

## CA assists Afghans reopen girls school

By Spc. Karlene Hemerly-Fluck  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**KONDUZ, Afghanistan** — The Civil Affairs team here assisted in the official opening ceremony of the Bi Bi Fhatima Girls School Jan. 30.

The ceremony concludes the project which rebuilt ten new classrooms for the school. The school was taken over by the Taliban in 1996 and had been closed for six years.

The education of female students started again once Operation Enduring Freedom began shortly after Sept. 11, 2001.

“Educating the younger generation of Afghanistan continues to be the main focus in rebuilding the country,” said Capt. Patrick Pascall, operations officer for the Civil-Military Operations Center here. The CMOC is responsible for coordinating civil-military



Photo by Spc. Karlene E. HemerlyFluck, 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

*Director Mahmo Ba of Bi Bi Fhatima girls school speaks about education with gratitude to the U.S. for their continued assistance in helping the schools in there country.*

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## Bagram MWR plans expansions, improvements

Pfc. Christina Carde  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – The directors of Morale, Welfare and Recreation are constantly looking for ways to improve soldiers’ quality of life by enhancing MWR facilities.

According to Andy Finnerty, director of the MWR here, a lot goes into MWR improvements and expansion. Plans must be drawn up and carefully considered before a decision can be made on new additions and facilities.

“This base is rapidly grow-

ing by the day,” said Finnerty. “The problem we have is everyone is so spread out, and may not have access to MWR.”

In addition to the widespread population, there is also a shortage of facilities.

“At present, we only have one gym and one MWR facility which is multi-faceted,” said Finnerty. “These new plans however, should remedy that.”

Before enhancements can be made they must first go through the proper channels. A series of meetings took place this past week to decide what improvements are going to be made and

what needs to be further discussed.

“Our overall goal is to have MWR resources evenly distributed throughout Bagram so troops don’t have to go out of their way to get to a gym or MWR facility,” said Finnerty. “This goal is long term, but the work is in progress.”

One of MWR’s plans is to create a civic center and a central gym which offers a lot more than the present one.

“There will be a new civic center near the Post Exchange which will be used for shows and recreation,” said Finnerty. “Plans

are also in progress to eventually build a gym adjacent to the civic center which will house two NBA style basketball courts, volleyball courts and a mezzanine which will have cardio and weightlifting equipment.”

Another project that will soon be underway, is the expansion of the present MWR building known as Dragon Palace.

“Our plan is to build an addition to the present MWR building for games such as pool, ping pong and PlayStation,” said Finnerty. “This room will also

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## Powell addresses U.N.

**UNITED NATIONS** — U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell used electronic intercepts, satellite photographs and other intelligence sources Wednesday in an effort to convince skeptical members of the U.N. Security Council that Iraq is actively working to deceive U.N. weapons inspectors.

“I cannot tell you everything that we know,” Powell said, with CIA Director George Tenet sitting behind him. “But what I can share with you, when combined with what all of us have learned over the years, is deeply troubling.”

While calling Powell’s presentation strong and thorough, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan told reporters, “I still believe war is not inevitable.”

But he urged Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi leadership to fully comply with U.N. Resolution 1441 to disarm “for the sake of their own people, for the region and for world order.”

## Terror threat at higher level

**WASHINGTON** — The threat of a terrorist attack on U.S. soil is at a higher level than in previous months because of the possibility of impending military action against Iraq, U.S. counterterrorism officials told CNN on Wednesday.

“The threat level is definitely up. Our guys have been told to act as if we have already bombed Iraq,” one senior counterterrorism official told CNN.

Government officials said they are concerned that al-Qaida, Iraqi agents or individuals could launch an attack coinciding with a U.S. strike against Iraq.

There has been debate about putting out an alert warning or actually raising the national threat level, but threat level will remain at yellow, or elevated, sources told CNN.

Sources say the FBI is closely watching a “handful” of people believed to be Iraqi intelligence officers in the United States. It is part of the bureau’s effort to question many of the tens of thousands of Iraqis living in the United States.

## Nuclear facilities restarted

**SEOUL**, South Korea — North Korea said Wednesday that it had reactivated its nuclear facilities and is going ahead with their operation “on a normal footing.”

The communist country will use the facilities to generate electricity “at the present stage,” an unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said. His remarks were carried by the official KCNA news agency.

