



FREEDOM WATCH



July 27, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

N. Korea 'regrets' fatal naval skirmish

SEOUL, South Korea— North Korea has changed its tack over a fatal naval clash last month, expressing "regret" to its peninsular neighbor South Korea. The message marks the first conciliatory tone from Pyongyang since the June 29 skirmish, and is only the third time North Korea has expressed remorse in recent memory in a long history of bombings, assassination attempts and other attacks on South Korea.

Lavish opening party for Games

MANCHESTER, England— In a lavish opening ceremony, Queen Elizabeth II received the baton which officially opened the 17th Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England. The multi-million pound opening spectacle forged together Britain's traditions of pomp and circumstance with Manchester's own reputation as Britain's party capital.

See BRIEFS, Page 3

U.S. Troops to Provide Security for Karzai

By Gerry G. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — American troops will temporarily provide Afghan President Hamid Karzai's personal security, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said July 22.

"We certainly look at it as a relatively short-term matter. ... Whether it's weeks or months or several months, I don't know," Rumsfeld told reporters at the Pentagon. He noted Karzai asked for

See TROOPS, Page 2



Photo by Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.

Seeing stars

Lt. Col. James Post, 339th Combat Support Hospital, shows Maj. Gen. Robert Ostenberg, 63rd Region Support Command commanding general, some of the high-tech equipment available at Bagram Air Base during his visit Thursday. See Sunday's edition of *Freedom Watch* for the full story.

Army changes NCO promotion board sequence

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — In a move designed to allow more time for permanent-change-of-station notification and best use advanced NCO training course seats, the Army is changing the dates it traditionally holds promotion boards for sergeant first class through sergeant major.

The Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, sent an All-Army Activities message, commonly referred to as an ALARACT to the

field on the subject July 10.

Promotion boards for fiscal years 2002 and 2003 will be held as normally scheduled with the date changes occurring in FY 2004 and 2005. Specifically, the sergeant major promotion board will meet in June 2004, instead of October; the master sergeant board will convene in both February and October 2004 and meet in October thereafter; and the sergeant first class board will convene in February 2005, rather than June.

While the first board

date change does not occur until 2004, the impact will be felt sooner. The FY 2003 sergeant first class board will select enough NCOs to meet the Army's sergeant first class promotion needs for a 19-month period instead of the normal needs for 12 months. In order to transition to the new board dates, there will be no sergeant first class promotion board scheduled in FY 2004, said Sgt. Maj. Gerald Purcell, a personnel policy integrator with the Office of the

Deputy Chief of Staff, G1.

"This will be tumultuous for some, but it is about correcting some unfavorable situations out there that have been created by the timeframe the results of these boards traditionally come out," Purcell said. "This is about what is best for soldiers and the Army."

What is best for both, according to Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, is reducing turbulence created by short-notice PCSs,

See BOARDS, Page 2



Photo by Spc. Jason B. Baker, 49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne)

Brace yourself!

Pfc. Daniel Williams, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, braces himself as the base plate is settled when Pvt. Josh Carr, Bat. A, 1st Bn., 319th AFAR, fires a 120 mm mortar on Tarnack Farms, the terrorist camp turned live fire range near Khandahar Airfield.

TROOPS, from Page 1

the assistance in the wake of recent assassinations of key officials of his fledgling government in Kabul.

U.S. and coalition troops are now busy training the Afghan National Army, which, DoD officials said, “is paramount in providing stability to the country of Afghanistan and preventing the re-emergence of terrorism.”

The first battalion of the Afghan’s army graduated from training Tuesday.

Rumsfeld implied that the training could also be employed to produce a new security force for the Afghan president.

“There is an interest, an active interest, in seeing that people are trained for that kind of a security role,” Rumsfeld said, adding that U.S. troops would provide some of that training.

Karzai was chosen president of Afghanistan’s transitional government June 13 at a meeting of the Loya Jirga, the country’s governmental body.

Gunmen killed Afghan Vice President Haji Abdul Qadir July 6 in Kabul. Air Transportation and Tourism Minister Abdul Rahman was killed at the Kabul airport in February during a riot involving irate Muslim travelers.

BOARDS, from Page 1

Purcell said.

With sergeant major promotion boards historically meeting in October and a command sergeant major review board the following December, the sergeant major promotion list gets released in mid January. Personnel managers at the Total Army Personnel Command then need several months to determine who goes where, often giving Sergeant Major Academy graduates a 60-day or less notification of where they are going after a May graduation, Purcell said. Likewise, those master sergeants selected to attend the sergeant major Academy often get short notification.

Moving the sergeant major promotion board to June allows for sergeant major academy graduates to receive their PCS notifications six months out, Purcell explained. Likewise, it will give selectees a nine-month notice.

