

Dragon Fury revisits Paktika Province



A military police soldier from the 293rd Company, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., escorts a detainee back to a holding area during Operation Dragon Fury.

Story and photos by
Spc. Karlene Hemerly-Fluck
109th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

SHOWIKOWT, Afghanistan — Operation Dragon Fury went into action June 2 in Showi Kowt.

The area, which lies 85 miles southeast of Kabul, in the Paktika Province, was last assaulted in March 2002 during Operation Anaconda and is suspected to be an area heavily occupied by the al-Qaida and a safe haven for anti-coalition militia.

“Traffic definitely fluctuates in this area, given the info received in the past month, this is the main channel, that we know, people are crossing the borders,” said 1st Lt. Mike Swift, intelligence officer, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Operation Dragon Fury brought together the U.S. and the Italian Task Force

See **DRAGON**, Page 4

Coalition move prompts various reviews

By Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — New buildings are constantly being built daily. This forces servicemembers to conform to the government’s accommodations. Motel 8, the coalition liaison building, moved to a new location from its previous site earlier this month.

Motel 8 will be the new Provincial Reconstruction Team headquarters, said German senior liaison officer, Combined Joint Task Force – 180, Lt. Col. Hans Bauer. The change formed mixed reviews by its inhabitants.

“We were not involved in the decision-making process,” said Bauer. “We just received the result.”

The coalition members had a two-week notice to move into their new building and are now about a mile from the center of the base – where the Joint Operations Center is located. About 10 different liaison officers from the building attend daily meetings at the JOC.

“During the decision-making process, they forgot we have na-

tional communications – German national systems,” said Bauer. The German said he uses his international phone line to communicate with his counterparts in garrison. The connection gets cut off in the new building.

“The building is a lot smaller than Motel 8, but the conditions are better – it’s cleaner,” said Bauer.

Bauer said he wishes there was more coalition support. There are about ten different liaison officers in the building, who attend daily meetings at the JOC down the road.

But, the reviews aren’t entirely negative.

“I had no problem with the move, because I know that if you think of what will happen in the future, this will be a better solution. The building will be closer to the JOC,” said Norwegian International Security Assistance Force liaison officer, Maj. Odd Haugdahl. The JOC is planned to move in the fall.

“I don’t have any problem understanding, because (Motel 8)

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



An elderly Palestinian bids farewell Thursday to one of the people killed by Israeli airstrikes taking place over the past two days.

Israel vows new strikes

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military will continue to target the radical Palestinian group Hamas “forcefully” but “regrets ... very much” that members of a Hamas militant’s family, including a young child, were killed along with him in Thursday’s missile strike in Gaza, an Israeli security source told CNN.

The airstrike, the fifth in three days, killed seven people, including Yasser Taha, his wife and his 3-year-old daughter, Palestinian sources said.

The Israeli military did not know the militant’s family was in the car when the helicopter gunships fired at it, the Israeli source said.

A statement from the Israel Defense Forces said Taha was “one of the senior commanders of the military wing of Hamas in Gaza (Izzedine al-Qassam)” and “was involved actively and intensively in murderous attacks, smuggling of weapons and directing vicious terrorists cells.”

Gag order issued in Peterson case

MODESTO, Calif. — The trial judge in the murder case against Scott Peterson imposed a sweeping gag order on participants Thursday, saying the restrictions were necessary to preserve Peterson’s right to a fair trial amid “massive” publicity.

Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge

Al Girolami said without such an order “all the statements by the witnesses, all of the rumors and gossip would be rehashed shortly before trial, thereby making it extremely difficult to select a fair and impartial jury.”

And because publicity in the case has been nationwide, other possible measures to counter its effect, such as changing the location of the trial or weeding out affected jurors during jury selection, would not be feasible, he said.

Explosive found on Italian plane

ROME — A search of an Alitalia passenger plane at the airport in the town of Ancona has turned up an object that apparently contained explosive material, police say.

In a news release Thursday, the Ancona police said they received an anonymous call shortly after 2:30 p.m. (9:30 a.m. EDT) alerting them to search the plane, which was due to depart for Rome at 3 p.m. from Ancona’s tiny airport 300 kilometers (200 miles) east of the capital, on the Adriatic coast.

