



FREEDOM WATCH



June 30, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Palestinian HQ destroyed

HEBRON, West Bank — The massive Palestinian security headquarters lay in ruins early Saturday, ripped apart by at least three explosions that punctuated a four-day stand-off between the Israeli military and militants it said were inside. The complex was 75 percent destroyed following the blasts, but by Saturday morning the remaining portions had collapsed.

S. Korean ship sunk in North gun battle

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korean patrol boat was sunk after a brief gun battle between South and North Korean naval vessels on Saturday that left at least four South Korean sailors dead and 18 others injured. Reports from the presidential Blue House said Seoul believes that the North should bear full responsibility for the exchange.

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DOD to restart Anthrax vaccination program

Only certain military, civilians to receive vaccine

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials announced today they are restarting a modified Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program now that the vaccine provider has passed Food and Drug Administration scrutiny.

Only service members, essential civilians and contract personnel going to or serving in high-threat areas will receive the vaccine, said Dr. Bill Winkenwerder, assistant de-

fense secretary for health affairs. This is because half the contractor's vaccine production will be stockpiled for civilian use.

"We recognize there is a domestic need for access to the vaccine," Winkenwerder said during a news conference at the Pentagon. "In collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Homeland Security, we are reserving a portion of the anthrax vaccine for stockpiling ... to use in the event of a domestic emergency."

In 1998, DOD began a plan to vaccinate all military members

against the deadly, potential biological weapon. The program was pared down several times in the intervening years as the sole provider of the vaccine shut down its factory for renovations and then had problems gaining FDA approval of its production process.

Vaccine shortages eventually caused DOD to vaccinate only limited numbers of service members serving in "designated special mission units."

The contractor, Bioport of Lansing, Mich., gained FDA approval of its renovated facility in January

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Photo by Spc. Erica Leigh Foley

Sunset in Bagram

As the sun retreats behind the Hindu Kush mountain range, it gives coalition soldiers a spectacular view to end their day.

Frequent calls cause DSN network restrictions

By Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
28th Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers are making too many morale calls using direct service network phone lines, which tie up lines needed for official military business.

"If this continues, there won't be enough pipe to get out (official calls) at the same time," said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Carter, the switch system chief for Company D, 327th

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and is now ready to begin providing additional stocks of the vaccine to DOD.

Winkenwerder said the new policy is “more targeted” than the previous plan to vaccinate the total force. He said the numbers of service members and essential civilians vaccinated will jump, but he would not say how high. Nor would he say what areas are considered “higher threat.”

“We will identify those areas to the service members before they are deployed to those areas, but we don’t intend to talk publicly about that as we describe the policy to the rest of the country, to the media,” Winkenwerder said during an earlier interview with American Forces Press Service. “And the reason is, we don’t intend to give our adversaries an indication of exactly who and when and where we’ve immunized people. We would like that to be a further deterrent to anybody who might think about using anthrax as a weapon.”

The doctor said DOD medical officials hope to start vaccinating targeted service members 45 days before they deploy. The anthrax vaccine requires six shots over an

18-month period for maximum immunity, but a relatively high level of immunity is reached after the first three shots, he explained.

Winkenwerder and Vice Adm. Gordon Holder, director of logistics on the Joint Staff, said the vaccination program may return to total-force coverage if vaccine availability improves and if the biological threat changes.

Individuals who started the six-shot series under the previous guidelines will start where they left off.

Others who started the shots previously but are not currently covered under the new program will receive the rest of their shots “later into 2002, possibly as late as 2003, and that’s because the supply of the vaccine is limited,” Winkenwerder said.

He insisted there is no danger in stopping and restarting the series of shots. “Protection lasts months to years at some level,” he said.

Under the previous program, 525,000 service members have received a total of 2.1 million doses of the vaccine. Con-

trary to widespread media reports of service members refusing to be vaccinated, even at the cost of their careers, Winkenwerder said the true number is relatively small compared to the number of doses administered. DOD has no formal method of counting refusals, but service chiefs report 441 service members have refused to be vaccinated. He said there have been no deaths linked to the vaccine.

In the earlier interview, Winkenwerder dismissed widespread claims that the vaccine isn’t safe or effective. He cited a study released March 6 by the Institute of Medicine that found the vaccine to be “effective protection against anthrax, including inhalation anthrax.”