Another unfavorable situation the board date changes are designed to fix is low advanced NCO course attendance during the first quarter of each fiscal year, Purcell said. With sergeant first class boards meeting in June and the selection list released in late August, PERSCOM has had little reaction time to best use existing first-quarter training seats.

Moving the sergeant first class promotion board to February will allow PERSCOM more time than the current system allows to more fully use available ANCOC training seats throughout the year, Purcell said.

Having one large sergeant first class board in FY 2003 and none in FY 2004, does have a drawback to those approaching a retention control point.

Under a policy implemented in October 1995, soldiers who are within 12 months of their retention control point are not eligible for consideration by a centralized promotion board. Under that policy, an initial analysis showed a little more than 2,000 staff sergeants — with a basic active-service date between June 1, 1985 and Jan. 31, 1986 — would have one less promotion board con-

sider them with the re-sequencing of the boards, Purcell said.

“To overcome this, we will grant exceptions to policy to allow each of these soldiers the opportunity to compete for promotion during the fiscal year 2005 sergeant first class board,” Purcell said. “These special provisions will be announced in the message announcing the fiscal year 2005 sergeant first class board.”

“To get where we need to be, we have to go through a transition period,” Purcell said. “That’s always difficult to accomplish while trying to ensure soldiers are treated equitably and fair. The only way to re-sequence the boards is for one to be delayed and to be preceded by a larger than normal select objective. We decided to make this adjustment with the sergeant first class board.”

To ensure the Army still selects the “best-qualified” for promotion, he said, it will need to expand the zone of consideration for the FY 2003 sergeant first class board.

“The sergeant first class board is the best one for this because military occupational specialty-qualifying jobs are not as stringent as those competing for master sergeant and sergeant major,” Purcell said.

Time-in-grade requirements for the FY 2003 sergeant first class board are still being determined, but they will allow for those considered to have at least two completed and filed NCO evaluation reports as a staff sergeant.

“About 2,800 staff sergeants will be considered earlier than they normally would have — June 2003 instead of June 2004, and about 8,000 will be delayed — February 2005 instead of June 2004,” Purcell said.

One key point to remember, Purcell said, is that the total number of soldiers that will be promoted during this transition will not be any less than if the boards were not re-sequenced. Some soldiers will be considered a little earlier and some a little later, he continued, but the end result truly benefits soldiers, their families and the Army.

HIND SIGHT

1866

An operation organized by American financier Cyrus West Field completes the first Atlantic cable allowing regular telegraph communication between the United States and Europe.

1921

In search of a treatment for diabetes, Canadian physiologists Sir Frederick Banting and Charles Best are the first to isolate the hormone insulin.

1940

Bugs Bunny makes his film debut in the Warner Brothers cartoon, "A Wild Hare," directed by Tex Avery.

1953

The United Nations, North Korea, and China sign an armistice agreement ending the Korean War and creating a demilitarized buffer zone between North and South Korea. South Korea refuses to sign the accord.

1996

On the same day that a bomb explodes in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park, killing one person, Canada's Donovan Bailey wins the men's 100 meters, setting a new world record of 9.84 seconds.

Blair: Iraq attack not imminent

LONDON — British Prime Minister Tony Blair says an attack on Iraq is not imminent but held out little hope for negotiations about weapons inspectors returning. "We are all getting a bit ahead of ourselves," Blair told a news conference in his Downing Street office on Thursday. "It is not imminent; we are not at the point of decision yet. There are many issues to be considered before we are at the point of decision."

Two arrested in Philadelphia kidnapping case

PHILADELPHIA — Acting on a tip, police arrested two men Thursday who are wanted in connection with this week's abduction of a 7-year-old Philadelphia girl. James Burns, 29, and Edward Johnson, 23, are being treated for injuries following their detention at around 6:30 a.m. EDT, according to Philadelphia police Inspector William Colorful. Receiving information that the two were in Southwest Philadelphia, detectives and uniformed officers spotted the suspects on a highway.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 97F L: 63F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 97F L: 68F
Khandahar:	<i>Haze</i> H: 106F L: 70F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 108F L: 70F
Kabul:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 91F L: 61F	<i>Haze</i> H: 91F L: 63F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Clear</i> H: 104F L: 66F	<i>Clear</i> H: 105F L: 67F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180.

- ❖ CJTF - 180 Commanding General — Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill
- ❖ CJTF - 180 Command Sergeant Major — Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England
- ❖ Public Affairs Officer — Col. Roger King
- ❖ Public Affairs Sergeant Major — Sgt. Maj. C.J. Costello

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper publication, is produced by the 28th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

- ❖ Commander — Capt. Timothy Beninato
- ❖ NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson
- ❖ Editor — Sgt. Reeba Critser
- ❖ Sports Editor — Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
- ❖ Journalists — Spc. Jason Allgood, Spc. Erica Leigh Foley, Pfc. Nathan Akridge and Pfc. Eleazar Craig.

