



FREEDOM WATCH



July 31, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Afghans avert assassination

KABUL, Afghanistan—Afghanistan authorities have averted an attack on government officials, according to a report. Citing the Afghan intelligence service, the report said a man identified as a “foreigner” was arrested after a traffic accident in Kabul. Explosives were reportedly hidden in his car. The intelligence service report said he was planning to drive the car into a vehicle carrying Afghan officials, including top leaders.

Bush to CEOs: No fudging

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Tuesday signed a corporate reform bill he hopes will restore America’s confidence in its financial markets. Bush said, “if you’re a CEO and you think you can fudge the books in order to make yourself look better, we’re going to find you, we’re going to arrest you, and we’re going to hold you to account.”

Soldiers use robots to clear caves

Story & photo by Spc. Erica Leigh Foley
28th Public Affairs Detachment

When a soldier clears a cave, he has to look for booby-traps and trip wires, making all the dangers inherent to him personally, said Col. Bruce Jette, robotics team. Being hand picked by the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Jette had his work cut out for him and the team he chose. After conjuring up the best folks for the job, he set out with an idea of helping soldiers in Afghanistan by producing the rapid integration of a robotics system for the soldiers to utilize.

“This is a three-fold

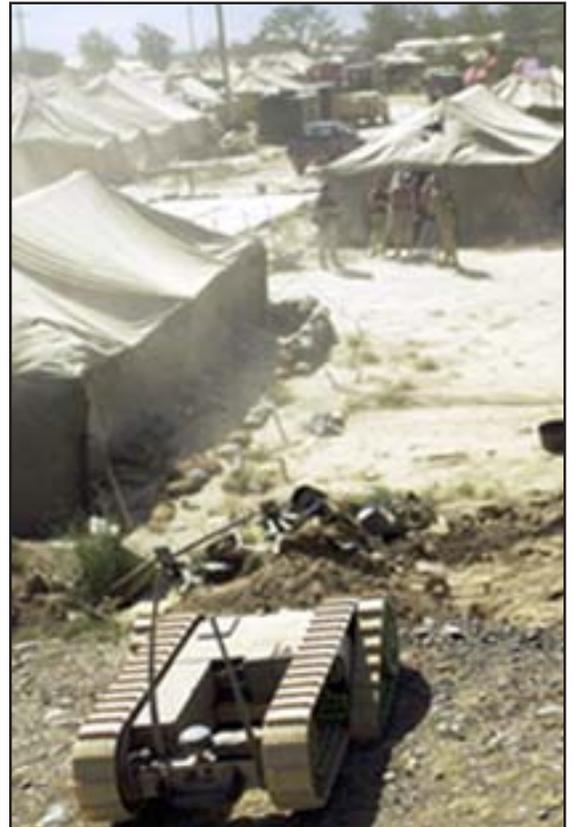
mission, our first objective is to enhance the mission capability while reducing risk to the soldiers,” said Jette.

Instead of sending soldiers into an unknown cave now, a robot can be sent.

“We can walk up and say ‘here let the robot explore the cave and find the trip wires. That way if the robot runs over a trip wire, we lose a robot not a soldier. Robots are replaceable,” said Jette.

Once in the cave, the robot can make the mission go by rapidly because of the multiple sensors. Some of its capabilities include Infra Red illumination and a zoom

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‘Fester’ is taken out on a practice run while soldiers learn how to maneuver the robot for clearing areas.

Afghan security situation 'quite good'

By Gerry J. Gilmore
Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, — All in all, the regional security situation in Afghanistan is going very well, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said in a recent interview with the *Washington Times* newspaper.

Reporters have looked for and covered

the “peaks and valleys” during Operation Enduring Freedom in the search for front-page news, Rumsfeld told columnist Georgia Anne Geyer July 19.

“But if one steps back and looks at the total scenery, the Afghanistan security situation that gets reported on periodically as being terrible and so forth is really quite good,” the secretary em-

phasized.

