



FREEDOM WATCH



June 19, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Suicide bomb kills 18

JERUSALEM — An apparent suicide bomber set off a blast on a city bus outside Jerusalem Tuesday, killing 18 people and wounding at least 50 others. The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the terror attack.

More arrested in terrorist plot

RABAT, Morocco — Moroccan authorities have arrested a sixth person after detaining a group suspected of plotting al Qaeda “terrorist” attacks on U.S. and British ships. A Moroccan woman was arrested last week and accused of links with the five-member group of suspected al Qaeda members already being held.

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Truck bombing still under investigation

By Sgt. Reeba Critser
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – Sunday morning, at 4:30 a.m., Zulu, U.S. military police responded to the sound of an explosion coming from approximately two kilometers north of Khandahar Air Base.

Upon arrival, the MPs and their explosive detector dogs discovered a damaged fuel truck and another fuel truck with an explosive device attached to it. Shortly after their arrival, the second truck exploded.

The trucks were used to transport aviation fuel to the air base from Pakistan. The MPs apprehended

and later released eight Afghan suspects believed to be responsible for the incident.

“We now have a military connection,” said Col. Roger King, Combined Joint Task Force - 180 public affairs officer. “The trucks

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Photos by Spc. Erica Leigh Foley

In memory

Sgt. James Parker and Pfc. Bobby Tompson, of the 92nd Engineer Battalion, build a memorial for all the CJTF soldiers injured and killed in Afghanistan. See the June 21 issue of *Freedom Watch* for more on this story.



Pilots help elevate missions to new heights

By Spc. Gustavo Bahena
10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan— A pilot maneuvered a helicopter toward two helmeted soldiers who waited for the aircraft to stop and after a hand signal began refueling while the helicopter’s engine and rotors still

spun.

The UH-60L Blackhawk helicopter, a second Blackhawk and an AH-64A Apache helicopter had just returned from a flight which originated at Bagram Air Base and took the aircraft as far south as the capital city of Kabul. The pilots, helicopter crew chiefs and fuel special-

ists are ready to support flight missions requested by units with the Coalition Joint Task Force Mountain and the CJTF 180 at Bagram.

“We support units that request to go out and do reconnaissance missions,” said Chief Warrant Of-

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ficer Tara M. Sykes-Hill, a Blackhawk pilot with Company A, 4/101st Aviation Regiment out of Fort Campbell, Ky.

The purpose of that morning's flight was to take a new chief of security and an incoming S-2 Intelligence unit at Bagram to view areas near the air base and Kabul, said Chief Warrant Officer Brian D. Buol, a Blackhawk pilot with Company A.

The Blackhawks flew with both of their side-doors open and at times flew at tilted angles so personnel could get better views of the sites that were of interest to them. At each side-door, a Blackhawk crew chief sat strapped in and was ready to operate an M-60D machine gun.

"From the air I scan the terrain and keep an eye out for tank hulls, other abandoned vehicles and caves and observe if any hostile threat is directed towards the aircraft," said Spc. Joel D. McDanel, crew chief for a Blackhawk with Company A.

The Apache was always near the Blackhawks, providing cover with its arsenal of firepower. Apaches also fly ahead of the

Blackhawks to make sure it is clear for them to approach certain areas, said McDanel.

The flight did not provoke any known hostility and the response from many ground observers was acknowledgement with the waving of arms and hands. The flight route was familiar and is the normal one between here and Kabul, said Buol.

The view from the helicopter included many villages with green agricultural areas, muddy flowing rivers, many mountains and ridges, and the hustle and bustle of Kabul. After reaching Kabul, the helicopters flew over more sites and returned to Bagram where the fuel specialists were waiting.

Beginning with the Apache, three fuel specialists began a "hot re-fuel" for the three aircraft.

"We call it a hot re-fuel because we inject the fuel while the blades are spinning and the engine is turning," said Spc. Erik N. Jones, a petroleum supply specialist with the 109th Quartermaster Company, 49th Group from Fort Lee, Va.,

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and attached to the 102nd Quartermaster Co., 129th Battalion here.

"A hot re-fuel requires that we ground and bond the fuel line to the helicopter so that the risk of fire caused by static electricity is reduced," said Sgt. Trayvis L. Huskey, non-commissioned officer in charge of the Quartermaster company.

During the hot re-fuel, McDanel performs a basic fire watch.

"I make sure the refuelers have their gloves and goggles on. I tell the pilot when the aircraft is grounded and the fuel hose is attached, and I check for any fuel hose leaks or breaks," said McDanel.

Keeping an eye out for hazards is only one part of the job for the personnel that keep helicopters in the air for the units at Bagram. The personnel are committed to the flight missions and the individuals involved in any flight.

As expressed in an example by McDanel, "In case of a fire during a refuel, we are supposed to move away; but if a pilot is still in the helicopter I'm not going to let anyone stay and burn."

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were heading for the air base refuel point."

As a safety precaution, Khandahar Air Base officials placed a refuel point five miles off base, where they transfer fuel from commercial trucks to military trucks.

King dismisses the notion of criminals wanting to bomb the base.

"If that was the plan, it was a pretty ill-conceived plan," he said, because there was no way the commercial trucks would get on base.

The incident is still under investigation.

News briefs

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Pakistan returns troops to border

WASHINGTON — Pakistan has moved troops back to its border with Afghanistan to help U.S. forces cut off remnants of al Qaeda and the Taliban. The military standoff between India and Pakistan had prompted Pakistan to move troops from its northwest frontier to reinforce the Indian border last month.

Outbreak affects kindergarteners

HONG KONG, China — At least 30 children from a kindergarten in Hong Kong have contracted the potentially fatal hand-foot-and-mouth disease. Officials were first told of the outbreak last Thursday and the number of infected children at the school in the New Territories had since doubled.

Lindh judge rejects change of venue

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia — A federal judge Monday rejected a defense motion for a change of venue in the trial of John Walker Lindh, the man dubbed the "Taliban American" and also rejected a defense motion contending that because Walker Lindh was a soldier with combat immunity the charges against him should be dropped.

If you have story ideas, visit the 28th Public Affairs Detachment, located on the second floor of Motel 6 on Bagram Air Base, or email reeba.critser@us.army.mil.

The Bagram Dining Facility hours are 0700 - 0830 (L), and 1700 - 1900 (L)

Officers to ask for assignments online

Army News Service
WASHINGTON — Army officers will be able to submit their assignment preference statements via the Internet by accessing the U.S. Army Personnel Command homepage beginning July 1.

The online preference statement will enable officers, for the first time, the ability to view open valid requisitions that assignment managers are working to fill, according to officials.

“In the past our customers have only been able to see open assignments on various branch websites,” said Ms. Jan Frutiger automation branch chief for PERSCOM’s Officer Per-

sonnel Management Directorate. “With the online preference statements officers will have a broader view of the positions that assignment managers are working to fill. They will be able to evaluate the special requirements for the position before making their choice.”

Branch, grade and area of concentration are the filters for the information that is shown on the preference statement. Officers can make selections specifically by valid and open requisitions, by location or by specific duty such as joint, ROTC or recruiting. The assignment manager will then have immediate visibility to

this information as he walks through the decision process for filling a requisition.

“The preference statement is what the field has asked for,” said Brig. Gen.

David Valcourt the OPMD director. “It’s going to empower officers to better participate in the decisions that impact their career and help streamline and improve the responsiveness of the officer assignment process.”

Officers will be able to select their preferences on the PERSCOM homepage by clicking on the officer preference statement dog tag when the option comes online next month.

HIND SIGHT

1846

1st baseball game (Cartwright Rules)- NY Nines 23, Knickerbockers 1

1917

After WWI, King George V ordered members of the British royal family to dispense with German titles & surnames. They take the name Windsor.

