



FREEDOM WATCH



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Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

President to take Wall Street to task

WASHINGTON — President Bush heads to Wall Street today packing a promise of “tough new laws and actions to punish abuses, restore investor confidence and protect the pensions of American workers.” In a White House press conference Monday, the president said tougher laws were necessary because U.S. economic growth was dependent on “consumer and investor confidence in our markets and in the integrity of corporate America.”

Police arrest suspects in Karachi bombings

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Security forces in Pakistan say they have arrested three suspects in the June 14 car bombing of the U.S. Consulate in Karachi and another attack more than a month earlier. In an announcement broadcast

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Photo by Master Sgt. Karen J. Brunick, 416th Engineer Command
Soldiers of the 488th Quartermasters help tweak the tent frame so that a pin can be put in place. Although the Force Provider tents are simple to erect, teamwork is critical.

Force Provider eases Khandahar conditions

By Pfc. Matthew Acosta
49th Public Affairs Detachment (Abn.)

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — As the 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers arrive here to do their part as soldiers fighting in the War on Terrorism, they are faced with a new enemy — the extreme Afghan climate.

“The temperature here in

Afghanistan can reach 125 degrees during the summer months,” said Army Maj. Ken Sullivan, commander, 142nd Corps Support Battalion, Fort Polk, La. “Dealing with the climate has always proven to be a constant battle for the soldiers.”

“If you can give the soldiers a place to come back to and get some rest from the intense heat, then the soldiers

will be much more effective the next day with a higher morale,” he added.

Fortunately for the 82nd paratroopers, the Army has provisions for helping deal with the extreme climate.

The Army, according to Sullivan, has recently decided to send the Force Provider system and a supporting unit of

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Joint Task Force S1 provides relief in Afghanistan

By Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Their room is smaller than most rooms in Motel 6, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, but the space seems to be adequate enough for the six soldiers found inside.

One wanders to the desk to check his computer as another follows him, asking every question possible along the way. The others sift from side to side in their chairs, talking to one another, hoping to get the right answers. To add to the already noisy commotion, a small crowd gathers, forming a line that

spreads from the door to the stairs, several feet away.

Pfc. Jessica Henderson looks up from her desk and thinks to herself, “it’s going to be one of those days.”

For HHC, 129th Corps Support Battalion from Fort Campbell, Ky., “these days” is being breathed daily

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on the second floor of Motel 6, where they provide the best customer service to countless soldiers.

"It's a big challenge for us to continue keeping the soldier's morale up by making sure anything he or she needs to get done, gets done," said Staff Sgt. Richard Chalmers, S1 noncommissioned officer in charge.

"It's different working over here, but it's okay because it will be better in the long run," said Henderson, who serves as the battalion's awards clerk. "I like being part of the rebuilding process – helping the locals and the country."

With an attitude like that, it's no wonder why high-ranking officials have commented on the battalion's performance in the combat zone.

"I almost fainted," said Pfc. Angela Hinton, a promotions clerk. "A colonel was giving me a coin to show his appreciation for my work during the deployment."

It has been an overdue fallacy that S1 sections have a very easy job, but if one had the opportunity to witness the hard work this section wrings out of its small staff, that misconception would diminish.

For instance, in any given week, soldiers from approximately 31 units come in and out of the tiny office looking for assistance on a wide variety of issues – from awards and promotions to NCOERs and finance inquiries.

"I enjoy helping soldiers," Hinton said. "Basically, I am a people person who will do anything I can to help."

"Our section has been doing an excellent job," Chalmers said. "They do what they have to do, in addition to outside taskings (details). It says a lot about them."

Soon after the last customer leaves, Henderson breathes a sigh of relief.

Two seconds later, the hallway becomes congested with new customers.

Yes, it's truly one of those days.

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soldiers to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

"The Force Provider system is designed to make the soldiers feel as comfortable as possible even while fighting in an extreme climate we have here in Afghanistan," said Army Sgt. Bryan Gutzman, water purification noncommissioned officer, 48th Quartermaster Company, Fort Polk.