Hundreds of thousands of refugees are “voting with their feet,” Rumsfeld noted, and are returning to Afghanistan after the U.S.- coalition military rout and defeat of the Taliban and al Qaeda.

Secondly, he added, humanitarian workers are moving across the country and performing their work.

“Food’s being deliv-

ered, and roads are being built, wells are being dug,” Rumsfeld remarked.

In terms of dealing with Taliban and al Qaeda influence, most of Afghanistan now appears secure, Rumsfeld pointed out.

“You’ve got regional security,” he added. “Ex-

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lens on the cameras.

“You get the enhanced ability and the increased safety factor for the soldier who can be 700 meters away,” Jette said.

“We brought ‘Fester’ (an i Robot Pack bot) here along with a couple other robots to try to get these in the hands of troops. We think we have great technology here to help with the clearing of caves and doing reconnaissance in buildings.”

The second aspect of the mission is to develop tactics, techniques and procedures along with doctrine. Doctrines is usually written after study, then questions are

raised. Then there is time to think about what ought to be done and what would be the best next step. Then tests are done. That process wouldn’t work in this situation. There needed to be a faster way to insert a robotics system into operations. So they cut through a lot of red tape to help save soldiers lives by. Implementing a successful system as fast as possible.

The third part of their mission is to examine the feasibility and value of providing material solutions Jette said.

“Just two months ago this was just a concept, now its battle-experienced hardware,” said

Richard Kremer, lead contractor and Principal and Practice director.

A vest has everything needed to control and monitor the robot. Looking like a supped-up flack jacket, the wearable computer has replaced the laptop in a big briefcase, Kremer said.

This Pentium doesn’t need a table or need to be plugged in an outlet to get the job done.

“We needed to have the same functionality, but built on something tactical that the infantrymen can wear and patrol with.

They need to be able to get to the fight and not be too encumbered if the fight breaks out into a

shooting match,” Kremer said.

The computer has a joystick, much like a video game controller, along with 16 other buttons Kremer said.

In addition, the soldier also wears a battery, two radios and a helmet-mounted display that clips onto the helmet with a piece that goes right over the soldier’s eye. This lets the soldier see what the robot sees in high resolution.

With one complete vest, a soldier can control multiple robots, and others who wear the vests can observe what each robot is doing.

“We have already taken it out on a few mis-

sions: we have cleared about a dozen caves and compounds where we sent the robot in first,” said Tom Frost, project manager. It went into scout the compound developed a sketch of the way the compound was laid out. We gave the layout to the squad that was going to breach the compound, (so that) they had an idea of what to expect.”

After being inside the compound, the soldiers continued to use the robot to further inspect areas and rooms to make sure it was clear before sending troops in.

“This is exciting. I am proud to be playing a part in the overall effort here,” Kremer said.

