

# Freedom Watch

January 12, 2004 ♦ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ♦ Bagram, Afghanistan

## Let sleeping dogs lie...



Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson

*A local national puts Soldiers' laundry out to dry at Shkin Firebase while one of the camp's puppies catches some morning sunshine for a quick nap.*

## Rumsfeld outlines DoD priorities, goals for 2004

Story by Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** – The global war on terrorism will remain the Defense Department's top priority in the new year, as DoD continues to focus on improving and modernizing its programs, systems and forces to make them more responsive to 21st century requirements.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told reporters today during his first Pentagon briefing in 2004 that the department already has made "remarkable progress" and will continue its work to "strengthen, improve and transform our forces, modernize and restructure programs and commands... and streamline DoD processes and procedures."

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## Coalition forces condemn fatal attack in Kandahar

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – Coalition forces strongly condemned those criminals responsible for the explosive devices detonated in Kandahar Thursday, according to Combined Joint Task Force-180 officials.

After the attack in Kandahar, and in cooperation with local Afghan authorities, the coalition evacuated 28 victims to the Kandahar Airfield. Four of the wounded were treated and released.

The coalition airlifted 18 patients to Bagram Air Base for care, while three patients remain at Kandahar Airfield for treatment. Three others died from their wounds at Kandahar Airfield.

Kandahar's public Muir Wais hospital reported receiving at least 30 victims as a result of the attack.

In coordination with the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan, the coalition continues to assist in the growth of Afghan political, civil and military institutions while continuing efforts to defeat terrorist organizations and their infrastructure.

As part of that endeavor, coalition civil affairs soldiers, along with a medical and veterinarian team from Orgun-E Firebase, traveled to Pir Kowti village, about four kilometers southwest of the firebase Tuesday.

The medical-veterinarian team treated 350 residents and 344 animals for various medical ailments.

Furthermore, a civil affairs team from the Gereshk Firebase traveled to the village of Anarjai and distributed more than 80 pair of shoes, more than 200 items of adult and children's clothing, as well as an assortment of toys to the local residents there.

The civil affairs team's medical staff also performed basic physical examinations on 60 people and prescribed preventive medical treatment to residents suffering from malnutrition, upper respiratory infections and other medical complaints.

*(Information provided by a Coalition Press Information Center press release.)*

English/Dari phrase of the day: One - Yak; Two - Doo; Three - Say; Four - Char; Five - Panj

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Do you want that with tax cuts? Dean campaigning in Waterloo, Iowa.

## Taxes dominate Iowa race

(CNN) – Both sides of the political divide are focusing on taxes as Democrats gear up for the first vote in the 2004 presidential campaign – the Iowa caucus on Jan. 19.

John Kerry of Massachusetts and John Edwards on Sunday both accused the two leading candidates in Iowa, Howard Dean and Rep. Dick Gephardt, of planning to reverse President Bush's tax cuts without having a plan to ease middle-class tax burden.

Republicans also went on the offensive Sunday, saying the tax cuts pushed through Congress by the Bush administration last year will boost job growth, despite the fact only 1,000 new jobs were created in December, according to Labor Department figures.

Dean, who leads in several polls of Iowa voters, said Sunday he would annul the Bush tax cuts.

"We're going to get rid of all the Bush tax cuts, but we're going to replace it with middle-class tax fairness, which is going to be aimed at the payroll tax," he told ABC's "This Week."

Kerry, also on ABC, insisted that his frequent talk about his competitors' tax plans is not negative campaigning.

"If Howard Dean and Dick Gephardt want to raise taxes on middle-class Americans and I don't, that's a different policy," the Massachusetts senator said.

Retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark, who is not campaigning in Iowa, said last week he was "going to provide tax cuts to ease the burden for 34 million Americans" and promised to "raise the taxes on one-tenth of 1 percent of families in America, those who make more than a million dollars a year.



Iraqis protest Sunday in the city of Amarah.

## Iraqis mad over protest deaths

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Crowds of Iraqis have been protesting the killings of at least five people by police and British troops.

