STARS AND STRIPES

Tuesday, May 27, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

Attack on U.S. troops near Baghdad airport

A U.S. soldier arrives at the scene where an U.S. Army Humvee was destroyed in an apparent ambush on the road to Baghdad International Airport on Monday. Details were unclear, but witnesses said they heard several explosions and a 15-minute burst of gunfire, and four soldiers were reportedly injured in the incident.

MURAD SEZER/AP

Two GIs killed, 9 hurt in Fallujah firefight

BY BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Two U.S. soldiers and two unidentified attackers were killed and nine other American troops injured in a firefight Tuesday in the troubled town of Fallujah, a hotbed of support for Saddam Hussein's fallen Baath Party, the U.S. military said.

Hours later, two American military police officers were injured, and one went into shock, after two attacks with rocket-propelled grenades on a northwest Baghdad police station, said Lt. Clint Mundinger of the U.S. Army's 709th Military Police Battalion. He had no further details.

The attacks were the latest in what have been three lethal days for American troops in postwar Iraq — seven soldiers dead in attacks and accidents since Sunday and well over a dozen injured.

In Fallujah, six Iraqis were captured and were being interrogated Tuesday afternoon, said Maj. Randy Martin, a spokesman for the U.S. Army's V Corps. The attackers used rocket-propelled grenades and small arms in the attack, a statement from U.S. Central Command said, but Martin said the grenade was thrown by hand.

All the U.S. soldiers hit were from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, based in Fort Carson, Colo., Martin said.

"Who knows what they were thinking when they engaged U.S. soldiers?" Martin said. "I know we suffered casualties, and the enemy paid a price for those casualties."

U.S. occupying forces have run into trouble before in Fallujah, some 30 miles west of Baghdad. Its 200,000 people benefited greatly from Saddam Hussein's Baath regime. Saddam built chemical and munitions factories that employed Fallujah's young men and gave others places in his elite Republican Guard.

"Fallujah has been an area of concern for us," Martin said. But he said conditions had been improving before Tuesday's attack.

Protests against the Army's presence in Fallujah turned violent when U.S. soldiers fired on crowds on April 28 and April 30, killing 18 Iraqis and wounding at least 78. The soldiers said then that they were defending themselves and the crowd fired first, but Iraqis said no shots were fired at the Americans.

Details of the incident, which occurred just after midnight Tuesday at a traffic checkpoint in Fallujah, were hazy, and accounts varied.

Initial reports said the Americans were fired upon from many directions, including from a mosque, U.S. military officials said.

But townspeople said only the two dead men had opened fire, and were quickly cut down by U.S. forces.

Bashir Jasim, who lives in the area, said the two Iraqis stopped their pickup at a traffic checkpoint, stepped out and opened fire. They were killed immediately by the Americans, he said. Other townspeople recounted very similar versions of the events.

Martin said two vehicles had pulled up the checkpoint together, and a search of the first turned up some weapons. Just as the guns were discovered, men in the second vehicle opened fire and threw a grenade. Martin said.

The intensity of the assault "would suggest the possibility" that it had been coordinated beforehand by the vehicles' occupants, said Capt. Tom Bryant, another V Corps spokesman.

U.S. troops responded with fire from Bradley Fighting Vehicles, machine guns and small arms. They killed two of the attackers and captured six others, the statement said. An Army helicopter landed during the firefight to evacuate the wounded and was damaged when a Bradley struck it while maneuvering into a firing position.

The wounded soldiers were evacuated to a military aid station in the area. The names of the two dead soldiers were not immediately released.

On Tuesday, Fallujah residents said they were growing increasingly angry with the American presence.

"Every Iraqi is ready to sacrifice his life for resistance," said Safa al-Jubair, a 27-year-old street vendor. "We are 26 million Iraqis and we are all resisting and, God willing, occupation will end."

Meanwhile, a U.S. soldier died Tuesday and two others were injured in a road accident near the town of Tallil, when their tractor-trailer collided with another vehicle. Another soldier drowned after diving into an aqueduct in northern Iraq, the Central Command said.

Navy calls off search for 2nd Nassau sailor

BY SONJA BARISIC

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — The Navy has stopped searching the USS Nassau for a missing sailor although crewmembers continue to keep an eye out for him, a Navy spokesman said Tuesday.

"There's not an active search where we're going space by space but everyone knows the sailor is missing and they're on the lookout," Second Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Ernest Duplessis said.

"Now it's just a matter of being alert and understanding that he is missing."

A search of the Atlantic Ocean and the 833-foot amphibious assault ship began Sunday morning when Petty Officer 1st Class Shaun Dale did not appear at roll call.

The sea part of the search ended Monday and the ship then resumed course for North Carolina, where it dropped off its contingent of Marines at Camp Lejeune. It is scheduled to return to its home port in Norfolk on Thursday.

Dale's status remains as missing while an investigation continues, Duplessis said.

Days earlier, another sailor fell overboard from the same ship.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Dwayne Williams, 23, is presumed dead.

Williams, of Philadelphia, tripped and fell from the Nassau on Friday while chasing a football while the ship was about 900 miles off the Virginia coast, officials said.

The Navy ended its search Sunday without finding Williams' body.

Williams' mother and brother said Tuesday they accepted the Navy's explanation, but they wanted to meet the ship in Norfolk to talk to officials.

"We wanted to sit down with some of the people who were actually there so we can hear their side of the story ... people who actually witnessed the incident," brother Curtis Williams told CBS' "The Early Show."

He said he thought it was strange that two sailors would go missing within such a short period of time.

"We still have a lot of questions about the exact details about everything," he said.

Betty Williams said she believed the Navy tried to rescue her son.

"They tried, that's all I know," she said.

According to statistics from the Naval Safety Center, four sailors died in what the service calls "mishaps afloat" between October and May 21.

During the previous federal fiscal year, five sailors died in such circumstances.

Soldier killed in Iraq wanted to be a pastor

OMAHA, Neb. — A Nebraska soldier killed in Iraq dreamed of becoming a pastor, his widow said.

"He wasn't a fighter, he was a peacemaker," Amanda Caldwell said of her husband, Nathaniel Caldwell Jr. "Ever since I've known him, he wanted to be a chaplain.

The 27-year-old Caldwell, a 1999 Peru State graduate, died Wednesday in Baghdad when the vehicle in which he was riding rolled while responding to a civilian call.

Caldwell, a tank mechanic, couldn't wait to get out of the Army in about 20 months, his wife said.

"He talked about us opening a counseling center together after he got out," she said.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two children from his previous marriage: Donovan, 6, and Endira, 4. He also had a stepdaughter, Dallas, 9, from the previous marriage.

18-year-old soldier killed in explosion in Iraq

BUFFALO, N.Y. — An 18-year-old soldier was killed in southern Iraq over the weekend when a munitions dump he was guarding exploded, military officials said.

Pvt. David Evans, Jr., and another soldier were guarding the site in Ad Diwaniyah, 95 miles south of Baghdad, Sunday morning when their steel shelter collapsed during an explosion, according to the Department of Defense. The other injured soldier was pulled from the debris and was transported to a field hospital, where he underwent surgery. Soldiers were unable to find Evans' body for several hours.

The explosion was under investigation Monday, but was not believed to be a result of hostile action, military officials said.

Evans, of the 977th Military Police Company in Fort Riley, Kan., had a 3-month-old son, who was born while he was in the Middle East, the baby's grandmother, Shandra Jones, said.

Four Marines killed in copter crash identified

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Thursday disclosed the names of four Marines killed Monday when their CH-46 transport helicopter crashed into a canal in central Iraq shortly after takeoff.

They are:

- Capt. Andrew David Lamont, 31, of Eureka, Calif.
- Lance Cpl. Jason William Moore, 21, of San Marcos, Calif.
- 1st Lt. Timothy Louis Ryan, 30, of Aurora, Ill.
- Staff Sgt. Aaron Dean White, 27, of Shawnee, Okla.

They were assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

A fifth Marine drowned trying to save them. He was identified Wednesday as Sgt. Kirk Allen Straseskie, 23, of Beaver Dam, Wis. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, from Camp Pendleton.

The CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter crashed in the Shat al-Hillah Canal near the city of Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, according to a U.S. Central Command statement. It was on a resupply mission.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Saddam's in-law arrested

KIRKUK, Iraq — U.S. forces have arrested a man they identified Saddam Hussein's brother-in-law in the strongman's hometown of Tikrit, a military spokeswoman said Tuesday. A newspaper reported the arrest but identified the same man as Saddam's son-in-law.

Mulhana Hamood Abdul Jabar was detained early Sunday and taken to Baghdad International Airport for questioning, spokeswoman Maj. Josslyn Aberle said.

Abdul Jabar was arrested after he drove two wounded men to a hospital in Tikrit at 3 a.m. Sunday. Hospital staff informed U.S. MPs that he was Saddam's relative.

Aberle said the two injured men, who were suffering from gunshot wounds, will be questioned when they recover.

Azzaman, a London-based daily newspaper that recently opened offices in Baghdad, reported the arrest and cited the same details but said Abdul Jabar was Saddam's son-in-law. It gave no further details.

Two more most wanted Iraqis captured

WASHINGTON — Coalition forces captured two more wanted Iraqis over the weekend, bringing to 27 the number of the top 55 former members of Saddam Hussein's regime in custody, U.S. Central Command said Tuesday.

The men captured Saturday were low on the list but their arrests mean nearly half of the top suspects are being held and interrogated by American forces.

The latest captured include Sayf al-Din al-Mashadani, No. 46 on the list. He was the regional leader of Saddam's Baath Party in the Muthanna region of southwestern Iraq.

Also captured was No. 55, Sad Abd al-Majid al-Faysal. He was the Baath Party regional chairman for the area around Tikrit, Saddam's hometown and power base.

From wire reports

News tracker: What's new with old news

States

N.Y. raid death a homicide: A Harlem woman's death after a mistaken police raid has been ruled a homicide, the medical examiner's office said Tuesday.

