

## PSYOP prepares way for war, peace

By Sgt. Valerie Dey-Bolejck  
*109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

**BAMIAN**, Afghanistan — Before a war starts, psychological operation teams start to work. Their mission is to inform, assess, and try to change attitudes and behaviors.

They communicate to the target population that American forces are coming. They use various means to accomplish this, ranging from aircraft leaflet drops to the use of e-mail.

Once American forces are on the ground, PSYOP informs the population of what U.S. forces are doing and why. They also disseminate information to influence the perception about the local government and its actions. Staff Sgt. Jim Brooks, 310<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Company, Atlanta, is the team leader for the

Bamian Provincial Reconstruction Team.

“The key is to always tell the truth, and never promise something we cannot deliver. Once we have credibility, then we have an effective message, and a message that will win over propaganda and stories told by the other factions,” he said.

Afghanistan has been wracked by conflict for centuries. Brooks says that in order to rebuild, the Afghan people must work together for a common good. With the mission of nation rebuilding, PSYOP helps by identifying dissention and creating support for the central government. If the government is on its feet and stabilized, it won’t be a training ground for terrorists.

The team asks people how they feel about their country and if they feel their government is helping them. Brooks said inform-

ing people about their government is an important part.

“Our job is to get the information to the people so they know what is going on,” said Brooks. Then these assessments go to the central government giving them information on how people feel about their leadership as well as where the government needs to help.

In Bamian, the PSYOP team continues to work throughout the province. Due to hundreds of years of friction between the Hazari and Tajik, the two ethnic groups do not trust each other. The Tajik are still isolated from the central government, many of them have never seen an American, and access to their villages with even basic supplies can be next to impossible.

————— See **PSYOP**, Page 5

## Air National Guard unit ensures safe flying

Story and photos by  
Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke  
*11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment*

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – Communication is vital. It is the key to the flow of any operation. Without it, assumption and perception take over causing malfunctions and putting lives at stake.

This is something the Air Traffic Control and Radar Approach Control Team here knows well.

Listening for requests to land on the runway, watching the radar screen to see who is in and outbound and writing up flight progress slips are all part of the tasks the Air Force National



*Air Force Master Sgt. Tim Sowder, tower chief controller, 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group, Air Expeditionary Wing, stands atop the flight tower watching as a C-17 takes off Wednesday.*

————— See **ATC**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



President Bush, left, receives a briefing at the Joint Operations Center at the Central Command headquarters in Florida.

## Bush rallies troops at Central Command in Florida

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Warning of difficult days ahead but vowing victory, President Bush rallied troops at Central Command headquarters in Florida Wednesday and thanked other nations for their support in the war in Iraq.

“There will be a day of reckoning for the Iraqi regime and that day is drawing near,” Bush said to thunderous applause.

The president crossed out a line in his prepared remarks that declared the U.S. and coalition war effort in Iraq “ahead of schedule.” A senior aide said Bush was just being conservative in his public assessments and in no way doubted the battlefield plan or the progress in implementing it.

But the edit was an ironic twist on a day when the president’s major goal was to rebut critics who have questioned the U.S. war plan. In his speech, Bush sounded an optimistic note about the war’s progress.

“We will stay on the path, mile by mile, all the way to Baghdad and all the way to victory,” Bush said.

## Marines discover Iraqi 9/11 mural

NASIRIYA, Iraq — U.S. Marines searching Iraqi military headquarters in this southern city that was the site of intensive fighting came across a mural depicting a plane

crashing into a building complex resembling New York’s twin towers, a news agency photographer showed Wednesday.

The plane’s logo and coloring resembled that of Iraqi Airlines, said Getty Images News Service executive Brian Felber, based in New York.

The photograph, showing two rifle-toting Marines in front of the mural, was shot by staff photographer Joe Raedle, who is accompanying the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force from Task Force Tarawa.

Getty is a news photo agency that distributes about 500 photographs from around the world each day and has 10 staff members embedded with U.S. forces in the Iraq conflict.

Felber said this photo was “causing a bit of a stir.”

## India, Pakistan test-fire missiles

NEW DELHI, India — India and Pakistan conducted tit-for-tat test firings of short-range nuclear-capable ballistic missiles Wednesday — the latest in a series of test launches this year adding to fears of a heightened arms race between the two South Asian rivals.

India said it performed a routine test of a surface-to-surface Prithvi missile from the Chandipur testing range in eastern Orissa state.

A defense ministry said the test, designed to improve the Prithvi variant used by the Indian army, was “successful in every respect.”

The Indian announcement was immediately followed by a similar statement from Islamabad on Pakistan’s launch.

Pakistan said it tested an Abdali missile — which like the Prithvi can carry a nuclear payload but with a longer range of 132 miles (209 km).