The system is made up of a series of modified storage units and the field medical style tents, and consists of personal hygiene facilities, a recreation center, laundry service and climate controlled sleeping quarters.

Sullivan explained that because of units' versatility, the Force Provider system could be modified to fit any particular mission or any climate.

"It's like a giant set of Leggos. The units can be added together to make a larger facility or kept relatively small," Sullivan said. "It truly is a great system, and I'm glad to be here to make it easier for the soldiers."

Every paratrooper's living quarters will have an environmental control unit capable of providing air conditioning for the soldiers during the extreme heat, said Sullivan. The same ECU will also provide heating for the cold weather conditions. The tents are equipped with multiple electrical outlets with standard 110-volt current to provide power for the soldier to run essential equipment or for entertainment purposes.

The personal hygiene facilities have 12 individual showers with hot and cold running water, as well as 12 sinks and mirrors. This facility is also



Photo by Pfc. Matthew Acosta

The Force Provider shower unit provides the soldiers with 12 showers and sinks, both with running hot and cold water and room for changing.

equipped with air conditioning for the comfort of the soldiers.

"After a long day in the field, coming home to an air conditioned tent and being able to shower with running water on a daily basis makes it easier for the soldiers to do their duties," said Pfc. Erik Bunker, rifleman, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C.

The Force Provider system also has provisions for a laundry service, and an ECU equipped recreation center with two satellite televisions, DVD and video library, weight room and a popcorn machine.

"Right now we need to prioritize," stated Sullivan. "The soldiers need living quarters and personal hygiene provisions first. When all the soldiers have those provisions, then the recreation center and laundry service will be added."

The laundry service will allow soldiers to have their uniforms cleaned weekly. There will be specific drop-off points located around the base for convenience.

Gutzman claimed his 73-man unit had a "big job" to do.

"Our job as a unit is to make the deployed soldier feel more comfortable," he added. "The Force Provider system provides the soldiers with some of the comforts of home."

Making the soldiers more comfortable in the field makes their job easier.

"With all these comforts, the Force Provider system gives us, it makes it easier to forget we're in a combat zone," said Pvt. Steven Petersen, rifleman, 3rd Bn., 505th PIR. "We really appreciate the work the Fort Polk unit is doing here, it makes life here more bearable."

According to Gutzman, the Force Provider system will eventually have a presence in all future major deployments.

As the only active unit of its kind, the 48th QM Co. is responsible for training National Guard units that will eventually replace their company.

"We need to make the soldier's job a little bit easier wherever he is deployed," Gutzman said. "And a Force Provider unit will stay with him until he comes home."

HIND SIGHT

1866

Indelible pencil patented by Edson P. Clark

1958

First parking meter installed in England (625 installed)

1973

Bahamas gain independence after 300 years of British rule (Nat'l Day)

1985

Coca-Cola Company announces it will resume selling old formula Coke

Got a story idea? Visit the 28th Public Affairs Detachment on the second floor of Motel 6, or call 640-8000.

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live on national television the Director General of the Pakistani Rangers, Maj. Gen. Salahuddin, said the three suspected militants had been arrested following raids on several houses in the Karachi area.

Bush will use all means to oust Saddam

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Monday his administration would use “all the tools at our disposal” to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. “I do firmly believe that the world will be safer and more peaceful if there’s a regime change in that government,” Bush said during a wide-ranging news conference at the White House.

