

California LDS donates school supplies

Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

JABALSURAT, Afghanistan — Children with nothing, their world filled with mines and poverty, got a little piece of happiness Sunday.

Approximately 50 soldiers visited the girl's school in Jabal Surat to hand out about 600 bags of goodies packed by hand and sent by the Sacramento, Calif. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Phil Edwards, a civilian in the movement control team arranged for these bags to be sent. Edwards did not have the means to distribute the bags, so the soldiers assisted.

Soldiers also arranged for the children to be present.

"School is out until March, so we had to arrange to have the students there," said Maj. Mark Cepiel, team chief, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Riverdale, Md.

Each bag was packed with pens, pencils, paper, notebooks of various sizes and a stuffed animal.



Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

See **SCHOOL**, Page 3 *After the bags were passed out, the girls compare their goodies.*

Afghanistan works to fuel new government

By Chris Kraul
Los Angeles Times staff writer

(Editor's note: This is part two of a two-part story.)

SEYAGERD, Afghanistan — Major relief organizations in the north say warlords interfere with their efforts to work with civil authorities to deliver aid, by setting agendas and demanding percentages of supplies.

"Who do you deal with? Self-motivated individuals looking to increase their power base, or legitimate [but powerless] civil authorities there to serve the needs of the people?" asked one exasperated relief offi-

cial who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Another relief official cited a recent gathering of major humanitarian agencies in Mazar-i-Sharif called by the provincial governor to set priorities for the coming year. Participants were surprised to find the meeting directed by Mohammed, who spoke for an hour, ticking off a list of projects he wanted funded.

Ongoing threats and sporadic violence also have taken a toll on aid groups here. In June, a convoy of vehicles belonging to the French nongovernmental agency ACTED was stopped by militiamen and robbed of its cash and computers, and a female member

of the group was raped.

Whether the attack was random violence or a political act designed to let agencies know who is boss in the north is open to debate. But female Afghan relief workers have received warnings not to participate in programs boosting women's rights and education, relief workers here say.

In October, U.S. Ambassador Robert Finn said he froze funding for new projects around Mazar-i-Sharif through the U.S. Agency for International Development after clashes among local militias killed six Afghans. The

See **AFGHAN**, Page 4

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A member of the 3rd Brigade waits his turn to board an aircraft departing Robins Air Force Base, Ga., for Kuwait on Tuesday morning.

Military planners to move to Qatar

WASHINGTON — Senior U.S. military planners will move to Qatar as early as this week to prepare for a possible conflict with Iraq, military officials told CNN Tuesday.

The contingent from the U.S. Central Command will go to Camp As Sayliyah in the Persian Gulf emirate of Qatar to staff the headquarters for a possible conflict. Eventually, about 1,000 U.S. troops will be stationed at that base.

A recent exercise by U.S. troops in Qatar tested their ability to run a simulated war from the command center there.

Pentagon officials said President Bush has not yet made a decision to go to war. But thousands of U.S. troops have been ordered to the region in recent weeks and Britain announced the activation of about 1,500 reservists and the deployment of additional naval vessels to the Persian Gulf Tuesday in preparation for possible action.

The United States and Britain have been moving troops to the region to pressure Iraq to comply with U.N. resolutions demanding it give up its pursuit of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

“For the sake of peace, [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein must disarm himself of all weapons of mass destruction and prove that he has done so,” Bush said Tuesday. “Should he choose the other course, in the name of peace, the United States will lead a

coalition of the willing to disarm the Iraqi regime of weapons of mass destruction and free the Iraqi people.”

Bush: Need for ‘bold’ plan

CHICAGO — President Bush on Tuesday announced a new economic plan that would cost roughly \$670 billion over 10 years, offer 92 million taxpayers an average tax cut of \$1,083 and create 2.1 million jobs over the next three

years.

“The jobs and growth proposals I’ve outlined today are a focused plan to encourage consumer spending, promote small business growth, boost confidence in our markets and give critical help to unemployed citizens,” Bush said in a speech at the Economic Club of Chicago.

“These tax reductions will bring real and immediate benefits to middle-income Americans,” the president said. “Real money to help pay the bills and push the economy forward.

“I proposed a bold plan because the need for this plan is urgent,” Bush said.

Democrats are challenging the Bush administration’s assumptions and also warning the plan will cause a major increase in deficit spending.

Terror suspects, poison seized

LONDON — Six terror suspects are being questioned by police after traces of one of the world’s deadliest poisons, ricin, were discovered at their London addresses.

