



# DESERT DEVIL DISPATCH

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*March 14, 2003*



Serving up food at the Shadow Inn Dining Facility. See story on Page 3.

# Thank You Kandahar For Your Help



**Barbara Travis**  
Team Leader  
Kandahar PX

On Feb. 21, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service suffered a great loss, not just in merchandise but with the 25 dedicated associates who lost everything from desert camouflage uniform clothing to money, credit cards, to irreplaceable pictures and souvenirs.

Our mission is “We go where you go” and that was our main goal — to ensure each and every military member has all

the basic merchandise, nice-to-have items and above all a little touch of home.

Our mission to serve the military reversed on that day and

in the days ahead the military showed just how much we meant to Kandahar. We can’t list all the valuable civilians and military members who played a large part in our being able to set up and open a temporary post exchange, barber shop and gift shop in just 48 hours.

My thanks goes out to the firefighters who worked long and hard to contain the fire, the engineers who jumped right in to build shelves and fixtures, and the awesome support from off-duty military members who drove gators full of AAFES merchandise from the fire site to our new location.

A special thanks goes to: Col. Campbell, Col. Tewksbury, Maj. Taylor, Maj. Green, Capt. Byrd, Command Sgt. Maj. Kalinofski, Command Sgt. Maj. Zacheus, Master Sgt. Burgess, Master Sgt. Reese, Staff Sgt. Holmes, Sgt. Pope, the American Red Cross and all the military members — Army, Air Force and Marine.

On behalf of Kandahar’s PX managers and AAFES, we say thank you and we are proud to serve those who serve us!

## 160 Devils Take Part in Task Force Prayer Breakfast

*Story and Photo by Maj. Robert Gilpin*  
82nd Airborne Division

Approximately 160 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines packed the Task Force Devil Dining Facility Tuesday to attend a “Devils in the Desert” prayer breakfast conducted here.

“Great Prayers by Great Leaders before Great Battles” was this month’s theme, according to Chap. (Maj.) Jeffrey D. Watters, Task Force chaplain, who also lead the opening prayer. Four prayers, each attributed to a different historical military figure, were individually accentuated by the Task Force battalion chaplains. The prayers demonstrated the deep devotion prominent commanders placed in

divine providence to safeguard their troops and achieve success.

Col. John F. Campbell, Task Force Devil commander, thanked the chaplains and all the soldiers for attending plus complimented the musicians and singers who performed the special music throughout the breakfast. He then addressed the audience on the need for spiritual readiness as well as tactical and physical preparedness. Campbell further quoted Proverbs 21:31, “... the horse is made ready for battle, but victory rests with the Lord”.

Special music was performed by Sgt. Michael J. Davis, B Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry



**Singers perform during the Task Force Devil Prayer breakfast, held Tuesday.**

Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division; Cpl. Rene Hernandez, U.S. Marine Corps; Spc. Jayme L. Livezey, Headquarters/A Company, 307<sup>th</sup> Logistics

see **PRAYER**, page 5

*Desert Devil Dispatch* falls under the supervision of Task Force Devil.



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# Shadow Inn Making Soldiers Right at Home

Story by Pfc. Stacy Persaved  
118th Military Police Company (Airborne)

For the past three months the Shadow Inn Dining Facility has been making soldiers feel right at home, providing them with two hot meals a day.

The team consists of soldiers from the 118<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company (Airborne), Marine Corps, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade and the 812<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion from the Romanian army.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Ricardo Flores, dining facility manager, and Staff Sgt. Derrick Crawford, assistant dining facility manager, work to ensure quality food is prepared in a timely manner. The cooks of the Shadow Inn Dining Facility take a lot of pride in the meals that are prepared for the 1,000 or more soldiers that rely on them after a long day. While the night sky is still dark the cooks roll out of their warm beds ready to start the workday which begins at midnight.

The soldiers prepare, cook and serve the hot meals using the initial deployment kitchen which is designed to feed a minimum of 500 soldiers, though the dining facility has fed up to 1,200 soldiers.

“The job speaks for itself, when you work for food services, the cooks don’t get the recognition they deserve,” said Crawford. “Coming to a combat zone there are stresses that come along with

that; the soldiers here are doing very well.”

To ensure every soldier receives the same nutritional hot meal, the food services specialists manage their time by means of progressive cooking. At 3 a.m. soldier’s

pile into the dining facility to enjoy the taste of oven-baked pork sausage, crisp bacon, golden eggs and creamy hominy grits along with fench toast.

The dining facility also offers a variety of fresh and canned fruits, breakfast cereals and bars, breads and beverages to compliment the hot meal.

At 5 a.m. the dining hall closes and the shift cleans to prepare for the next shift. Food services specialists maintain the highest standards of personal hygiene, sanitation, food preparation and pest control as they keep a germ-free work environment.

Before and after each meal all utensils, supplies and equipment are washed, rinsed and sanitized with hot water and



U.S. Army photos by Spc. Jim Wagner

**Pvt. Felicia Flake, food services specialist, spices up barbecued ribs for the evening meal at the Shadow Inn Dining Facility.**

sanitizing solution.

