

CA team fruitful in Jalalabad

By Pfc. Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — A 12-person civil affairs team had the responsibility to help reconstruct the second largest capitol in Afghanistan.

Members from the 360th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Fort Jackson, S.C. arrived in Jalalabad in December as a team divided into a six-member Civil-Military Operations Center and a six-member Civil Affairs Team-A. As they are on their way home, Maj. Andrew Santa-Pinter, team commander from 360th CA Bn. highlighted some of the accomplishments after spending more than eight months in the 300,000-populated city.

“All of us played an intricate role there,” said Santa-Pinter.

The team worked side by side with various groups, non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies. “My relationship with these organizations on a daily basis was to coordinate to prevent duplication of effort in the province,” said Santa-Pinter.

“This is very effective,” said Santa-Pinter. “We were intricately involved with

the leaders of the province. We figured out what we needed for the province and then met with the minister of education and the deputy of education.”

The team worked closely with provincial military commanders, as well, to provide them with information for security decisions so political ramifications wouldn’t be made to cause an international incident, said Santa-Pinter.

“We compare ourselves to the NGO community. A lot of people didn’t realize what our job was, but we had a major role as engineers in constructing the province,” said Santa-Pinter.

“It was very hard to make them believe we weren’t fighters,” said Santa-Pinter, since this is the first time a CA team worked with Afghans in Jalalabad. “(When) they see the uniform, they see a fighter.”

But the Afghans got used to them after a month. The doors were finally open and the Afghans changed how they viewed the team. They were finally accepted into meetings and were able to coordinate construction on schools, wells, bridges and govern-

————— See **CA MISSION**, Page 3



Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Rimar

Going home...

Sgt. Osvaldo Ortiz sleeps next to the transfer case and gear of his fallen friend, Spc. Kelvin E. Feliciano Gutierrez, aboard a C-17 Globemaster III bound for Dover Air Force Base, Del., on June 29. Ortiz is accompanying the remains to the base and eventually back to the fallen soldier's home in Puerto Rico. Gutierrez was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C.

After long delay, Jordanian unit resumes de-mining ops



Jordanians use an British-manufactured "Aardvark" Mark III de-mining machine to clear a section of ground from landmines Tuesday. On a good day, the team can clear 919 square feet of land.

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

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — After four idle months the Jordanian de-mining team resumed operations Saturday, clearing mines from the desert floor surrounding Kandahar Air Field.

Clearing Afghanistan of the deadly ground weapons is a high priority for coalition forces and the soldiers from Jordan have been waiting two months for the chance to do their jobs.

The United Nations Mine Action Programme figures there are roughly 10 million mines strewn throughout Afghanistan — placed mainly during the Russian occupation in the 1980s — that hinder

————— See **DE-MINING**, Page 4

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Meridian residents hold a prayer vigil at City Hall.

Police probe alleged racial motive in factory rampage

MERIDIAN, Miss. — A gunman's factory rampage that left five workers dead and nine others wounded is being investigated as a possible racially motivated crime, police said Wednesday.

Douglas Williams, 48, a worker at the Lockheed Martin plant in Meridian, Miss., shot and killed five co-workers Tuesday, wounded nine others and then killed himself, according to authorities. Police said allegations that the attack was racially motivated were prompting them to conduct new interviews with plant workers.

"We're going back starting today and re-interviewing those employees — those coworkers that we've been told had threats made towards them," said Lauderdale County Sheriff Billy Sollie. "Hopefully their statements will give us a direction as to whether or not this was a race-based, management-based, gender-based motive for his attacks."

Pentagon: 1,000 troops wounded in Iraq war

WASHINGTON — For the first time since the start of the war in Iraq, Pentagon officials have released the number of U.S. troops wounded from the beginning of the war through Wednesday.

Responding to a request by CNN, the Pentagon said more than 1,000 U.S. troops have been wounded or injured in Iraq since March 20, when a U.S.-led airstrike started the war.

