

ANA graduates fifth battalion

Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

(Editor's note: Because of the nature of their work, the full name and unit of the special operations' soldiers have been withheld.)

KABUL, Afghanistan – With weapons in hand and uniforms creased and pressed, over 400 new graduates from the 5th Battalion, Afghan National Army proudly marched past their officers, dignitaries and general with a look of fierce pride in their eyes.

The graduation ceremony held Tuesday was the fifth since September 2002. The ANA has graduated over 1,750 Afghan soldiers with the help of the U.S. Special Forces and coalition members. Each soldier has completed 10 weeks of



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

The newest soldiers of the 5th Battalion, Afghan National Army march onto a parade field to begin their graduation ceremony.

basic training, learned the value of teamwork and is ready to defend Afghanistan, according to Michael, a special forces soldier.

“The training conducted here is much like basic training back in the states,” said Dan, a special forces soldier. “The trainees undergo four

weeks of individual movement techniques and basic rifle marksmanship, two weeks heavy weapons and two weeks collective training including a final field and live fire exercise.”

Although the training resembles that of the U.S. Army, these soldiers are much different from a typical American soldier. Their backgrounds, culture and lifestyles offered many challenges for the American instructors to take on. The locals had to overcome these challenges also.

“Because of the close knit bonds bred by their cultures, most of these soldiers already

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From the outback to Afghanistan

Steakhouse brings ‘taste of home’ to OEF dining facilities

Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – One of the things deployed servicemembers may look forward to is going home to eat in a restaurant.

Here and in Kandahar servicemembers won't have to go home to appreciate a restaurant-style meal; it's being brought to them.

Outback Steakhouse will provide a meal to servicemembers Jan. 13 at the dining facilities. The meal will include a bloomin' onion on every table; a seasoned Outback steak; sautéed, grilled shrimp; seasoned

baked potato; aussie chips; Outback's french fries; broccoli crowns; heated bread; cheese-cake and salads.

Outback staff will not cook the meal, but they will provide personnel to supervise and offer guidance.

Bringing Outback to Afghanistan took 90 days of coordination said Sgt. 1st Class Willie Singleton, food service supervisor, Coalition Joint Task Force-180.

“We had to look at the equipment we have, take pictures and send them to Outback to make sure they could prepare the meal with our equipment,” said Singleton.

Outback provided the bulk of the meal out of their own pocket, but the Army had to buy a few items.

The Army had to buy about 5,000 lbs. of charcoal and approximately 800 lbs. of fresh broccoli, with the drinks and salads being provided by the dining facilities.

“Outback is not getting paid for doing this. It is all patriotism,” said Singleton. “It's a good feeling for them to come over and do something for us.”

Singleton also foresees the soldiers benefiting from this visit.

“The soldiers are very excited,” said Singleton. “This is a great morale booster.”

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A commuter plane crashed into a US Airways hangar Wednesday at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport.

Flight declared emergency

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Investigators hope the flight recorders from a commuter plane will reveal with what type emergency the pilot was dealing before the aircraft crashed during takeoff Wednesday, killing all 21 aboard.

Air Midwest Flight 5481, operating as US Airways Express, burst into a ball of fire as it crashed shortly before 9 a.m. EST. Fire crews quickly extinguished the flames, and when the smoke cleared a pile of debris could be seen stretching about 100 feet from the site of impact at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport.

The plane, carrying 19 passengers and two crew members, “just barely hit one corner” of the US Airways hangar, setting it on fire, according to airport operations director Jerry Orr.

Searchers found both the flight data recorder and its cockpit voice recorder from the Beech 1900D turboprop and sent them to laboratories in Washington.

A cockpit call to the air traffic control tower before the crash reported some kind of emergency but it was cut off before controllers were able to get details, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The voice recorder could provide critical information indicating what may have gone wrong.

Seventh arrest in UK ricin inquiry

LONDON — A seventh man has been arrested by anti-terrorism police investigating the discovery of the highly toxic poison, ricin, at a London address.

