

## U.S., Romanian exercise finishes successfully



*An 82mm mortar crew from the Romanian Army's 812<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, "Carpathians' Hawks," is illuminated by the blast from firing a round. The crew were firing during live-fire training for Operation Carpathians' Thunder Mar. 12 in the Zabol province 130 kilometers north of Kandahar Air Field where the unit is currently based for Operation Enduring Freedom.*

Story and photos by  
By Cpl. Keith A Kluwe  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**KANDAHAR AIR FIELD,** Afghanistan — The first Romanian Army led combat mission concluded successfully Mar. 13 when the a large Romanian and U.S. Army ground assault convoy returned here just before sunrise.

The mission began Mar. 8 when elements of the Romanian Army's 812<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and elements of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division and other supporting units left Kandahar Air Field for a 220 kilometer convoy into the Zabol province with the mission of finding and destroying a suspected cave and enemy

— See **THUNDER**, Page 4

## South Dining Facility puts on finishing touches

By Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM,** Afghanistan — A couple more coats of paint, a few finishing touches and the South Dining Facility in Viper City will be complete.

But the eatery already had its grand opening a couple weeks ago and currently feeds more than 3,600 servicemembers a day, according to Jim Pacurari, Food Service Supervisor for the North DFAC.

Not only do they accommodate people in the building, they also make 500 servings of transportable marmites for personnel who are not on base.

With seating for 500 in two separate checkered floor dining rooms, anyone passing will see the line is usually long with

people waiting to fill any open chairs inside to enjoy a hot meal.

The mess hall carries the same standards as the others on base with a daily breakfast and dinner line.

But with the soon-to-be very important person room and a marble floor, it's definitely unique.

"The troops enjoy the elbow room," said Pacurari, about the dining hall picked because it is completely enclosed in a hard structure.

Currently the crew is working on bringing in stoves and other appliances for a state-of-the-art kitchen.

It should take the contractors another month before they are finished with setting everything up, said Pacurari.

But this does not stop the crowd from

filling the mess hall.

There is a noticeable amount of new faces since the DFAC has moved from tents to a hard building, Pacurari said.

The DFAC's grand opening was on a Friday steak and lobster night, so if the opening wasn't enough to draw a crowd, the aroma of the steak and seafood did the job.

After working in food service for more than 30 years, Pacurari said he is satisfied with his job.

The supervisor just left a three-year stint in Kosovo before he arrived here Sept. 2002.

The retired brigade food service master sergeant said he enjoys what he does. After all, he enlisted as an Army cook and here he is deployed just like the soldiers — again.

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## Helicopter crash in Kuwait kills 16

**WASHINGTON** — A U.S. Marine CH-46 helicopter crashed early Friday in Kuwait, killing all 16 people aboard, the first coalition fatalities of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Pentagon officials said.

The 16 aboard included 12 British military personnel and four American crew members, Pentagon officials said.

The helicopter crashed 9 miles south of Kuwait's border with Iraq at 3:40 a.m. (7:40 p.m. ET Thursday).

There was no indication of hostile fire, officials said, saying it appeared the chopper went down because of some other problem, possibly mechanical.

The CH-46 is a dual-rotor assault helicopter mainly used to transport troops, supplies and equipment. Troop transport is the primary function of the helicopter, and movement of equipment and supplies is secondary.

The CH-46 has a maximum combat capacity of 14 troops and two aerial gunners.

## Airstrike hits north as tanks roll

**BAGHDAD**, Iraq — As coalition warplanes attacked a city in northern Iraq early Friday, a convoy of U.S. tanks rolled unopposed through the desert toward the Iraqi capital in the second day of the campaign to dislodge Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Coalition forces bombed the Iraqi-controlled northern city of Mosul just before 4:30 a.m. Friday (8:30 p.m. Thursday ET). At least two jets flew over before explosions were heard. Anti-aircraft fire was launched but it was not clear whether the planes were hit.

In the southern Iraq, the 3rd Squadron of the 7th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, lead element of the 3rd Infantry Division, rolled across the border from Kuwait early Friday, according to a CNN reporter accompanying the troops.

