



# FREEDOM WATCH



July 6, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

## News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

### Gunfire kills 3 at LA airport

LOS ANGELES — A man in line at the El Al ticket counter at Los Angeles International Airport pulled a handgun and began shooting Thursday, killing two people and wounding at least four others before an airline security officer shot him to death. Federal and local authorities say it is too early to determine whether terrorism is to blame, and that the attack appears to be an isolated incident. El Al is Israel's national carrier.

### Hussein's stepson to be deported

MIAMI — The stepson of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in U.S. custody Thursday on a visa violation, will be sent out of the country in the next few days, a source with the Immigration and Naturalization Service said.

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Army Reserve photo by Sgt. Eric C. Barker

## High honors

Army 1st Lt. Doug Elmore receives the Purple Heart from Col. Michael S. Linnington, Task Force Rakkasan commander, during a ceremony Wednesday at Kandahar Air Field in Afghanistan. Elmore, a critical care nurse with the 1980th Forward Surgical Team, was shot through the foot while returning from a humanitarian aid mission Tuesday night.

## Operation Cherokee Sky deemed successful

By Sgt. Reeba Critser

28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Operation Cherokee Sky concluded Thursday after coalition soldiers from Task Force Rakkasan successfully completed their mission in the vicinity of Qalat, northeast of Kandahar.

The force included soldiers of the 3rd Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, U.S. and Armored Mobile Force.

"They searched a series of caves north and south of Qalat," said Col. Roger King, Combined Joint Task Force — 180 public affairs officer, at a Friday morning press briefing.

Coalition forces recovered between 13 and 26 SA7s, a Soviet-style

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## Refueling squadron hits milestone in OEF

By 1st Lt. Johnny Rea  
379th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

**OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM** — Capt. Paul McCluskey clearly remembers flying the lead KC-135 Stratotanker into Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, in October during the initial deployment of U.S. forces

to the base.

Nine months later, the KC-135 pilot assigned to the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron at Al Udeid flew the squadron's 1,000th sortie in the war on terrorism.

"For the squadron to have flown so many sorties in such a short amount of time is truly

amazing," said McCluskey, following the milestone sortie July 2.

The 340th EARS comprises KC-135s from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., and Robins AFB, Ga. The crew with the honor of the 1,000th sortie is deployed from McConnell.

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Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Danielle Upton  
**A KC-135 Stratotanker crew from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., gets a traditional hose-down following the 1,000th refueling sortie from Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The crew includes (from left) Senior Airman Jake Nagengast, 1st Lts. Eric Fryar and Michelle Kenner and Capt. Paul McCluskey.**

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"I know our refueling missions contribute directly to the demise of enemy forces and cause them to fear the dark of night," said McCluskey. "This feat is a testament to the blood, sweat and tears everyone in the 340th has put into these sorties to make them successful."

The squadron has delivered more than 50 million pounds of fuel to U.S. and coalition aircraft over Afghanistan. It supports the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, one of the region's largest units.

Despite being in the Air Force inventory since 1956, the KC-135 is one of the most reliable and flexible assets participating in Operation Enduring Freedom, according to Lt. Col. Richard Stone, 340th EARS commander.

"Each KC-135 has about 110,000 pounds of fuel available for our receivers," he said. "Though our primary mission is to be a high altitude aerial refueling platform, we also have the unique capability to refuel at fairly low altitudes and

speeds that many Air Force receivers require."

The squadron boasts near perfect on time takeoff and mission-effectiveness rates, according to Stone.

"This milestone is huge for us," he said, "and it's reflected in the effectiveness of our combat receivers in the war against terrorism."

A thousand sorties is a "small milestone in a long haul," said Senior Airman Jake Nagengast, boom operator.

"I feel like I'm not only protecting America and our diverse lifestyle, but I'm defending everyone who means something to me," he said.

