



FREEDOM WATCH



July 4, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan



Happy 226th birthday, America!



News briefs

Land mines still issue in Afghanistan

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — A local boy was released Wednesday from the Spanish Hospital at Bagram Air Base. He suffered abdominal and leg injuries when he rode his bicycle over a land mine north of the air base.

Additionally, British forces in Bagram discovered another land mine nearby.

U.S. officials stress that soldiers use caution when walking around the base, and that base officials are doing everything to clear the mines.

Celebrate, but beware, U.S. leaders advise

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Americans should remain vigilant, but go ahead with their plans to celebrate Independence Day, the Fourth of July, according to top U.S. government officials.

Speaking on CBS TV's "Face the Nation," Secretary

of State Colin Powell said he didn't want to "over-hype" the fact that U.S. intelligence officials put out a "prudent alert" to law enforcement agencies regarding the holiday period. He said there have been some al Qaeda and other reports and that it's a time for heightened awareness.

Intelligence and law enforcement officials are care-

fully examining all intelligence information and will be meeting regularly during the next couple of days to assess any additional threats that may come in, Powell said.

"But," he stressed, "I hope most Americans will go about their business and enjoy the Fourth of July. I intend to."

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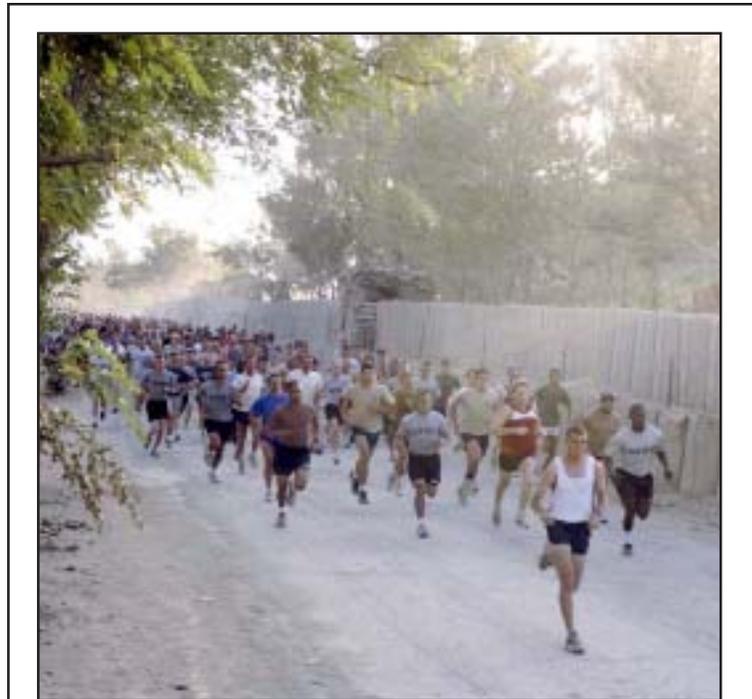


Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser

Fourth of July run

Iron Rakkasan hosted an Independence Day 5k Run at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, this morning. For more on the Independence Day celebration, read Friday's edition of *Freedom Watch*.

Soldier recovers from ambush

By Sgt. Reeba Critser
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — A team comprised of six U.S. Civil Affairs and medical personnel traveled from Khandahar Air Field to visit Mir Wair Hospital in Khandahar City. Their mission was to identify injured civilians from a coalition operation in the Oruzgan Province Monday, and provide further medical treatment.

After identifying 19 casualties from the incident, they loaded their vehicles and headed back to Khandahar Air Field. One and a half miles from the air field, they were am-

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CELEBRATION, from Page 1

Speaking on NBC TV's "Meet the Press," National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice echoed Powell's message, noting that July 4 is "symbolically an important day." She said the president would ask the American people "to be vigilant, to work hard to look around them and see if anything looks unusual."

