

FRONTLINE Forward



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Jan. 15, 2003

1-3 ADA: Lethal with Linebackers 'Bulldog' battery blasts Bradley Bushmaster

Spc. Natalie A. Schlotman
50th PAD

Marne soldiers with B Battery, 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery "Bulldogs" and elements of 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry proved how lethal they can be Jan. 2 through 13 during a training exercise in Kuwait.

Broken down into three separate evaluation tables, the exercise was a semiannual Bradley Linebacker crew qualification that tested each crew's ability to communicate and fire the 25mm Bushmaster cannon and the 7.62 mm, M240C machine gun in a variety of tactical conditions.

Linebacker crews are made up of a driver, gunner and a Bradley commander.

The first stage of the exercise was Table VI, where crews fired from a stationary position, said Capt. Jeff Zanelotti, commander, B Battery, 1-3 ADA.

After successfully completing Table VI, crews advanced to Table VII, where they conducted offensive and defensive fires, Zanelotti said.

See Bulldogs, page 6

Move!



Spc. Jacob Boyer

A soldier from A Co., 3rd Bn., 15th Inf. Regiment moves through smoke during a recent bunker clearing exercise at the Udairi Range in Kuwait. See the Jan. 22 issue of the Frontline Forward for more photos and the story on the exercise.

Soldiers slated to get smallpox vaccination

Spc. Jacob W. Boyer
3ID (M) PAO

Vaccinations are a part of life most soldiers have learned to accept. In order to be combat effective, the men and women of the Army need to keep from becoming ill. Vaccinations have become even more important since the advent of chemical and biological warfare. If

the enemy is prepared to fight with disease, soldiers need to be ready to fight off the disease.

In the past year, the Armed Forces have seen the Anthrax vaccination program begin anew. More recently, President George W. Bush ordered that all servicemembers receive the smallpox vaccine. Every member of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) deployed to Ku-

wait will be administered this vaccine some time in the middle of January, said Lt. Col. William Corr, division surgeon.

"It's important for those serving here to get the smallpox vaccination because it can be used as a weapon," he said. "In its aerosolized form, smallpox can be an effective weapon, with a case

See Smallpox, page 6

Soldiers unwind in Kuwait City

Spc. Jacob Boyer
3ID (M) PAO

The soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) deployed to Kuwait are getting a chance to experience some of the local culture.

During January, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office at Camp Doha is scheduling several tours around Kuwait City for the various units currently on the ground.

"It's a chance to enhance morale," said Lt. Col. Chris Curry, the division equal opportunity program manager from Columbus, Miss. "The trips provide some rest and relaxation from the difficult daily tasks expected of us."

Curry was the officer in charge on a recent tour.

The tours take soldiers to see some of the sights in the city. They get a chance to shop in the Souk Mubarakiya market, which is filled with various Kuwaiti handicrafts and goods.

Some soldiers find the language barrier to be a problem, but many still come back with what they were looking for.

"The language barrier was a little difficult to navigate with the shopkeepers," said Spc. Matthew Robinson, an information systems technician with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 123rd Signal Battalion from New York. "But it was a nice getaway."

Some tours are scheduled to stop at

the Prisoner of War Museum in Kuwait City. The tours also go by the Kuwait Towers, which provide power and water for its section of the city. The towers were damaged during the Iraqi occupation in 1990, but have since been repaired. One tower includes a 120-meter tall observation deck that allows



A group of 3rd inf. Div. (Mech.) soldiers sample Lebanese cuisine at Mais al Ghanim, a restaurant in Kuwait City.

Ghanim, a restaurant that specializes in Lebanese food.

"The food was pretty good," said Air Force Airman 1st Class Abdul Irby, a forward artillery controller with the 15th Air Support Operations Squadron from Philadelphia. "The waiters were very generous and there were interesting flavors."

Many of the soldiers enjoyed the opportunity to experience Kuwaiti culture, but they also simply enjoyed a day of not having to wear their Desert Combat Uniforms.

