



FREEDOM WATCH



July 13, 2002

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Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Army exiles discuss Iraq overthrow

LONDON, England— Iraqi military defectors are gathering in London to discuss plans to overthrow President Saddam Hussein as a precursor to establishing democracy in the Gulf state. About 90 former Iraqi generals and senior officers will gather from their exiles around the world at a time when the focus is on a possible U.S. attack on Hussein's regime.

Sesame St. to introduce HIV+ Muppet

NEW YORK — Sesame Street will soon introduce its first HIV-positive Muppet character to children of South Africa, where one in nine people have the virus that can lead to AIDS. The upbeat female Muppet will join "Takalani Sesame" Sept. 30 for its third season on the South African Broadcasting Corp. The character will travel to many of the eight other nations airing the educational children's show.

108th MPs prepare to leave Kandahar

Story & photo by Pfc. Matthew Acosta
49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne)

KHANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — After more than six months, a Fort Bragg military police company is leaving Afghanistan and returning to home.

Although the MP company does not have a definite redeployment date, the 108th Military Police Company, 16th Military Police Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C., tour is winding down after providing security for the airfield and conducting hundreds of daily security and reconnaissance missions throughout Afghanistan.

"We're supposed to be going home soon, but until we do, our job as an



Army Sgt. David Lamoreux points out an altered travel route to a village outside Kandahar, Afghanistan, to Sgt. Michael Whitson(left) and Staff Sgt. Paul Payne.

MP company is to provide security for the airbase," said Army Sgt. Morgan Glover, MP team leader, 108th MP Company, Fort Bragg, N.C.

The duties the MP squads are responsible for, such as gate guard duty, customs and recon-

naissance missions, are rotated on a weekly basis with the other MP squads in the company.

"We are responsible for several jobs here," said Sgt. Michael Whitson, 108th MP team leader. "We're not just cops. We do everything

from guard the front gate, to customs duty and we go outside the wire on recon patrols.

"People think of us (MPs) as cops, and, while that's partially true on post, here, we provide a vital part of a team effort.

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Nation's top teacher credits Army for success

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Recognized by the White House as the 2002 teacher of the year, a retired lieutenant colonel just told education specialists that his Army career prepared him well to be an educator.

Chauncey Veatch, a freshman social studies and English teacher at Coachella Valley High School

in Thermal, Calif., addressed Army Education Summit attendees at the event's opening dinner in Washington, D.C., July 8.

In addition to high school, Veatch teaches adult education to migrant laborers several evenings a week.

Veatch retired from the Army in 1995 after 22 years of service. He had served both in the infantry and the medical services

corps.

"The Army taught me two things that has helped me be successful in the classroom," Veatch said. "The Army taught me leadership skills, and it taught me the value of service — the responsibility to give something back to the community you are in."

He also credited the Army with

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We pull guard duty and patrol the surrounding area just like the rest of the Army.”

When the unit first arrived in the theater, they were responsible for a duty to which they were not normally accustomed—the short-term holding facility.

“We had to provide security for the facility, which, at the time, had many detainees,” Glover said. “We had to watch them 24-hours a day. It was a tedious and boring job, but it was crucial to the overall mission of Operation Enduring Freedom.”

After the rest of the MP company arrived, and the detainees were moved to another base, the unit became responsible for other critical duties. They began pulling front gate security, going on regular recon patrols outside the airbase, maintaining law and order, performed customs duty and were responsible for an observation post outside the gate.

The company was often overtasked, but they managed to always get the job done, said Army Spc. Brad James, 108th MP driver.

Guarding the gate was a routine duty. Only accredited media and military personnel were allowed inside the gate. If locals were to enter the base to work, they were escorted everywhere under armed watch, Glover stated.

The MPs’ recon missions were to gather information about local villages about the whereabouts of Taliban members. They had three missions daily, each lasting four hours, and they often faced uncertain and dangerous conditions, such as driving through minefields.

“There are very few roads in Khandahar,” said Army Spc. Christine Skelonc, 108th MP driver. “They are mostly dirt roads and it’s tough because we need to stay on the tire tracks of vehicles that



Photo by Pfc. Matthew Acosta

Army Sgts. Morgan Glover and Michael Whitson, MPs, 108th MP Company, Fort Bragg, N.C., map out an alternate route around a possible minefield during a routine patrol outside Khandahar.

passed previously because of the constant threat of landmines. At one time we had to keep a look out for exposed mines that were inches away from the wheels of the High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicles we were driving in.”

