



# FREEDOM WATCH



September 12, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

## News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

### Iraq VP: Arabs confront the U.S.

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — In Iraq's most belligerent remarks in the current standoff with Washington, Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan urged all Arabs on Tuesday to confront the U.S., its people and its property by any means. The comments stopped short of explicitly calling on Arabs to attack Americans but underlined Iraq's drive to sway world — and particularly Middle Eastern — opinion behind it against U.S. threats of a possible strike to oust Saddam Hussein. His comments came as Saudi Arabia joined European countries on Tuesday in saying Washington should work through the UN to contain any possible Iraqi threat. While Saudi Arabia expressed worries that an attack could lead to Iraq's breakup. Speaking from Amman, the Jordanian capital, the Iraqi vice president said "we categorically believe that the aggression on Iraq is an aggression on all of the Arab nation."

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## Soldier celebrates birthday on 9/11

Story & photo by Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson  
*28th Public Affairs Detachment*

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — It's not unusual for service members to celebrate their birthdays in a combat zone, but for one postal clerk at Bagram Air Base, her birthday will be a constant reminder of one of the nation's biggest tragedies.

Spc. Darshane Butler, a postal clerk with the 834<sup>th</sup> Postal Company, out of Miami, celebrated her 25th birthday Wednesday, but she tries to look at it as any other day.



Spc. Darshane Butler, postal clerk, 834<sup>th</sup> Postal Company, Miami, Fla., celebrated her 25th birthday Sept. 11.

"Everything happens for a reason — that's God's work," she said. "We can't just dwell on that day. We have to live our lives."

Although it wasn't easy, she tried to look at last year the same way. That morning, as she was heading out for a model casting call, she received

a phone call informing her of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"When I got home, it

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Photo by Pfc. Matthew Acosta, 49th Public Affairs Detachment (Abn.)

### Let's roll

Spc. Steven Danato, rifleman, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., loads the 50 caliber machine gun mounted on a High Mobility Multi-purposed Wheeled Vehicle. The HMMWV will be used on a reconnaissance mission the company is preparing for at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan.

## Ships fly 1st Navy Jack

By Susan Civitillo  
*FISC San Diego Public Affairs*

**SAN DIEGO** — At morning colors on Sept. 11, all U.S. Navy ships flew the First Navy Jack in place of the Union Jack for the duration of the global war on terrorism.

The flag, which was first used by the Continental Navy in 1775, consists of a rattlesnake superimposed across 13 alternating red and white stripes with the motto, "Don't

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Tread On Me.”

Commodore Esek Hopkins used the First Navy Jack as a signal to engage the British in the American Revolution. The Jack in today's fleet represents a historic reminder of the nation's origin.

In a brief ceremony Sept. 5, Capt. Ray Berube, commanding officer of the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center San Diego, presented Cmdr. Clayton Saunders, commanding officer, USS Rushmore (LSD 47) with a set of four flags.

Rushmore, along with the rest of the fleet's ships, flew the First Navy Jack on Patriot Day as directed by Secretary of the Navy Gordon England.

“In accordance with the guidelines set forth by Secretary of the Navy Gordon England and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark, it is my pleasure to deliver to you the First Navy Jack to be flown on board USS Rushmore and all U.S. Navy ships during the global war on terrorism,” stated Berube.

Upon receiving the flags, Saunders spoke on how the First Navy Jack will bring to mind the



Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class David A. Levy  
Fleet Imaging Center

**In port aboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), sailors raise the First Navy Jack as they return to their forward deployed base. The ship departed Yokosuka, Japan, last October along with elements of Carrier Air Wing 5 (CVW-5) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.**

part the Navy plays in attaining freedom.

“In the years since 1775, our primary mission, to ensure the freedom of the seas, has remained unchanged. Today, terrorists threaten free commerce and individual liberty. This flag represents a renewed commitment by the Navy to our first principles, to secure freedom, both at home and abroad,” remarked Saunders. “It is fitting that the honor of receiving the first flag

should fall to the Rushmore, America's Gator.”

Each ship in the fleet will receive four flags (one holiday and three regular). Non-deployed ships received their initial Jack through their local FISC Logistics Support Center representative.

The flags were sent directly from the commercial vendor by mail to deployed ships. The flags will eventually be stocked and available through the Navy supply system.

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was all over the news,” she said. “In a way, it put a damper on my birthday, but I still wanted to celebrate. I still continued to enjoy my day even though the incident happened.”

