

Warrior Sweep nets weapons caches

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

AYUBKHEL VALLEY, Afghanistan – Coalition forces and Afghanistan citizens were made safer thanks to the efforts of explosive ordnance disposal technicians, combat engineers and more than 36 cases of C-4 and other explosives.

Two weapons caches containing more than 45,000 pounds of miscellaneous Russian, Chinese and Pakistani ordnance were destroyed Sunday as a part of Operation Warrior Sweep, the largest and longest combat operation in Afghanistan since Operation Anaconda in the 2002. One tunnel contained an estimated 30,000 pounds worth.

Coalition forces consisting of Afghan National Army soldiers, U.S. Special Forces



Thirty six cases of C-4 explosive detonates to destroy a weapons cache discovered during Operation Warrior Sweep. The detonation leveled the cave in which the weapons were stored.

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Soldier crafts 'Afghanistan' for Texas Boys Scout troop

Story by Sgt. Stephanie Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – On July 3, a particular American flag was flown over Bagram Air Field. This specific Stars and Stripes banner was dedicated that day to show their support and was sent Tuesday by a soldier here to his son and his son's Boy Scout troop in Austin, Texas.

The American flag, "a symbol of America's undying resolve towards the elimination of the many evils that exist in the world today," was sent to Troop 159, Boy Scouts of America, in appreciation for its support to the military, said Staff Sgt. Martin J. Searcy, Headquarters

and Headquarters Company, CJTF-180. Searcy's son, Nathan, is a member of that troop.

Nathan and Troop 159 had previously sent a banner signed by members of the troop to Searcy showing support for the uniformed personnel on Bagram, said Searcy. Searcy wanted to show his gratitude to Troop 159 because "people back home are always sending stuff this way to support the troops," he said. "But, not a lot of stuff goes back saying thanks."

To show his thanks, Searcy purchased one American flag and had it flown over Bagram's Base Operations because he felt it would mean a little more to send an American flag that had actually been flown in

Afghanistan, he said.

"Being the guy he is, sending the (American flag) by itself to them wasn't good enough," said his roommate Sgt. 1st Class Anthony L. Celata, HHC, CJTF-180

It wasn't good enough because this American flag had been flown over Bagram, and "it just didn't seem right sending it back in a cardboard box," said Searcy, so he searched for something to encase the flag in.

When he didn't find what he wanted, Searcy decided to make the flag holder himself. He gathered old pieces of scrap wood from around Bagram, found some glue sticks, nails and a hammer, and made a plan. When

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. troops patrol the streets of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, after an attack on a police station.

U.S. Weapons, ammunition seized in Iraq

CNN — Coalition forces have staged raids this week in Iraq that have netted a number of weapons and ammunition, U.S. Central Command said Wednesday, citing help from Iraqis.

Central Command said 18 operations have been conducted within the last 24 hours.

Acting on a tip, soldiers from the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division raided the Baghdad house of a former Saddam Hussein loyalist and seized items including two AK-47s, 11 bayonets, more than 550 rounds of ammunition, two protective masks, 31 protective mask canisters, three swords, two axes and documents, according to Central Command. Four people also were arrested, the command said.

In other action in Baghdad, soldiers uncovered 500 ammunition rounds, 10 loaded AK-47 magazines and one rocket-propelled grenade, the military said.

An Iraqi, claiming that regime loyalists were forcing him to conceal weapons, surrendered to police in the 4th Infantry Div., according to Central Command. He turned in three AK-47s, one 60 mm mortar, five 60 mm mortar rounds, three rocket-propelled grenade launchers, six rocket-propelled grenade rounds and 250 rounds of ammunition.

A weapons cache was reported Sunday to the 4th Inf. Div. by a tipster. More than 1,700 rounds of various ammunition, more than

900 mortar rounds, more than 37,000 anti-aircraft rounds and other weapons and explosives were found, Central Command said.

In addition, an Iraqi turned in a rocket-propelled grenade and materials used to make improvised explosive devices to the 4th Infantry Division, Central Command said. The Iraqi also provided information on a man who teaches how to construct the devices, the command said.

Hiroshima mayor hits out at U.S.

HIROSHIMA, Japan — The mayor of Hiroshima has criticized the U.S. for pursuing new nuclear weapons technology, as he marked the 58th anniversary of the world's first atomic bomb attack.

