



FREEDOM WATCH



July 17, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

John Lindh pleads guilty

ALEXANDRIA, Va. —

The 21-year-old American, who fought last year with the Taliban in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty Monday to two charges in an agreement with U.S. prosecutors that could keep him in prison for 20 years. In exchange, prosecutors agreed to drop other charges, including conspiracy to murder U.S. citizens, that could have kept John Walker Lindh in prison for life. White House officials said President Bush personally approved the arrangement.

Iraq: one killed in coalition air strike

BAGHDAD, Iraq — An Iraqi citizen was killed and six others injured in a strike by U.S. and British warplanes Sunday night, the Iraqi News Agency said Monday. The U.S. Central Command said Monday that “in response to Iraqi threats

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Deputy SecDef visits Afghanistan

Story & photo by
Sgt. Reeba Critser
28th Public Affairs
Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The deputy secretary of Defense met with Coalition forces and Afghan leaders Monday, discussing current and future engagements with the United States.

Paul Wolfowitz’s one-day visit to Afghanistan began with a meeting with Combined Joint Task Force — 180 Commander Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill at Bagram Air Base, followed by a visit with soldiers in a “town hall” meeting outside of the base’s Joint Operations Center.

“This is an amazing



Paul Wolfowitz, deputy secretary of defense, talks to Afghan Gen. Dotsum (center) and Minister of Planning Mohaqarq at his visit to Mazar-e-Sharif Monday.

operation,” he said. “Even more than most of you realize.

“Those 3,000 killed on Sept. 11 are a small fraction of what might be killed if terrorist acts contin-

ued,” he said. “We can’t win the operation by taking one leader out of the whole network. This is a worldwide operation with success in each field.”

While fielding questions from the audience, he addressed the situation in Iraq.

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Attack training puts ANA closer to graduation

By Sgt. Don Dees
300th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — Platoon attack training brings the 1st Battalion of the Afghanistan National Army closer to the July 23 graduation ceremony.

“Up to this point it’s been about actions on contact,” said Sgt 1st Class Brian, a Special Forces sol-

dier from 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group of Fort Bragg, N.C., here to train Afghan recruits in basic infantry skills.

For security purposes, only first names and rank are used to identify the trainers.

U.S. Special Forces soldiers are providing training to Afghan recruits to form the core of an Afghanistan Na-

tional Army. The program is part of U.S. efforts in the area to promote stability and prevent Afghanistan from again becoming a safe haven for terrorist organizations.

“They’re doing what they’re supposed to,” Brian said.

He watched approvingly as the soldiers he has been training carried

out an attack at a training area near Kabul.

“This is the fun part of our job,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher, watching as his soldiers prepared to defend against Brian’s team’s attack.

“I told my guys to be sneaky,” said Brian.

He looked hard for a moment before he was

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Photo by Sgt. Don Dees

Sgt. 1st Class Brian uses his interpreter to explain to watching Afghan officers how the attacking element is supposed to approach the objective.

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able to pick out their movement.

“I can see them, but only because I know where to look,” he explained.

The security team for Christopher’s soldiers did not seem to notice the movement in the distance. As Brian’s team drew nearer, the observation post reacted. Then the support team for the attack, which had been lying in wait, opened fire on the objective.

The assault team

rushed the objective, then walked away.

The team was supposed to sweep across the objective, said Brian.

“Check the bodies,” he yelled to them, referring to the Afghan soldiers who had played the role of defenders.

This was day one of the training and both trainers were pleased with what their trainees had accomplished so far.

“Keep in mind, this is their first day to practice the attack,” said Brian.

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“As a country, we have a serious problem,” Wolfowitz said. “We can’t support terrorists who have chemical weapons.”

He said it was too dangerous to wait 10 years for Iraq to strike, but no final decisions have been made on an American strike.

“Sept. 11 is nothing compared to what would happen if a chemical attack occurred,” he said.

After the meeting, he went to Kabul, but not before presenting 20 Coalition soldiers with coins.

In Kabul, Wolfowitz toured the Afghan National Army Training Center and visited the International Security Assistance Force compound.

Lunch was served at President Hamid Karzai’s palace, fol-

lowed by a press conference with Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, foreign minister of Afghanistan.

“Afghanistan has chosen his destiny,” Abdullah said. “The representatives were elected and the Afghan National Army was created.”

He said that his country was moving forward in the right direction, without fear from the al Qaeda. Wolfowitz confirmed that belief.

“Terrorism is not like a snake, where you can chop its head off and it will die,” Wolfowitz said. “It’s like a virus, it takes time to cure.”

“We (the Coalition forces) are here as an army of liberators, not an army of occupation. We made mistakes in killing our own and of



Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser

Nasaneen, 7, whose name means ‘beautiful,’ talks to Paul Wolfowitz, deputy secretary of defense, when he visited the Jordanian Hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif Tuesday. Nasaneen is recovering from surgery on her leg.

the Coalition. Judgment can be made (against the United States). We are doing the best we can.”

The next stop on the under secretary’s tour was Mazar Hotel in Mazar-e-Sharif, where he met with Afghan Gen. Dotsum, Minister of Planning Mohaqraq and Gov. Raguyak.

Wolfowitz ended his tour with a visit to the Jordanian Army’s hospital. Col. Atef T. al Smade, commander of the hospital, boasted of the work they’ve accomplished – more than 86,000 patients treated and more than 1,100 surgeries performed.

