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First Iraqi trial held

Soldiers rebuild Iraq's future

Keeping Baghdad's streets safe

Fallujah PD gets new uniform

THE LIBERATOR

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On the cover: Fallujah police chief Brig. Gen. Riyadh Abbas Abdullatif Karbool presents brassards to the city's police officers during a ceremony held June 23. Photo by 1st Lt. Brad Fisher

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COMMENTARY

Rebuilding Iraq requires aid from citizens

MSG EMMA KROUSER
3ID (M) PAO NCOIC

Soldiers serving in Iraq are living up to their pledge of defending the country against all enemies foreign and domestic and being prepared to give their lives in that defense.

It seems that every day service members are attacked, ambushed or sniped while on patrol or in convoys.

All coalition forces want to do is help the Iraqi people get on their feet.

Iraq is not a volcano lying dormant and just waiting to erupt. It is a country torn apart by a crooked regime and plagued by extreme loyalists of an ousted dictator, who have lost their livelihood and don't know how or if they will fit into a free Iraqi society. These people are all over the nation wreaking havoc on coalition forces and creating discontent among the Iraqi populace.

Most of the Iraqis are glad the old regime is gone. They want to rebuild their country and move forward, but with all the unrest and mistrust being spouted by loyalists to the former president, it's hard to know which way to go.

I see the children as we drive in HMMWVs through the streets of Baghdad. They are smiling and waving, and giving the thumbs up sign. They are genuinely happy to see and interact with Americans. The soldiers are glad to talk with

them, too. But it is adults who run the country, make decisions, and cause the problems that we just can't seem to overcome.

The troublemakers are throwing grenades into military compounds, planting explosive devices on roadways, conducting drive by shootings, and sabotaging oil pipelines and power substations. After they have done their dirt in the wee hours of the

negotiation and a lot of compromising, they managed to reach a mutual agreement for the betterment of the people and the country.

That's what it's going to take in Iraq; the people are going to have to realize that the future of Iraq is in their hands. If they want the country to be safe, they are going to have to assist coalition forces. When they see a crime being committed or get prior

knowledge of something that may happen, they need to contact the soldiers in their area. More community involvement and a commitment to rebuilding a safe and secure environment from the people who live here will make the difference.

If they know of a plot to harm or endanger coalition forces, tell them ahead



Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke

A group of Iraqi children pose for a photo in Baghdad April 15. Many of the children are genuinely happy to see and interact with Americans.

morning, coalition troops are out the next day working to undo the damage. This doesn't seem to faze the soldiers, what does is the gratitude they receive from the residents they encounter on a daily basis in their sectors.

This is a measure of the success soldiers are making in their efforts to rebuild Iraq.

These soldiers and other coalition troops' societies have been where the Iraqi people are now. Our countries went through the rebuilding process after many wars. It wasn't easy; not everyone was in agreement on how to start over and which direction to go. But eventually after much ne-

of time so they can avert danger, capture the culprits and put them away. You'll be one step closer to that safe and secure environment. Help coalition forces help you.

Soldiers are training and gearing up new police forces throughout Iraq to ensure they have the tools they need to keep the streets safe. These new policemen will have the resources and authority to apprehend criminals, but they too require help from citizens.

The people of Iraq are standing on the threshold of what could be one of the greatest breakthroughs in history – a free, democratic and prosperous Iraq.

Soldiers help rebuild Iraq's future

SPC. CHAD D. WILKERSON
372nd MPAD

First Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment, from Hanau, Germany with assistance from 16th Engineer Battalion from Giessen, Germany and 389th Engineer Battalion, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Middleton, Iowa, is taking action on behalf of the youth of Iraq to ensure the future not only for the children, but for the entire country.

"We have 28 schools in the squadron sector and we are trying to work on all of those," said Capt. H. W. Hugh Darville, squadron engineer and A Company, 16th Engineer Battalion commander.

The schools were in a poor state of repair, he said. They had been looted.

Basic school supplies, such as pencils, pens, erasers, paper, blackboards and desks are not available at the schools or are too expensive for schools to purchase. The buildings need lots of work, including paint and electrical repairs.

The 1st Armored Division's Engineer Brigade commander used money from his discretionary funds to purchase construction materials such as fluorescent lights, light switches, electrical outlets, plumbing supplies, paint, and paint brushes, Darville said.

"All those things we bought in addition to new chalkboards, desks for students and teachers. We will be bringing all those things out to the different schools," he said.

The engineers are on the ground conducting repairs, replacing wiring and plumbing in the school buildings, but they are not alone.

"Really, it is an overall team effort. What we try to do is get teachers and students involved in things they can do, like painting the walls," Darville said.

While making repairs to the school, the engineers and students have been able to turn paint and rollers into instruments of liberation. The children's faces light up as they paint over line after line of pro-Saddam regime propaganda. Walls covered with pictures of AK-47 assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers get a fresh coat of white paint.

"It is a delicate balance between giving them things as aid, and making them realize that they can take charge of their own lives and fix things for themselves," Darville said. "We need to get them involved in things that we are doing and not just give them hand-



Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson

Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment, 16th Engineer Battalion and 389th Engineer Battalion help rebuild an Iraqi community school.

outs."

The overall response by the students and said communities has been overwhelming, Darville said.

"The immediate impact on the schools and communities," he said, "is that it gives them some hope; something tangible they can see."

Other long-term projects being tackled by 1-1 Cavalry are irrigation channel clearing for local farms and extensive community trash cleanups to clear the streets of garbage.

"If we go out there and they see us helping out at the schools and cleaning up the neighborhoods, they can see something today," Darville said. "When we say that we are working on the water problem and it may

take a few weeks to get it fixed, they can trust us because they can see us doing things right now."

The children are a focus throughout most of their operations, Darville said, because they are the ones who cannot help themselves.

Soldiers have the opportunity to build a good rapport with future leaders of Iraq, he said.

"If you can get to every school in Iraq and give a student positive interaction with U.S. personnel, 20 or 30 years from now some of these children will become the leaders of Iraq and that will significantly help international relations and the bonds between our two countries," Darville said.

Third time's the charm for new 3 BCT commander



Sgt. 1st Class Mike Brantley

Col. Steven L. Salazar, incoming commander, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

SGT. 1ST CLASS MIKE BRANTLEY
3ID (M) PAO

CAMP NEW JERSEY, Kuwait – The thunderous beat of Peter Gabriel's Sledgehammer echoed into the sand-filled morning sky June 21 as the men and women of 3rd Brigade Combat Team bid farewell to one commander and welcomed another

Col. Steven L. Salazar, returning for the third time to 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.), took command of the combat-tested team from Col. Daniel B. Allyn in a change of command ceremony here.