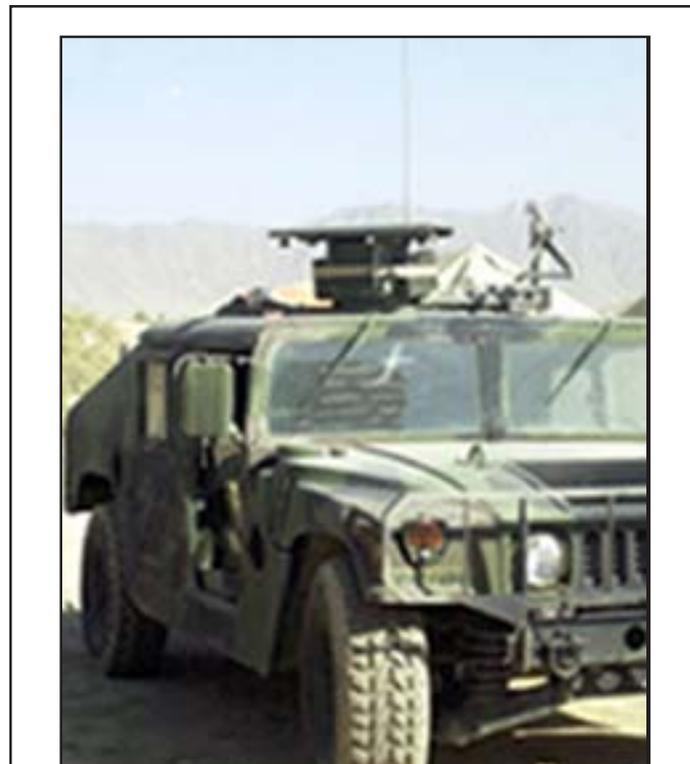


Photo by Spc. Erica Leigh Foley

America all the way

Old Glory reflects off of a HMMWV in the sands of Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Law school applications offered to lieutenants, captains til November

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army is now accepting applications to fund law school for eligible lieutenants and captains.

Under the Funded Legal Education Program, up to 15 active-duty commissioned officers may be able to attend law school in the fall of 2003.

The program is open to officers in the grades of second lieutenant through captain. The Judge Advocate General will accept applications from Aug. 1 through Nov. 1.

Applicants must have at least two but not more than six years of total active federal service when training begins, officials said. Interested officers should register immediately for the next Law School Admission

Test, commonly called LSAT, officials said.

Those eligible should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 (The Judge Advocate General’s Funded Legal Education Program), officials said, adding that those interested can contact their local staff judge advocate for further information.

Applicants should send their request through command channels, to include their branch manager at PERSCOM. Copies of the applications should be forwarded to: The Office of The Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT (FLEP), 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, Va. 22209-2194.

Editor’s note: This release was submitted by the Office of the Judge Advocate General.

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cept for southeast (Afghanistan), it's really reasonably stable."

The U.S. military and its coalition partners are training a new Afghan National Army to enhance the new government's ability to effect stability, while U.S. troops are providing security for President Hamid Karzai at his request.

The U.S. defense secretary also praised the leadership of the fledging Afghan govern-

ment, calling it "thoughtful and approaching things in a rational way."

Rumsfeld noted that the U.S. and its allies are continuing the campaign against worldwide terrorists.

"The pressure that has been put on them has been significant," he emphasized.

"Money's dried up. I'm sure that donors have been much more careful about whether they really wanted to do that, and get caught or be seen to do that,"

Rumsfeld explained.

Terrorists' ability to recruit, retain, move and communicate has been made more difficult, the secretary pointed out.

However, Rumsfeld emphasized, the war isn't over and despite military successes achieved in Afghanistan, terrorists are still a dangerous force to be reckoned with.

"They're still there, and there's a lot of them and they're well-trained, very well-trained, and they (still) have money," he said.

HIND SIGHT

1498

Christopher Columbus discovers island of Trinidad

1777

Marquis de Lafayette, 19, made major general of Continental Army

1912

U.S. government prohibits movies and photos of prize fights (censorship)

1922

18-year-old Ralph Samuelson rides world's first water skis

1948

President Truman dedicates Idlewild Field (Kennedy Airport), N. Y.

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

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<u>Bagram:</u>	<i>Showers</i> H: 95F L: 70F	<i>Showers</i> H: 95F L: 66F
<u>Khandahar:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 108F L: 72F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 108F L: 70F
<u>Kabul:</u>	<i>Haze</i> H: 93F L: 63F	<i>Haze</i> H: 93F L: 64F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	<i>Sunny</i> H: 100F L: 64F	<i>Sunny</i> H: 101F L: 65F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Visit the CENTCOM Website to see the latest editions of *Freedom Watch* at www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm

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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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.

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

COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Floyd traded again, sent to Boston Red Sox

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Cliff Floyd was traded for the second time in three weeks, with the Montreal Expos sending the power-hitting outfielder to Boston on Tuesday night for minor league pitchers Seung Jun Song and Sun Woo Kim.

