

Grappling with giving aid to enemy

Story and photo by
By Spc. Jim Wagner
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – For an Army combat medic, healing soldiers in a combat zone is second nature, but what does that medic do when the person they are charged to treat and save is the enemy?

The War on Terror has changed the face of modern combat: no longer are enemy soldiers easily recognized by the uniform they're wearing — today they look and blend effortlessly into the landscape. Wearing traditional garb, any Afghan could be a shepherd or a remnant Taliban soldier, a farmer or an al-Qaida member.

For 1st Lt. Stephen Schmelzer, a patient hold registered nurse attached to C Company (Medical), 307th Logistics Task Force, it's a matter of tapping into your sense of compassion and remembering medical ethics courses.

"There are people you don't want to take care of but you have to do your job, which is to take care of people," he said. "You don't know whether they were an aggressor or victim and



Pfc. Ryan Barrett, B Company, combat medic, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., left, Spc. Rusvin Orellana, combat medic, C Company (Medical), 307th Logistics Task Force, center, and 1st Lt. Steve Schmelzer, registered nurse 307th LTF, bandage an Afghan in treatment for extensive wounds caused by a land mine.

you can't let it get in the way of taking care of them."

Since arriving in Kandahar in early January, the patient-hold clinic, has cared for more than

165 Army and Afghan patients either recovering from surgery or awaiting further treatment.

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10th Mountain change: challenges, expectations

Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – As the XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C., soldiers begin to filter out of Afghanistan, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., soldiers begin to fill their duties.

One of the first three elements from Fort Drum arriving here is the command element, which stepped off the aircraft early May. 10th Mountain Division's first and second brigade will follow, said Sgt. Maj. Sonny Mitchell, who officially becomes the new joint operations sergeant major May 27.

With the big turn over and 10th Mountain taking over the headquarters, changes and obstacles for Bagram lie ahead, said Mitchell.

"The biggest challenge is keeping the current projects working. (We will) build on the XVIII Airborne Corps' success of those

who have been on the ground here," said Mitchell. A portion of the corps will still have assets here, although, a majority of the slots will be filled by the 10th Mountain.

Pending projects include new environmental control units, leveling the airfield for natural drainage, adding an education center and building the new Morale, Welfare, Recreation building.

An element is coming from the Joint Forces Command shortly, said Mitchell. The staff will assist in the transition period.

But, according to Mitchell, it will not be too difficult.

The combined joint task force runs much smoother with the recent merging of the 82nd Airborne Division and the XVIII Airborne Corps operation centers here, said Mitchell.

"The integration and interception is great. It makes life easier," said Mitchell. "Things move faster." This is important because

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Humvee-mounted anti-aircraft missiles like these have been deployed in Washington, D.C.

Missiles, fighters ready to defend D.C.

WASHINGTON — Another terror attack may be imminent, U.S. officials said Wednesday, with intelligence information pointing more toward an attack in the Persian Gulf region than the United States. “I want to point out we had no specificity as to targets,” said FBI Director Robert Mueller. “We had no specificity as to exact time.”

Officials said intelligence gathered since last week’s nearly simultaneous bombings at three residential compounds in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia suggests terrorists could strike in the “immediate future.”

Meanwhile, the Pentagon has raised the “air defense posture” in the Washington D.C. area by deploying anti-aircraft missiles around the capital and stepping up air patrols over the city, defense officials told CNN Wednesday. The steps have been taken in response to the overall increase in the national terror alert to orange or “high,” officials said.

A government official said one factor contributing to Tuesday’s hike in the threat level was intelligence relating to the activities of al-Qaida members in Iran. The government official, who asked not to be named, said the information about al-Qaida activities in Iran was “corroborated and credible,” but did not relate to specific threats within the United States.

The official would not comment on the number of individuals involved, who they are or what their operational capability might be.

This information was one of many factors in the decision to raise the threat level and was part of a wide volume of information from a wide range of sources, the official said.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi, on the Web site of the state-owned Islamic Republic News Agency, denied links to al-Qaida saying the country has no links to the “fundamentalist and violent” network.

In Washington, Army Avenger Systems are being placed at undisclosed locations, as they have been on at least two previous occasions since Sept. 11, 2001.

The Avenger system consists of heat-seeking Stinger missiles mounted on HUMVEEs that are alerted by ground radar.

Pentagon officials say they have no specific threat against Washington, but the increased security measures are a prudent precaution, given the intelligence warning of an imminent terrorist attack somewhere in the world.

Deadly quake hits northern Algeria

ALGIERS, Algeria — At least 459 people have been killed and thousands of others injured by a strong earthquake in northern Algeria, Algerian state-run radio and television reports.

An entire hospital crumbled in the city of Abu Mardas, the news manager of Algerian Television said. Whole buildings collapsed there and elsewhere, he said.