The North’s main nuclear facility at Yongbyon has been dormant since a 1994 deal with the United States, but the North announced in December that it would revive it, amid a dispute with Washington. The Yongbyon facility was the center of a suspected nuclear weapons program in the 1990s.

“The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is now putting the operation of its nuclear facilities for the production of electricity on a normal footing after their restart,” the spokesman said.

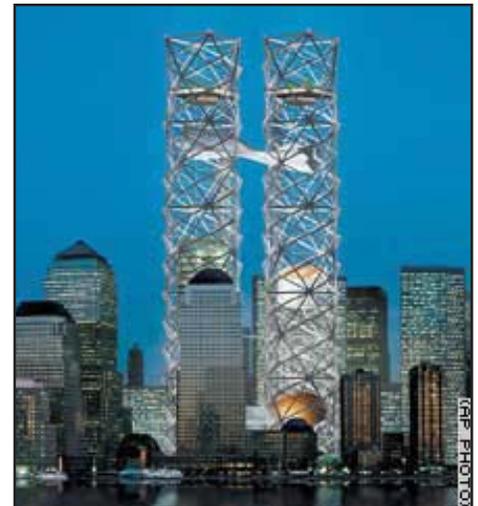
“The DPRK government has already solemnly declared that its nuclear activity would be limited to the peaceful purposes including the production of electricity at the present stage,” the spokesman said.

## World’s tallest towers proposed for WTC site

**NEW YORK** — Two architectural teams were named finalists Tuesday in the competition to design what will be built on the World Trade Center site, each proposing plans that would create the tallest structures in the world, easily dwarfing the twin towers destroyed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Studio Daniel Libeskind of Berlin, Germany, and a New York-led team dubbed THINK were named finalists by the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. The LMDC, a city-state agency overseeing the rebuilding process, chose them from among seven contenders.

Both plans feature structures that would reach 300 feet or more higher than the World Trade Center’s 110-story twin towers, and



*One of the two finalists' plans envisions two towers rising 1,665 feet.*

surpass the tallest buildings in the world, the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They would create signature structures where the twin towers had dominated the landscape of Lower Manhattan.

## LeBron to be reinstated

**AKRON**, Ohio — LeBron James can put his high school jersey back on for at least a few more games.

The basketball superstar was cleared to play Wednesday by a judge who blocked a ruling that stripped him of his eligibility for accepting two free sports jerseys worth a total of \$845.

“It confirms our belief that the he never should have been suspended,” said James’ attorney, Fred Nance.

The 18-year-old senior, expected to be the No. 1 pick in this year’s NBA draft, still must sit out at least one more game, and his eligibility remains in question pending another court hearing Feb. 19.

Summit County Judge James Williams issued a temporary restraining order to the Ohio High School Athletic Association ruling last week. Williams said James would suffer “immediate and irreparable injury” without the order.

St. Vincent-St. Mary was allowed to decide what game James will miss, and it picked the one on Feb. 23, four days after the hearing when Williams will grant a permanent injunction or go to trial.

# Critter of the Week: Crane

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

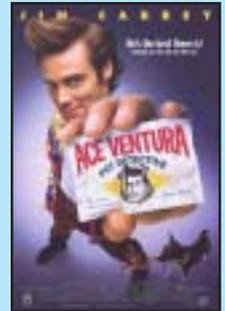
Afghanistan in the winter is not necessarily a safe place for cranes. Culturally and legally protected in much of their Northern breeding grounds and Southern wintering grounds, some species of these large, graceful birds find themselves at risk when they migrate from Northern Eurasia down through Afghanistan and Pakistan to India. Traditional crane hunters in Afghanistan and Pakistan station themselves in valleys where the cranes pass on migration and use tame cranes to lure wild birds within hunting range. They then hurl slings weighted with rocks to entangle the cranes and bring them down. With the proliferation of firearms in these countries, however, it has become increasingly more common for cranes to simply be shot from the sky. During migration, cranes prefer to soar – an energy saving technique whereby they ride thermals up to 5,000 ft and then glide forward, slowly losing altitude. Three species of Cranes pass through Afghanistan in the winter: The Eurasian Crane, the Demoiselle Crane, and the Siberian or “Great White Crane”. The latter species is very rare and considered endangered. With the stabilization of the government in Afghanistan it is hoped that educational efforts and regulations in hunting will help these birds and other wildlife that are threatened or otherwise in peril.

