



FREEDOM WATCH



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Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

Bulgaria donates weapons to ANA

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan

— As a tangible example of the international community's commitment to help Afghanistan, the government of Bulgaria Tuesday donated a substantial amount of arms and ammunition to the Afghan government for the training and equipping of the Afghan National Army. The donation consisted of:

- ❖ 400 AK-47 rifles,
- ❖ Eight 82 mm mortar tubes,
- ❖ 12 SPG-9 anti-tank grenade launchers,
- ❖ 15 RPG-7 V launchers,
- ❖ Eight PKM machine guns, and
- ❖ 30 R-31M radio sets.

Additionally, the Bulgarians donated more than 120,000 rounds of 7.62 mm cartridges, nearly 900 grenades for the two types of launchers and nearly 300 mortar rounds.

Khandahar makes way for new Coalition city

By Sgt. Eric C. Barker
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KHANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — If you have taken a look around Khandahar Air Field, you might have noticed a few changes. A new dining facility here, a new chapel there and a new laundry system just to name a few. Yes, there is change coming, a change to better the living conditions, working conditions and soldiers' morale. And if the Task Force Panther has its way, more improvements are on the horizon.

"We are basically building a city. It is a collective effort by all of TF Panther. We have been mak-

ing great strides, and in the next 30-60 days, you will see even more improvements. We have quality paratroopers and soldiers, so we might as well have quality facilities," explained Lt. Col Chuck Hardy, Airfield Base Operations commander.

One of the first things on the agenda was a new Force Provider Dining Facility. Food has been known to affect a soldier's psyche in both a negative and a positive way. Food can be a morale booster and it can also be a real 'bummer.'

"My unit ran power to the new dining facility. It's a 100 percent better. Air conditioning, juice, fresh fruit and salad are plentiful. What more could you ask for?" said Spc. Cesar

Donis, prime power protection specialist with Company B, 249th Engineer Battalion.

"I think it's already better than it was and I want to make it better than it is now," said Hardy. "The colonel and his staff hold mess to a very high standard. The new facility is a major upgrade."

The new dining facility, with all its amenities, is better for the DFAC staff and the soldiers who use it.

"The new DFAC is a lot more sanitary and more suitable for eating. It's self-contained, so it is easier on the cooks. In the end, the soldiers get more quality food. Although we can't provide

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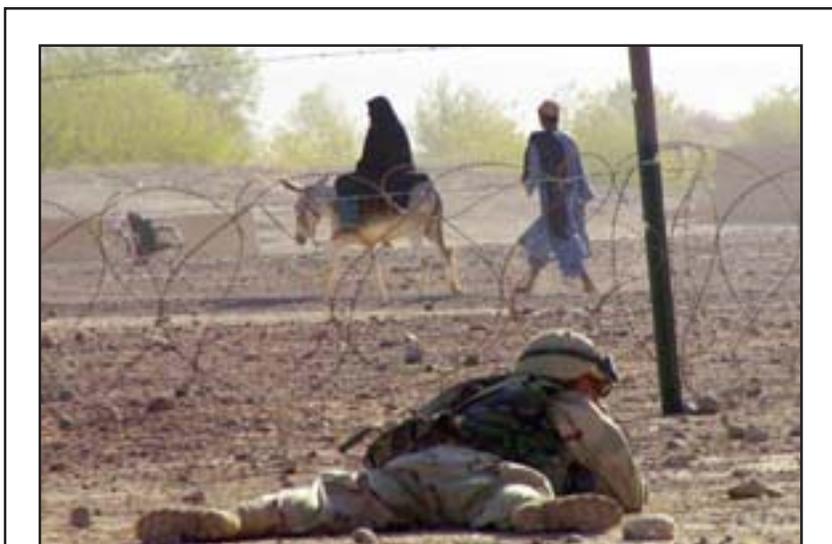


Photo by Pfc. Matthew Acosta, 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Standing watch

An 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., carefully watches local villagers while providing security for his company in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan.

Red Cross helps people world-wide

By Spc. Erica Leigh Foley
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan

Seeing the suffering of the wounded after the Battle of Solferino, a Swiss businessman initiated a relief effort now known as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

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everything like in the states, it's a lot better than before," said Sgt. 1st Class Willie Singleton, the TF Food Service Supervisor.

Next up was the new Force Provider chapel. After months of anticipation and some setbacks, the chapel is now open for worship. It takes the place of the old chapel, which was located at the Rose Garden pool inside the terminal.