"Back home it's just another day – some are playing golf, cutting the grass or fishing. But today, the passing of colors from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander is an event made that much more spe-

cial for the brigade and what its soldiers have accomplished," said Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, commander, 3rd Inf. Div.

The newest Hammer 6, Salazar, who was born at Fort Benning and entered the Army as an infantry soldier in 1976, was commissioned an infantry officer in 1982.

He has commanded D Company, and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 7th Inf., 3rd Inf. Div. (M) in Aschaffenburg, Germany, and served as operations officer for 3rd BCT, 24th and 3rd Inf. Div. (M). He also served as commander of the 1st Bn., 8th Inf., 4th Inf. Div. (M), Fort Carson, Colo.

Allyn, a Berwick, Maine native and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, departs the Sledgehammer family for duty on the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C.

Local collector shares love of Iraqi relics, artifacts

SPC. CHAD D. WILKERSON
372nd MPAD

The dark room seemed to stand still as the door opened, allowing light to touch only the forward-most surface of each object in the room. The numerous stained-glass windows, taken out of churches from all around the globe, looked like they would be more appropriate in a grand castle than in the cramped front room of this humble building.

Mohamad Ali Sheirbani, the neighborhood collector, owns this Baghdad refuge of timeless relics and collectable antiques, but this mysterious "museum" is not a museum at all. It is his home, and each piece, for him, holds significance and wonder.

"This one is 600 years old," he said with a smile as he held a polished sword and sheath up in clear view. The two eagle's heads carved into it accented the ornately carved hilt of the blade. "It's Mongolian."

Every since Sheirbani was 16 years old, he has been an avid collector of items of interest, he said. And at 67 now, neither conflicts, regime changes, nor the danger of looters is going to slow him down. Sheirbani has bought, traded, and sold with people from all around the world, he said. Representatives from France and Germany have stopped by Sheirbani's homemade museum on numerous occasions, and Sheirbani said he has even had items on display at the Louve in France.

"It's my business and hobby," Sheirbani said. "I am a jack-of-all-trades."

The title "jack-of-all-trades" fits Sheirbani perfectly. Historian, collector, artist, merchant, archaeologist; Sheirbani has done it all at one time or another, including work for the Iraqi government in the acquisition of pieces.

"My museum is for every Iraqi to enjoy," said Sheirbani. "They can come here and see their history and some history from other countries and learn much."

The museum business, as of late, has not been easy to maintain,



Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson

Mohamad Ali Sheirbani holds a 600-year-old Mongolian sword that is part of his collection.

Sheirbani said. "I have had to defend my home on more than one occasion since the conflict," Sheirbani said. "I have weapons to defend my home."

Opportunist thieves and looters have had an impact on Sheirbani's neighborhood, he said, but the recovery is coming quickly and he and his neighbors are in high spirits. "We are very thankful for the U.S. soldiers," Sheirbani said. "We know things are going to get better."

First Iraq trial held; court system works

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY
50th PAD

ALFALLUJAH, Iraq – The first legal conviction in five months was handed down June 24 at the Al Fallujah courthouse, thanks to coordination from Spartan soldiers.

A local guilty of looting was sentenced to three months, nine days in jail plus a 1,000 dinar fine.

The conviction sends a message to Iraqi people that law and order is back, according to Maj. Robert Resnick, 3rd Infantry Division chief of justice.

The Judge Advocate General, 3rd Military Police and 103rd Military Intelligence soldiers are helping the Iraqi legal system run again, but are staying out of actual proceedings, Capt. Michael Scionti, JAG judicial assessment team, said.

Two other looters were tried the same day. Their trials were postponed until June 25 because more evidence was being considered and an interpreter was needed.

This was the first trial in Iraq since the war, and also the first trial in decades without Saddam Hussein's influence. But the Iraqi court system mirrors the United States' and Hussein's influence at Judge Naseeb Eyd Johar court was minimal.

"With or without Saddam, the court will run fairly, no matter what," Johar said.

Accused criminals have the right to due process and the right to a court appointed law-

yer like criminals in the U.S. The chief judge and two senior judges read the defendants the charges against them, heard from the prosecution and defense attorneys, and cleared the court to deliberate.

"There's no question that these guys got a fair trial. The judges looked at the evidence, listened to the defendants and talked among themselves," Resnick said.

JAG soldiers' future plan for the court is to hire an Iraqi Attorney Liaison to take JAG's place, so the Army has even less to do with their system, Resnick said.

The whole process of getting this first conviction took about two weeks.

Resnick and Scionti sat down with the judges in an initial meeting, brought them cases the next day, and immediately started preliminary hearings. It went so well because there was no red tape or bureaucracy in Al Fallujah – soldiers coordinated directly with judges. The success in Al Fallujah will be a model for the rest of Iraq, according to Resnick.

Johar and the senior judges were pleased with 2nd Brigade Combat Team soldiers' help. They welcomed soldiers in the courtroom. Their only problem was the presence of soldiers' weapons.

Soldiers from 3rd MP Bn., who guarded the prisoners, felt a sense of satisfaction about helping the system get started. "It makes me feel significant. I'm pretty proud of it – helping these guys get a fair trial. They probably



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

Spc. Darris Mallet, a 5th Platoon, 3rd Military Police soldier, guards three looting suspects at the Al Fallujah Courthouse June 24.

understand now that we're here to help them. When we first got here they shot at us a lot. Now things are calming down and are pretty much under control," said Spc. Darris Mallet, a 5th Platoon, 3rd Military Police soldier.

Even as the conviction was handed down, 30 more cases were being reviewed, proof that the wheels of justice in Al Fallujah are in motion.

Senators, soldiers share ideas at dinner

PFC. DERROL FULGHUM
1AD PAO

Three U.S. senators braved the dangers of Iraq to have dinner with 1st Armored Division soldiers June 23.

Eighteen soldiers representing Delaware, Nebraska and Indiana met with their representatives at an informal dinner held at Baghdad International Airport.

"It's a real morale boost for him to come all the way here just to eat with us," said Spc. Brian Bogart, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery. Bogart dined with Sen. Dick Lugar from Indiana.

During the day, the lawmakers spent time meeting with Office of Coalition Provisional Authority and other officials in Baghdad.

The senators made no formal entrances or speeches; they simply got their food, sat down and talked with soldiers.

Following the meal, they posed for pictures with each of the soldiers from their state.

Throughout the evening, they discussed various issues from the

situation in Iraq to the weather along the east coast of the United States.

Cooks from 4th Brigade Combat Team's dining facility provided a meal for the group, which soldiers and senators said they highly enjoyed.