Medical investigators in New York concluded that retired city worker Alberta Spruill's hypertensive heart disease was aggravated by a May 16 police raid in which officers detonated a flash grenade and handcuffed her.

A police informant had wrongly identified Spruill's apartment on West 143rd Street as one used by a drug dealer to stash cocaine and heroin.

Spruill's family has notified the city that it intends to sue.

Old Man of the Mountain: A Connecticut businessman wants to rebuild New Hampshire's Old Man of the Mountain — out of plastic.

The legendary rock formation on the side of Cannon Mountain in Franconia, N.H., came tumbling down earlier this month, despite nearly a century of efforts to save it.

James Schoepfer, vice president of marketing and sales for Createk, a plastics company specializing in fake rocks, said the whole job could done for between $100,000 to $120,000.

Peterson case: A lawyer representing news organizations argued again Tuesday in a California court that warrants and an autopsy report in the Laci Peterson case should be made public.

Stanislaus County Superior Judge Al Girolami was reviewing the request in his chambers Tuesday.

Lawyer Charity Kenyon, representing The Modesto Bee and four other California newspapers, argued during a pretrial hearing for Scott Peterson, who's accused of killing his pregnant wife and unborn son, that keeping the documents sealed runs contrary to most legal procedures.

Truck bodies arrest: A seventh person has been arrested for her alleged role in a smuggling operation that led to the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants who had been packed into a sweltering tractor-trailer.

Authorities said Norma Sanchez-Gonzalez arranged for two people to be smuggled into the country, one for $1,900, the other for $1,800. One of those immigrants died in the trailer in South Texas earlier this month.

Sanchez-Gonzalez, a 42-year-old Mexican citizen living in Houston, was arrested Friday and was expected to appear in federal court Tuesday on immigrant smuggling charges.

New York smoking ban: Over the past two months, quality-of-life complaints have risen sharply and many are blaming the city smoking ban.

Residents, business owners and police officers have said, among other complaints, that noise levels on sidewalks have increased, secondhand smoke has moved from bars and onto the streets, and sidewalks are more congested with smokers, The New York Post reported.

Police statistics show that noise is at the top of the list of complaints.

While public drinking complaints are also up, loitering complaints are down to zero.

Business

Justice out of Microsoft fight: The Justice Department has decided not to participate in the continuing legal fight involving two states that refused to settle antitrust claims against Microsoft Corp., possibly strengthening the appeals case by the holdout states.

The Justice Department notified the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington on May 21 that it will not file a brief in the case. The government earlier had indicated it might actively defend the landmark settlement it reached with Microsoft and 17 other states.

The decision means Massachusetts and West Virginia, which are seeking tougher sanctions against Microsoft, won't have to directly fight the U.S. government while they're battling the software giant in the courtroom.

World

More Canadian cows slaughtered: Canadian authorities have slaughtered almost 400 cattle and sent the animals' brains for testing in an effort to pinpoint the source of the country's first outbreak of mad cow disease.

According to agriculture officials, all 192 animals that made up the entire herd of the one infected cow have tested negative. Another 180 have been slaughtered for testing and genetic tracing to find where and when the infected cow was born, Brian Evans, chief veterinary officer for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, said Monday.

Meanwhile, U.S. consumers are being asked to return dog food that may have come from a Canadian cow that tested positive for mad cow disease. Pet Pantry International of Carson City, Nev., said customers should search for two products: "Maintenance Diet" with a "use by" date of "17FEB04" and "Beef with Barley" with a date of "05MAR04.

Mideast summit postponed: Palestinians on Tuesday postponed a second summit meeting between Israeli and Palestinian premiers, putting off high-level contacts over implementing a U.S.-backed Mideast peace plan.

The meeting had been set for Wednesday. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was behind the delay, said a senior Palestinian official. Speaking on condition of anonymity, he said Arafat wanted to send a message that he, and not Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, is in charge of negotiations.

On Tuesday, Arafat met with the PLO executive committee, where Abbas is his deputy. The official said Arafat wanted to discuss the latest Israeli proposals for security arrangements before approving another summit.

Milosevic trial: U.N. judges at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal abruptly canceled hearings in the trial of former President Slobodan Milosevic at the Hague on Tuesday after he complained of a fever.

The court said hearings also were canceled for Wednesday.

Milosevic is conducting his own defense against 66 charges of war crimes he allegedly committed during the violent breakup of the former Yugoslavia. His trial already has been set back by 54 days because of illness.

Cruise ship explosion: An explosion and fire in the boiler room of a cruise ship docked in Miami that killed at least four crewmembers appeared to be an accident, officials said.

The explosion Sunday on Norwegian Cruise Line's SS Norway injured more than 15 other crew members, but none of the more than 2,100 passengers were harmed.

War on terrorism

Anti-terror policy to stand: The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will not review government anti-terrorism policies that allowed secret deportation hearings for hundreds of foreigners swept up after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The court declined to hear an appeal from New Jersey newspapers that sought information about people detained in conjunction with antiterrorism investigations.

At issue was a change in policy ordered immediately after the terror attacks. The government ordered all immigration hearings closed if the foreigner was a "special interest" case. The government alone can decide if a case is of special interest to its war on terrorism.

Baathist police chief booted: The top U.S. official in Iraq fired a Baghdad police chief because of his Baath Party membership, despite the help he provided American forces in rebuilding the capital's ravaged police force.

West Baghdad police chief Abdul Razak al-Abbassi was dismissed Sunday, said Lt. Col. Richard Vanderlinden, commander of the U.S. Army's 709th Military Police Battalion.

A 33-year veteran of the force, Al-Abbassi helped coax Baghdad police to return to work and rebuild their looted station houses, and restarted patrols in a city under siege from Kalashnikov-wielding carjackers and looters.

U.S. Embassy closed: The U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, closed for an American holiday Monday and will stay shut for an additional day to review security measures being taken against a heightened terrorist threat, the Embassy said.

Both the U.S. and Britain, along with other European countries, have warned of possible terrorist attacks in eastern Africa, specifically in Kenya.

From wire reports

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News from around the war

USNS Comfort heads home

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Two days into the war in Iraq, sailors aboard the USNS Comfort began seeing gruesome injuries.

The patients — both U.S. and Iraqi soldiers — arrived on the hospital ship by helicopter. Some had gunshot wounds that shattered limbs. Others had burns covering half their body.

Lt. j.g. Colleen Mahon, a Navy nurse, had never seen anything like it in her career. Sometimes the blood and gore got to her.

"After the first couple of patients, the first week was hard," she said. "After our shift, I went back to my rack and, you know, thought a lot about what we did. But then you get up and do it over again, and it just becomes your job."

With the war over, Mahon and the rest of the ship's crew and staff are going home. Earlier this month, nearly 500 military personnel left the ship and arrived back in the United States. About 430 doctors, nurses and corpsmen remain.

While life aboard the ship was hectic at times, Petty Officer 3rd Class Amy Lee is glad she was there.

"I know we were all wishing we were back home when it first started," said Lee, a hospital corpsman. "But after that, as things got going and we finally got patients, then it was a learning experience completely. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

The U.S. Navy hospital ship spent 56 days in the Arabian Gulf treating 300 outpatients and 360 inpatients — most with combat-related injuries in Iraq. The casualties included U.S. troops, Iraqi civilians and Iraqi prisoners of war. The first two patients arrived March 22.

While some people initially felt uneasy about treating Iraqi soldiers, Cmdr. Brian Lewis said they treated patients regardless of which side they fought.

"It's tough and there were a lot of discussions about whether people would be able to do that before we got into actual combat operations," said Lewis, the top nurse on the ship's 50-bed Casualty Receiving ward. "The fact of the matter is our folks are very, very professional medical health care providers."

To deal with the daily trauma in the intensive care unit, a team of psychologists and psychiatrists visited the nurses and corpsmen almost daily to see how they were coping. Although 35 percent of the sailors had less than one year of experience in medicine, Lewis said the young staff performed incredibly well.

"We didn't know exactly what to expect," he said. "But it never ceases to amaze me how really inspired and inspiring our young troops are."

Reservists not getting reimbursed

Army reservists and National Guard members are fielding repeated phone calls from bill collectors because the federal government is not promptly reimbursing them for lodging costs and other expenses, according to a report in Saturday's St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times.

Military officials confirmed to the Times that there are delays affecting thousands of reservists and Guard members. They said the scope of the war on terror has overwhelmed the Pentagon's check-writing office.

A Pentagon official told the Times that the backlog affects 23,000 reservists, both Army Reserve and members of the Army National Guard. The Pentagon is considering creating the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence in Cleveland to help resolve pay issues.

Steve Stromvall, an Army Reserve spokesman at Fort McPherson in Atlanta, blamed the problem on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the accounting arm of the Defense Department. He said the accounting service's workload has tripled because of the number of reservists who have been mobilized.

Myers: Just takes time to find weapons

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff said Monday he believes it's "just a matter of time" before U.S. military forces find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

"We knew going in that a regime that had spent over a decade trying to deny and deceive the United Nations and others about its weapons of mass destruction program, that this would be very, very tough," said Air Force Gen. Richard Myers.

But Myers said as U.S. forces continue to capture members of Saddam Hussein's ousted regime, the chances of finding weapons will improve.

Twenty-five people on a list of 55 top-ranking Iraqis who were part of Saddam's regime are in U.S. custody, and Myers said on ABC television that these people were "deeply involved" in a weapons program.

The Bush administration charged that Saddam held weapons of mass destruction and was seeking to develop more sophisticated weapons — and that was cited as the principal reason for invading Iraq.

But in the weeks after the crushing of Saddam's regime, little has been found.

The CIA is reviewing the accuracy of information it supplied in the weeks preceding the mid-March invasion of Iraq, said a senior U.S. intelligence official speaking on condition of anonymity.

Asked Monday what he thinks of the quality of that intelligence, Myers told NBC television that he has "high confidence in the intelligence data that we had before we went into Iraq."