The Defense Department provided these figures:

- 791 troops were wounded or injured during combat

- 253 troops were wounded or injured in action not related to combat operations, such as traffic accidents or accidental gunshot wounds

The Pentagon did not disclose the type of wounds or injuries sustained. But the numbers shed more light on the overall toll the fighting has taken on U.S. troops during the war and subsequent occupation of the country.

Bush defends decision on Iraqi war

PRETORIA, South Africa — President Bush said Wednesday that he was "absolutely confident" in his decision to remove Saddam Hussein from power, but he refused to be drawn into the controversy over an assertion he once made that Iraq sought to buy uranium from Africa.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Saddam Hussein was a threat to the world peace, and there is no doubt in my mind that the United States, along with allies and friends, did the right thing in removing him from power," Bush said during a joint news conference with South African President Thabo Mbeki.

Bush also said that his predecessor, President Clinton, raided Iraq in 1998 "based upon the very same intelligence."

Security Council team calls for Liberia force

UNITED NATIONS — Describing Liberia as "a mess," British U.N. Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock and a Security Council delegation recommended Wednesday that deployment for an international stabilization force "be drawn up rapidly" because delay will risk further breakdowns of the ceasefire.

The team, which recently returned from West Africa, filed a report urging the council to make clear that it will not condone any attempts to seize power by force.

The report also recommends that the council insist to all parties that international humanitarian law and human rights apply to

all, especially women and children.

Father arrested in family's killing

CNN — A California elementary school vice principal was arrested Wednesday in North Carolina in connection with the deaths of his estranged wife, mother-in-law and three children, who were all found shot to death Tuesday in Bakersfield, Calif.

Elizabeth City police said Vincent Brothers, 41, was arrested on probable cause for five counts of homicide.

His first court appearance will be Thursday in Pasquotank County District Court, said acting police chief Capt. George Cook.

USS Liberty attack tapes released

WASHINGTON — Tapes released Tuesday by the National Security Agency shed new light on the 1967 Israeli attack on the USS Liberty that killed 34 Americans and is one of the most controversial mysteries in U.S. Navy history.

The attack, which took place in international waters off the Sinai Peninsula on June 8, 1967, during the Six Day War, also left 171 Americans injured.

The Israelis have always said the attack on the Liberty, which was monitoring communications in the war, was a tragic accident.

Young boys die in sweltering SUV

LANCASTER, Calif. — The foster mother of two young boys who died after being left five hours in a sweltering sport utility vehicle was arrested for investigation of child endangerment.

Leslie Sue Smoot, 48, was booked late Tuesday night and held on \$100,000 bail. No court date was scheduled.

Sheriff Lee Baca said earlier Tuesday that those responsible for leaving the children in the car would be charged with child endangerment and possibly manslaughter.

"Vehicles are not playpens," he said. "Vehicles are not baby sitters. And vehicles, when they are not properly ventilated, are death traps."

CA MISSION, from Page 1

ment buildings.

“We were advocates of human rights,” said Santa-Pinter.

Santa-Pinter visited jails in the province to look at the conditions. “I freed five guys out of jail. Somebody just didn’t like them and they were put in there without a trial. I did investigations and talked to the head of police and pushed the issue.” One man was already sitting in the jail cell for a year, said Santa-Pinter.

“There was no traditional judicial system until now. No document trail,” said Santa-Pinter.

Santa-Pinter said the city’s commerce also grew since his arrival in December.

One in five shops was open in December, said Santa-Pinter. “They didn’t have materials to sell or security to keep them open.”

Now every shop is open — some even for 24 hours a day. “It is now a secure environment. I feel secure wherever I go there. They know Americans are here to help build their country,” said Santa-Pinter.

After all of the accomplishments CA made in Jalalabad, Santa-Pinter said he didn’t want to leave.

“I was very much involved in everything. We were the blood stream that helped keep the province alive ... I feel we have more to do. I left part of me,” said Santa-Pinter.

Santa-Pinter said he sat down with all of his friends from the organizations he worked in during the time he was there.

“They felt they were losing something. I felt very sad I was leaving. I love my job and enjoyed being in Jalalabad. I am confident that my replacement will have the drive to continue the projects.

