



FREEDOM WATCH



September 23, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Schroeder declares victory

BERLIN—Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has declared victory after his ruling coalition won a narrow parliamentary majority in German elections. Schroeder appeared before cheering supporters at Social Democratic Party headquarters in Berlin early today following the country's closest national election since World War II. The chancellor and his foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, told the jubilant crowd they would start coalition talks soon. With 99.7 percent of the vote counted, Schroeder's coalition won a combined 47.1 percent of the vote, according to official results reported by The Associated Press. Challenger Edmund Stoiber's party, the Christian Democratic-Christian Social Union, and its traditional partner, the liberal Free Democratic Party, won a combined 45.9 percent, the results showed.

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Bagram AB opens fuel supply point

By Capt. Timothy Beninato
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—Coalition aircraft supporting Operation Enduring Freedom now have the ability to rapidly refuel their aircraft with the help of Bagram Air Base's new Fuel System Supply Point, which opened Thursday.

"We are opening up a new capa-

bility here at Bagram Air Base and have expanded the amount of fuel we have here on the ground," said Lt. Col Stephen Smith, Logistics Task Force-129 commander, Fort Campbell, Ky.

The FSSP consists of about a dozen 50,000-gallon fuel bags linked together by a series of hoses and pumps. The fuel is pumped from the storage bags out to four "hot" refuel points along the airfield taxi-way, where

helicopters and fixed wing aircraft can refuel with their engines still running.

They come in, get the "hot" gas, and they're on their way, said 1st Lt. Robin Goins-Colon, fuel point platoon leader, LTF-129, Fort Campbell, Ky. If they get cold gas, pilots are required to completely shut down their engines. In order to start them up again,

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Army vets take care of more than animals

Story & photo by
SpC. Erica Leigh Foley
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BAGRAM, Afghanistan—Whether it's looking through the cucumbers and grapes on their way to the chow hall, or inspecting freezers to make sure the temperatures are right, half of the veterinary service's job is to make sure food and water are stored correctly.

The 109th Medical Detachment Veterinary Service, from Stanton, Calif., has the safety and welfare of everyone in mind. The 11 soldiers from the Golden State are spread out in theater from Karshi-



Sgt. Rick Ramirez, of the 109th Medical Detachment Veterinary Service, checks for condensation in a bag of bagels to make sure they've remained frozen.

Khanabad, Uzbekistan to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Food inspection specialists are specially trained in food safety and inspection. They are the primary inspectors of incoming food and water supplies.

Veterinary Corps

officers are responsible for inspecting food-producing facilities and plants. They also ensure food is produced in a safe and hygienic manner, said Capt. Mark Dierberger, 109th Medical Detachment (VS).

Historically, food-

borne illnesses are a major cause of disease and non-battle injury casualties. When the Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan, a majority of the deaths and disabilities were suffered because of disease and non-battle injuries.

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FUEL, from Page 1

they have to completely redo all of their pre-flight checks.

Goins-Colon's platoon of 36 soldiers have the mission of receiving, storing and issuing JP8 and MOGAS to aircraft and bulk fuel tankers on Bagram Air Base.

"We always have at least 12 people available to run four points at all times," said Goins-Colon.

Each point requires two fuel handlers, plus a person at the emergency shut-off and another at the pump.

"The thing that really makes the whole system work, besides the soldiers, is the assault hose line," said Smith. "Because of the new fuel site, in conjunction with the assault hose line, we're able to provide safer support on base."

The assault hose line improves force protection by carrying fuel



Photo by Capt. Timothy Beninato

Berms surround 50,000-gallon fuel bags at Bagram Air Base's new fuel system supply point to prevent environmental contamination and loss of fuel.

along a mile-long hose line from a central receiving point located outside the base, rather than allowing commercial fuel trucks onto the base to off load their fuel, as was done in the past.

Plans to build the FSSP have been in the works for the last four

months. Base officials believed that having host nation fuel trucks carrying fuel on base was a force protection risk and decided to do something about it.

"Once we figured a solution of bringing in the assault hose line from Fort Campbell, then the only thing

that was missing was doing the engineer work," Smith said. "We had to clear all the area of land mines and then set in the berms."

The 769th Engineer BN, with support from LTF-129, designed and built a technically acceptable FSSP in less than six weeks.

The site is set up in accordance with US standards, Smith said. Inside the berms we have liners and in the event there's a leak, the fuel will be contained and we are able get the fuel out and into another bag so we don't lose any fuel or hurt the environment.

LTF-129's soldiers play an important role in refueling aircraft flying missions in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Fuel is the life line of Bagram and what we do here is really important," said Goins-Colon. "Everything that comes in here is by air, and everything that goes out is by air."



Photo by Spc. Erica Leigh Foley

Sgt. Rick Ramirez, of the 109th Medical Detachment Veterinary Service, checks the seal on a jar of beef flavoring.

VETS, from Page 1

The Army Veterinary Corps is responsible for inspecting food to minimize the chances of food-borne illnesses, Dierberger said.