Later that evening, Butler went out to dinner with her friends, but the biggest topic of conversation continued to be the attacks.

“My friends were saying ‘it's a shame it happened on your birthday,’” she said. “I told them there was nothing I could do about it – what's done is done.”

She later went to a club, but the attacks overshadowed the mood there, as well.

“People were dancing, but it wasn't like normal,” she said. “You could tell that something was wrong.”

She admitted that she had a feeling her unit would be activated to fight the war on terrorism. However, she never thought that she would celebrate her birthday in Afghanistan.

“Now, when I say my prayers, I have to add those people who lost their loved ones,” Butler said. “But I will continue to celebrate my birthday.”

She's received birthday greetings from

her family and friends, many of them expressing their concern.

“They say ‘you're in Afghanistan for your birthday? What a place to be for your birthday!’” she laughed.

However, she said through it all, she hasn't gotten angry once.

“I'm dealing with it,” she said. “It's all in God's plan – that's how I look at it. We're here to support the mission, and that's that.”

## Some Air Force families eligible for free child-care

*Air Forces Press News*

**WASHINGTON**—Certain Airmen returning from overseas deployments supporting Operation Enduring Freedom are eligible for free child-care.

The Extended Duty Child-Care Program will provide the service for up to 16 hours per child under 12 years old. The child-care is designed to help returnees as they settle back into their home stations.

People must have been deployed for more than 30 days to be eligible and the care must be used within 30 days of returning from deployment. The service will be provided on a space-available basis.

Parents should contact base family child-care coordinators or the family member programs flight chief within their local services squadrons for information on availability and eligibility requirements.

### ***No need to quit meeting***

An Alcoholic's Anonymous meeting will be held every Friday, 2 p.m. (Z), at the 113th Medical Company, the first tent on the right as you enter the American Hospital compound.

For more information, e-mail Chaplain (Maj.) Stephen A. Sanders at [ChaplainSanders@aol.com](mailto:ChaplainSanders@aol.com) or visit the 113th Med. Co.

# HIND SIGHT

1609

Henry Hudson sails into what is now New York Harbor aboard his ship *Half Moon*.

1786

Despite his failed efforts to suppress the American Revolution, Lord Cornwallis is appointed governor general of India.

1836

Mexican authorities crush the revolt which broke out on August 25.

1939

In response to the invasion of Poland, the French Army advances into Germany. On this day they reach their furthest penetration-five miles.

1940

The Lascaux Caves in France, with their prehistoric wall paintings, are discovered.

## BRIEFS, from Page 1

### Blair brands Saddam 'outlaw'

**BLACKPOOL**, England — UK Prime Minister Tony Blair has branded Saddam Hussein an “international outlaw” in charge of a “barbaric regime” that has to be dealt with. But he told a Trades Union Congress conference in Blackpool on Tuesday that pre-emptive action should only be carried out as a last resort after discussions have taken place in parliament and the United Nations. Unionists are among the traditional backers of Blair’s Labor Party, but they have been vocal in their opposition to a war on Iraq. The EU has voiced strong opposition to U.S. unilateral action or even multilateral action without further proof of Iraq’s threat and U.N. backing. French President Jacques Chirac, who has been supportive of tackling the issue through the U.N., moved towards a solution when he proposed on Tuesday putting forward U.N. Security Council resolution giving Baghdad a three-week deadline for letting weapons inspectors back before a second vote on the use of military force.

### Hundreds rally to support Afghan president

**KANDAHAR**, Afghanistan — Hundreds of people held up giant Afghan flags and waved large photos of President Hamid Karzai on Tuesday to show support for the new national government and the leader they nearly lost to an assassin. Standing on a stage in the town square, Mayor Abdullah Popal told the crowd, “People of Afghanistan support Hamid Karzai. We condemn all our enemies, foreign and internal. We want peace and stability for our Afghanistan.” Shouts of “Long live Karzai! Long live Afghanistan!” greeted Popal’s speech as the demonstration kicked off with a convoy bearing a giant presidential portrait. Last Thursday, while Karzai was in Kandahar for his brother’s wedding, a recently hired security guard fired on the presidential motorcade, missing Karzai but slightly wounding Kandahar Gov. Gul Agha Sherzai.