The hardest-hit cities were Algiers, Rwaba City, and Abu Mardas, the reports said.

State radio said at least 459 people were killed, and the government feared that number could rise, reported Paul de Bndern, a journalist with Reuters. Algerian Television said more than 2,600 were injured.

State radio called on doctors and paramedics to help the injured, many of whom were heading toward Algiers due to a lack of hospitals in the hardest-hit areas.

Communications were difficult in the affected areas because many telephone poles had fallen or broken, de Bndern said.

The quake registered a magnitude of 6.7 according to the U.S. Geological Survey’s National Earthquake Information Center in Denver, which monitors seismology worldwide.

Such an earthquake is classified as “strong,” capable of causing a lot of damage, especially in areas of poor construction. The USGS said the temblor may have caused substantial damage and casualties because of its location and size.

The epicenter was about 75 kilometers (45 miles) east of Algiers.



Studdard performs during the competition Tuesday.

‘Velvet teddy bear’ Ruben Studdard is new ‘American Idol’

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Ruben “the Velvet Teddy Bear” Studdard Wednesday narrowly beat heartthrob Clay Aiken to win the crown of the new “American Idol” and a chance at pop stardom.

The winner was announced at the end of special two-hour broadcast of the hit show “American Idol” on Fox TV after millions of Americans cast their votes by phone. In a competition loaded with talent that eventually whittled the wannabe pop stars down to two finalists, viewers chose the smooth, soulful Studdard, 25, a burly powerhouse from Alabama over Aiken, 24, a lanky, spike-haired student from North Carolina with a pitch-perfect voice. Studdard was dubbed “the velvet teddy bear” by celebrity judge Gladys Knight. “American Idol,” Fox’s search for an instant pop star, has proved a ratings hit, drawing audiences of around 20 million per episode.

Bagram chaplaincy offers Catholic ministry training

By Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Catholics here have the opportunity to help their fellow Catholic soldiers by becoming Eucharist ministers — an assistant to a priest.

“It is vital (to have Eucharist ministers) because the number of priests in the Army has dwindled. The only assistance (the priests receive) is what the Eucharist ministers give,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Lawrence Bleboo, Headquarters and Headquarter Company, Combined Joint Task Force-180.

Eucharist minister training will be held Saturday. The deadline to sign up is Friday.

“(We do this training) basically to have people to augment the critical shortage of priests we have in the military. (The minis-

ters) are extensions of the priests to the catholic soldiers dispersed throughout the theater,” said Bleboo. “We don’t have resident priests in all areas. There are only three in theater – one here, one in Kandahar and one in Uzbekistan. (The ministers are for) people in areas where we do not have priests.”

The training teaches the theology and history of the Eucharist and how to administer the Eucharist. All the names are forwarded to the United States so when the ministers return they receive a certificate that allows them to continue to minister in the States.

Anyone who has been baptized and is in good standing with the church may become a Eucharist minister.

“They must be devout and practicing and have a special devotion to the Eucharist with

a desire to share what the Eucharist means to them personally,” said Bleboo.

It is important to have Eucharist ministers here in case the priest visits another location.

“If there are Catholics who want to have communion or mass a minister may hold it while I am away,” said Bleboo.

Eucharist ministers are not only important while in a field environment.

“A division usually only has two to three priests for everyone so there is a critical need for Eucharist ministers,” said Bleboo.

“Every unit is about a quarter Catholic so having Eucharist ministers in the unit is beneficial to the Catholic priests,” he added.

To become a Eucharist minister, sign up for the training at the Enduring Faith Chapel.

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“everything you do affects the (soldier) on the ground, (who is) making contact.”

As far as what Mitchell plans for Bagram’s future, he said he emphasizes building a team here, because all servicemembers make one big family.

Not only Bagram, but Kabul will get assets from 10th Mountain’s 2nd Brigade, said Sgt. Maj. Shawn Goins, 2nd brigade operations sergeant major.

“We are here to make Afghanistan become a better place with everyone involved,” said Goins.

The 2nd Brigade’s mission is to train the Afghan National Army and make them self-sufficient, said Goins. This is so the country can depend on the ANA to defend their own country.

Building an entire army entails building all of its branches, training bases, schools and cadre.

“It is like taking a child and teaching them to walk,” said Goins.

“They are at the very lowest level now. It will take a while,” said Goins. Although he said, “it’s a good feeling to help establish an Army,” he added.



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

Setting up to get pumped up...

A local contractor repairs an exercise bench to prepare for the opening of the new gym. The new hangar-sized gym on Four Corners is designed to accommodate, more troops, cardio and weight equipment and a basketball court.

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These patients stay anywhere from one to 33 days in the care of nurses and combat medics — who normally specialize in immediate trauma care on the battlefield — specially trained to care for patients.