*The Siberian, or “Great White” Crane is one of the species that migrates through Afghanistan in the winter. This species is very rare and considered endangered.*



## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Ace Ventura: Pet Detective.” To be a Pet Detective, you have to understand both the criminals and animals. Ace Ventura goes even further... He behaves like a criminal animal. When a football team’s mascot (a dolphin) is stolen just before the Superbowl, Ace Ventura is put on the case. Tomorrow’s movie will be “Austin Powers: Goldmember.”



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Rain</i> H: 46F L: 34F	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 50F L: 27F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 64F L: 41F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 59F L: 39F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Snow</i> H: 45F L: 24F	<i>Snow</i> H: 41F L: 21F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Rain</i> H: 60F L: 39F	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 45F L: 35F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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operations in the Konduz region. Soldiers are attached to 450<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Riverdale, Md. and 360<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Brigade, Fort Jackson, S.C.

Malai Aubei, a teacher of mathematics, said, "I am very happy about the reopening. I had to work at home for the past five years because the school had been taken over, and now I can go back to teaching—that is what I enjoy." She is a graduate of the University of Roshan and has been teaching for ten years.

Prior to the construction of the two new buildings associated with this project, students overloaded the main schoolhouse and were forced out to the courtyard to conduct their studies. The school faculty is made up of 147 instructors who teach subjects from English to physics.

There are more than 6,000 students and 3,000 more waiting to be registered for first grade. This school stands as the largest female education institution in the province of Konduz. The girls attend three classes a day, for two-hour intervals, six days a week. The average graduation age is between 18 and 20 years old.

Afghan National Army Contracting played one of the biggest parts in the actual construction of the school.

"America is doing a great job and definitely needs the help from neighboring countries. I was glad to be able to do my part in this," said Fareed, manager of ANA Contracting.

"We have a very good feeling about the Americans and the many schools that the

**MWR**, from Page 1

be used for programming and parties so the troops have something else to do other than just watch movies."

However, just like any project, construction costs money.

"My estimate on all the equipment needed for all of these facilities came out just under \$500,000," said Finnerty. "MWR headquarters in Kuwait will probably cut that by about half."

Aside from the equipment is the construction of the actual hard structures them-



Photos by Spc. Karlene Hemerly-Fluck, 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

*Bi Bi Fhatima students line up in their countries traditional ceremonial uniforms waiting for there invited guests to arrive for the schools re-opening ceremony.*

military has contracted out for reconstruction over the past year," said Mahmo Ba, director of Bi Bi Fhatima. "I hope for the future they can continue to rebuild the rest."

The reconstruction of the school started six months ago after a village assessment; the final cost was \$20,225.

On the morning of the opening ceremony, Pascall and his Civil Affairs team coordinated three students to raise the Afghan flag with Afghanistan's national anthem playing over the public address system. The PA system was constructed by Spc. Chuck Evans, Spc. Robert Morelli and Sgt. Marvin Patterson, Jr., all 450<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs soldiers.

Children sang songs and read poems about their country between speeches filled with thanks and praise from the various educational officials and the Konduz Province's regional commander, General Lateef.

The ceremonial finale was a ribbon cut-selves.

"The funding offered for what will be the main gym was about \$500,000. The bid to begin construction, was over two million," said Finnerty. "Unfortunately, because of the tight budget, some of these projects may have to wait awhile."

Even with the lack of funding, construction on the civic center is scheduled to begin within the next few weeks and the addition to Dragon Palace within the next month.

Finnerty said soldiers may see some changes during this time.

"There is a possibility of interruption in

ting by the General Lateef for one of the new classroom buildings. Students and locals gathered for the tray passing of toffee and nuts then followed into classrooms for a luncheon prepared by the school's cook.

Fifty flags were hand-made by Afghanistan's Women's Organization and were distributed among the students. The students, ages 5 to 20, stood with flags along the driveway entrance to welcome more than 350 guests and local diplomats to the ceremony.

According to the attendees, the ceremony was filled with raised spirits and traditions shared throughout the Afghan culture.

