



FREEDOM WATCH



July 3, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

71 feared dead in midair crash

UEBERLINGEN, Germany — At least 71 people — including about 50 children — are feared to have been killed after a Russian jetliner and a cargo plane collided in mid-air over southern Germany. Police and witnesses said the crash scattered “burning pieces like fire” over a 20-mile area.

N. Korea blames U.S. for clash

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States has rejected as ‘spurious’ an allegation from North Korea that a weekend clash with the South was staged by the U.S. to strain ties between the neighbors. The U.S. is siding with its ally the South over the battle, describing it as an “armed provocation,” with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on Sunday sheeting home blame for the confrontation on the North.

Weekend firefight under investigation

By Sgt. Reeba Critser
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – A fact-finding team left for the Oruzgan Province, north of Khandahar, today at 3 a.m. (Zulu).

The team, which consists of about seven Afghan authorities, one member of the State Department, four Army personnel and two media representatives, is investigating an incident that has been in the eyes of the international media since Monday.

Special Operations troops

were on a reconnaissance mission Sunday night when they came under fire.

“Automatic weapons fired on our ground troops,” Col. Roger King, Combined Joint Task Force – 180 public affairs officer, said during a Tuesday morning press briefing. “The ground troops felt threatened and called in air cover.”

King said enemy fire came in from several locations in the Oruzgan Province, which still houses Taliban and al Qaeda followers. U.S. soldiers called for close-air support. An AC-130 gun-

ship, which is heavily armed with cannons and machine guns, arrived, but was fired upon.

“Personnel on the AC-130 felt that the weapons firing at them was tracking them, not sporadic fire,” King said.

Meanwhile, a B-52 in the area was on a planned mission to drop bombs on suspected Taliban and al Qaeda locations.

“Close-air support from U.S. Air Force B-52 and AC-130 aircraft struck several ground tar-

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Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser

Mine clearing

“Bagram requires mine-clearing and all the construction area must be prepared to avoid mine strikes and explosions,” said Maj. Cpl. Krzysztof Idzi, an ordnance specialist, 1st Engineer Brigade, Polish Army. “I clear mines to protect the runners, drivers and all personnel in the coalition force.”

Army educates U.S. forces on anthrax vaccine

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — When the Department of Defense announced resumption of the anthrax vaccine June 28, the Army was ready to take the lead in educating forces on the vaccine’s importance.

The Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program Agency is an Army-led organization in charge of providing all of DoD - including all military services — with educational tools to increase community knowledge on the anthrax vaccine.

“We’re not just saying, roll up your sleeves and get a shot.”

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gets, including anti-aircraft artillery sites that were engaging the aircraft," he said.

The B-52 dropped seven 2,000-pound, precision-guided bombs on planned targets on the outside perimeter of a village near Deh Rawod in the province. One went astray, but it is still unclear as to where it landed, King said.

In the village, locals claimed that their wedding party was targeted by both aircraft, killing 40 Afghans and injuring 100. They also claim that they were bursting celebratory

fire with AK-47s, and not aiming at the aircraft.

"The village was not a target," King said. "It is in a part of the area where there are reports of Taliban, but I don't want to characterize the entire village."

He said more than one site in the vicinity of the village engaged coalition forces.

"There is no indication that the village was a base of Taliban and al Qaeda forces," King said. "There were places in the village where they were firing at us. I wouldn't count an AK-47 as anti-aircraft."

King stressed that from the

"It is not within the parameters of the coalition to attack civilians."

— Lt. Gen. Dan K. McNeill

aircraft personnel's view, it was not celebratory fire, but enemy fire. He added that the AC-130 was fired upon twice before retaliating.

"There were three other incidents in the past month, this being the fourth, where persons unknown fired directly at coalition forces, claiming it was celebratory

fire," King said. "In one incident, special forces were chased for five hours."

He said the fact-finding team that left today would clarify the conflicting reports, which the coalition forces received shortly after the incident.

Confirmed civilian casualties of the operation are receiving medical treatment at Khandahar Air Field and Bagram Air Base hospitals.

"It is not within the parameters of the coalition to attack civilians," said Lt. Gen. Dan K. McNeill, CJTF-180 commander. "It's the terrorists who have a track record of this."

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said Col. Randy Randolph, the AVIP director. "We want them to know the vaccine is safe and effective against all forms of anthrax, including inhalation, which is the most deadly form. It also provides round-the-clock protection against the disease."

AVIP's responsibility is to provide accessible information for troops and civilians to learn more about the vaccine.

"What we're going to do is make sure that the information is in front of as many soldiers, civilians and family members as possible," Randolph said.

Individuals who are required to get the six-series shot, and the annual booster, should learn about the vaccine at their local level, said Lt. Col. John Grabenstein, deputy director of AVIP.

"On our Web site, www.anthrax.mil, there is a commander's tool kit that gives supervisors an overview of the policy, frequently asked ques-

tions and answers and a brochure with our toll free number, 1-877-GET-VACC, and Web address on it," Grabenstein said.

The AVIP Web site was redesigned to be more user-friendly, and to also answer the most anticipated questions, Grabenstein said. However, AVIP's e-mail address and toll-free number can be used if someone needs a customized answer, he said. It's the personal questions that are the most important, he added.

Everyone on AVIP's 24-member team is involved in getting troops educated on the vaccine, Randolph said. Not everyone's primary mission is to provide customized responses, but anyone could be asked to do it, he said.