Shift leaders and first cooks work hand-in-hand to complete their daily missions, which is to provide a good meal for soldiers at Kandahar.

By working as a team the days go by a lot easier even if the meal is harder than the day before.



**ABOVE: Pfc. Major Walker, food services specialist, preps food for the next shift. LEFT: A Romanian cook dishes out salad to soldiers during the evening meal.**

# Airborne History

*American parachutists — Devils in Baggy Pants — are less than 100 meters from my outpost line. I can't sleep at night; they pop up from nowhere and we never know when or how they will strike next. Seems like the black-hearted devils are everywhere.....*

*(Translated from the diary of a dead German officer at Anzio - February 1944)*

## The Winter War: 82nd Continues March on Germany

Story by Robert Anzuoni  
82nd Airborne Division Historian

*(Editor's Note: This is the second in a four-part series.)*

Between Jan. 30-31, 1945, the 82nd Airborne Division continued its drive toward the German border. Additional ground was seized and defended against counterattacks. Patrols were sent into Germany to gather information for the impending thrust into the Siegfried Line. Additional troops were attached to the division for the mission of piercing the Line. On Jan. 31, the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached and on Feb. 1 to the 517th PIR was attached.

On Feb. 2, against intense opposition the division advanced and breached the Siegfried Line from Udenbreth to Neuhof to Hertesrott Heights. Positions were consolidated and numerous counterattacks repulsed.

The 325th GIR attacked and seized Neuhof and Udenbreth while the 504th PIR secured the Hertesrott Heights. Both regiments encountered severe resistance. The 505th PIR and 508th PIR made advances 4,000 yards to the southeast to protect the division's right flank. The enemy's main defensive line had been defeated and the 82nd now had a foothold in Germany.

The day of Feb. 3 was spent mopping up enemy resistance and strengthening defensive positions. On the 4th, the division sent patrols to the east until being relieved by the 99th Infantry Division. Relief of the 82nd by the 99th continued on Feb. 5 and 6 and the division moved to Vielsalm.

On the 7th, the 505th PIR began relieving elements of the 8th Division near Vossenack. The 517th PIR made a reconnaissance in force southeast from Bergstein, but encountered dense minefields supported by intense en-



Photo courtesy of Michel Janssen

Paratroopers march through a European city during the "Winter War."

emy resistance.

On Feb. 8, the 82nd opened its command post in Rott, Germany, in the Hurtgen Forest. Maj. Gen. James Gavin, 82nd commander, conducted a reconnaissance of the terrain the division would have to fight on in the following days. He began travelling by jeep through the forest to the where the jump-off positions for the next attack would be.

He stated that, "I learned my first lesson about the Hurtgen. It couldn't be traversed by jeep. The mud was too deep and the jeep bellied down." Gavin later noted that the official U.S. Army history of the campaign described the Hurtgen Forest as a "seemingly impenetrable mass, a vast, undulating blackish-green ocean stretching as far as the eye can see."

Between 8 and 9 February, the remainder of the Division moved north by truck into the sector occupied by the 505th PIR and 517th PIR. This movement brought the 82nd into the Kall River Valley in the Hurtgen Valley where American units suffered heavy losses in the Fall of 1944.

*(Series continues in the March 21 edition of the DDD.)*



**You might be Airborne if ...**

**you have ever put a trash bag in your briefcase, and  
hoped like hell that the plane would go down.**

**— John "Doc" Horton (from partrooper.net)**



# Around the World

## U.N. Resolution Doomed

A U.S.-backed U.N. Security Council resolution authorizing war against Iraq appears doomed to fail, senior U.S. officials and foreign diplomats said today, though the Bush administration agreed to a British request to continue negotiations until Monday before calling for a vote or withdrawing the measure.

U.S. officials in recent days have claimed, without providing evidence, that they were within striking distance of reaching the necessary nine votes on the deeply divided Security Council. But officials were noticeably gloomy today after a British compromise offered Wednesday was largely rejected by the six countries that are officially undecided.

In addition to an almost certain French veto, and the possibility of a Russian veto, officials said they were convinced they would not even achieve what they call the "moral victory" of nine votes among the council's 15 member nations. (Story courtesy the Washington Post)

## God Told Him to Do it

A drifter and self-appointed prophet accused of kidnapping Elizabeth Smart may have believed that God had chosen the unsuspecting teenager to be his next wife, a newspaper reported Thursday.

The Seattle Times, citing a police source in Salt Lake City, said Brian

David "Emmanuel" Mitchell told investigators that he wanted Elizabeth to become his wife after first laying eyes on her while he did a one-day handyman stint at the Smart's suburban home in 2001.

"It was a religious thing," the source told the Times. "This guy just wanted another wife, and God told him this was the one."