Police officers and Soldiers opened fire on demonstrators Saturday when they staged a demonstration in the southern Iraqi city of Amarah over unemployment turned violent. A British military official in Basra said five people were killed and a sixth person was wounded.

Witnesses told *Reuters* that scores of Iraqis, many related to those killed, staged another protest in the city, 320 kilometers (200 miles) southeast of Baghdad, on Sunday demanding compensation.

The protest was reported to be peaceful with no reports of violence. *The Associated Press* said British troops with riot shields and batons were guarding the mayor's office, which had its windows smashed the day before by the demonstrators.

Saturday's clashes started when shots rang out from the crowd, a British military spokeswoman said. Meanwhile, troops "received reports of small explosions in the crowd," she told the *AP*.

Iraqi police, thinking they were under attack, opened fire into the crowd but did not hit anyone, she said. However, witnesses said the police killed some protesters.

British officials told *CNN* that soldiers moved in with armored vehicles to support the police, and protesters hurled explosive devices at them.

The Soldiers shot dead a man preparing to throw a device, they said. However, officials could not give details on how the other Iraqis died.

Six people were killed and at least 11 wounded, Dr. Saad Hamoud, of the Al-Zahrawi Surgical Hospital, told the *AP*. The British said they had reports of five deaths and one injury. The Soldiers and police had no casualties.



Bethany Hamilton, 13, lost an arm to a shark attack in October.

## Shark attack victim back on board, returns to surfing

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii – Teen surfer Bethany Hamilton returned to competition Saturday, just 10 weeks after losing her left arm in a shark attack.

Hamilton, 13, placed fifth in her age group in the Open Women Division of a National Scholastic Surfing Association meet at Banyans.

"It was definitely a good start," Hamilton said.

Hamilton's last meet was the weekend before she was attacked Oct. 31; she returned to the water for the first time Thanksgiving Day.

Hamilton began with a modest 2-foot wave but caught a 6-footer during her quarterfinal heat. She kicked her left leg to help propel her 6-foot-2 surfboard into waves and occasionally struggled when pushing off the board with one hand.

"Once I get up on the board, I'm OK," Hamilton said. "Sometimes it's hard to get there."

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Rumsfeld laid out an ambitious list of initiatives, many already under way, that he said will help free the department of its Cold War-era trappings that no longer support current demands.

Among these initiatives is the effort to rebalance the active and reserve components throughout the services. Rumsfeld told reporters the global war on terror, with its heavy use of National Guard and Reserve troops, underscores the importance of the effort.

“Our experience thus far in the global war on terror, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan, has shown that we have somewhat of a Cold War mix of active and reserve forces remaining,” Rumsfeld said. “And we really do need to adjust it to reflect the circumstances of the day.”

Rumsfeld said proposals being drafted by the services “will set a new balance between active and reserve that will fit the 21st century.” Also high on the agenda for 2004, Rumsfeld said, is implementation of the new National Security Personnel System that took effect with passage of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act. The new law gives DoD the authority to create a new framework of rules, regulations, and processes that govern the way civilians are hired, paid, promoted and disciplined within the department. The new system will replace outdated and rigid civil service rules that many said hindered DoD’s ability to carry out its national security mission. “Executed properly,” Rumsfeld said, “the new system . . . can play a key role in relieving stress on the force.”

On a broader scope, Rumsfeld said the military will continue its efforts to adjust global posture during 2004.

This initiative involves re-examining the United States’ military “foot-

print” in the world — much of it the result of historic, Cold War threats that no longer exist — and to revise them to meet current demands.

In addition to those at its bases around the world, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters the U.S. military has thousands of troops on deployments around the world. This includes roughly 125,000 in Iraq, 13,000 in Afghanistan, more than 2,000 at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and more than 1,000 participating in Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.

Meanwhile, Myers said, nearly 3,500 service members are conducting stabilization operations in the Balkans, and about 1,500 are performing counterdrug operations and other training in Central and South America.