Many of these patients are Afghans with a variety of injuries, from gunshot and land mine wounds to old infected injuries and illnesses.

Some are clearly the victims of unfortunate incidents, like the child brought in after getting shot in the head. Medics said an adult Afghan with a gun sought out the boy's father for a confrontation. Not finding the man, he instead shot the boy. The boy recovered and was returned to his family last week.

But sometimes it's not so clear to combat medics who exactly they are treating.

Several days ago a suspected Taliban soldier was brought in by members of the Afghanistan Military Forces after injuries to his hands got infected and required immediate attention. He arrived under guard and remains a person under control, guarded around-the-clock by military policemen from the 118th Military Police Company, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

But how do you ask a combat medic, an Army soldier sworn to fight and deny sanctuary to anti-coalition forces, to heal a person who might return to cause further harm to coalition forces?

"I try not to think of what they might have done or what they might do," said Sgt. Rosalinda Lopez, non-commissioned officer in charge of patient hold. "Of course, I think about it all the time but I try not to. As much as I wouldn't like to, I treat them the same as any soldier."

Schmelzer hopes the treatment and care shows Afghans that coalition forces aren't here to take over the country, but to help restore the country. He said many come into the clinic fearing tales told about Americans.

"Their reaction when we care for them is so weird," he said. "They're told all these stories about how the U.S. is bad; you can see the confusion on their faces when we treat them. It's my hope that if I do good things, it passes the good along — to 'kill them with compassion.'"

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

The Dragon Palace movie section is closed for renovations until further notice. The telephone room and Internet Cafe are open.



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Thursday
Bagram:	Scattered t-storms H: 86F L: 59F	Partly cloudy H: 88F L: 55F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 99F L: 68F	Dusty H: 99F L: 66F
Kabul:	Scattered t-storms H: 86F L: 54F	Mostly clear H: 88F L: 54F
Uzbekistan:	Partly cloudy H: 90F L: 55F	Partly cloudy H: 89F L: 57F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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CJTF-180 Commander —

Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Rodeny Davis

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Sgt. Maj. Harrison Sarels

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Commander — Maj. William Mott

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

Editor — Sgt. W. Cullen James

Journalists — Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw,

Pfc. Christina Carde, Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Senators end Devils' perfect home playoff mark of 8-0

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The Ottawa Senators were short on cash in the regular season. Now they're rich with momentum in the Eastern Conference finals.

Defenseman Chris Phillips scored 15:51 into overtime to lift the Senators to a 2-1 victory Wednesday night and force a Game 7 on Friday in Ottawa. It was the second straight game the Senators fought off elimination.

"Even when we were down 3-1, there was not one guy in our dressing room or organization that counted ourselves out," Phillips said.

Vaclav Varada was trying to hit the loose puck in front of Devils goalie Martin Brodeur, but all he was making contact with was the New Jersey goalie.

Trailing the play, Phillips found the loose puck behind Varada and fired it into the net.

"I was just able to get in there and get a whack at it," Phillips said. "I didn't even realize it went in until the other guys started celebrating."

Patrick Lalime kept the Senators alive in the extra session by fighting off several New Jersey flurries. The biggest threat came from Brian Gionta, who was stopped on a 2-on-1 with Patrik Elias.

New Jersey, trying to reach the Stanley Cup finals for the third time in four years, has never lost a series in which it led 3-1. The Senators have never advanced this far in the playoffs in their 11-year history.

"We have to play one game. That's going to be the hardest game," said forward Marian Hossa who assisted on both Ottawa goals. "We're going to be home and that's a good thing."

The West champion Anaheim Mighty Ducks haven't played since last Friday, but will face the winner on the road in Game 1 of the finals on Tuesday night.

"That's all we wanted to do, to have practice tomorrow," forward Bryan Smolinski said.

There have been 17 comebacks from 3-1 deficits, including three in this year's playoffs.

"We have a big Game 7 ahead of us and we have to start thinking about that," said Joe Nieuwendyk, who scored the Devils' goal.

The Senators, 4-0 in overtime in the postseason, filed for bankruptcy and were late with players' paychecks during the season. Now they have squared the series.

"We like our odds going back home, but we know we are going to have to be better," Senators captain Daniel



Marian Hossa, right, and the Senators live to play another day.

Alfredsson said. "They are a veteran team that's going to come to Ottawa and play their best."

The Devils were beaten on the road in Game 5 and then sustained their first home loss in this postseason following an 8-0 start. New Jersey sports 15 players who have won the Stanley Cup compared to only one on the Senators.

"We're a good hockey club when our backs are up against the wall," Devils forward John Madden said. "Sad to say, but that's what it takes sometimes to see the character of this team."