Staff Sgt. Brent Sweeny, an aircraft electrician with 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, dined with Sen. Joseph Biden, Delaware.

"I think it's good that an honored representative of Indiana would eat with soldiers. It shows that the state cares," he said.

Senator Chuck Hagle of Nebraska made a favorable impression on "his" soldiers, said 1st Sgt. Martin Roy with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, V Corps from Omaha, Neb.

"I have to respect anybody who will leave the comforts of the U.S. willingly to come out here and eat field food with soldiers," he said.

The soldiers said it lifted their spirits to know that the representatives of their states were thinking about them. The evening also helped the senators get a good idea of how their Army constituents in Iraq were living.

Tusker 6 hands command to old warrior friend

SPC. KATHERINE ROBINSON
50th PAD

FALLUJAH, Iraq – Tusker 6, commander of 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, handed over his command and headed back to the states June 23.

Lt. Col. Philip D. deCamp relinquished command to Lt. Col. Robert Roth in a change of command ceremony on the Habbaniyah Soccer Field, west of Fallujah.

Roth joins 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) from Personnel Command where he served as the Armor colonel's assignment officer.

As the sun set on Camp Habbaniyah June 23, it shed its last rays on a bittersweet scene – a group of soldiers and warfighters bidding farewell to their commander and welcoming a new leader.

Lt. Col. Philip deCamp has commanded 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment for two years, leading the soldiers through peacetime and war.

As he prepared to leave the soldiers in the hands of Roth, deCamp thanked his Tuskers for their bravery and hard work during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"They have established their legacy in places with names that we all remember," he said. "The mere mention of these names will



Spc. Katherine Robinson

Lt. Col. Robert Roth accepts the guidon for 4th Battalion, 64th Armor, and command of the battalion, from Col. Joseph P. DiSalvo, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander, during a change of command ceremony at Habbaniyah Soccer Field June 23.

always have a special meaning to this band of brothers whose lives were changed in the courageous and heroic actions of which they were a part.

Their determined tenacity and composure under intense enemy fire earned several hard-fought victories."

DeCamp said he feels honored to have served with men who dedicated themselves to a higher calling – "patriots with a devout sense of duty."

"We've been through a hell of a lot together. These men mean the world to me," he said.

Col. Joseph P. DiSalvo, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander, thanked deCamp for his leadership and professionalism under fire.

"Simply put, you have been superb in peacetime and war over the past two years as Tusker 6," he said.

"You demand high

standards and your Tuskers have responded magnificently. You and your task force leadership took the great legacy of Tusker and elevated it and that is your legacy which you should be very proud of."

The Tusker legacy has meaning for deCamp and his successor from as far back as Desert Storm, where both served as company commanders in 4-64.

"This battalion means the world to me because I've fought with it twice," deCamp said.

Roth said he is proud to come back to the battalion, this time as a task force commander.

"Watching the heroic deeds you accomplished each day as you liberated this country made me swell with pride knowing that someday I would be a Tusker again," he said as he addressed the soldiers in formation for the first time as their commander.

As the battalion guidon changed hands and Roth took the reins the two commanders spoke warmly of each other.

"We need to say farewell to a warrior, a leader and a dear friend," Roth said.

"There is no finer officer to continue the tradition of the Tuskers," added deCamp.

DeCamp leaves 3rd Inf. Div. to become the professor of military science at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.



Lt. Col. Philip deCamp leads Task Force 4-64 in saluting the National Anthem for the last time as commander of the task force at a change of command ceremony at Habbaniyah Soccer Field June 23.

3rd Brigade Combat Team rolls stock to Arifjan

SGT. 1ST CLASS MIKE BRANTLEY
3ID (M) PAO

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – A critical piece to the redeployment puzzle was accomplished June 17 as the final elements of 3rd Brigade Combat Team completed the turn-in of Army prepositioned stock.

About 55 vehicles from Headquarters and Headquarters Company and A Company, 1-30 Infantry, as well as HHC, 3rd BCT, convoyed from camps New York and New Jersey to Camp Arifjan, a two-hour trek.

Before these soldiers can step onto a plane bound for home, vehicles and equipment they drew upon arrival in January must be staged, thoroughly washed, inspected and turned in.

First up, a safety briefing.

No vehicle moves from the staging areas to the wash racks without a ground guide. The speed limit is five miles per hour, as most vehicles inch along to one of 48 concrete wash racks at the upper wash rack. Another 48 await soldiers in the lower wash rack.

Chock blocks must be in place and eye protection must be worn at the wash rack. There's even an amnesty box for overlooked rounds. A Bradley Fighting Vehicle can have a lot of hiding places. Once vehicles are angled on the wash racks, the cleaning process begins. A powerful jet of water changes to mud as the spray meets the caked-on dirt. It's like a car wash on steroids.

Spc. Joseph Strittmatter, 140th Quartermaster Company from Fort Totten, N.Y., is one of many soldiers in orange safety vests – monitors, as they are called.

It is their job to ensure vehicles get married up with wash racks and that pressure washers are working properly.

“We can shuttle in about 250 vehicles a day – tracked, wheeled, trailers, you name it,” he said. “They all have to be washed.”

“Because their movement is limited from the staging area to the wash racks, our main concern is heat injuries,” said 1st Lt. Bradley Kelso, wash rack officer in charge, 1136th Transportation Company, Maine Army National Guard.

He had reason for concern.

On that particular day, the temperatures were upward of 120 degrees. And there's no shade, unless you are under a Bradley cleaning the tracks.



Sgt. 1st Class Mike Brantley

Cpl. Graham Ahlstrom, 23, A Co., 1-30 Infantry, cleans his Bradley Fighting Vehicle from top to bottom June 17. Ahlstrom, from New York City, was at Camp Arifjan's wash racks to clean and turn in Army Prepositioned Stock vehicles drawn in January.

Lots of cold water is provided for soldiers, and if there's time after turn-in, a dip in the pool during the short stay at Arifjan.

Following the wash, vehicles are inspected on the rack.

With a seal of approval – a sticker signifying the standards have been met – the vehicle moves on line to await turn-in. After that, the hard work is done – the puzzle is complete.

The wash racks and turn-in process are operational 24 hours a day. Monitors work in three shifts, with the 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. shift being the most coveted.

The units departed on buses back to their respective camps as convoys of other vehicles pull in to start the process. Only this time, staging, washing, inspecting and turn-in will occur under the glare of lights instead of the hot Kuwaiti sun.

3rd MPs issue uniforms, weapons to officers

Fallujah police department gets new look

SGT. CRAIG ZENTKOVICH
50th PAD

The 3rd Military Police Company gave Fallujah's law enforcers a much-needed facelift June 23 by issuing new uniforms and pistols to officers at the main precinct.