Scotland Yard said on Tuesday the six men of north African origin were arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act after an operation by the anti-terrorist branch in north and east London.

A spokesman said “equipment and materials” were found at an address in Wood Green in the British capital where one of

the men was also arrested. The men are aged from their late teens to 30s.

A woman who was also arrested in Sunday’s raid has been released.

The statement gave no indication of the relationships of the six. CNN’s Nic Robertson said they were arrested after police received a tip-off.

Ricin is twice as deadly as cobra venom and experts have seriously assessed its use as a weapon of mass destruction. There is no known antidote, treatment or vaccine.

In his own words: Malcolm X

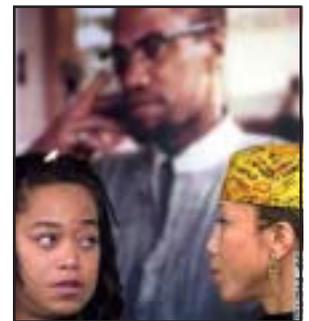
NEW YORK — The daughters of civil rights leader Malcolm X have turned over the largest-known cache of their father’s private papers and personal effects to a public library in Harlem, the predominantly black Manhattan neighborhood where he delivered his trademark, firebrand speeches in the 1960s.

The family announced the gift to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at a news conference Tuesday morning.

“That my father in his own living existence did not see the benefit of his words in his lifetime could matter some 30 or some 40 years later is a testament to the strength of what he stood for then,” said Attallah Shabazz, his eldest of six daughters.

“The least we can do is walk with our heads up and allow the information to go through the right process, so that it can be available to all people,” she said.

The collection includes Malcolm X speeches, diaries, letters, photographs, and recordings that filled two large crates weighing 697 lbs.



Malaak and Attallah Shabazz, two of Malcolm X’s daughters, at a Tuesday news conference.



Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

Sgt. Valerie Bolejack, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, media facilitator hands an Afghan girl a bag. The bags contained pens, pencils, paper and a stuffed animal.

SCHOOL, from Page 1

“The bags enable the girls to have products they can utilize at home for homework,” said Cepiel.

The girls were not the only ones who thought this was a great gesture.

“Being a school teacher, I wanted to do this because I think it is important for these girls to have good things done for them. Obviously, a girl’s school is out of the norm here, which makes it even more important,” said Maj. Dean Mings, 657th Movement Control Team, U.S. Army Reserve, St. Charles, Mo.

Cepiel agreed.

“Handing out these bags shows these girls that beyond their community, there is another community that cares,” said Cepiel.

This gesture did not only lift these children’s spirits, it also lifted some soldiers’ spirits.

“As a female, to see them establish an all-girl’s-school means the community has come a long way,” said Sgt. Jamela Carter, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. “It gives you hope for these children.”



Courtesy photo

An ‘explosive’ job ...

Maj. Gen. John R. Vines, commander, 82nd Airborne Division, pins an award to a soldier from the 63rd Ordnance Battalion, Fort Dix, N.J. The battalion was awarded the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation as well as several individual awards. The 63rd provided command and control of three ordnance companies, coordinated Combined Task Force-82 explosive ordnance disposal operations, conducted EOD assessments of the Afghan theater, repositioned EOD assets within the theater, provided area EOD support to forward bases, provided force protection, rendered safe disposal of unexploded ordnance and destroyed captured enemy ammunition. The unit will serve in theater through February.

Army unveils ‘SmarTruck II’

From CNN.com

DETROIT — It looks like a contraption that should be entered in a monster truck rally — menacing black with reinforced silver bumpers, big tires and floodlights mounted on top of the cab.

But it can track down and zap the enemy in so many ways.

At the Detroit auto show, the U.S. Army Tuesday unveiled a hulky, prototype “SmarTruck II”

— designed since the September 11, 2001 attacks with President Bush’s war on terrorism definitely in mind.

It will not be rumbling through the desert toward Baghdad any time soon, but the military is trying to create an all-purpose vehicle that could make a statement if it suddenly appeared over the sand dune.

“Once this vehicle comes on the scene, we want everyone to know that we mean business,” Germaine Fuller, the director of the project that created it, told Reuters at a news conference featuring a marching color guard and a military band playing patriotic songs such as “God Bless America.”



The “SmarTruck II” prototype is shown on the floor of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan.

AFGHAN, from Page 1

freeze remains in effect.

“We will not be able to institute any more programs of assistance in the Mazar-i-Sharif area because of the continuing inability of leaders in the area to provide a security situation that we felt we could say to U.S. citizens, ‘Yes, you can go and work there,’” Finn said at the time.