"The old chapel was a lovely place and some people were upset that it moved. The new chapel offers a lot more amenities and the location is



Photo by Spc. Kevin M. Buckley, 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Soldiers of Company C, 307th Engineer Battalion, load pieces of the newly erected 82nd Airborne Division sign at Khandahar Airport.

better since most of the people moved to tent city. The new chapel will continue to be called Freedom Chapel," explained

Maj. Scott R. Carson, the TF Panther Chaplain.

New structures are popping up all over Khandahar Airfield, a

sign of more improvements on the way.

"More Force Provider showers, latrines and tents are on the

way. Our goal is to have every service-member, Marine, Air Force, special operations and Romanians in Force Provider tents," explained Hardy.

There are plans for a new Morale, Welfare and Recreation area also.

"We have an MWR mall in development. The mall will include a weight room, aerobic exercise area, an expanded PX and a movie theater. The MWR complex will include TVs, cold drinks and pool tables," remarked Hardy. "The sky is the limit to improve the quality life of our soldiers. We will never reach status quo. We will continue to improve."

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That businessman wrote up a pamphlet that convinced many people that there was too much negligence in the care of those wounded in war. The first Geneva Convention was held in 1864 with 24 representatives from 16 governments. Only 12 governments signed the treaty. The United States was one of the four who didn't.

In Washington, D.C., Clara Barton headed the American Red Cross. She may not have come up with the idea, but she was the one who, with much support, made a lasting Red Cross Society in the U.S.

Barton's idea went beyond that of the International Red Cross. She added disaster relief to battlefield assistance, making it possible to help Americans not only during war, but also during peace.

In 1882, President Chester A. Arthur signed the Treaty of Geneva after the Congress ratified it, agreeing to protect the wounded in the war zones. The American Association of the Red Cross was officially recognized, and in 1893, renamed as the American Red Cross.

Today, the Red Cross has chapters in every state and around the world. In Afghanistan there is a three-person team whose mission is to provide the best possible humanitarian services to service members stationed in the region.

"Our primary, and most important, mission here is to provide Emergency Messaging Service to the people stationed in the region in support of Operation Enduring Freedom," said Vera Kellar, team leader for the Bagram Air Base Red Cross office. "We are the link to home that can provide verified infor-

mation about a family situation and help the soldier and command make an informed decision on what to do."

If a family member needs to contact a soldier, they should always start with their local Red Cross chapter, where an Armed Forces Emergency Services worker will help assist them. In order to help the families, it is best if the families can provide all the basic information of the service member – name, rank, unit, social security number, unit APO and location in the region.

Once the Red Cross receives the message, it is passed through the chain of command. For personal messages, Red Cross personnel try to talk directly to the soldier involved, even though that is difficult to do here, said Kellar.

Another mission the Red Cross performs in theater is to

provide a canteen service, "where we can provide soldiers with some of the little things that help make this place a little easier – a cup of coffee, a cookie, toiletries or maybe just someone to talk to," Kellar said.

On the second floor of "Motel 6" at Bagram, one can see tables covered with goodies sent from families, schools, clubs and churches in America. Books, suckers, microwave popcorn, shaving cream, toothpaste and blank cards with envelopes are among the free items available to service members and Department of Defense civilians.

The Red Cross members like their job and enjoy what they do for the soldiers and their families.

"It's a great opportunity to provide a needed service to an extraordinary group of people and to follow the Red Cross principles," Kellar said.

HIND SIGHT

1350

John II, also known as John the Good, succeeds Philip VI as king of France.

1485

Henry Tudor defeats Richard III at Bosworth. This victory establishes the Tudor dynasty in England and ends the War of the Roses.

1777

With the approach of General Benedict Arnold's army, British Colonel Barry St. Ledger abandons Fort Stanwix and returns to Canada.

1911

The *Mona Lisa*, the famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci, is stolen from the Louvre in Paris, where it had hung for more than 100 years. It is recovered in 1913.

1945

Conflict in Vietnam begins when a group of Free French parachute into southern Indochina, in response to a successful coup by communist guerilla Ho Chi Minh.

Optical facilities



The 339th has optical facilities to repair/replace frames, lenses and NBC optical inserts.

For service, visit the Optometry/Ophthalmology/Dental tent at the American Combat Support Hospital seven days a week, 0330 to 1200 (Z).

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<u>Bagram:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 95F L: 64F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 95F L: 63F
<u>Khandahar:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 108F L: 72F	<i>Hazy</i> H: 106F L: 70F
<u>Kabul:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 91F L: 63F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 93F L: 61F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	<i>Clear</i> H: 95F L: 57F	<i>Clear</i> H: 96F L: 58F

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

A Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Baseball: Can you top this?