The 3rd MP Co., in a continuing effort to rid Fallujah's streets of crime and abolish the remnants of the Baath Party's rule over Iraq, distributed the items to more than 200 members of the Fallujah Police Department.

"With these gestures, we hope to forge a relationship between the U.S. and Iraq that will last for years to come," said Capt. Joseph Hissim, 3rd MP Co. commander, during his remarks at the brassard presentation ceremony.

The ceremony, attended by Col. Joseph DiSalvo, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander, and Taha Bedani Alwan, mayor of Fallujah, was the culmination of weeks of planning between the 2nd BCT and the city to take steps necessary to ensure city's safety.

"We've had to work hard to earn the people's respect here," said 1st Lt. Steven Devitt, 3rd MP Co. platoon leader and site coordinator.

"We're the third unit here in two months, so credibility wasn't easy to come by," Devitt said.

Prior to the ceremony, soldiers from 3rd MP Co. distributed uniforms and side arms to the Fallujah officers.

The uniforms were comprised of Air Force dress trousers and shirt, locally purchased belts, an Iraqi Police brassard, and a .38 special revolver pistol, respectively.

The reason for the uniform change, according to Devitt, was to stray from the militant green uniforms symbolic of the former

Ba'ath Party Regime.

"The people are eager to get back on their feet, to keep moving forward," he said.

"They were eager for new uniforms – a fresh start."

Members of the Fallujah Police Department are adamant on returning to work and a

peaceful way of life.

"Being a police officer has been my life," said Officer Kosai Esam Awni, FPD, via an interpreter. "My family's safety and home are my motivation to get back on the street."

He added that he and his comrades are looking forward to working for a police force with greater legitimacy and purpose.

"I thank the U.S. for this opportunity, and all their help."

Earlier that morning, 12 vehicles, painted by a local contractor, were distributed to the three precincts in the Fallujah area. Each vehicle, painted white with blue doors and marked FPD, will have an automatic weapon inside for the officers' safety.

In the upcoming weeks, 3rd MP Co. will be working hand-in-hand with FPD, training them in all aspects of law enforcement.

The multi-phase training will include blocks of instruction on law enforcement certification, proper reporting and administrative procedures, proper investigative procedures, and marksmanship training.

"These (officers) are really excited," Devitt said.

"They're a really good group of guys who are ready to make a positive impact on the community."

The FPD has conducted 24-hour joint patrols with 3rd MP Co. for the past two weeks, and will continue to do so until both parties feel FPD is trained and equipped to handle the task alone, according to Devitt.



Photos by Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Spc. Dean Hall, 3rd Military Police Company, holds the brassards issued to Fallujah police officers June 23.



An interpreter with the 3rd MP Company assists soldiers in issuing new uniforms to the Fallujah Police Department. The new uniforms replace the green, military-style uniform worn by officers under Ba'ath Party rule.



Above left, Taha Bedani Alwan, mayor of Fallujah, speaks with Col. Joseph DiSalvo, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander, before a brassard presentation ceremony June 23 at the Fallujah Police Department. Right, one of many .38 caliber pistols issued to Fallujah police officers. Left, a .38 Special is issued to a Fallujah police officer. The 3rd MP Company issued more than 200 uniforms and pistols to the Fallujah police department.



1-37 Armor remembers fallen comrade

SGT. MARK RICKERT
372nd MPAD

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, honored a fallen soldier, Pfc. Shawn D. Pahnke, during a memorial ceremony June 20.

Pahnke died June 16, 2003 while on patrol in Baghdad. He was born Nov. 2, 1977, and grew up in Merrillville, Indiana. His Army career began at Fort Knox, Ky., October 2002. During training, his instructors cited his discipline and motivation and promoted him.

Pahnke was assigned to 1st Platoon, C Company, March 26, 2003. He began to fulfill his lifelong dream to be a tanker as a loader on a M1 tank.

"Pahnke's memory will live forever in each of us here," said Lt. Col. Gary Bishop, 1-37 commander. "His death will not go in vain. We will not quit until our service here is complete."

"Pahnke was my best friend," said 1st Platoon member Pvt. 2 Curtis B. Cameron.

"He was so ecstatic when he talked about his son," Cameron continued.

"He was looking forward to going home. Nothing brought more joy to Pahnke than his family."

Pahnke was optimistic about life and looked at every day in Iraq as a good day be-



Sgt. Mark Rickert

Soldiers from C Company, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor remember their fallen comrade Pfc. Shawn D. Pahnke during a memorial ceremony June 20.

cause he was one day closer to home, Cameron said.

"There was nothing you could do to bring

him down," Cameron said. "He looked at tasks to do as things that would shorten his time here."

Chaplain (Capt.) Patrick Stepanek said the tankers in Pahnke's platoon are devastated by their loss. Because tanker platoons are small and rely on each other for survival, the soldiers bond quickly and friendships are firmly rooted.

"Pahnke's platoon is very tight with each other," the battalion chaplain said.

"Tanker platoons typically are close because the other guys in the tank have to rely on each other to succeed. So, it's a very trust-oriented unit. You get close quick. There's really very little distinction between ranks out there. This gives us a sense of anger and insecurity."

Stepanek said during the closing prayer, "This is our first fatality. It didn't happen to another unit or somebody else. This soldier was one of our own."

The ceremony ended with a roll call, in which Pahnke's name was called three times without answer.

As the bugler performed Taps, identification tags were hung on the fallen soldier's rifle.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, members of the unit passed by the symbolic display to give their final respects and salutes to their fallen comrade.

2-6 Inf. soldiers work to reduce looting in Baghdad

SPC. CHAD D. WILKERSON
372nd MPAD

Even though capturing lawbreakers is important to restoring order in downtown Baghdad, it is merely a portion of the activity soldiers of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division are engaged in on their daily patrols.

"Most of the people, they help us out. They like it when we walk around," said Staff Sgt. Brian Dommell, a squad leader with 1st platoon, A. Co. "You get to know where people live and you talk to them, which allows you to give and receive information."

Each and every capture is another step toward a stable Iraq, said Dommell, but not every patrol's success provides the same sense of accomplishment.

"When you catch a looter and you feel like you have done your job, you get a real adrenaline rush, but then you get them over to

the holding area and they tell you their stories," said Staff Sgt. Raymond Dolbow, A Co. B section leader. "Most of the guys we catch are just poor, they are not bad. They are not hardened criminals."

While attached to 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Brigade, 1st Armored Division, the company has spent the past few weeks making a concerted effort at reducing the amount of looting and theft occurring in their sector.