Multinational groups including the United Nations are pushing a voluntary disarmament program in the north that so far has netted 1,600 weapons, a program to which Mohammed and Dostum have given limited support. Although their troops are not about to disarm totally, both have intervened at a few collection points to order their subjects to give up their weapons.

Praising such actions, one Western diplomat said the three northern warlords are trying to ease tensions, going so far as to say that they had carved out an “island of tranquillity” when compared with other parts of Afghanistan.

This month, Minister of Telecommunications Mohammed Masoom Stanekzai attended a ceremony with Atta Mohammed inaugurating an Internet facility in Mazar-i-Sharif. Stanekzai praised the warlord’s growing civic involvement.

But Farhang is less sanguine. He believes that the U.S.-led coalition that helped the militias oust the Taliban may have to get involved in disarming them, “putting the genie back in the bottle.” Meanwhile, fear remains palpable in the countryside, where farmers such as Obaidullah don’t dare to confront the water thieves, fearing a bullet will be their reward.

For centuries, water disputes were settled by arbiters called Meerhabs, who were elected by farmers along the 50-mile-long canal system.

Now those judges are afraid to act - and for good reason. One area farmer was killed over a water dispute this month.

“People don’t feel secure enough to work on any kind of peaceful plan to work the problem out,” said Obaidullah, who is not sure to which warlord the men who stole his water answer. “They know it will just fall by the wayside.”

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Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “The Deep End.” With her husband perpetually away at work, a mother raises her children virtually alone. Her teenage son is testing the waters of the adult world, and early one morning she wakes to find the dead body of his gay lover on the beach of their rural lakeside home. Tomorrow’s movie will be “Jackie Chan’s First Strike.”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 50F L: 19F	<i>Dust</i> H: 46F L: 14F
Kandahar:	<i>Clear</i> H: 61F L: 34F	<i>Haze</i> H: 61F L: 34F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 50F L: 23F	<i>Haze</i> H: 45F L: 21F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 56F L: 40F	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 54F L: 39F

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



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Memphis' Williams still walks on high wire

The taming of JWill has had a wondrous impact on the Memphis Grizzlies, who have now won nine of their last 13 games. Aside from joining the NBA's top five in assist-turnover ratio, Jason Williams just shot better than 50 percent from the floor in consecutive games for the first time in nearly two years.

Let's just hope this doesn't become a trend quite yet.



Jason Williams averaged 22.5 points and 13.5 assists during Memphis' two-game win streak.

I'm happy to report that Williams had no business breaking his streak of 149 games not making more than half his shots two nights in a row. His 10-for-17 against the Hornets Monday night included a couple of fastbreak, off-the-dribble 3s; an off-balance, drifting-to-the-left, 19-foot jumper; and a catch-and-shoot, off-one-foot, falling-back, hand-in-the-face 26-footer.

So, while he has clearly toned down his circus mentality when it comes to deliv-

ering the ball, that approach is alive and well in his shot selection. "I really can't play the way I did in Sacramento," Williams said, "but there are certain things I can't do. I'm always going to play a certain way."

Ex-Knick exec Tapscott lands Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Former Knicks player personnel head Ed Tapscott is being asked to build a winner in the NBA's return to Charlotte.

The expansion team's owner, Robert Johnson, and Tapscott have known each other nearly two decades — since Tapscott's wife worked as a marketing executive for Johnson's Black Entertainment Television cable network.

"I'm looking for him to be responsible for everything that happens in the organization down the line," Johnson said Tuesday.

Tapscott's title will be executive vice president, and he will report directly to Johnson. Tapscott expects to hire a general manager by early summer.

He was New York's vice president of player personnel and basketball operations during the 1990s, when the team made two trips to the NBA Finals.

He served briefly as interim general manager in 1999 after Ernie Grunfeld was fired. Tapscott's first-round draft pick that year — Frederic Weis of France, who never played a game in the NBA — drew criticism. Tapscott later was fired.

Recently, he worked as a TV analyst for Fox Sports and Comcast Sports Net in the Washington, D.C., area.

Nets 10th win looked easy, not pretty

ATLANTA — Jason Kidd kept throwing the ball away, but the New Jersey Nets still found a way to win their 10th in a row.

It didn't hurt to be playing the dismal Atlanta Hawks.

Kidd scored 21 points to help compensate for a team-record 12 turnovers, and Lucious Harris also scored 21 to lead the Nets to a 101-94 victory over the Hawks on Monday night.