After the tour,

Wolfowitz said he was happy to see American and Coalition forces working together.

“(Secretary of Defense Donald) Rumsfeld said it’s going to be a long haul before terrorism stops,” he said. “We’ll keep building a better world, beyond the world of terrorism.”

HIND SIGHT

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John III begins his reign as Catholic Pope

1775

First military hospital approved

1841

British humor magazine "Punch" first published

1850

Harvard Observatory takes the first photograph of a star (Vega)

1862

U.S. Army authorized to accept blacks as laborers

1955

Disneyland opens its doors in rural Orange County

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against coalition aircraft monitoring the southern no-fly zone, coalition aircraft launched a strike Sunday." Operation Southern Watch coalition aircraft used a precision-guided weapon yesterday to strike a mobile radar unit associated with a mobile surface-to-air missile launcher in southern Iraq.

U.S. still probing Afghan wedding incident

WASHINGTON — Pentagon officials said Monday they were unsure whether the crew of a U.S. gunship fired in response to an attack during the July 1 incident in which Afghans say 48 people were killed at a wedding party. Officials told CNN it was not clear whether the AC-130 was coming under anti-aircraft artillery fire, or whether the crew launched fire because a ground controller directed them to targets previously earmarked.

India prepares response to Kashmir massacre

NEW DELHI, India — India's deputy prime minister says he will outline for parliament New Delhi's response to a militant attack in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Lal Krishna Advani will address parliament Tuesday having visited Jammu, the site of the deadliest attack in months in which 28 people were killed and at least 30 wounded on Saturday. The government has been careful not to place the blame on Pakistan specifically for the incident, but there is mounting pressure within the country to put an end to such acts of terrorism.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<u>Bagram:</u>	<i>Partly cloudy/windy</i> H: 99F L: 68F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 97F L: 70F
<u>Khandahar:</u>	<i>Haze</i> H: 108F L: 70F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 106F L: 72F
<u>Kabul:</u>	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 93F L: 68F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 93F L: 70F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	<i>Clear</i> H: 101F L: 72F	<i>Clear</i> H: 100F L: 71F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

Dolan says Steinbrenner is big part of problem; possible strike

Cleveland Indians owner Larry Dolan blames New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner for some of baseball's economic problems and said a strike might be necessary.

He said the Yankees, whose payroll is \$135 million, are forcing other teams to overspend so they can compete.

2002 Major League Stats

Wins

1. C. Schilling, Ariz	15-3
2. R. Johnson, Ariz	15-3
3. M. Mussina, NYY	12-3
4. P. Byrd, KC	12-6
5. B. Colon, Cle/Mon	12-4
6. D. Lowe, Bos	12-5
7. B. Zito, Oak	12-3
8. M. Buerhle, Chw	12-7
9. K. Ishii, LA	12-5
10. T. Glavine, Atl	11-5
11. P. Martinez, Bos	11-2

Earned Run Average

1. D. Lowe, Bos	2.54
2. T. Glavine, Atl	2.59
3. R. Johnson, Ariz	2.61
4. P. Martinez, Bos	2.66
5. B. Colon, Cle/Mon	2.75
6. G. Maddux, Atl	2.76
7. J. Piniero, Sea	2.84
8. R. Halladay, Tor	2.87
9. O. Perez, LA	2.89
10. E. Dessens, Cin	2.91
11. A. Leiter, NYM	2.95

Saves

1. J. Smoltz, Atl	33
1. E. Gagne, LA	33
3. E. Guardado, Min	29
4. M. Williams, Pitt	28
5. D. Graves, Cin	27
6. B. Kim, Ariz	26
7. J. Mesa, Phi	25
8. R. Nen, SF	24
9. M. Rivera, NYY	23
9. J. Jimenez, Col	23
9. B. Koch, Tor	23

2002 Major League standings

American League East			GB
N.Y. Yankees	58-35 .624	-	
Boston	54-37 .593	3	
Baltimore	45-46 .495	12	
American League Central			GB
Minnesota	54-41 .568	-	
Chicago (AL)	45-50 .474	9	
Cleveland	42-50 .457	10.5	
American League West			GB
Seattle	58-36 .617	-	
Anaheim	54-38 .587	3	
Oakland	55-39 .585	3	
National League East			GB
Atlanta	59-35 .624	-	
Montreal	48-45 .522	10.5	
N.Y. Mets	47-46 .500	11.5	
National League Central			GB
St. Louis	51-39 .567	-	
Cincinnati	49-44 .527	3.5	
Houston	44-48 .478	8	
National League West			GB
Arizona	55-38 .591	-	
Los Angeles	55-39 .585	0.5	
San Francisco	53-40 .570	2	

Tuesday

Kansas City 6-5 Texas
Baltimore 6-1 Seattle
Chicago W. Sox 5-4 Cleveland
Boston 9-4 Detroit
N.Y. Yankees 7-6 Toronto
Philadelphia 6-3 Montreal
N.Y. Mets 10-5 Florida
Oakland 2-1 Tampa Bay
Cincinnati 6-1 Milwaukee
Anaheim 4-2 Minnesota
Atlanta 2-0 Chicago Cubs
Pittsburgh 7-3 Houston
San Diego 4-1 Colorado, Btm. 8th
St. Louis 9-2 Los Angeles
Arizona 5-3 San Francisco

Today

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