Rumsfeld continued to rattle off a virtual laundry list of efforts and initiatives the department will pursue in 2004.

“Going forward, he said, “we will continue to aggressively pursue the global war on terrorism, strengthening joint warfighting capabilities, transforming the joint force, strengthening our intelligence capabilities (and) strengthening our ability to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.”

Rumsfeld said DoD also will focus on improving force planning through quality of life, infrastructure and other modifications, refining and improving the department’s role in homeland security, and streamlining its budget, contingency and other departmental processes.

“We have a full agenda,” Rumsfeld acknowledged. “It is what President Bush has asked of us. It is what the American people expect of us. And it is work that we intend to proceed with over the coming months of 2004.”

## Myers begins four-nation swing in Japan

Story by Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

**TOKYO**—Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers arrived in Japan Sunday on the first leg of a nine-day, four-country trip.

Visits will include China, where the chairman will continue constructive military-to-military contacts. He will also journey to Mongolia and Australia.

In talks with Japanese military and defense leaders, Myers will thank Japanese allies for their support in the global war on terrorism and for sending personnel and money to help rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan. He will also consult with Japanese leaders about their participation in missile-defense efforts. Myers, who once commanded U.S. Forces Japan, is familiar with the country and was looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and making new ones, officials said.



**Gen. Richard B. Myers**

In China, the chairman will continue the process of engagement with Asia’s fastest-growing economy. He will seek to expand military-to-military relations to new areas and to lower levels. Senior defense officials said the

general will build on work the U.S. Pacific Command has started.

Officials said he will likely discuss North Korea, Taiwan and other matters of concern between the two countries.

Myers will be the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to visit Mongolia. He will thank the Mongolians for their contribution to Operation Iraqi Freedom. The country has a peace-keeping company in the Multinational Division Central/South based in Hillah.

In Australia, he will consult with senior military and defense leaders, and thank them for their support to date. Australia, a stalwart in the global war on terrorism, suffered its own September 11th-like tragedy in the October 2002 bombings on the Indonesian island of Bali. That incident claimed many Australians among the more than 500 killed and injured.

Officials said it was important for the chairman to visit the nation because the United States “does not want Australia to think we take them for granted.”

## ANA recruiting commander hits the ground running

**KABUL**, Afghanistan – After being formally selected as the new commander for the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) Recruiting Command, Maj. Gen. Aziz and his newly selected deputy, Brig. Gen. Ibrhim, wasted no time in visiting the Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan (OMC-A) for an in-briefing on the status of ANA recruiting efforts.

Upon their arrival at OMC-A, Aziz and Ibrhim were greeted by Col. Tom Snukis, the former Chief of Staff for OMC-A. Snukis is now the chief of staff for Combined Forces Command – Central Asia (CFC-CA).

Snukis congratulated Aziz on his selection as commander of the ANA Recruiting Command and presented Aziz with a U.S. Army Recruiting Command “Army of One” coin encased in acrylic.

Snukis then turned the leadership team over to Lt. Col. David Francavilla for their in-briefing. Francavilla is the Director of the Recruiting Assistance Team at OMC-A.

For the past six months, Francavilla and his team have been traveling throughout the 32 provinces of Afghanistan establishing National Army Volunteer Centers (NAVCs) for the ANA Recruiting Command.

Francavilla explained to Aziz all the work that must be done to build and sustain an NAVC, all the work required to support the flow of recruits from the provinces and NAVCs to Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC), and the work required to inform the people of Afghanistan about the benefits of joining the ANA.

Aziz has experience with the military and is very familiar with the challenges of building and sustaining an army. During an intermission in the briefing, Aziz and Ibrahim were greeted by Maj. Gen. Craig Weston, the current chief of OMC-A.

Weston congratulated Aziz on his selection and expressed his enthusiasm about working with him in the future.

*(Information provided by Maj. Kenneth W. Knowles, OMC-A.)*

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

### “About A Boy”

0830Z at the MWR building:

Based on Nick Hornby’s best-selling novel, *About A Boy* is the story of a cynical, immature young man who is taught how to act like a grown-up by a little boy.

