

Freedom Watch

November 27, 2003 ♦ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ♦ Bagram, Afghanistan

Thanksgiving Message from the Secretary of Defense

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday – a reminder not only of the abundance that freedom brings, but that ours was the first nation in the history of the world to be founded on freedom.

Freedom lies at the heart of who we are, and what we believe. And for more than two centuries, our country has been blessed with men and women willing to fight and die to defend the freedom we cherish.

More than two years have passed since the beginning of the global war on terror. You have sacrificed much to protect and defend the security of your fellow citizens at home — and to liberate some 46 million others from a life of brutality and fear.

Thanks to your courage and determination, freedom is taking root today in Afghanistan and Iraq. And terrorism as an instrument of fear and oppression is being confronted and beaten back. And that is an achievement for which we can be truly grateful.

And so, we give thanks for our freedom, and for all of you, who guard and protect it every day. We are thankful also for your families, who sacrifice so that you might serve. We are grateful for our friends and allies who stand with us in the war on terror and for each U.S. soldier, sailor, airman, and Marine — and those of our allies – who have given their lives in the cause of freedom.

Thank you for all you do. May God bless and protect you this day and always. And may He continue to bless the United States of America.

DONALD H. RUMSFELD

Visiting the troops...



Photo by Sgt. Martin Newton

Gen. Bryan D. Brown, Special Operations Command commander (left), and his support staff are shown around Camp Vance by 1st Lt. Jon Lorenzi, the camp's commandant. The general was briefed on several key points surrounding the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force daily operations at Bagram Air Base.

Cross training boosts productivity

Story by Spc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – “Needs of the Army” is a statement many troops fear, but for one troop here, it’s proved to be the best thing that could have happened to him.

Graduating from Advanced Initial Training in 2001 as a 91G, Patient Administration Specialist, Spc. David Martinez, Combined Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force, never thought he’d be stitching together a wounded sheep or helping to distribute medication to the nomad population of Afghanistan, but thanks to his chain of command allowing him to cross train with medical professionals, he is doing things he still can’t believe he’s involved in.

“When they said I was going to be a records clerk, I thought I was going to be behind a desk,” said Martinez with a chuckle.

That couldn’t be farther from the truth. As a reservist, he was attached to a

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English/Dari phrase of the day: *What is your name? - Naam-e-too chest*

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Two suspects are escorted to questioning.

Three more people held over deadly bombings in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Turkey – Three people arrested in connection with last week’s deadly Istanbul bombings — including two women — have been ordered to remain in jail, Turkey’s prosecutor’s office has said.

The three were among 18 people who were rounded up in a sweep that began Tuesday. Fifteen of those taken into custody were released, authorities said.

All three of those who remain in custody are of Turkish nationality.

Their arrests are related to the most recent attacks, in which 31 people were killed last Thursday when bombers targeted a British bank and British consulate.

On Tuesday, a judge ordered nine other people to remain in jail on charges related to the same bombings.

The nine were charged with aiding or being members of an illegal organization after hours of police questioning.

No trial date has been set, and the charges carry a maximum penalty of five years in prison if the defendants are found guilty. Seven other detainees were released.

Investigations into Thursday’s blasts are continuing with authorities pointing the finger at Muslim extremist Turks, some with links to Islamic radicals in Afghanistan and Chechnya, Turkish media reported.

The suspects included relatives of the bombers, all of whom came from Bingol, a center of Islamic fundamentalism in Turkey’s impoverished and mainly Kurdish southeast near the Iran border, Reuters news agency reported.



Iran says its nuclear facility at Arak, shown in this satellite photo, is for peaceful uses only.

Nuclear watchdog condemns Iran’s secret nuclear program

(CNN) – The U.N. nuclear watchdog’s governing board has approved a resolution condemning Iran’s secret nuclear program.

The agency’s chief said Wednesday that it sent a “serious and ominous message” to Tehran that future breaches of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty would “not be tolerated.”

“It clearly strengthens my hand in fulfilling our task in ensuring Iran’s program is exclusively for peaceful purposes,” said Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The resolution, passed as expected by the IAEA’s 35 members during a meeting in Vienna, notes Iran’s past breaches and calls on Tehran to cooperate with the U.N. body.

It also welcomes Iran’s recent offer “of active cooperation and openness.”

Iran has agreed to allow tougher U.N. inspections of its nuclear facilities and to suspend its uranium enrichment program, but the U.S. wants to see the words backed by actions.

But the resolution did not go as far as agreeing to Washington’s wishes for Iran to be referred to the Security Council.

Instead, the door has been left open for further action by the IAEA if Iran fails to comply with the nuclear agency.

The draft resolution read: “Should any further serious Iranian failures come to light, the [IAEA] board of governors would meet immediately to consider, in light of the circumstances and the advice of the director general, all options at its disposal.”

ElBaradei said he was pleased agreement had come through dialogue, and that “work is in progress.”

He said the resolution “deplores in the strongest terms” Iran’s previous secrecy and warned that if it did not comply “fully and with transparency,” action would be taken.



Air travelers wait for their rides Wednesday at Oakland, California, International Airport.

Travel season starts smoothly

(CNN) – The busy Thanksgiving travel rush was off to a smooth start Wednesday, with few reported flight delays and good weather conditions across much of the country.

But holiday travelers weren’t out of the woods yet.

“Today was great, and we are very pleased, but passengers should know that Sunday will be even a busier day,” said Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman Deirdre O’Sullivan.

At 6:30 p.m. EST, the Federal Aviation Administration air traffic Web site indicated that arriving flights at Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport were being delayed an average of 20 minutes because of strong winds.

The site also listed volume-related delays averaging 24 minutes for some flights arriving at Minneapolis-St Paul International/Wold-Chamberlain Airport in Minnesota.

Similar delays held up travelers at Newark International Airport in New Jersey and at Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport in Florida for less than 30 minutes, according to the site. Lines at security-screening checkpoints peaked at about 20 minutes at airports in Northern Virginia, Atlanta, Georgia, and Boston, Massachusetts, O’Sullivan said.

U.S. to consult allies on posture

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department is ready to start consulting with allies on what the worldwide American military posture should be, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said at the Pentagon press conference today.

Rumsfeld said the decision follows years of interagency work on America's military posture and what it should look like to confront the threats of the 21st century.

Military posture refers to the size and location of a nation's armed forces. For example, the secretary recently announced changes to the basing posture of American forces in the Republic of Korea. Rumsfeld stressed that these are preliminary talks with allies around the world. The United States is not going to present a "fait accompli" to allies. Rather it will be a true give-and-take and the talks will be open and frank, defense officials said.

"How it will all end up will depend in a major way on our discussions with our allies, friends and partners," Rumsfeld said. "And because of the costs involved and because of the importance of the Congress in this role, we will be engaging the Congress on those subjects as well."

The process will take months to finish consultations and years to actually accomplish. While some small progress might be made next year, troops returning from Iraq, for example, will return to the bases they left from, said Pentagon officials.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers said the primary goal of the global posture "is that as we rearrange ourselves in the world, that we do a better job of enhancing U.S. security and the security of our friends and allies."

He said that change makes people nervous, and he understands that, but any decision will mean a better defense.

A senior defense official said later that there are a number of overarching concepts that lie behind the global posture. The first is that any change would enhance flexibility in order to deal with uncertainty. The second is to expand allied roles and build new partnerships. The third is to focus on conditions within and across regions. The fourth is to develop rapidly deployable capabilities. Fifth, and finally, the concept focuses on capabilities, not numbers.

(Information provided by the American Forces Press Service.)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

"Reign of Fire"

1530Z at the MWR building:
A brood of fire-breathing dragons emerges from the earth and begins setting fire to everything, establishing dominance over the planet.



Tomorrow's movie: "Young Guns II"

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Friday
Bagram:	Clear H: 64F L: 34F	Mostly Cloudy H: 57F L: 34F
Kandahar:	Mostly Clear H: 59F L: 32F	Mostly Clear H: 61F L: 32F
Kabul:	Haze H: 57F L: 30F	Haze H: 59F L: 34F
Uzbekistan:	Clear H: 56F L: 35F	Clear H: 58F L: 35F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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civil affairs team, and now in Bagram he works out of the surgeon cell, grasping every opportunity he can to learn about the field.

“Here, I work as a med(ical) NCO (noncommissioned officer) where I help organize CMAs (Cooperative Medical Assistance programs),” said Martinez. “I can do both human treatment and animal treatment; I’ve been cross trained to do both.”

This records clerk hasn’t filed one document, but he has performed minor surgery on a wounded animal under a medical professional’s supervision.

“I’ve learned a lot, especially about animals,” he said referring to his experiences in Afghanistan. “I’ve always been interested in medicine (and) I’m very glad I’m doing everything but my MOS.”

Cross training allows troops to experience parts of the Army that they would normally never see, he said.

“You get a broad view of how the Army works and the experiences you get help you in a personal perspective,” he said. “It helps you define what you want to do with your life (and) I think it’s a very good idea.”

Martinez’s many opportunities in the surgeon cell have heightened his love for the medical field and have inspired him to look more closely at the profession as a career.

“I’ve been looking into re-classifying as a 91D, an operating room technician,” he said. “You’re in the operating room with the doctors, seeing everything that the doctors do. I think for my career preference, that would be the best choice.”

Martinez’s interest in medicine began before entering the military and his ability to feel at ease in the field was an easy transition due to his civilian Emergency Medical Technician training and knowledge, but the opportunities he has received in the surgeon cell have solidified his dedication to the medical field.

Even though a career switch may not be the result of every cross

training opportunity, productivity within the unit may be positively affected with this type of training.

“I think cross training’s great,” said Sgt. 1st Class Philip Brewton, CJCMOTF surgeon cell. “Whenever you have someone that’s cross trained it helps the mission out as a whole, especially in a combat environment (because) you never know when someone’s going to either get sick, hurt or injured in combat.”

After being in the military for nearly twenty years, Brewton said that having a soldier who knows a bit of everything creates versatility that is important in their line of work.

“When everyone at least knows the basics of everybody’s job, everyone works together as a team,” he said.

Communication between the crew members is much quicker and simpler when everyone speaks a little of the other’s language. In a combat environment, that’s an important skill to possess, he added.

“As an NCO, what we do is train,” said Brewton. Cross training your soldiers so they are a versatile and productive asset to your team is just another way to build a stronger, more dependable unit.

“In Spc. Martinez’s case, he’s nothing but an asset because of the doctors, veterinarians and the combat medics showing him the ropes,” said Brewton. “I’m a strong advocate for cross training. It’s more efficient (and) it really helps out.”



Spc. David Martinez, CJCMOTF, provides medical attention to a local national during a Cooperative Medical Assistance mission earlier this year.

Courtesy Photo



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

Indiana starts brutal stretch with wins

INDIANAPOLIS—The Indiana Pacers knew the early success they have enjoyed would be tested with a brutal stretch of 10 games in 16 days.

Two games into the swing, they couldn't ask for anything better. The Pacers ground out a win over the feisty Orlando Magic on Monday, then followed it up with one of their best all-around performances of the young season Tuesday night against Minnesota.

The two wins give Indiana an NBA-best 12-2 record.

"We're showing improvement," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "That's what our thing's got to be all about."

After the sluggish performance against Orlando in an 89-78 win, the Pacers improved in every facet against the Timberwolves, a playoff contender in the mighty Western Conference.

Indiana dominated on both ends of the floor in the 98-75 win over the Timberwolves. The Pacers had six players score in double figures, led by Ron Artest's 20 points, and held their opponent under 82 points for the ninth time in 11 games to win their sixth game in a row.

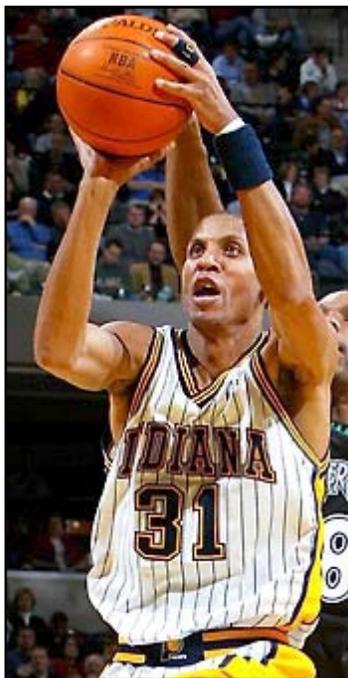
"Pride and hard work are driving this team," said point guard Kenny Anderson. That hard work has helped the Pacers overcome a chaotic offseason and assert themselves atop the league standings.

Larry Bird took over the basketball operations this summer and brought Carlisle in to replace Isiah Thomas less than a month before the season started. The players struggled initially to grasp Carlisle's complex offensive system and adapt to his more straight-laced coaching style.

They embraced his defense-first mentality, an attitude that carried them through their first 10 games. Indiana leads the league in allowing just 81.4 points a game.

Tight end says he's ready to play, but team doctors haven't given okay

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.—New York Giants coach Jim Fassel seemed less certain Wednesday that tight end Jeremy Shockey would be ready to return to the lineup against the Buffalo Bills this weekend.



Reggie Miller: "When we play collectively, if we play together, move the basketball and play as a team, greater things are at the end of the rainbow for all of us."

Fassel said team doctors have not given Shockey the OK to play on Sunday and the second-year player also has to tell him he's ready to go.

"I want to see him perform before I will actually sign off on it," Fassel said.

Shockey was listed as questionable in the Giants injury report, meaning he's 50-50 for the game. He has not played since spraining his left knee against Atlanta on Nov. 9.

Shockey refused to talk in the locker room Wednesday.

Cornerback Ralph Brown, who has been sidelined since dislocating a shoulder in the Atlanta game, should be ready to return against Washington on Dec. 7, Fassel said. Instead of practicing on Wednesday, the Giants worked out in the weight room and watched films to prepare for Sunday's game.

"Physically, when you come back, especially 48 hours after the game, your body is not ready," said Fassel, whose team played Monday in Tampa, Fla.