The 33-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday and is being held at a police station in London. On Wednesday, police began searching for at least three more suspects believed to be linked to the discovery of the poison.

Six Algerians are already being questioned by anti-terror police after raids on two addresses in north and east London unearthed small traces of the toxic substance, which is twice as deadly as Cobra venom, as well as the ingredients and equipment for making it.

All ports and airports have been put on high alert by police.

Numerous references to making ricin have been found in Kabul in documents produced by the al Qaeda terrorist network.

U.S. ramps up Qatar base

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — Military personnel are rapidly preparing this military base for the arrival of top brass from U.S. Central Command who are coming to Qatar to direct a possible conflict with Iraq.

This week, military officials told CNN that senior U.S. military planners will go to Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar in the coming days, to staff the headquarters. If there is a war with Iraq, Gen. Tommy Franks would run it from this base.

U.S. Navy Seabees and Army engineers are working as fast as they can for the arrival for as many as 1,000 of Franks’ staff, who could start arriving in the next week or two.

The work is necessary in order to expand the base for the new arrivals. The base, which was designed for 200 to 300 people, could see its ranks swell to more than 10 times that many in the coming weeks.

Drinking subdues heart attacks?

Scientists know drinking can prevent heart attacks, but new research shows that how often you imbibe is a lot more important than what or how much.

As little as half a drink every other day is enough to reduce the risk, regardless of whether it is beer, red wine, white wine or liquor, the study indicates. Whether you drink it with your meal or at some other time also appears irrelevant.

“It was a surprise that — almost regardless of other factors associated with drinking — frequency of use seemed to be what reduced the subsequent risk of a heart attack,” said Dr. Kenneth Mukamal of Harvard University Medical School, who led the study.

Those who drank at least three days a week had about one-third fewer heart attacks than did non-drinkers. And it made almost no difference whether the drinking consisted of half a drink or four. Those who imbibed only once or twice a week had only a 16 percent lower risk of a heart attack.



An Iraqi soldier shouts anti-U.S. slogans during a military parade.

Inspectors target eight Iraq sites

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.N. inspectors have deployed to at least eight sites in Iraq in their ongoing search for weapons of mass destruction amid the growing threat of military action against the country.

Nuclear teams on Wednesday visited the Al Kufa, Al Samawa and Karbala cement factories — all south of Baghdad, according to Iraq’s information ministry.

Inspectors specializing in chemical weapons went to the Tareq facility about 90 kilometers (56 miles) northwest of Baghdad, reportedly the site of Iraqi biological and chemical tests.

A biological team stopped at the College of Medicine at Saddam University in Baghdad.

Critter of the Week: Ascaris Worms

Provided by the Bagram Hospital

You might want think twice before you eat that piece of food offered by an Afghani or pass by that hand washing station without cleaning your hands. You could be putting yourself at risk of eating the eggs of *Ascaris lumbricoides*, a very large worm that makes its living inside humans by feeding off the semi-digested contents of the small intestine.

Commonly known as the "large roundworm," *A. lumbricoides* is one of the largest and most widespread parasites found in humans. Estimates suggest that 1 in 4 of the world's population is infected with this roundworm, with highest prevalence in tropical and subtropical regions, and areas with inadequate sanitation. The 48th Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Airbase frequently encounters these worms while treating local nationals.

Each adult female lays about 200,000 eggs a day. Eggs are passed in the feces and after about two weeks become infective. They may be easily carried to the mouth by hands and other items. In developing countries the eggs are commonly found in insufficiently treated sewage-fertilizer. Poor sanitation by infected food handlers may also lead to contamination.

Soldiers deployed in areas such as Afghanistan need not worry too much about picking up a new worm-friend in their gut as long as they eat only from approved sources and practice good personal hygiene by washing their hands frequently.

