



# FREEDOM WATCH



August 24, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

## News briefs

### Taliban documents found

#### BAGRAM AIR BASE,

Afghanistan — U.S. Special Forces near Kandahar began the destruction of a very large, but unstable, cache of weapons and ammunition, said Col. Roger King, Combined Joint Task Force – 180. The cache consisted of 1,400 107mm rockets, 200 mines, 15 recoilless rifles and assorted small arms and ammunition. In addition, U.S. forces also found a large cache of what appears to be Taliban documents, King said. “The documents are recognizable,” he said. “The amount of documents found would fill a trailer.” The documents have been sent to Coalition Intelligence for further study.

In addition, while on patrol, a U.S. force discovered a Soviet T-55 tank, a Soviet BTR-60 armored personnel carrier and a munitions cache in a cave in the Zabul Province. “The tank and the personnel carrier appeared to have been used in the last six months,” King said. The munitions cache was determined to be unstable and destroyed.

## Unit provides watchful eye on Bagram

Story & photo by Spc. Ann Marie Schult  
18th Airborne Corps

### BAGRAM AIR

#### BASE, Afghanistan —

When Sgt. Peter Lentz, Company C, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, heard that people in New York were thankful for what he was doing in Afghanistan, he realized it didn't matter what job he did for his country, as long as he was doing something.

“Everyone who's out here is doing their part,” Lentz said.

Soldiers from Co. C, 1st Bn., 505th PIR, were brought to Afghanistan, from Fort Bragg, N.C., to perform two functions,



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, return to their tents after a night's worth of guard duty at Bagram Air Base.

pull guard on the perimeter of Bagram Air Base, and perform missions.

While pulling guard duty is not every infantryman's ideal mission, they knew what they would be doing be-

fore they stepped off the plane and were glad for the opportunity to help, said Staff Sgt. Tim Gardner.

So far, the company has gone out on one mission. They were sup-

posed to clear caves, according to Gardner, but when they arrived, the company ended up pulling security on the cave entrances.

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## More changes coming to Bagram Air Base

By Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson  
28th Public Affairs Detachment

*(Editor's note: This is Part Two of a two-part series on Bagram Air Base improvements. Friday's Freedom Watch featured the first half of the series.)*

**BAGRAMAIRBASE**, Afghanistan — Since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom, Bagram Air Base has continually seen changes. Abandoned buildings have been renovated. Wooden frames have made the tents sturdier. A Mo-

rale, Welfare and Recreation tent has been added. The Post Exchange has expanded.

However, according to Lt. Col. George Cone, the Dragon Brigade deputy commander at Bagram, this isn't the end of the story. More changes are set to take place over the next two years.

Cone described the process as a five-step plan consisting of airfield repair, force protection, service and support, quality of life and coalition integration.

### ❖ Quality of Life

One of the immediate needs, accord-

ing to Cone, was heating requirements.

“Although it is August, and it's extremely hot, we had to make sure that we had heaters in the tents, in the life support areas and in the dining facility,” he said.

The installation contracted Logistics Capability, which falls under Brown and Root. LOGCAP, according to Cone, is set to have Wilms heaters here by the end of the month. Along with that, ISP, a U.S. contrac-

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# Base CSM speaks of quality on life in Bagram

By Command Sgt. Maj.  
Clenice F. Brown

Combined Joint Task Force - 180

Good day, Bagram Air Base.

As I look around the base, I have a hard time remembering how it was only a few weeks ago. There have been so many improvements across Bagram community, and they continue daily.

In less than four weeks, we will be able to sit in the newly remod-

eled Dragon Theatre, eating popcorn, drinking a cold soda and watching newly released movies.

Construction began over a month ago and it is now near completion. As soon as we run the power line into the building, the satellite movie theatre will be ready.

We have ordered 150 chairs, as well as blackout curtains. We have a commercial popcorn machine al-

ready on hand and the popcorn and oil are on the way.

Besides the theatre, we will also have an Internet Café with 20 computers and printers. This will allow those residents of Bagram, who do not have access to computers, the ability to communicate with loved ones at home.

And if that is not enough, we will be installing at least 10 phone lines.

All of this will ultimately be staffed and run by Brown and Root Contracting. The Internet Café building will also house the quarters for the Brown and Root employees, who will provide various services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We owe a big thanks to all the people who have worked so hard to bring this great facility and its services to us.

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## BAGRAM, from Page 1

tor, will bring nine megawatts of electricity, which will provide power for not only the heaters, but other areas of the installation.

“By Oct. 1, we should have most of this post heated,” Cone said.

Before this can happen, wooden frames and doors will be placed on all of the tents. Most of the tents in Dragon City have completed this process, but other camps, such as Viper City, will have to be completely redone. This includes graveling the area to suppress dust.

