



FREEDOM WATCH



July 14, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

U.N. agrees to peacekeeper exemption

UNITED NATIONS

— After weeks of pressure from Washington, the U.N. Security Council voted Friday to exempt U.S. peacekeepers from prosecution by an international war crimes court for one year. The 12-month exemption could be renewed “for as long as may be necessary,” according to a resolution that passed unanimously Friday evening. U.S. officials had hoped for an automatic annual renewal of any suspension but was forced to bend after encountering fierce opposition.

NY boy beaten to death over a dollar

NEW YORK — A troubled 13-year-old Brooklyn boy found beaten to death and stuffed in a closet earlier this week, was killed in a dispute over a dollar, police said. The grim details of Patrick Bhola’s

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CJTF-180 commander visits officials in Jalabad

Capital city home to deceased Afghan VP

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

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Combined Joint Task Force-180 commander, Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill, continued his tour of Afghanistan Thursday with a stop in Jalabad.

Jalabad, the capital city of the Nangerhar Province of Afghanistan, was home

to former Afghan Vice President Haji Abdul Qadir, who was buried Sunday. Qadir was one of five vice presidents installed by newly elected Afghan president Hamid Karzai. He was assassinated earlier this month in Kabul.

“I was glad to have the opportunity to express my condolences,” McNeill said. “I think they’re all saddened by the event, but I believe they understand they have to move forward and help

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CJTF Commander, Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill, speaks to Gen. Ali, with the help of an interpreter.

Bagram Airmen light up Afghan children’s faces

Story & photo by Capt. Christa D’Andrea
Coalition Press Information Center
BAGRAM AIR

BASE, Afghanistan — Upon arrival at the orphanage, American airmen and soldiers were greeted by the sound of youthful voices belting out a song in their native tongue. For three firefighters from the 455th Air Expeditionary Group at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, this harmonic greeting was a welcome they will never forget.



Tech. Sgt. Richard Verduzco, 455th Expeditionary Air Group, bonds with boys from the Charikar orphanage while trying to teach them a “secret” handshake.

Tech. Sgt. Richard Verduzco, Senior Airman Ricardo Campos and Airman 1st Class Eric Smith, along with Army Civil Affairs soldiers,

completed a successful mission July 10 to deliver humanitarian supplies to 100 boys and girls at the Charikar orphanage in the northern

alliance-controlled area of Afghanistan.

“This is outstanding,” said Smith, from the 354th Civil Engineer Squadron at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. “It’s one thing to be here for the purpose we are here for, but it’s another to come and see the youth and the future of this country and to help them out and get them on the right foot. There’s no better reward.”

The firefighters, whose mission is to pro-

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this country move forward.”

He added that the assassination didn't appear to hinder Afghan/American relations in the city.

“I think they're anxious about the loss of such a great leader, but they want to see continued security and stability in the area so they can get about they're lives,” he said. “They'd like to know that these sorts of things will not disrupt their lives.”

McNeill's first stop on the trip was to an American Special Forces unit stationed in the city. Following the assassination, the unit was instrumental in heightening secu-

rity in the area.

“They looked to be in pretty good shape, and had good situational awareness,” McNeill said. “I think they're doing a good job.”

Later, he went to the governor's palace, where he met with Afghan 1st Corps commander, Gen. Hazrat Ali.

“We had a chance to talk as leaders,” McNeill said. “We hope that we will be able to help them in their area, not only with security and stability, but perhaps, setting the conditions for more nongovernmental agencies to come to their area.”

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vide fire protection to more than 7,000 U.S. and coalition forces here, had a collection of school supplies and candy to hand out.

“A lot of these supplies were from our previous chief's church group in New Jersey,” said Verduzco, from the 60th CES at Travis AFB, Calif. “We also delivered supplies from donations we recently received from families back home.”