Tadatoshi Akiba said Washington's apparent worship of "nuclear weapons as God" was threatening world peace.

"The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the central international agreement guiding the elimination of nuclear weapons, is on the verge of collapse," Akiba said during the annual ceremony held Wednesday at the Peace Memorial Park.

"As the U.S.-British-led war on Iraq made clear, the assertion that war is peace is being trumpeted as truth."

At 8:15 a.m., a bell tolled, marking the minute on Aug. 6, 1945 when the U.S. atomic bomb's explosion devastated this city, 429 miles southwest of Tokyo. For 60 seconds, tens of thousands of survivors, residents, activists and officials from around the world bowed in silence to commemorate the 160,000 people who were killed or injured in the blast.

Reminding the crowd of the "blazing hell fire that swept over this very spot 58 years ago," Akiba called all nuclear weapons "utterly evil, inhumane and illegal under international law."

Israel frees Palestinian prisoners

GALILEE, Israel — Israel released 339 Palestinians from two detention centers on Wednesday in what it calls a "goodwill gesture," but Palestinians said it was not enough.

Freed Palestinian prisoners were taken from Megiddo in northern Israel and Ketziot

in the south to five checkpoints along the Israeli border with the West Bank and Gaza, where they were released.

Prisoners, who could be seen waving and smiling as they traveled to freedom, were dropped at the Erez checkpoint in Gaza and the West Bank checkpoints at Tulkarem, Beitunya, Salem and Tarqumiya.

Although the road map to peace, which both sides are following, does not specifically mention prisoner releases, Israel is required to take measures to ease the lives of Palestinians.



Prometea is the first born horse clone after being cloned from an adult cell.

World's first cloned horse born

LONDON — Italian scientists said Wednesday they had created the world's first cloned horse from an adult cell taken from the horse who gave birth to her.

Prometea, a healthy female, weighed in at 80 lbs when she was born during a natural delivery May 28, 2003 in Italy after a normal, full-term pregnancy.

Prometea is the first animal known to be carried and born by the mother from which she was cloned.

"This is the first horse that has been cloned from an adult cell. She has been carrying herself, so the newborn is the twin of the mother that carried the pregnancy," said Dr Cesare Galli, of the Laboratory of Reproductive Technology, a nonprofit research organization in Cremona, Italy.

Until now it had been thought that a pregnancy would depend on the mother's immune system recognizing the fetus as something different from itself.

"People would not have expected it to be possible," said Galli, referring to the mother giving birth to her own clone.

ANA selects officers for Central Corps

KABUL, Afghanistan – As the Afghan National Army (ANA) continues to grow and become a more professional force, the selection of the leadership becomes an increasingly important task.

Recently, President Karzai appointed the ANA Central Corps Commander and 12 other senior commanders and staff officers for the Central Corps.

These appointments mark a major milestone in the fielding of the Central Corps and come as a result of hard work by Afghanistan officials working together to establish an open and impartial selection process based on merit.

An Afghan army officer expressed that while the process took time, “it was worth the wait as this is the first time we Afghans have had a professional army corps in over 25 years.”

With the senior commanders and staff officers now in place for the ANA Central Corps and its three combat brigades, the various functional support systems such as personnel, training and logistics will quickly become more integrated and consistent.

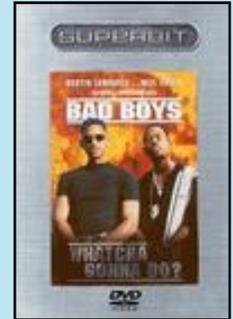
Newly elected officers are attending the first Corps Staff Officers Course at the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC). During this challenging four-week course, officers will learn the principles of the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP), command and staff officer duties and responsibilities, preparation and briefing of combat orders, and preparation of staff estimates.

With the completion of this training, and the upcoming formal activation of the Central Corps, these officers will make a professional and lasting impact on the ANA and the people of Afghanistan.

(Information from CJTF-180 Press Release)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Bad Boys.” Detectives Mike Lowery and Marcus Brunette have 72 hours to find \$100 million worth of heroin before Internal Affairs shuts them down.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “Snatch.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 95F L: 66F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 95F L: 73F
Kandahar:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 104F L: 81F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 108F L: 84F
Kabul:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 93F L: 66F	<i>Haze</i> H: 91F L: 70F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Clear</i> H: 95F L: 53F	<i>Clear</i> H: 98F L: 56F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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and the 82nd Airborne Division troops found six caches and determined that two of them were priority for being destroyed, according to Sgt. 1st Class Charlie Holloway, 797th Ordnance Company (EOD).