“When (OEF) first started, units were putting up tents as fast as they could get them up,” said Lt. Col. John Gessner, Combined Joint Task Force - 180 facility engineer team chief. “Now, we’re in the second generation.”

Cone added that they are trying to time the tent rebuilding with unit redeployments to minimize the number of soldiers who will have to move.

He added that smaller

camp having only a small number of tents will also be consolidated in Viper City.

The second priority, Cone said, will be to contract civilians to take over the shower and latrine facilities. This should alleviate the problem of some soldiers having to take cold showers.

“They will take over the existing shower facilities, but there will be people dedicated to fixing (problems), and ultimately, adding to (the facilities),” he said.

The final priority for quality of life is already in the works. The north dining facility, located near the current gym, is set for completion by the end of the month, and a new MWR facility, complete with a movie house, satellite television, Internet café and more phone lines, is set to open at the beginning of September.

Additionally, two large maintenance tents, or clamshells, will be erected in the next month. These will house a larger gymna-

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*“When (OEF) first started, units were putting up tents as fast as they could ... now, we’re in the second generation.”*

— Lt. Col. John

Gessner

CJTF -180 facility  
engineer team chief

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sium and an assembly hall where events and meetings can be held year-round. Once this happens, the current gym will be turned into a chapel, replacing the smaller one in Viper City.

The south dining facility, located in Viper City, is scheduled for renovation once the north dining facility opens, and is scheduled to be completed by the time winter begins, Gessner said. Like the newer facility, it will also be enclosed, reducing the amount of dust diners currently face during mealtimes.

“We’re going to try to

keep two dining facilities open at the same time,” Cone said.

Lastly, the Post Exchange is set to move across from Viper City. Gessner explained that the new store will be larger, and will allow them to store items more easily. It will also be easier for the soldiers to get to.

“This will be more accessible for the PX,” he said.

Gessner said all of these functions will be run by civilian contractors, which will take some of the pressure of the service members at Bagram.

“This will free the soldiers to focus on operations,” he said.

## ❖ Coalition Integration

This priority involves working with the other countries stationed at Bagram.

“We try to assist the other camps as their government requests and funds it,” Gessner said.

For example, locals must enter the installation to go to the Spanish hospi-

tal or to get work through the contracting office, located in Diamond City.

Gessner explained that the Spanish hospital will be moved to the area where the current PX is located. This will allow the locals to still be treated without having to come all the way on post.

Although there are a number of long range plans in the works, Cone said there are no plans to make Bagram a permanent installation for the United States.

“This base is still designated as a temporary base,” he said.

However, Boutte said he feels they are making a big difference on the installation.

Gessner agreed, adding, “I enjoy doing this because it supports the mission and it benefits the soldiers.”

“This is an engineer heaven because there’s plenty of work for us to do,” he continued. “A couple advantages we have here is we have Reserves and National Guard. There’s talent out there because a lot of people do this on the outside. They bring all of these assets here.”

**GUARD**, from Page 1

Sgt. Randall Cook notes that being an infantryman allows for a vast job description.

“I can do anything,” said Cook. “Not only am I capable of shooting an enemy at 300 meters, but I am also a good janitor.”

Gardner said the infantrymen’s job depends on the commander and the mission.

“Every commander is different and wants to do different things,” said Gardner, in reference to his feelings on their latest mission of securing Bagram.

The soldiers secure

the perimeter by pulling shifts, where they scan the perimeter of Bagram, from wooden guard shacks perched atop CONEX boxes, sometimes precariously placed on hilltops in minefields.

Although none of the bases in theatre have encountered any enemy attempting to breach the perimeter, the job has its hazards, said Gardner.

When soldiers are driven out to their posts at night, lights on the vehicles must be turned off, to accommodate the airflow on the runway, and night vision goggles are used to see

the dirt road, which looks much like the rest of the terrain.

NVGs work fine when the moon is up and the sky is clear, but if there is no moon or a nasty dust storm comes in, visibility can be cut to almost zero and driving can be akin to a guessing game, said Gardner.

Trying to keep the tires in the ruts of the road is very important because on either side of the road are mines.

“It’s a combination of drive and stop, drive and stop, drive and stop, in order to find the way,” said Gardner.

His job it is to patrol

the guard shacks to ensure soldiers have water, batteries for their radios and to make sure everything is alright in their sector.

Thus far, the company’s biggest obstacle, aside from the “braille” driving, has been keeping the locals from jumping over the concertina wire to rummage through the rubbish, which, according to Pvt. Justin Verarendse, is merely an annoyance when they make him run to the fence from his guard shack.

However, some of the soldiers enjoy listening to the locals play

music during sunset after their evening prayers.