## No definitive judgment on body double possibility

**WASHINGTON** — U.S. officials are increasingly convinced the man seen on Iraqi TV following Wednesday's initial strikes on Baghdad was indeed Saddam Hussein, not



*U.S. officials said they are uncertain that the man, left, who appeared on Iraqi TV after U.S. airstrikes, is Saddam Hussein, right.*

a body double as some first suggested.

Officials say technical analysis suggests the voice and inflection and movements of the mouth may be the same as Saddam Hussein from past tapes — though there is not yet a definitive U.S. judgment.

It has been widely reported that the Iraqi leader has a number of look-alikes who stand in for him from time to time at public events.

The taped message mentioned Thursday's date and appeared on Iraqi television after the U.S. strikes.

The White House said no one in the U.S. government has drawn any definitive conclusions about whether the man seen addressing the Iraqi public was Saddam.

## Strikes meant to rattle Iraqis

**WASHINGTON** — As explosions rattled Baghdad for a second consecutive night, U.S. officials said these strikes were part of a psychological warfare campaign to ratchet up the tension among Iraq troops and their high command ahead of the main bombardment.

About 20 cruise missiles were fired in the most recent airstrikes, officials said.

Two British submarines fired missiles for the first time in this conflict, and officials said U.S. Navy ships and submarines in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf also took part.

In all, more than 60 cruise missiles have been fired at targets in and around Baghdad since U.S.-led hostilities began, officials told CNN.

## Iraqi oil wells may be ablaze

**WASHINGTON** — U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said Thursday that the Pentagon has received reports that Iraqi forces have set "as many as three or four" oil wells ablaze in southern Iraq, near the Kuwaiti border.

"We are attempting to get additional information on that," he said at a Pentagon briefing.

Pentagon officials told CNN the fires are at well heads and not in oil-filled trenches.

Plumes are visible in satellite images taken by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which the agency describes as "consistent with NOAA's experience in detecting oil fires in the past from satellites in space."

## U.S. closes embassies

**WASHINGTON** — More than a dozen U.S. embassies and consulates are closed to the public amid security concerns related to the U.S. military action against Iraq, State Department officials told CNN Thursday.

The embassy closings were not directed by the State Department but were decided upon independently by ambassadors at each post.

The State Department is concerned about the potential for terrorist attacks against American targets.

"We're worried about everybody following through on threats to attack," said a senior State Department official.

The closings came on the heels of a fresh travel warning to Americans overseas.

## Deadly ricin at Paris rail station

**PARIS** — Small bottles containing traces of the deadly poison ricin were found in a Paris train station, French police said Thursday.

Officials said five suspicious bottles were discovered on Monday in a routine sweep of lockers at the Gare de Lyon, officials said.

Three of the bottles contained a yellow liquid, and two of those showed traces of ricin, which was mixed with other products to make a "highly toxic poison," a source in the French counterterrorist services said.

# Critter of the Week:

## Red fox

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

There are four species fox in Afghanistan, but the most common is the red fox. The red fox can be found almost anywhere — its geographic range stretches all the way from Canada and the U.S. to Europe and almost all of Asia including Japan. Coloration of red foxes ranges from pale yellowish red to deep reddish brown on the upper parts and white on the underside. The lower part of the legs is usually black and the tail usually has a white or black tip. These foxes are primarily nocturnal, but they may become active during the day in the fall and winter. They are in the same family as dogs and eat almost anything they can find. They do well in areas associated with humans, such as suburbs or farmlands, where they forage through trash or feast on poultry. Properly bagging trash and maintaining good sanitation can help to keep foxes away from military installations. Close encounters have occurred between foxes and humans here. While some may consider them cute, such meetings are dangerous because foxes are vectors of rabies and a bite could potentially transmit the disease.



A red fox caught at Bagram.

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR Building: “The Transporter.” This film is about a man whose job is to deliver packages without asking any questions. Complications arise when he breaks those rules.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Ring.”

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Saturday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Scattered showers H: 68F L: 39F	Mostly cloudy H: 59F L: 45F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Rain H: 82F L: 55F	Dust H: 75F L: 54F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Scattered showers H: 66F L: 43F	Haze H: 59F L: 45F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 73F L: 46F	Partly cloudy H: 68F L: 43F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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A soldier from the 812<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, "Carpathians' Hawks," checks his communication equipment at Kandahar Air Field prior to the start of Operation Carpathians' Thunder Mar. 8.