INC, U.S. 'difficult allies'

BAGHDAD, Iraq — An official from the Iraqi National Congress, a group that spent years opposing Saddam Hussein, asserted Tuesday that American forces are unwittingly permitting Saddam Hussein's loyalists to interfere in the administration of postwar Iraq.

Qaisar Wutwut, an INC senior official, blamed officials of the former ruling Baath Party for the slowness of the U.S.-led administration in re-establishing law and order, and restoring utilities and public services in Baghdad.

The civilian administrator, L. Paul Bremer, has promised to remove any Baathists who used their power to repress the Iraqi people. Many Iraqis complain, however, that numerous Baathists retained key positions in the interim administration.

INC spokesman Intifadh Qanbar told reporters Tuesday that his group and the United States were "difficult allies."

Lejeune Marines welcomed home

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — Christina Packard was barefoot and sodden, her baby clutched in her arms. But her smile brightened the dark, rainy Monday morning as she waited by the ocean for her husband to come home from war.

Lance Cpl. William Packard is one of 2,300 Marines and sailors of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which left North Carolina in August for a routine six-month patrol that stretched into a war-driven nine months.

Families gathered at the base pier at Onslow Beach as their loved ones began riding transport craft to shore from three ships.

It was the first major Marine Corps unit to return to the United States from combat in Iraq.

First to hit the beach were about two dozen Marines driving a small convoy of Humvees and trucks. The group was led off the landing craft by a small bulldozer flying a large American flag.

Only a handful of Marines had come ashore by midmorning from the USS Austin, the first of the unit's three ships. The Tortuga, carrying 800 troops, was close behind, but the return of the Nassau — carrying about 1,100 Marines — was delayed by searches for two sailors who went missing over the weekend.

For those who made it ashore, even the damp sand of Onslow Beach was a welcome sight.

"It's good to see U.S. soil, really good," said Cpl. Travis Hoots of Roodhouse, Ill.

His wife, Jamie, met him on the beach carrying their 7-month-old son.

"I spent a lot of nights thinking about what this day would be like," Hoots said as he looked at his new baby. "I'm just sort of dumbfounded."

A number of the returning Marines were getting their first look at sons and daughters born while they were away.

The Packards learned just before the unit departed that Christina, 18, was pregnant. She moved to Westerville, Ohio, to stay with her parents while he was gone.

"It was hard, but I knew he was coming home and everything would be OK," she said. Monday was her first wedding anniversary, and Packard held her 2-month-old daughter, Makayla, in her arms like a present for the husband who had yet to see his baby.

His gift to her? "As long as he's coming home, that's the best anniversary present you could have," she said.

U.S. lifts many economic sanctions

WASHINGTON — The United States said Tuesday it was lifting most remaining sanctions on Iraq, freeing U.S. companies to do business with the country for the first time in nearly 13 years.

The action followed a United Nations Security Council resolution last week that ended U.N. trade and oil sanctions against Iraq.

Under the action being taken by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, companies and people can engage in many normal trade and investment opportunities with Iraq without first having to obtain government approval.

Still barred are trade in arms and in cultural artifacts illegally removed from Iraq, as well as trade with certain officials of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party and other blacklisted people, the Treasury Department said in a statement.

Also, exporting of certain goods, such as high-tech equipment that has been restricted for national security purposes would still require companies to obtain a license from the U.S. government.

"Trade and the opportunities and resources that come with it will unleash the force of the free market, bringing a better life for the people of Iraq," Treasury Secretary John Snow said.

"Oil can now be exported to finance reconstruction and humanitarian needs," he said. "Vital goods and services can be imported."

Private economists say reviving Iraq's economy and moving it toward a free-market system after years under a system tightly controlled by Saddam's government will be difficult and time consuming.

New commander in Afghanistan

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Maj. Gen. John R. Vines became the new commander of U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan on Tuesday during a ceremony at Bagram Air Base.

With U.S. soldiers standing at attention and American flags snapping in the wind, Vines accepted his new assignment on the base's helicopter runway.

Vines replaces Lt. Gen. Dan K. McNeill, the 18th Airborne Corps commander, who is scheduled to leave Afghanistan soon after his one-year tour of duty ends.

The personnel change switched the command from the 18th Airborne Corps, which is based in Fort Bragg, N.C., to the 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Bagram Air Base is the headquarters of coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Oliver North on military's importance

POTTERSVILLE, N.Y. — Oliver North, a key figure in the Iran-Contra scandal of the 1980s, said Monday the war with Iraq was positive because it helped Americans see what the military is doing.

"It was good for the military, to do it the way we do it. It was good for the press to see it that way," said the retired Marine to more than 3,000 people at the Word of Life's Memorial Day rally, 75 miles north of Albany.

"There's no doubt the effect of this operation is going to be to the American people a new awareness that serving in the military is a good thing. It was good for the American people to see their sons and daughters do it for them."

North, a Fox News Channel reporter embedded with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force during the war with Iraq, said he was shaken up when he witnessed the crash of a U.S. helicopter in Iraq that killed 12 soldiers, the Press-Republican of Plattsburgh reported.

"It gave me a chance to reflect," said North, who grew up in the tiny Columbia County village of Philmont. "I did a reappraisal of where I'm spending my time."

North, who hosts a weekly Fox News Channel show and a syndicated radio show called "Common Sense," said he believes terrorism has become a religious activity.

"At this moment, in much of the world, young men are being taught to kill you and I, with some type of spiritual reward. That's incomprehensible to you and I. It's against everything we believe in," he said. "It isn't a secular issue. The guys who blew up airliners on 9/11, who blew up embassies last week, have been grounded in a faith of dying. Our faith is one of living."

Polls show confidence in Bush

WASHINGTON — An overwhelming majority of Americans say they have confidence in the Bush administration to protect them from terrorism.

Eight in 10 in the CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll released Thursday said they have confidence in the Bush administration to protect citizens from attacks; 35 percent of those polled said they have a "great deal" of confidence.

The president's job approval was at 66 percent.

The public's confidence that the United States and its allies are winning the war on terrorism has dropped, with just over half, 54 percent, saying the United States is winning, and a third, 32 percent, saying neither side is winning.

After the war with Iraq ended, two-thirds said the U.S. was winning.

The NBC-Journal poll shows Bush very strong against potential Democratic rivals.

He holds more than 20-point leads in head-to-head matchups with Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts and Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut. Those three Democratic candidates are the strongest in national polls when Democrats are asked who they would support for president.

From staff and wire reports

Troops in Iraq battle burger prices, rats

Is the price right?

Outside the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, the storied high-rise where so many journalists stayed during the war, soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team stand guard day and night.

On occasion, though, the sentries step inside the Palestine's Aladin Coffee Shop for a cold drink and a bite to eat.

They always order hamburgers, a little taste of America in the Wild West that is Baghdad.

The first couple of times the soldiers came in, a hamburger cost a dollar and so did a Pepsi.

But a couple of days later, the price had gone up to $2 for a hamburger and $2 for a Pepsi.

When the troops showed up for dinner that same night? You guessed it, the price had jumped to $3 each, said Staff Sgt. Tommy Saunders, of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment.

"I just had a big argument with the waiter," said a frustrated Saunders, 24, of Fitzgerald, Ga., who was out to protect his soldiers from the next hamburger caper.

With the value of the dollar in Baghdad fluctuating as much as the price of a burger and soda, there's no telling how much a hot meal will cost the boys from Charlie Company next time.

"We always pay them in American money and every time they ask for more," Saunders said.

Come on, Irene

When V Corps commander Lt. Gen. William S. Wallace moves, so does his Personal Security Detachment.

The team of highly trained warriors is charged with making sure Wallace stays safe anywhere he goes. On Wallace's recent trip to downtown Baghdad, a detachment gunner in Wallace's armored Humvee swung like a metronome in his turret, scanning left and right as the convoy sped downtown.

The detachment members in the rear used their Humvee to block the general's flanks from the sights of any lurking gunman.

"We'll take a bullet for him," said team leader Sgt. Jess Martin, whose feet hung out the door of the rolling Humvee and whose weapon was always at the ready.

Despite the pressure, Martin spices up the beginning of every mission by shouting in his radio, "Irene! Irene!"

The words were made famous in Mark Bowden's book "Black Hawk Down." In that true story, the Black Hawk pilots used the word "Irene" to signal that their mission was a go before making their ill-fated flight into Mogadishu, Somalia, to capture a covey of warlords.

So every time Wallace's convoy revs up to leave Camp Victory — V Corps' headquarters in Baghdad — Martin sings out "I-rene, I -rene" through his radio, and the Humvees take off.

"I'm sure they're going to get sick of hearing that pretty soon," Martin said of his team with a laugh.

Rat pack

The V Corps Public Affairs Office at Camp Victory in Baghdad is the envy of many a soldier living at the massive palace complex.

Situated on an island in a manmade pond, the building benefits from a lakeshore breeze that eases the sweltering heat.

But there's a downside to all this largesse: Rats.

And we're not talking about the pesky journalists who swarm the place.

"We've killed nine rats so far," said Capt. Tom Bryant, public affairs operations officer. "And this morning we got a mouse."

Thankfully, the rats, measuring about a foot from nose to tail, are on the wane. The PAO's have strategically placed rodent traps around their compound.

"I haven't seen a rat since we killed six or seven in a 48-hour period," said Maj. Dean Thurmond, deputy V Corps PAO.

Or maybe the rodents left for fear of the PAO shop's boss, Lt. Col. Joe Richard.

"He beat one to death with a broom. It was just walking under the sergeant major's cot one night. It left a puddle of blood," Thurmond said.

Richard had no remorse.

"If there's one thing I hate," Richard said, "it's rats."

All in the family

The first time Pfc. Kenneth Gilbert's father saw him in uniform was on the flight line of the Kirkuk airfield.

The 20-year-old soldier assigned to the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade out of Vicenza, Italy, enlisted while his father — Army Brig. Gen. David Gilbert, the commanding officer of Special Operations Central Command — was fighting in Afghanistan.

