



FREEDOM WATCH



September 25, 2002

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Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Isidore could deliver deadly floods

MIAMI — Tropical Storm Isidore is expected to be a weak Category 1 hurricane when it hits the U.S. Gulf Coast early Thursday, but experts warn it still could be a killer storm. “We don’t want people to get lulled to sleep here. We often have loss of life even with a Category 1 hurricane,” National Hurricane Center Deputy Director Max Mayfield cautioned. “We’re very concerned about not just the winds and the rainfall, but in particular, the storm surge flooding near, and to the east of, where the center crosses the coast, and in some of those shallow areas there in Louisiana.” Low-lying Gulf Coast island Grand Isle as well as Morgan City and Houma — two cities in marshlands southwest of New Orleans — have already begun evacuations.

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Photo by Capt. Jan Cabovsky, Slovakian Air Force

Welcome aboard!

The Slovakia flag rose over the Slovakian Air Force compound Sept. 9, marking the operational status of the engineer unit. The unit is replacing the Italian Air Force engineer unit and will continue runway repairs.

Cyclists wind up 270-miler at Pentagon

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — About 1,200 cyclists arrived at the Pentagon Monday, completing a 270-mile ride from Ground Zero, the site of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

For three days, men and women from 42 states and 10 countries united in sport to honor those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack on America. Riding in “Face of America 2002,” they included firemen and police, about 200 service members and family members. The young-

est cyclist was 10; the oldest 76.

In all, about 2,500 cyclists took part in the Face of America 2002 event organized by World TEAM Sports, a nonprofit organization with the motto “The Exceptional Athlete Matters.” Based in Charlotte, N.C., the group promotes total inclusion and integration in sports, with a focus on people with disabilities.

The Face of America team included several amputees; two blind Kenyans — victims of the 1998 terrorist attack on the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi — riding the back seats of tandem bikes; a Norwegian disabled-

U.S.-Polish relationship strong, healthy

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WARSAW, Poland — The military relationship between America and Poland is strong and getting better everyday, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld noted Monday in Warsaw.

The secretary stopped by the presidential palace to meet with Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski, Prime Minister Leszek Miller, Defense Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski and other senior officials.

Rumsfeld described his discussions with the Poles as centered on the U.S.-Polish military-to-military partnership and the overall relation-

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rights activist; a Polish citizen who lost both his arms in a land-mine cleanup campaign following World War II; and a 13-person team of Israelis and Palestinians.

While some cyclists rode for a day, others made the full journey through New Jersey and Maryland, stopping at the Naval Academy Football Stadium in Annapolis prior to riding past the Capitol and crossing the finish line at the Pentagon’s north parking lot.

“These riders are indeed the face of America, in all of its courage, com-

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Photo by Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service

Cyclists taking part in “Face of America 2002” arrived Monday at the Pentagon, completing a three-day, 270-mile ride to honor those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on America.

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passion, color, creed and expression,” said Greg LeMond, a three-time Tour De France champion. “They ride to honor those who lost their lives in the last year’s tragedy and to carry the beauty and produce of their lives into the future.”

Mark Burlingame, a heart surgeon from Lancaster, Pa., rode to honor all those who died, but especially his brother, Capt. Charles Burlingame III, who piloted

American Airlines Flight 77. Terrorists hijacked the flight and flew the plane into the Pentagon, killing 184 men, women and children.

“As a novice, I faced this ride with trepidation and high hopes, and I far exceeded what I thought I could accomplish,” he said.

He said the physically challenged athletes that took part especially inspired him and he enjoyed hearing people’s stories.

“Many of us came to honor the memory of family, friends and colleagues,” Burlingame said. “I

know that they were with us on this ride, especially those moments when we had to reach down for that last ounce of strength.”

Burlingame said the riders are “the face of America. We come from all walks of life, young and old, all races and creeds. We embody the spirit of America. We have bonded in this ride in mind and body and made a powerful statement on behalf of all Americans and all friends of America.

Bob Graham of Arlington County Fire Department was also

among the riders.

“We met a lot of really great people out there,” he said, “but mostly, our brothers in the New York City Fire Department. We have never stopped thinking about them for the last year or so.”

Dan Rowen, Ladder Co. 9, Engine 33, New York City Fire Department, said he helped put the ride together in memory of his fallen brothers.

“I lost 51 of my best friends that day,” he said, choking back tears, “and I rode for 51 of them.”

Holding up a T-shirt displaying an American flag, Rowen said, “These colors here — will never ever run.”

Charles Abell, assistant defense secretary for force management policy, welcomed the cyclists to the Pentagon and commended their effort.

“Hundreds of brave New York City fire and policemen lost their lives trying to save others,” Abell said. “Our heroes in the military defeated the Taliban regime and their terrorist allies in Afghanistan.

“Today we’re grateful to all of you for your strength, your physical fitness and your commitment to those we lost. God bless you, and God bless America.”

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ship between the two countries.