Whitson explained that a Canadian unit had borrowed a HMMWV from the unit and hit a land mine.

“The rear hatch was blown off and the vehicle sustained major damage, but the passenger compartment was completely intact with minor damage and there were no injuries to the occupants,” he said. “Seeing the armored HMMWVs can stay intact after hitting a landmine gave me confidence in the vehicle, but any encounter with a land mine can be a deadly experience.”

Once arriving in the villages, the MPs had to gather information from the inhabitants using an interpreter.

“At first, we were tense and didn’t know what to expect,” said Glover. “We had to go through these villages with a translator to gather information from the locals. We couldn’t tell the difference between a Taliban soldier and a local villager because the Taliban didn’t wear uniforms.”

The villagers were hard to trust at first, according to Army Spc.

Steven Fleenor, M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon gunner, but gradually he realized the villagers were glad the MPs were patrolling and appreciated their presence.

“It’s interesting protecting people we don’t know,” said Army Sgt. David Lamoreux, mission leader. “We can’t even communicate with them without an interpreter, but that is our duty as MPs and as soldiers.”

Fortunately for the patrols, miscommunication with the locals never resulted in any problems. Soon, the villagers became used to the fact that the military would be coming around checking up on them to make sure the Taliban hadn’t returned.

“After going through the villages several times, they warmed up to us,” said Pfc. Gerren Jefferson, M-249 SAW gunner. “The children would come right up to the HMMWVs so we started bringing candy and bags of chips to give to them. It’s nice to see a smile on their face, and it’s a nice gesture. You could tell the adults appreciate it.”

On one of the unit’s last recon missions in the village of Morghan Kechah, the village leader invited the squad into his guesthouse for some tea.

“It was a very nice gesture. They told us they appreciated all

the patrols and spoke of how safe they felt now due to the Taliban rule being removed from the area,” Whitson said.

Whitson said over the unit’s entire tour in Khandahar, an invite such as that had never happened before.

“I’ll remember that for a long time,” he added. “It made us feel good knowing they felt safer with us around. And to think at the beginning, we felt nervous around them.”

Whitson said he and the other members of the squad worked closer with each other and as a result, have become closer to one another. The squad has also learned how to adapt to meet changing mission requirements.

“One thing you need to learn on a deployment is flexibility,” said Army Staff Sgt. Paul Payne, 108th MP squad leader. “A mission can change at any given moment and the soldiers need to adapt to meet mission requirements. Seeing their performance and the great job they’re doing gives me confidence in their abilities.”

“We’ve been here since January,” said Whitson. “Between the Marines and the MP Company, we made the base secure for the 101st soldiers to land. And between all of us, we built this place up and made it into something livable.

“Our daily missions have changed constantly since we’ve gotten here, but now it’s time to go back home. It’s been great, but I won’t miss it.”

Once the 82nd Airborne Division’s MPs arrive, the 108th MP Company can pack up their gear and head back to Fort Bragg.

“I’m proud to have been here doing my job and I know my family is too,” said Pfc. Michael Nightengale, Mk-19 gunner. “But, the 82nd MPs will be here soon. It’s their turn.”

CRIME WATCH

The 87th Military Police Detachment, located at Bagram Air Base, uncovered information during an investigation in which the potential theft or contamination of U.S. mail was identified. The potential mail danger involves using Afghanistan in the address portion of incoming mail. If the APO address is not used, and the letters are addressed to a base in Afghanistan, for example, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, the mail will be delivered via Afghan channels. This situation allows for the theft, or introduction of undesirable material to U.S. mail.

For more information, call Chad D. Weston, Special Agent in Charge, at 640-8044.

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his Spanish fluency as it sent him to the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., to learn the language in the early 1990s. As the majority of his students are Mexican migrant farm workers who also work the fields with their parents, Spanish proficiency is a must in the classroom, he said.

And while Veatch may feel proud of being selected, he said he feels more pride in the successes of his students.

Those successes include a young Mexican migrant laborer who spoke no English when he started ninth grade who now has full scholarship offers to two colleges; youngsters winning numerous academic competitions at district, regional and state level

from a school which had the lowest test scores in the state when Veatch started teaching; and a 69-year-old Mexican migrant worker with 19 children who had very little formal education prior to attending night school and then went on to pass his U.S. citizenship test.

“Just imagine the legacy that 69-year-old man has left his 19 children by his personal example — that no matter how old you are, education is important and it can pay off with visible rewards like citizenship,” Veatch said.