# Local weather

## TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<b><u>Bagram:</u></b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 88F L: 54F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 90F L: 50F
<b><u>Kandahar:</u></b>	<i>Sunny</i> H: 95F L: 55F	<i>Sunny</i> H: 95F L: 55F
<b><u>Kabul:</u></b>	<i>Haze</i> H: 86F L: 48F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 88F L: 48F
<b><u>Uzbekistan:</u></b>	<i>Clear</i> H: 94F L: 54F	<i>Clear</i> H: 93F L: 55F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

# FREEDOM WATCH

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# COALITION SPORTSZONE

## Unitas Remembered

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

**BALTIMORE** — Johnny Unitas, the Hall of Fame quarterback who broke nearly every NFL passing record and won three championships with the Baltimore Colts in an 18-year career, died Wednesday at age 69.

Unitas had a heart attack while working out at a physical therapy center in the Baltimore suburb of Timonium, said Vivienne Stearns-Elliott, a spokeswoman for St. Joseph Medical Center in Towson. Doctors and nurses at the scene could not resuscitate him, she said.

Unitas underwent emergency triple-bypass surgery in March 1993 after a heart attack.

“Johnny U,” with his trademark crewcut and black hightops, was the first to throw for 40,000 yards and now ranks seventh, surpassed by a group of quarterbacks who played after him, with rules that make passing easier.

Unitas retired after the 1973 season with 22 NFL records, among them marks for most passes attempted and completed, most yards gained passing, most touchdown passes and most seasons leading the league in TD passes.

Unitas completed 2,830 of 5,186 passes for 40,239 yards and 290 touchdowns. He completed at least one touchdown pass in 47 straight games, a record not challenged since it was set from 1956-60.



Photo courtesy of Corbis

**Johnny Unitas was named NFL Player of the Year three times.**

Unitas was Most Valuable Player two times and played in 10 Pro Bowls. He led Baltimore to the NFL championship in 1958 and 1959 and the Super Bowl in 1970.

On the NFL's 50th anniversary in 1969, Unitas was voted the greatest quarterback of all time. He also was selected at quarterback for the NFL's All-Time team in 2000 by the 36 Pro Football Hall of Fame voters.

“Johnny Unitas is the greatest quarterback ever to play the game, better than I was, better than Sammy Baugh, better than anyone,” said Sid Luckman, the great Chicago Bears quarterback of the 1940s.

## 2002 Major League standings

<b>American League East</b>				<b>GB</b>
N.Y. Yankees	92-53	.634	-	
Boston	82-62	.569	9.5	
Toronto	66-80	.452	26.5	
<b>American League Central</b>				<b>GB</b>
Minnesota	85-61	.582	-	
Chicago (AL)	71-75	.486	14	
Cleveland	64-81	.441	20.5	
<b>American League West</b>				<b>GB</b>
Oakland	91-53	.632	-	
Anaheim	89-55	.618	2	
Seattle	84-61	.579	7.5	
<b>National League East</b>				<b>GB</b>
x-Atlanta	92-52	.639	-	
Florida	71-74	.490	21.5	
Montreal	71-75	.486	22	
<b>National League Central</b>				<b>GB</b>
St. Louis	84-61	.579	-	
Houston	78-68	.534	6.5	
Cincinnati	71-74	.490	13	
<b>National League West</b>				<b>GB</b>
Arizona	89-56	.614	-	
Los Angeles	83-62	.572	6	
San Francisco	83-62	.572	6	

*x- clinched division title*

### Wednesday's scores

Toronto 6-5 Cleveland  
 Atlanta 8-5 N.Y. Mets  
 Boston 6-3 Tampa Bay  
 Kansas City 9-6 Chicago (AL)  
 Texas 4-3 Seattle  
 Pittsburgh 4-1 Cincinnati  
 Chicago Cubs 6-3 Montreal  
 St. Louis 4-3 Milwaukee  
 Minnesota 8-2 Detroit  
 N.Y. Yankees 5-4 Baltimore, 11 inn.  
 Los Angeles 7-3 San Francisco  
 Philadelphia 9-2 Florida  
 Colorado 8-6 Houston

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**NL**

1. Los Angeles .572  
 1. San Francisco .572  
 3. Houston .534  
 4. Florida .490  
 4. Cincinnati .490  
 6. Montreal .486

**AL**

1. Anaheim .618  
 2. Seattle .579  
 3. Boston .569  
 4. Chicago Sox .486  
 5. Texas .469  
 6. Toronto .452