Even though he is not in control anymore there, he said he still feels tied with them.

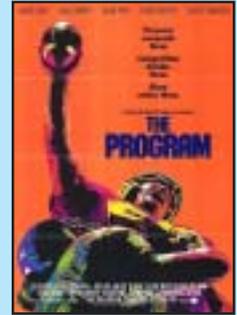
Santa-Pinter had a talk with United States Agency for International Development to help out with future projects in Nangarhar. He plans to check up on these projects in the future.

“I will come back as a civilian and tourist in three or four years from now. I have a place to stay and go to. I want to see the (current) projects and where they stand,” said Santa-Pinter.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “The Program.” Several players from different backgrounds try to cope with the pressures of playing football at a major university.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “Liar Liar.”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 97F L: 68F	<i>Haze</i> H: 97F L: 68F
Kandahar:	<i>Dust</i> H: 106F L: 79F	<i>Dust</i> H: 104F L: 77F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 95F L: 68F	<i>Haze</i> H: 97F L: 70F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Sunny</i> H: 104F L: 65F	<i>Sunny</i> H: 105F L: 66F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

- CJTF-180 Commander — Maj. Gen. John R. Vines
- CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major — Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey
- Public Affairs Officer — Col. Rodney Davis
- Public Affairs Sergeant Major — Sgt. Maj. Harrison Sarles

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 11th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

- Commander — Maj. William Mott
- NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti
- Editor — Sgt. W. Cullen James
- Journalists — Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw, Pfc. Christina Carde, Pfc. Terri Rorke

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of Freedom Watch are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 11th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

Visit the CENTCOM Web site at www.centcom.mil and click on the Freedom Watch or Forces in Afghanistan link at the bottom of the page to get the latest editions of the Freedom Watch. To be added to the daily distribution list email william.james@us.army.mil

DE-MINING, from Page 1

reconstruction efforts in the country. According to the agency, approximately 150 people are maimed or killed every month in the country because of mines.

Arriving at KAF in May for the start of their three-month tour of duty, the team found out their "Aardvark" Mark III mine clearing machine — essentially a bulldozer with flails attached to a rotating drum — was out of commission with a broken rotor. The rotor is used to spin the flails and weighs five tons.

It's because of that weight it took four months for a new part to arrive in Afghanistan from Britain, where the Aardvark is manufactured. DHL, the contractor responsible for delivering packages to the country, balked at handling that much weight on one of its flights. It finally arrived last week and was promptly installed.

There are 72 flails found on the rotor, with a small "hammer" located on the end of each chain. Each hammer delivers one ton of pressure and digs 12-20 inches into the ground, for a total of 72 tons of pressure on a space three inches long and 10 feet long.

On a good day, the Aardvark can clear 919 square feet of ground in one day; unfortunately, a good day is rare for de-mining operations conducted on the grounds surrounding KAF. Debris, either from expended munitions or destroyed equipment caused by the firefights when coalition forces attacked the Taliban stronghold nearly two years, frequently destroys the hammers striking the ground.

"In this nature of region, we find airplane parts and lots of heavy metals," said 1st Lt. Ashraf Odat, one of the two Jordanian officers in the 14-man de-mining team. "So we stop every 15 minutes and check the rotor. We replace about 10 hammers a day."

Odat said Jordanian de-mining teams spend only three months in country due to the stress and dangers involved in clearing the region of explosives. Since coalition forces started operating in Afghanistan, six teams have cycled through Kandahar.

The nature of their jobs has spawned a proverb in the Jordanian army, "Mines do not respect the ranks," said Odat with a grin. Mines littering the country range from small anti-personnel to the large anti-tank mines

that can tear a gaping hole in a High Mobility Multi-wheeled Vehicle or track vehicle.

Despite the danger posed by the mines, the three-man Aardvark crew feels completely safe inside their shielded cabs.