"Veterinary Services will inspect all shipments of food upon arrival," he said. "We also do periodic surveillance inspections of food storage areas. In addition, if there is a question about the safety of any product already in storage, Veterinary Services will inspect that product to ensure its safety."

Services are rendered usually on a daily basis. The food is inspected in the supply support area where it is

stored before reaching the troops. Veterinary Services checks the temperatures of the refrigerators that hold food until the dining facilities pick them up. They also look for obvious things like condensation on items in the freezer, rat feces, insects and anything else that may indicate contamination.

Leakers and swellers are some of the obvious eye-catching signs that something may be wrong with the product, said Staff Sgt. Steve Flores, 109th Medical Detachment (VS) non-commissioned officer in charge. Leakers are the items that leak and swellers are the items that swell, like a

cardboard box of bulging milk.

If the product doesn't provide an obvious sign, the inspectors conduct a selfless service by testing the product.

"We have to make sure the product is safe and sometimes we taste it. The fact is that we aren't going to let anyone eat food that we wouldn't eat ourselves," Flores said.

Using a box of milk as an example, the member of the vet team looks for lumps or discoloration. If everything looks normal and safe, he would then taste it.

If something is "bad," the team can condemn it, and it will be disposed of properly.

HIND SIGHT

1805

Lt. Zebulon Pike pays \$2,000 to buy a 9-square-mile tract of land from the Sioux at the mouth of the Minnesota River that would be used to establish a military post, Fort Snelling.

1806

The Lewis and Clark Expedition arrives back in St. Louis just over three years after its departure.

1945

The first American dies in Vietnam during the fall of Saigon to French forces.

1952

Richard Nixon responds to charges of a secret slush fund during his 'Checkers Speech.'

1954

East German police arrest 400 citizens as U.S. spies.

BRIEFS, from Page 1

Tens of thousands flee Isidore

MIAMI — The eye of Hurricane Isidore skirted the coast of the Yucatan Peninsula Sunday, lashing the shoreline with heavy rain and powerful winds, forcing the evacuation of about 50,000 people and leaving thousands without water or electricity. The storm damaged five homes as its eye came within 15 miles (24 kms) of land, officials said. "It's almost mirroring the coast of the Yucatan," said Eric Blake, a forecaster with the National Hurricane Center. The Emergency Administration Director of Mexico's Civil Protection Department, Carlos Gelista Gonzalez, said people from both his division and the Mexican army have headed to the northern part of the state of Quintana Roo on the Yucatan to help restore water and electricity. With sustained winds of 125 mph, Isidore — the second hurricane of the Atlantic season — is just shy of being a destructive Category 4 storm. Forecasters said this upgrade was likely the next step in Isidore's march across the southern Gulf of Mexico. The NHC said portions of the Yucatan could receive 10-20 inches of rain.

U.S. pupils trapped in Ivory Coast

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast — Well over 100 American school children have been caught up in a rebel-held town in Ivory Coast, three days after renegade soldiers seized a swathe of the north. "We have approximately 160 U.S. citizens on this campus, mostly children," Michel Cousineau, business manager and security officer at the International Christian Academy (ICA), told Reuters from the rebel-held town of Bouake. The government has said its forces are preparing to retake the town by force if the dissidents do not lay down their arms. Cousineau said most of the pupils in the boarding school, many children of missionaries working across West Africa, were in good spirits despite their ordeal.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 84F L: 61F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 86F L: 57F
Kandahar:	<i>Sunny</i> H: 95F L: 63F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 99F L: 61F
Kabul:	<i>Sunny</i> H: 81F L: 46F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 84F L: 57F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Sunny</i> H: 87F L: 50F	<i>Sunny</i> H: 87F L: 50F

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)

Vick, Falcons notch first win

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons didn't have to worry about losing another one at the end. The Cincinnati Bengals were out of it by halftime.

Michael Vick threw a pair of touchdown passes to Brian Finneran and the Falcons dealt the winless Bengals another decisive loss, 30-3 Sunday night.

Atlanta (1-2) began the season with an overtime loss at Green Bay, followed by a one-point defeat to Chicago when the Falcons missed a field goal in the final minute.

The Bengals (0-3) haven't come close to winning in what already appears to be a lost season. They have been outscored 84-16 and are on quarterback No. 2, benching Gus Frerotte midway through the second quarter when he missed his first seven passes.

Vick outgained the Bengals all by himself. He completed 16 of 26 passes for 174 yards and pulled off several scintillating runs, finishing with 56 yards on the ground.

Packers survive Harrington

For the second straight season, the Green Bay Packers built a comfortable fourth-quarter lead on the road against the Detroit Lions, but had to hold off a late comeback by a rookie quarterback to win.

Brett Favre threw for 357 yards and three touchdowns as Green Bay beat the Lions 37-31 Sunday, spoiling the first start by rookie Joey Harrington and the regular-season debut of Ford Field.

Green Bay (2-1) led by 17 early in the final quarter, but Detroit (0-3) scored two TDs, including a 52-yard pass to James Stewart with 1:37 left to cut the deficit to 34-31.

With the crowd chanting "Jo-ey! Jo-ey!" Harrington tried to direct his first fourth-quarter comeback in the NFL, after doing so 10 times at Oregon.

