

705th keeps Bagram safe from UXO

Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Soldiers have everyday threats while deployed. The possibility of attack, hostile local-nationals and local diseases is always present. Unexploded ordnance is another threat of which every soldier should be aware.

Some people may call them crazy, but the 705th Explosive Ordnance Detachment from Fort Polk, La. deals with the threat of unexploded mines, rockets and bombs injuring or killing them every time they do their job.

The EOD mission is to dispose of UXO on base to ensure the safety of the soldiers, said Sgt. Cesar Soto, 705th EOD.

“When a UXO is called in, we get the name of the individual, the location and a description of the UXO,” said Soto. “We need the description to have an idea what UXO it is and that determines how we handle it.”

When a UXO is called in, an EOD team of two or three soldiers finds the ordnance and uses protective measures to ensure no one is hurt by it. These measures include sandbags and markers.

After the protective measures are in place, EOD submits a demolition request. Upon approval, a timeframe is provided in which the



Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

Sgt. Cesar Soto, explosive ordnance team member, 705th Explosive Ordnance Detachment, places C-4 into the Talon robot grip.

team must dispose of the ordnance.

“This takes a lot of coordination,” said Soto. “The Air Force cannot have any planes landing or taking off and the guard towers must know what’s going on so they don’t think they are under attack.”

If the UXO created an incident, EOD must respond in 30 minutes.

EOD takes safety precautions in reported UXO and incidents depending on the type of UXO, but in all cases they must wear protective personal equipment consisting of a Kevlar and fragmentation protective vest.

Another safety measure EOD uses is a

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Third TSP Open Season changes begin this year

By Chief, Navel Personnel
Public Affairs,
Navy News Service

WASHINGTON — The third Thrift Savings Plan Open Season for the uniformed services ended Dec. 31.

As 2002 came to a close, the Navy continued to lead the other services in new enroll-

ments, with more than 96,161 active-duty and Reserve Navy personnel taking advantage of the program.

The next two open seasons that are currently scheduled to run from April 15 to June 30, and Oct. 15 to Dec. 31 in 2003, Sailors can increase their basic pay contribution from 7 percent to 8 percent, and con-

tinue to contribute up to 100 percent of their special, incentive or bonus pays.

Also in 2003, the IRS elective deferral limit will increase from \$11,000 to \$12,000. The IRS elective deferral limit for 2004 is \$13,000; for 2005, \$14,000; and \$15,000 for 2006. For those serving in a combat zone, the ceiling for contribu-

tions is \$40,000.

“Time is of the essence,” said Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing. “I hope every Sailor who hasn’t already enrolled in TSP takes a hard look at the program and their current financial situation in the days ahead to see if TSP

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

Gephardt to 'explore' W.H. run

WASHINGTON — Outgoing House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Missouri, will file papers "within the next several days" to form a presidential exploratory committee, sources close to the congressman said Thursday.

The Democratic field of likely 2004 presidential candidates already includes Gov. Howard Dean of Vermont and Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, both of whom have formed their own exploratory committees.

Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina announced Thursday he intended to do so. And top Senate Democrat Tom Daschle is said to be pondering the same step.

Gephardt's Capitol Hill office was caught off guard when an invitation for a January 22 fund-raiser was faxed around Washington — including to CNN's offices — asking recipients to attend a "Richard Gephardt for President Exploratory Committee" reception.

Sources said a young aide sent the invitation prematurely, ending whatever mystery was left about Gephardt's intentions.

Inspections show Iraq is credible Baghdad says

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The director of Iraq's monitoring agency said Thursday that five weeks of U.N. inspections have proved Iraq to be credible in its declaration that it no longer has weapons of mass destruction.

The inspections have been "intrusive and surprising," said Gen. Hossam Mohammed Amin, who heads Iraq's National Monitoring Directorate, the agency that cooperates with the United Nations in assessing the country's inventory of weapons programs.

"All those activities prove that the Iraqi declarations are credible and the American allegations are baseless," Amin said. "They are lying for political reasons."

Amin said the inspectors found no prohibited activities or items in the 230 sites they have visited so far.

"We hope that this is a start point [to] think correctly and give the Iraqi people their rights to live without embargo, without sanctions," he said.

Bush to unveil economic package

CRAWFORD, Texas — Even as he expressed his faith in the underlying strength of the American economy, President Bush said Thursday he will unveil an economic stimulus package next week with a focus on creating jobs.

Aides said tax cuts would be part of the mix.

Talking to reporters who joined him on a nature hike on his sprawling ranch, the president rejected criticism from some Democrats that his tax breaks have primarily benefited the wealthy.

"I'm concerned about all people," Bush said. "I understand the politics of economic stimulus, that some would like to turn this into class warfare."