The weapons storage were believed to be tied to a former Taliban stronghold nearby.

“These caches aren’t the biggest one that have been found in theater, but they’re the biggest ones I’ve blown,” said Holloway.

“This right here was a pretty sizeable shot today,” said Staff Sgt. Chuck Gross, 704th Ordnance Company (EOD). “It’s not the kind of cache we find on a daily basis. Most of the stuff we find is small ... this here in this cave was definitely a major supply point for local anti-coalition militants.”

“This entire area is a cache site,” said Capt. Jeffrey Ford, 797th Ord. Co. commander. “These two were determined to be the most important – they had the most threat ordnance and that’s why we went after them.”

Although the ordnance was old and the caches were in disarray, a discovery confirming the ordnance being used recently

made the mission to destroy it all that more important.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kern, Co. A, 307th Engineer Battalion, platoon sergeant, an improvised explosive device found on the Gardez to Khowst road was traced to ordnance in the caves.

“If we can take the stuff out of their hands then we can basically inhibit the hostiles’ ability to attack us from this area,” Gross said.

In addition to ridding anti-coalition forces of resources, blowing the caves gave Kern’s combat engineers a chance to try a new technique on the smaller of the two sites.

“We’re trying something new,” said Kern. “We’re using explosives not as powerful, but we’re using shape charges to collapse the cave.

“To do this job you have to be part physicist, part chemist and the rest is pure ingenuity,” he said.

But the successful demolition of the caves couldn’t be accomplished without a team effort of the Afghan National Army, Special Forces and infantrymen from the 2nd



(From Left) Spc. Edgar Huezo and Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kern, both from Co. A, 307th Eng. Bn., set up explosives in one of the weapons caches discovered during Operation Warrior Sweep.

Bn., 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

“Our job is to come out here and find any caches and destroy them,” said Capt. Tho Nguyen, Co. D, 2nd Battalion, 505th Para. Inf. Regt., company commander. “We also provide security for EOD. We’ve destroyed a lot of caches.”

The team effort culminated in a resounding boom echoing through the valley.

“It doesn’t get any better than this,” said Ford.

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Staff Sgt. Martin Searcy, right, and Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Celata, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, display the flag case that Searcy crafted for his son’s Boy Scout troop.

he realized he lacked the necessary tools for woodwork, he went to his roommate for help. Celata handed him a Leatherman multi-purpose tool, and Searcy went to work.

“You really don’t know what you can do until you try, even if you don’t have the proper tools,” he said.

The project took four months, but when it was completed, Searcy’s ‘Old Glory’ had a place to sit proudly. The flag case, 22 inches wide, 16

inches long and 4 inches deep, is made of “good old American pine,” said Searcy. The trimming was crafted from leftover, Afghan wood-carvings used as a base beautifying project Searcy’s unit completed.

Within the glass case sits the name ‘Afghanistan,’ each letter carved by Searcy’s hand. In the center of the casing rests a trio of wood holders configured to hold a properly folded American flag, and all around the flag are coins from various sections and commands here, he said. Two 18th Airborne Corps dragons, drawn by Celata, are illustrated as if rising from behind the flag. The entire case is covered by messages of gratitude and appreciation written by people who also wanted to say thank you, said Searcy.

When the flag case was completed, Searcy faced a potential showstopper because of a U.S. Postal Services policy that states untreated wood cannot be sent from Afghanistan to the United States. Searcy feared his gift would end up staying in country, but his comrades saw Searcy’s dedication to this endeavor and would not stand by to see his hard work blocked by regulations.

His comrades relentlessly searched for the lacquer to treat the wood, and they found it, said Searcy. He said that if it weren’t for them, Troop 159 would never have seen Searcy’s show of appreciation.

Searcy said he appreciated the banner the troop had sent, but when his project was finally completed, he realized that the troop had given him much more than just a token of support.

He said that working on the flag holder occupied his mind for four months, and “while I was working on this project, I realized that things aren’t as bad as you think,” said Searcy. To make the time here go by faster “you have to work with what you got,” he said.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



Kobe Bryant and attorney Pamela Mackey stand before the judge Wednesday.