Then the young solider shipped off to a war of his own — the conflict to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

So, a month ago, Pfc. Gilbert got word to head from his post at the government building in downtown Kirkuk to the airfield a few miles away. Something to do with his father, he was told.

"That's all I knew. I figured he was either coming in, or he was dead.

"There was no chaplain, so I figured he was coming in," said the younger Gilbert, who will celebrate his 21st birthday in Iraq.

"Yeah, he was proud," he said of the man, a "real-life G.I. Joe," who had inspired the youngster to go Army. "It was the first time he'd ever seen me in uniform."

From staff reports

Iran denies nuke, al-Qaida charges

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration on Tuesday rejected Iranian denials that it was developing nuclear weapons or harboring al-Qaida fugitives. But a top Senate Democrat cautioned the White House to tone down its rhetoric.

"I don't think we should be biting off more than we can chew right now," said Sen. Joseph Biden, the senior Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the administration believes al-Qaida leaders are being sheltered in Iran.

He also scoffed at Tehran's assertions that its nuclear program is exclusively designed for peaceful power-generating purposes.

"We continue to have concerns that a nation that is awash in gas and oil would seek to produce peaceful nuclear energy," he said.

Meanwhile, an Iranian opposition group maintained that Iran has two previously undisclosed uranium enrichment facilities about 40 miles west of Tehran. Spokesmen for The National Council Resistance of Iran said they learned of the existence of the facilities through allies inside Iran.

"It's time for U.S. policy to be clear and firm against the Iranian regime," said Alireza Jafarzadeh, speaking at a news conference.

U.S. handing out $1M a day in Iraq

WASHINGTON — U.S. dollars are flown to Iraq by the planeload. An Army clerk pays Baghdad electricians from a footlocker full of cash. Soldiers string barbed wire at the site where Iraqi retirees get their pensions.

"It doesn't instill a lot of confidence," the CATO Institute's Christopher Preble says of reconstruction finances so far in postwar Iraq.

American troops and officials are handing out $1 million a day in Iraq, according to the Pentagon-led Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance.

That spending is in addition to multimillion-dollar contracts awarded by the State Department and the roughly $1 billion a week it takes to keep U.S. troops in Iraq.

Officials say they're developing an efficient and well-controlled system for getting money back into the country's economy again. But financing reconstruction in Iraq is a hugely complicated affair, with money coming in from at least a half dozen sources and going out in everything from tiny cash payments to contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Defense Department, infamous for its long-standing money management problems, will soon send a dozen auditors to oversee the spending.

Two months into the campaign in Iraq, the Bush administration has declined to say what reconstruction might cost or how long it thinks occupying forces might stay there.

"When is the president going to tell the American people that we're likely to be in ... Iraq for three, four, five, six, eight, 10 years, with thousands of forces and spending billions of dollars?" Sen. Joseph Biden asked Pentagon officials last week in a hearing.

"It is very difficult to predict" how long it will take, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz responded.

It is also unclear exactly how much they'll have to spend. But the finances will be "frightening difficult and legalistic," said one treasury official privately, partly because the pool of money to be spent is a mix of money that belongs to Iraqi and has been frozen by the United Nations, the United States and other countries; money that might be pledged by coalition members; money Congress appropriated in the defense budget, and huge caches of dollars, gold and other assets found hidden around the country by the former regime.

Money taken from each of those pots comes with its own rules on how it can be spent — and all the rules aren't yet clear, officials said.

Cash used so far comes from $1.7 billion of Iraqi money frozen by the United States under sanctions since 1990, Pentagon and Treasury officials said. Transferred at the war's start into an account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, it's shipped to Iraq as needed.

About $200 million has been drawn down so far.

That's singles, fives, tens and $20 bills, fluttered through an accounting machine, weighed, shrink-wrapped in stacks and flown on pallets to Iraq with two guards who stay awake and in line of sight at all times during the flight.

Some $31 million had been handed out as of Friday to pensioners, police, teachers, electricians and other civil servants.

Peacekeeping costs worrying some

IENNA, Austria — Waging war is expensive, but so is keeping the peace — and the cost has some coalition countries taking a hard look at plans to deploy troops for mop-up duty in Iraq.

To be sure, concern about cash isn't the only worry for governments pledging postwar assistance. Many are preoccupied with a fresh wave of public opposition to any involvement, or with calls for the peacekeeping operation to get explicit U.N. authorization, which isn't contemplated.

But with expense an inescapable reality, a number of nations that the Bush administration had hoped would contribute to peacekeeping are counting the costs and coming up short:

■ The Philippines has slashed its offer of military, police and civilian personnel from 500 to 175 and pared its peacekeeping budget from $11.5 million to $3.4 million.

■ Poland, tapped to play a prominent peacekeeping command role, says it can't contribute more than 1,500 of its own soldiers. And Warsaw warns it can cover only a third of the $90 million it estimates is needed to keep Polish troops in Iraq for a year and has asked Washington for help.

■ Azerbaijan is delaying at least until the end of the month its plans to deploy 150 peacekeepers, in part to get a better idea of how much it will cost.

"The Americans are going to get stuck with the vast majority of the bill," said Mark Stoker, a defense economist at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

"But they wanted the war. At least that's how I imagine the rest of the world looks at it," he added.

Private analysts say the United States could spend more than $100 billion just dealing with the aftermath of the war, depending on the scope of rebuilding efforts and how long American troops stick around.

The Pentagon has determined it costs roughly $250,000 a year to maintain a single U.S. peacekeeper abroad.

"They really tend to do this the Rolls-Royce way. They do it big, with a lot of extra facilities brought in," Stoker said.

Kandahar attack thwarted

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan authorities on Monday confirmed the arrest of a senior Taliban commander who was allegedly planning terror attacks in the south of the country.

Mullah Janan was arrested in the southern city of Kandahar on Saturday, said Han Mohammed, a military division commander in the city.

Janan was taken into custody with four other men accused of plotting to explode a bomb in a populated part of Kandahar near an unspecified government facility.

On Sunday, Foreign Minister Abdullah described Janan as "one of the notorious links of al-Qaida among the Taliban." Like many Afghans, Abdullah uses only one name.

Mohammed said Janan served as a Taliban commander in the northern provinces of Badghis and Faryab. Before that, he also was a commander loyal to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a former prime minister now waging an insurgency against the government.

The five arrests came as the United States announced that command of its forces in Afghanistan would be handed over to the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division on Tuesday. No reason was given for the change.

About 11,500 coalition troops, 8,500 of them Americans, are in Afghanistan hunting down remnants of the ousted Taliban regime and their allies.

On Sunday, unidentified attackers fired a 107 mm rocket toward a U.S. base in the eastern town of Gardez, but no damage or injuries were reported, the U.S. military said in a statement Monday.

From wire reports

Cleanup uncovers hazardous waste

FREDERICK, Md. — Two years of digging at the U.S. Army's Fort Detrick in Frederick has unearthed more than 2,000 tons of hazardous waste — including vials of live bacteria and nonvirulent anthrax that the military did not know was buried there, Detrick officials said.

Discovery of the pathogens at the former biological weapons research center turned what the Army thought would be a $5 million industrial waste removal into the biggest cleanup in its history. So far, cleanup crews have discovered more than 100 glass vials, many containing live bacteria, and in a few, a nonvirulent strain of anthrax. The $25 million excavation is to end this year.

While the Army searches for evidence of biological and chemical weapons in Iraq, Fort Detrick's cleanup saga shows how, nearly 40 years after the United States ended such programs at home, it still struggles with their lingering dangers. As in the Middle East, poor documentation, the passage of time and the programs' secrecy have slowed the effort.

"You find it, contain it and try to figure out what it is," said Col. John Ball, Fort Detrick garrison commander.

When digging began in April 2001, the Army expected to find mostly lab chemicals, debris and incinerator ash. But little more than one foot down, the bulldozers hit corroded drums of herbicides and unidentified chemicals, syringes, lab instruments and strange substances mixed with the dirt. They recovered 50 pressurized cylinders of gases and liquids still awaiting analysis. Four dissected laboratory rats appeared, still floating in jars of formaldehyde at least 30 years old.

But what the Army least expected to find were tiny vials of live bacteria, including Bacillus anthracis — a nonvirulent form of the anthrax bacterium, the potent form of which was brewed by the gallon at Fort Detrick until 1969.

Air Force member dies at Incirlik

Military officials are investigating the Tuesday morning death of a 39th Security Forces Squadron airman at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

Staff Sgt. Matthias A. Arnt III died at approximately 1:30 a.m., according to base officials, who released no other details in a news release.

Anthrax court-martial

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — A 26-year-old Army reservist at Fort Drum asked a military judge on Tuesday to throw out a charge that she disobeyed orders by refusing to take an anthrax vaccine.

Defense attorneys for Pvt. Kamila Iwanowska argued that the order was unlawful because the anthrax vaccine has never been formally approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and that Iwanowska was being charged for refusing a command given by both her company captain and the garrison commander. Ball said it was the same order and that she had already received 48 days confinement for her refusal from the captain.

WWII hero visits United States

CHICAGO — A German who helped save the lives of five escaped American prisoners of war in the dying days of World War II had a happy reunion with two of the men over the Memorial Day weekend.

Ernst Naumann, 72, was just a boy in 1945 when he and his brother and grandfather decided to hide the American soldiers in a cave to keep them safe.

"We realized they were in dire straits," said Naumann, who traveled with his wife, Lore, from Wurzburg, Germany, to Illinois for the reunion. "We could see they were hungry. We knew it was risky."

The soldiers had been captured in the Battle of the Bulge and imprisoned in a German camp when they escaped into the woods during a rest break from their work detail.

They were on the run for three days and unable to locate any other American troops when they were discovered by a group of frightened German women and children. Roger Foehringer, then a 21-year-old soldier with the 99th Infantry Division, spied an elderly man and two boys waving and yelling at them.