The president said the economy is "pretty darn strong" despite the recent recession, a breach in corporate confidence — as a result of corporate malfeasance — and the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The Republican president spoke the same day that Democratic Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina announced plans to seek the White House in 2004. Bush dismissed the Democratic maneuvering as "background noise" and sought to position himself above the political fray.

"I'm not paying attention to politics," he said. "I'm going to continue doing the job the American people expect, which is to safeguard America and Americans."

U.S. to host talks on N. Korea

WASHINGTON — The United States, Japan and South Korea will have a "trilateral" coordination group meeting next week to discuss the nuclear situation in North Korea, a State Department spokesman said Thursday.

The meeting will be held in Washington. James Kelley, assistant secretary of state for East Asian affairs, will lead the

U.S. delegation, and will go to the region shortly thereafter, said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

U.S. officials have spoken in recent weeks of a peaceful resolution to the standoff with North Korea over its recent moves toward a nuclear build-up.

Earlier in the day, after talks in Beijing, South Korean officials announced that South Korea and China will try to settle the North Korean nuclear crisis through negotiations.

"South Korea and China reaffirmed the principle of resolving North Korea's nuclear problem peacefully through dialogue," said Shin Chung-Seung, director general of the Asia-Pacific office of the South Korean foreign ministry.

Pakistan holds man in connection with U.S. clash

WASHINGTON — Pakistani authorities have detained a man in a Pakistani border scout uniform in connection with a gun battle with U.S. forces that wounded a U.S. soldier, Pentagon officials said.

U.S. forces discovered two BM-12 rockets Sunday along the Afghan-Pakistan border in an area that U.S. and Pakistani soldiers patrolled, according to a statement U.S. military officials in Afghanistan released Thursday.

While U.S. troops watched a Pakistani explosive ordnance team defuse the rockets, a man dressed in a Pakistani border patrol uniform approached and requested permission to return to the Pakistani side, the statement said.

When the man was about 50 feet (15 meters) from U.S. troops, he turned and opened fire on them, grazing one of the Americans' head, the statement said.

The U.S. statement said some American troops retrieved the injured soldier for medical evacuation, while others — along with Pakistani forces — searched for the unidentified gunman and surrounded a nearby building, where a gun battle continued inside.

The building is within the internationally recognized Afghan border.

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Talon robot.

“The Talon is a small robot used here for remote placement of C-4 or initial approach, especially in caves where there might be tripwires, landmines or someone wait-



Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

The 705th sets off a C-4 charge that detonates a munition found sitting along the roadside.

ing. It’s one of our best tools,” said Soto. “It’s pretty strong. It can stand a landmine explosion with only damage to the track.”

“It’s much safer to put a piece of equipment in danger instead of ourselves,” said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Wade, explosive ordnance team leader, 705th EOD.

The Talon is a track vehicle with four mounted cameras and a light kit.

Safety is also the reason EOD uses C-4 to dispose of explosives. “C-4 won’t go off if you bang it on something or stomp on it; it won’t go off if you light it on fire,” Wade said.

“You have to put it on fire and stomp on it to get it to go off. It explodes with heat and pressure,” he added.

EOD ensures safety during operations, but Soto warns soldiers are getting careless.

“The engineers mark the roads with pickets, wire and landmine signs, but people drive too close to them and knock them down so the road begins to get closer to the mined areas. It’s really dangerous. Some roads no longer have markers because of this,” said Soto. “My suggestion is to try to stay toward the middle of the road where it is packed.”

Soto also warns soldiers if they see something that looks like a UXO to call EOD. “Don’t pick it up, don’t touch it and don’t mess with it. Mark it with flags and stay away from it,” said Soto.

To report a UXO, call EOD at 318-231-4246.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

2000 hrs. at the MWR Building: “The Mummy Returns.” When a chain of events finds the corpse of Imhotep resurrected in the British Museum, the mummy Imhotep walks the earth once more, determined to fulfill his quest for immortality. But another force has also been set loose in the world... one born of the darkest rituals of ancient Egyptian mysticism. Tomorrow’s movie will be “XXX.”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 50F L: 19F	<i>Haze</i> H: 48F L: 18F
Kandahar:	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 55F L: 34F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 52F L: 30F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 46F L: 23F	<i>Haze/Snow</i> H: 48F L: 25F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Fog</i> H: 48F L: 23F	<i>Fog</i> H: 49F L: 25F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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To be added to the daily distribution list email william.james@us.army.mil

The few ... the proud ... the digital?

Marines anxious to sport new look

By Sgt. Daniel L. Patterson
Marine Corps News

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa, Japan — The Military Clothing Store here recently stocked its shelves with the coveted new combat utility uniforms.