“The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences — a very august, prominent body — has said in a very large, in a very important, comprehensive report that the vaccine is safe and effective,” Winkenwerder said earlier.

Several other studies by reputable independent agencies have released similar conclusions.

Even though it is scaled back, the vaccination program will remain mandatory for troops in ar-

eas covered by the policy. Winkenwerder said this is no different from any number of other vaccines and “medical interventions” that are mandatory for military people based on where they are serving.

DOD is working with HHS to develop a new anthrax vaccine that would require fewer shots and be made using a different, easier method, said William F. Raub, deputy director of public health preparedness at HHS. The two departments are also examining the current vaccine to see if its protocol can be changed.

“We fight and win as teams,” he said. “If a team of people are in an environment deployed in a military situation, I think the commander as well as all the individuals want to know are we all protected.”

The anthrax attacks on the U.S. East Coast last fall may have silenced some critics. “I think the attacks last fall brought home the point that this is a real threat and that it’s possible to manufacture this kind of bioweapon, and it’s not altogether difficult to disseminate it,” Winkenwerder said. “This is something that’s not just in people’s imagination. It is real.”

(AFPS reporter Jim Garamone contributed to this report.)

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China AIDS a 'titanic peril'

BELJING, China — A U.N. report says the country faces a “titanic peril” if it does not change the way it is fighting AIDS. Government data last year showed 30,736 people were carrying the HIV virus, 1,594 had full-blown AIDS and 684 people died from illnesses related to the disease. But the U.N. report estimates that as many as 1.5 million Chinese had AIDS last year. The figure could soar to 10 million by 2010 if no

effective countermeasures are taken, UNAIDS has said.

50 missing after ammo depot blast

SPIN BOLDAK, Afghanistan — A series of explosions at an ammunition depot in southern Afghanistan killed an undetermined number of people Friday and injured more than two dozen others, according to a World Food Program official who went to the scene. Aide workers said about 50 people were missing.

HIND SIGHT

1834

Congress creates Indian Territory (now Oklahoma)

1859

Charles Blondin is first to cross Niagara Falls on a tightrope

1950

President Harry S. Truman orders U.S. troops into Korea

1969

Spain cedes Ifni to Morocco

1970

Brazil beats Italy 4-1 in soccer’s 9th World Cup at Mexico City

SIGNAL, from Page 1

Signal Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C. “That’s why we have placed zone restrictions on 90 percent of the DSN phones around Bagram Air Base.”

The restrictions are being implemented because more than 19,800 DSN calls were placed during a 24-hour period Friday. Personnel will soon find their phone calls limited, but officials will leave the Morale, Welfare and Recreation phone tent open.

“Soldiers who have been here

three to six months need to make those calls to sustain operations in a high state of readiness,” said Carter.

Carter recommends that a location with Internet connections with chatting capabilities be established to remedy the problem.

“It is a working, learning progress,” Carter said. “But we will try our best to provide the best service possible to soldiers here.”

Units wishing to have their phones connected to worldwide DSN should call the 327th Sig. Bn. at 303-587-3631.

“That’s why we have placed zone restrictions on 90 percent of the DSN phones around Bagram Air Base.”

— Sgt. 1st Class Steven Carter

July 4 festivities at Bagram Air Base

- ❖ 0430Z — 3-on-3 basketball tourney at the Combat Area Support Hospital or 129th Facility
 - ❖ 0530Z — Soccer challenge at Dragon City
 - ❖ 0730Z — Brunch BBQ at Viper City Dining Facility
 - ❖ 0830Z — Horseshoe tourney at Viper City
 - ❖ 0930Z — Volleyball tourney at the Polish compound
 - ❖ 1400Z — Tournament winners awards presentation at the Joint Operations Center pavilion
 - ❖ 1420Z — Mass re-enlistment at the Joint Operations Center flag pole
 - ❖ 1430Z — Back yard patio BBQ for U.S. and coalition commanders and command sergeants major
 - ❖ 1500Z — Evening festivities will include music, lights, appetizers and cold beverages at the cement pad in front of Motel 8.
- For more information, call 640-8137.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Monday</u>
<u>Bagram:</u>	Showers H: 99F L: 66F	Showers H: 97F L: 68F
<u>Kandahar:</u>	Haze H: 108F L: 70F	Haze H: 109F L: 72F
<u>Kabul:</u>	Showers H: 93F L: 66F	Showers H: 91F L: 68F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	Cloudy H: 96F L: 48F	Clear H: 95 L: 46

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 Lawson
- ❖ Editor — Sgt. Reeba Critser
- ❖ Sports Editor — Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
- ❖ Journalists — Spc. Jason Allgood, Spc. Erica Leigh Foley, Pfc. Nathan Akridge and Pfc. Eleazar Craig.

