



FREEDOM WATCH



August 26, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Oldest American dies at age 114

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Adelina Domingues, who was recognized as the oldest living American, has died at the age of 114. According to the Gerontology Research Group, John McMorran of Florida is now the oldest American. Born on June 19, 1889, he is 113. The oldest known living person is Kamato Hongo of Japan, who was born Sept. 16, 1887.

Feds arrest 81 airport workers

LOS ANGELES — Federal agents arrested 81 people who used phony identifications to get jobs with high-level security clearances at Southern California airports. The raid Thursday uncovered immigration violations and document fraud but no connections to terrorist groups. The action was part of a national sweep known as "Operation Tarmac." Some 40,000 California airport employees were investigated because of their access to restricted areas.

Postal company gets help from above

Story & photo by Sgt. Eric C. Barker
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KHANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Mail is at the top of the list when it comes to improving a soldier's morale. There is nothing like opening a little piece of home in the form of pictures, letters, cards and care packages. Pieces of home are very significant in an environment where the days are long and monotonous.

"Afghanistan is a long way from the U.S., so for soldiers here in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, it helps to have a piece of home arrive in the form of



Soldiers from the 175th Postal Company and 151st Postal Company sort through the mail at the Khandahar Air Field terminal.

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772nd MPs provide security at ANA site

By Sgt. Don Dees
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — Citizen-soldiers from the U.S. Army's oldest company-sized unit are providing force protection at the Kabul Military Training Center.

Members of the 772nd Military Police Company, headquartered in Taunton, Mass., began arriving at the center Aug. 14 to assume a mission the unit has been training for over the last training year.

The mobilized National Guard

soldiers will support the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, from Fort Bragg, N.C., responsible for training the new Afghan National Army.

"We were doing force protection and entry control. We were battle focused," said Master Sgt. Robert Smith, operations sergeant for the company.

The unit leadership was very insightful as to what tasks the unit might likely be called to perform in the event of mobilization, said Smith, a full-time readiness sergeant when not mobilized. In his

nearly 20 years of National Guard service, he has been mobilized six times for state active duty. This is Smith's first federal mobilization.

Compared to his previous experiences, duty in Afghanistan is significantly different, he said. The threat level for state mobilizations was never this high.

"I think it's that threat that gives us the edge and keeps these guys on their toes," Smith said.

Working together and looking out for each other's welfare will

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ensure the Guard unit's success. Redeploying the unit with all of his soldiers is one of Smith's priorities, he said.

His greatest fear?

"One of my soldiers being severely hurt by a land mine or a sniper," he said.

Deploying a unit from the United States to Afghanistan has challenges, Smith said. Those challenges are even more significant for National Guard units.

"We live a double life, and now we're on the other side," Smith said.

Guard members leave behind family and friends, just like the active Army, Smith said. His soldiers also left behind jobs and classes.

Smith left behind his 15- and 13-year-old sons. He also left behind a fiancée, who, with the help of his ex-wife, is caring for his children. He'll miss family time the most, he said.

Many of the soldiers in his unit are police officers, corrections officers, or sheriff's deputies. Others soldiers are students.

One of the unit's professional peace officers is an eight-year veteran of the National Guard who had left the service at the end of his last enlistment. Sgt. Michael David, an East Providence, R.I. resident, who has served as a police officer for the last three and a half years, rejoined the Guard unit after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"It was an attack on the country, but it was an attack on the police profession too," said David. "It was a hell of an inspiration to get back in."

David had stayed in contact with former platoon buddies after his separation from the Guard. He wanted to deploy with them if they were called, he said.

Deploying with the unit so he would not miss the shared experience with his old friends came at a price. David will miss the shared experiences with fellow officers back in East Providence, he said.

One shared experience he will remember for a long time was his trip to Washington,

D.C., last fall for Police Week, he said.

About 50 of his co-workers and he went to the nation's capital to honor fallen policemen.

During the gathering, a few of the officers went to a pub in Crystal City, Va. There, they noticed a security detail they knew had to be for a high-level official. It turned out to be for Homeland Security Director, Tom Ridge.