“We found a suspicious object that later proved to have contained explosive material,” the release said.

The object, found beneath a seat, was taken from the Aerospatiale ATR-42 and detonated; tests of the residue indicated it had contained an explosive, police said.

No passengers had boarded the plane at the time the device was found, the release said.

House approves new tax-cut

WASHINGTON — The Republican-led House approved an \$82 billion package of tax cuts Thursday that will boost the child tax credit for millions of families, rich and poor.

The bill — prompted by a political outcry over who benefited from last month’s sweeping \$350 billion tax cut — was adopted on a 224-201 vote that generally followed party lines.

The move — once reconciled with a Senate version — means that low-income families who were left out of the measure Presi-

dent Bush signed in May will get rebate checks. Those \$400-per-child checks will go out six to 10 weeks after the law is enacted, sources said.

But tough negotiations are likely ahead because the Senate passed a much smaller measure last week — one focusing solely on the child tax credit for low-income families.

U.S. helicopter, jet down

CNN — Coalition forces battled loyalists of deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein early Thursday in a raid on what U.S. Central Command called a terrorist training camp northwest of Baghdad.

An assault on the camp began with a coordinated airstrike, according to Central Command, and a firefight followed involving ground forces, including members of the 101st Airborne Division.

An Apache attack helicopter was shot down, apparently by hostile fire, during the mission, and an F-16 fighter plane crashed after suffering a mechanical failure, Central Command said.

The helicopter’s two-man crew and the F-16’s pilot were recovered safely, military officials said. A coalition soldier received minor wounds in the operation, officials said.

Central Command said the raid on the camp, 93 miles (150 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad, was part of its campaign to eradicate Baath Party loyalists, paramilitary groups and other “subversive elements.”

New threat found for shuttle

WASHINGTON — Investigators said Thursday they discovered a dangerous new threat to America’s remaining three space shuttles, a fault affecting the heavy bolts that connect the powerful solid-rocket boosters to the external fuel tanks.

The Columbia Accident Investigation Board, studying the fiery breakup of the February 1 shuttle flight over the southwestern United States, said it worried that parts of these 2-foot-long bolts could break free shortly after liftoff and smash against delicate areas on spacecraft during future missions.

COALITION, from Page 1

will be used for the PRT headquarters,” said Haugdahl.

“I’m positive and appreciate all the things that are done for coalition. There are U.S. (soldiers) who are part of night shift, sleeping in the (hot) tents during the day. We should be happy for what we have.”

“There will always be some challenges when you’re moving. If your looking into the future, we will be living here – this is good,” said Haugdahl.

Construction on the new JOC across the street from the new coalition building should start by the beginning of autumn, said Haugdahl.

As far as the inconveniences the building’s members are currently having, Haugdahl said, “It’s just a question of coordination.”

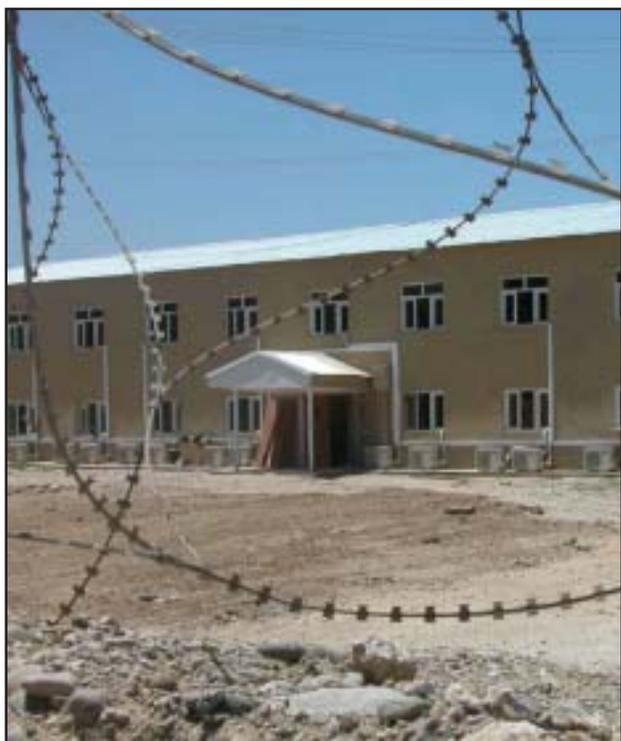


Photo by Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

The new coalition building is much cleaner, but is more cramped compared to Motel 8, said German liaison officer, Lt. Col. Hans Bauer, Combined Joint Task Force.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1400Z at the MWR Building: King and Queen of Spades III.

