost to Princeton in the final four.

"I've been around her for four years," senior Christy McNew said before the final four. "And it's the greatest gift to be able to stand next to her and say, 'That's my coach.'"

Do you like rock and roll?
Weekend Excursion will be performing 1430Z Tuesday at the Bagram Civic Center/Four Corners Stage. The band has five CDs released and their music has been featured on *Dawson's Creek*.

Better than the rest? Kim put in 'pen

ESPN — The Red Sox had apparently made the decision even before Saturday night's latest bullpen disaster: Byung-Hyun Kim is heading to the 'pen to assume the closer's role.

Kim, a full-time closer before this season in the starting rotation, could be moved to the bullpen as early as Sunday against the Florida Marlins, the Boston Globe reported.

Kim was traded by the Arizona Diamondbacks to the Red Sox for third baseman Shea Hillenbrand on May 29. As a starter for Arizona and Boston, Kim is a combined 3-6 with a 3.38 ERA in 12 starts. Kim made the All-Star team as a closer last season; he finished with 36 saves and a 2.04 ERA.

The Red Sox, trying to stay in contention in the AL East, have struggled mightily in the bullpen this season. Boston blew a 9-2 lead Saturday, giving up eight runs in the last two innings. Brandon Lyon, who moved into the closer's role last month when the likes of Alan Embree and Chad Fox failed, gave up four runs in the ninth, including Mike Lowell's two-out, three-run homer in the 10-9 loss to Florida.

Day of respect capped by France win

SAINT-DENIS, France — The Confederations Cup final will be remembered for tears, not goals.

The death of Marc-Vivien Foe three days earlier created a somber finish for the much-criticized tournament, which ended Sunday when Thierry Henry scored seven minutes into overtime to give defending champion France a 1-0 victory over grieving Cameroon.

"And they say there's serious water hazards on the pro tour ..."

kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support