Soldiers like Dommell and Dolbow spend their days either standing guard at the military checkpoints or performing foot patrols in their sector.

"For patrols, we are not only trying to cut down on looting, but we are also trying just to show a presence in the community," Dommell said. "We want them to know that we are still here and that we are trying to keep the streets safe for them."

Trust is an important factor in such densely populated communities as there are all over

Baghdad, Dommell said. In a city this size, a "community" can be over one million people, so the more that people trust the soldiers, the easier it is for them to do their job.

"We are trying to establish law, because there really is no law beside us right now," Dommell said. "We have to show the citizens of Baghdad that we are going to enforce the rules we put into place, especially with weapons policies."

Another problem facing the soldiers on patrol is the fact that they are severely misunderstood. Some people act hatefully toward them, while others fear them, and still others give intentionally false information for seemingly no reason. Both soldiers say they would like to see that change, and have seen progress already.

"If you show them respect, they will respect you," Dommell said. "The idea is for them to get a complete picture of what the American soldier is all about."

Keeping Baghdad's streets safe

Operation Scorpion Sting scours local area for illegal weapons

SPC. CHAD D. WILKERSON

372nd MPAD

The M2 Bradley fighting vehicles and M1 Abrams tanks rumbled ferociously down the highway as the Kiowa Warrior helicopters appeared, seemingly out of thin air, and zipped across the Baghdad rooftops.

Within seconds the vehicles had set up their positions at every entrance and exit, concertina wire was in place, and an entire area of Baghdad was locked down.

The number of illegal weapons and explosive devices in Baghdad has been a threat to soldiers since their arrival here, but the cavalry had arrived.

Operation Scorpion Sting is focused on the disarmament of individuals who are attacking U.S. forces as well as shutting down Baghdad's underground arms markets.

1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, in cooperation with 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, conducted the operation, June 18 in a sector of Baghdad.

Soldiers shut down an entire market district in the city to search for the illegal weapons dealers and to make the streets safer for citizens and soldiers.

"We set up a cordon around this market place and housing area because there is a suspected weapons market operating in here," said 1st Sgt. Roy R. Bartnick Jr., B Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"Using our mobile capabilities, with tanks, Bradleys, and helicopters, we have swept in to surround this portion of the city to lock it



Photos by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson

A column of armored vehicles and trucks from 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, rumbled through this traffic control point in Baghdad on their way to securing the market area for search.

down to allow the infantry to work the inner portions of the city and do the searches they need to do," said Lt. Col Chuck Williams, squadron commander, 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The overall goal of the operation, said Williams, is to wipe out crime in the city and guarantee a safe and secure environment, not only for U.S. soldiers, but for the citizens as well.

A lot of people, when they complain, say the gunfire and amount of weapons in their neighborhood are a big problem, Bartnick said.

"Unfortunately, just by looking, you cannot tell who is who, so we just shut it down and sift them out," he said.

The high-mobility, high-visibility characteristics of the cavalry are a definite advantage in an operation such as this, said Williams.

The demanding presence of a tank or a Bradley is a strong deterrent to any kind of resistance, and the speed with which they move can be surprising, he said.

"A tank will intimidate people into doing what you want them to do," Bartnick said. "When people have the mentality of 'I'm going where I want to go' when you are screening part of the city for weapons, having armor behind you helps encourage their cooperation."

"The idea is that we are able to control all traffic into and out of a particular district in order to search them or their vehicle," Williams said. "The infantry unit inside can then effectively do their search."

With temperatures reaching near 120 degrees Fahrenheit as they rolled in, the troops completed the mission with great effectiveness, Williams said.

"We got great rehearsals in before we came here, and the soldiers went straight to their positions and knew exactly what to do because they had trained for it," Williams said.

"Screen and guard" operations, such as this one, said Williams, are standard operations for a cavalry unit, and they practice them to perfection.

"Initially, when we came out, we locked everything down. That would be our guard," Williams said.

"We then transitioned to a screen where we checked or inspected or observed any element going through."

The overall strength of 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, is that they come to the battlefield as a self-contained unit, Williams said.

Not only do they possess armor assets, but the cavalry also have their own ambulance system, their own helicopters for lightning-quick assaults or aerial observation and trucks for supplies.



A medic from 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment provides first aid for a burn on the hand of an Iraqi man. The man had received a severe electrical burn as he attempted to grasp an active powerline.

Guarding Iraq ... and missing home

SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

It was no pleasure cruise on the Tigris River for soldiers of Florida and Oregon guards. Instead, boarded on two MK-2 Bridge Erection Boats, the soldiers patrolled the mossy green waterway for gun traffickers who try to circumvent checkpoints on the city's roadways and bridges.

"There's a lot of illegal weapons trafficking that goes along the river," said Lt. Col. Thad Hill, commander of Florida National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, which got the boats from 671st Engineer Company, Oregon National Guard and a few of its soldiers to operate them.

The Oregon Guard's boats were to be used to build bridges military leaders thought the Iraqi army would destroy as troops traversed the nation south to north. There wasn't much of a demand for that use since Iraqi soldiers either didn't know how to blow the bridges, or simply failed to light the explosives that have been found beneath them, several said.

"You should have seen it," said Sgt. Troy Wood, 35, a member of the Idaho Army National Guard who volunteered to deploy to Iraq with the Oregon Guard, which brought 14 boats to Iraq. "We were toting these boats clear across a desert. It was the funniest thing."

As the sun set one Sunday, infantry soldiers donned their sea legs to join the Oregon soldiers to ride up and down the Tigris River in search of smugglers. They found none on that particular run, but rendezvoused with a local who shares information with the soldiers



Spc. Timothy Hightower looks at a toy gun an Iraqi boy pointed toward the A Company patrol as they walked the streets of northern Baghdad. Hightower confiscated the realistic-looking gun, saying that the boy could be shot by mistake.

about illegal activity he witnesses.

"They've been shot at from this bridge, so keep your eyes open," team leader and Florida Guard member Sgt. Creed Howell, 30, of Panama City, Fla., shouted to his troops.

It had been mission No. 2 for him and his crew that day. An hour earlier, they had completed a foot patrol on the streets of their sector, greeting residents and checking nooks and crannies for illegal activity.

"It gives us more of a personal touch," Howell said. "You get more out of being kind to people."

Their Sunday hour-and-11-minute foot patrol proved uneventful — another successful day, they say. But they did confiscate a toy cap gun from a young boy. The silver gun looked real, and if pointed at a soldier, could prove deadly for a child.



Photos by Michael Abrams

Spc. Pierre Dubois of 671st Engineer Company of the Oregon National Guard scans the Tigris River during an evening boat patrol with A Company, 3rd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment of the Florida National Guard.