(1530Z: *Latino Dance Night*)

**Tomorrow’s movie:**

“Resident Evil”



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Fog/Cloudy H: 49F L: 32F	Fog/Cloudy H: 54F L: 29F
<b>Bagram:</b>	Haze/Cloudy H: 54F L: 32F	Haze/Cloudy H: 54F L: 32F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze/Cloudy H: 57F L: 28F	Haze/Cloudy H: 59F L: 34F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Partly Cloudy H: 70F L: 46F	Partly Cloudy H: 70F L: 45F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

## Eagles make 3rd trip to NFC title game

**PHILADELPHIA** – Brett Favre has thrown this kind of pass often in his career. And this time, the Philadelphia Eagles’ Brian Dawkins was there waiting for it.

Dawkins intercepted Favre’s desperation pass in overtime to set up David Akers’ 31-yard field goal Sunday, giving the Eagles a 20-17 win over the Green Bay Packers and sending them to their third straight NFC title game.

Dawkins picked off the heave on Green Bay’s first possession of overtime – a forced pass that Favre has pulled off many times before.

This time it cost him the game a week after the Packers’ Al Harris returned an interception to give Green Bay an overtime win in their wild-card game with Seattle. No team has ever won two straight overtime games in the playoffs.

The Eagles (13-4) will play host next week to Carolina. They lost the last two NFC title games – at home to Tampa Bay last season and at St. Louis two years ago.



*Donovan McNabb and the Eagles overcame a 14-0 deficit.*

## Manning spearheads Colts’ 38-31 victory

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – He’s been unstoppable – and Peyton Manning knows it.

“I am hot right now, we’re hot as an offense,” Manning said Sunday after picking apart the Kansas City Chiefs with 304 yards and three touchdowns in a 38-31 victory that put the Indianapolis Colts into the AFC title game.

“It’s not trickery, just running the same plays we’ve run all season,” the NFL co-MVP added, referring to the masterful performance that quickly quieted the usually raucous Arrowhead Stadium crowd. “Hopefully, we can keep it up next week.”

That would be in Foxboro, Mass., against the NFL’s best team, the Patriots.

New England has won 13 straight games and certainly will present a tougher challenge defensively for the Colts.



*Peyton Manning has completed 44 of 56 pass attempts in two postseason games.*

## Okafor helps Huskies torch Sooners

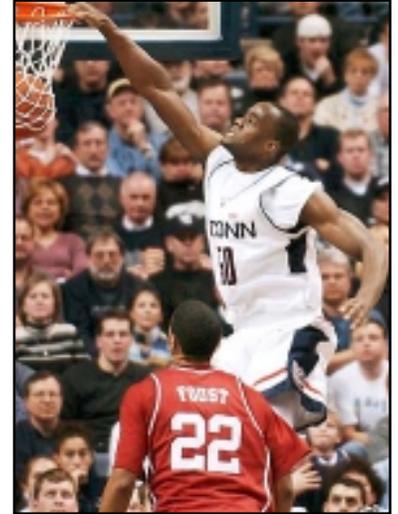
**STORRS, Conn.** – Emeka Okafor had a hard time hiding a smile. That happens when you and your team play a game that has people throwing around superlatives and compliments.

Okafor fell one blocked shot short of a triple-double and No. 1 Connecticut put on one of the most impressive defensive displays of the season, knocking No. 6 Oklahoma from the ranks of the unbeaten, 86-59 Sunday.

“That’s easily the best defense we played all year and we did it against a quality opponent,” Okafor said. “Everything’s contagious. The great defense led to our offense and it just keeps on going. We were all in synch and it showed out on the court.”

Connecticut’s defense was so good that Huskies coach Jim Calhoun said one of the officials commented to him after the game it was the best defense he had seen this season.

“We had flashes of being exceptional,” Calhoun said.



*Emeka Okafor has already recorded one triple-double this season.*

## Detroit Pistons roll past Mavericks

**AUBURN HILLS, Mich.** – The Detroit Pistons think they may have played their best Sunday night.

They were impressed with the outcome.