Tomorrow night is Latin Night at 1630Z.



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Haze</i> H: 88F L: 57F	<i>Haze</i> H: 90F L: 64F
Kandahar:	<i>Dust</i> H: 99F L: 68F	<i>Dust</i> H: 100F L: 68F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 88F L: 64F	<i>Haze</i> H: 90F L: 64F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Sunny</i> H: 91F L: 50F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 97F L: 48F

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.

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Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



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

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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.

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Gift Shop opens at Bagram Post Exchange

Story and photo by
Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The Post Exchange recently opened another addition.

The Gift Shop opened Wednesday after a month and a half of planning.

All items sold are brought in by Afghans, but some are made in Pakistan, Turkey and other nearby countries.

“When the soldiers leave here, they want to buy something for their friends and family,” said Munsu Heo, regional manager of the Coffee Shops and Gift Shops here, Kandahar, Kabul and Manas.

The main items of attraction are the marble, handmade wooden and cultural Afghanistan handmade items. More items are expected including t-shirts, sunglasses and jewelry.



Munsu Heo, regional manager of the Coffee Shop and Gift Shops shows a jewelry box's secret compartments to soldiers.

“We have different things and a wider selection (than the PX),” said Heo.

The Gift Shop is currently housed in a red CONEX container next to the PX, but this is only temporary. It will be moved when the mall is added to the PX.

Heo hopes the servicemembers appreciate the shop and is glad to see them happy.

“I am happy when a soldier buys something and smiles and is happy with their purchase. It makes me feel good.”

DRAGON, from Page 1

Nibbio forces. The operation consisted of a brigade-size element of U.S. troops and more than 20 aircraft including UH-60 Black Hawk, CH-47 Chinooks and AH-64 Apache helicopters, performing ground and air assaults.

“Through different intelligence sources, information was received by coalition forces that there was a possible cell of anti-coalition militia and al-Qaida working plans to attack coalition forces serving against the War on Terror in different areas of Afghanistan,” said, Maj. Jack Marr, battalion executive officer, 2-505th 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

The operation was conducted to deny anti-coalition militia sanctuary and prevent further attacks against non governmental organizations, coalition forces and equipment in the Showi Kowt region in Paktika Province. “Objectives included establishing blocking positions to prevent ACM’s from escaping the Showi Kowt area and defeating and capturing ACM’s involved in terrorist operations,” said Lt Col. Douglas Lefforge, spokesperson for CJTF-180, in a press statement June 4.

“The troops went into this mission prepared,” said 1st Lt. Emily Eagan, 293rd Military Police Company, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga. “Things went really well for us, we got to do what we were trained to do and that was to detain and secure (Per-



Sgt. 1st Class Evan Crocker, battalion fire support noncommissioned officer, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. (left) and Capt. Ian Baldwin, battalion aviation liaison officer, Task Force-Angel, 82nd Abn. Div., set up communication with surrounding landing zone commands and air support during Operation Dragon Fury.

sons Under Control) in our established holding area and provide fields integration until the extraction.”

Italy’s Task Force Nibbio, which is based out of Forward Operating Base Salerno, Khowst, brought approximately 150 soldiers and 60 vehicles. Their mission was to establish blocking positions to prevent escape from the valley region. During the operation, Nibbio forces searched 300 vehicles, inspected 800 people and interviewed and released 13 persons.

According to Lefforge, Task Force

Nibbio, proved to be an integral part of the operation.

By mission’s end 21 people were taken into control by U.S. and Italian forces and are now being detained at an undisclosed holding area.

“The bottom line is, it could have been a very hostile area and we went in to execute a complex mission. It was executed very well and the mission was accomplished” says, 2nd Lt Jay W. Ross, chemical officer 2-505th, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Andretti had driven No. 43 since 1998

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — John Andretti was fired Tuesday by Petty Enterprises, where he has driven the famed No. 43 car since 1998.