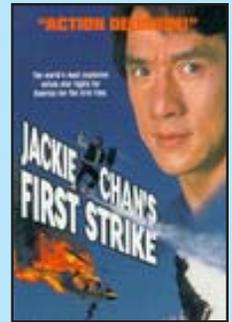


Courtesy Photo

Worms removed from a local national at the Bagram Airbase hospital.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Jackie Chan's First Strike." Jackie, a cop, participates in a sting operation on an international spy-ring. But when one of them (Tsui) gets away, Jackie is ordered to apprehend him. This leads Jackie all over the globe starting with Tsui's sister in Australia. The story follows him as he tries to stay alive and capture the villain. Tomorrow's movie will be "Charlie's Angles."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	Today	Friday
Bagram:	Haze H: 48F L: 28F	Haze H: 46F L: 25F
Kandahar:	Mostly cloudy H: 61F L: 32F	Mostly cloudy H: 63F L: 30F
Kabul:	Haze H: 45F L: 24F	Haze H: 45F L: 21F
Uzbekistan:	Partly cloudy H: 51F L: 34F	Mostly cloudy H: 55F L: 35F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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knew each other before they got here,” said Dan. “This was a problem at the beginning because many of them are from different tribes and their initial instinct was to quarrel.”

“Getting the trainees to cooperate as a team was difficult because they’ve spent their whole lives fighting each other,” said Michael. “However, we tried to show them (that) if two American soldiers of different ethnicities could get along, so could they. After about four weeks they started to come together.”

“We are very happy to have formed an army where there are no tribes or ethnicities to set us apart,” said Rafillah, squad leader, 3rd Platoon, 3rd Company, 5th Bn., ANA. “We are all one people now with one common goal – to defend Afghanistan.”

In addition to rival tribes, the people of Afghanistan have suffered from 23 years of war invasion, and oppression. This was a factor the trainers had to take into consideration when it came time for weapons training.

“Most American soldiers in basic training have never touched a weapon before, but most of these trainees have prior combat experience,” Michael said.

They came here with at least a basic knowledge of how to use a weapon,” he added..

“The trainees range between the ages of 18 and 40 and everyone has seen some aspect of war,” said Dan.

“The older soldiers have fought for warlords and local militia, and the younger ones grew up around guns and were taught how to use them at a young age,” Dan explained.

Although the trainees have prior combat experience, they lacked proper guidance and leadership. Along with U.S. Army-style training the special forces introduced a U.S. military leader – the non-commissioned officer.

“Before we took over the training, the only known leaders were officers. In a combat situation, the officer would be the first to die because he always placed him-



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

An officer in the 5th Battalion, Afghan National Army, salutes a panel of dignitaries during the fifth ANA graduation ceremony’s pass and review Tuesday.

self at the front,” said Michael. “To solve this problem we helped produce NCOs, squad and platoon leaders to handle the soldiers’ training and battle techniques. This way the officers could concentrate on the big picture.”

Even with the American-style training, traditions and uniforms the familiar factor of poverty was something the trainees faced on a daily basis.

“The trainees slept in barracks with no heat or running water and used outdoor latrines made from clay and rock,” said Michael.

“They were only issued one gortex jacket to keep warm and a pair of jungle boots — which are unauthorized on some posts in the states once the temperatures drop,” he added.

With living conditions such as these and daily rigorous training, it may be easy for a soldier to become discouraged and lack motivation. That’s not the case with these trainees.

“Their motivation and drive to succeed was higher than that of American soldiers I’ve seen — who live a lot better,” said Michael.

After 10 weeks of training, adopting new traditions and making friends with life-long enemies, the newest soldiers of

the ANA proudly marched onto the graduation field.

Now these Afghan locals are no longer just trainees but soldiers who have earned respect. In addition, they will earn a salary of \$70 U.S. dollars per month until they advance to officers.

At the end of the ceremony, Rafillah had a few words to say to the people of Afghanistan.

“I would like to ask the people of Afghanistan, who are in other countries, to come back home and start their businesses again here to help our economy. The war is over. It’s time to rebuild.”