David and his friends finagled an introduction by offering to buy Ridge a drink.

"We had a round with him. We bought him a Foster's," said David.

Ridge thanked the men for the drink and for their service to their communities. That

sense of service is what led David back to the National Guard after the attacks, he said.

Each soldier has a unique reason for serving in the National Guard, but there is a common thread, Smith said.

Why do they do it?

"Because they are true Americans. Patriots," said Smith.

His final word has a double meaning for the band of New Englanders, fiercely proud of their team's Super Bowl success last year. So proud, that the company has adopted the moniker as their own for this deployment.

"I want Bob Kraft (New England Patriots owner) to know that!" Smith said.

HIND SIGHT

1429

Joan of Arc makes a triumphant entry into Paris.

1883

The Indonesian island of Krakatoa erupts in the largest explosion recorded in history, heard 2,200 miles away in Madagascar.

The resulting destruction sends volcanic ash up 50 miles into the atmosphere and kills almost 36,000 people — both on the island itself and from the resulting 131-foot tidal waves that obliterate 163 villages on the shores of nearby Java and Sumatra.

1920

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified giving women the right to vote.



Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser

Congressional visit

Representatives Paul Ryan (far right) and Mark Green (far left) hold a support banner with fellow Wisconsinites Saturday during their Congressional visit at Bagram Air Base. Congressmen from Michigan, Arizona, North Carolina, Kansas, Colorado, New Jersey, Kentucky and Pennsylvania were also in attendance.

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mail,” said 1st Lt. Kevin Beatty, a postal officer.

He said postal is an important job, but it can also be a thankless job. They are blamed for mistakes they have no control over, and rarely thanked when packages arrive safe and sound.

The 175th out of Fort Lewis, Wash., with the help of the 151st Postal Company out of Fort Hood, Texas, are responsible for running the postal operations here in theater.

“Task Force Panther soldiers are focused and dedicated to their respective missions. However,

morale boosters like mail, remind service-members of why they are here. We in the 175th Postal Company take that into account and put that same focus and dedication into our mission,” said Beatty.

Running a postal company in a combat zone can be difficult. Weather conditions can make taking off and landing very treacherous for pilots.

“It depends on the flight schedules,” said Sgt. 1st Class Rose Jones, 175th Postal Co. NCOIC. “Some days we get no mail and then there are other days when we get four pallets of mail.”

Sending and receiving mail from Afghanistan can

be unpredictable and often frustrating, with soldiers in some cases waiting up to two months for a package. But that’s about to change. Recently, DHL World Wide Express has been contracted to speed up the mail process at Khandahar Air Field and Bagram Air Base.

“By contracting DHL to transport mail from the states to Afghanistan, mail arrival times will substantially decrease. This means mail will arrive home more quickly,” said Beatty.

Still, there are some things that individual soldiers can do to speed up sending and receiving their mail.

“Some soldiers don’t

understand the mail system. In general, the cheapest way is the slowest. Sending it parcel post can take up to a month even in the states,” explained Jones. “They don’t understand exactly what is official mail and what is free mail. TA-50 is not considered official mail. Free mail cannot weigh more than 13 ounces and must be mailed to the states and not to another country. If there is a question, just ask. That is what we are here for.”

Mail also helps family members’ morale at home.

“With the new systems in place, mail will arrive from Khandahar to the states more quickly as well,” added Beatty.

Armed Forces Voters’ Week
Sept. 1-7

REGISTER NOW, SO YOUR ABSENTEE VOTE WILL COUNT

Visit www.fvap.gov
Click on the link to State Election Sites
Click on your state, for example, NORTH CAROLINA.