"I thought I only had one," Kidd said jokingly. "Brett Favre and Michael Vick, they have days when they can't complete a pass, but they still find a way to win the ballgame."

Kidd tied the Nets record for turnovers, set by Kevin Porter in 1977. Kidd fell two short of the NBA mark that he shares with John Drew, having 14 turn

2002 NBA standings



Eastern Conference

Atlantic

- (1) New Jersey 26-9
- (4) Boston 19-14
- (5) Philadelphia 19-15
- (7) Orlando 19-17
- (8) Washington 17-17

Central

- (2) Indiana 24-10
- (3) Detroit 22-10
- (6) New Orleans 20-16
- Milwaukee 14-20
- Chicago 13-21

Western Conference

Midwest

- (1) Dallas 28-5
- (4) San Antonio 21-13
- (6) Utah 19-14
- (7) Houston 18-14
- (8) Minnesota 17-16

Pacific

- (2) Sacramento 26-9
- (3) Portland 21-12
- (5) Phoenix 21-14
- Seattle 16-16
- Golden State 14-19



SPORTS, from Page 5

overs in a game for the Phoenix Suns on Nov. 17, 2000.

New Jersey, which had 23 turnovers overall, took control with an early 12-0 run and pushed the lead to 19 points midway through the third quarter.

The Hawks, led by Jason Terry with 27 points, lost their fifth in a row. They have won only twice in their last 13 games.

“You can’t get down 19 to the best team in the East,” coach Terry Stotts said. “I didn’t like the look on our face. We looked defeated. We need to play with gusto, play like you’re meant to be out there and compete against a very good basketball team.”



Kidd



Harris

Shaq says two medals are enough

LOS ANGELES — Shaquille O’Neal, the most dominant center in the world, says he definitely won’t be joining Los Angeles Lakers teammate Kobe Bryant on Team USA in the 2004 Olympics.

“No way, I already have two medals,” O’Neal told Fox Sports Net.

He was referring to the gold medal-winning teams of 1994 at the World Championships in Toronto and of 1996 at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

“We were 55-0 when I played, and I don’t want to tarnish that,” O’Neal said.

The 30-year-old O’Neal, who led the Lakers to the past three NBA championships under coach Phil Jackson, had said he would only play for the Team USA in 2004 if Jackson coached the team. That honor went instead to Philadelphia 76ers coach Larry Brown.

“Larry Brown’s the coach? There’s a pain on the outside of my knee in 2004,” O’Neal said in mid-November — just before it became official that Brown had been chosen for the job. “So, if Phil’s not the coach, I probably will not play through the pain. However, Larry Brown’s a great guy. He’s done a lot in basketball. I wish him well. I love Larry Brown to death.

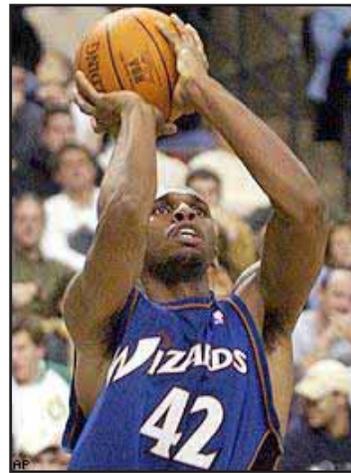
“It’s kind of too far to really think about it, but my knee will be hurting in 2004.”

Bryant said last week he had accepted an invitation from Team USA officials to play in the Olympics as well as the qualifying tournament next summer.

Wizards on four-game roll

BOSTON — Jerry Stackhouse thinks the Washington Wizards’ success might have as much to do with what they’re doing off the court as what they do on it.

Stackhouse had 37 points on Monday night in a 100-95 victory over the Boston Celtics as the Wizards won their fourth straight game — their longest winning streak of the



Jerry Stackhouse scored 37 points Monday and said the Wizards are bonding on and off the court.

season. They haven’t lost since New Year’s Eve, when Stackhouse made a resolution to spend more time bonding with his new teammates.

“To spend some time away from basketball has definitely been good for us,” said Stackhouse, who was traded to Washington in September after 4½ years with the Detroit Pistons. “These things go a long way to build a team.”

Michael Jordan converted a three-point play with 32.8 seconds left for his only points of the fourth quarter, and the Wizards improved to .500 (17-17) for the first time since Nov. 22.

“The team is starting to look like a team,” said Jordan, who also had 11 rebounds and seven assists as he took over as point guard in the fourth.

“There’s so many ways I can help the team. It’s not just scoring,” he added.

“I’ve fallen, and I can’t get up.”



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support