Poland is considered a staunch friend of the United States in central Europe. Rumsfeld described the relationship as “a strong one, a healthy one, and one which is evolving very favorably.”

Rumsfeld said he conveyed to Kwasniewski America’s appreciation for Poland’s significant contributions to NATO and for its

assistance in the war on global terrorism. He noted six Poles died in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the New York City World Trade Center. Poland has troops in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, he added.

The Warsaw meetings are considered a prelude to the Prague Summit in the Czech Republic in November, at which Rumsfeld is expected to formally propose the creation of a NATO rapid response force. That

military body, composed of forces from several NATO countries, could be called on to deploy outside of NATO’s traditional European area of operations.

Other topics discussed include improving NATO military capabilities, streamlining the alliance’s military command and headquarters structure, new relationships with Russia and Ukraine and NATO expansion.

In addition, Rumsfeld noted that efforts by the United States and other

friendly nations are under way within the United Nations to find the appropriate way to enforce U.N. resolutions with respect to disarmament of Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction.

At a press conference following Rumsfeld’s meeting with the Polish president, Polish National Security Adviser Marek Siwiec told reporters that Poland understands the U.S. position on Iraq. Noting that the United Nations continues to debate what to do about

Iraq, Siwiec emphasized that Poland remains “a very steadfast ally” of the United States.

Rumsfeld noted that the way events played out in public was “notably unhelpful.” He said the German government’s posture “has had the effect of poisoning” Germany’s relationship with the United States. He said he’s planned no special meetings in Warsaw with the German minister of defense.

HIND SIGHT

1775

British troops capture Ethan Allen, the hero of Ticonderoga, when he and a handful of Americans try to invade Canada.

1789

Congress proposes 12 new amendments to the Constitution.

1909

The first National Aeronautic Show opens at Madison Square Garden.

1937

German Chancellor Adolf Hitler meets with Italian Premier Benito Mussolini in Munich.

1974

Scientists warn that continued use of aerosol sprays will cause ozone depletion, which will lead to an increased risk of skin cancer and global weather changes.

BRIEFS, from Page 1

U.S. forces to protect Americans in Ivory Coast

WASHINGTON — With about 200 schoolchildren and staffers trapped in the crossfire of a military rebellion, U.S. Special Forces were headed to the Ivory Coast to help protect Americans there, U.S. military officials said Tuesday. The military contingent would be made up of about 200 heavily armed U.S. Special Forces troops who are expected to land either outside Abidjan, the capital of the West Africa nation or in neighboring Ghana, officials said. Ivory Coast government forces are cooperating with the deployment, officials said, and French troops already in the region have agreed to back up the U.S. troops. The French troops in recent days secured an airport about 40 miles from the school and moved in on a road near the campus. The American troops could escort U.S. nationals to safer locations within the Ivory Coast.

Indian commandos end Hindu temple siege

GANDHINAGAR, India — Indian commandos have killed the three gunman who attacked a Hindu temple packed with worshippers, bringing a murderous seven-hour siege to an end. The commandos stormed the temple around three hours ago to flush out the gunmen who had killed at least 26 people and injured more than 70. “The incident is over,” said police superintendent R.B. Brahmabhatt. “All the three have been killed and we are still searching the entire premises.” A police official said one National Security Guard commando was killed in the siege that began on Tuesday. The fighting intensified around 4 a.m. (6:30 p.m. ET Tuesday) after the commandos ringed the sprawling temple grounds and then moved in on the gunmen. The gunmen attacked the temple in Gujarat city of Gandhinagar late on Tuesday, spraying those inside with bullets and hurling grenades.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	Today	Thursday
Bagram:	Partly cloudy H: 81F L: 63F	Rain H: 99F L: 66F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 93F L: 55F	Dusty H: 93F L: 55F
Kabul:	Partly cloudy H: 77F L: 54F	Rain H: 75F L: 52F
Uzbekistan:	Clear H: 86F L: 51F	Clear H: 85F L: 50F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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- ❖ Commander — Capt. Timothy Beninato
- ❖ NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson
- ❖ Editor — Sgt. Reeba Critser
- ❖ Sports Editor — Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
- ❖ Journalists — Sgt. Jason Allgood, Spc. Erica Leigh Foley, Pfc. Nathan Akridge and Pfc. Eleazar Craig.

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To be added to the daily distribution list, e-mail reeba.critser@us.army.mil



COALITION SPORTSZONE

PGA Round-Up

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Woods ready for 2002 Ryder Cup

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England — Tiger Woods had a million reasons why he wanted to win the World Golf Championship. He came up with another one to explain why he caused such a fuss.

“I was just trying to be funny,” Woods said Tuesday, backing off his comments last week in Ireland when he earned \$1 million for winning the American Express Championship. “Obviously, things were taken way out of context.”

This week is no laughing matter.

The Americans again are favored to win the Ryder Cup, somewhat of a mystery since Europe has won five of the last eight times. Only once since 1983 have the matches been decided by more than two points.

The Ryder Cup has not been particularly kind to Woods, either.

One of the most glaring holes in an otherwise awesome record is his Ryder Cup mark. Woods is 3-6-1 in two Ryder Cups, splitting his singles matches and taking on five partners in eight team matches.

“I wish it was better,” he said. “That means I would have contributed more points to my team. But I haven’t done that.”

The Belfry Sutton Coldfield, England

HOLE	PAR	YARDS
1	4	411
2	4	379
3	5	538
4	4	442
5	4	408
6	4	395
7	3	177
8	4	428
9	4	433
10	4	311
11	4	419
12	3	208
13	4	384
14	3	190
15	5	545
16	4	413
17	5	564
18	4	473



2002 Major League standings

American League East			GB
x-N.Y. Yankees	99-58	.631	-
Boston	91-66	.580	8
Toronto	73-84	.465	26
American League Central			GB
x-Minnesota	90-66	.577	-
Chicago (AL)	79-78	.503	11.5
Cleveland	70-87	.446	20.5
American League West			GB
z-Oakland	99-57	.635	-
Anaheim	96-61	.611	3.5
Seattle	90-66	.577	9
National League East			GB
x-Atlanta	97-58	.626	-
Montreal	79-78	.503	19
Philadelphia	79-78	.503	19
National League Central			GB
x-St. Louis	93-64	.592	-
Houston	83-75	.525	10.5
Cincinnati	76-81	.484	17
National League West			GB
Arizona	94-63	.599	-
San Francisco	90-66	.577	3.5
Los Angeles	88-69	.561	6

x- Clinched division
z- Clinched playoff berth

Tuesday's scores

- Boston 5, Chicago Sox 2
- Milwaukee 3, Houston 1
- N.Y. Yankees 6, Tampa Bay 0
- St. Louis 3, Arizona 2
- Florida 9, Montreal 6
- Toronto 11, Baltimore 1
- Philadelphia 5, Atlanta 3
- Pittsburgh 6, N.Y. Mets 3
- Kansas City 17, Detroit 2
- Cincinnati 1, Chicago Cubs 0
- Minnesota 4, Cleveland 3
- Texas 2, Anaheim 1
- Colorado 1, Los Angeles 0



W I L D

AL	CARD	NL
1. Anaheim .611		1. San Francisco .577
2. Boston .580		2. Los Angeles .561
3. Seattle .577		3. Houston .525
4. Chicago Sox .503		4. Montreal .503
5. Toronto .465		5. Philadelphia .503
6. Cleveland .446		6. Cincinnati .484

U.S. pairings no secret

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England — U.S. captain Curtis Strange gave a good idea of his pairings for the opening best-ball matches Friday.

Tiger Woods was with Mark Calcavecchia. David Duval played with Davis Love III. Phil Mickelson played with David Toms. Scott Hoch played with Jim Furyk.

“Practice rounds are very important, and I think you should play with who I think you might play with in the matches,” Strange said. “There’s an agenda out there today.”

The choice of Woods and Calcavecchia was no surprise, since they play early morning practice rounds at most of the majors and regular PGA Tour events.

Calcavecchia certainly had no complaints.

“Who wouldn’t want it to happen? He played great again today,” Calcavecchia said. “There’s a different kind of pressure being his partner in the sense that you want to play so well to try to help him out.

“On the other hand ... I don’t have to take the whole load on myself.”

Toms said he anticipated playing Friday with Mickelson, the man he beat at the PGA Championship last year in Atlanta.

“I’m the steady guy and he likes to be pretty aggressive,” Toms said. “You put that in best ball and it makes for a nice team.”

The other partners were Hal Sutton and Scott Verplank, possibly an alternate-shot team, and Paul Azinger and Stewart Cink.

Forgetful Sam

European captain Sam Torrance was asked how the lineup he expects to field for Friday’s opening matches compares to the one he had ready for the competition that was postponed last year.

“Impossible to say,” Torrance said. “I actually couldn’t find them.”

Torrance said he had last year’s pairings written down and hid them away somewhere. Trouble was, he hid them so well he couldn’t find them.

“I’m very good at hiding things and I spent three days looking for it, and I couldn’t find it,” Torrance said.

Torrance did drop a few hints about this week’s pairings. He wants to put prospective teams in the same practice rounds.

“Obviously I’m trying to put pairings out there I’ll use Friday and Saturday,” he said. “They are four balls and you don’t know who is playing with who.”

Ryder Cup history

2001-	Postponed due to Sept. 11
1999-	U.S. 14½, Europe 13½
1997-	Europe 14½, U.S. 13½
1995-	Europe 14½, U.S. 13½
1993-	U.S. 15, Europe 13
1991-	U.S. 14½, Europe 13½
1989-	Europe 14, U.S. 14
1987-	Europe 15, U.S. 13
1985-	Europe 16½, U.S. 13½
1983-	U.S. 14½, Europe 13½
1981-	U.S. 18½, Europe 11½
1979-	U.S. 17, Europe 11



“I’m not feelin’ so ‘special’ right now ...”

kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support