For more information, contact your unit Voting Assistance Officer or Maj. Stuart Schnaars, CJ1, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 97F L: 64F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 95F L: 66F
Khandahar:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 106F L: 71F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 106F L: 66F
Kabul:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 97F L: 64F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 95F L: 66F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Clear</i> H: 104F L: 75F	<i>Clear</i> H: 106F L: 76F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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

FREEDOM WATCH

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Little League: Louisville's ace slugger

A little shoulder pain wasn't going to rain on Aaron Alvey's parade Sunday. The Louisville, Ky., ace fought through soreness to earn a 1-0 victory over Sendai, Japan, in the Little League World Series championship. Alvey belted a first-inning homer, then struck out 11 as he set two LLWS pitching records and tied another.

MLB: Master craftsman

Eight starts ago, Randy Johnson was torched for eight runs in five innings — he has been nearly untouchable since. Johnson struck out 16 batters for his 19th win of the season in the Diamondbacks' 7-0 shutout of the Cubs. He improved to 6-0 with a 0.90 ERA and 87 strikeouts in his last seven starts.

Golf: Parry ends Tiger's run

Tiger Woods failed in his quest to become the first player in 75 years to win the same tournament four years in a row. Instead, Craig Parry won his first title in 235 PGA Tour stops, capturing the NEC Invitational on Sunday. Parry finished strong with a 6-under-65. Woods shot a 68 to finish fourth.

Soccer: Providing a spark

Clint Mathis has missed a lot of time this year with the MetroStars because of the U.S. national team and a knee injury. Mathis was there when the Metros needed him though Sunday afternoon. The star scored his first goal since the World Cup in second-half injury time in New York/New Jersey's 1-0 win over D.C. United. Mathis, who tore the meniscus in his right knee July 6, helped the Metros end their three-game losing streak.

NFL scoreboard: Week 3

New Orleans 31-23 Cincinnati
 Indianapolis 19-7 Buffalo
 Washington 40-10 Tampa Bay
 Oakland 17-10 San Francisco
 Seattle 17-14 Kansas City
 Pittsburgh 34-22 Detroit
 Atlanta 21-19 Dallas
 N.Y. Jets 28-7 N.Y. Giants
 Miami 24-3 Houston
 Denver 19-13 Arizona

College football: Week 1

Ohio State 45-21 Texas Tech
 N.C. State 34-14 New Mexico
 Nebraska 48-10 Arizona State
 Florida State 38-31 Iowa State
 Virginia Tech. 63-7 Arkansas

2002 Major League standings

American League East				GB
N.Y. Yankees	80-48	.625	-	
Boston	73-55	.570	7	
Baltimore	63-66	.488	17.5	
American League Central				GB
Minnesota	78-54	.591	-	
Chicago (AL)	61-69	.469	16	
Cleveland	56-73	.434	20.5	
American League West				GB
Oakland	80-51	.611	-	
Anaheim	77-52	.597	2	
Seattle	78-53	.595	2	
National League East				GB
Atlanta	82-47	.636	-	
Montreal	65-65	.500	17.5	
Philadelphia	64-65	.496	18	
National League Central				GB
St. Louis	71-57	.555	-	
Houston	69-61	.531	3	
Cincinnati	64-65	.496	7.5	
National League West				GB
Arizona	83-47	.638	-	
Los Angeles	75-55	.577	8	
San Francisco	71-58	.550	11.5	

Sunday's scores

Anaheim 8-3 Boston
 Pittsburgh 3-2 Milwaukee
 Seattle 12-4 Cleveland
 Philadelphia 5-3 St. Louis
 Texas 6-2 N.Y. Yankees
 Houston 1-0 Cincinnati
 Toronto 5-2 Baltimore
 N.Y. Mets 7-4 Colorado
 Chicago Sox 8-3 Tampa Bay
 San Francisco 8-4 Montreal
 Oakland 10-7 Detroit
 Kansas City 4-2 Minnesota
 Arizona 7-0 Chicago Cubs
 Florida 7-6 San Diego
 Atlanta 7-5 Los Angeles

NL

1. Los Angeles .577
 2. San Francisco .550
 3. Houston .531
 4. Montreal .500
 5. Philadelphia .496
 6. Cincinnati .496

AL

1. Seattle .595
 2. Anaheim .597
 3. Boston .570
 4. Baltimore .488
 5. Chicago Sox .469
 6. Texas .445