"It was a beautiful ceremony and I, as an Afghan civilian, thank and appreciate the U.S. in this very critical time," said Dr. Ahd Mahmood Saify, professor of psychology and chemistry at the University of Konduz.

MWR services but it will only be temporary," said Finnerty.

"This is so we can improve the facilities for the troops," he added.

According to Finnerty, new facilities and equipment to boost the morale of the troops is just as important as the troops' mission here.

"Some people don't see the expansion of MWR facilities as mission essential," said Finnerty. "However, improving the quality of life for our deployed soldiers and Coalition Forces is exactly that – mission essential. There is always room for improvement."



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Jagr 33<sup>rd</sup> player with 500 goals

**TAMPA, Fla.** — Jaromir Jagr reached the 500-goal mark with a flourish.

Jagr scored three times, giving him 500 career goals, as the Washington Capitals beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 5-1 on Tuesday night.

“I don’t even think about it,” Jagr said. “I knew I was pretty close. I’m glad we won. It was a big game for us. Of course, (the win) was the most important thing.”



Jagr

Peter Bondra and Mike Grier had the other Washington goals, and Olaf Kolzig made 27 saves. The Southeast Division-leading Capitals have a five-point lead over Tampa Bay.

“That’s huge,” Jagr said. “We’ve got a long way to go, but it always helps.”

Jagr became the 33<sup>rd</sup> NHL player to reach 500 goals when he scored his third of the game at 7:19 of the second period, a shot from the top of the right circle during a power play.

Jagr’s 30<sup>th</sup> goal of the season gave him 11 career hat tricks. He is the 16th player to reach 500 goals in less than 1,000 games, doing it in 926.

## Devils extend point streak 14 games

**WASHINGTON** — John Madden scored three goals, and solid defense stopped high-powered offense in a game between division leaders as the New Jersey Devils beat the Washington Capitals 4-1 Wednesday night.

Madden had two fast-break goals, one empty-netter and an assist, including the game-winning score set up on a turnover by Jaromir Jagr. Martin Brodeur made 27 saves.

Turner Stevenson also scored for New Jersey, and Michael Nylander for the Capitals.

The Atlantic Division-leading Devils set a franchise record with at least one point in their 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive game, although the streak includes one overtime loss that would not have counted as a point before the 1999-2000 season. They have also 12 wins and one tie during the streak.

The game featured the Eastern Conference’s second-most prolific offense against its best defense, but the Southeast Division-leading Capitals were slowed by early penalties and got their usually potent power play on the ice only twice. The Devils otherwise disrupted an attack that had scored 17 goals in its last four games.

The Capitals failed to get a point for only the fourth time in 24 games.

## Flyers pick up Warriner from Canucks

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia** — The Vancouver Canucks traded left wing Todd Warriner to the Philadelphia Flyers for a conditional draft pick Wednesday.

Warriner had four goals and six assists in 30 games this year. This is his fifth team in nine NHL seasons.

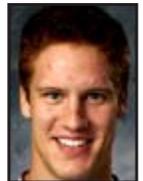
The Canucks acquired Warriner from Phoenix as part of a five-player deal on Dec. 28, 2001.

The 29-year-old Warriner has 63 goals and 85 assists in 434 career NHL games. He was a member of the Canadian team that won a silver medal at the 1994 Winter Olympics.

## Vaananen out at least a month

**SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.** — Phoenix Coyotes defenseman Ossi Vaananen will miss four to six weeks with a knee injury after being hit by a car.

Vaananen was struck Saturday night outside Office Depot Center in Sunrise, Fla., the Coyotes said Tuesday. He had played in the YoungStars game at the NHL All-Star weekend.



Vaananen

Sunrise police said they weren’t immediately able to confirm the accident.