However, the Pakistani announcement did not reveal where the test took place nor whether it was before or after the Indian test. It too was described as a “routine” test.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan said India was informed of the test, but added Pakistan was surprised at the Indian firing.

## Red Cross discusses access to POWs

KUWAIT CITY — The International Committee of the Red Cross said Wednesday its teams in Iraq and Kuwait were negotiating over access to Iraqi and U.S. prisoners of war.

“We have approached both sides. Already we are in dialogue and at this point the dialogue is constructive,” said ICRC spokeswoman Tamara Alrifai.

While there won’t be access “at this point,” she said, “I can say that we don’t really have reason that we won’t have access to those people.”

In Baghdad, Roland Huguenin-Benjamin, an ICRC spokesman, said the organization “most probably” will get to see the U.S. prisoners of war in Iraq.

“As soon as it will be physically feasible, the visits are supposed to take place,” the spokesman said.

The parties gave assurances to the ICRC before the conflict that they would follow the principles of the Geneva Conventions if war erupted, including Red Cross visits. Both sides have accused the other of violations of the conventions.

## Former Sen. Moynihan dies

WASHINGTON — Former Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a Democrat from New York who enjoyed a reputation as an intellectual giant among his peers, died Wednesday after battling an infection stemming from a ruptured appendix. He was 76.

His death was announced on the Senate floor by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who was elected to his seat after he retired.

“We have lost a great American, an extraordinary senator, an intellectual and a man of passion and understanding about what really makes this country great,” Clinton said.

Moynihan’s appendix ruptured March 10 and he was taken to Washington Hospital Center for an emergency appendectomy. On March 14, he was moved to the intensive care unit, where he was treated for an infection, pneumonia and low blood pressure, a family spokesman said.

He served in the Senate for four terms, from 1977 to 2001.

# Ministry house offers more than prayer

By Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – *It is not by strength that one prevails, those who oppose the Lord will be shattered.*

- 1 Samuel 2:9-10

This is the motto of the recently relocated Source of Strength Ministry House.

“The passage relays a message as to why we think the Lord can give soldiers strength here,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Tony Petros, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C. “It really helps the (soldiers) redeem their spirits.”

The Ministry House, now located in the former Camp Cajun, offers a variety of services including worship, bible study and something a little extra for the soldiers.

“We’ve gotten a lot of care packages from people back home,” said Petros. “Most of the packages come from Adopt-a-Soldier, but we’ve gotten others, too.”

Because of all the care packages, Petros has shelves of shampoo, soap, deodorant, razors, candy, chapstick, beef jerky, tissue, greeting cards and other goodies.

“It is incredible how many thoughtful Americans there are,” said Petros. “I know during Vietnam the soldiers didn’t have this support. I can’t imagine going through this without that support.”

The Ministry House offers Bible Study Sundays at 1130Z and Tuesdays at 1500Z.

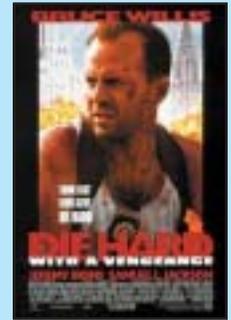
To keep the services upbeat and friendly, Petros and his assistant, Sgt. Jonathan Haney, 2-505 play their guitars and have the soldiers join in songs of worship.

“Even if the (soldiers) aren’t used to something like (the guitars), they still seem to enjoy it. It adds so much to the service,” said Petros. “Music is so powerful.”

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## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Die Hard: With a Vengeance.” John McClane and a store owner must play a bomber’s deadly game as they race around New York while trying to stop him.



There will be no movie tomorrow as the Dragon Palace hosts a ping pong tournament.

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Friday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Scattered t-storms H: 66F L: 46F	Scattered showers H: 64F L: 46F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Thunderstorms H: 88F L: 59F	Scattered t-storms H: 84F L: 57F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Scattered t-storms H: 66F L: 45F	Scattered showers H: 64F L: 45F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Scattered t-storms H: 75F L: 42F	Mostly cloudy H: 64F L: 40F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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*Tech Sgt. Mark Thomas, radar control, 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group, Air Expeditionary Wing, annotates another aircraft's movement. The tower and radar control work hand in hand to ensure safety of landings and take offs of aircraft. The 10 National Guard units in the Air Force control 60 percent of all radar control in deployed areas.*

**ATC**, from Page 1 —————  
Guard team carries out each day.

The tower directs more than 100 aircraft in a 24-hour period, said Master Sgt. Tim Sowder, tower chief controller, 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group, Air Expeditionary Wing.

The unit is in charge of approving everything entering and exiting the airspace around the base and on the flight line. Through teamwork, the unit ensures all traffic at Bagram flows smoothly.

"It's all about communications," said Senior Airman Alicen

Hogan, air traffic controller. "You can't just say 'oh, well.' There are always options. The job is just finding which one."