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas. Contents of *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 28th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF - 180, Bagram Air Base.

To be added to the daily distribution list, e-mail reeba.critser@us.army.mil

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

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Vaughn singles in game-winning run; Mets tie Reds in wild-card race

NEW YORK — Mo Vaughn singled in the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the New York Mets a 3-2 win over the Cincinnati Reds on Friday night.

After Vaughn sent John Riedling's first pitch back up the middle, Rey Ordonez ran home with his hands in the air as the screaming Merengue Night crowd made Shea Stadium shake.

The win gave the Mets and the Reds identical 53-49 records as they chased the NL's wild card spot.

Ordonez led off the ninth with a single. Pinch-hitter Marco Scutaro advanced him with a sacrifice bunt and Roberto Alomar was intentionally walked.

Timo Perez grounded into a fielder's choice — avoiding the double play — and Mike Piazza walked to load the bases and bring up Vaughn.

Riedling (4-1) had no place to put Vaughn, who entered the game batting .278 with runners in scoring position.

Mets reliever Mark Guthrie (5-0), who extended his scoreless streak to 25 1/3 innings, hit Ken Griffey Jr. in the batting helmet with a pitch in the eighth.

The ball struck with an audible crack. Trainers rushed onto the field, helped Griffey to his feet, and he went to first base as fans cheered.

Griffey, who had been booed before each of his at-bats, was later caught in a rundown after Guthrie's pickoff throw to end the inning.

Alomar began the night with his 2,500th career hit in the first inning and went 3-for-3, but the Mets gave up a 2-0 lead in the sixth inning.

Leaf ends horrific career, retires from NFL

CHENEY, Wash. — When Ryan Leaf didn't show up for the Seattle Seahawks' quarterbacks meeting, Trent Dilfer figured something must be wrong.

As the starter and leader, Dilfer immediately called Leaf in the scenic town of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on Thursday night and learned of his plans to retire from the NFL.

The decision, confirmed by the Seahawks on Friday, ends a career that began in 1998 when he was the No. 2 overall draft pick and considered one of the NFL's most promising young quarterbacks.

"He seems at peace with it," Dilfer said. "This isn't a profession you should make a decision on what other people say. ... I was surprised. I thought he had very productive minicamps and was learning and had turned a page in his career and was building back up."

Leaf did not report to camp Thursday, when quarterbacks were due at the team's facility at Eastern Washington University. His wife, Niki, told The Associated Press that Leaf did not want to talk about the decision.

She declined to discuss his future plans.

Team spokesman Dave Pearson said on Friday that Leaf — who fizzled in San Diego, Tampa Bay and Dallas — told the Seahawks he is quitting. Chargers safety Rodney Harrison, a frequent critic of Leaf, wasn't surprised.

2002 Major League standings

American League East				GB
N.Y. Yankees	63-37	.630	-	
Boston	59-42	.584	4.5	
Baltimore	48-51	.485	14.5	
American League Central				GB
Minnesota	61-42	.592	-	
Chicago (AL)	47-56	.456	14	
Cleveland	44-57	.436	16	
American League West				GB
Seattle	62-40	.608	-	
Anaheim	60-40	.600	1	
Oakland	59-43	.578	3	
National League East				GB
Atlanta	66-36	.647	-	
N.Y. Mets	53-49	.520	13	
Florida	50-52	.490	16	
National League Central				GB
St. Louis	57-43	.570	-	
Cincinnati	53-49	.520	5	
Houston	51-51	.495	7	
National League West				GB
Arizona	61-41	.598	-	
San Francisco	57-45	.559	4	
Los Angeles	57-45	.559	4	

Friday's scores

Baltimore 9-2 Detroit
Detroit 8-5 Cleveland
Montreal 6-5 Florida, 10 inn.
NY Mets 3-2 Cincinnati
NY Yankees 12-9 Tampa Bay
Philadelphia 3-2 Atlanta
Chicago W. Sox 10-2 Kansas City, Btm 7th
Milwaukee 7-3 Colorado, Top 8th
Minnesota 9-5 Toronto, Btm 7th
Houston 4-3 Pittsburgh
Texas 7-4 Oakland, Btm 7th
St. Louis 8-4 Chicago Cubs
Seattle 0-0 Anaheim, Btm 3rd
Arizona 5-0 San Diego, Btm 2nd
Los Angeles 3-0 San Francisco, Btm 1st

Today's schedule

Baltimore at Boston
Detroit at Cleveland
Florida at Montreal
Cincinnati at NY Mets
NY Yankees at Tampa Bay
Philadelphia at Atlanta
Kansas City at Chicago W. Sox
Colorado at Milwaukee
Toronto at Minnesota
Oakland at Texas
Pittsburgh at Houston