Christian Fittipaldi will replace him beginning with this weekend's race at Michigan Speedway.

Kyle Petty said the decision was made this week and the team informed sponsor General Mills.

Andretti is in his second stint with the Pettys. He drove 11 races for them in 1994, then returned to the team in 1998 to take over the car Richard Petty made famous en route to seven Winston Cup championships.

Andretti's contract expired at the end of last season, but the Pettys made every effort to keep him — even agreeing to let him run in the Indianapolis 500 this season.

After long negotiations, Andretti re-signed in December. He did not get to race at Indy this year because no deal could be worked out in time.

In four-plus seasons with the Pettys, Andretti won one race and two poles. His highest finish in the point standings was 11th in 1999. He was 31st last year, and this year is 33rd with just one top-10 finish in 14 starts this year.

"We had some successes, won some poles and won a race," Richard Petty said. "But we feel like where we are right now it's time for a change for Petty Enterprises and for John."

Andretti is the nephew of Mario Andretti and cousin of Michael Andretti, who retired last month after the Indy 500.

Hooters out after Michigan race

MOORESVILLE, N.C. — Owner-driver Brett Bodine will be racing Sunday in Hooters livery for the last time after the sponsor said Wednesday it no longer wanted to back the unsuccessful team.

"We are clearly disappointed in the performance of the team both this season and last," said Mike McNeil, vice president of marketing for the restaurant chain.

After being the primary sponsor for most of the 2002 season and the first half of this season, Hooters' final appearance on Bodine's Ford will be in the Sirius Satellite Radio 400 at Michigan Speedway.

In an attempt to be more competitive, Bodine scaled back this year from 36 to 26 Winston Cup events. But it hasn't helped, and he has appeared in just six of 14 events.

"It does not make business sense to continue to pour money into a marketing venture that is not getting exposure on race days," McNeil said.

Bodine has not finished in the top 20 this season. He has just one career victory, in 1990, in a car owned by drag racing champion Kenny Bernstein.



Bodine.

Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ MLB: Atlanta Braves @ Seattle Mariners (live) 0200Z
- ❖ SportsCenter @ the U.S. Open: Second Round Highlight Show (live) 0400Z
- ❖ Totally NASCAR (live) 0500Z
- ❖ 54321 (tape delayed) 0530Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0600Z
- ❖ Boxing: Friday Night Fights – Cruiserweights (tape delayed) 0700Z
- ❖ SportsCenter @ the U.S. Open: Second Round Highlight Show (tape delayed) 1000Z
- ❖ NBA: 2003 NBA Finals Gm 5: San Antonio Spurs @ New Jersey Nets (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1300Z
- ❖ NBA Finals Late Night (tape delayed) 1400Z
- ❖ Walmart's Great Outdoors (tape delayed) 1430Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ SportsCenter @ the U.S. Open: Preview 4 (live) 1630Z
- ❖ USGA: 103rd U.S. Open Championship: Third Round (live) 1730Z

Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 0000Z
- ❖ MLS: Chicago Fire @ NY/NJ Metrostars (tape delayed) 0100Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0300Z
- ❖ WNBA: Los Angeles Sparks @ NY Liberty (tape delayed) 0400Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0600Z
- ❖ NASCAR Busch Series: Meijer 300 (tape delayed) 0700Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1000Z
- ❖ SportsCenter @ the U.S. Open: Third Round Highlight Show (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ USA Soccer: Women's U.S. National Team: South Korea @ USA (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (tape delayed) 1400Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ SportsCenter @ the U.S. Open: Preview 5 (live) 1630Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 1730Z
- ❖ Motorcycle Racing: AMA Motocross (live) 1800Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 1900Z
- ❖ CART: Grand Prix of Monterey (live) 1930Z

Monyota takes stock in Gordon's formula

INDIANAPOLIS — Jeff Gordon's first spin in a Formula One car included an unexpected detour through the grass Wednesday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The lawn mowing had Gordon wishing for his regular NASCAR ride.

"I was like, 'Uh, oh.' This thing is much different than I thought," he said with a laugh.

Gordon quickly adjusted and completed five more laps with no further difficulty.