1938

Italy beats Hungary 4-1 in soccer’s 3rd World Cup at Paris

1961

Kuwait regains complete independence from Britain

Local weather

TWO-DAY AFGHANISTAN WEATHER REPORT:

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
<u>Bagram:</u>	Partly cloudy H: 99F L: 64F	Partly cloudy H: 99F L: 63F
<u>Kandahar:</u>	Haze H: 104F L: 72F	Haze H: 106F L: 73F
<u>Khowst:</u>	Thunderstorms H: 99F L: 72F	Partly cloudy H: 100F L: 68F

Weather 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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To be added to the distribution list, e-mail Reeba.Critser@us.army.mil.

COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

Turkey dashes Japan's hopes

Umit Davila scored in the 12th minute to lead Turkey to its first ever quarterfinal berth. Japan was enjoying its most successful World Cup appearance in history.

Brazil continues World Cup run

The four-time champions seem ready to win it all again after defeating Belgium 2-0.

Rivaldo and Ronaldo each scored for the last remaining Latin American country left in the draw.

Pete Sampras gets low ranking

Sampras received his lowest rank at the All-England Club since 1991 when he was seeded eighth. Venus and Serena Williams both are seeded 1 and 2 respectively in the women's draw. The tournament begins next Monday.

Texas a win away from CWS final

Texas Lonhorns designated hitter J.D. Reininger hit a two-run homerun to power the 'Horns to a 8-7 victory over Stanford.

The 'Horns, who are in the College World Series semifinals for the first time since 1989, have been to the CWS 29 times and have won four national championships.

2002 World Cup First Round Standings

Group A

x-Denmark	2-0-1	7
y-Senegal	1-0-2	5
Uruguay	0-1-2	2
France	0-2-1	1

Group B

x-Spain	3-0-0	9
y-Paraguay	1-1-1	4
South Africa	1-1-1	4
Slovenia	0-3-0	0

Group C

x-Brazil	3-0-0	9
y-Turkey	1-1-1	4
Costa Rica	1-1-1	4
China	0-3-0	0

Group D

x-South Korea	2-0-1	7
y-United States	1-1-1	4
Portugal	1-2-0	3
Poland	1-2-0	3

Group E

x-Germany	2-0-1	7
y-Ireland	1-0-2	5
Cameroon	1-1-1	4
Saudi Arabia	0-3-0	0

Group F

x-Sweden	1-0-2	5
y-England	1-0-2	5
Argentina	1-1-1	4
Nigeria	0-2-1	1

Group G

x-Mexico	2-0-1	7
y-Italy	1-1-1	4
Croatia	1-2-0	3
Ecuador	1-2-0	3

Group H

x-Japan	2-0-1	7
y-Belgium	1-0-2	5
Russia	1-2-0	3
Tunisia	0-2-1	1

World Cup second round schedule

Germany 1-0 Paraguay

England 3-0 Denmark

Senegal 2-1,OT, Sweden

Spain 1-1 Ireland (Spain advances 3-2 PKs)

United States 2-0 Mexico

Brazil 2-0 Belgium

Turkey 1-0 Japan

South Korea 2-1, OT, Italy

World Cup quarterfinals

Friday — Germany v. United States

Friday — England v. Brazil

Saturday — Senegal v. Turkey

Saturday — Spain v. South Korea

World Cup semifinals

June 25 — Quarter 1 v. Quarter 4

June 26 — Quarter 2 v. Quarter 3

World Cup Final @ Yokohama, Japan

June 30 — Semifinal winners

2002 NASCAR Standings

1. Sterling Marlin 2164 (2 wins)
2. R-Jimmie Johnson 2054 (2)
3. Jeff Gordon 2054 (defending champion)
 4. Mark Martin 1990 (1)
 5. Matt Kenseth 1974 (3)
 6. Rusty Wallace 1972
 7. Tony Stewart 1935 (2)
 8. Ricky Rudd 1870
 9. Kurt Busch 1838 (1)
 10. Bill Elliott 1825
 11. Jeff Burton 1809
 12. Dale Jarrett 1803 (1)
 13. Ricky Craven 1729
 14. Michael Waltrip 1696
 15. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 1653 (1)
 16. R-Ryan Newman 1648