



FREEDOM WATCH



Aug. 3, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Alert system praised in teens' safe return

LANCASTER, Calif. — Law enforcement officials Friday credited California's "Amber Alert" for the safe recovery Thursday of two teenage girls 12 hours after their abduction in Los Angeles County. Both teens were reunited with their families Thursday at Kern Medical Center in Bakersfield and later returned to their homes. Police shot and killed suspect Roy Ratliff, 37, in a remote desert area 100 miles from their homes. Ratliff sexually assaulted both girls — aged 16 and 17 — and was only minutes away from killing them, authorities said.

Gunmen attack jail, free 159 prisoners

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Heavily-armed gunmen stole a tractor and crashed it through a provincial jail, freeing 159 prisoners Friday and leaving the town in chaos, officials said. After the jailbreak in Gonaives, revelers set fire to the town courthouse and city hall.

Mission complete when Afghanistan secured

By Linda D. Kozaryn
Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Afghanistan is "an untidy place, but it's a lot tidier than it used to be," said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Much has been accomplished in Afghanistan, but the U.S.-led

coalition mission won't be complete until security is restored at several levels, Rumsfeld told the Senate Armed Services Committee July 31.

There is security of the leaders who were elected by the loya jirga, because it's important for that government to survive and do its job, he said. There's security in

the major cities and the ability of humanitarian workers to provide the needs of people.

"There's the problem of border security. They need border guards," he continued. "There's the problem of police. They need police. There's the task ... of dealing with the al Qaeda and the Taliban to see that they

don't come back and attempt to reassert themselves.

"There are also potentially conflicts between factions within the country," he added. "There are also drug lords and people doing drug trafficking. There's

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Paroja, a 14-month old Afghan girl held by her grandfather Abula Zazi, is checked by Army Capt. Keith Lemmon, pediatrician, Co. C, 82nd Airborne Division Forward Support Battalion.

Khandahar medics support local, national civilians

Story & photo by Spc. Jason B. Baker
49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne)

KHANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — On the morning of July 1, the 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry

Regiment's medical officer and the task force surgeon went into the 626th Forward Support Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) aid station, to "meet, greet and help out with sick call," recalled 1st Lt. Christopher Van Winkle,

Battalion medical officer, 3rd Bn., 505th PIR.

"Since we were replacing them (626th FSB) we wanted to help out with sick call and see what lessons were learned and start the transition with them," Van Winkle said.

The morning quickly changed for the medical staff, when they were notified that four seriously wounded children were being flown into Khandahar Airfield.

Two toddlers, and a

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7- and 10-year-old received severe shrapnel wounds and burns during fighting between U.S. soldiers and Taliban or Al Qaeda forces.

The main task at that moment, according to Capt. Joseph Johnson, Task Force Panther surgeon, was to make sure everyone knew their tasks and ensure there were enough resources to handle the amount of patients.

“Trauma assessment is a team effort,” Johnson said. “You have several people working at the same time. It was our first time working with those guys and I think we did pretty well.”

The two paratroopers helped the soldiers of 626th FSB and 1980th Forward Surgical Team, reservists from Pennsylvania and California, for 12 hours as the kids were operated on and stabilized.

“The surgeons of the 1980th FST were all over these kids,” Johnson said. “They got them started on the right antibiotics and did an awesome job. You don’t see nationality when its children. Everyone puts forth a little more effort; everyone turns it up a notch.”

After the children received surgery and were stabilized, they were moved to Bagram Air Base to receive follow-on care. All four children are currently in good health and recovering from their injuries.

“It’s a tremendous relief to know they are

doing well,” Johnson said. “Everyone put in a lot of time with the children.”

The situation on July 1 has been more of a common scene for Army medical personnel at Khandahar Airfield. Most of the injured patients there have been locals or civilians who work for non-governmental organizations.

“I’ve operated on one U.S. soldier,” said Army Maj. Gregory Taggert, a Reserve or-

“I truly believe most of the civilians we see are innocent bystanders. The enemy hides among the civilians and uses them as shields.”

— Capt. Joseph Johnson, Task Force Panther surgeon

thopedic surgeon from the 1980th FST, out of New Haven, Conn. “The rest of the patients were civilians. I’ve taken care of maybe a dozen in the six weeks I’ve been here.”

The medical facilities at Khandahar Airfield are not open access for the civilian populace around the region, because of security concerns, said Maj. Jack Hurley, a physician’s assistant with the 82nd Airborne Division FSB. The

Army policy is if the patient is in danger of losing life, limb or eyesight, they will be given medical attention. Any other civilian patient will be judged on a case-by-case basis.

“I truly believe most of the civilians we see are innocent bystanders,” Johnson said. “The enemy hides among the civilians and uses them as a shield.”

Not all of the civilian patients who medical personnel have seen in Khandahar were injured during fighting. Other patients work at the airfield and were hurt due to a work-related accident. Others, like Monica Sandri, a United Nations worker from Italy, saw the Army medics as her only option when an out-of-control sport utility vehicle struck her and two coworkers in the city of Khandahar.

“The U.N. went to the local doctors,” Sandri said. “But they didn’t have the facilities to take care of us. Gerber (one of the coworkers) needed surgery, so the U.N. made a request to the base so we could get treatment here.

“This is the first time I’ve broken something,” Sandri added. “The care was excellent. The attitude and competence of the doctors was very high. They kept me very informed and made sure I understood each step they were taking. Given the situation, I don’t think I could have received better treatment. If you guys



Photo by Spc. Jason B. Baker
Sgt. James Thompson, Ambulance Supervisor, and 1st Lt. Jessica Bowen, registered nurse, Co. C, 82nd Airborne Division Forward Support Battalion, administer painkillers to United Nations worker, Chris Gerber, Lusanne, Switzerland, after his operation.

weren’t here it could have been very different.”

The doctors and medical personnel here are willing to help anyone who needs it, Johnson said. The patients will be given the full care an American soldier would be given.

Like all military members serving in the war on terror, the medical personnel here are making worthwhile sacrifices, said Taggert, who is a father of four.

“I’ll be missing my son’s baseball season and my daughter’s horseback riding and my 2-year-old learning to potty train,” Taggert

said. “I’m here just doing my job. They come in and we work on them. I’ll take care of anybody. I want to do whatever I can to help the cause. Maybe if they see we are here helping them, it will help change their attitude about us.”

Johnson agreed, adding that although the medical personnel may be handling more injured civilians than U.S. soldiers, they still serve a vital role in the operation.

“If we are going to win the support of the people,” Johnson said, “we are going to have to take care of them and protect them.”

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also crime, normal crime.”

Eventually, Rumsfeld said, the Afghan government would assume all these responsibilities. Right now, however, the transitional government doesn't have the ability to go after al Qaeda and Taliban forces without the cooperation of coalition forces.

The transitional government, however, is beginning to have some capability to start dealing with some security issues, Rumsfeld said. It remains to be seen how fast the civil side and the

new Afghan National Army can take over some responsibilities.

“My goal is to have the Afghan government be successful and systematically, incrementally, begin to develop the kinds of institutions of government that they can take over these responsibilities,” Rumsfeld said. “It’s a difficult task, but we’ve got a lot of coalition countries trying to help, and I think that the work is under way.”

Expanding the International Security Assistance Force would be “useful,” Rumsfeld said, but no countries are stepping forward to do

that. “We’ve had a good deal of difficulty, first of all, recruiting the original group of countries to serve in the International Security Assistance Force,” the secretary said. The British led the first rotation, and Turkey now leads the second. “Turkey leaves at the end of this year, and we’re going to have to recruit a new successor for that.”

The primary U.S. mission is to go after the al Qaeda and the Taliban, he said. An additional task is helping to support the ISAF with logistics, intelligence and communications

and quick-reaction support, if necessary. Another task is helping to train the Afghan national army and raise money for it.

“And so we feel that our plate is pretty full, and it would be an inappropriate use of our forces to use them as additional International Security Assistance Force troops,” Rumsfeld said. “We feel that trying to stop terrorists ... is our first priority, and our second priority is to support the existing ISAF, and our third priority is to try to train an Afghan national army.”

By the end of December, U.S. military officials

expect about 3,000 to 4,000 Afghan national soldiers will be trained, U.S. Army Gen. Tommy Franks told the committee. The U.S. Central Command chief said he expects that number to be about 8,000 soldiers by next summer and 13,000 by the end of 2003.

How long U.S. forces will conduct the training is a policy decision that will be made in the future, Franks said. “My suspicion is that we will begin to look at approaches to provide that training which may give relief to our uniformed people who are conducting that training now,” he said.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<u>Bagram:</u>	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 99F L: 64F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 95F L: 66F
<u>Khandahar:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 106F L: 72F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 104F L: 77F
<u>Kabul:</u>	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 91F L: 59F	<i>Haze</i> H: 93F L: 63F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 100F L: 69F	<i>Clear</i> H: 102F L: 71F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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

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

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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.