"This really fulfills so many fantasies and dreams for me to get behind the wheel of it (a Formula One car)," he said.

Gordon traded places with Juan Pablo Montoya, taking turns driving speed demonstration laps around the 2.6-mile road course. Montoya drove Gordon's Chevrolet Monte Carlo. Gordon was in the Williams BMW of former CART champion Montoya.

It was the first time either drove a car from the other's series.

SPORTS, from Page 5



Gordon, in car, gets some pointers from Montoya, who won the Monaco Grand Prix on June 1.

“We want some action,” Montoya said. “When I went out there, I was going for it. They told me be careful when you drive the car. I was like, ‘Yeah, yeah.’”

Both Gordon and Montoya are winners at the speedway. Gordon won the Brickyard 400 in 1994, 1998 and 2001, and Montoya won the Indianapolis 500 in his first and only race in 2000.

Details of investigation not released

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — NASCAR returned part of Tony Stewart’s Chevrolet that was impounded March 28 after failing inspection.

John Darby, NASCAR’s Winston Cup director, said Joe Gibbs Racing was allowed to retrieve the chassis and engine. The car was seized after its body measurements did not pass inspection before practice for a race at Texas Motor Speedway.

NASCAR will keep the parts that did not meet specifications. The problems were in “the area around the back of the car, back window to back deck,” NASCAR president Mike Helton said.

Stewart had never driven the car. The Gibbs team has insisted there was no intent of wrongdoing, and there were no other penalties by NASCAR.

Darby said the teams were informed about the inspection process last September.

“This was done in support of all those teams who are doing it correctly,” he said.

Greg Zipadelli, Stewart’s crew chief, said the car is one the team used to run last year at Atlanta and Charlotte.

“So it’s good to have it back,” he said. “We’ll obviously put a whole new body on it, and that’s certainly better than having to replace an entire chassis.”

Suit: Davis allegedly built Toyota a truck

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Dodge Motorsports is suing car owner Bill Davis for allegedly helping rival Toyota prepare for its NASCAR

debut, a partnership that could have yielded many trade secrets for the Japanese automaker.

Dodge ended its association two weeks ago with Davis, who fields Winston Cup cars for 2002 Daytona 500 winner Ward Burton and Kenny Wallace, and sued him for allegedly building Toyota a truck.

Davis, who was one of Dodge’s first car owners when it returned to Winston Cup racing in 2001, received substantial factory support from Dodge and had access to sensitive information, technology advances and competitive plans.

If he also had a side deal going with Toyota — as Dodge alleges — Davis had the ability to open up Dodge’s playbook for Toyota to study.

Petty, Fittipaldi land some support

ESPN — Christian Fittipaldi’s move from CART to NASCAR’s Winston Cup series, slowed by a lack of sponsorship money, is starting to gain some steam.

Petty Enterprises has signed a deal with the snack food Bugles for three races this year and one in 2004.

The No. 44 Petty Dodge will also have sponsorship from baseball’s New York Yankees.

It was announced late last year that the Petty team would field cars for Fittipaldi in 2003 for the Busch Series and a handful of Winston Cup events. A failure to attract a sponsor has slowed down the plan.

“We (still) hope to attract a full-time sponsor for Christian ... for 2004 and beyond,” said Kyle Petty, driving star and CEO for the Petty team. “We’re we are trying to do is bring partners in who will look at the benefits of cross-promotion and marketing with our current sponsorship partners.”

“He must be artillery.”

kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

Laugh Support

Step On It crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

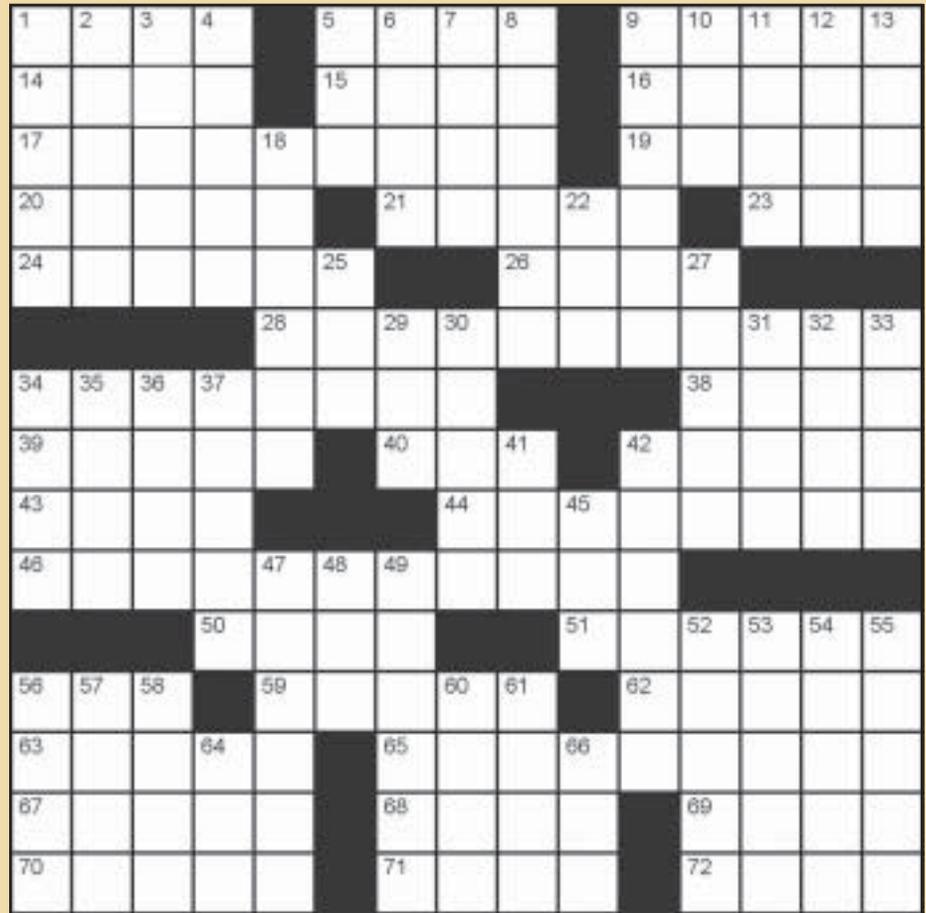
Across

1. Mrs. Truman
5. Take a break
9. DARTH of "Star Wars"
14. Zillions
15. Emollient-yielding plant
16. Slip away from
17. In quick succession
19. Like the Battle of Midway
20. Catchall column
21. Broke a Commandment
23. Type widths
24. Loch sighting, in tabloids
26. Doctors sometimes split them
28. VCR button
34. Item on Maine's flag
38. "___ Ben Adhem"
39. Prepares for publication
40. "What happened next?"
42. Prima donna's repertoire
43. ___ IRA
44. Bacitracin, for one
46. British press, figuratively
50. Big wheel's wheels
51. Becomes narrower
56. Parts of psyches
59. Perm features
62. Diamond unit
63. Hand-dyed fabric
65. Calcium oxide
67. Being employed
68. Bring to naught
69. Mac picture
70. Title for Wences
71. Scene of a temptation
72. GOP elephant creator

4. Messy places
5. Luftwaffe battlers: Abbr.
6. New Haven collegians
7. Put in groups
8. Start a hole
9. Thin layer
10. Actress Gardner
11. Winfield in Cooperstown
12. Cheese in balls
13. Fam. tree members
18. Blizzard pileups
22. Writer Rosten
25. Something to lend or bend
27. Travel like locusts
29. Coral or Aral
30. Caruso was one
31. Irish Rose's beau
32. Horse coloring
33. Check for fingerprints
34. Broadway showing: Abbr.
35. Revered object
36. Evening, in ads
37. Merman or Mertz
41. Yahtzee cube
42. Tear into
45. After-tax take
47. Heart, slangily
48. Dallas sch.
49. It's measured in foot-pounds
52. Michael of "Monty Python"
53. Author Jong
54. ___ gin fizz
55. Surgeon's blockage reliever
56. Hieroglyphics bird
57. Hamlet, for one
58. Phaser setting
60. John of "High Society"
61. French fries or cole slaw
64. Prefix with bar or tonic
66. One in the clink

Down

1. Von Richthofen's title
2. Put on cloud nine
3. Tenth-graders



Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch