



FREEDOM WATCH



Aug. 20, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Military issues on Bush agenda

CRAWFORD, Texas – President Bush's top national security advisers plan to meet Wednesday at his Texas ranch to discuss military reforms and missile defense. Iraq is not on the official meeting agenda, though officials said it generally is the topic of at least brief discussion at such sessions. Those due to attend the Wednesday session include Vice President Dick Cheney, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Bahrain opposes U.S. attack on Iraq

TEHRAN, Iran—Bahrain, a key U.S. ally in the Persian Gulf region, joined Iran on Sunday in opposing American military action against Iraq. "Iran and Bahrain declare their determined opposition to any unilateral military action against Iraq," said a joint statement issued at the end of a two-day visit to Tehran by Bahrain's

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CJCMOTF helps provide water for Afghans

By Staff Sgt. Zelda Thomas-Gates
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan – Do you know of anyone who had to leave their hometown because they couldn't grow crops, take a

bath or have a glass of water?

Here, Afghans migrate to other villages just for the water.

Throughout Afghanistan, people are in desperate need of irrigation systems and drinking water due to years of war and

drought.

Now that the Taliban are gone, the economy has started to stabilize and the people are returning, according to Capt. Benjamin H. Houston, a project engineer for the Combined Joint Civil Military Opera-

tions Task Force.

Many of the wells are in poor condition, and the wells that operate continuously eventually run dry. The villages that have water attract a disproportionate number of

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Soldiers at Khandahar Air Field begin the application process to gain their U.S. citizenship.

Khandahar service members begin citizenship process

Story & photo by Sgt. Eric C. Barker
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KHANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan— On July 3, President George W. Bush gave 15,000 active-duty members a pre-In-

dependence Day gift by eliminating the three-year waiting period for service-members to apply for citizenship.

"Thousands of men and women in uniform were born in other countries and now spend each day in hon-

orable service to their adopted land," Bush said. "Many of them are still waiting for the chance to become American citizens."

Aug. 9, during a citizenship workshop in Khandahar, the Task Force Panther Judge Advocate General's

office began the naturalization process for the non-citizen service-members stationed here.

"Thanks to the president's order, these guys have a

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Photo by Sgt. Eric C. Barker

Capt. Shane R. Lazenby, HHC 82nd Airborne Division Judge Advocate, briefs service members before they begin the application process.

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unique opportunity. They are over here fighting terrorism and have earned the right to become citizens. JAG will do its best to help these soldiers take their initial step toward naturalization," said Capt. R. Shane Lazenby, HHC 82nd Airborne Division Judge Advocate.

The executive order signed by the president grants expedited citizenship consideration to non-citizen service-members who have been on active duty since the war on terrorism began. The order covers only those in uniform since the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I think it's a really great thing, a good opportunity and a good gift for non-citizen soldiers," said Spc. Mary Grace A. Policarpio, born in Pampanga, Philippines. Policarpio is a medic with the 1980th Forward Surgical Team.

The citizenship workshop took place at the Rose Garden Pool, where the temperature was high and the seating uncomfortable, but no one was complaining. After a briefing by Lazenby, the group went over the 10-page initial application step by step. According to Lazenby, 61 service members began the pro-

cess, but only 44 stayed for the entire workshop.

"We put out notices for about a week," Lazenby explained. "Soldiers came up with the \$260 application fee, military police helped with the fingerprinting and public affairs took the photos. It is a long, tedious process and this is just the start."

Processing the paperwork takes eight to 10 months. Current immigration laws allow non-citizen members in peacetime to become citizens after three years of service. Non-military immigrants must wait five years after establishing U.S. residency to apply.

"We had the soldiers fill out about three forms, and if everything is complete, we send it up to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Of the 44 applicants who came to the workshop, 16 are complete and we are still working with the others to complete this initial stage," Lazenby said.

"Sure, it is a long process, but not as long as would have been without the president's order," Policarpio said. "Overall, it is a great opportunity for American immigrants. It is a real morale booster."

Bush's executive order is similar to those signed by other presidents during the Persian Gulf and Vietnam wars.

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refugees, which eventually causes overcrowding.

To prevent this, the CJCMOTF has taken an interest in providing a livelihood in villages throughout the country. The task force is working with local and national government representatives throughout Afghanistan to ensure equity in distributing water projects and targeting areas that will provide the greatest security benefit for coalition forces.

"Because of our work, the Afghans are getting better medical care, children are going back to school and they are getting cleaner water," said 1st Lt. Carolyn Harris, an engineer project manager at CJCMOTF.

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– 1st Lt. Carolyn Harris, CJCMOTF engineer project manager

Since early spring, CJCMOTF has helped Herat with two irrigation projects, Bagram with six wells, Khowst with 13 wells, Kabul with two wells and Khandahar with 81 wells.

CJCMOTF is currently working on 18 other new wells.

By providing the people with new wells, pumps, auxiliary generators, water storage and pump houses, it will allow local farmers to increase their crop output. Hospitals will also be able to treat more patients, and people will have enough water for cleaning, hygiene and cooking.

"Every time we go out to a different project, the Afghans walk up to us smiling and thanking us for helping them," Harris said.

***If you have story ideas,
call the 28th Public Affairs
Detachment
at 318 - 231- 4239***

HIND SIGHT

1619

The first group of 20 Africans is brought to Jamestown, Va.

1847

Gen. Winfield Scott wins the battle of Churubusco on his drive to Mexico City. The Mexican War gave future civil war generals their first taste of combat.