Floyd, an All-Star last season, is eligible to become a free agent at the end of the season. He is being paid \$6.5 million this season.

Floyd homered Tuesday night for the Expos, who acquired him after the All-Star break from Florida.

As part of the deal, Montreal also gets a player to be named.

Floyd spent his first four seasons in Montreal. After hitting .287 with 18 homers and 57 RBI with Florida, he was dealt back to the Expos on July 11 and struggled in his second stint with the Expos.

Song, a 22-year-old South Korean, was obtained by the Red Sox as a free agent in 1999. The right-hander led Boston's farm system with a 1.90 ERA and 135 strikeouts last season, when he split time between Sarasota of the Florida State League and Augusta of the South Atlantic League.

2002 Major League Leaders

Batting Average

1. L. Walker, Col	.361
2. M. Sweeney, KC	.355
3. I. Suzuki, Sea	.351
4. B. Bonds, SF	.343
5. J. Kent, SF	.333

Home runs

1. A. Rodriguez, Tex	35
2. S. Sosa, CHC	32
3. J. Thome, Cle	31
3. L. Berkman, Hou	31
5. B. Bonds, SF	28

Runs Batted In

1. A. Rodriguez, Tex	90
2. L. Berkman, Hou	87
3. J. Giambi, NYY	86
3. N. Garciaparra, Bos	86
5. M. Ordonez, CHW	85

Wins

1. C. Schilling, Ariz	18-3
2. B. Zito, Oak	15-3
3. R. Johnson, Ariz	14-4
3. B. Colon, Cle/Mont	14-5
3. D. Lowe, Bost	14-5

Earned Run Average

1. D. Lowe, Bos	2.23
2. P. Martinez, Bos	2.38
3. G. Maddux, Atl	2.56
4. B. Colon, Cle/Mont	2.62
5. E. Dessens, Cin	2.68

Strikeouts

1. C. Schilling, Ariz	212
2. R. Johnson, Ariz	200
3. P. Martinez, Bos	178
4. A. Burnett, Fla	156
5. R. Oswalt, Hou	143

2002 Major League standings

American League East			GB
N.Y. Yankees	67-38	.638	-
Boston	61-43	.587	5.5
Baltimore	48-55	.466	18
American League Central			GB
Minnesota	64-43	.598	-
Chicago (AL)	51-56	.477	13
Cleveland	46-58	.442	16.5
American League West			GB
Seattle	65-42	.607	-
Anaheim	63-41	.606	.5
Oakland	60-46	.566	4.5
National League East			GB
Atlanta	68-38	.642	-
N.Y. Mets	54-51	.514	13.5
Montreal	53-53	.500	15
National League Central			GB
St. Louis	59-44	.573	-
Cincinnati	55-50	.524	5
Houston	54-51	.514	6
National League West			GB
Arizona	64-42	.604	-
Los Angeles	59-47	.557	5
San Francisco	59-47	.557	5

Monday scores

Seattle 5-4 Detroit
 Montreal 5-4 Arizona
 Tampa Bay 10-3 Baltimore
 San Francisco 10-3 Philadelphia
 Toronto 13-4 Kansas City
 Pittsburgh 4-1 Colorado
 Chicago W. Sox 3-0 Minnesota
 St. Louis 12-4 Florida
 NYYankees 9-6 Texas
 Cincinnati 12-4 Los Angeles
 Boston 6-0 Anaheim, Top 8th
 Houston 16-3 NY Mets
 Cleveland 3-1 Oakland, Top 6th
 Atlanta 3-2 Milwaukee
 San Diego 6-5 Chicago Cubs

Today's schedule

Detroit at Seattle
 Arizona at Montreal
 San Francisco at Philadelphia
 Colorado at Pittsburgh
 St. Louis at Florida
 Los Angeles at Cincinnati
 Houston at N.Y. Mets
 Baltimore at Tampa Bay
 Milwaukee at Atlanta