Kobe has day in court on assault charges

EAGLE, Colo. — NBA superstar Kobe Bryant made his first court appearance on a sexual assault charge Wednesday, uttering just two words during a seven-minute hearing that created a media frenzy in this quiet mountain town.

Attorneys for the 24-year-old Bryant waived his right to be formally advised of the felony assault charge, sparing the Los Angeles Lakers guard even more time in the granite-walled courtroom that was jammed with reporters.

Eagle County Judge Frederick Gannett set an Oct. 9 preliminary hearing to determine whether the closely watched case will go to trial. The hearing would be one day after a Lakers' preseason game and about three weeks before the start of the regular season.

Bryant spoke only once during the hearing, answering "No, sir" when the judge asked if he objected to giving up his right to have the preliminary hearing within 30 days. He left the courthouse immediately and was expected to return to California by private jet.

The case has been the subject of widespread speculation about Bryant's accuser, a 19-year-old college student who worked at the front desk of the Lodge & Spa at Cordillera in nearby Edwards. Bryant was in Colorado to have knee surgery in Vail.

Bryant has said he had consensual sex with the hotel clerk June 30 but is innocent of assault. If convicted, Bryant faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine of up to \$750,000. He is free on \$25,000 bond.

Sixers sign Coleman to three-year deal

PHILADELPHIA — Not too long ago, the 76ers couldn't wait to get rid of Derrick Coleman. Now, he's getting a chance to finish his career in Philadelphia.

Coleman re-signed with the 76ers on Tuesday, getting a three-year contract worth up to \$13.5 million. The 36-year-old Coleman

played well last season after moving from power forward to center, finishing with an average of 9.4 points and 7.0 rebounds in 64 games, including 35 starts.

In 13 NBA seasons, Coleman has averaged 17.0 points and 9.5 rebounds.



Derrick Coleman

"I haven't been on a team where I've been around a bunch of good guys," Coleman said. "My teammates and I all get along and that's hard to find in sports. I enjoy the guys. I enjoy being in Philadelphia. I didn't want to go anywhere else."

Selected by New Jersey with the No. 1 overall pick in the 1990 NBA Draft, Coleman never fully lived up to his potential and was viewed as an underachieving malcontent for most of his career.

He was traded to Philadelphia in 1995 as part of the deal that sent Shawn Bradley to the Nets, and spent three controversial, injury-plagued seasons with the 76ers. After the 1997-98 season, Philadelphia bought out the final year of Coleman's contract for \$5.57 million, rather than pay him \$13 million for his fourth year.

But even though he was vilified by 76ers fans and former team president Pat Croce, Coleman became a favorite of former coach Larry Brown while they were together for one season.

Coleman signed a five-year, \$40 million deal with Charlotte in 1998, but feuded with coach Paul Silas and was traded back to Philadelphia before the 2001-02 season.

Cardinals' Garcia suspended four game for positive test on ephedra

ESPN — Eight-year veteran offensive lineman Frank Garcia, in his first training camp with the Arizona Cardinals, has been suspended for the first four games of the regular season after testing positive for the banned substance ephedra.



Frank Garcia

Garcia, 31, will be permitted to continue working with the Cardinals in camp and can even participate in the preseason games. The suspension, which came after Garcia was unsuccessful with his appeal, will begin the week before the regular-season opener, Sept. 7 at Detroit. Barring any setbacks, he can return for the fifth game of the season, Oct. 5 at Dallas.

During the suspension, Garcia will not be permitted to work out at the Cardinals complex or to have any contact with franchise officials.

Garcia said Wednesday night that he took an herbal allergy medi-

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cation used by his wife in April and was tested by the team that day. The remedy contained ephedra, Garcia said.

"The way I look at it is that I am an innocent victim of a well-intentioned policy," Garcia said.

"The league is out to look out for the guys. But in my mind, I really don't feel like I've done anything to deserve a four-game suspension. Unfortunately, they don't see it that way. It's zero tolerance, and that's what we have to live with."

He will forfeit \$154,117 in base salary, the prorated amount of the \$655,000 Garcia was scheduled to earn in 2003. Garcia signed a two-year contract with the Cardinals this spring as an unrestricted free agent.