The ANA is presently training their sixth battalion and hope to graduate over 600 within the next two months, according to ANA sources.

A “Train the Trainer” program is also being implemented to train Afghan officers and NCOs to completely take over with little U.S. interference. Their overall goal is to create an army over 700,000 strong.

These Afghan soldiers know their country is depending on them to fight against terrorism so Afghanistan can rebuild itself, explained Michael. To them this is the most important job they can have right now.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Duke's 15-1 run turns game

DURHAM, N.C. — After a relatively weak schedule to start the season, No. 1 Duke needed a game against a team like Georgetown — a physical, fast, pressing squad that didn't back down in Cameron Indoor Stadium.

The young Blue Devils took the Hoyas' best shot and came out on top Wednesday night as Dahntay Jones matched his career high with 22 points and Daniel Ewing added a career-best 19 in a 93-86 victory.

"This Georgetown team is real quick and they play their hearts out," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "I love Georgetown's team. That's why I'm so pleased with this win because we beat a really good team.

"We knew from the start this was going to be a different year than we've had for a long time here, but it could be a real fun year. So far, it's been excellent because of these kids."

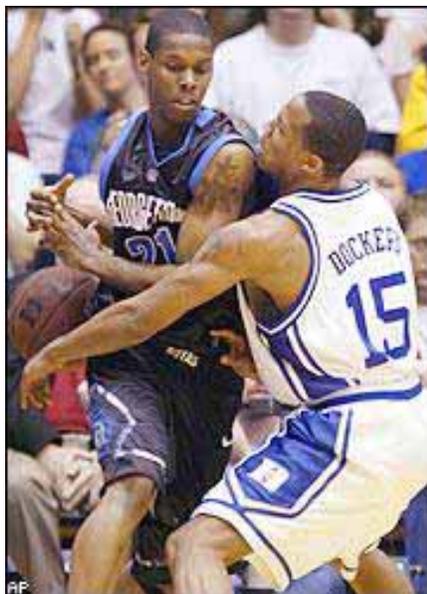
Duke (10-0) managed just five assists on 17 first-half baskets, but began sharing the ball during a 15-1 second-half run that turned the game in its favor.

SEC champs beat Razorbacks

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Reserve Antoine Pettway scored 14 points and Erwin Dudley had 11 points and 14 rebounds as No. 4 Alabama began defense of its Southeastern Conference title with a 61-51 win over Arkansas on Wednesday night.

The Crimson Tide (11-1), which had lost four of the last five meetings, survived a 38 percent shooting performance mostly because the Razorbacks (5-7) were even worse in the SEC opener for both teams.

It was a rematch of sorts for the Tide. First-year Arkansas coach Stan Heath led Kent State to an upset of Alabama in the second round of last season's NCAA tournament.



Duke's Sean Dockery smothers the Hoyas' Ashanti Cook.

Arkansas closed to 27-25 on Carl Baker's 3-pointer with 16:45 left in the second half. Then, the Tide got two 3-pointers apiece from Pettway and Mo Williams in a five-minute span to key an 18-6 run.

Arkansas, which shot just 35 percent and made 12-of-22 free throws, couldn't come closer than eight points after that and lost its third straight game.

Wildcats hold off Vols in Knoxville

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Jules Camara hit a jumper and Gerald Fitch made a pair of free throws in the final 53 seconds as Kentucky held off Tennessee 74-71 Wednesday night.

The Volunteers (7-3, 0-1 Southeastern Conference) trailed by five with 6:27 to go, but rallied to take a 71-70 lead with 1:21 left on C.J. Watson's breakaway layup. He was fouled on the play but missed the free throw.

The Wildcats (10-3, 1-0), who lost by a basket in overtime at Tennessee last year, weren't about to repeat history.

Camara stepped back and made his jumper as Kentucky regained the lead. The Wildcats' defense then kept Tennessee from getting another good look at the basket.