**THUNDER**, from Page 1

cache site and also to provide humanitarian aid to villages nearby.

The roads between Kandahar Air Field and the area of operation were unforgiving on both vehicles and soldiers in the convoy. Some vehicles had mechanical problems, but they were all solved en route. All the convoy elements that left Kandahar made it to the temporary fire base set up in the Zobol

province and back.

Romanian soldiers discovered the suspect cave their first day in the area, near the Afghan village of Amak, but proved to be empty when coalition forces arrived. The cave, which was destroyed by soldiers from the 731<sup>st</sup> Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company here, had a manmade entrance and two ventilation shafts leading from the back of it. The explosion was loud enough to send all the animals grazing in the area running

back up the valley.

While the cave was being rigged for destruction, civil affairs soldiers from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and 812<sup>th</sup> Infantry met with village elders in Amak to discuss issues important to the village. The village elders requested help in the form of a well for drinking water and one for irrigation and a school to be shared by four villages in the area.

The reception received at each village was very positive and friendly. Village leaders shared tea with both U.S. and Romanian soldiers. One village even sent a tray of tea to soldiers providing perimeter security.

The civil affairs soldiers wrote down their requests and left Humanitarian Daily Rations, clothes and new shoes to be distributed in the village. The village elders were also given two solar-powered radios so they could help keep members of the village current on news around the globe.

Village leaders had heard of the possible war in Iraq and were worried that their request would be forgotten in the mass migration of troops to the Persian Gulf region, but they were assured that the coalition and the United States are committed to supporting the people and the national government of Afghanistan.

Three other villages in the area also received humanitarian aid and made requests of coalition forces.



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Adam Johnston, 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group

**Close air support...**

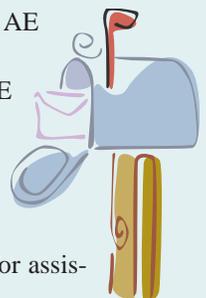
An A-10 with the 104<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Fighter Squadron banks to the right after take off from the Bagram Air Base runway Thursday. A-10 pilots with the 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group provide close air support for Army forces here.

**Need to send mail within OEF?**

The following are the APO numbers for selected sites within Operation Enduring Freedom:

- Karshi Khanabad, APO AE 09311
- Mazar E Sharif, APO AE 09318
- Bagram, APO AE 09354
- Kandahar, APO AE 09355
- Kabul, APO AE 09356

If you don't see the location you're looking for, ask your postal clerk for assistance.





# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Woods one back at 2-under



*Tiger Woods was one of just 19 players under par at Bay Hill.*

**ORLANDO, Fla.** — The scores at the Bay Hill Invitational looked like they belonged at a major championship. So did some of the grumbling.

The pins were too tough. The greens were like trampolines, bouncing even wedge shots high into the air and far from the hole.

No wonder the six guys tied for the lead Thursday were at a meager 3-under 69, the highest 18-hole score to lead since Tiger Woods was at 3 under in last year's U.S. Open at

Bethpage Black.

That's just the way tournament host Arnold Palmer wanted it.

"They thought it was too hard? Aaahhh, that's too bad," Palmer said, trying to contain the tears.

"What the hell? It was the same for everybody. What do they do when they play the National Open? Or the TPC? Or the Masters?"

"I had the worst score on the board, and I thought the golf course was fair."

## Tu leaves court on stretcher

**KEY BISCAWAYNE, Fla.** — Serves turned shaky and willpower

wilted Thursday in the scorching South Florida sun, which turned the Nasdaq-100 Open into a test of subtropical stamina.

Old-timers Vince Spadea and Jonas Bjorkman passed, notching first-round victories.

Teen prodigy Richard Gasquet failed, quitting in the third set with a heat-related headache.

And there was Meilen Tu, who won a midday marathon and then left the stadium court on a stretcher with heat exhaustion.

"I was hyperventilating, couldn't breathe and kind of collapsed," Tu said. "Everything shut down after I shook the umpire's hand."

The temperature peaked at 88 degrees, just short of the record for the date.