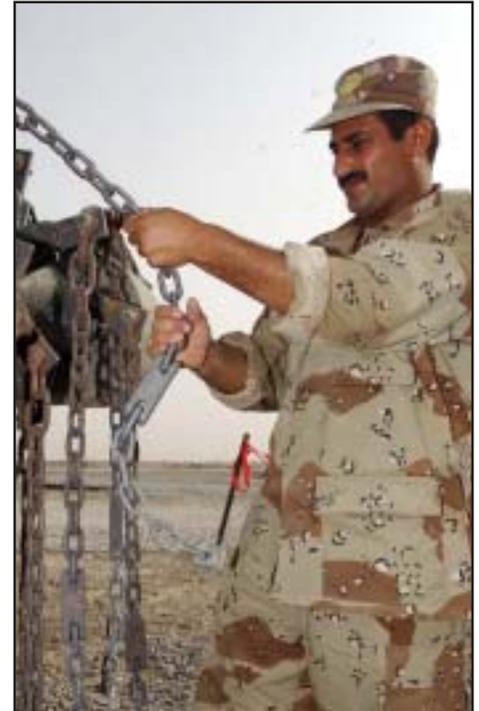
"It's normal," said Jordanian army Sgt. 1st Class Awad Hamaidah, "because the driver shield can protect us from an anti-tank mine, so we don't feel a thing."

The Jordanian de-mining team is one of two units at KAF responsible for clearing the airport region around Kandahar. They are tasked by the Task Force Devil mine action center, which gets requests from the facility engineers who are looking for more space to construct new buildings and access roads.

According to Staff Sgt. Oscar Rodriguez, mine action center non-commissioned officer in charge, the Jordanian and C Company, 27th Engineer Battalion out of Fort Bragg, N.C., de-mining teams have cleared almost 100 mines since April.

As coalition forces get ready for the eventual turnover of the Kandahar airport to the Afghanistan government, more safe ground is needed. Until the de-mining teams clear the area, though, it's unusable.

"It's ground that we can't use," Rodriguez said. "Every inch they clear is one more inch we can use. And when we leave, it's ground the Afghan people can use."



Jordanian army Sgt. 1st Class Awad Hamaidah checks one of the flails on the "Aardvark" Mark III de-mining machine Tuesday.



Photo by Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

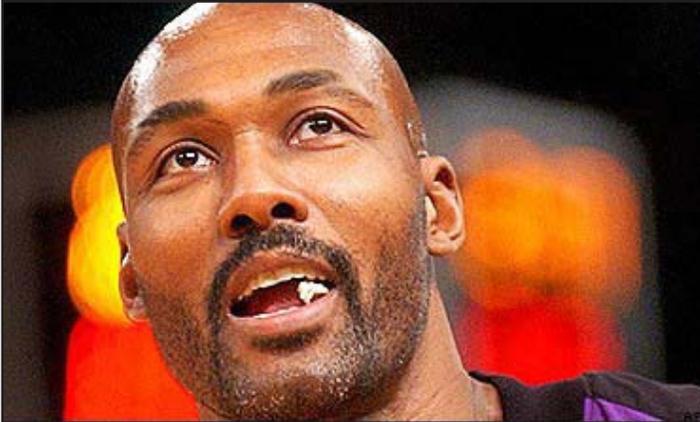
A scheduled visit...

Royal Thai Army Gen. Badin Ratchsamivanitch, chief of visitor staff, inspects the Thai troops here. He and Thai Col. Apichai Pinsaiekw, director general of personnel, visited the Thai compound on their visit here Wednesday. The visit was scheduled because the Royal Thai Army commander in chief has all section chiefs visit deployed troops.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



Malone will see plenty of banners in the rafters if he joins L.A.

Malone wants a championship

ESPN — No need to hold a press conference.
No need for long-winded explanations.
Just a signature.

Nothing will speak louder. Karl Malone, barring a late change of heart, is expected to sign with the Lakers for \$1.5 million next season, and that will say everything.

The player some have insisted would be motivated by money will make less than several rookies.

The player some — most — have claimed will make chasing the career scoring record the priority will join a team where he knows ahead of time he would be the third option at best.

Bold answers. In cursive.