Elizabeth, 15, was found alive and well Wednesday on a street in the Salt Lake City suburb of Sandy after two witnesses called police and said they recognized Mitchell from images shown last month on "America's Most Wanted." (Story courtesy United Press International)

## Microsoft To Change Licenses

Microsoft is preparing an April Fools' Day announcement that's no joke. The company plans to change how it licenses the majority of server software, which could significantly reduce a company's cost of running large, multiprocessor servers.

The new licensing plan, which goes into effect April 1, affects eight Microsoft server products, but not its flagship Windows Server operating system software, according to a company representative.

## Jacko Loses Lawsuit

A jury Thursday awarded a concert promoter \$5.3 million for two concerts

canceled by Michael Jackson in 1999.

Jackson had agreed to perform in two "millennium concerts" on New Year's Eve, 1999. The first concert was to have celebrated the new year in Sydney, Australia. Then Jackson was to jump aboard a jet and perform a second concert in Hawaii later the same day. (Story courtesy CNN)

## Cordell Signs With Bears

The Bears and quarterback Kordell Stewart agreed Thursday on a two-year contract worth about \$4.75 million that settled who the Bears' starter for 2003 will be. After that ...

Stewart, who canceled a Monday visit with the Baltimore Ravens, will become the Bears' fourth opening-day starter in the last four seasons. The deal came after 24 hours of intense negotiations that began Wednesday after the Arizona Cardinals signed Jeff Blake and concluded late Thursday afternoon with what could be considered an interim deal.

Stewart received a signing bonus of \$1.75 million and base salaries of about \$1.5 million for each year. (Story courtesy Chicago Tribune)

## N. Korea Close on nukes

North Korea could produce highly enriched uranium as fuel for nuclear weapons in months not years - much earlier than many have predicted, US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly has said.



**Pvt. Murpy's Law**  
by Mark Baker

## PRAYER, from page 2

Task Force; Spc. Lindsey Fowler and Spc. Tyrese Oliver, both of the 618<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company; Pfc. Johnny White, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2-504<sup>th</sup> PIR performed as drummer; Pfc. Erick Guevara, B Company, 2-504<sup>th</sup> PIR; Elizabeth Thomson, C Company, 307<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion, sang, co-wrote some of the original music and accompa-

nied with the guitar; and Spc. Bradley A. Welty, F Company, 58<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment. Many compliments were made and heard regarding the musicians' performance.

Another prayer breakfast is tentatively scheduled for April 8; contact or visit the chaplain's office for information on dates and times.

# Red Cross the Soldier's Life Line to Home

Story by 1st Lt. Cory Angell  
109th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

If you are ever looking for the American Red Cross (ARC) at Kandahar Air Field it's easy to find.

Just go in the terminal and look for a small crowd of soldiers drinking coffee and picking through bins filled with comfort items sent from people back home.

"People seem to appreciate the things we have out for them to take," said Elizabeth Schirk, one of the two ARC workers deployed here, "The coffee seems to be a life line for many."

Schirk, whose mother and husband are both ARC workers grew up around the organization and volunteered through high school and college.

"After I got out of college I really wanted to travel and I wanted to work with the military; the American Red Cross gave me the opportunity to do both," said Schirk.

Although many ARC personnel are volunteers there are some who work for the organization full time.



Capt. Eli Martinez, 451<sup>st</sup> Air Expeditionary Group executive officer, samples some of the snacks available.



Photos by 1st Lt. Cory Angell

Red Cross Employees Elizabeth Scherk, left, updates Sherry Dutton on the nights events at their morning shift change briefing. The ARC provides 24 hour coverage for the troops on KAF.

"It can definitely be a career," said Schirk.

Clara Barton learned of the International Red Cross during a trip to Europe and organized the ARC May 21, 1881.

The 1900 and later 1905 charter "sets forth the purpose of the organization which includes, "giving relief to and serving as a medium for communication between service members and their families and providing national and international disaster relief and mitigation" according to Red Cross publications."

"The number one mission is emergency communication," said Schirk. Emergency communications include notices of deaths, illnesses and births back home.

Sherry Dutton of Castleton, Vermont has been with the ARC since 1998 and just finished a tour in the Balkans.

Dutton said it's not unusual for family members to be unaware of what unit their service member is in.

"It's important that military members communicate to their families exactly what they are in," said Dutton. "We have two hours from (getting) a message until we get it to the service member's unit. For that reason it's important that

the family is aware of exactly what unit they are in."

"We also handle messages that are not qualified as emergencies but are often very important as well," said Dutton. "We try to talk with the soldier one on one when it involves something personal so that they can have as much privacy as possible."

It's also important for us to get a response to the message we have passed on," said Dutton. "Since someone is waiting to hear that they got the message on the other end, our job is not done until we complete the circle and send a message back to the service members family."

"The morale here is very high," said Dutton. "It's interesting to talk with the soldiers and it gives you a perspective that you could only get by being here with them. What they do is very important."

They both seemed to value a simple "thank you" from a soldier over any other recognition they could receive.

"We have been getting a lot of good comments from service members," said Schirk.

"They come in and say 'thank you' and that's a good feeling."