The sacrifices that deployed people have made to reach the milestone are many, McCluskey said, "but the pride we all share for the United States of America and the freedoms we cherish will not allow us to slow our pace. We are at a thousand now, but we won't stop until the job at hand is finished."

## News Briefs

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Mohammad Nour al-Din Saffi, 36, a citizen of New Zealand who once worked as a flight engineer for Air New Zealand, was arrested Wednesday night in Miami because he entered the country on a tourist visa, rather than a student visa, on his way to attend flight school.

### Outrage grows over tribal gang rape

**MUZAFFARGARH, Pakistan** — Police searching for four men accused in the gang rape of an 18-year-old girl as a tribal punishment believe they have fled their village in India to evade authorities, a senior officer said Thursday.

As outrage at the teen-ager's rape grew, the government handed her a check for 500,000 rupees (\$8,000) as compensation and said a new school would be built in her honor.

The gang rape took place June 22 in Meerwala village in southern Punjab province. Police said a tribal council ordered the rape as punishment for the victim's family after her 11-year-old brother was seen walking unchaperoned with a girl from a tribe considered higher-caste. The victim's family were from the Gujar tribe, the other tribe were Mastoi.

### Fences help to mend alliances

**JERUSALEM** — A series of fences separating Israel from the West Bank has created a sort of awkward agreement among people who are hard pressed to find common ground after 21 months of Palestinian terrorism and Israeli military responses.

The main barrier — a mélange of fences, walls, ditches, patrol roads and electronic surveillance devices that will eventually cover 217 miles — will run along the as-yet-unmarked border between Israel and the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967. Ground was broken for the barrier on June 16.

Separately, Israel began construction June 30 on an electronic fence meant to protect the three sides of Jerusalem — north, south, and east — that border the West Bank. The fence will cover 30 miles and will be 15 feet high at some points.

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

Check out *Freedom Watch* online at [www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm](http://www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm)

# HIND SIGHT

**1415**

Religious reformer Jan Hus is burned at the stake as a heretic by the Catholic Church.

**1699**

Pirate Captain William Kidd is arrested in Boston. Sent to trial in England, he is convicted and hanged two years later.

**1854**

The Republican Party is founded as an antislavery party by former members of the Whig, Democratic, Free Soil, and Know Nothing parties.

**1917**

Arab forces rebelling against the Ottoman Empire capture the port of Al ‘Aqabah with the help of British adventurer T. E. Lawrence, known as Lawrence of Arabia.

**1957**

Tennis player Althea Gibson becomes the first African American to win the Wimbledon championship. She wins the U.S. Open later that year and repeats the performance in 1958.

## TASK FORCE, from Page 1

anti-aircraft heat-seeking missiles, and three British blowpipes. The weapons were transported to Khandahar Airfield where they will be destroyed because they are unstable.

King added that most of the time the weapons they find are not given to the Afghan government for use for their army.

“The Afghan National Army is primarily a light infantry force, integrating weapons in the AK-47 family of rifles,” he said. “A lot of what we find in the caves are heavy, and not in support of the light infantry.”

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	Today	Sunday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 93F L: 73F	Vicinity showers H: 95F L: 73F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 108F L: 72F	Dusty H: 109F L: 73F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 88F L: 70F	Vicinity showers H: 90F L: 70F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Clear H: 97F L: 66F	Clear H: 96F L: 66F

*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
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- ❖ Commander — Capt. Timothy Beninato
- ❖ NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Rhonda 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.

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To be added to the distribution list, e-mail [reeba.critser@us.army.mil](mailto:reeba.critser@us.army.mil)

## COALITION SPORTSZONE

# Last .400 hitter 'Splendid Splinter,' serviceman dies

(Story & photos courtesy of ESPN.com)

Ted Williams, Beantown's ever cranky but much beloved "Splendid Splinter" and baseball's last .400 hitter, died Friday.

The Boston Red Sox treasure, who made good on his goal to be known as the greatest hitter of all time, was 83.