The ring's the thing. Malone is putting it all on the line — millions of dollars, potentially Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's scoring mark that means so much to him — in a quest to win a championship that runs so deep that he stepped away even from the mid-level exception in hopes the Lakers could use it on Gary Payton. There is talking about wanting a title, and there is doing something about it.

Bryant was escorted to hospital

EAGLE, Colo. — One of the investigators in the case involving Kobe Bryant said Wednesday the NBA star was taken to a hospital hours after he was accused of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman at a mountain resort.

Doug Winters, a detective with the Eagle County sheriff's department, refused to say why Bryant was taken to Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs early July 2.

"If we make contact with a suspect with any type of case that requires further investigation, then we would transport them at any time," he said.

Winters said Bryant was free to go because he had not been charged. He said Bryant was picked up by a taxi.

Terry O'Brien, a 38-year-old Vail Taxi dispatcher and driver, told the Orange County Register that he picked up the Lakers star from the emergency room at Valley View Hospital. According to the newspaper, Bryant was with three members of his entourage and flanked by Eagle County sheriff's officers. The time frame was roughly 12 hours after he was accused.

Varitek, Jenkins top Internet All-Star voting

NEW YORK — Boston catcher Jason Varitek and Milwaukee outfielder Geoff Jenkins won the Internet balloting for the final spots on their respective All-Star teams.

Varitek received 3,210,509 votes to beat out Frank Thomas of the Chicago White Sox, Eric Byrnes of the Oakland Athletics, Jason Giambi of the New York Yankees and Bengie Molina of the Anaheim Angels for the 32nd spot on the AL team.

"It's a great honor. I hope I can represent my teammates well," Varitek said. "It's a huge compliment. I want to thank the fans in Boston. They are the ones that made the difference. It's just a great honor for anybody to have."

Varitek, batting .296 with 15 homers and 51 RBI going into Wednesday's game in Toronto, will be making his first All-Star appearance in next Tuesday's game in Chicago.

"I'm sure anybody would like to have the opportunity," Varitek said. "It's a nice milestone for me and my career and I'm sure my family and friends will cherish it."

Bennett's foot not healing as fast as expected

ESPN — Already resigned to opening training camp without Michael Bennett, the Minnesota Vikings might now confront a far more dire circumstance, with ESPN.com learning that the star tailback could conceivably be sidelined for the entire 2003 season.

Bennett on Wednesday sought a second opinion on his surgically repaired left foot and, according to NFL sources with knowledge of the examination, the results were not very promising for the third-year back. The examination performed by Dr. Robert Anderson in Charlotte, N.C., revealed that the so-called "Jones fracture," suffered earlier this spring, is not healing as quickly as was anticipated.

One of the leading foot specialists in the country, Anderson has not yet recommended a second operation, and will attempt to promote healing with non-surgical treatments. But sources said that, depending on how the foot responds between now and the beginning of the season, Bennett could miss a portion of the campaign and possibly the entire year.

It is all but a given now that Bennett will not be on the field when the Vikings open camp July 26. When he returns, given Wednesday's

SPORTS, from Page 5

exam, which included a CAT scan, is now reduced to a matter of speculation.

“There is valid reason now for concern,” one source said. “There is some chance Michael will be out for a significant portion of the season. Maybe all of it. They’re going back to bone stimulation (treatment), and things like that, but this certainly isn’t good news.”

Victory fortifies Armstrong’s position in Tour

SAINT-DIZIER, France — Lance Armstrong and his teammates found another reason to raise their glasses for a toast at dinner.

The U.S. Postal Service squad won a team time trial at the Tour de France for the first time Wednesday, leaving Armstrong in second place overall and in good position to win his fifth straight title as the punishing Alps loom.

“Last year, and in previous years, we didn’t win the time trial, and it was a really unhappy feeling at the dinner table,” Armstrong said.

“We were asking ourselves why we couldn’t do it, so this time we just said, ‘Come on, let’s do it, we’ve got to do this.’ It will be a happy dinner table tonight.”

Cycling’s premier event began in earnest with the team time trial, and the machinelike performance by the Postal Service team in the 43-mile race lifted Armstrong from 12th place.