"It was great to just walk around and feel like I was just like anybody else on the street," Robinson said. "The Army promised me I'd get to see the world, and today they delivered."

"The trip was worthwhile, because I was able to taste a bit of the culture

and see sights I know I wouldn't see anywhere else," said Staff Sgt. Mike Rodgers, an information systems technician with HHC, 123rd Signal from San Diego.

visitors to view both Kuwait City and the Persian Gulf.

"One part that really stood out for me was the opportunity to see Kuwait City from the top of the tower," Curry said. "That was pretty cool. We had a great view."

The final stop on the tour gives soldiers a chance to sample some of the local flavor. The tours go to one of three restaurants, providing the soldiers the opportunity to dine on Middle Eastern food.

One recent tour stopped at Mais al

and see sights I know I wouldn't see anywhere else," said Staff Sgt. Mike Rodgers, an information systems technician with HHC, 123rd Signal from San Diego.

Soldiers who go on the tours also have to be mindful of the image they present to the Kuwaitis, Curry said.

"We properly reflected the good behavior of American citizens," Curry said. "Everywhere we went, we were courteous, grateful and kind. The soldiers were true ambassadors for the U.S. Army."

Frontline Forward

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Staying safe in the sands

Troops reminded to take necessary precautions during desert deployment

Spc. Katherine Robinson
50th PAD

Hundreds of soldiers live on Camp New York, and many more travel between the camps and to Camp Doha and Kuwait City in both tactical and nontactical vehicles.

Between vehicles, weapons and operational security, there are many safety issues and soldiers need to be alert at all times. Two of the biggest concerns, according to Maj. Louis Poore of Washington, Va., the division deputy provost marshal, are vehicle and weapon safety.

Speeding

"One of the biggest things we're having right now is (nontactical vehicles traveling at) excessive speeds throughout the desert, going from Camp New York to the other camps and to Camp Doha," Poore said. "It's quite prevalent to see NTVs exceeding 60 (kilometers) per hour.

"The first repercussion is life and limb," he added. "Not to mention that if (individuals) don't kill themselves, they may kill someone else in the vehicle ... that's a huge responsibility."

He said drivers who are caught speeding will be issued tickets, which then go to the soldier's chain of command. "Currently BCT commanders are ... very aggressive on how they handle the situation," Poore explained.

The military police are running radar throughout the cantonment area through Army Central Command, Kuwait, and will also conduct radar operations between the camps once the division law enforcement cell gets on the ground.

The speed limit for both NTVs and tactical vehicles in the cantonment area is 20 kilometers per hour, said Master Sgt. Norman Hampton of Dallas, Texas, the division provost marshal sergeant major. Between the camps, it is 60k for NTVs and 50k for tactical vehicles.

The speeds may seem relatively slow to drivers, Hampton said, but the terrain is very rough and it is easy to lose control of a vehicle.

Weapon Safety

"We've had some incidents where soldiers had accidental (weapons) discharges," Poore said. "Some have been at the clearing barrels, some have been within the training area. It's critical that small unit leaders, team leaders and squad leaders inform the soldiers on the proper way to handle weapons," he said.

Hampton said he's seen soldiers begin to clear their weap-



Photo illustration by Spc. Adam Nuelken

Both tactical and nontactical vehicles should observe the speed limit of 20 kilometers per hour in the cantonment area and 60 kilometers per hour between the camps.

ons before they've even reached the clearing barrels, or before the soldier ahead of them is finished.

"Soldiers get tired, and they don't tend to do the right thing," he said. "When you're clearing your weapon, it's for a purpose. Adhere to the procedures."

"The bottom line," Poore said, "is weapons should be treated as being loaded and properly handled."

Suspicious activities

There are many third country nationals working for contractors in and around the camps, doing maintenance and food service work, Hampton said. These individuals are required to stay within the limits of their work area.

"Most recently we've had them approaching soldiers and asking them for change for American money or just asking for American money, which is in violation of their contract," he said. "Who's to know that they're not actually out looking for some information or intelligence?"