"It was very hot," said Spadea, who beat Christophe Rochus 6-3, 6-4. "I was pacing myself and trying to give him all the energy I had."

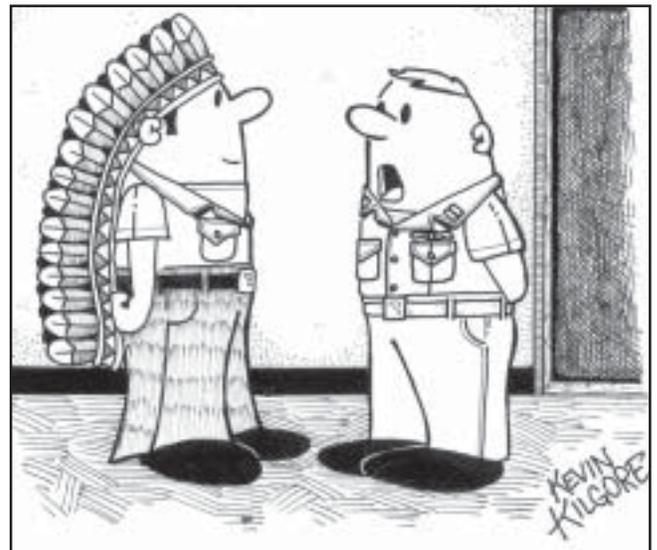
"But it was a hot day. The wind didn't help much. And I'm from Florida, so what I say counts."

For the second day in a row, the WTA Tour activated its rules for extremely hot weather, allowing a 10-minute break after the second set. Tu barely made it to the finish, beating Bethanie Mattek 6-1, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4) in 2 hours, 53 minutes.

Tu began to feel the heat during the second set. She overcame cramping in both thighs, both calves and her right forearm.

"To win a match like this, I will always remember it," she said. "I didn't think I would win."

**"By the looks of things, you've heard about your promotion."**



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By Kevin Kilgore

*Laugh Support*

### Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

**Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)**

- ❖ COLL BB: NCAA Men's Basketball Championship - First Round (live) 0000Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 0500Z
- ❖ College GameNight (live) 0530Z
- ❖ Totally NASCAR (live) 0600Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 0630Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0700Z
- ❖ COLL BB: NCAA Men's Basketball Championship - First Round (tape delayed) 0800Z
- ❖ NHL Cool Shots (tape delayed) 1430Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 1700Z
- ❖ NASCAR Busch Series: Channellock 250 (live) 1730Z

**Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)**

- ❖ NHL: Colorado Avalanche @ Detroit Red Wings (tape delayed) 0000Z
- ❖ College GameNight (live) 0300Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0400Z
- ❖ COLL BB: NCAA Women's Basketball Championship - First Round (tape delayed) 0500Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0700Z
- ❖ NBA Match-UP (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ Boxing: Friday Night Fights (tape delayed) 1230Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1600Z
- ❖ NASCAR: NASCAR Winston Cup Series (live) 1730Z

