

U.S. soldiers find weapons hidden by Afghani Al-Qaida

By Jamey Keaton
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KHOWRI KHORAH, Afghanistan — After a grueling hike over craggy terrain, Sgt. 1st Class Craig Ogden crawled through a 3-foot-high opening to a goat pen tucked into a cliff, searching for a massive weapons cache.

Behind a stack of stones at the rear of the pen, the company of soldiers finds hundreds of mortar and recoilless rifle rounds, rockets and more than 100 cases of ammunition — many labeled in Chinese.

The discovery is the 60-man company's prize for months of intelligence work. It also is the first big success for Operation Desert Lion, an intensified hunt for weapons stashed by remnants of al-Qaida or the ousted Taliban regime for use against a U.S.-led coalition battling terrorists in Afghanistan.

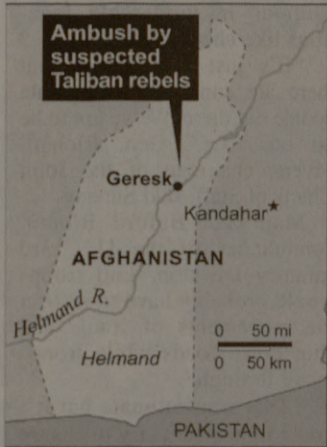
"Whoever put this here cleverly disguised this cave as an animal pen," said Ogden, of San Antonio, with not a bead of sweat on his head despite the arduous climb.

"It's good to get this stuff off the market. This is what they've been firing at us."

The cache was one of the largest found in Afghanistan, Ogden said Thursday.

The operation in the Koh-e Ghori mountains east of Kabul was one of the first to combine intelligence collected by the International Security Assistance Force, which maintains security in the capital of Kabul, and the U.S.-led multinational anti-terror coalition.

The location of the cache was strategic. The village of Khowri Khorah is only 12 miles east of Kabul and sits on



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI AP high ground overlooking the capital. Mujahedeen fighters staged raids on Soviet positions from here in a decade-long war in the 1980s.

After more than two decades of conflict, weapons are as common as wrenching poverty in these Afghan mountains. Army officials are not sure who stuffed the weaponry — some of it old, some new — into the cliff at least a year ago.

But a local source, said to be a former Taliban member, guided the troops. He was not allowed to speak with an Associated Press reporter accompanying the soldiers and wore a baseball cap, sunglasses, scarf and hood tightly wound around his head to protect his identity.

As the operation started Thursday morning, Chinook

helicopters disgorged soldiers onto a mountain next to the village. Soldiers quickly set up a security zone, their M-16s ready in case rebel fighters were in the area.

Wells for fresh water, roads to nearby towns and a medical clinic, they said.

The arrival of the helicopters reminded residents of the Soviet war and initially sparked fear in the village, a network of muddy alleys, about 100 houses and small, terraced wheat field plots. Many of the men recalled fighting with the mujahedeen against the Soviets.

The cache was several miles from the village. The weapons — containing about 10,000 pounds of explosives altogether — probably were carried in by donkey, Ogden said.

It would be too difficult to salvage them, he determined, so he radioed soldiers to bring him C-4 explosives to blow them up.

Caldwell and a translator explained to a family that their home, located across a parched riverbed from the cache, probably would be damaged by the explosion.

U.S. forces said they would compensate the family for their loss but, from a distance, the wife seemed angry — yelling and stomping around — about being told to leave the area.

The family returned to another home they had in the area, military officials said.

After rigging up the explosives and climbing behind a nearby ridge line, Ogden yelled, "Fire in the hole!" three times.

Then a pause, a flash and a boom. The earth shook and sparks flew over the ridge, visible for miles away.

"It was like the Fourth of July," Staff Sgt. Michael Shann, 25, said.


AGGIE STATION

No application fee with this ad!

- Brand New Apartments!
- Individual leases
- 2, 3 & 4 bedrooms
- Private bathrooms
- Fully furnished

- Walking distance to campus and Northgate
- Free ethernet & cable w/ HBO
- Full size washer & dryer