Naumann, then 14, and his younger brother Eberhard, who since has died, brought hot coffee, black bread and bacon drippings to the soldiers' cave every evening for three days.

"It was like a steak dinner," Foehringer recalls. "It was the most wonderful dinner in my whole life."

Naumann escorted the grateful men to safety when he encountered another American soldier who had driven his Jeep to a nearby village.

Foehringer, now 79, wrote the mayor of Wurzburg in the early 1970s to try to find out about the family that had risked so much.

He traveled to Germany to meet Naumann and the two have kept in touch ever since.

Naumann and his wife traveled from Germany last week to visit the Foehringers in Genoa, west of Chicago. They were joined Sunday by Ray Wenzel, another of the POWs.

"I wouldn't be here today. My family wouldn't be here" if it weren't for them, Foehringer said.

From staff and wire reports

Bush honors war dead

By Deb Riechmann
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — President Bush led the nation on Monday in remembering all Americans who have died in war, including soldiers killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, some now resting in fresh graves at Arlington National Cemetery just beyond the Tomb of the Unknowns.

"The moral force of democracy is mightier than the will and cunning of any tyrant," Bush said under overcast skies at the cemetery.

"Today, we recall that liberty is always the achievement of courage and today we remember all who have died, all who are still missing and all who mourn."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said continuing threats to America's freedom "will be met with the same courage and the same commitment and like the foes of times past, they too will be defeated."

Cannons sounded as the president's motorcade moved along winding roads of the cemetery where troops stood at attention, rifles with shiny bayonets on their shoulders. Tiny American flags had been stabbed in the damp grass in front of many the cemetery's white headstones that stand in rows like marching soldiers.

"This nation does not forget," Bush declared after placing a wreath on the tomb and standing stoically with his hand on his heart as Taps was played. He said the nation honors those in uniform from "conflicts in Korea and Vietnam to the trials of world war, to the struggles that made us a nation."

Most of the service was somber, but the crowd chuckled when Bush recalled a letter that Army Staff Sgt. Lincoln Hollinsaid, 27, of Malden, Ill., wrote from the Middle East, telling his family that he enjoyed getting mail from them. "I wish my truck and boat knew how to write," Bush said, quoting Hollinsaid, who was killed April 7. "I sure do miss 'em."

The president also quoted from a letter that Army Capt. James Adamouski, 29, of Springfield, Va., wrote to his wife, shortly before he died in a helicopter crash on April 2. "I do my job 110 percent and don't get distracted or discouraged when I'm out flying on missions," Bush said he wrote. "However, when I have some down time and get to really thinking, I realize that for all the good things we're doing here, I just plain miss you.' "

Legal status for unborn children?

AUSTIN — Legislation that defines an unborn child as an "individual" and would allow for the prosecution of a person who harms or kills an unborn child was adopted by the Texas Senate on Thursday.

The legislation, authored by Sen. Ken Armbrister, D-Victoria, would enable prosecution for the injury or death of an unborn child, unless it is the result of a legal medical procedure carried out by a health care provider, the result of legal drug use, or the result of an action by the mother.

The measure also would allow parents to bring suit against a person who kills or injures their unborn child.

Critics say giving an unborn child legal status clears the way for the Supreme Court to undo a woman's right to abortion.

"It's a major step back if this bill passes," said Kae McLaughlin, executive director of the Texas Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League.

Armbrister said the legislation "does not affect the status of legal abortions or other legal procedures performed with the consent of the mother."

He said that 26 other states in the nation have similar laws that make killing an unborn child a form of homicide.

Truck loaded with illegals found

PECOS, Texas — Seventeen illegal immigrants, including a mother and her baby, were found hidden behind stacks of furniture in the cargo area of a utility truck during a traffic stop early Tuesday.

Police said the truck was pulled over for speeding about 2 a.m. on Interstate 20 just west of Pecos, about 180 miles east of El Paso.

The truck was headed from El Paso to Dallas, said Department of Public Safety Trooper Arnulfo Rivas.

Reeves County Chief Deputy Victor Prieto said the unidentified driver, a U.S. citizen, was arrested after they found he was driving with a suspended license.

Rivas said none of the illegal immigrants were injured. They were found after Rivas opened the rear cargo door and checked the area behind the bedroom furniture.

Bibles found unconstitutional

WESTMINSTER, Colo. — For people of faith, the Bible can serve as a compass to help navigate life's dilemmas, from questions about spirituality to everyday problems with relationships or work.

But one jury took that too far when they thumbed through the Bible during deliberations to find passages on the death penalty, a Colorado judge ruled.

Friday's decision to throw out the death sentence has left some experts wondering where to draw the line.

"Most people during life and death events rely to some extent on their religion," said former Denver prosecutor Craig Silverman.

Some question whether banning the Bible from jury deliberations is wise, or even feasible, considering how ingrained the Bible's teachings can be for those who spent years learning them.

Judge John Vigil's decision is one of a handful in the last two decades to overturn death penalty sentences because the judges considered the Bible to be illegal outside reference material.

"You don't ask jurors to set aside their personal beliefs but they can't be going to outside sources and making the decision," said Kansas state District Judge David Kennedy.

Kennedy ordered a new sentencing phase in 2000 for a man convicted in the slaying of a Wichita couple after at least two Bibles were brought into the deliberation room. Some jurors told the judge they had referred to a passage reading, "If a person does not ask for mercy, they may not be granted mercy," suggesting that the suspect never asked for mercy because he didn't take the stand.

Honoring organ donor's wishes

WASHINGTON — Frustrated by the stagnant rate of organ donation, leaders in the field want to harvest organs from all those who die and had signed donor cards, even if their families say no.

That would represent a fundamental change in the way permission is given for organ donation. For years, public service announcements have urged Americans to "share your decision" about donation with family members, an acknowledgment that the family has the final say.

Now, with waiting lists for transplants growing each year, leaders in organ procurement have concluded that a significant change is needed.

Public opinion consistently shows widespread support for organ donation, yet just half of families say yes to donating a loved one's organs when approached. The only appreciable increase in recent years has been among living donors who give one of their kidneys or a portion of liver.

The new approach, being called "donor authorization," was agreed to at conference last month in Orlando, Fla., where more than 100 donation experts devised ways to increase donation rates.

"I strongly believe in an individual's right to donate. That right shouldn't be taken away because the family doesn't agree," said Dr. Robert Metzger, the medical director of the organ bank in Orlando, who helped organize the meeting.

Fire hero arrested again

ABILENE, Texas — A man who rescued four children from a burning apartment and was arrested shortly afterward on a probation violation returned to jail over the weekend after being arrested on an assault charge.

Kris Leija, 23, was arrested Friday night on a charge of aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury. He remained in jail Monday in lieu of $10,000 bail.

The arrest stemmed from a fight between Leija and his 15-year-old brother, Abilene police Sgt. Scott Rowley said. Leija is accused of hitting his brother in the chest with a shovel.

Rowley did not believe the injuries were serious.

On April 27, Leija ran into a burning apartment complex three times, pulling four young children — including an infant in a car seat — from the complex. Video footage showed Leija collapsing on his hands and knees from apparent exhaustion afterward.

A day later, Leija was arrested for a probation violation after a deputy recognized him when he appeared on television with the children's grandmother. He was on probation for a burglary of Abilene High School last July, and authorities said he failed to meet with his probation officer the month before the fire.

Fire investigators later fingered Leija in the ensuing arson investigation in part because of discrepancies in his account of the night's events.

From wire reports

Police narrowly miss suspected serial killer

By Kristen Wyatt
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The man suspected of killing six women in Louisiana spent at least the past week in a dingy Atlanta motel, where he charmed residents, grilled ribs and chicken at a party, and set up a Bible study.

Neighbors described Derrick Todd Lee as a handsome, smooth-talking man who dated several women and promised them cognac if they would come to his room.

"This guy, he was handsome," said Bubukutty Idicalla, manager of the Lakewood Motor Lodge, where Lee paid $135 cash for a week in a one-room efficiency. "He would go to the ladies and say, 'You married? You married?' "

Lee abruptly left his room in southwest Atlanta on Monday, the day the FBI filed a fugitive warrant for him. Lee told residents his mother was sick and he had to go home to Louisiana. But police say they think he's still nearby.

"Mr. Lee is very dangerous, we believe he's here in Atlanta and we need to get him arrested," said Vernon Keenan, director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Over the last few weeks, Lee traveled by bus from Louisiana to Chicago and then to Atlanta, said U.S. Marshal Richard Mecum. Lee has been in Atlanta at least a week, and he may be working construction or concrete contracting jobs that pay cash, authorities said. He's traveling with two duffel bags and wearing a tan Members Only jacket.

Lee, 34, was charged Monday with murder and aggravated rape in the killing of Carrie Yoder, 26, a Louisiana State University student who became the serial killer's fifth suspected victim in March. The first killing was 11 years ago, and police say Lee may be connected to other unsolved killings as well.

The FBI released Lee's photo Monday, asking the public to help locate him. The naming of a suspect came nearly a year after police linked the murders of three Baton Rouge women to a single DNA profile. The warrant accuses Lee only of Yoder's murder, though it says DNA evidence removed from Yoder's body matched that taken from the other four victims.

Police in Zachary, La., a suburb of Baton Rouge, obtained a DNA sample from Lee — which linked him to the five slayings — earlier this month because they were investigating him for an unconnected disappearance in their town.

On May 5, the same day he voluntarily submitted the DNA, Lee abruptly pulled his two children out of school, saying he was moving to Los Angeles, according to Lloyd Lindsey, superintendent of West Feliciana school system. Authorities said they do not know the whereabouts of Lee's wife and children.

Motel residents say Lee cleared out Monday, shortly after borrowing the manager's cell phone to call two numbers in the Baton Rouge area. According to Idicalla, police traced the number, called Idicalla's cell phone and asked if he knew Lee.

When Idicalla told police Lee was there, authorities headed to the run-down motel. But by the time Marshals got there, Lee was gone, taken to a train station by a resident who thought he was headed home to see his sick mother.