"A lot of preparations are being made to try and make certain that the Fourth of July is safe for everyone. But yes, it is a time of enhanced vigilance, and we would ask for help of the American people in that way," she said.

AMBUSH, from Page 1

bushed.

"Approximately 20 rounds of small arms fire were directed at the three-vehicle convoy as they were leaving Khandahar City," Col. Roger King, Combined Joint Task Force - 180 public affairs officer, said at a press briefing yesterday.

One bullet penetrated a lower door panel, injuring one soldier in the foot. He was taken to the U.S. medical facility in the air field and is currently stabilized after surgery, King said.

"The commander of Combined Joint Task Force - 180 has expressed outrage that a purely humanitarian mission, sent to evaluate the possibility of helping injured Afghan citizens and being performed at the request of President Karsai, would be fired on from an ambush," King said.

The incident is under investigation.

July 4 message from SecDef

At a critical moment during the Revolutionary War, when his army was surrounded and in danger of being destroyed, Gen. Washington issued this order: "Put only Americans on guard tonight." Washington knew, at that moment of crisis, he could rely on those citizen-soldiers — volunteers who had left behind their families and farms to risk everything for the cause of freedom.

Thanks to their service and sacrifice, America achieved her independence. And every July 4 since, Americans have come together to give thanks for our freedom and what our country has

become: The freest, most creative and dynamic nation on earth.

This Fourth of July across America, families will enjoy picnics and parades, and the uplifting beat of "Stars and Stripes Forever." But our celebrations are tempered by the knowledge that the freedoms we hold sacred and dear have once again come under attack.

So today, as in Gen. Washington's time, we take comfort in the knowledge that Americans like you are on guard tonight — soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.

Like the Minute Men who dropped their pitchforks and took

up rifles to defend their new nation in 1776, each of you stepped forward to defend America against the new threats of this new century.

Through your service and sacrifice, you help make every day Independence Day for the United States of America.

Our people are free because your hearts are brave. And so on this Fourth of July, we stop to say to each of you: Thank you for what you do for our country.

Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
U.S.A.

CJCMOTF to help reconstruct Salang tunnel

Story & photo by Staff Sgt.
Zelda Thomas-Gate

300th Mobile Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan—The United States has assisted Afghanistan for many years through expansion of trade, fostering contact between government officials and the public, improving the political cohesiveness and promoting friendship.

The United States is the largest provider of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

Today, the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operation Task Force in Kabul is still helping Afghanistan with the reconstruction of bridges, roads and schools.

An American contractor named John McCarty has taken an interest in the reconstruction of the Salang tunnel and the previous contractor that built the bridge.

"The previous contractor that built the bridge did excellent quality work. If they did that type of work for the military they will do it for me," said McCarty.

Soviet engineers built the Salang tunnel in the '60s by punching a 2.4-kilometer hole through the mountains. The tunnel, the highest in the world with an altitude of more than 3,700 meters, is



The tunnel in Salang is the highest in the world and a reconstruction project for CJCMOTF.

high enough that drivers had to adjust their carburetors because of the lack of oxygen.

Salang cost \$42 million, and shortened the road to the border by 200 miles.

The tunnel closed in 1992 when the Afghans blew up both ends during the fight with the Soviets. Badly damaged, it reopened about eight years later. The tunnel requires significant reconstruction.

McCarty came to the CJCMOTF for advice on the cost of reconstruction of the bridge.

"We are interested in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Anything we can do to help to make life a little easier we will do it," said Army Lt. Col. James G Traves, CJCMOTF chief engineer.

HIND SIGHT

1776

Declaration of Independence — U.S. gains independence from Britain

1876

First public exhibition of electric light in San Francisco, Calif.

1881

Booker T. Washington establishes the Tuskegee Institute

1884

The Statue of Liberty is presented to U.S. in Paris

1973

In audience with Italian cyclists, Pope Paul VI praises athletes who “offer the magnificent show of a healthy, strong, generous youth”



Photo by Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.