In the small classroom where the children sit on dirty blankets rather than at desks, they clamored to be the first in line to receive a new pen or pad of paper, a precious commodity in this country. Soldiers and airmen handed out twice as many supplies as there were children in a matter of minutes.

One airman tried to find the exact words to describe his

feelings.

“We're not soldiers of war, we're soldiers of peace,” said Campos, also from the 60th CES. “I cannot even describe the feeling of gratification you get from delivering these supplies.”

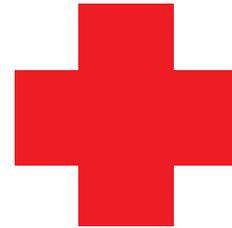
Besides school necessities, airmen and soldiers also delivered medical supplies, food, toys and clothing.

This was not just a humanitarian mission to deliver supplies, but it was also an opportunity for the firefighters to see another side of why they are deployed to this location. This was their first encounter with locals outside of the air base.

Verduzco said that they hope to “hook-up” with civil affairs often to get as many airmen as possible out on a mission.

“I think this is important for them to see,” said Verduzco, who took a moment during the mission to teach some of the boys a “secret” handshake.

RED CROSS



The American Red Cross is located on the 2nd floor of Motel 6 at Bagram Air Base.

They are open seven days a week, 3:30 a.m. (Zulu) to 3:30 p.m. (Zulu).

Everyone is welcome for free popcorn, coffee and goodies. Drop in and check us out.



Photo by Capt. Christa D'Andrea
Airmen from the 354th Civil Engineering Squadron at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, teach Charikar orphans to write their names.

“This is a totally different and rewarding side of the mission.”

In a country that has been devastated by war for decades, a friendly smile and some bonding time with American troops means just as much to both parties as do the supplies.

All three airmen never “thought in a million years” they would wind up in Afghanistan. Smith said when he

left the base for the first time he felt a sense of hope for the people.

“I saw a lot of people (outside the base) and I couldn't help but feel like a star in a parade with all the thumbs in the air,” he said. “The people had genuine smiles. You can tell they are happy to see us and to me that shows us that what we're doing is great!”

HIND SIGHT

1789

Bastille Day-citizens of Paris storm Bastille prison

1850

First public demonstration of ice made by refrigeration

1868

Tape measure enclosed in a circular case patented by A.J. Fellows

1914

First patent for liquid-fueled rocket design granted to Dr. R. Goddard

1951

First color telecast of a sporting event (CBS-horse race)

1990

“Howard Stern’s Summer Show” premieres on WWOR-TV

BRIEFS, from Page 1

death came to light Thursday after an 18-year-old man and a 20-year-old woman were charged with his murder and kidnapping. The two accused Bhola of stealing a dollar coin, tied him up, and then took turns beating him with a baseball bat, police said. They later confessed to fatally beating the youngster. Both suspects are in custody.

At least 52 people killed in fighting across Colombia

LA PLATA, Colombia — Clashes across Colombia this week left at least 52 rebels and government soldiers dead. Officials believe the guerrilla violence was probably linked to the upcoming inauguration of President-elect Alvaro Uribe, voted into power on promises to step up the fight against the rebels. In the town of Toribio, police were forced to surrender Friday when they ran out of ammunition after a 20-hour fight with the rebels. Unarmed villagers in the town 185 miles southwest of Bogota intervened on behalf of the officers and they were freed.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Monday</u>
<u>Bagram:</u>	Showers H: 91F L: 70F	Showers H: 93F L: 72F
<u>Khandahar:</u>	Haze H: 102F L: 73F	Haze H: 106F L: 75F
<u>Kabul:</u>	Showers H: 88F L: 66F	Showers H: 88F L: 68F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	Clear H: 99F L: 71F	Clear H: 101F L: 72F

Weather forecast 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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COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

Blood found in Iverson's car

Police found broken glass and smeared blood inside a vehicle frequently driven by Allen Iverson's wife, but an extensive search of the Philadelphia 76ers' star's home and cars failed to turn up any guns.