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## 2002 National Hockey League standings

### Eastern Conference

<b>Atlantic</b>	
(2) New Jersey	52 pts
(4) Philadelphia	52 pts
(7) N.Y. Islanders	52 pts
Pittsburgh	53 pts
N.Y. Rangers	56 pts
<b>Northeast</b>	
(1) Ottawa	54 pts
(5) Toronto	53 pts
(6) Boston	52 pts
Montreal	54 pts
Buffalo	51 pts
<b>Southeast</b>	
(3) Washington	55 pts
(8) Tampa Bay	53 pts
Florida	53 pts
Carolina	53 pts
Atlanta	52 pts

### Western Conference

<b>Central</b>	
(3) St. Louis	53 pts
(4) Detroit	53 pts
Chicago	53 pts
Columbus	53 pts
Nashville	53 pts
<b>Northwest</b>	
(2) Vancouver	54 pts
(5) Minnesota	53 pts
(6) Edmonton	52 pts
(7) Colorado	51 pts
Calgary	53 pts
<b>Pacific</b>	
(1) Dallas	53 pts
(8) Anaheim	52 pts
Phoenix	51 pts
San Jose	51 pts
Los Angeles	52 pts

**SPORTS**, from Page 5

Vaananen was examined at a Miami-area hospital, returned to Phoenix on Sunday and had an MRI Monday, the team said. The MRI disclosed a strained medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

The 22-year-old player was waiting at a taxi stand when a driver lost control of his car and hit him, the team said.

The Arizona Republic said two reporters from Vaananen's native Finland also were injured. The newspaper said Vesa Rantanen seriously injured his arm and Kimmo Romanoff sustained internal injuries.

"A car ran me over," Vaananen told newspaper on Monday. "It's as simple as that. The driver wasn't drinking, but his reactions weren't any good and he couldn't see properly."

Vaananen said the driver was in his 90s. The driver lost control of his vehicle and it jumped a median before hitting the three men.

### Probert enters residential treatment

**CHICAGO** — Former NHL tough guy Bob Probert is being treated for substance abuse, the league said Tuesday.

"The doctor believed it was in his best interest," NHL spokesman Frank Brown said. "So they placed him in inpatient supervision."

Probert played 17 seasons in the NHL, the last eight with the Chicago Blackhawks. He also played for the Detroit Red Wings.

"He was a model citizen," Blackhawks spokesman Jim Demaria said. "He did everything he had to do in his career and life ... He was doing a real nice job."

In 61 games with the Blackhawks last season, Probert had one goal, three assists and 176 penalty minutes. In his career he had 163 goals and 384 points. His 3,300 penalty minutes in 935 games rank him fourth on the NHL's all-time penalty minutes list.

Probert joined Chicago's radio broadcast team this season after being unable to catch on with an NHL team. He never officially announced his retirement.

Before joining the Blackhawks, Probert was arrested six times for driving under the influence and convicted of smuggling cocaine across the Canadian border.

### Two women sue Red Wings

**DETROIT** — Two women who claim disabling injuries from pucks that flew into the stands at Joe Louis Arena filed suit Tuesday against the Detroit Red Wings, the arena's owners and the NHL.

The suits were filed in Wayne County Circuit Court, attorney James Elliott said.

Elizabeth Taylor, 52, from the Flint area, and Sandra Quick, 32, of suburban Detroit, would not have been hurt had the team installed nets to stop pucks from entering the stands during games, Elliott said.

Quick was injured at a playoff game between Detroit and the Colorado Avalanche on May 20, 2002. She lost three teeth and had damage to four others, Elliott said.

Taylor was hurt while watching a Central Collegiate Hockey Association game on March 16, 2001. She sustained permanent nerve damage and required plastic surgery, her lawyer said.

The NHL installed nets behind the goals before this season in the aftermath of the death of the spectator hit by a puck last March in Columbus, Ohio.

"We have yet to see any of the lawsuits," said Red Wings spokesman John Hahn. "Our legal counsel will have to review it before we can comment."

## Black History Month

February is Black History Month. In light of all the accomplishments made by African-Americans, every day this month the *Freedom Watch* will highlight an individual.

**Archibald Alphonso Alexander**, *design and construction engineer*; **Born:** 1888

A 1912 recipient of a civil engineering degree from Iowa State University, Archibald "Archie" Alexander joined the Marsh Engineering Company where he designed the Tidal Basin bridge in Washington, D.C.

After studying bridge design in London, he and George Higbee formed a general contracting business that focused on bridge design. Alexander's designs include Washington, D.C.'s Whitehurst Freeway, the heating plant and power station at the University of Iowa, and an airfield in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Alexander went on to become the first Republican territorial governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Died:** 1958

**"What's that, chief? No, I haven't seen your cup of coffee."**



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By Kevin Kilgore

*Laugh Support*