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Bucks get rid of Robinson, trade him to Atlanta Hawks

ATLANTA —After acquiring Glenn Robinson on Friday, the Atlanta Hawks are looking forward to having a trio of All-Stars in their frontcourt next season.

Robinson was traded by the Milwaukee Bucks to Atlanta for forwards Toni Kukoc and Leon Smith and a 2003 first-round draft pick. The Hawks have two first-round picks next year, their own and Indiana's, and Milwaukee will get the better of the two.

Robinson, 29, part of an underachieving team that missed the playoffs last season, joins a club that has had a losing record for three straight seasons and finished 33-49 last year.

Robinson, a two-time All-Star, has an eight-year career average of 21.1 points and 6.2 rebounds.

"He addresses one of our specific weaknesses, which was the perimeter game," Hawks general manager Pete Babcock said. "We're sorry to see Toni Kukoc go, he was an integral part of our rebuilding process. But we had to give up something to get a player of Glenn Robinson's caliber."

2002 Major League Leaders

Batting Average		Wins	
1. L. Walker, Col	.361	1. C. Schilling, Ariz	18-3
2. M. Sweeney, KC	.355	2. B. Zito, Oak	15-3
3. I. Suzuki, Sea	.351	3. R. Johnson, Ariz	14-4
4. B. Bonds, SF	.343	3. B. Colon, Cle/Mont	14-5
5. J. Kent, SF	.333	3. D. Lowe, Bost	14-5
Home runs		Earned Run Average	
1. A. Rodriguez, Tex	35	1. D. Lowe, Bos	2.23
2. S. Sosa, CHC	32	2. P. Martinez, Bos	2.38
3. J. Thome, Cle	31	3. G. Maddux, Atl	2.56
3. L. Berkman, Hou	31	4. B. Colon, Cle/Mont	2.62
5. B. Bonds, SF	28	5. E. Dessens, Cin	2.68
Runs Batted In		Strikeouts	
1. A. Rodriguez, Tex	90	1. C. Schilling, Ariz	212
2. L. Berkman, Hou	87	2. R. Johnson, Ariz	200
3. J. Giambi, NYY	86	3. P. Martinez, Bos	178
3. N. Garciaparra, Bos	86	4. A. Burnett, Fla	156
5. M. Ordonez, CHW	85	5. R. Oswalt, Hou	143

2002 Major League standings

American League East			GB
N.Y. Yankees	67-40	.626	-
Boston	64-44	.593	3.5
Baltimore	51-55	.481	15.5
American League Central			GB
Minnesota	67-43	.609	-
Chicago (AL)	52-58	.473	15
Cleveland	47-60	.439	18.5
American League West			GB
Seattle	67-42	.615	-
Anaheim	64-43	.598	2
Oakland	62-47	.569	5
National League East			GB
Atlanta	71-38	.651	-
N.Y. Mets	55-52	.514	15
Montreal	55-54	.505	16
National League Central			GB
St. Louis	59-47	.557	-
Cincinnati	56-51	.523	3.5
Houston	55-53	.509	5
National League West			GB
Arizona	65-43	.602	-
Los Angeles	60-49	.550	5.5
San Francisco	59-50	.541	6.5

Friday

Baltimore 9-8 Toronto
 Chicago Cubs 6-4 Colorado
 Chicago W. Sox 8-5 Tampa Bay
 Montreal 3-1 Houston
 Minnesota 2-1 Kansas City
 Philadelphia 3-1 Los Angeles
 Boston 13-0 Texas
 Pittsburgh 6-5 San Francisco
 NY Yankees 3-0 Anaheim, Top 6th
 Milwaukee 1-0 Florida
 Detroit 3-1 Oakland, Btm 6th
 Seattle 3-1 Cleveland, Btm 6th
 Atlanta 11-5 St. Louis
 San Diego 3-0 Cincinnati, Top 6th

Today

St. Louis at Atlanta
 Arizona at NY Mets
 Los Angeles at Philadelphia
 Detroit at Oakland
 Cleveland at Seattle
 Baltimore at Toronto
 Colorado at Chicago Cubs
 Chicago W. Sox at Tampa Bay
 Kansas City at Minnesota
 Houston at Montreal
 San Francisco at Pittsburgh