It's a game of one-upmanship in the AL West, where the A's, Angels and Mariners stayed in a virtual dead heat Wednesday. Just hours after Anaheim beat New York to match last year's win total, Oakland's Cory Lidle one-hit Cleveland in a 6-0 win. Then, newly acquired starter Ismael Valdes and Seattle beat Detroit 8-2.

Golf: Course of action

Where does Tiger Woods go from here? The same place he always goes — into the zone — even if the NEC Invitational is not at Firestone for the first time. Woods looks forward to the challenge at Sahalee in Sammamish, Wash., as he tries to become the first in 75 years to win the same event four years in a row.

Soccer: Title preview?

The top two clubs in MLS square off Wednesday night when the San Jose Earthquakes host the Dallas Burn. Only two points separate the Western Conference rivals in the standings and both teams will be looking to make a statement in their final regular season meeting. Dallas was thumped 4-0 in its last visit to San Jose and wants a little revenge, but the Quakes will be tough to beat at Spartan Stadium as they're currently in the midst of a 13-game home unbeaten streak.

WNBA: Starzz in their eyes

The Comets threw their playoff experience, their league MVP and their home-court advantage at the Utah Starzz on Tuesday. None of it mattered. What mattered was a key second-half rally and a career-high 25 points from Natalie Williams as Utah posted a 75-72 upset to advance to the West finals against Los Angeles. New York will be in the East final after beating Indiana 75-60.

NASCAR: Rudd Resolution

The dominos are beginning to fall. Elliott Sadler was officially named to take Ricky Rudd's place at Robert Yates Racing for next season. Then, Rudd announced his plans Tuesday to join the Wood Brothers in 2003. Those moves are sure to start the Silly Season transactions.

Tennis: Something's amiss

With his sights set firmly on the U.S. Open, something is getting lost in the interim. Pete Sampras says he's heading into New York confident, but Tuesday he couldn't get past Paul-Henri Mathieu in the TD Waterhouse Cup, losing 6-3, 6-7 (9), 6-4. And don't even think about mentioning retirement to the man who has won 13 grand slams, but nothing whatsoever since 2000.

Horse racing: The road less Travers

Jim Dandy winner and Belmont Stakes runner-up Medgalia d'Oro was installed as the 2-5 morning line favorite for this Saturday's \$1 million Travers Stakes at Saratoga. Joining the Bobby Frankel-trained colt will be Ken McPeck's Repent, who hasn't raced since losing to War Emblem in April's Illinois Derby. McPeck is so confident in Repent that he said wished War Emblem was coming to the Travers instead of the Pacific Classic, this weekend's other \$1 million race at Del Mar.

2002 Major League standings

American League East				GB
N.Y. Yankees	78-46	.629	-	
Boston	71-53	.573	7	
Baltimore	61-63	.492	17	
American League Central				GB
Minnesota	75-53	.586	-	
Chicago (AL)	59-68	.465	15.5	
Cleveland	54-71	.432	19.5	
American League West				GB
Anaheim	75-50	.600	-	
Oakland	76-51	.598	-	
Seattle	76-51	.598	-	
National League East				GB
Atlanta	81-44	.648	-	
Montreal	63-63	.500	18.5	
Florida	61-64	.488	20	
National League Central				GB
St. Louis	70-54	.565	-	
Houston	66-60	.524	5	
Cincinnati	63-62	.504	7.5	
National League West				GB
Arizona	80-46	.635	-	
Los Angeles	71-54	.568	8.5	
San Francisco	69-56	.552	10.5	

Wednesday's scores

Toronto 7-4 Kansas City
 Philadelphia 13-3 Milwaukee
 Anaheim 5-1 N.Y. Yankees
 Houston 4-0 Chicago Cubs
 Baltimore 2-1 Tampa Bay
 St. Louis 4-1 Pittsburgh
 Montreal 13-5 Colorado
 Boston 5-3 Texas
 Oakland 6-0 Cleveland
 Atlanta 6-3 San Diego
 Seattle 8-2 Detroit
 Arizona 11-3 Cincinnati
 Chicago Sox 10-1 Minnesota
 Los Angeles 4-3 Florida
 San Francisco 3-1 N.Y. Mets

Wild Card Races

<u>NL</u>	<u>AL</u>
1. Los Angeles .566	1. Anaheim .600
2. San Francisco .550	2. Oakland .582
3. Houston .521	3. Boston .575
4. Cincinnati .517	4. Baltimore .487
5. Montreal .496	5. Chicago .475