The Hall of Famer was pronounced dead of cardiac arrest at Citrus Memorial Hospital in Inverness, spokeswoman Rebecca Martin said. He had suffered a series of strokes and congestive heart failure in recent years.

With a powerful left-handed swing, Williams was destined for Cooperstown.

Williams had 145 RBI as a Red Sox rookie in 1939 and closed out his career by hitting a home run at Fenway Park in his final major league at-bat in 1960.

Williams was a two-time MVP who twice won the Triple Crown. He hit .344 lifetime with 521 home runs — despite twice interrupting his career to serve as a Marine Corps pilot in World War II and the Korean War.

"Ted was like John Wayne," Hall of Famer Joe Morgan said. "He was a man's man."

Williams' greatest achievement came in 1941 when he batted .406, getting six hits in a doubleheader on the final day of the season.

As word of his death spread, baseball paused to remember one of its true heroes.

"With the passing of Ted Williams, America has lost a baseball legend," said President George W. Bush, a former baseball owner. "Whether serving the



Ted Williams, the last major-leaguer to bat .400, had a .344 lifetime batting average.

country in the armed forces or excelling on the baseball diamond, Ted Williams demonstrated unique talent and love of country."

Former senator and astronaut John Glenn had Williams as his wingman on combat missions in Korea.

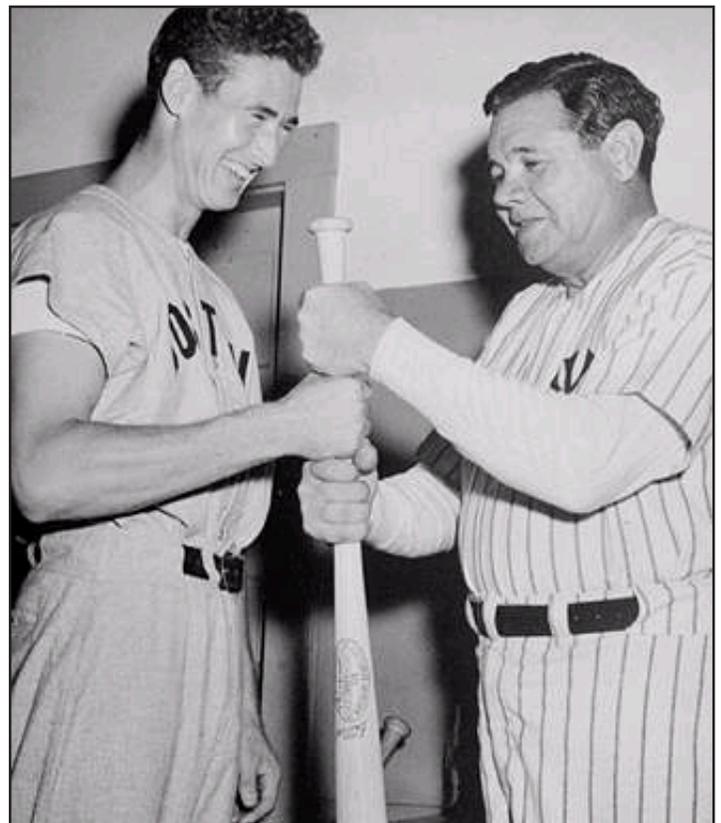
"There was no one more dedicated to this country and more proud to serve his country than Ted Williams," Glenn said.

Williams and Joe DiMaggio were fierce competitors.

"He was the best pure hitter I ever saw. He was feared," the late Joe DiMaggio said in 1991, the 50th anniversary of Williams' .406 season and DiMaggio's hitting streak.

Williams led the league in hitting six times, the last in 1958, when, at age 40, he became the oldest batting champ in major league history.

He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1966.



Ted Williams and Babe Ruth choose sides before a hitting contest in 1943. Ruth hit 714 home runs. Williams belted 521.