Soldiers at two separate guard shacks remarked how the locals wanted them to dance.

“They play music and want me to dance,” said a soldier in full battle rattle, who wished to remain anonymous.

“I danced once when the relief was late. It was kind of fun and different,” he said.

The soldiers in Co. C, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 505<sup>th</sup> PIR, don’t complain about pulling guard, because as Lentz puts it, “when we get done, it will feel a lot better than it does right now.”

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 95F L: 64F	<i>Haze</i> H: 95F L: 66F
<b>Khandahar:</b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 106F L: 71F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 106F L: 66F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Haze</i> H: 91F L: 63F	<i>Haze</i> H: 93F L: 61F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Sunny</i> H: 101F L: 62F	<i>Sunny</i> H: 98F L: 62F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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## FREEDOM WATCH

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# COALITION SPORTSZONE

## The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

### College football: Badgers bite back

A year ago, Fresno State catapulted itself onto the national stage with an early win at Wisconsin. Not this time. The Badgers got a late field goal from Mike Allen — his third of the game — and then held off the Bulldogs' desperation drive for a 23-21 victory on Friday. Anthony Davis, last year's Big Ten rushing leader, had 36 carries for 184 yards for Wisconsin.

### NBA: Center of attention

The good news for the Houston Rockets: Ben Wallace did not turn No. 1 overall pick Yao Ming into a 7-foot-5-inch pretzel — as he indicated he might — in Thursday night's tuneup for the World Championships. And although the U.S. routed China 84-54 in a scrimmage, Yao delivered 13 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks and earned praise from the Americans afterward.

### Golf: Finishing with fury

Robert Allenby has been annoyed with his play, but said he has remained patient because things change. Do they ever. Allenby enjoyed an eagle and five birdies in his final seven holes Friday to cap a course-record 63 that gave him a share of the lead at the NEC Invitational. Steve Lowery shot a 65 to share the lead at 10-under. Tiger Woods, meanwhile, had a 70 and is six back heading into the weekend.

### NFL scoreboard: Week 3

Minnesota 14-10 Tennessee  
 Jacksonville 24-16 Chicago  
 Baltimore 13-12 Philadelphia  
 New England 23-3 Carolina  
 San Diego 31-10 St. Louis

### College football: Week 1

Colorado State 35-29 Virginia  
 Wisconsin 23-21 Fresno State  
 Texas Tech at Ohio State, today  
 New Mexico at N.C. State, today  
 Arizona State at Nebraska, today  
 Florida State at Iowa State, today  
 Arkansas State at Virginia Tech, Sunday

### 2002 Major League standings

<b>American League East</b>				<b>GB</b>
N.Y. Yankees	79-47	.627	-	
Boston	73-53	.579	6	
Baltimore	63-63	.500	16	
<b>American League Central</b>				<b>GB</b>
Minnesota	77-53	.592	-	
Chicago (AL)	59-69	.461	17	
Cleveland	55-72	.433	20.5	
<b>American League West</b>				<b>GB</b>
Oakland	78-51	.605	-	
Seattle	77-52	.597	1	
Anaheim	75-52	.591	2	
<b>National League East</b>				<b>GB</b>
Atlanta	81-45	.643	-	
Montreal	63-64	.496	18.5	
Philadelphia	61-65	.484	20	
<b>National League Central</b>				<b>GB</b>
St. Louis	71-54	.568	-	
Houston	68-60	.531	4.5	
Cincinnati	63-64	.496	9	
<b>National League West</b>				<b>GB</b>
Arizona	82-46	.641	-	
Los Angeles	73-54	.575	8.5	

### Friday's scores

Baltimore 11-7 Toronto  
 Pittsburgh 6-3 Milwaukee  
 Boston 4-1 Anaheim  
 Houston 6-4 Cincinnati  
 Cleveland 4-2 Seattle  
 Oakland 9-1 Detroit  
 Colorado 10-4 N.Y. Mets  
 San Diego 18-2 Florida  
 Texas 6-2 N.Y. Yankees  
 Arizona 3-2 Chicago Cubs  
 Tampa Bay 8-2 Chicago Sox  
 Minnesota 9-2 Kansas City  
 Montreal 7-2 San Francisco  
 Los Angeles 4-3 Atlanta  
 Philadelphia 5-4 St. Louis

### NL

1. Los Angeles .575  
 2. San Francisco .556  
 3. Houston .531  
 4. Cincinnati .496  
 5. Montreal .496  
 6. Philadelphia .484

### AL

1. Seattle .597  
 2. Anaheim .591  
 3. Boston .579  
 4. Baltimore .500  
 5. Chicago Sox .461  
 6. Texas .444