“I’d never won this discipline before,” the Texan said. “It was quite a hard course, with the wind — lots of wind. ... It’s a very, very hard discipline.”

Public not allowed for James’ second summer game

ORLANDO, Fla. — LeBron James isn’t used to playing in a nearly empty gym and it showed Wednesday.

James, who made his debut in front of 15,000 fans at the Pepsi Summer League on Tuesday, played in front of an estimated 150 people Wednesday and nearly all of them were media or coaches.

He wasn’t nearly as sharp and neither were the Cleveland Cavaliers, who lost 82-78 to the Miami Heat in a game that was closed to the public. Afterward, James said he won’t play the final three games of the Orlando summer league.

His agent, Aaron Godwin, said earlier that James would play Thursday against Detroit and Friday against Minnesota, but miss Saturday’s finale against Milwaukee to attend a wedding back in Ohio.

James is scheduled to play some games in Boston’s summer league later this month.

On Wednesday, James lost the one-on-one-battle of first-round stars.

The No. 1 pick in this year’s NBA draft, who didn’t play at all in the fourth quarter against Orlando on Tuesday, was in for the final 4:28 against Miami.

With Cleveland down 78-74, James made a driving layup with 17

seconds to play and was fouled. He missed the free throw, but teammate Carlos Boozer tipped it in to tie the score at 78.

Nike hopes to cash in on ‘retro’ Converse

BOSTON — Chuck Taylor basketball shoes are getting a Nike swoosh.

Nike Inc. announced Wednesday it had agreed to buy Converse, Inc., which dominated the basketball shoe market from the 1920s to the 1970s and is best known for its famed “Chuck Taylor All Star” sneakers.

By the 1980s, Beaverton, Ore.-based Nike had overtaken Converse’s rubber-toed product as the dominant basketball shoe. Converse filed for bankruptcy in January 2001, shifting production from Lumberton, N.C., to Asia. Later that year, the North Andover-based company was bought by private investors who have tried to revive the brand.

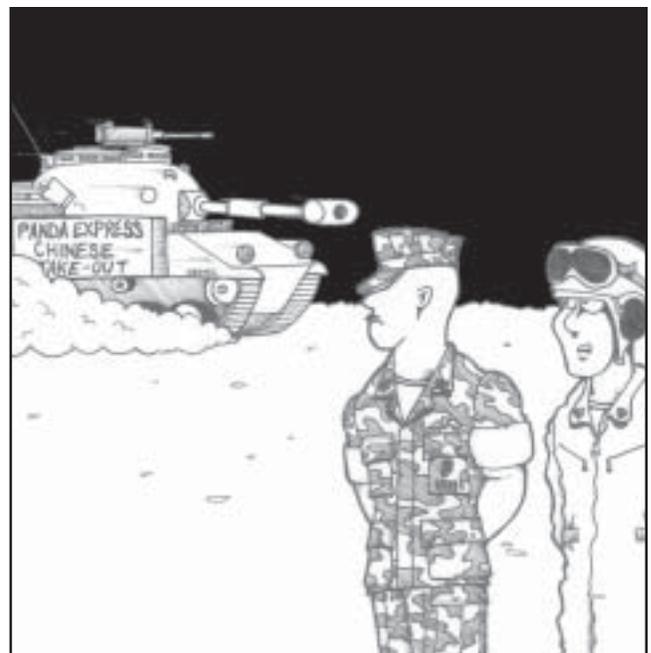
Last year, Nike had \$10.7 billion in revenue, while Converse reported \$205 million.

Robert Toomey, a regional analyst for RBC Dain Rauscher in Seattle, said Nike was probably looking to cash in on the popularity of “retro” shoes and Converse’s close brand association with basketball, particularly for Americans who grew up in the 1950s and ’60s.

Earlier this month, New Balance relaunched its PF Flyers canvas sneakers, jumping on the retro bandwagon.

“Retro styling has come back so strong, a lot stronger than I would have expected,” Toomey said.

“I think Cpl. Smith’s part-time job might be interfering with his duties.”



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support