Vols coach Buzz Peterson called two timeouts in 20 seconds to set up a potential tying 3-pointer, but Thaydeus Holden missed and

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2002 National Hockey League standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic	
(2) Philadelphia	40 pts
(4) New Jersey	39 pts
(8) N.Y. Islanders	40 pts
Pittsburgh	41 pts
N.Y. Rangers	44 pts

Northeast

(1) Ottawa	40 pts
(5) Boston	40 pts
(6) Toronto	41 pts
(7) Montreal	41 pts
Buffalo	40 pts

Southeast

(3) Tampa Bay	41 pts
(7) Washington	41 pts
Carolina	42 pts
Florida	41 pts
Atlanta	40 pts

Western Conference

Central

(2) Detroit	42 pts
(5) St. Louis	41 pts
(6) Chicago	41 pts
Columbus	41 pts
Nashville	41 pts

Northwest

(3) Vancouver	40 pts
(4) Minnesota	43 pts
(7) Edmonton	41 pts
(8) Colorado	41 pts
Calgary	41 pts

Pacific

(1) Dallas	44 pts
Los Angeles	41 pts
Anaheim	40 pts
Phoenix	42 pts
San Jose	40 pts

SPORTS, from Page 5

a foul on Brandon Crump gave the ball back to Kentucky.

Ron Slay intentionally fouled Gerald Fitch, who made both foul shots with 16.5 seconds remaining to seal it.

Keith Bogans, who didn't start, finished with 20 points and nine rebounds for Kentucky. Fitch added 17 and was 8-of-8 from the foul line while Camara scored 12 points.

Slay reached his SEC-leading scoring average with 22 points, and Watson finished with 15. Jon Higgins, who fouled out with 7:38 to go, added 17 on 4-of-5 shooting from beyond the arc.

Kentucky had 13 turnovers and never really had control of the game but dominated on the boards 35-27.

Wolverines go from winless to unbeatable

Tommy Amaker could sense the growing burden on his players' faces.

It was only Dec. 7, but his Michigan team had dropped to 0-6 after a loss at Duke. While there is no shame in losing to the Blue Devils, the game did add to a Michigan mental state that wasn't where Amaker wanted it. Doubt was entering the minds of the Wolverines. And who could blame 'em, after losses to teams such as Kansas State, Central Michigan and Western Michigan.

Adding to Amaker's plight was the chaos surrounding the Michigan program from the Ed Martin case. A month earlier, Final Four banners were being removed from Crisler Arena, while Fab Five records were being destroyed in Michigan history books. The Wolverines weren't in a rebuilding mode, but they were certainly reflecting on a past that made the future not so bright.

Still, what made the 0-6 start so confounding was the significant amount of talent still playing in Ann Arbor. LaVell Blanchard and Bernard Robinson Jr. are talented forwards and Amaker's freshman recruiting class that is led by point guard Daniel Horton is good. Sure Michigan wasn't expected to finish much above the middle of the Big Ten, but the Wolverines were much better than that winless stretch to start the season.

It didn't seem to make any sense. Amaker needed to do something. What he did was a little mental foolery.

Forget about those six games, Amaker said, heading into a Dec. 11 game against a good Bowling Green team. The Wolverines weren't 0-6, they were, in the Amaker standings, 0-0. It was a clean start, a new season.

"There was so much of a burden on their shoulders," Amaker said. "Everywhere they went they were reminded of being 0-5 or 0-6 ... we were playing that way."

While coaches often use tactics that fans and outsiders look at with a chuckle, it's hard to argue with Michigan's recent results. Since this *second season* began, the Wolverines have won seven consecutive games, including a nice victory over Vanderbilt and a



With LaVell Blanchard (30) playing like one of the Big Ten's best players, Michigan has turned its season around.

win at UCLA. Sure, the Bruins probably have more issues than Michigan, but the Wolverines — who went 1-12 on the road last season — still went into Pauley Pavilion and won.

"So, you want to 'super size' your commission ..."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support