"I know the policy is there in place for our safety," Garcia said. "I abided by our policy by going to our trainer and being responsible. ... In my mind, when I was taking it, I was taking it to clear me up, to give me relief. That's it. It wasn't for enhancement or anything else. Just for relief."

Jags receiver succumbs to heat injury

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — For the third time in less than two weeks of training camp, the Jacksonville Jaguars had a player succumb to the heat here Wednesday, as veteran wide receiver Donald Hayes had to be removed from the field on a stretcher at the end of the team's afternoon practice.



Donald Hayes

Ironically, coach Jack Del Rio had cut short the session by about 40 minutes because of the threat of lightning and storms in the area. The practice actually had concluded when Hayes went down to one knee, then began to cramp and spasm. He never lost consciousness.

The temperature at the time was 82 degrees and the heat index was 86 degrees. The 90-minute practice, which followed a torrential downpour, was not an especially taxing one.

Hayes was released from the hospital late Wednesday after receiving treatment. A Jaguars spokesman said that Hayes would return to practice and that his availability for Saturday's exhibition game at Minnesota would be determined Thursday or Friday.

"I don't really know how to explain it," a perplexed Del Rio said. "We didn't have any reason to believe there would be a problem. ... Donald isn't like the other guys (who went down). He's not one of those bigger guys."

"I just know we've done a lot of running the last three days," fellow wide receiver J.J. Stokes said. "A lot of receivers are kind of hurt ... with nicks and dings and aren't able to perform. So it's a lot of running on all of us that are there."

Earlier in camp, defensive tackles Larry Smith and John Henderson were overcome by the heat, and both went down in practice. In the other cases, the incidents occurred in a morning practice, and both players weigh more than 300 pounds and their conditioning was suspect when they reported to camp.

Both are back at practice, though Smith is limited to one practice a day.

Hayes, 28, was down on the field for about 19 minutes as the Jacksonville training staff administered intravenous fluids. He tried to sit up at one point, then fell back again, and finally was placed on a stretcher and rushed to a waiting ambulance.

Memorial for Dennehy to include rap-star MC Hammer

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Patrick Dennehy, the Baylor basketball player whose body was found in an off-campus field, had become a born-again Christian during a fiery sermon, so his pastor says it's only fitting his memory is celebrated in an equally fervent way.

That includes a scripture reading by hip-hop star MC Hammer, live video on the Web and a Sacramento Kings jersey emblazoned with Dennehy's name, said pastor Dick Bernal.

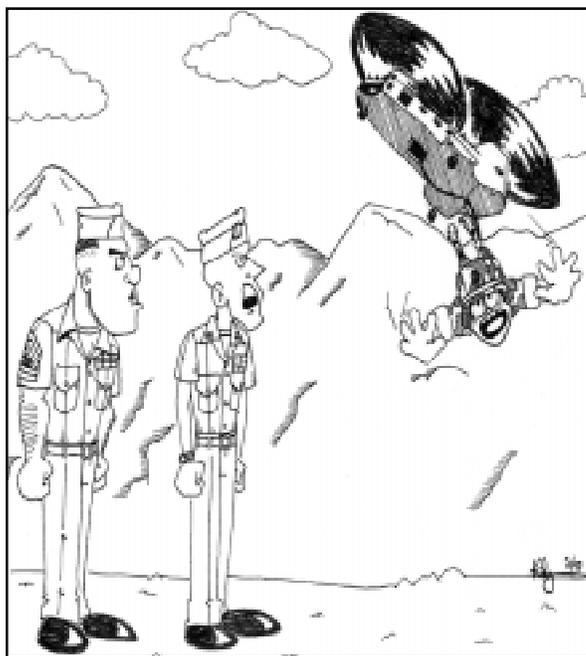
More than 3,000 people are expected for the nondenominational memorial Thursday at Jubilee Christian Center, in the heart of Silicon Valley.

The 21-year-old athlete's body was found late last month, weeks after he disappeared from Waco, Texas.

Dennehy's death has been ruled a homicide. Former roommate and teammate Carlton Dotson, 21, was arrested and charged with murder July 21 after reportedly telling authorities he shot Dennehy after Dennehy tried to shoot him.

Dotson remains jailed without bond in his home state of Maryland and awaits extradition to Texas.

"Gunny, find out who replaced the fast rope with a bungee cord."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support