Chauncey Billups scored 21 of his 27 points in the second half and the Pistons won their eighth straight game despite allowing 100 points for the first time this season, beating the Dallas Mavericks 115-102 Sunday night.

“This is really close to where we want to be,” Billups said. “This is a glimpse of where we think we can get to. We can’t play this well every night, but this is what we want.”

Detroit, which hadn’t won eight in a row since the 1990-91 season, had its NBA-record streak of not allowing 100 points snapped at 38 games, including 36 this season. The Pistons had held their last two opponents under 70 points – Boston (68) and Houston (66). The Mavericks entered the game ranked second in the league in scoring, averaging 101.6 points a game.

“I don’t really think we’re going to miss the 100-point streak, as long as the winning steak keeps going,” Ben Wallace said. “If we keep playing like this, good things are going to happen to this team.”

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Afghan rocket attack on U.S. troops fails

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)** – A rocket was fired toward an airport used by American troops in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, but it failed to explode, the Afghan military reported.

The rocket screeched over a village near Khost city airport at about 2 a.m., said Niishauddin, a spokesman for the military commander of Khost province.

It failed to detonate, and investigators were not immediately able to find the impact site, he said by satellite telephone from Khost city, 90 miles southeast of the capital, Kabul.

Rockets are fired regularly at U.S. military bases across the south and east of the country, where anti-government insurgents have mounted a string of attacks on troops, government officials and aid workers.

Last month, Khost was a focus of Operation Avalanche, the latest American maneuver targeting insurgents along the Pakistan border. Al Qaeda rebels are believed to operate in the area.

Niishauddin, who like many Afghans uses only one name, also said a bomb was found on Saturday under a bridge on a main road used by American and Afghan troops as well as government officials. The bomb was removed and destroyed.

At least 36 people have died in violence in Afghanistan in the past week, including 15 civilians killed by a double bombing in the southern city of Kandahar.

## 3,000 new Afghan army Soldiers desert

**(AFP)** – Thousands of Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers have deserted the fledgling service after completing training by instructors from the United States, France and Britain, defence ministry officials said today.

“Some 3,000 ANA Soldiers have fled the army,” ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi said.

“The defence ministry has announced that they have to come back and join the army otherwise they will have to pay for all the expenses spent on their training.”

The desertions are a serious blow to the nascent ANA which, according to Zahir Azimi, numbers around 10,000 troops.

International observers have suggested the real strength of the ANA is closer to 7,000.

Even though it is forecast to grow to be about 70,000-strong, the ANA’s numbers are small in comparison to the 100,000 armed militia currently being disarmed and demobilized by government authorities.

Tough training, low wages and factional links to the private militias which still control wide swathes of the country outside Kabul are believed to be behind the mass exodus from the ANA.

It was not clear today exactly how much money had been spent on the deserters, but recruits receive \$50 a month (about \$65) during training and a minimum wage of \$70 per month after that.

In addition to their imported uniforms and tuition, soldiers receive a

\$7 a day food allowance and \$60 a month if they go on exercises outside the capital Kabul.

The ANA was formed in May 2002 after the ousting of the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban regime by U.S.-led forces.

It accepts volunteers and initially local militia commanders and warlords were instructed to force some of their troops to join the national army, although this practice has stopped.

“The militia commanders introduced the weak and lazy ones (into the ANA), not the active fighters, and they couldn’t bear the tough training,” Zahir Azimi said.

“The salary they were paid was less than what they could make in a month doing other things so they left.”

Afghanistan has endured almost three decades of war.

The 1992-1996 civil war destroyed all government institutions, including the national army. After the collapse of the Taliban regime in 2001, the Bonn agreements laid out plans for a national army and a police force to gather weapons and disarm militia.

The formation of the ANA was supervised by the U.S. army but with the assistance of Britain, New Zealand and France. Germany, Bulgaria, Romania, Canada, South Korea and Mongolia also supplied technical assistance.



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support