1908

The American Great White Fleet arrives in Sydney, Australia, to a warm welcome.

1913

700 feet above Buc, France, parachutist Adolphe Pegond becomes the first person to jump from an airplane and land safely.

1940

Radar is used for the first time, by the British during the Battle of Britain. Also on this day, in a radio broadcast, Winston Churchill makes his famous homage to the Royal Air Force: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

king, Sheik Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The statement, called for respecting "Iraq's territorial integrity and noninterference in Iraq's internal affairs." Bahrain is the headquarters of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. The tiny island was a base for America to run supplies and other operations for the war in Afghanistan. Washington also has granted Bahrain major non-NATO ally status.

U.S. seizes missiles at New Mexico school

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. – Federal agents plan to serve a search warrant Monday at an explosives training school in the desert near Roswell where, authorities say, a Canadian national trained Arab students to use shoulder-launched missiles and other explosives. David Hudak, 41, was arrested last week on federal explosives and immigration charges and last week, agents seized about 1,000 pounds of munitions — including warheads, rockets and missiles for shoulder-guided weapons — and believe they will find another 4,000 pounds when they open two bunkers Monday.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
<u>Bagram:</u>	<i>Dusty/Windy</i> H: 97F L: 61F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 91F L: 63F
<u>Khandahar:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 106F L: 66F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 108F L: 68F
<u>Kabul:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 93F L: 63F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 90F L: 61F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	<i>Clear</i> H: 99F L: 63F	<i>Clear</i> H: 100F L: 66F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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- ❖ CJTF - 180 Commanding General — Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill
- ❖ CJTF - 180 Command Sergeant Major — Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England
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- ❖ Commander — Capt. Timothy Beninato
- ❖ NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson
- ❖ Editor — Sgt. Reeba Critser
- ❖ Sports Editor — Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
- ❖ Journalists — Sgt. Jason Allgood, Spc. Erica Leigh Foley, Pfc. Nathan Akridge and Pfc. Eleazar Craig.

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

(compiled from ESPN.com)

Sampras to decide whether to stay or go

COMMACK, N.Y. — Pete Sampras will assess his career at the end of 2003. Until then, don't talk to him about retirement.

"At the end of next year, I'll see where it's all at and then make a decision. That doesn't mean I'm going to stop or continue," the owner of a record 13 Grand Slam singles titles said Monday.

"I deserve to make my own decision as to when I leave the sport."

He'll tune up for the U.S. Open, which starts Aug. 26, at the TD Waterhouse Cup, where he was a finalist last year. He also reached the final of the Open in 2001, losing to Lleyton Hewitt.

Kemp leaving Blazers

PORTLAND, Ore. — Shawn Kemp, the former NBA All-Star whose career has crumbled because of weight and drug problems, will be waived Tuesday by the Portland Trail Blazers, *The Oregonian* reported in its Tuesday edition.

Stunningly, Kemp has agreed to forfeit more than \$25 million of the \$46.5 million left on his contract, the newspaper said.

In the agreement, the Blazers will pay Kemp about \$20 million over more than 10 years.

Brees chosen as Chargers QB

SAN DIEGO — It's Drew Brees' turn to try to snap some life into the San Diego Chargers.

Brees, a second-year pro who's played just over one-half of one regular-season game, beat out 39-year-old incumbent Doug Flutie for the Chargers' starting quarterback job on Monday.

The former Purdue star becomes the fourth different opening-day starter in as many seasons for the Chargers, who have lost 26 of their last 32 games and haven't made the playoffs since 1995, when Brees was a high school junior.

Labor Day Run

The Army Space Command is hosting a 5.9-mile Labor Day Run, Sept. 2 at 0100 (Z), with showtime at 1230 (Z). Entry fee for the race is \$10, which includes a T-shirt. T-shirts are available to the first 275 participants. Those interested can register on the first floor of Motel 6, located in Dragon City at Bagram Air Base.

For more information, call Sgt. Sean McGraine at 303-587-5663.

2002 Major League standings

American League East				GB
N.Y. Yankees	77-45	.631	-	
Boston	70-52	.574	7	
Baltimore	59-63	.484	18	
American League Central				GB
Minnesota	74-52	.587	-	
Chicago (AL)	58-67	.464	15.5	
Cleveland	54-69	.439	18.5	
American League West				GB
Anaheim	74-49	.602	.-	
Seattle	75-50	.600	-	
Oakland	74-51	.592	1	
National League East				GB
Atlanta	80-43	.650	-	
Montreal	62-62	.500	18.5	
Florida	60-64	.484	20.5	
National League Central				GB
St. Louis	69-53	.566	-	
Houston	65-59	.524	5	
Cincinnati	63-60	.512	6.5	
National League West				GB
Arizona	78-46	.629	-	
Los Angeles	71-53	.573	7	
San Francisco	67-56	.545	10.5	

Monday's scores

Tampa Bay 7-3 Baltimore
 Houston 7-5 Cincinnati
 Oakland 8-1 Cleveland
 Atlanta 7-6 Colorado
 Detroit 4-3 Seattle
 San Francisco 3-0 Florida
 Toronto 2-0 Kansas City
 Montreal 4-0 San Diego
 Minnesota 7-3 Chi Sox
 St. Louis 7-2 Pittsburgh

Wild Card Races

<u>NL</u>	<u>AL</u>
1. Los Angeles .573	1. Anaheim .602
2. San Francisco .545	2. Seattle .600
3. Houston .524	3. Oakland .592
4. Cincinnati .512	4. Boston .574
5. Montreal .500	5. Baltimore .484