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To be added to the distribution list, e-mail reeba.critser@us.army.mil

Got a story idea? Visit the 28th Public Affairs Detachment on the second floor of Motel 6, or call 640-8000.

Check out *Freedom Watch* online at www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm

COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

Venus rallies; no American men left since '22

Two-time defending champion Venus Williams fell behind by a set, but never faltered as she rallied past 110th ranked Canadian journeywoman Maureen Drake.

Venus joins six other American women — including her sister Serena — into the fourth round.

Not so, for the men.

Eighteen of the top 21 players in the world have already been eliminated going into the fourth round. And with American Jeff Morrison losing in straight sets, it marked the first time since 1922 that no American man reached the fourth round.

Turkey upends South Korea for third-place

Turkish striker Hakan Sakur needed just 11 seconds to score his first goal, setting a record for the fastest goal scored in World Cup history, to lead the Turkish squad to a miracle third-place finish.

Pooley soars to lead with a 63 at Open

Don Pooley capped a record-setting performance of 8-under-par 63 to take the lead after three rounds at the 2002 U.S. Senior Open.

Francis re-signs with Hurricanes

Ron Francis signed a two-year, \$11 million contract extension with the Carolina Hurricanes.

Francis, who was paid \$5 million a year for the last four years, will receive \$5.5 the next two seasons after leading Carolina to the Stanley Cup finals for the first time in franchise history.

Francis, 41, ranks fifth all-time in scoring with 1,701 points.

July 4th 5K run

Iron Rakkasan will host an Independence Day 5k Run at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

The entry fee is \$10, which includes a T-shirt.

To sign up, visit the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment S-4 shop; any 3rd Bn., 187th Infantry Company headquarters in Viper City; the mayor's office in Motel 6; or at the SSA.

For more information, call Capt. Christian Teutsch at 640-1116.

2002 World Cup First Round Standings

Group A			Group E		
x-Denmark	2-0-1	7	x-Germany	2-0-1	7
y-Senegal	1-0-2	5	y-Ireland	1-0-2	5
Uruguay	0-1-2	2	Cameroon	1-1-1	4
France	0-2-1	1	Saudi Arabia	0-3-0	0

Group B			Group F		
x-Spain	3-0-0	9	x-Sweden	1-0-2	5
y-Paraguay	1-1-1	4	y-England	1-0-2	5
South Africa	1-1-1	4	Argentina	1-1-1	4
Slovenia	0-3-0	0	Nigeria	0-2-1	1

Group C			Group G		
x-Brazil	3-0-0	9	x-Mexico	2-0-1	7
y-Turkey	1-1-1	4	y-Italy	1-1-1	4
Costa Rica	1-1-1	4	Croatia	1-2-0	3
China	0-3-0	0	Ecuador	1-2-0	3

Group D			Group H		
x-South Korea	2-0-1	7	x-Japan	2-0-1	7
y-United States	1-1-1	4	y-Belgium	1-0-2	5
Portugal	1-2-0	3	Russia	1-2-0	3
Poland	1-2-0	3	Tunisia	0-2-1	1

World Cup second round schedule

Germany 1-0 Paraguay

England 3-0 Denmark

Senegal 2-1, OT, Sweden

Spain 1-1 Ireland (Spain advances 3-2 PKs)

United States 2-0 Mexico

Brazil 2-0 Belgium

Turkey 1-0 Japan

South Korea 2-1, OT, Italy

World Cup quarterfinals

Germany 1-0 United States

Brazil 1-0 England

Turkey 1-0, OT, Senegal

South Korea 0-0 Spain (S. Korea wins 5-3 in PKs)

World Cup semifinals

Germany 1-0 South Korea

Brazil 1-0 Turkey

World Cup Final @ Yokohama, Japan

Today, 1100Z — Germany vs. Brazil