"We have not actually laid eyes on him. Right now we're in his wake — we're right behind him," Mecum said.

Lee made friends with many of the 50 or so residents of the motel and was known as a lady's man. Resident Brenda Jones, 48, said he was "very nice."

"He wasn't violent-acting. He didn't talk about violence. He talked about the Bible a lot. Let me tell you, he knew the Bible."

Motel residents said Lee didn't have a car and got rides to a pawn shop, where he sold gold jewelry. His behavior didn't stand out around the motel.

"I prayed with this man. I gave him rides," said Valerie Thwaites, a maid and receptionist at the motel. "He was very gorgeous and very kind to me."

Lee entertained several women in his room, neighbors said. He would often compliment their hair and offer them drinks.

"He was nice, and he had a pretty woman stay the night," Idicalla said. "I could not believe it when the police came and said he was wanted for killing women. None of us could believe it."

Bush signs bill giving $15B to fight AIDS

WASHINGTON — President Bush said the $15 billion global AIDS bill he signed on Tuesday is the "moral duty" of the United States to act against a disease that has killed more than 20 million people worldwide.

"We believe in the value and dignity of every human life," Bush said, likening the AIDS initiative to U.S. relief and rebuilding efforts in Europe during World War II.

"We are the nation of the Marshall Plan, the Berlin airlift and the Peace Corps, and now we are the nation of the emergency plan for AIDS relief," Bush said at the State Department, where representatives of 25 nations gathered for a ceremony at which he signed the five-year plan designed to help prevent and treat AIDS, especially in more than a dozen African and Caribbean nations.

If fully implemented, the legislation is supposed to prevent 7 million new infections, care for 10 million HIV-infected people and AIDS orphans and provide anti-retroviral therapy for 2 million.

Most drivers admit to risky behavior

WASHINGTON — In a new poll designed to measure drivers' attitudes about safety, a majority of drivers admit they routinely speed, eat or even read at the wheel.

Ninety-one percent of drivers of all ages acknowledged at least one risky activity in the previous six months, including 71 percent who said they sped, 59 percent who ate while driving, 37 percent who used a cell phone, 28 percent who wore no seatbelt and 26 percent who used no signal when turning. Fourteen percent admitted to reading while driving.

At the same time, drivers were likely to say that someone else on the road is more dangerous than they are. Drivers ages 26-44 were most likely to engage in risky driving, but when that age group was asked which drivers should be retested to make sure they're driving safely, 83 percent said seniors and 69 percent said teens. Only 56 percent said everyone should be retested.

Professor claims Jesus was actively gay

The campaign to have U.S. Protestant churches normalize homosexual activity took a radical new turn with a scholar's claim that Jesus not only approved same-sex relationships but was involved in one himself.

Many will find his actively homosexual Jesus "blasphemous," admits Theodore W. Jennings Jr., who makes the assertion in a book, "The Man Jesus Loved: Homoerotic Narratives From the New Testament." Jennings heads gay and lesbian studies at Chicago Theological Seminary, a school of the Cleveland-based United Church of Christ whose Pilgrim Press published the book.

The book fits the United Church's policy of "extravagant welcome" toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, and the pride it took in ordaining a pioneer gay minister in 1972.

Jennings, though, is a minister of the United Methodist Church, which officially opposes same-sex activity.

Jennings says the opponents can cite only "five isolated verses" in the Bible. Preferring simplicity to credibility, he ignores those verses and the weightiest American treatment of them: "The Bible and Homosexual Practice" (from the Methodists' Abingdon Press) by conservative Presbyterian Robert A.J. Gagnon of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Asked about Jennings' theory, Gagnon says "the idea that Jesus was a homosexual or engaged in homosexual acts is complete nonsense" and no "serious biblical scholar" has ever proposed this.

A gay Jesus was preached in a non-scholarly 1992 book by J. Robert Williams. And there's a fictional gay Jesus in Terrence McNally's 1998 play "Corpus Christi." But Jennings is apparently the first professorial proponent.

Experts offer $1M for missing nickel

CONCORD, N.H. — A nationwide bounty hunt is under way — with a $1 million reward. The target: a 90-year-old nickel.

After being born of questionable, some say clandestine, circumstances, five 1913 Liberty Head nickels surfaced in the 1920s. Two are in private collections, two are in museums, but the whereabouts of the fifth has confounded collectors for at least 40 years.

"There's a little bit of gimmick to it," concedes Paul Montgomery, president of Bowers and Merena Galleries of Wolfeboro, N.H., which is offering the reward. "But it's all about trying to find the coin."

The Liberty Head Nickel was minted from 1883 to 1912, when it was replaced by the Indian or Buffalo Nickel.

Five Liberty nickels, however, were minted illegally in 1913, possibly by a mint official. They were never placed into circulation.

Woman set on fire

MARIETTA, Ga. — A woman has been charged with aggravated battery for allegedly dousing another woman with a half-gallon of gasoline and setting her on fire during an argument at a gas station.

Anjail Durriyyah Muhammad was charged with aggravated battery, a felony punishable with up to 20 years in prison. She was being held Monday in the Cobb County jail.

Authorities identified the victim as Nodiana Antoine, who was hospitalized in critical condition Monday with burns over more than 64 percent of her body.

From wire reports

Algeria threatens protesters

ALGIERS, Algeria — Algeria's interior minister lashed out at survivors of a devastating earthquake who taunted him over the slow government response, a newspaper reported Tuesday, quoting him as saying they would get no aid if protests didn't stop.

Soldiers joined demolition teams razing crumbled buildings as hope dwindled of finding survivors from the quake six days ago that killed at least 2,217 people and injured more than 9,000 others.

There was no official figure on the number of missing.

As time passed since last Wednesday night's quake, anger mounted at the slow response to the crisis by government officials, a lapse that reportedly has allowed Muslim fundamentalists to step in to fill the gap.

The outburst by Interior Minister Yazid Noureddine Zerhouni came after residents of Bordj El Kiffan, east of Algiers, greeted him during a Monday visit with cries of "police state, dictatorship" and "Leave. We don't need you," the newspaper Le Matin reported.

Zerhouni was quoted as warning the crowd against such protests that included a sit-in organized before his arrival.

"You'll have neither tents nor aid," Le Matin quoted him as saying. "And if you want to demonstrate, do it and you will see."

It was one of several such incidents involving top government officials, including President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who was forced to cut short a tour of quake-ravaged Boumerdes on Saturday. The president left under a hail of debris thrown by bystanders.

Le Matin said that on Monday, stones were tossed at Zerhouni's car as he drove away. The interior minister had been booed days earlier on another tour of the devastation.

Plane's flight records found

TRABZON, Turkey — Turkish soldiers Tuesday retrieved the flight records from the wreckage of a chartered Ukrainian jetliner which crashed into a mountainside, killing 62 Spanish peacekeepers returning from Afghanistan and 13 crewmembers.

Using military name tags, wedding rings, clothing and dental records, Turkish and Spanish forensic experts worked to identify the bodies.

The troops were flying home to Spain after completing a four-month mission in Afghanistan when the aircraft crashed just before dawn Monday in heavy fog.

Authorities said they hoped that the plane's data and voice recorders, found Tuesday in a scattered pile of twisted metal, burned seat cushions, cassettes and souvenirs from Afghanistan, would shed light on the last moments of the flight and the cause of the crash.

All aboard the Russian-made YAK-42D perished in the crash near Trabzon, the Turkish Black Sea port city where it had been scheduled to refuel.

Spain's Defense Minister Federico Trillo toured the crash site Tuesday and slowly examined a camouflage safari hat found among the debris, bearing the name of Antonio Novo, the commander of the Spanish peacekeepers.

"We can feel the desolation of this place," Trillo said.

It was Spain's worst military accident ever.

The plane — on its way from Kabul, Afghanistan, to Zaragoza, Spain — had attempted to land in Trabzon, but was flying too high.

The airport is only a few hundred yards from the sea and its runway runs parallel to the shore. Turkish aviation officials said the pilot should have turned toward the sea to lower the plane, but the plane instead went inland toward the mountains amid heavy fog and strong winds.

Maj. Gen. Vincent C. Navarro, the head of the Spanish forensic team, said he expected that the bodies would be returned to Spain on Wednesday.

Navarro said ID cards on many soldiers' uniforms helped their work but that DNA testing might be needed for some bodies.

The crew included 12 Ukrainians and a Belarussian.

From wire reports

Nowitzki unlikely to play in Game 5

By Jaime Aron
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki has trouble describing exactly how his sprained left knee feels. He just knows it doesn't feel the way it should.

So, even though the Dallas Mavericks' leading scorer and rebounder says it will be a game-time decision whether he plays Tuesday night against the San Antonio Spurs, he added it would take a drastic improvement for him to be on the court for Game 5 of the Western Conference finals.

"I don't really have pain. It doesn't really hurt. But I can feel that something is not right with my knee," Nowitzki said Monday. "If I have that again tomorrow, I'm not going to play.

"To me, it's got to feel right. If I have any doubts that I can't push off, or have thoughts that I can't get out of my head, then I'm not going to play."

Mavericks coach Don Nelson was hoping Nowitzki would at least be able to play 3-on-3 Monday. He couldn't, partly because he pushed himself too hard on Sunday.

Nowitzki worked out before Game 4 in hopes of making it into the lineup just two days after being injured. But he wasn't able to run or jump, so he watched San Antonio's 102-95 victory from a seat near the Dallas bench.

The Mavs didn't miss the 25.3 points and 11.5 rebounds Nowitzki has averaged this postseason. For the first 2½ quarters, Dallas' small lineup built a nine-point lead. Then San Antonio rallied and led the entire fourth quarter.

When Dallas began to rally in the final period, Nowitzki stood and cheered until he felt the knee "getting weak and starting to shake." He wasn't much stronger Monday, even asking to sit while being interviewed.

"It was smart not to play," Nowitzki said. "Who knows what would've happened? The risk is extremely high. When a knee is fatigued, the whole body tries to strengthen around it. You start to run differently and the next thing you know you tear something else in your body or pull a muscle.