Approximately 250 Marines stood in line here, while patiently awaiting their chance to purchase a set of the “new cammies.”

“We received a partial shipment of approximately 4,000 sets of the new cammies at Camp Foster,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. John L. Robinson Jr., supply chief, Marine Corps Base. “Each camp received individual shipments according to the size of the base and number of Marines.”

The Foster store supplemented the other stores for the sale. The sale was on a first-come, first-served basis, but Marines were encouraged to limit themselves to one set.

The new shipment includes the most popular sizes, according to Robinson. There were no extra-large or extra-small sizes re-



Photo by Sgt. Daniel L. Patterson

Cpl. Mark C. Conti, airframe bade mechanic for Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron-36, Marine Air Group-36, seeks a comfortable fit before purchasing a set of the new combat utility uniform. Conti was the first person in line to buy a pair of the coveted camouflaged utilities.

ceived. The next shipment of the new cammies is expected within the next 30 to 60 days.

“There is no hard-line policy for returning the new cammies, but Marines are encouraged to try on the uniform before purchase,” Robinson said. “The major difference is the length. If you are borderline on your waist, go one size bigger.”

Robinson said the new uniform has minimum shrinkage, but the cover may shrink more.

Although each Marine is re-

quired to own one set by Oct. 1, 2003, Marines are asked not to purchase “fake” uniforms from civilian stores. The only authorized dealer of the new uniform is a military clothing store.

Although there are no uniform allocations for specific units, approximately 250 sets from this batch of uniforms is going to Camp Fuji. This is Fuji’s first supply of cammies, Robinson added.

The new uniforms have some differences besides the camouflage pattern. They are wash-and-wear,

meaning they should not be ironed.

“Marines need to be smart about this because the cammies have a permanent press treatment, and ironing them can damage them,” Robinson explained. “The new style boots may be worn with both the new and the old right now.”

The old camouflage pattern Gortex can be worn with the new cammies; however, Robinson revealed there are no indications when the new design will appear with the Gortex.

The new uniform should be as readily available as the current uniform in approximately six months, according to Lt. Col. Gabriel R. Patricio, program manager for the Infantry Combat Equipment Program at Marine Corps Systems Command.

There are currently three companies that produce the new cammies. Production of the new camouflage uniform slowed down due to the lack of funds, according to Patricio.

“The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is in full cooperation with the Marine Corps to speed up the process in getting the uniform,” Robinson said.

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is a viable option for them.”

TSP investments may be directed to any of five different funds, which vary in risk and investment mixture. The five funds are government securities investment (G fund); fixed income investment (F fund); common stock index investment (C fund); small capitalization stock index investment (S fund); and international stock index investment (I fund). Contributions are initially directed to the G fund, and service members may then redirect their investment once the account is active.

TSP enrollment can be done online

through the “MYPAY” Web site (formerly called Employee Member Self Service at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>, or by completing a TSP enrollment form and turning it in to the servicing pay or personnel office.

TSP enrollment forms are available at local Fleet and Family Support Centers, Personnel Support Detachments or online at the TSP Web Site, www.tsp.gov. Sailors who sign up or make changes to their TSP accounts via the “MYPAY” Web site should now have the option to print out a receipt of your transaction.

For more information on TSP visit the Web Site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>.



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Justin Proulx

Senior Chief Torpedoman's Mate Ron Wood from Sylacauga, Ala., helps Sailors develop a long-term investment strategy for retirement during a Thrift Savings Plan meeting aboard ship.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Tiger shares a laugh with O'Meara in one of 2002's lighter moments.

Beyond the birdies, bogeys: Tales from 2002

Tiger Woods' mother spotted a reporter at the season-opening Mercedes Championships and asked how her son would fare in 2002. The prediction was for another strong year, maybe six victories, but no majors.

He was wrong. Woods had two majors among his six worldwide victories.

A week later, David Toms' group was backed up on the 18th hole at the Sony Open when he motioned to the baby-faced rookie on the tee.

"See this kid? Watch him this year. He's going to be good."

He was right. That kid was Jonathan Byrd, who beat Toms by one stroke nine months later at the Buick Challenge.

Predictions can be a risky business.

Woods continues to dominate golf, but the game still has its share of surprises.

A three-page letter from Hootie Johnson generated more stories about Augusta National than Woods winning his third green jacket. The only victory party David Duval attended was at the Ryder Cup — and he was on the losing team.

Sheriff says sidewalks too small, protestors cannot picket

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Protesters who intend to picket outside Augusta National Golf Club during the Masters might have difficulty getting close to the club.

Two civil-rights groups — Martha Burk's National Council of Women's Organizations and the Rev. Jesse Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH coalition — intend to demonstrate outside Augusta's gates to protest the club's all-male membership.