"If someone would have told me I'd be patrolling the streets of Baghdad, especially after so many weeks, I would have said you're smoking w-a-a-y too much crack," Howell said. "But here we are, and we're doing a good job."

Instead of watching his daughters Kaylee, 4, and Emma, who turns 1 in August, Howell spent Father's Day watching over his young soldiers as they patrolled the streets, which includes the run-down neighborhoods of Najib Basha and Waziriyah.

"A Father's Day present would be hearing 'You're entering American airspace.'"

Or getting Spc. Terry Whigham, 23, home to see the birth of his first child.

"I'm tickled pink to be a father," Whigham said, whose son, Dylan, is set to be born in a



Sgt. Jayce Sellers, left, Spc. John Crawford and Spc. Timothy Hightower of A Company scan the Tigris River and its banks from a MK-2 Bridge Erection Boat.

few weeks.

"It breaks my heart that one of my guys won't be there when his child is born," Howell said.

The soldiers of Florida's National Guard arrived Feb. 17 in Kuwait and have been in Baghdad now for more than seven weeks.

It's taking a toll on morale, said Maj. John Haas, the battalion's operations officer. "They're getting a little fatigued."

The Guard soldiers crossed the berm from Kuwait into Iraq right behind soldiers from the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, and fought their way up to Baghdad. Once in Baghdad, they worked to control some of the rougher and tougher parts of the city.

"We were right behind the 3rd ID, leaping into battle," said Capt. Rodney Sanchez, Alpha Company's commander.

The guardsmen were a bit ill-trained for the urban warfare, having trained in Georgia's woodlands.

But they relied on several mates who had prior active-duty service, mates including Sgt. Tyler Brunell, 25, a former active-duty Ranger who taught them many of the ins and outs of kicking in doors and moving from building to building without getting their heads shot off.

More than half of the battalion is college students who have already missed their fall and summer semesters.

"If they're not back by August, they'll have missed a full year," Hill, the Florida Guard's 3rd Battalion commander, said.

But they're not looking for pity — just a "go home" date, that light at the end of the proverbial tunnel, several said.

GLOBAL NEWS

U.S. evaluates success of 'Desert Scorpion'

CNN

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A U.S. soldier was shot in the back of the head June 27, the latest in a string of attacks against the coalition that shows no sign of slowing despite Operation Desert Scorpion, the military operation designed to crack down on Iraqi insurgents.

The wounded soldier is being treated in a combat support hospital, military officials said.

A day earlier, two U.S. troops were killed and eight wounded, the military said.

Meanwhile, U.S. troops detained six Iraqis in connection with the intense search for two soldiers missing since Wednesday from their post about 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of Baghdad, a spokesman with the Coalition Public Information Center said.

CNN Baghdad Bureau chief Jane Arraf reports that the U.S. military has deployed a formidable array of equipment, scouring the countryside and Baghdad with helicopters, armored vehicles and tanks.

The soldiers — Sgt. 1st Class Gladimir Philippe, 37, of Linden, New Jersey, and Pfc. Kevin Ott, 27, of Columbus, Ohio — were last reported traveling in a Humvee near a checkpoint when military officials lost contact with them.

Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the military is “working very hard” to find the soldiers. Aerial and ground searches were conducted June 27, but there was no word on the soldiers’ whereabouts.

One U.S. military official has called the rash of confrontations between Iraqis and U.S. personnel a “classic phase of insurgency.”

Twenty U.S. troops have been killed by hostile fire since the United States declared an end to major combat May 1, the Pentagon said. Six British troops were also killed in enemy fire during that time — all in an incident earlier this week.

Dozens of coalition troops have been wounded. Within a few days, U.S. Central Command will complete a review of the progress made in Desert Scorpion, which has netted hundreds of suspects and large amounts of weapons, the Pentagon sources said.

The U.S. military is considering whether



Iraqis wait for medical attention in the village of al Buesya, west of Baghdad June 27. The 26th Forward Support Battalion is setting up mobile clinics in the area.

to alter its current efforts to bring an end to the anti-coalition attacks, Pentagon sources said Friday. But Defense officials said there is no current plan to change the military strategy.

Operation Desert Scorpion is the largest military deployment since the height of the Iraq war.

The soldier shot Friday was part of a foot patrol in the northern Baghdad neighborhood of Kathamiya, believed to be home to some people loyal to deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

According to witnesses, the soldier approached a street stall that sells CDs and DVDs when someone came up behind him and shot him at close range. He collapsed, and comrades carried him to a Humvee military vehicle and drove away, the witnesses said.

June 26, a U.S. soldier attached to the U.S. 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in an ambush near Najaf, south of Baghdad, while investigating a car theft, the U.S. Central Command said in a statement Friday. “Medical evacuation was immediately called but the soldier died prior to its arrival,” the statement said.

That same day, a member of a special op-

erations unit was killed and eight others were wounded in an ambush in southwest Baghdad, military officials said.

The commando — an Army Ranger serving on Task Force 20, the special operations unit spearheading the hunt for Saddam and other fugitive leaders of his regime — was in a vehicle with other soldiers when it passed by a vehicle loaded with explosives that detonated, a military official told CNN.

“There is no doubt this was an organized attack, an ambush, and it represents an increasing level of organization and sophistication. What we’re seeing is an urban guerrilla force taking the initiative against the forces that are there,” said a U.S. military official familiar with the latest briefings on the security situation in Iraq.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said, “There are a lot of Baathists and Fedayeen Saddam (paramilitary fighters) still in the country that are associated closely with Saddam Hussein. ... The coalition is taking every step possible to move them out.

“In addition, the Iraqi police force is being developed and the Iraqi army is being recruited. And those capabilities will be put to that same task.”

Israel, Palestinians agree to truce

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — In a boost to U.S.-backed peace efforts, Israel agreed on terms for troop pullbacks from the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem after Palestinian militants confirmed June 27 that they will halt attacks on Israelis for three months. The progress in negotiations — which sources said included a commitment by Israel to halt targeted killings of militants — came despite continued violence. A raid by Israeli commandos left four Palestinians and an Israeli soldier dead in the Gaza Strip.

“We are pleased with the progress we have seen,” Secretary of State Colin Powell said in Washington.

The “road map” peace plan, the latest bid to end the decades-old conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, has been on shaky ground because of escalating violence ever since President Bush launched it on June 4.

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice was expected in the region Saturday for talks with the Palestinian and Israeli prime ministers about the plan, which outlines steps toward ending violence and establishing a Palestinian state by 2005.

Her visit would coincide with an expected formal announcement by militant groups Sunday that they are ending attacks. The announcement would be a turning point in the 33 months of violence — although Israel has been skeptical of the truce idea, and it remains to be seen whether all militants will comply.