Poore said soldiers need to always be aware of their surroundings and keep an eye out for any suspicious activity, including people on foot or in vehicles, taking photographs around the camps, entering areas they shouldn't be, or behaving in any way that doesn't seem normal. Anything that seems suspicious should be immediately reported.

Safety while traveling

Another important safety concern is making sure that vehicles and personnel traveling between camps and to Kuwait City and Camp Doha observe safety regulations, Hampton said. A two-vehicle convoy is required in any travel off post, and at least one person in each vehicle must be armed.

Staying alert and keeping a heightened sense of awareness are critical to avoiding accidents, Poore said.

"When you're clearing your weapon, it's for a purpose. Adhere to the procedures."

*Master Sgt. Norman Hampton,
Division provost marshal
sergeant major*

'THE CHAMPS IN THE CAMPS'

Fight night helps knock out deployment doldrums

Spc. Adam Nuelken
3ID (M) PAO

Like any formal military ceremony, Camp New York's third fight night, held Jan. 4, started off with an invocation and posting of the colors. But that was where the pomp and circumstance ended. Once the fights began, the crowd of soldiers was anything but quiet and solemn.

In all, 26 soldiers battled it out for the crowd to win medals and bragging rights. During the fights, the crowd of soldiers cheered on their fighters and took a step away from the typical desert night.

"It's a good way to escape being in the desert, and it provides a good entertainment value," said 1st Lt. Herb

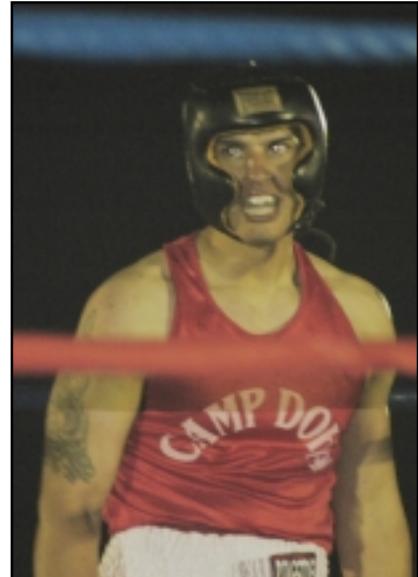
Leggette, fire support officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery. "You can hear it out here -- it's a real good thing for morale."

The fighters were given only a few minutes to try and pummel each other. But after the fight, the boxers were still part of the team.

"It brings the soldiers together to witness raw competition," said Maj. Terrence Sanders, personnel officer for 2nd Brigade Combat Team. "They gave their best, and when it was over, they were still friends."

But the fights are more than just a chance for soldiers to wail on one another; it also keeps soldiers motivated and helps unit cohesion.

"It's definitely a morale booster. It



Photos by Spc. Adam Nuelken

Edmund Diaz eyes his opponent midway through the bout.

gives them great motivation to see their friends do this," said Command Sgt. Maj. Otis Smith, 2nd Brigade Combat Team's command sergeant major. "I think it builds their morale, team and unit cohesion. It brings the guys closer together."

"I like (fight nights) because I like to have fun, and it's a break from the every day routine," said Spc. Rashad King, a medic for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery. "I think it's a big stress relief because it gives the soldiers a chance to do what they want."

Planning the events is well worth the hassle according to Sanders because it is an activity that can build camaraderie and esprit de corps.

"I just like seeing soldiers come together and build cohesion. This is one of those things we can do together," he said. "Once it is all over and you see the pageantry and you the soldiers enjoy themselves, it's well worth it."



Matt Clark (red) lands a shot to Javier Johnson's (blue) chin.

Champs in the Camps Winners

Female Jessica Dull	147-153 Class Lovell Amison	Bryan Spears	Matt Clark	201 + Class Ricardo Calloway
139-146 Class Carlos Rosario	154-164 Class Benjamin Jackson	165-178 Class Jason Hollman Edmund Diaz	179-200 Class Michael Neam Robert Williams	Kris Davis DeJuan Bryant

Spiritual Fitness

Take a hike, go get an ice cream bar

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Roger Heath
Division Chaplain

The day began ominously. Systems were giving the sergeant major headaches as he tried to sort out problems. Phone lines were down and the Internet connections were acting up again. Fuel for the generators was low; one had quit, causing other systems to drop from service. Everyone was asking him a million questions. It was chaotic.

What happened to the orderly deployment? This isn't how we trained. This is totally dissimilar to the War Fighter exercise held just a few months earlier. Amazingly things ran a lot smoother then. Soldiers took the initiative, made on-the-spot corrections and got stuff working. Now it seems as though no one had answers. What's going on?

Deploying 7,000 miles from the motor pool, base support, immediate replacement parts does make military life difficult. Critical components are hard to find and even harder to get shipped in a timely manner. Quick fixes are difficult

and sometimes not reliable. Problems multiply and soldiers have no place to get away from "the boss."

Where do leaders go to get away from the mania and chaos? If they go back to their hooch someone is sleeping, after having pulled a night shift. Walking outside the tactical operations center only invites others to come up and ask more questions. Where does one go for a mental break?

The answer? Go get an ice cream bar from the mess tent. Yes, it seems simple. It's about a fourth of a mile away and it takes 10 minutes or so to walk there, *slowly*, one way. Find a frozen, delicious ice cream bar and relax for a few minutes – *alone*. The 10-minute walk back is another chance to reflect and talk to the ONE who knows our troubles and trials. How simple just to go walking, talk with the Father, and have a few moments for a spiritual recharge.

It's easy; just go get an ice cream bar. The calories may not be needed, but the 20-minute walk and heavenly talk is crucial for the soul. Take a hike and meet him on the way to the chocolate bars.

Give it some elbow grease



Spc. Adam Nuelken

Pfc. Brandon Brewer, Lodi, NY native and mechanic for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, works to disassemble the hub on a HMMWV to check the spindle bearings during services. The brigade has been performing services on their vehicles since the end of its livefire exercise Dec. 23.

Bulldogs, from page 1

For the defensive firing, the Bradleys settled into battle position.

"It simulates being dug in," said Sgt. Alberto Garcia, a gunner with C Co. 3-15 Inf.

Tables VI and VII were designed to prepare crews for Table VIII, Zanelotti said. "The targets on the preparation tables are down-sized to half scale and placed at maximum range; approximately 1400 meters," he said.

Firing at smaller targets to start off helps make the main event seem easier, according to many of the soldiers. "They



Spc. Thomas Nacey

A Bradley with B Battery, 1-3 Air Defense Artillery settles into a battle position during livefire exercises held Jan. 2-13.

make it hard to get hits on VI and VII, and that makes table VIII seem like a breeze," said Garcia, whose crew hit 10 out of 10 on table VII.

During Table VIII, crews had to hit seven out of 10 total targets. Master Gunners -- experienced senior noncommissioned officers -- evaluated crews on how much time it took to hit each target. Also, soldiers were evaluated on their ability to use fire commands and the five part alert system.

The battery continues its annual training schedule while deployed because it's an opportunity to test its abilities in a real world environment, said B Battery, 1-3 ADA 1st Sgt. David Nelson, from Price, Utah.

"These guys have gone through Spartan Focus, Marne Focus, (National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.) and now here," he said, adding that in between field exercises the battery completed four gunnerys.

"These guys have been training hard for 14 months. Their total focus has been train, train, train."

Zanelotti said the battery's soldiers have maintained their focus and high standards while being deployed in a time of uncertainty.

"I'm sure in the back of their minds, they're wondering what the future holds. I think these guys are very well trained, motivated and very serious about doing their job. I'm proud of the way they have stepped up to the challenge," he said.

Smallpox, from page 1

fatality rate of 30 percent."

The disease is highly contagious and spreads easily from person to person, he said. It could spread through a camp in 24 hours. Because of that, it is important that all soldiers in country receive the vaccine as soon as possible.

"All (servicemembers) who will be in a high-threat area for more than 15 days need to get the smallpox vaccine," Corr said. "We plan to get everybody here vaccinated in one day."

Dryvax, the vaccinia vaccine for smallpox, is a live virus that builds immunity to the virus that causes smallpox, Corr said.

"It's a fairly harmless virus which gives protection against smallpox," he said.

Although some soldiers may have been vaccinated in their childhood or earlier in their military careers, they need to be inoculated again, Corr said.

"The effectiveness of the vaccine wanes after five years, and after 20, its

effects are negligible," he said.

Unlike the Anthrax vaccine, which requires six shots and an annual booster, Dryvax only needs to be administered once, Corr said. A two-pronged needle is dipped in the vaccine and punctured one-sixteenth of an inch into the receiver's skin 15 times.

Two out of three soldiers will not notice any effects for the first seven days after vaccination, Corr said. The other 33 percent may experience fever and achy muscles between days five and seven.

A pustule, which resembles an acne sore half an inch across, should form by the seventh day, Corr said. At that point, medics will check for the sore to make sure the vaccination has "taken." If the sore is not there, the vaccine needs to be re-administered.

"Since most of the people out here are between 18 and their mid-40s, which is a healthy population, we expect minimal side effects. But we will hospitalize

those who experience them," Coor said.

To prevent any problems, those who receive the vaccine should not pick at the pustule, Coor said. If someone picks at the scab and scratches another open area, it could be spread to another part of the body.

Pregnant women, people with documented allergic reactions to antibiotics and people with suppressed immune systems should not receive the vaccine, Corr said.

It is imperative that vaccinated people stay away from non-vaccinated people for observation of the pustule while the medicine is taking, Corr said. Any contact between the two populations could spread the vaccine from one to the other, which could cause problems.

It is important for those serving here to get this vaccine because it is an effective way to protect the soldier, Coor said. "Smallpox is a threat, and this is our way to fight it."

GLOBAL NEWS



International

North Korea Quits Nuclear Treaty

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korea withdrew from a global treaty that bars it from making nuclear weapons Jan. 10, but said it was willing to talk to Washington to end an escalating dispute over its nuclear ambitions.

It also warned the United States not to take military action against it, saying a "new Korean War will finally lead to the Third World War" and the North could hold its own in a "fire-to-fire standoff." The communist country said it had no intention of producing nuclear weapons and would use its nuclear program only for peaceful purposes "at this stage."



National

Plane "looked heavy" before crash

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - Several airline employees interviewed in the probe of a commuter plane crash that killed 21 people said the turboprop "looked heavy" as it set out for a flight that lasted just 37 seconds.

US Airways Express Flight 5481 crashed in flames Wednesday morning after leaving the Charlotte airport for a short hop to Greer, S.C. All 19 passengers and the two crew members aboard were killed. The pilot reported an emergency to the tower, but the FAA said the transmission was cut off.



Military

Landmine injures soldier

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (ARNEWS) - An 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper is in stable condition after stepping on an antipersonnel landmine during a routine patrol Jan. 4. The soldier received immediate medical care at the Forward Operating Base, Salerno. He was then transported to Bagram Air Base and subsequently medically evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, for further treatment. His injuries were not life threatening, officials said. The soldier's name is being withheld pending next of kin notification.

U.N. demands cooperation from Iraq

UNITED NATIONS - Weapons inspectors have delivered a tough message to Iraq: Opening doors and submitting old declarations isn't enough to satisfy the United Nations, and Baghdad must prove that its arms programs have been destroyed.

Chief inspector Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, who is in charge of nuclear inspections, told the U.N. Security Council on Thursday they have found no "smoking gun" since U.N. inspections resumed on Nov. 27 - but that doesn't mean there isn't one.

The top inspectors plan to fly to Baghdad on Jan. 19-20 to tell senior officials they must provide "credible evidence" about Iraq's nuclear, chemical, biological and missile programs; beef up the list of scientists Iraq handed over in late December; and answer questions on outstanding issues ranging from anthrax production to missing high explosives.

N.J. officials investigate child death

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) - New Jersey officials will try to explain how a 7-year-old died and his two brothers were found starving despite years of complaints about their care to the state's child welfare agency.

The two brothers were found starving and emaciated Jan. 4 in the basement of a Newark home. Gov. James E. McGreevey planned to release the findings Friday. Jan. 5, police returned to the home and discovered the mummified body of the third brother, 7-year-old Faheem Williams, in a purple plastic storage bin. The case has sparked outrage at the Division of Youth and Family Services, which had investigated complaints about the family but closed the case last year. A case worker and supervisor involved with the case have been suspended with pay, and both could be fired. Their names have not been released.

U.S. military planners moving to Qatar

Senior U.S. military planners are moving to Qatar to prepare for a possible conflict with Iraq.

The contingent from the U.S. Central Command will go to Camp As Sayliyah in the Persian Gulf emirate of Qatar to staff the headquarters for a possible conflict.

Eventually, about 1,000 U.S. troops will be stationed at that base. Pentagon officials said President Bush has not yet made a decision to go to war.

But thousands of U.S. troops have been ordered to the region in recent weeks and Britain announced the activation of about 1,500 reservists and the deployment of additional naval vessels to the Persian Gulf Jan. 7 in preparation for possible action. U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld repeated suggestions that Saddam go into exile to avoid a war. "... I hope that the country will be disarmed, and I hope that force will not have to be used," he said.

Marne Scoreboard

NFL

Jan. 4

NY Jets 41, Indianapolis 0
Atlanta 27, Green Bay 7

Jan. 5

San Francisco 39, New York 38
Pittsburgh 36, Cleveland 33

NBA

Jan. 6

Indiana 105, Philadelphia 104
Milwaukee 106, Cleveland 94
Washington 100, Boston 95
Orlando 103, New York 100
New Jersey 101, Atlanta 94
Detroit 82, Toronto 74
Memphis 106, New Orleans 102
Chicago 113, Utah 98
Dallas 86, Denver 71
Golden State 99, Miami 85

Jan. 7

Sacramento 118, New Jersey 82
Portland 90, San Antonio 87

Jan. 8

Detroit 103, Philadelphia 94
Houston 91, Orlando 81
Indiana 89, New York 87
Washington 101, Chicago 98
Dallas 117, Atlanta 99
Minnesota 102, Golden State 95
Boston 93, New Orleans 83
Utah 99, Phoenix 93
Denver 86, Miami 76

San Antonio 106, Seattle 95
LA Clippers 103, Memphis 95

Thursday

Scranto 118, New Jersey 82
Portland 90, San Antonio 87

Friday

New York 114, Philadelphia 112
Indiana 101, Orlando 97
New Jersey 94, Toronto 79
Golden State 104, Washington 99
Atlanta 84, Houston 75
Dallas 103, Boston 78
Minnesota 115, Sacramento 109
Milwaukee 93, Chicago 85
Detroit 101, New Orleans 99
Utah 92, Miami 76
Denver 82, Portland 81
Phoenix 96, Memphis 90
LA Lakers 115, Cleveland 99
LA Clippers 90, Seattle 88

NHL

Jan. 6

Edmonton 5, San Jose 5
Los Angeles 3, Minnesota 2
Nashville 5, Columbus 1
Ottawa 5, NY Rangers 2

Jan. 7

New Jersey 3, Montreal 2
Tampa Bay 1, Detroit 0
Nashville 2, St. Louis 1
Philadelphia 3, Buffalo 2
NY Islanders 6, Pittsburgh 3
Toronto 5, Boston 2

Carolina 3, Atlanta 3
Dallas 7, Los Angeles 4
Calgary 4, Colorado 2

Jan. 8

Vancouver 6, Ottawa 4
NY Rangers 5, Carolina 1
Detroit 2, Carolina 1
Edmonton 1, Anaheim 0
Columbus 2, Minnesota 1
Phoenix 0, Chicago 0

Thursday

Dallas 4, Chicago 3
Atlanta 3, Tampa Bay 2
St. Louis 4, San Jose 1
Ottawa 1, Calgary 0
Philadelphia 4, NY Islanders 0
Toronto 4, Pittsburgh 2
Montreal 3, NY Rangers 2
Anaheim 5, Colorado 3
Edmonton 5, Los Angeles 4

Friday

Buffalo 4, Boston 2
Washington 4, Carolina 1
New Jersey 2, Florida 1
Minnesota 2, Phoenix 1
Columbus 3, Vancouver 2

NCAA Basketball

Men's Top 25

Jan. 6

(2) Pitt 72, (6) Notre Dame 55
(18) Kansas 83, Iowa St. 54

Jan. 7

(23) Texas Tech 75, San Diego St. 63

(17) Wake Forest 98, Elon 56
(10) Illinois 76, Minnesota 70
Richmond 67, (21) Xavier 59

Jan. 8

(1) Duke 93, Georgetown 86
(19) Louisville 80, Charlotte 59
(4) Alabama 61, Arkansas 51
(15) Indiana 78, Penn St. 65

Thursday

(25) Michigan St. 66, Ohio St. 55
Cal 88, (12) Oregon 72
(2) Arizona 82, Washington St. 69

Women's Top 25

Jan. 6

(1) Duke 69, Clemson 53
(15) Penn St. 83, (10) Minnesota 53
Michigan St. 67, (7) Purdue 62
(12) Vanderbilt 78, Duquesne 56
(18) Mississippi St. 72, UAB 50
(9) Arkansas 75, La. Lafayette 57

Jan. 7

(5) Tennessee 91, Old Dominion 63
(24) Villanova 62, Virginia Tech 60
(22) UCSB 73, CS Northridge 41

Jan. 8

(23) Boston College 73, St. John's 37
(3) UConn 67, Rutgers 62
(13) Notre Dame 66, W. Virginia 59
(8) Texas Tech 77, Texas A&M 56

Thursday

(16) S. Carolina 83, (18) Miss St. 79
(15) Penn St. 86, Iowa 52
(11) UNC 86, Wake Forest 56
(1) Duke 60, Virginia 59

Holmes gets MVP

Kansas City Chiefs running back Priest Holmes was named the Associated Press NFL Offensive Player of the Year Thursday.

Holmes was on pace to shatter several NFL records before a deep hip bruise sidelined him for the final two games of 2002. He set 10 team records, including 1,615 yards rushing and 21 TDs. He also had three scores as a receiver, and the 24 TDs were two short of Marshall Faulk's league mark.

Senators file bankruptcy

The Ottawa Senators filed for bankruptcy Thursday, seeking protection from creditors while the first-place team reorganizes its troubled finances.

The filing under Canada's federal Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act allows the team to continue playing this season while it looks to restructure its debts.

Selig eyes series changes

Commissioner Bud Selig will probably brief owners next week on his plan to have the league that wins the All-Star game gain home-field advantage in the World Series.

Selig intends to reinvigorate the All-Star game, which ended in a 7-7 tie last year. Both the AL and NL ran out of pitchers, with managers Joe Torre and Bob Brenly using players for short stretches to get everybody in.

Stoops says no to Jags

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops has turned down a request to interview with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Stoops, a former defensive coordinator at Florida who still has ties to the area, was contacted by owner Wayne Weaver, but said he had no interest in the job.

"I'm not talking to anybody about anything, period," Stoops said.

NFL: officials were wrong

Upon further review, the officials working the NFC wild-card game in San Francisco botched the final play of the game as much as the New York Giants.

The NFL's director of officiating apologized to the Giants on Monday, acknowledging that they were denied the chance to kick a potential game-winning field goal because the officials failed to call pass interference penalty on a comical final play.

Colon deal might be nixed

A deal that would send Expos starter Bartolo Colon to the Marlins for Brad Penny, Blaine Neal and two minor leaguers could be in jeopardy.

The sticking point is that the Expos want to move Penny to the Reds for a minor league pitcher, believed to be Luke Hudson, with another Reds minor league pitcher, believed to be Ty Howington, moving to the Marlins.