Richmond County Sheriff Ronnie Strength told The Augusta Chronicle that law-enforcement officials will "not even

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2002 Bowl Championship Series

TEAM	TOTAL
1. Miami	2.93
2. Ohio State	3.97
3. Georgia	8.37
4. USC	10.51
5. Iowa	10.79
6. Washington St.	16.14
7. Oklahoma	16.79
8. Kansas State	20.13
9. Notre Dame	20.93
10. Texas	21.08
11. Michigan	23.91
12. Penn State	26.97
13. Colorado	33.27
14. Florida State	33.95
15. West Virginia	35.97



Tennessee Titan fans ...

Come and help cheer your team on Sunday at 1000 hrs. at the Joint Operation Center gate.

Videographers will be filming fans making spirit videos.

The video will air the weekend of Jan. 11 and 12.

Uniform for the event will be DCUs.

For further information contact Maj. William Mott at bill.mott@us.army.mil

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consider the sidewalks around the Augusta National,” and that public safety will take precedence over planned protests.

Strength said the sidewalks are too narrow and there will be too many pedestrians and vendors on Washington Road to allow a large protest there.

The Masters will be held April 10-13.

Belgium advances to face United States

PERTH, Australia — Kim Clijsters and Xavier Malisse led Belgium to a sweep of Uzbekistan on Thursday as Belgium moved into the semifinals of the the \$1 million Hopman Cup.

Clijsters, the fifth-ranked women in the world, cruised to a 6-3, 6-2 romp over Iroda Tulyagnova in a match that lasted just 57 minutes. Malisse had a little more difficulty, but posted a 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 6-2 victory over Oleg Ogorodov.

Clijsters and Malisse routed Tulyaganova and Ogorodov 6-1, 6-1, in 41 minutes to advance to a meeting with the United States on Friday.

The U.S. defeated defending champion Spain 3-0 on Wednesday in the tournament, a mixed team tennis championship.

The U.S.-Belgium winner will play Australia in Saturday’s final. Despite a loss by world No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt, Australia defeated the Czech Republic to advance.

Hewitt won five titles in the 2002 season, including the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup in Shanghai. He cruised to straight-sets wins in his first two matches here this week, but fell to Jiri Novak 6-2, 3-6,



Clijsters and Malisse pulled out another mixed doubles victory.

6-3 Thursday.

Alicia Molik had given the Australians the lead as she defeated Daja Bedanova, 7-6 (7-3), 7-5. Molik rallied from a 5-1 deficit in the first set and then teamed with Hewitt for a 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (10-4) victory over Bedanova and Novak.

The tournament uses a “super” tiebreaker, in which the first team to 10 points, by at least two points, wins.

Gambill’s baseline knocks out Federer

DOHA, Qatar — Jan-Michael Gambill used a strong baseline game Thursday to beat top-seeded Roger Federer of Switzerland 6-4, 7-5 and reach the semifinals of the \$1 million Qatar Open. Gambill, who scored his first win over Federer in four matches, will

face Russian Davis Cup star Mikhail Youzhny on Friday. Youzhny defeated Fernando Vicente of Spain 7-6 (7), 6-3.

Shaughnessy withdraws from match vs. Schnyder

GOLD COAST, Australia — Meghann Shaughnessy withdrew from the quarterfinals of the Australian women’s hardcourt tournament Thursday, a day after twisting her left ankle.

The sixth-seeded American, scheduled to face top-seeded Patty Schnyder, said she might also skip the Canberra Women’s Classic next week to rest for the Australian Open.

“I can’t really move,” Shaughnessy said. “I’m walking thankfully, but I can’t really do anything laterally or even put all my weight on it, so it wasn’t a tough decision.”

Laugh Support

Mailing Antique Weapons

Anyone wishing to send an antique firearm home needs to understand the rules before mailing it.

The Domestic Mail Manual 57, section C024.2.0, states “*Antique Firearms sent as curios or museum pieces may be accepted for mailing.*” The weapons must include proper documentation signed by United States Customs officials.

Without the *signed* documents, the mailer is sending the weapon at their own risk, allow-

ing U.S. Customs officials to confiscate the weapon.

Since each weapon is unique, each requires certain forms. It is the responsibility of the individual to obtain all the required forms for their particular weapon before shipment or it will prevent the mailer from making a claim against the United States Postal Service, if the weapon is confiscated.

According to DMM 57, section C024.4.0, “*postmasters are not authorized*

to give opinions on the legality of any shipment of rifles or shotguns.”

To import a firearm, visit the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Web site at www.atf.treasury.gov and download the ATF F-6 Part II (5330.3B) application form. This form also includes details on the application process.