Simien scores 28 as No. 6 Jayhawks hold on to beat No. 3 Spartans

LAWRENCE, Kan.—Life without Roy Williams may not be so bad after all.

Wayne Simien scored 28 points and hustling, hard-nosed No. 6 Kansas withstood a late rally in college basketball's first marquee matchup of the year and beat No. 3 Michigan State 81-74 Tuesday night.

"I saw some things out there tonight that I have seen only a few times in practice," said Bill Self, who's 2-0 as Williams' successor.

Self said his Jayhawks seem to be coming together under a new system and coach faster than even he had expected.

"I hope it gives us credibility with our players that our system works," he said. "We won a money game tonight. I think the guys will gain confidence."



Aaron Miles (right) contributed 17 points and six assists.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

U.S. team to build Tajik-Afghan bridge

By Monica Whitlock

(BBC) – A team of American engineers have started initial work on a plan to build a bridge to Afghanistan from Central Asia.

The bridge is to run between southern Tajikistan and northern Afghanistan, spanning the River Amu which divides the two countries.

It is designed to carry both trade and humanitarian help, but there is also a political aspect as this is the first time the U.S. has been involved in such a project, in what is traditionally regarded as Russia's sphere of influence.

The bridge is to run from the village of Panj-e Payan on the Tajik side, to Imam Saheb in Afghanistan, a distance of about 700 metres.

It is to be a broad, all weather bridge built on arches standing in the Amu. It could change this corner of the world quite radically.

It opens up trade and travel between Afghanistan and Tajikistan and could be a permanent conduit for aid.

Up until now only decrepit ferry boats made the crossing, passing slowly from bank to bank.

U.S. troops get taste of home on holiday

PHILADELPHIA (AP) – Far from the family Thanksgiving table and miles from Mom's turkey and stuffing, American troops deployed overseas during the holidays can still get a taste of home on Thanksgiving.

A military center in Philadelphia operated by the Defense Logistics Agency is responsible for providing food rations to troops stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

In southwest Asia alone, the shopping list this year includes approximately 80,000 pounds of boneless turkeys; 7,000 pounds of whole turkeys; 14,040 cans of cranberry sauce; 48,500 bags of cornbread stuffing mix; 5,200 cans of mashed potatoes; and 3,000 cases of corn on the cob.

It's enough to feed an army a quintessentially American meal.

"Obviously, food is a big morale-builder every day of the week. When people out in the field can get a hot meal, that's something special," said Rich Faso, the center's chief of operational rations business units.

When turkey and gravy replace ordinary rations for Thanksgiving, it's even more significant, he said.

The Philadelphia supply facility is one of three major purchasing centers in the country, said Defense Logistics Agency spokesman Jack Hooper. The other two are in Richmond, Va., and Columbus, Ohio.

The center, part of the Department of Defense, also distributes medical, general and industrial supplies.

Clinton, Reed to spend Thanksgiving with troops in Afghanistan, visit Iraq

WASHINGTON (FOX News) – Democratic Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Jack Reed say they will spend Thanksgiving in Afghani-

stan and then travel to Iraq to meet with soldiers.

The former first lady and Reed, who is a former Army paratrooper, have been critical of the Bush administration's handling of post-combat problems in the war on terrorism.

Clinton, D-N.Y., and Reed, D-R.I., said Tuesday they were concerned about current efforts to win the "hearts and minds" of Iraqis.

"This administration is run by people who have been obsessed with Saddam Hussein (search) for more than a decade," Clinton said. "And the fact that they could have been so poorly informed and prepared raises a lot of serious questions about the decisions they are making now."

Reed said he was worried "the administration seems to be rushing toward an exit strategy."

While in Afghanistan, Clinton plans to spend time with members of the 10th Mountain Division, which is based in Fort Drum, N.Y.

Procedures for clearing the M16/M4 series weapon

This paragraph explains the techniques and procedures for clearing the M16-/M4-series weapon. Additional mechanical training is available in TM 9-1005-319-10 to include disassembly, maintenance, assembly, loading, and sight manipulation.

- a. Point in a SAFE DIRECTION! Place selector lever on SAFE. If weapon is not cocked, lever cannot be pointed toward SAFE.
- b. Remove the magazine by depressing the magazine catch button and pulling the magazine down.
- c. To lock bolt open, pull charging handle rearward. Press bottom of bolt catch and allow bolt to move forward until it engages bolt catch. Return charging handle to full forward position. If you haven't before, place selector lever on SAFE.
- d. Check receiver and chamber to ensure these areas contain no ammo.
- e. With selector lever pointing toward SAFE, allow bolt to go forward by pressing upper portion of bolt catch.

NOTE:

If the rifle will not be fired immediately close the ejection port cover.

WARNING:

To be considered safe before disassembly, cleaning, inspecting or storing, the weapon must be cleared.