Investigators also found rocks and women's clothing inside Tawana Iverson's Cadillac Escalade.

It was not clear what impact the discovery had on the case.

Criminal defense attorney David McGlaughlin said jurors might suspect the story was embellished to cash in on Iverson's fame.

Iverson's attorney is on vacation in Europe and his law firm would not comment on the case or its findings.

Iverson lead the NBA in scoring last season. *(Courtesy of espn.com)*

2002 Senior Players Championship

Third round

Mike McCullough	68-69-67—204	12-under
Hubert Green	71-63-71—205	11-under
Stewart Ginn	66-72-70—208	8-under
Doug Tewell	73-68-68—209	7-under
Ray Floyd	71-73-65—209	
Hale Irwin	64-73-72—209	
Larry Nelson	71-69-69—209	
Bob Murphy	78-64-68—210	6-under
Jim Thorpe	74-69-67—210	
Jay Sigel	71-67-73—211	5-under
Dave Stockton	72-68-71—211	
Bruce Lietzke	71-70-70—211	
Ed Dougherty	70-72-70—212	4-under
Allen Doyle	75-68-69—212	
Tom Wargo	71-68-73—212	
Fuzzy Zoeller	70-73-69—212	
Mark McCumber	67-71-74—212	
Ted Goin	72-69-72—213	3-under
Tom Kite	71-72-70—213	
Vicente Fernandez	74-72-67—213	
Bruce Fleisher	76-69-69—214	2-under
Tom Jenkins	67-71-76—214	
Gary McCord	75-73-66—214	
Bob Eastwood	72-73-69—214	
Tom Purtzer	74-69-71—214	
Butch Sheehan	70-70-75—215	1-under
Roy Vucinic	73-70-72—215	
Jim Ahern	75-71-69—215	
Hugh Baiocchi	71-73-71—215	
Graham Marsh	71-74-70—215	

2002 Major League standings

American League East		GB
N.Y. Yankees	57-33 .633	-
Boston	53-35 .602	3
Baltimore	42-46 .477	14
American League Central		GB
Minnesota	52-40 .565	-
Chicago (AL)	43-49 .467	9
Cleveland	40-49 .455	10.5
American League West		GB
Seattle	57-34 .626	-
Anaheim	53-36 .596	3
Oakland	53-38 .582	4
National League East		GB
Atlanta	58-33 .637	-
Montreal	47-43 .522	10.5
Florida	45-45 .500	12.5
National League Central		GB
St. Louis	47-39 .547	-
Cincinnati	46-44 .511	3
Houston	44-45 .494	4.5
National League West		GB
Arizona	54-36 .600	-
Los Angeles	54-37 .593	.5
San Francisco	52-38 .578	2

Saturday

Detroit 5-3	Chicago W. Sox
Detroit 3-1	Chicago W. Sox
Philadelphia 1-0	N.Y. Mets
Toronto 4-1	Boston
Chicago 9-2	Florida
Arizona 7-5	Los Angeles
San Francisco 6-1	Colorado
Tampa Bay 4-3	Seattle
Oakland 6-0	Baltimore
N.Y. Yankees 14-5	Cleveland
Kansas City 4-0	Anaheim
Pittsburgh 5-3	Milwaukee
Texas 8-1	Minnesota
Montreal 6-3	Atlanta
St. Louis 1-1	San Diego

Today

Chicago W. Sox	at	Detroit
Cincinnati	at	Houston
Philadelphia	at	N.Y. Mets
Boston	at	Toronto
Florida	at	Chicago Cubs
Arizona	at	Los Angeles
Colorado	at	San Francisco
Seattle	at	Tampa Bay
Oakland	at	Baltimore
N.Y. Yankees	at	Cleveland
Anaheim	at	Kansas City
Pittsburgh	at	Milwaukee
Texas	at	Minnesota
Atlanta	at	Montreal
St. Louis	at	San Diego