He said he uses the three Ds of democracy, dreams and destiny to underscore the importance of education to his students. With education, students can understand the many rights they have within our democracy; they will be armed with the

knowledge they need to turn dreams into realities; and they will be prepared to meet the future as today’s youth will be tomorrow’s leaders, he said.

Growing up in an Army family, Veatch said he can appreciate the issues the summit seeks to address — especially the one about the disruption constant moves from school to school makes for students due to military reassignments. He said he remembers attending four different elementary schools during one year because of his father’s job changes.

“Spouses and children are just as much patriots as their soldiers are because they too have to make sacrifices in service to this great nation of ours,” Veatch said.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 95F L: 73F	<i>Haze</i> H: 91F L: 72F
Khandahar:	<i>Haze</i> H: 106F L: 75F	<i>Haze</i> H: 108F L: 77F
Kabul:	<i>Showers</i> H: 91F L: 70F	<i>Haze</i> H: 88F L: 68F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Clear</i> H: 99F L: 70F	<i>Clear</i> H: 99F L: 71F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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Visit the CENTCOM Website to see the latest editions of *Freedom Watch* at www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm

COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

Matthews will retire after 19 seasons

Veteran offensive lineman Bruce Matthews officially will end his 19-year career in the National Football League at a news conference in the offices of Tennessee Titans' owner Bud Adams in Texas.

The Houston Chronicle reported the retirement Friday night, but the Titans would not comment on the report.

The announcement had been expected since the end of last season, but the man who had played more games (296) than any other player except kickers had kept his options open, just in case he wanted to return.

Matthews, 41, who has never missed a game due to injury, told the Chronicle he will devote himself to being a husband and father to his five sons and one daughter.

Matthews is a 14-time Pro Bowler. *(Courtesy of espn.com)*

2002 Senior Players Championship

Second round

Hubert Green	71-63-134
Hale Irwin	64-73-137
Howard Twitty	68-69-137
Mike McCullough	68-69-137
Stewart Ginn	66-72-138
Tom Jenkins	67-71-138
Jay Sigel	71-67-138
Mark McCumber	67-71-138
Tom Wargo	71-68-139
Butch Sheehan	70-70-140
Larry Nelson	71-69-140
Dave Stockton	72-68-140
Ted Goin	72-69-141
Doug Tewell	73-68-141
Bruce Lietzke	71-70-141
Dick Mast	74-67-141
Ed Dougherty	70-72-142
Bob Murphy	78-64-142
Tom Kite	71-72-143
Roy Vucnich	73-70-143
John Schroeder	73-70-143
Allen Doyle	75-68-143
J.C. Snead	72-71-143
Jim Thorpe	74-69-143
Fuzzy Zoeller	70-73-143
Tom Purtzer	74-69-143
Ray Floyd	71-73-144
James Mason	71-73-144
Hugh Baiocchi	71-73-144
Gil Morgan	73-71-144

2002 Major League standings

American League East		GB
N.Y. Yankees	56-33 .629	-
Boston	53-34 .609	2
Baltimore	42-45 .483	13
American League Central		GB
Minnesota	51-39 .567	-
Chicago (AL)	43-47 .478	8
Cleveland	40-48 .455	10
American League West		GB
Seattle	57-33 .633	-
Anaheim	52-35 .598	3.5
Oakland	52-38 .578	5
National League East		GB
Atlanta	58-32 .644	-
Montreal	46-43 .517	11.5
Florida	45-44 .506	12.5
National League Central		GB
St. Louis	47-38 .553	-
Cincinnati	46-42 .523	2.5
Houston	42-45 .483	6
National League West		GB
Los Angeles	54-35 .607	-
Arizona	52-36 .591	1.5
San Francisco	50-38 .568	3.5

Today

Chicago W. Sox at Detroit
Cincinnati at Houston
Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets
Boston at Toronto
Florida at Chicago Cubs
Arizona at Los Angeles
Colorado at San Francisco
Seattle at Tampa Bay
Oakland at Baltimore
N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland
Anaheim at Kansas City
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee
Texas at Minnesota
Atlanta at Montreal
Chicago at Detroit (2)
St. Louis at San Diego

Sunday

Chicago W. Sox at Detroit
Cincinnati at Houston
Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets
Boston at Toronto
Florida at Chicago Cubs
Arizona at Los Angeles
Colorado at San Francisco
Seattle at Tampa Bay
Oakland at Baltimore
N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland
Anaheim at Kansas City
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee
Texas at Minnesota
Atlanta at Montreal
St. Louis at San Diego