- Computer lab
- Game room & arcade
- Fitness center



Spring Special
Reduced Security Deposit

- 2 bedroom - \$455
- 3 bedroom - \$425
- 4 bedroom - \$399

*Good through 4-01-03



www.aggystation.com 691-0100 4151 Wellborn Rd., Bryan

PIZZA

PAPA JOHN'S

Better Ingredients • Better Pizza

Introducing Papa John's NEW CINNAPIE



Monday Special

1 Large 1-Topping \$5.99

pickup only

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 LARGE 1-TOPPING	2 LARGE 1-TOPPING	1 EX-LARGE 1-TOPPING	1 LARGE 2-TOPPING & 2 liter drink	PICK YOUR SIDE LARGE 2-TOPPING AND 1 SIDE	LATE NIGHT LARGE 1-TOPPING	LATE NIGHT LARGE 1-TOPPING
\$5.99 pu/only	\$12.99 pu/delivery	\$8.99 pu/delivery	\$11.99 pu/delivery	\$12.78 pu/delivery	\$6.99 after 10pm pu/delivery	\$6.99 after 10pm pu/delivery

Northgate
601 University Dr.
979-846-3600

Post Oak Square Center
100 Harvey Rd., Suite D
979-764-7272

Rock Prairie
1700 Rock Prairie
979-680-0508



OPEN LATE

Sunday: 11 a.m. - midnight
Monday - Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.
Thursday: 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.
Friday & Saturday: 11 a.m. - 3 a.m.

OPEN LATE

JOIN US!

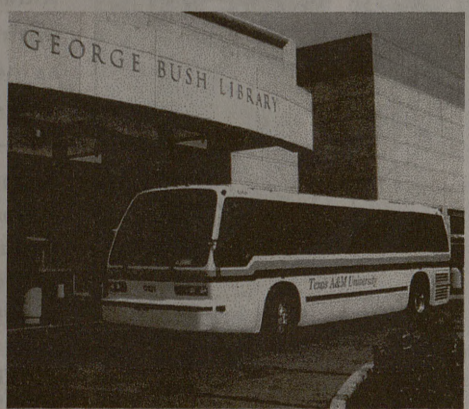
WE HAVE OPENINGS ON OUR TEAM FOR STUDENT BUS DRIVERS

Now Accepting Applications for Fall 2003

Contact: Transit at 845-1971

Deadline for Applications: Wednesday, April 2



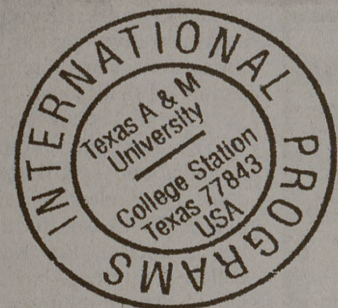
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

FLEET

PARKING

TRAFFIC

TRANSIT



Need an Edge Over Your Peers?

Beat Out Your Competition in the Work Force
With the Experience You Gain in:

2004 Academy for Future International Leaders

Meet One Night a Week
Gain Three Hours Credit
Meet International Business Executives
Have a Stand-Out Resume

Application Requirements:

- Classification of junior/senior by the spring of 2003
- Minimum GPR of 3.0
- Active in leadership/extracurricular activities
- Interest in gaining an international perspective
- Two years of a foreign language recommended

Only 18 Students Chosen • Pick Up Your Application Today

For more information: Call 862-6700

Turn in Your Application by May 7, by 4 p.m.
International Center, Bush Presidential Conference Center

<http://intlcenter.tamu.edu/Academy/index.htm>

heads and the alphabet mind. This is where the s in to save the day. der describes itself as "a rchable database of more ations and acronyms abou y, telecommunications, s and abbreviations." quick way to work throug and abbreviations in the the acronym in the search re you a listing of all the hich it might stand. offers users the option of their Internet Explorer

acronyms as it has, it submit new ones and help most comprehensive list.

er is interesting and use ry out of all those rando and in conversations.

—Denise Schopp

e of Cyberspace n Surfing rthy o Stay Logged On t out, bookmark it, yone on your list

Band, but he also dedica to writing, painting, garden d shopping for flowers with fe, actress Barbara Bach. ust don't let things get o me as much," Starr said. t to rule the world. I think etting up in the morning is achievement."

clarinetist leaves club business

ORLEANS (AP) — After 43 jazz clarinetist Pete ain is bowing out of the Orleans nightclub business. tain opened his first New s club on Bourbon Street in but has been playing the 26 years at the Hilton de club, where he held his Friday before 400 mostl family and friends. tain, 72, said the time wa to move on, noting the business has been down ept. 11, 2001. eded a change," Fountai didn't want it, but I need it's one of those things. 9-11, we've seen a lot of that used to come don't any more. The club was st g it, but we could see the riting on the wall. een a real good ride, and still got a lot of riding is e said. "I might get off the cycle and ride a little scoo, but it's still a ride."

ehind

inancial Aid

INTERV?

CruiseAir redesigned and ell flat panel Dell OptiPlex wireless access

The Rev 9 am to 5 pm Tuesday, April 1 Bring your tax info g your parent's tax info

here