British VIP visit

The Secretary of state for Defence in the United Kingdom, Geoff Hoon, visited British troops Tuesday at Bagram Air Base with Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill, commander of Combined Joint Task Force - 180.

“The Royal Marines in different operations are going back for rest and visit with their families,” the minister said on the fact that the British are withdrawing from Afghanistan, starting today. “It does not influence UK’s mission to stand by the coalition in the fight against terrorism.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>Bagram:</u>	Sunny	Sunny
	H: 90F L: 72F	H: 91F L: 73F
<u>Kandahar:</u>	Dusty	Dusty
	H: 109F L: 72F	H: 109F L: 72F
<u>Kabul:</u>	Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms
	H: 102F L: 66F	H: 102F L: 66F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	Clear	Clear
	H: 94F L: 45F	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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- ❖ CJTF - 180 Command Sergeant Major — Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England
- ❖ Public Affairs Officer — Col. Roger King
- ❖ Public Affairs Sergeant Major — Sgt. Maj. C.J. Costello

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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

Thome extends homer streak; Tribe loses

Jim Thome belted a 3-2 pitch from David Wells in the seventh inning to extend his home run streak to seven games.

Thome, who can tie the major-league record of eight set by Dale Long, Don Mattingly and Ken Griffey, Jr., leads the American League with 26 home runs and will not be on the All-Star team.

Capriati ousted; Serena joins sister in semis

Jennifer Capriati will not get a chance to reach her seventh consecutive Grand Slam semifinal. She was beaten by Amelie Mauresmo 6-3, 6-2.

Serena Williams, who can overtake her sister Venus for the number-one ranking in the world with a win in the semis, will face Mauresmo.

Venus, looking to become the first three-peat winner since Steffi Graf in 1991-93, will face Justine Henin.

Urbina takes Martinez All-Star slot

Boston reliever Ugueth Urbina was picked to replace teammate Pedro Martinez's spot in the All-Star game. Urbina has 21 saves and a 2.70 ERA.

It will be his second All-Star appearance, appearing in the 1998 midseason classic for the National League with Montreal Expos.

Braves win 12th straight series

The red-hot Atlanta Braves beat the Montreal Expos 6-5 to take two out of three in the series. The victory stretched the Braves lead to 9.5 in the NL East.

Leafs sign Belfour for \$13.5 million

Ed Belfour, who goaltended the Dallas Stars to a Stanley Cup title, signed with the Toronto Maple Leafs for two years, \$13.5 million.

The Leafs' former goalie, Curtis Joseph, signed with the defending Stanley Cup champion Detroit Red Wings for three years, \$24 million.

Brown released from prison

Jim Brown, one of the greatest running backs in NFL history, was released from prison Wednesday.

The 66-year-old was sentenced to prison for refusing to perform community service. He was sentenced for vandalizing his wife's vehicle.

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
- ❖ 1100Z — Mass re-enlistment at the Joint Operations Center flag pole
- ❖ 1400Z — Tournament winners awards presentation at the Joint Operations Center pavilion
- ❖ 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.

2002 Major League Baseball Standings

American League East			GB
N.Y. Yankees	52-31	.627	-
Boston	50-31	.617	1
Baltimore	39-41	.481	11.5
American League Central			GB
Minnesota	47-37	.560	-
Chicago (AL)	41-43	.488	6
Cleveland	37-45	.451	9
American League West			GB
Seattle	52-31	.627	-
Anaheim	47-34	.580	4
Oakland	47-36	.566	5
National League East			GB
Atlanta	53-31	.631	-
Montreal	43-40	.518	9.5
Florida	43-41	.512	10
National League Central			GB
St. Louis	45-36	.556	-
Cincinnati	44-39	.530	2
Houston	38-44	.463	7.5
National League West			GB
Los Angeles	52-31	.627	-
Arizona	48-34	.580	3.5
San Francisco	47-36	.566	5