"I'm only 24 years old. I've got a lot of basketball left. If I was 33, 34, 35, I probably would've played. But this is just the beginning of my career."

San Antonio leads the series 3-1. A victory in Game 5 would put the Spurs into the NBA Finals.

Nowitzki was injured late in Game 3 on Friday night. An MRI exam on Saturday showed the kind of damage that would typically keep someone out 10-to-14 days.

Sports in brief

BASEBALL

TORONTO — Toronto third baseman Eric Hinske will undergo surgery on his right hand and is expected to miss four-to-six weeks.

Last year's AL rookie of the year was placed on the 15-day disabled list. He will have surgery on the broken hamate bone on Wednesday in Boston or New York.

The hand has bothered him for much of the season. He's hitting .232 with two home runs and 21 RBIs.

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Cardinals placed second baseman Fernando Vina on the 15-day disabled list with a severely torn right hamstring, an injury that will sideline him for six-to-12 weeks.

It's a huge blow to the defending NL Central champions, because Vina is also the team's only true leadoff hitter. He has struggled much of the year, but a six-game hitting streak boosted his average to .262 with a .316 on-base percentage.

SOCCER

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Landon Donovan scored on a penalty kick, and Eddie Lewis also scored for the United States in a 2-0 victory over Wales.

Goalie Nick Rimando earned his first career shutout as the Americans thoroughly controlled play while improving to 3-0-1 in their past four matches. Wales' 10-match unbeaten streak in international play, the country's longest, was snapped at Spartan Stadium.

BASKETBALL

PHILADELPHIA — Larry Brown resigned as coach of the Philadelphia 76ers after six often-turbulent seasons in which he helped rebuild a struggling franchise.

A Hall of Famer and one of basketball's most well-traveled coaches, Brown could be a candidate for coaching vacancies in Cleveland, Houston and elsewhere.

The 76ers released Brown from a contractual clause that prohibited him from coaching another NBA team if he left Philadelphia prematurely. Brown had two years left in his contract that paid him $6 million per season.

TENNIS

PARIS — Serena Williams won her 29th straight Grand Slam match, beating Barbara Rittner, 6-2, 6-1 in the first round of the French Open.

Williams is aiming for her fifth straight major title, something last accomplished in 1988-89 by Steffi Graf.

Andre Agassi beat Karol Beck of Slovakia 6-2, 6-3, 6-3, and James Blake beat fellow American Taylor Dent to reach the second round, joined by past French Open champions Carlos Moya and Yevgeny Kafelnikov, and Rainer Schuettler.

Justine Henin-Hardenne, Amelie Mauresmo, and Chanda Rubin won, as did lower-seeded Americans Lisa Raymond, Laura Granville and Meghann Shaughnessy, who outlasted Svetlana Kuznetsova 11-9 in the third set.

ATHENS, Ga. — Amer Delic of Illinois won the NCAA men's singles championship, defeating Benedikt Dorsch of Baylor 6-4, 6-3.

Delic is the first player from Illinois to win the championship.

The last Big Ten player to do so was Michigan's Mike Leach in 1982.

Illinois, which won the team title last week, made it a sweep when Brian Wilson and Rajeev Ram beat San Diego State's Oliver Maiberger and Ryan Redondo, 6-4, 5-7, 6-1 to win the doubles title.

TRACK AND FIELD

BOULDER, Colo. — American Deena Drossin won the Bolder Boulder for the third straight year, pulling away from Ethiopia's Asha Gigi midway through the 10-kilometer road course and cruising to a 26-second victory.

Drossin, of Mammoth Lakes, Calif., joined Portugal's Rosa Mota (1984-86) as the only runners to win the Bolder Boulder three consecutive years.

Drossin also led the United States to the women's team title for the second straight year.

In the men's race, Ethiopia's Dejene Berhanu surged past Kenya's Paul Koech with 300 yards remaining en route to a four-second victory. Kenya took the men's team title.

AUTO RACING

SALISBURY, Conn. — Johnny Miller survived dreadful driving conditions to win the Trans-Am Series feature in heavy rain at the Lime Rock Grand Prix. Actor Paul Newman finished fifth.

Miller, of Johnson City, Tenn., started on the pole but faded briefly because of a fogging windshield. He regained the lead for good after then-leader Stu Hayner spun off course on lap 13 of the 59-lap race.

Bobby Sak, of Bloomfield, Mich., was second and Jorge Diaz, of San Juan, Puerto Rico, was third.

HOCKEY

DENVER — Colorado's Patrick Roy is retiring, ending the 18-year career of one of the greatest goaltenders in NHL history, a team source told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Roy will make the announcement at a news conference on Wednesday, the source said on condition of anonymity.

A four-time Stanley Cup champion, Roy is still considered one of the best goalies in the game at age 37. But he has been bothered by arthritic hips in the past few years, and he has made it clear he wants to follow the career of his oldest son, Jonathan, a goalie who will start playing in Quebec this fall.

From The Associated Press

Down the hatch

One of the stars of MTV's "Jackass" was arrested in **Sweden** after saying he swallowed a condom filled with marijuana, police said Friday.

Stephen Glover was arrested Thursday after police raided his hotel room in **Stockholm**.

Glover and other "Jackass" regulars had performed their "Don't Try This at Home" show Wednesday night.

Jason Berk, Glover's attorney in the **United States**, said Friday the arrest was a "major misunderstanding and a failure to differentiate between the person and his art. There's nothing evidencing that he had any involvement with drugs other than entertaining e-mails sent to his fans and outlandish statements made to the press."

On his Web site, Glover wrote that he swallowed the condom and was "stoned as can be and overjoyed with the success" of the stunt. The entry was dated May 22.

Glover, 28, could face charges of narcotics smuggling and possession of illegal drugs.

Faces 'n' places

From blacklist to star

Betty Garrett, the once-blacklisted actress who co-starred as **Edna Babish** on the TV sitcom "Laverne & Shirley," was honored with a star on the **Hollywood** Walk of Fame.

Friday's ceremony marked Garrett's 84th birthday, and friends, including actors **Jeff** and **Beau Bridges**, attended to help her celebrate.

Garrett also appeared in the sitcom "All in the Family" as the chatty friend of Edith Bunker. On "Laverne & Shirley," Garrett played a landlady who married Laverne's father.

In movies, she co-starred with **Frank Sinatra** in the 1949 films "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and "On the Town."

Garrett and her late husband **Larry Parks** were both briefly blacklisted during the **McCarthy** era for their interest in communism in the early 1950s.

Garrett returned to work in 1955 to star with **Janet Leigh** and **Jack Lemmon** in the musical version of "My Sister Eileen."

'Simpsons' creator honored

Matt Groening, creator of "The Simpsons," was named Outstanding Cartoonist of the Year at the 2003 Reuben Awards.

Darby Conley won best newspaper comic for his strip, "Get Fuzzy," which details the adventures of Rob Wilco, a single ad executive, and his fussy cat Buckeye and gentle dog Satchel.

The 57th annual award ceremony was held Saturday at the Palace Hotel in **San Francisco**. It featured presenters and past Reuben winners such as "Dilbert" creator **Scott Adams**, "Doonesbury" creator **Gary Trudeau**, and **Cathy Guisewite**, creator of "Cathy."

From wire reports

SARS leaves animals starving

BEIJING — Hungry tigers and lions have been attacking each other at a Chinese zoo that said it can't afford to feed its animals because of a slump in visitors amid SARS fears.

A 5-year-old lion was killed and two tigers injured in brawls at the Xiamen Haicang Wild Animal Park in the southeastern coastal city of Xiamen, said Liu Huichun, its general manager.

Zoos and other tourism-dependent businesses have been devastated by official efforts to contain the disease by discouraging Chinese from traveling. The public also is anxious about pets and zoo animals after reports the disease might have originated in animals.

China detains American

BEIJING — An American and a New Zealander described by dissidents abroad as pro-democracy activists were accused Tuesday by China's government of plotting terrorist attacks.

Benjamin Lan, an American, and Sun Gang, of New Zealand, were detained after arriving in Beijing this month on what dissidents said was a mission to promote democracy.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said they were thought to be involved in "some violent, terrorist acts" at the instigation of an unspecified hostile organization abroad.

The U.S. and New Zealand embassies in Beijing confirmed that the two were in Chinese custody.

Heat wave death toll rises to 430

HYDERABAD, India — A deadly heat wave in southern India has killed at least 430 people in the past two weeks, a relief official said Tuesday.

The death toll from dehydration and sunstroke, caused by high temperatures and shortages of drinking water, may increase further, said D.C. Roshaiah, chief of relief operations in Andhra Pradesh state.

Roshaiah said hundreds of people were bring treated at hospitals in several parts of state, which has experienced temperatures as high as 116.5 degrees.

The state is battling its worst drought in 40 years.

From wire reports

Ducks ready for exciting Stanley Cup finals

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Paul Kariya is tired of hearing that his first trip to the Stanley Cup finals is going to be a boring, low-scoring affair.

How could it not being exciting? A perennial winner — the New Jersey Devils — against his upstart Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

The flashy forward has waited nine years for this moment, while wading through many losses as a longtime member of the Ducks.

"A great save or great goal is the same," Anaheim's captain said Monday. "It's the Stanley Cup finals and I'm sure everyone will be tuning in."

Jean-Sebastien Giguere has stopped 476 of 496 shots in the first 14 games of his playoff career. Jiggy has gone from obscurity to the couch next to Jay Leno.

New Jersey's Martin Brodeur has been exceptional as well, posting a 1.62 goals-against average and a 12-5 playoff mark. The Devils are 8-1 at home, the Ducks are 6-1 on the road.

Anaheim's quick victory over Minnesota in the Western Conference finals has given the Mighty Ducks much-needed rest and the chance to soak up more exposure like Giguere's venture into late-night television.