Mine blast kills 39 in northeast China

BEIJING, China — At least 39 miners have been killed in a gas explosion in a mine in Heilongjiang province in Northeastern China. Another four miners who were inside the pit at the time of the explosion in the Dingsheng mine are missing and rescuers say there is little hope of finding them alive. A team of 30 rescue workers rushed to the site in the Hegang municipality of Heilongjiang province, some 870 miles north of Beijing. There was no immediate explanation for the cause of the accident.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
<u>Bagram:</u>	Thunderstorms H: 93F L: 72F	Thunderstorms H: 91F L: 70F
<u>Kandahar:</u>	Haze H: 102F L: 73F	Haze H: 106F L: 75F
<u>Kabul:</u>	Thunderstorms H: 90F L: 68F	Thunderstorms H: 86F L: 64F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	Partly cloudy H: 95F L: 60F	Clear H: 96F L: 66F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

Police recommend filing charges against Sixers Iverson

Police plan to recommend that prosecutors issue a warrant Wednesday for the arrest of NBA All-Star Allen Iverson.

They plan to charge the Philadelphia 76ers guard with aggravated assault and making terroristic threats while armed.

If the charges are approved, Iverson has been asked to turn himself in.

Iverson had a gun when he forced himself into an apartment last week and threatened two men inside.

Iverson won the 2001 NBA MVP.

Bengals sign veteran receiver Westbrook to three-year deal

The Cincinnati Bengals signed free-agent wide receiver Michael Westbrook to a \$4.5 million, three-year contract Tuesday, and released veteran receiver Darnay Scott.

Westbrook had 277 catches for 4,280 yards and 24 touchdowns in seven seasons with the Washington Redskins.

Last season, Westbrook had 57 catches for 667 yards and four touchdowns.

The Bengals need something to improve their scoring. They scored a league-low 226 points last season and were tied for last with 12 touchdown passes.

Martinez says he is optimistic about his future with the Boston Red Sox

Pedro Martinez says he's optimistic he will reach an agreement at the end of this season to finish his career in Boston.

"My contract with Boston lasts until 2003, but I believe we're going to reach an agreement at the end of the season. I am hoping it will work out that way," Martinez was quoted as saying in Tuesday's edition of the Dominican newspaper *El Expreso*.

The 30-year-old Martinez, a three-time Cy Young award winner, has recovered after losing much of last season to a sore right shoulder.

Since his first start when he gave up seven runs in three innings, Martinez has posted a 2.24 ERA. He also has an 11-2 record.

Armstrong fifth; Zabel claims leader's yellow jersey in the 2002 Tour de France

American Lance Armstrong finished the third stage in the main pack to drop to fifth in the overall standings.

Robbie McEwen won the 108.2-mile trek as Eric Zabel claimed the overall lead that Swiss rider Rubens Bertogliati had retained for the past two days.

Armstrong is looking for his fourth straight championship.

2002 Major League standings

American League East			GB
N.Y. Yankees	55-32	.632	-
Boston	52-33	.612	2
Baltimore	42-43	.494	12
American League Central			GB
Minnesota	50-39	.562	-
Chicago (AL)	42-46	.477	7.5
Cleveland	39-47	.453	9.5
American League West			GB
Seattle	55-33	.625	-
Anaheim	51-35	.593	3
Oakland	50-38	.568	5
National League East			GB
Atlanta	56-32	.636	-
Montreal	46-41	.529	9.5
Florida	45-43	.511	11
National League Central			GB
St. Louis	47-38	.553	-
Cincinnati	46-41	.529	2
Houston	41-45	.477	6.5
National League West			GB
Los Angeles	54-34	.614	-
Arizona	51-36	.586	2.5
San Francisco	49-38	.563	4.5

Past All-Star Results

2001 - American 4-1 National
(Safeco Field)

2000 - American 6-3 National
(Turner Field)

1999 - American 4-1 National
(Fenway Park)

1998 - American 13-8 National
(Coors Field)

1997 - American 3-1 National
(Jacobs Field)

1996 - National 6-0 American
(Veterans Stadium)

1995 - National 3-2 American
(The Ballpark in Arlington)

1994 - National 8-7 American
(Three Rivers Stadium)

1993 - American 9-3 National
(Camden Yards)

1992 - American 13-6 National
(Jack Murphy Stadium)

1991 - American 4-2 National
(Skydome)