Gaza militants said Friday that leaders of the two Islamic militant groups, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, had accepted a temporary cease-fire negotiated with Yasser Arafat’s Fatah movement, providing first confirmation by the militants that such a deal has been reached.

“The trilateral document is now ready,” a senior militia leader told The Associated Press on condition that neither he nor his group be identified.

Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin said his group has informed Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas of its views, but stopped short of declaring acceptance.

The truce document, first reported by AP June 25, applies to set-



AP

Three young Palestinian girls watch from a mosque as the body of Mohammed Abu Ataya is brought during his funeral.

blers and soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza in addition to civilians in Israel, fulfilling a key Israeli demand.

In exchange, the Palestinian groups asked Israel to suspend targeted killings of militants and release prisoners. But these demands were not conditions for beginning the truce.

“I believe that it will be a good document,” said Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi. “It will serve the interest of the Palestinian people and will preserve Palestinian unity and the option of resistance.”

The deal on an Israeli troop withdrawal from the entire Gaza Strip as well as the West Bank town of Bethlehem was another important sign that the parties were making headway in implementing the road map, which calls for Israeli forces to gradually return to positions they held before the outbreak of fighting in September 2000.

That agreement was reached in talks June 27 between Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan and Israeli Gen. Amos Gilad.

Iran denies arresting bin Laden’s top aide

CNN

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran’s Foreign Ministry denied Friday that the government has arrested Ayman al-Zawahiri, the right-hand man to terror mastermind Osama bin Laden.

The al-Arabiya satellite television network, citing unnamed diplomatic sources, reported al-Zawahiri and al Qaeda spokesman Suleiman Abu Ghaith were among several al Qaeda suspects Iran had arrested in recent months.

But Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hamid Reza Asefi, said the report was untrue.

“First of all this is not the case,” Asefi said. “The people in question have not yet been identified. Also, there is no reason that even

after the identification process is completed that we should discuss this issue with the media because this is a security issue.”

U.S. officials believe al-Zawahiri was involved in deadly embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

Al-Zawahiri is under indictment in the United States for the conspiracy behind the those attacks. He is also one of the FBI’s “Most Wanted” terrorists.

CNN terrorism analyst Peter Bergen previously has said “Ayman al-Zawahiri is effectively Osama bin Laden’s No. 2. He is his closest adviser. They have known each other since 1987.”

Even before he met bin Laden in Pakistan in 1987, al-Zawahiri led what the United

States and Egypt said was a terrorist group.

Al-Zawahiri, a surgeon, was a medical student from an affluent family in Cairo, Egypt, when he was first arrested and charged with being part of a Muslim Brotherhood plot to overthrow then-President Nasser.

When Anwar Sadat was elected as Egypt’s president, al-Zawahiri worked to overthrow Sadat and establish an Islamic state, says Dia’a Rashwan, a specialist in Islamic movements.

After Sadat made peace with Israel, members of al-Zawahiri’s group — Islamic Jihad — assassinated Sadat. In the wake of that assassination, al-Zawahiri was put on trial in 1981 as defendant No. 113, accused of being part of the broader conspiracy against the Egyptian state.

Woman gets 50 years for windshield death

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT WORTH, Texas – A jury sentenced a former nurse's aide to 50 years in prison Friday for leaving an accident victim to die a slow death while lodged in the broken windshield of her car. Chante Mallard, 27, could have received anywhere from five years probation to life in prison for murdering Gregory Biggs. She and her family cried after the sentence was read.

"There's no winners in a case like this. Just as we all lost Greg, you all will be losing your daughter," Biggs' son, Brandon, told Mallard's family in a statement he read in court after the sentence was announced.

Brandon Biggs told Mallard he accepted the apology she tearfully offered on the witness stand, "but in return I hope that you will accept my forgiveness and I hope you will accept the forgiveness of Jesus Christ."

Both families declined to comment afterward.

"My heart is heavy, truly heavy," said Norma Carethers, who counseled Mallard in jail as part of a chaplain program.

It took the jury less than an hour Thursday to convict Mallard, who after a night of drinking and using drugs struck Biggs, 37, with her car about 3 a.m. on Oct. 26, 2001. She drove home with the man crumpled in the windshield and left him in her garage to die. Medical experts testified that Biggs was alive for one or two hours after being hit and probably would have survived had he received medical help.

Defense attorney Jeff Kearney said he was disappointed with the length of the sentence, which was announced after jurors deliberated about 2 1/2 hours. He said an appeal is planned.

"We certainly knew it would be a significant prison sentence based on all the evidence



CNN

Chante Mallard after hearing she was sentenced to 50 years in prison for murder and tampering with evidence.

but we were hoping it would be somewhat lighter," he said.

Mallard told the jury Thursday that she was sorry, adding that she didn't call for help because she was scared and didn't know what to do. But prosecutor Richard Alpert said Friday that the case "is all about selfishness."

"Some people lack the moral fiber to do the right thing," he said. "A man is lying in her car moaning and bleeding and she needs someone to tell her what to do? Any decent person would call for help."

Kearney told jurors that Mallard would not have left the man to die if she hadn't been under the influence of alcohol, marijuana and Ecstasy.

Alpert, who had told jurors that Mallard deserved life in prison, said he was pleased with the sentence. "We just wanted to point out that this was a serious case and it needed a serious punishment," he said.

Brandon Biggs testified earlier in the week that his father took medication for bipolar disorder and mild schizophrenia. He said Biggs had been homeless for a couple of years after loaning a girlfriend money and then losing his truck and home.

Biggs' battered body was found in a park the day after he was hit. Authorities had no leads in the death until four months later, when one of Mallard's acquaintances called police and said she had talked about the accident at a party.

Officers went to Mallard's house and found the bloodstained, dented car. They also found the passenger seat burned in the back yard.

Before her trial began Monday, Mallard pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence by burning the bloody car seat.

On that charge she was sentenced to 10 years in prison, to be served concurrently with the murder sentence.

A friend of Mallard's and his cousin pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence by dumping the body. Clete Jackson and Herbert Cleveland received prison sentences of 10 years and nine years, respectively.

Feds charge 11 men with conspiracy in jihad

CNN

WASHINGTON — The FBI Friday issued a 41-count indictment against 11 men charged with conspiracy to train for and participate in a violent jihad overseas.

"It was part of the conspiracy that the defendants and their conspirators prepared to become mujahedeen and die 'shaheed' — that is, as martyrs in furtherance of violent jihad," the indictment said.