Despite choppy ice that had to be attended to several times

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2002/03 National Hockey League standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic	
(2) New Jersey	108 pts
(4) Philadelphia	107 pts
(8) N.Y. Islanders	83 pts
N.Y. Rangers	78 pts
Pittsburgh	65 pts
Northeast	
(1) Ottawa	113 pts
(5) Toronto	98 pts
(7) Boston	87 pts
Montreal	77 pts
Buffalo	72 pts
Southeast	
(3) Tampa Bay	93 pts
(6) Washington	92 pts
Atlanta	74 pts
Florida	70 pts
Carolina	61 pts

Western Conference

Central	
(2) Detroit	110 pts
(5) St. Louis	99 pts
Chicago	79 pts
Nashville	74 pts
Columbus	69 pts
Northwest	
(3) Colorado	105 pts
(4) Vancouver	104 pts
(6) Minnesota	95 pts
(8) Edmonton	92 pts
Calgary	75 pts
Pacific	
(1) Dallas	111 pts
(7) Anaheim	95 pts
Los Angeles	78 pts
Phoenix	78 pts
San Jose	73 pts

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during the game, both goalies were sharp.

A daytime college graduation held at the arena left holes in the ice in the neutral zone.

In making 30 saves, Lalime looked more like the goalie who held opponents to two goals or fewer in 11 straight playoff games than the one who yielded 10 goals to the Devils in three consecutive losses after Game 1.

Brodeur made 32 saves for New Jersey and has allowed just nine goals in nine home playoff games.

Hull fails to qualify for Open

DETROIT — Brett Hull is best known for his hard slap shots and ability to score goals in hockey.

But the 38-year-old Detroit Red Wings player says he loves another sport more. And so, he spent Monday afternoon trying to make 10-foot putts on the golf course.

Hull went from being a two-time Stanley Cup champion to one of 86 people in Austin, Texas, trying to make it through the local qualifying stage for the U.S. Open Championship in June.

Hull shot an 80, though.

That wasn't good enough to make it to the sectional qualifier, the tournament that determines who makes it to golf's national championship.

It may be hard to believe that someone who has scored 716 career goals in the NHL, but Hull insists he likes golf more than hockey.

"I'd rather play golf than hockey," Hull told the Austin-American Statesman in Austin, Texas. "I just love the game. I love the challenge. It's my favorite sport."

Hull started out strong, shooting even par through three holes. Then he carded a quadruple bogey on the par-four, fourth hole.

The eight came after a ball landed in the water, a bad chip, and three putts.

"Until you have a short game, you're never going to be good," Hull said. "So that's what I've got to work on."

Hull can only work on his game during the hockey offseason, but he left his playing partners impressed.

"He was out here, trying to get better, and that's the only way you can," said Jimmy Walker, one of Hull's two partners.

"He has a good golf swing," said the other, Mark Baldree. "He's fairly effortless ... and he's the best hockey player I've ever played with."

"The Golden Brett," as Hull is known around the NHL, has refined that swing after 17 years in the NHL with the Calgary Flames, St. Louis Blues, Dallas Stars and Detroit.

Hull tried to qualify for the U.S. Open in the mid-1990s in Minneapolis. He said made a hole-in-one, but not in the sectional field.

People waiting for Hull to drop his hockey stick for a golf club, though, shouldn't expect that quite yet. After all, Hull says hockey has one distinct advantage over golf.

"The hole's bigger in hockey," he said.

Both sides aren't far apart in talks

The Red Wings have apparently made their move to keep Sergei Fedorov.

Citing an NHL source, the Detroit Free Press reported on Tuesday that the Wings have offered Fedorov a four-year, \$40 million deal.

Fedorov can become an unrestricted free agent July 1 if the winger and Detroit cannot reach a deal. But according to the report, Fedorov's agent, Pat Brisson, was optimistic the two sides could meet the deadline.

"We aren't close, but we aren't far apart, either," Brisson told the newspaper. "It's like if we were going from Los Angeles to Paris. We aren't in New York. We're somewhere over the ocean. There's a possibility. There's still a lot of time left, and Sergei likes it there. It's not like he's leveraging to leave. He's spent 13 years there."

The Free Press also reported that Brisson had spoke to Wings general manager Ken Holland on Monday. Brisson plans to talk further with Fedorov on Tuesday, and more with Holland on Wednesday.

According to the report, Brisson is looking for a longer-term deal, but incentives and option years could be worked into the new contract.

"A deal could be made in different ways," Brisson told the Free Press. "We'll keep working."

Fedorov turned down a five-year, \$50-million offer during the season, but the source told the newspaper that the Wings think this latest offer might be too difficult for other teams to match in the current market.

Fedorov had 36 goals and 47 assists over 80 games this past season. He added a goal and two assists in the Wings' first-round playoff series vs. Anaheim, which swept Detroit 4-0.

"Cut, cut! Did you get my good side?"



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support