"I think it will help," Devils captain Scott Stevens said of the Ducks' time off. "At this time of year, when there is so much at stake, that doesn't really come into play."

New Jersey held a 3-1 series lead over the Presidents' Trophy-winning Senators, but dropped two straight before winning on the road. The Devils are banking on the experience they have with 15 Cup-winning players to carry them to their third championship in nine years.

"Experience is something you want to say you've learned from and that makes you better," Devils defenseman Scott Niedermayer said. "I think we have that, but there is a lot more to hockey than just having experience."

And there is a lot more to this series for the Niedermayer family. Scott, a two-time champion, is going up against his brother Rob, an Anaheim forward who is playing in his first Stanley Cup finals.

Scott has the experience of winning, Rob has the experience of seeing Scott bring home the famed trophy twice. Together they are the first opposing brothers in the finals since 1946.

Their mother is pulling for Rob and the Ducks this time, even though she is spending the first part of the series at Scott's house.

"It might backfire on my mom," Scott said. "Hopefully, my brother will have another chance down the road."

Scores/standings

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	31	19	.620	—
New York	29	22	.569	2½
Toronto	28	24	.538	4
Baltimore	23	26	.469	7½
Tampa Bay	19	30	.388	11½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	29	20	.592	—
Kansas City	26	22	.542	2½
Chicago	23	27	.460	6½
Cleveland	18	32	.360	11½
Detroit	13	36	.265	16

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	31	18	.633	—
Oakland	29	20	.592	2
Anaheim	24	24	.500	6½
Texas	23	26	.469	8

Monday's games

Detroit 6, Cleveland 5
Boston 8, N.Y. Yankees 4
Toronto 11, Chicago White Sox 5

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	34	17	.667	—
Montreal	32	19	.627	2
Philadelphia	27	23	.540	6½
Florida	23	29	.442	11½
New York	22	28	.440	11½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	28	22	.560	—
St. Louis	26	23	.531	1½
Houston	26	25	.510	2½
Cincinnati	25	26	.490	3½
Pittsburgh	21	29	.420	7
Milwaukee	18	32	.360	10

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	30	20	.600	—
San Francisco	30	20	.600	—
Arizona	24	27	.471	6½
Colorado	24	27	.471	6½
San Diego	14	37	.275	16½

Monday's games

Pittsburgh 10, Chicago Cubs 0
Cincinnati 7, Atlanta 6, 11 innings
Florida 5, Montreal 1
Colorado 12, San Francisco 7
St. Louis 10, Houston 5
Arizona 8, San Diego 4

From The Associated Press

American League

Red Sox 8, Yankees 4

NEW YORK — New York pitcher Roger Clemens' bid for a 300-game milestone victory became a bust Monday when Boston banged him around, winning 8-4 and sending the Yankees to their eighth straight home loss.

Clemens slowly trudged off the mound, his head down the whole way, after Todd Walker's single chased him in the sixth inning.

Now, he'll have to wait until next Sunday in Detroit — and the following weekend at Wrigley Field, if necessary — to try to join 20 other pitchers with 300 career victories.

But bad omens surrounded Clemens, even before his first fastball.

The start of the game was delayed 1 hour, 42 minutes by rain, and Clemens' routine was further disrupted right after his final warmup. That's when Red Sox Manager Grady Little walked out to complain about Clemens' glove.

The Rocket was wearing a new glove with a shiny "300" patch on the back of it, and plate umpire Bill Miller agreed with Little that it was not within regulations. Clemens had to toss aside that mitt while another one was brought from the dugout.

Clemens (6-3) threw 133 pitches — his highest total in more than two years. Still, he remained winless in his past nine starts at Yankee Stadium.

New York lost its season-high fifth in a row.

Nomar Garciaparra extended his hitting streak to 26 games and Walker drove in three runs as Boston increased its American League East lead over the Yankees to 2½ games. Tim Wakefield (5-2) got the victory.

Walker's two-out, two-run single chased Clemens after 5⅔ innings, and he gave up 10 hits and eight runs.

Tigers 6, Indians 5

DETROIT — Brandon Inge hit a tie-breaking homer off Jason Boyd (0-1) with two outs in the seventh inning as Detroit beat Cleveland for only its fourth victory at home this season.

Dmitri Young homered and drove in four runs for the Tigers, who won for the fourth time in five games overall and improved to 4-17 at Comerica Park.

Steve Avery (2-0) got the victory despite giving up a game-tying, three-run homer to Brandon Phillips with two outs in the top of the seventh.

Franklyn German worked a perfect ninth for his second save.

Blue Jays 11, White Sox 5

TORONTO — Carlos Delgado hit a two-run single in a five-run sixth inning as Toronto defeated Chicago for its its fifth straight victory.

Chris Woodward and Josh Phelps homered for the Blue Jays, who returned home from an 8-2 road trip and handed struggling lefty Mark Buehrle (2-8) his seventh consecutive loss.

The Blue Jays moved within 1½ games of the New York Yankees for second place in the AL East. Toronto (28-24) is a season-high four games over .500.

Magglio Ordonez and D'Angelo Jimenez homered for the White Sox, who allowed four unearned runs and matched a season high with four errors.

Josh Towers (1-0) was the winner. Jeff Tam got four outs for his first save since June 13, 2001, for Oakland.

From The Associated Press

National League

Reds 7, Braves 6 (11)

ATLANTA — Pinch-hitter Adam Dunn came through with a grand slam in the 11th inning, leading Cincinnati past Atlanta on Monday to snap a four-game losing streak.

It was Dunn's 18th homer this season, the most in the majors.

Helped by left fielder Jose Guillen's two-run error, Atlanta got three in the 11th to cut the lead to 7-6. Chipper Jones drove in a run with an infield single, but Felix Heredia struck out Andruw Jones with a runner on to end it.

John Smoltz struck out two in a hitless ninth, but the Braves lost a game in which he appeared for the first time since May 29, 2002. Atlanta had won 73 consecutive games in which Smoltz pitched, a major league record.

Dunn connected off Roberto Hernandez (4-2).

Gabe White (2-0) got out of a bases-loaded jam in the 10th.

The Braves rallied from a 3-0 deficit with three runs in the eighth off Chris Reitsma, tying it on Robert Fick's two-out, two-run single.

Pirates 10, Cubs 0

CHICAGO — Josh Fogg outpitched Kerry Wood, and Pittsburgh broke open a tight game with nine runs in the eighth inning.

Jeff Reboulet and pinch-hitter Randall Simon each hit a two-run single in the big inning, and Cubs pitchers walked in three runs.

Aramis Ramirez had an RBI single, and Brian Giles drove in two runs with a bases-loaded walk and an RBI single that capped the outburst.

Kenny Lofton, who had two singles and scored twice during the rally, extended his hitting streak to 24 games — longest in the NL this season.

Fogg (2-2), activated from the disabled list Monday, held the Cubs to three hits in seven innings for his first victory since April 3. Julian Tavarez finished the five-hitter, Pittsburgh's second shutout of the season.

Wood (4-3) gave up just one hit and one run in seven innings, striking out 10. He leads the majors with 89 strikeouts but is winless in his past five starts.

Rockies 12, Giants 7

DENVER — Charles Johnson and Preston Wilson each hit a three-run homer, and Colorado rallied from an early five-run deficit to beat San Francisco.

Ronnie Belliard went 4-for-5 and scored three runs for Colorado, which took three of four from the defending NL champions. Wilson had three of the Rockies' 18 hits.

San Francisco has lost two of three without ailing star Barry Bonds and 11 of 16 overall. The Giants have dropped three of their past five series to fall into a tie with Los Angeles in the NL West for the first time all season.

Bonds' sore knee is expected to keep him out until at least Wednesday.

Johnson greeted reliever Joe Nathan (5-2) with his first homer since April 29.

Brian Fuentes (1-0) pitched 1⅔ scoreless innings for the victory.

Cardinals 10, Astros 5

ST. LOUIS — Woody Williams became the second seven-game winner in the National League and Scott Rolen was 3-for-3 with three RBIs for St. Louis.

J.D. Drew hit a three-run homer, Mike Matheny was 3-for-3 with two runs scored and Tino Martinez homered as part of a 14-hit outburst. The Cardinals have won three of four and began a 14-game homestand, their longest of the season.

Williams (7-0) beat the Astros for the second straight start and won his 10th consecutive decision, dating to Aug. 29 last season at Cincinnati. In six innings, he allowed one run on six hits with five strikeouts and no walks, lowering his ERA to an NL-best 2.19.

Williams joined Kevin Millwood of the Phillies as the league's only seven-game winners.

Craig Biggio had four hits for the Astros, and Berkman hit a three-run homer in the ninth.

The Cardinals battered Pete Munro (3-3) for six runs, five earned, on eight hits in 3⅓ innings.

Marlins 5, Expos 1

MIAMI — Brian Banks and Juan Encarnacion each hit a two-run homer, and Carl Pavano threw his second career complete game as Florida won its fourth in a row.

Pavano (4-5) won for just the second time in his past seven starts. He gave up five hits, while striking out five and walking none in a game that took just 2 hours, 3 minutes.

Montreal starter Claudio Vargas (2-2) gave up five runs on seven hits in four innings. The game marked the start of a 25-day, 22-game trip away from Montreal for the Expos, who will play a six-game "homestand" in Puerto Rico during that span.

Diamondbacks 8, Padres 4

PHOENIX — David Dellucci homered and was hit by a pitch from Jesse Orosco to bring home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning for Arizona.

Rookie Andrew Good (1-1) allowed three runs and six hits over seven innings for his first major league victory, striking out seven and walking none. Luis Gonzalez homered and drove in three runs, and Dellucci had three hits.

The Diamondbacks — who got consecutive home runs from Gonzalez and Dellucci off Adam Eaton in the third inning — took three of four from San Diego to complete a 5-5 homestand.

The Padres finished their road trip 1-6 and have lost 11 of 12 overall.

Eaton (1-4) hit his second home run of the season and doubled but fell to 0-3 in his past four starts.

From The Associated Press