Nine of the defendants, who are ages 23 to 35, are U.S. citizens, and the others are a Yemeni and a non-resident alien from Pakistan, said Paul McNulty, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

He identified the five men born in this country and arrested Friday morning as: Randall Todd Royer (who goes by the name of Ismail), 30; Masoud Ahmad Khan, 31; Hammad Abdur-Raheem, 35; Donald Thomas Surratt, 30; and Caliph Basha Ibn Abdur-Raheem, 29.

A sixth man, Mohammed Aatique, 30, the Pakistani national and H-1 visa holder, was arrested in the Philadelphia area.

The indictment also charges two men who were already in custody: Ibrahim Ahmed al-Hamdi, the Yemeni national and non-resident alien who was being held on a weapons charge; and Yong Ki Kwon, 27, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in South Korea who was being held on immigration charges.

The remaining three men are believed to be in Saudi Arabia, McNulty said.

He identified them as U.S. citizens Sabri Benkhala, 28, and Seifullah Chapman, 30, and Khwaja Mahmood Hasan, 27, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Pakistan.

Five of the men had their initial appearances Friday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, before Magistrate Judge Thomas Rawles Jones Jr., who appointed counsel to those who said they had none, and scheduled their next court appearances for next week.

Two of the men had previously been arraigned.

Aatique appeared before a judge in Philadelphia.



Sports Highlights



WNBA

Wednesday

Charlotte 61, Cleveland 50
NY Liberty 70, Phoenix 64

Thursday

Los Angeles 67, San Antonio 58
Indiana 94, Connecticut 90

Friday

Seattle 71, Cleveland 59
Detroit 75, NY Liberty 69
Minnesota 67, Phoenix 59

Saturday

Houston 64, San Antonio 49
Charlotte 69, Connecticut 55
Phoenix 68, Detroit 65
Indiana 79, Seattle 70
Sacramento 61, Los Angeles 53

IRL

Indy 500

1. (10) Gil de Ferran
2. (1) Helio Castroneves
3. (2) Tony Kanaan

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Wednesday

Boston 11, Detroit 2
Kansas City 3, Cleveland 1
Baltimore 9, Toronto 2
NY Yankees 8, Tampa Bay 5
Minnesota 5, Chicago 5
Texas 9, Oakland 8
Anaheim 6, Seattle 3

Thursday

Boston 6, Detroit 4
Chicago 5, Minnesota 1
NY Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 3
Kansas 4, Cleveland 1
Toronto 13, Baltimore 8
Oakland 13, Texas 0

INTERLEAGUE PLAY

Friday

Chicago Sox 4, Chicago Cubs 3
Philadelphia 4, Baltimore 2
Boston 25, Florida 8
Cleveland 3, Cincinnati 0

Arizona 8, Detroit 3
NY Yankees 6, NY Mets 4
Toronto 6, Montreal 5
Atlanta 8, Detroit 3
NY Yankees 6, NY Mets 4
Toronto 6, Montreal 5
Atlanta 8, Tampa Bay 2
Texas 10, Houston 7
Kansas 6, St. Louis 3
Milwaukee 12, Minnesota 1
Anaheim 3, Los Angeles 0
Seattle 8, San Diego 2
San Francisco 6, Oakland 0

Saturday

Cincinnati 5, Cleveland 4
NY Yankees 7, NY Mets 1
Chicago Sox 7, Chicago Cubs 6
Houston 2, Texas 0
San Francisco 8, Oakland 7
Montreal 4, Toronto 2
Tampa Bay 9, Atlanta 7
Philadelphia 9, Baltimore 9
Arizona 7, Detroit 0
St. Louis 13, Kansas 9
Minnesota 5, Milwaukee 2

Anaheim 3, Los Angeles 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Wednesday

Pittsburgh 6, Montreal 5
Milwaukee 12, Chicago 6
Arizona 3, Houston 2
Philadelphia 8, Atlanta 1
St. Louis 9, Cincinnati 6
NY Mets 6, Florida 3
San Diego 7, Colorado 6
Los Angeles 6, San Francisco 0

Thursday

Milwaukee 5, Chicago 3
Florida 6, NY Mets 1
Philadelphia 8, Atlanta 1
St. Louis 11, Cincinnati 7

Friday

Pittsburgh 5, Colorado 3

Saturday

Colorado 5, Pittsburgh 4

Holyfield to take on Toney

Former heavyweight champ Evander Holyfield got tired of waiting for an acceptable deal to fight Roy Jones Jr. Cruiserweight champ James Toney is done waiting for middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins.

So now Holyfield and Toney turn to each other in an odd but intriguing pairing.

They'll meet Oct. 4 in a 10-round heavyweight bout that will be promoted by Goossen Tutor Promotions and aired by Showtime PPV (\$44.95).

The venue is not set yet.

Cavs get their man

NEW YORK — LeBron James strode onstage wearing an all-white suit, appropriate garb for a player expected to be the savior of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

James, the 18-year-old prep phenom from Akron, Ohio, was the No. 1 choice in the NBA draft June 26. He hugged his agent, Aaron Goodwin, then turned and did the same to his mother, Gloria, before pulling on a Cavaliers cap and shaking the hand of commissioner David Stern.

Agassi charges Wimbledon

Based on the first three rounds, Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick look to be headed for a showdown in the Wimbledon final, and what a matchup that would be: one 33, the other 20; one the game's top returner, the other its top server right now.

The second-seeded Agassi faces ace machine Mark Philippoussis, three times a Wimbledon quarterfinalist but unseeded this year after a series of left knee injuries. Roddick plays Paradorn Srichaphan, who upset Agassi in the second round in 2002.

TWolves make trades

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Timberwolves took their first summer step toward finding a better mix of players to surround Kevin Garnett.

The Milwaukee Bucks, meanwhile, made a move that shows they are serious about resigning Gary Payton.

Minnesota acquired veterans Sam Cassell and Ervin Johnson Friday from Milwaukee in exchange for disappointing forward Joe Smith and guard Anthony Peeler.

Cameroon soccer player dies

LYON, France — Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe died after he collapsed in the heat during the Confederations Cup semi-final against Colombia June 26.

With no one around him, the 28-year-old sank to his knees and fell down, head forward inside the midfield circle in the 71st minute of the game. The 28-year old was carried off on a stretcher to the sideline where he received further treatment, including mouth to mouth resuscitation and extra oxygen for 45 minutes. Foe never recovered.

Baylor player missing

WACO, Texas — Suspects in the disappearance of a Baylor basketball player who may be a homicide victim "potentially include fellow Baylor basketball players," police said June 27. Patrick Dennehy has not been seen or heard from in more than two weeks. While police have not found a body, department spokesman Steven Anderson said they "have received information from several sources that would lead investigators to believe that foul play was involved."