"We care very much about the health and safety of our force and that extends to caring about their families," Randolph said. "We want their families to also know and understand why their spouses are taking the vaccine. We want them to know that

we're providing them with an added piece of body armor."

Last summer, there was a shortage of the vaccine, and only individuals in high-threat areas were administered the shots. Supplies of the stockpiled vaccine dwindled when Bioport, the sole manufacturer of the vaccine, failed to win the Food and Drug Administration approval for its renovated facility.

However, the Bioport plant passed the final FDA inspection in January and was licensed to produce more of the vaccine, Randolph said.

"Not only has Bioport's anthrax vaccine been FDA approved, it has been documented that the drug is safe and effective in a 200-page report by the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine," Randolph said.

The report said that Bioport's vaccine is "reasonably safe," a term that is used because nothing is perfectly safe, Grabenstein said. Like all adult vaccines, it may cause redness or swelling, but that is a reasonable price to pay to get the protection it gives, he

said.

Last fall several U.S. citizens died from the inhalation form of anthrax, because they didn't know that they had been exposed and weren't able to get antibiotics in time, Grabenstein said. Without the biological threat protection that the vaccine provides, an enemy could widely disperse anthrax spores on the battlefield and many troops could die, he said.

Being protected is more important now than ever, the president said. There is still the threat of adversaries using weapons of mass destruction, Randolph said. When the vaccine was halted last summer, it was done in steps and methodically, which is how it will be restarted, Randolph said. There are people being vaccinated now. However, it's only a small portion of the force, and resumption will be done depending on the threat and mission essential functions, Randolph said.

HIND SIGHT

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St Leo II ends his reign as Catholic Pope

1848

Slaves freed in Danish West Indies
(now U.S. Virgin Islands)

1939

Lou Gehrig day; Gehrig makes
his "luckiest man" speech

1950

First time U.S. and North Korean forces
clash in the Korean War

1984

Supreme Court rules that Jaycees may be forced
to admit women as members

News Briefs

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Israelis applaud death of key Hamas figure

JERUSALEM — Israeli leaders Monday hailed the killing of a Hamas bomb mastermind suspected of involvement in the deaths of more than 100 Israelis. A spokesman for Hamas vowed revenge for the death of Muhanad Taher, 26, who headed Israel's most-wanted list. He was killed Sunday at a house in the West Bank town of Nablus, where he was staying with another Hamas activist.

WorldCom: 6-cent stock

NEW YORK — WorldCom Inc. said Monday it defaulted on some loans and that it may have overstated financial results as far back as 1999. WorldCom stock tumbled 77 cents, or 93 percent, to 6 cents Monday, as investors reacted for the first time to disclosures that the company artificially inflated financial results by hiding nearly \$4 billion in expenses.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
<u>Bagram:</u>	Partly cloudy H: 97F L: 77F	Mostly Cloudy H: 97F L: 75F
<u>Kandahar:</u>	Haze H: 106F L: 73F	Haze H: 109F L: 72F
<u>Kabul:</u>	Thunderstorms H: 102F L: 66F	Thunderstorms H: 102F L: 66F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	Clear H: 95F L: 45F	Clear H: 94F L: 45F

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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Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper publication, is produced by the 28th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

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In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas. Contents of *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 28th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF - 180, Bagram Air Base.

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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

Red Wings sign goaltender Joseph

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Red Wings again are relying on the formula that led them to the Stanley Cup — bring in an aging, high-priced, superstar goalie to try to win another title.

This time, it's Curtis Joseph.

The Red Wings signed Joseph to a \$24 million, three-year contract to replace Dominik Hasek, who retired last week after leading Detroit to its third Cup in six seasons.

Jones, Damon gets final All-Star spots

NEW YORK (AP) — Andruw Jones, Atlanta Braves' center fielder, and Johnny Damon, the center fielder for the Boston Red Sox, won an Internet runoff for the final two spots in next week's All-Star game.

More than 750,000 voters cast about 3.1 million ballots at **mlb.com** between Sunday night and Tuesday. AL manager Joe Torre and NL skipper Bob Brenly picked five players to compete for the final spot.

Venus too quick for umpire; Henin beats Seles

WIMBELDON, England (AP) — The two-time defending champion, Venus Williams, beat 48th-ranked Russian Elena Likhovtseva 6-2, 6-0 in just 47 minutes, taking her total court time to little more than four and a half hours in five matches.

While she overwhelmed yet another unheralded opponent for a 19th straight victory at the All England Club, 2001 runner-up Justine Henin overcame Monica Seles for the first time in five tries, 7-5, 7-6 (4). Williams and Henin will meet in a semifinal.

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.

July 4th 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 Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent in front of Motel 8.

For more information, call 640-8137.

2002 Major League Baseball Standings

American League East			GB
N.Y. Yankees	50-31	.617	-
Boston	47-31	.603	1.5
Baltimore	38-41	.481	11
American League Central			GB
Minnesota	46-36	.561	-
Chicago (AL)	40-42	.488	6
Cleveland	37-43	.462	8
American League West			GB
Seattle	51-30	.630	-
Anaheim	47-33	.588	3.5
Oakland	46-35	.568	5
National League East			GB
Atlanta	52-30	.634	-
Montreal	42-39	.519	9.5
Florida	42-40	.512	10.5
National League Central			GB
Cincinnati	44-37	.543	-
St. Louis	43-36	.543	-
Houston	36-44	.456	7.5
National League West			GB
Los Angeles	50-31	.617	-
Arizona	48-32	.600	1.5
San Francisco	45-35	.562	4.5