49ers cruise past Redskins

The Washington Redskins had no such excuses for why their offense still looks so sickly.

Terrell Owens scored on a spectacular 38-yard run, and the 49ers played stellar defense and rushed for 252 yards in a grinding 20-10 victory over the Redskins.

Pro Bowl quarterback Jeff Garcia missed most of the second half with a bad case of the flu, while other players were exhausted by halftime. The 49ers went through 20 bags of intravenous fluid before the game, and more between halves.

But the 49ers had their most prolific rushing game in nearly two years — and Washington (1-2) gained just 41 yards while going scoreless in the second half.

2002 Major League standings

American League East			GB
N.Y. Yankees	98-57	.632	-
Boston	89-66	.574	9
Toronto	72-84	.462	26.5
American League Central			GB
x-Minnesota	89-66	.574	-
Chicago (AL)	79-77	.506	10.5
Cleveland	70-86	.449	19.5
American League West			GB
Oakland	99-57	.635	-
Anaheim	96-60	.615	3
Seattle	90-66	.577	9
National League East			GB
x-Atlanta	97-57	.630	-
Montreal	79-77	.506	19
Philadelphia	78-78	.500	20
National League Central			GB
x-St. Louis	91-64	.587	-
Houston	82-74	.526	9.5
Cincinnati	75-81	.481	16.5
National League West			GB
Arizona	94-61	.606	-
San Francisco	90-66	.577	4.5
Los Angeles	88-68	.564	6.5

x- Clinched division

Friday's scores

Boston 13-2 Baltimore
 Pittsburgh 5-4 Chicago Cubs
 N.Y. Yankees 4-3 Detroit
 Montreal 5-1 N.Y. Mets
 Toronto 12-6 Tampa Bay
 Atlanta 4-1 Florida
 Chicago Sox 8-2 Minnesota
 Cleveland 6-5 Kansas City
 San Francisco 3-1 Milwaukee
 St. Louis 7-3 Houston
 Philadelphia 4-3 Cincinnati
 Oakland 7-2 Texas
 Seattle 3-2 Anaheim
 Colorado 11-7 Arizona
 Los Angeles 4-3 San Diego

NL

1. San Francisco .577
 2. Los Angeles .564
 3. Houston .526
 4. Montreal .506
 5. Philadelphia .500
 6. Cincinnati .481

AL

1. Anaheim .615
 2. Seattle .577
 3. Boston .574
 4. Chicago Sox .506
 5. Toronto .462
 6. Texas .449



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2002 National Football League standings

American Football Conference

East

N. England	3-0	1.000
Miami	3-0	1.000

North

Cleveland	2-1	.667
Pittsburgh	0-2	.000

South

Indianapolis	2-1	.667
Jacksonville	1-1	.500

West

Denver	3-0	1.000
San Diego	3-0	1.000

National Football Conference

East

Philadelphia	2-1	.667
N.Y. Giants	2-1	.667

North

Chicago	2-1	.667
Green Bay	2-1	.667

South

New Orleans	3-0	1.000
Carolina	3-0	1.000

West

San Francisco	2-1	.667
Arizona	1-2	.333

NFL scoreboard: Week 2

Atlanta 30, Cincinnati 3
 Cleveland 31, Tennessee 28 (OT)
 Miami 30, N.Y. Jets 3
 New Orleans 29, Chicago 23
 New England 41, Kansas City 38 (OT)
 Carolina 21, Minnesota 14
 N.Y. Giants 9, Seattle 6
 Green Bay 37, Detroit 31
 Indianapolis 23, Houston 3
 Denver 28, Buffalo 23
 San Diego 23, Arizona 15
 Philadelphia 44, Dallas 13
 San Francisco 20, Washington 10

Top Performers

Passing

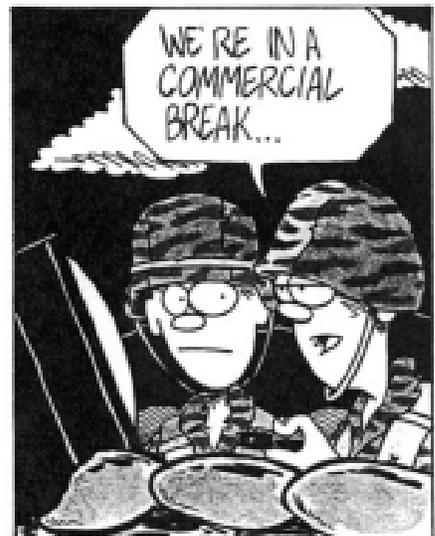
Brady, NE, 410 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT
 Favre, GB, 357 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT
 Couch, CLE, 326 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT

Rushing

Holmes, KC, 30 carries for 180 yards, 2 TDs
 Smith, CAR, 30 carries for 154 yards, 2 TDs
 Williams, MIA, 24 carries for 151 yards, 1 TD

Receiving

Brown, NE, 16 catches for 176 yards, 1 TD
 Freeman, PHI, 6 catches for 118 yards, 1 TD
 Harrison, IND, 8 catches for 110 yards, 0 TD



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support