Hogan, who is an Internet specialist in the civilian sector, said she joined the AFNG at 28 because there are pilots in her family.

Both her civilian and military working environments are similar because of the spontaneous nature of the job. At anytime, something can go awry.

Because anything can go awry, the tower has back up. Completely run by generators, the team makes sure vital equip-

ment is always in working condition. The tower works with the Radar Approach Control Team to give aircraft surety of a safe landing or take-off.

"It's a team effort. We coordinate with the radar to find out exact positions," said Sowder.

The radar control consists of three radars on the flight line. One of them detects activity 60 miles out in a 360-degree radius; one identifies friendly or foe 200 miles outbound and one detects the precision of precision approach.

The 10 National Guard units in the Air Force control 60 per-

cent of all radar control in deployed areas.

While always in contact with the tower, the radar control also communicates with pilots.

When the weather is bad, a pilot performs every instruction the radar control tells them to ensure a safe landing.

With all of Bagram's mountains and the difficulty of seeing where they are going, pilots put total trust in the radar to direct them exactly where to fly, said Senior Master Sgt. John Null, radar approach chief controller, 455<sup>th</sup> EOG

With three 24-year old runway strips of poor quality, Sowder said, "No one lands at Bagram without approval." With aircraft digging up the runway when landing, the base has gone through three sweeper vehicles in a matter of three months.

"The work triples at night." There are always blackout operations and with no illumination, the tower uses night vision goggles to track everything. The NVGs are also used to locate aircraft that did not request approval from the tower.

When pilots don't communicate with the tower mishaps occur.

A C-17 recently landed here during the night and nearly missed crashing into a sweeper vehicle, said Sowder.

Communication remains the force that keeps the airfield running as a smooth operation.

## **Ping-pong Tournament**

Join the crew at the Dragon Palace Friday night at 1430Z for a ping-pong tournament. The tournament is open to doubles only, best two out of three series. Sign up by today at the Morale Welfare and Recreation Desk.



**PSYOP**, from Page 1

The PSYOP message of cooperation is very simple; by working together, both the Hazari and Tajik people can help their country prosper. However, because the Taliban was harsh on the Hazari and tended to leave the Tajik alone, the two groups continue to be suspicious of each other.

“The Tajik are very challenging. Some get along and some hate each other. We are trying to tell all these groups that they are one country, but when you have people who have been fighting for thousands of years it’s going to take time,” Brooks said.

While civil affairs teams assess local needs, PSYOP teams are working to get information to the different ethnic groups about what their government is trying to do for them as well as the projects the Americans have accomplished, such as schools, bridges or clean drinking water.

The teams go to these areas, through trails and by fording rivers, to inform, assess, and try to change attitudes and behaviors. The assessment process is to determine their attitude towards the Taliban, al-Qaida and the coalition forces.

The Tajik in the area are often negative towards the U.S. and are pro Taliban, while most of the Hazari are happy the U.S. is here. They feel they have more freedoms and rights.

“Our job is to stay on top of it, any kind of sentiment leaning in that direction,” said Brooks.

Many of the outlying regions are hard to get to and the people there have never seen U.S. forces and have only heard rumors.

They go to counteract those rumors and tell people, “These are the good things we are doing for your country. This is what



Photo by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jason Wynnicky, 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

*Staff Sgt. Jim Brooks, team leader, 310<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operation Co., Atlanta, Provincial Reconstruction Team Bamian, meets with Afghans in a restaurant in downtown Bamian. His team was there to distribute PSYOP-produced literature, speak with the Afghans and gauge the reaction of the local population to the events in Iraq.*

the Afghan government is doing and how we are helping,” he added.

This also gives vital information back to the Afghan central government about their attitudes, feelings and needs.

The important issue is to show residents exactly what their government is doing to improve their lives and how the U.S. is helping. Brooks said, “We don’t want them to think it’s just the Americans, we want them to know it’s the Afghans and Americans working together.”

**MINISTRY**, from Page 3

According to Petros, Bible Study is usually an hour, but can go shorter or longer depending on the soldiers and what they discuss.

It is important to him that soldiers attend services to help him fulfill his purpose to the Lord.

“The Lord has a purpose for me being here. I like to preach. After a service, you may hear chaplains describe it as having a ‘spiritual high,’” said Petros.

To Petros, soldiers attending Bible Study and worship services is very important to the individual soldier.

“It is important for (soldiers) because it strengthens them. Even here in Afghanistan, although there is not a lot to get us in trouble, soldiers should still come. It keeps you in your walk with the Lord.”



Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

*Sgt. Jonathan Haney, chaplain's assistant and Chaplain (Capt.) Tony Petro both from 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., begin the Source of Strength Ministry House Bible Study by playing and singing some religious songs.*



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Sign on statue calls Gretzky 'U\$ Lackey'

EDMONTON, Alberta — A statue of Wayne Gretzky was adorned with a sign that read "U\$ Lackey" on Tuesday in protest of the hockey star's recent comments supporting President Bush in the war against Iraq.

Employees of Skyreach Centre quickly removed the cardboard sign from the statue at the entrance to the home arena of Gretzky's former team, the Edmonton Oilers.

Earlier this week, Gretzky praised Bush as a great leader, saying he backed him 100 percent. However, Gretzky also shied away from criticizing Canada's decision to stay out of the conflict.

"The reality is, you know, the people we should be concerned about are the people fighting in Iraq, the people who are there on the missions," Gretzky said Tuesday.

"We shouldn't be worried about what entertainers or athletes or Wayne Gretzky or Don Cherry says. It's immaterial."

Cherry and his Hockey Night in Canada cohost Ron MacLean came under criticism for debating the Iraq war on their televised Coach's Corner segment over the weekend.

## NHL pioneer O'Ree collects award

BOSTON — When Willie O'Ree made his debut with the Boston Bruins, becoming the NHL's first black player, fans told him to go back to picking cotton. Never mind there was no cotton to be picked in his chilly Canadian hometown.

"I guess they were trying to get me off my game," O'Ree said Tuesday. "I just turned my ears off to that."

Forty-five years after he broke the league's color barrier, O'Ree was given the Lester Patrick Award for a lifetime of service to hockey in the United States. Also honored Tuesday were long-time Bruins defenseman Ray Bourque and USA Hockey vice president Ron DeGregorio.

On Jan. 18, 1958, O'Ree played his first game for the Bruins, a 3-0 Boston victory over archrival Montreal. At the time, he didn't really think about his role in integrating the sport, nor did the next day's papers mention anything about his place in history.

"It really didn't matter to me. I was too excited about beating the Canadiens in the Forum," he said. "I was just a kid trying to make a team."

By the time he was called back up to the Bruins in 1961, though, he was known as "the Jackie Robinson of hockey." In all, O'Ree played just 45 games in the NHL, scoring four goals.

In many ways, he was the typical kid growing up in Fredericton, New Brunswick. He first skated at 5 years old and, when he was 13, he decided he wanted to play professional hockey.

"I had a burning desire within me to play hockey," he

said. "I was obsessed with the game."

## Overtime proposal falls seven votes short

PHOENIX — NFL owners changed nothing.

The league closed its annual spring meeting Wednesday by voting down a proposal to give both teams a shot at the ball in overtime. And it tabled a proposal to expand the playoffs from 12 teams to 14.

The plan to change the overtime rule got 17 votes, seven short of the 24 required for passage.

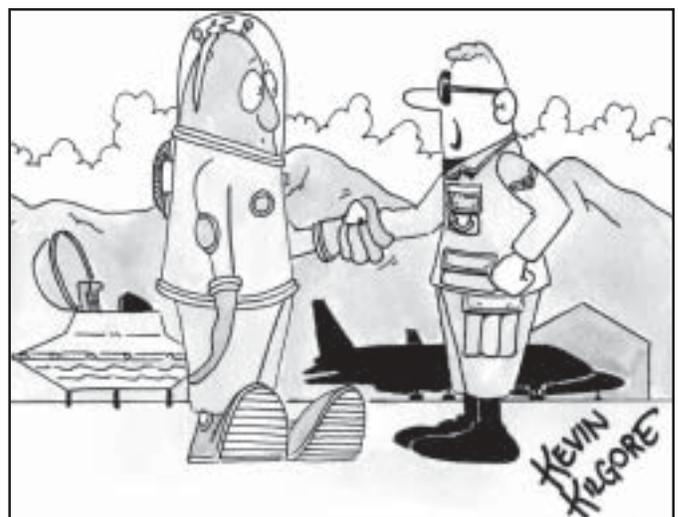
"They made the decision because the current system presents a tremendous reward or risk. That's something that adds a lot of excitement to the game," said Indianapolis general manager Bill Polian, who helped convince the other teams by citing the Colts' 23-20 win overtime win over the Broncos in the Denver snow.

The expansion of the playoffs got more support than either commissioner Paul Tagliabue or competition committee chairman Rich McKay expected.

But it was tabled until the league's May meeting in Philadelphia because, Tagliabue said, the league had to study the ramifications for both competition and television coverage involved in adding two wild-card teams.

Some teams also are concerned that only one team would have a bye under the proposed system. And both Tagliabue and McKay noted it was a change in an agreement to wait two years with the new eight-division alignment before tinkering with the playoffs.

**"You must be from the 310<sup>th</sup> Space Group."**



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By Kevin Kilgore

*Laugh Support*