# Brook crossword

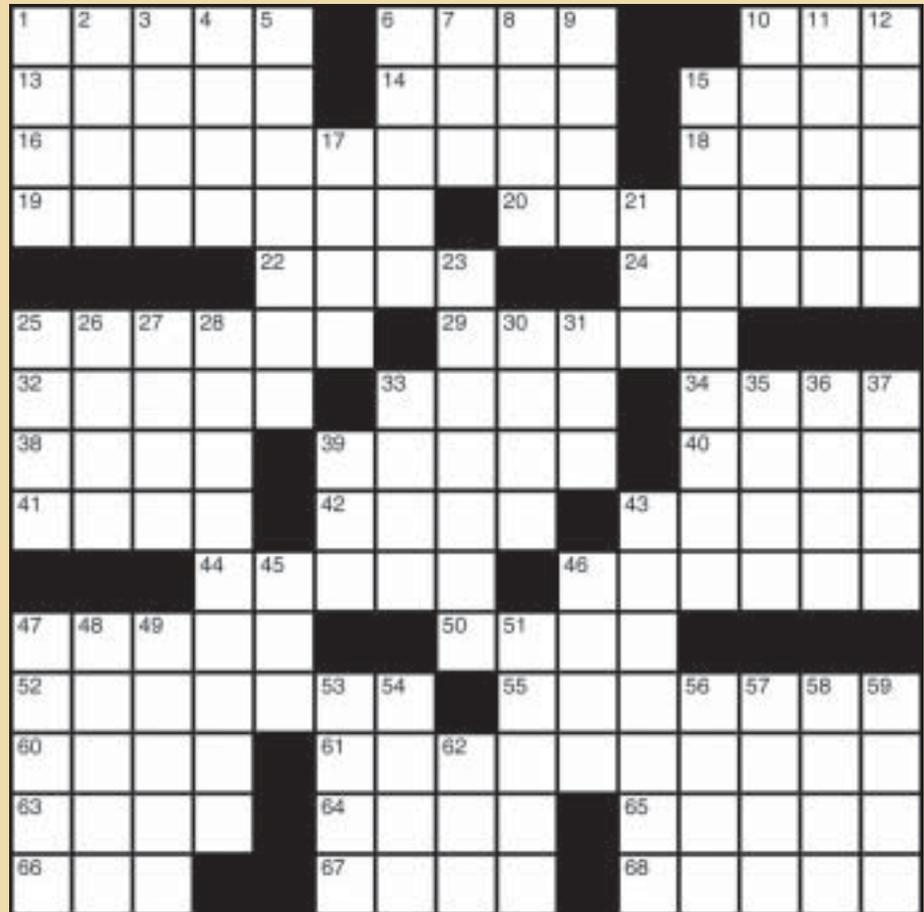
(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

## Across

- 1 Pile up
- 6 USNA freshman
- 10 Hippie home
- 13 Herd orphan
- 14 Go ballistic
- 15 Comet \_\_\_-Bopp
- 16 Personnel shakeup in British nobility?
- 18 Warning sign
- 19 Overly formal
- 20 "Don't move!"
- 22 Dumbbell material
- 24 Senator's constituency
- 25 Bruise, to a toddler
- 29 Ready to pour
- 32 Director Welles
- 33 Dubai dignitary
- 34 Pro \_\_\_ (in proportion)
- 38 Hard to hold on to
- 39 Hatched-faced Dick
- 40 Roth et al.
- 41 Crucifix
- 42 Right-hand man
- 43 Designer Head
- 44 Egypt's Mubarak
- 46 Sometime soon
- 47 Baseball cap part
- 50 Water-to-wine town
- 52 Coroner's investigation
- 55 Mogadishu's country
- 60 A/C units
- 61 "Show Boat" composer's come back?
- 63 HOMES part
- 64 Gen. Robert \_\_\_
- 65 Like a musical staff
- 66 Bummed out
- 67 Letter starter
- 68 They flew against Fokkers

## Down

- 1 Fruity drinks
- 2 Zoo barrier



- 3 Introduction to culture?
- 4 Place for a flowerpot
- 5 Grapefruit hunk
- 6 Madrid gallery
- 7 Office PC connection
- 8 They're sometimes coddled
- 9 Borscht ingredient
- 10 Argentine plain
- 11 Eskimo's cousin
- 12 Al \_\_\_ (pasta order)
- 15 Slogan for pitcher Wilhelm's fan club?
- 17 Hefty sandwich
- 21 Thick \_\_\_ brick
- 23 Having no fixed home
- 25 \_\_\_ War (1899-1902)
- 26 Two-tone cookie
- 27 Scandinavian capital
- 28 Abode of Hopalong Cassidy's portrayer?
- 30 "Good work!"
- 31 Take a stab at
- 33 Ms. Brockovich
- 35 Like the Gobi
- 36 "Bye-bye!"
- 37 Pale as a ghost
- 39 Profs' aides
- 43 Glossy paints
- 45 Miner's strike
- 46 \_\_\_ about (circa)
- 47 Hampton's instrument, familiarly
- 48 Part of IV
- 49 Calamari
- 51 Moore's TV boss
- 53 TV Guide info
- 54 Prefix with gram or graph
- 56 "Take \_\_\_ from me"
- 57 Large green moth
- 58 Steamed up
- 59 Added stipulations
- 62 "Still Crazy" star Stephen

*Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch*