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U.S. airstrikes continuing in Afghanistan

BY BOB DEANS
Cox News Service

WASHINGTON, DC - The United States hopes to topple Afghanistan's ruling Taliban and gut the terrorist network of Osama bin Laden through a combination of shattering air strikes, hit-and-run commando raids and military attacks by local Afghan fighters, Pentagon officials and defense analysts said Monday.

U.S. warships, heavy bombers and strike jets attacked Taliban forces, airfields and other military targets with cruise missiles and bombs for a second night Monday. The air campaign is designed to weaken the Taliban and to disrupt the al-Qaida terrorists aligned with bin Laden, but with no guarantee of putting either out of business.

"The cruise missiles and bombers are not going to solve this problem. We know that," said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. "What they can do is to contribute by adding pressure, making life more difficult, raising the cost for the terrorists and those that are supporting the terrorists."

There are ample U.S. and British forces - including Special Operations commandos skilled at conducting lightning raids and other covert missions - to strike in the event that spies on the ground or satellites from space are able to pinpoint the position of bin Laden and his lieutenants.

Toppling the Taliban also will likely require ground offensives by Afghan groups, such as the Northern Alliance, which controls about 10 percent of the country, as well as other groups and tribes in the south.

After 20 years of war, Afghanistan is a shattered nation. U.S. air strikes have focused on what little the country has left in the way of radars, air fields, airplanes, anti-aircraft missiles and artillery and communications links.

By making it difficult for the Taliban to move, communicate and regroup, the air strikes could make the regime vulnerable to attacks on the ground. Afghan rebel fighters can help by advancing on Taliban forces when and where they are weakened by air strikes. By shrinking the amount of territory that Taliban and terrorists can hold, those actions can force bin Laden and his backers out of sanctuaries.

"The more he has to run around the more he has to tell people where he is, to give them directions," said a U.S. defense official who requested anonymity. "That's how we're going to find them."

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"I don't think there will be a significant combat ground action by U.S. forces," said Stephen Blank, professor of strategic studies at the U.S. Army War College.

"Our objective is not to conquer Afghanistan, the objective is to destroy the terrorist networks," said Blank, who has written extensively on the failed Soviet war there from 1979-89. "You're going to hear, or see, small raids, commando raids, infiltration, hit-and-run things."

But that isn't to say U.S. and allied ground operations are off the table completely. "Obviously we are preparing a range of military options," British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon told reporters in London, "and the use of ground troops is clearly one of them."

With winter closing in on Afghanistan within several weeks, however, it's unlikely such a force would be deployed, under any circumstances, before next spring, said O'Hanlon. "And we hope, of course, it won't be necessary at all."

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Former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge listens intently to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas during his swearing-in ceremony as the country's new chief of Homeland Security. Ridge was chosen for the position by President George W. Bush following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America. (Photo courtesy of Cox News Service)

Afghani shepherds move their flocks down the road on the Pakistani side from the 13,000-foot Dori Pass as their ancestors have done for thousands of years. Some say they know very little about the attacks on America or retaliation against Afghanistan.

(Photo by Mike Williams/Cox News Service)



"Certainly we are working with the elements on the ground that are interested in overthrowing and expelling that group of people," said Rumsfeld, adding later, "the Northern Alliance and the tribes in the south and other are among those."

Analysts say the U.S. strategy appears heavily dependent upon those indigenous groups.

"It's actually going to be our primary hope," said military analyst Michael O'Hanlon, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. "I don't see how else this operation can be

counted on to succeed as a military operation."

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School system's ABC results released

The State Board of Education has released ABCs results for the 2,158 North Carolina schools participating in the state-mandated system of accountability. The 2000-01 school year was the fifth year that K-8 schools participated in the ABCs program, and the fourth year for high schools.

For the first time since the ABCs were put in place, each of the Edenton-Chowan Schools had 60 percent or more of stu-

dents scoring Level III or higher. The performance composite, or percentage of students scoring at or above Level III for 2000-01 end-of-grade tests, rose from the previous year's levels for each of the county's schools.

"That's the point we're most pleased with," said Dr. Allan T. Smith, superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools. "The schools have shown steady growth, year after year."

The ABCs model recognizes both growth in student achievement and the percentage of students performing at grade level (Level III for grades 3-8) as measured by North Carolina end-of-grade tests or proficiency level (Level III for grades 9-12) on high school end-of-course tests.

Results for the Edenton-Chowan Schools are as follows: •Chowan Middle School had exemplary growth, defined as

exceeding expected growth goals set by the State Board of Education by 10 percent. More than 77 percent of Chowan Middle School students scored at or above Level III on end-of-grade tests.

•White Oak Elementary had expected growth, meeting the goals set by the State Board of Education. About 76 percent of White Oak students scored at

See RESULTS On Page 8-A



Rotarian of the Year

Local attorney and long time Rotarian John Morehead, is recognized at the September 27th Edenton Rotary Club luncheon. Honored for his many contributions to Rotary and "dedication to the ideals of Rotary" Morehead was named Rotarian of the year by the 75-year-old local club and its Board of Directors.

Presenting the award is Craig Miller, current Edenton Rotary Club President. Morehead, himself is a past president and member in good standing for more than twenty years.

Reenactment, cannon dedication near

On Saturday, Oct. 13, the Edenton Historical Commission will unveil and dedicate one of the four long-lost Civil War cannons of the Edenton Bell Battery.

Recently returned from Old Fort Niagara in Youngstown, NY where it was discovered in 1999, the bronze 770 pound twelve-pounder howitzer named the "St. Paul" will be permanently mounted outside on a gun carriage in Edenton's Colonial Park on the waterfront beside the Barker House.

The dedication ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. Several reenactor groups will participate in the dedication and will present a reenactment ceremonial firing of the four gun Bell Battery. These same groups will stage an artillery encampment in the park Friday night and all day Saturday prior to the dedication. Artillery groups participating will be three batteries of the Third Corps Artillery Brigade (Poague's Battalion) as well as Battery B, 2nd U.S. Colored Light Artillery - the only Af-



The only African-American Civil War artillery reenactment unit in the country will be among those participating in this weekend's Civil Reenactment in Edenton. Also planned is a dedication ceremony for one of four long-lost Civil War cannons from the Edenton Bell Battery.

rican-American Civil War artillery reenactment unit in the country. The 11th NC Regimental Band, the 1st NC Volunteers/11th NC Infantry Regiment, and the 110th Pennsylvania Regiment will take part in the ceremony as well. The public is invited to view the en-

campment and attend the dedication. All events are free.

The Edenton Bell Battery was organized as the Albemarle Artillery in March of 1862 by Edenton lawyer Capt. William Badham Jr. and his brother-in-law, Lt. John M. Jones. Lt. Nelson McLees and his men

from Tyrrell and Washington County also joined the battery, as well as men from Bertie and Perquimans counties. The unit was officially incorporated into Confederate service as Company B, Third Battalion, North

Bike Rodeo, helmet giveaway Friday

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, together with Cycle North Carolina and the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department, is sponsoring a new series of bicycle safety rodeos to take place during the Cycle NC 2001 event coming to Edenton this Friday, Oct. 12.

The Bike Rodeo in Edenton will be held in the Holmes High School student parking lot starting at 10 a.m. While geared toward youngsters

ages 8-12, all ages are welcome at this free event.

The primary purpose of these rodeos is to teach proper bicycle operation and provide basic bicycle equipment safety checks.

The first 50 participants that show up at the rodeo will receive bike helmets and other safety gear. A new statewide law requires everyone under age 16 to wear a helmet.

For more info, call Robbie Laughton, 482-8595.

Oktoberfest October 13th 7 P.M.
Old National Guard Armory
Broad Street

Advance Tickets \$20
At The Door \$25
(252) 482-8005

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