



FREEDOM WATCH



July 25, 2002

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Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Kidnapped Philadelphia girl found alive

PHILADELPHIA —

Erica Pratt, the 7-year-old girl abducted from a city street one day ago, was found alive and unharmed Tuesday evening at the other end of town. A \$10,000 reward for information leading to her safe return had been posted by police. Police said Erica freed herself by breaking through the screened window of an abandoned house where she was bound with duct tape and left alone for about a day.

UK destroyer in \$66M cocaine swoop

FORT-DE-FRANCE, Martinique — A British Royal Navy destroyer has seized cocaine worth an estimated street value of \$66 million off the coast of Martinique in the Caribbean. HMS Newcastle took the illegal cargo overnight from a

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1st Bn. graduates, forms core of ANA



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson

Members of the 1st Battalion of the Afghan National Army march past the review stand during their graduation July 23.

By Sgt. Don Dees
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — Approximately 300 soldiers graduated Tuesday from 10 weeks training at the Kabul Military Training Center in a ceremony attended by Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Minister of Defense Mohammed Fahim.

U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers from 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, N.C., provided the instruction.

The battalion moved to its post at the Kabul Presidential Palace following the ceremony.

“They will be stationed in Kabul, where

they can be deployed rapidly to places of need,” said an interpreter for Brig. Gen. Ghulam Sakhi Asifi, the center’s garrison commander.

A second battalion of nearly 320 trainees, under instruction by French soldiers, has completed nearly seven weeks of training. A third battalion of approximately 330 soldiers begins training under U.S. instructors Sunday.

“These soldiers understand that this is the last, best chance they have at a better future for their children,” said Lt. Col. Kevin McDonnell,

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MP attempts to save life of local infant

By Sgt. Reeba Critser
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — It was supposed to be just another day. On July 18, just after 9 p.m. (local), Sgt. Russell Matheson, an Army military policeman, was performing the duties that come with manning Checkpoint 5 at Bagram Air Base. He heard a commotion.

“There was a man coming toward the gate,” Matheson said. “He had a bundle. He was shaking and yelling at it.”



Sgt. Russell Matheson

fellow MPs what he was going to do.

Curiosity took over the National Guardsman from Clyde, N.C. The man was only standing 10 yards from the gate.

He told his

“I slowly approached the man,” Matheson said. “He put the bundle on the ground. I opened it.”

What followed surprised him. “It was a small baby,” he said. “She was less than a year old. Her eyes were open. She was unresponsive and unconscious.”

He checked for a pulse. There was none. He picked up the tiny bundle and headed back to the checkpoint.

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commander of 1st Bn., 3rd SFG, during a meeting with reporters on Monday.

The training program and the formation of a national army in Afghanistan is the cornerstone of success for the Afghan government, said McDonnell.

The training program calls for U.S. forces to train up to 18 battalions of infantry soldiers to form the core of the Afghan National Army.

Trainees receive instruction in basic rifle marksmanship on AK-47 assault rifles donated by Romania, which will remain at the training center. Heavy weapons

include 82mm mortars, 75mm recoilless rifles and PKM machine guns.

Equipment shortages were among the challenges to training the recruits, said Maj. Gary, a Special Forces officer responsible for the program, in a discussion with U.S. State Department personnel.

“We are trying to get what we call a school set for use here,” said Gary, who for security reasons is only identified by his rank and first name.

Some weapons were recovered from caches throughout the country, but not all were suitable for training.

“You can’t give a team a mortar tube

with cracks in it, eventually it will blow up and kill someone,” McDonnell said to reporters at the center on Sunday.

Many nations have offered donations for the training program, said McDonnell. U.S. officials are arranging for the transfer of equipment.



Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Vice President Mohammed Fahim inspect the troops.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson
18th Airborne Corps Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England listens to the ceremony.

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Someone from his unit, 211th Military Police Company, called an ambulance. But a better option appeared.

“One of our (High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicles) showed up,” Matheson said.

Quick reaction kicked in.

“Being a police officer for many years, you learn not to wait when a child is concerned,” Matheson said. “Minutes become hours where they are concerned.”

The Guardsman driving also works as the deputy sheriff in North Carolina and knew the urgency of the situation.

“He got us to the hospital fast,” Matheson said.

Matheson proceeded to perform infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

“I gave her small puffs of air and massaged her heart,” he said.

He also said that it was no easy task because there was “stuff” in her mouth.

“She had vomit in her mouth,” Matheson said.

His next obstacle was a roadblock at Four Corners. Matheson got out and ran toward the Spanish Hospital.

“He was running toward us while giving the girl CPR,” said Lt. Col. Pedro Armero, chief of the Air Force staff of cabinet and detachment commander.

“The Spanish took perfect charge of the situation,”

Matheson commented. “The whole detachment worked for half an hour on the kid.”

But they could not save her.

The Spanish Medical Team said she choked on her own vomit. After clearing her airway and stomach, they could not clear out the fluid in her lungs. The team determined that she died from aspiration or Sudden Infant Death syndrome.

In an attempt to find out what happened, the Spanish team talked to the father.

“The father is an Afghan soldier,” one Spanish doctor said. “He came home from Kabul and found the baby like that. His wife didn’t know what to do with the child.”

“Her name was Nazia,”

Matheson recalled. “She was so beautiful.”

The Spanish Air Force recognized Matheson for his efforts on July 20.

Matheson chuckled at a thought.

“I’m a corrections officer in North Carolina,” he said. “Where I work, they don’t teach infant CPR.”

Matheson was taught infant CPR while a policeman at Robersonville, N.C. That was 10 years ago.

“Sergeant Matheson kept a cool head and reacted without thinking,” said Capt. Timothy Aiken, commander, 211th MP Co. “He did his job. That’s what MPs do — Protect and defend.”

HIND SIGHT

1759

British capture Fort Niagara from French (Seven Years' War)

1946

First bikini is shown at a Paris fashion show

1963

U.S., Russia and England sign the nuclear test ban treaty

1990

U.S. ambassador tells Iraq that the U.S. won't take sides in Iraq-Kuwait dispute

1992

25th Olympic Summer games opens in Barcelona, Spain

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yacht near the island after a high-speed chase. The seizure came just 24 hours after the destroyer confiscated 100 bales of marijuana from a Barbados-based fishing boat in the region.

Sharon praises air strike 'success'

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has described an attack on a residential area of Gaza City which killed at least 15 people, including seven children, as "a great success" because it killed its target — a Hamas military leader. But the air strike has received widespread condemnation from across the international community, including Middle East nations, the European Union and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan

Army to join Oregon firefighting effort

WASHINGTON — For the first time this year, U.S. Army troops are to assist the U.S. Forest Service in fighting wildfires, going to eastern Oregon to battle out-of-control fires there. About 300 soldiers from Fort Riley, Kansas, arrived in Boise, Idaho, Monday to begin training as firefighters before heading out to face Monument fire in southeastern Oregon.

TSP
briefing: A Thrift Savings Program briefing will be Sunday, 5:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. (Zulu), at the Viper City Dining Facility.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 100F L: 63F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 99F L: 66F
Khandahar:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 100F L: 75F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 102F L: 73F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 95F L: 68F	<i>Haze</i> H: 97F L: 68F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Clear</i> H: 104F L: 75F	<i>Clear</i> H: 106F L: 76F

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

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Uneasy rider

Lance Armstrong rode a little bit closer to his fourth consecutive Tour de France title on Wednesday. He finished third in today's difficult stage through the Alps and extended his overall lead to five minutes. Armstrong has been bothered by hecklers along the roads in France, but that's just a sure sign of his star power, writes *ESPN's* Mark Kreidler.

Trail now, trail later

So you're a fan of a team in playoff contention, but your team currently sits on the outside of a playoff spot. Does a club like Cincinnati have a shot at making the postseason? *ESPN's* Alan Schwarz writes that history tells us where a team sits on July 31 is usually where they wind up.

Fixing Florida's felines

The Panthers have been downright pathetic since their Stanley Cup finals appearance in 1996. As *ESPN's* E.J. Hradek writes, new General Manager Rick Dudley's reclamation project is simple — take Roberto Luongo and rebuild the entire team around him.

Seven standouts selected

The reserves for the 2002 MLS All-Star Game were announced Tuesday with a trio from the league-leading San Jose Earthquakes filling three of the final seven slots. Ariel Graziani, who is tied for third in MLS scoring, is joined by teammates Wade Barrett and Joe Cannon on the squad. D.C. United's Marco Etcheverry also made the team as a commissioner's pick, and will take part in his seventh midsummer celebration on Aug. 3.

Fire heating up west

Los Angeles is still the team to beat. But with Sacramento stumbling, the Western Conference playoff race is more wide open than ever, writes Nancy Lieberman. The *ESPN* analyst says Portland is profiting the most, while Utah looks better than ever.

She's back

After nine months away from the tour, Lindsay Davenport makes her return from knee surgery Wednesday at the Bank of the West Classic. But Davenport will take things one step at a time as she works her way back. On Tuesday night, Justine Henin was ousted and Anna Kournikova advanced in their respective openers.

A record opener at Spa

On Wednesday, a record 32,913 fans turned out for the opening of Saratoga's 134th season, which featured the Schuylerville Stakes, won by Freedom's Daughter. And despite a tight economy, total on-track wagering handle exceeded \$3.7 million, another opening-day record. Saratoga 2002 will feature 35 graded stakes over its 36 days of racing.

2002 Major League standings

American League East				GB
N.Y. Yankees	63-37	.630	-	
Boston	58-41	.586	4.5	
Baltimore	47-51	.480	15	
American League Central				GB
Minnesota	61-42	.592	-	
Chicago (AL)	47-56	.456	14	
Cleveland	44-56	.440	15.5	
American League West				GB
Seattle	61-39	.610	-	
Anaheim	58-40	.592	2	
Oakland	59-41	.590	2	
National League East				GB
Atlanta	66-36	.647	-	
N.Y. Mets	52-49	.515	13.5	
Montreal	50-51	.495	15.5	
National League Central				GB
St. Louis	55-43	.561	-	
Cincinnati	53-48	.525	3.5	
Houston	49-51	.490	7	
National League West				GB
Arizona	59-41	.590	-	
San Francisco	57-44	.564	2.5	
Los Angeles	57-45	.559	3	

Wednesday's scores

Cincinnati 10-5 Pittsburgh
 Atlanta 10-0 Florida
 Minnesota 8-1 Chicago Sox
 Philadelphia 4-2 Chicago Cubs
 Toronto 5-2 Baltimore
 San Diego 8-0 Los Angeles
 Tampa Bay 9-5 Boston
 N.Y. Yankees 14-7 Cleveland
 Detroit 3-0 Kansas City
 San Francisco 6-4 St. Louis
 Montreal 2-1 N.Y. Mets
 Milwaukee 12-8 Houston
 Anaheim 5-1 Oakland
 Texas 4-3 Seattle
 Arizona 7-1 Colorado

Today's schedule

Kansas City at Detroit
 Philadelphia at Chicago Cubs
 St. Louis at San Francisco
 Oakland at Anaheim
 Pittsburgh at Houston
 San Diego at Arizona
 Tampa Bay at Boston
 Florida at Montreal
 Texas at Seattle