



FREEDOM WATCH



Aug. 1, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Sources: No bodyguards, no bin Laden

WASHINGTON — Some members of Osama bin Laden's security detail have been captured and are among the detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, U.S. officials told CNN Tuesday. Sources believe that if the bodyguards were captured away from bin Laden, it is likely the most-wanted man in the world is dead. The sources said the guards have been in custody since February. The revelation is the latest circumstantial and anecdotal evidence suggesting the al Qaeda leader might have been killed in the U.S.-led military action to purge the Taliban from power in Afghanistan.

Drug raids net 2,127 arrests on Mexican border

WASHINGTON— A U.S. Marshals Service operation led to the arrest of 2,127 suspected drug traffickers along the U.S.-Mexico border since March. The U.S. and

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Army releases names of wounded soldiers

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army has released the names of the three 82nd Airborne Division soldiers wounded during combat operations in Afghanistan July 27.

The injured soldiers are Spc. Michael J. Rewakowski, Spc.

Christopher J. Vedvick and Pfc. Ryan S. Worth of 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. None of the wounds were life threatening and all the soldiers are reported in stable condition, officials said.

The soldiers came

under enemy small-arms fire while conducting a reconnaissance mission about 12 kilometers east of Khowst.

The paratroopers were evacuated to Bagram Airbase for medical treatment and tests. Vedvick was later evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in

Germany for additional treatment and possible physical therapy.

Rewakowski and Worth are expected to return to duty shortly, officials said.

Editor's note: Information for this news brief is taken from an 82nd Airborne Division press release.



Photo by Spc. Erica Leigh Foley

Runway repair

Runway repair at Bagram Air Base is ongoing. The 200th/201st Red Horse Squadron, an Air Force National Guard unit, has taken over the mission from the Italian Army, pictured above. Repairs to the runway include damage from mortar shells, previous wars and regular wear and tear.

All BNCOC graduates to get 40 points

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers who successfully complete the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course will be awarded 40 promotion points beginning Aug. 1.

Soldiers will no longer receive four promotion points per BNCOC-course week. This change will lessen administrative mistakes and level the playing field for BNCOC graduates with similar military occupational specialties, personnel officials said.

"Clerks will no longer have to do the math,"

See BNCOC, Page 2

No wait for military to become U.S. citizens

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

WASHINGTON- All military members who are legal resident aliens can now apply for citizenship without a mandatory wait period.

There is a five-year conditional period from the time individuals get their green cards through the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service until they can apply to become naturalized U.S. citizens, INS officials said.

Under previous rules, that mandatory wait time was reduced to three years for military members. After a July 4 executive order, there is no mandatory wait period for military members.

White House officials said as many as 15,000 service members affected by the waiting period could now be eligible to apply for citizenship under the new rules. DoD statistics put the number of legal resident aliens serving in the military at roughly 31,000.

An application packet must contain several INS forms, all available on the Internet, a set of fingerprints, and other documentation. Information on naturalization is on the Internet at www.ins.gov or available by calling the National Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-375-5283.

Individuals can also get assistance from INS field offices or the Application Support Center.



Photo by Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.

Off limits

In an effort to keep Bagram Air Base residents safe and secure, signs have been posted by the MPs along Bagram's perimeter barriers warning service members not to purchase items from locals. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action for disobeying a lawful order.

BNCOC, from Page 1

said Sgt. Major Louisa Scott, the chief of Enlisted Promotions, Total U.S. Army Personnel Command.

Under the current system, when soldiers complete both phases of BNCOC — common core and military occupational specialty specific — they submit two forms of the Department of the Army 1059 to their Personnel Support Branch for points, Scott said.

Then the PSB clerk decides on her own how many points a soldier gets, Scott said. For example, if phase one is five weeks and three days and phase two is two weeks and two days one clerk may give 32 points for eight weeks, but another clerk may

give 28 points for seven weeks.

By implementing a 40-point standard there's no room for interpretation, Scott said.

Some soldiers may have the perception that they are going to lose points because their particular BNCOC is longer than 10 weeks, said Sgt. Maj. Gerald Purcell, personnel policy integrator with the Army's G1. "That's not true. The point system will be applicable to every soldier in the MOS, and the cut-off score will reflect that," he said.

Soldiers will still be competing against others in their MOS, and everyone in that MOS will have 40 points, Scott added.

The soldiers most greatly affected are ones who are in MOSS

that have merged, such as some in the medical field, and those that are planning to merge under the implementation of ADS XXI initiatives, which was designed to consolidate MOSS with similar functions, Purcell said.

Last year several medical skills were combined under the umbrella 91W. After the merge, some soldiers had promotion points based on a 12-week BNCOC course while others had points based on an eight-week course. Other potential merges include personnel administrative specialists (75B) and personnel services specialists (75H) who would be renamed as 42A.

It's also been proposed to merge light-wheel vehicle mechanics (63B), heavy-wheel ve-

hicle mechanics (63S) and wheel-vehicle repairers (63W). While the wheel-vehicle repairers would lose 32 points if the merger goes through, each of the soldiers, who would be competing between one another for promotion, would receive the same number of promotion points for BNCOC completion. This eliminates inequities based solely on their BNCOC course length, Purcell said.

"We're treating BNCOC as an equal element. So as we merge similar MOSSs, no one is at a disadvantage," Purcell said.

In July all Personnel Support Battalions began converting the BNCOC points, and adjusting promotion points. Soldiers will not have to do anything, Purcell said.

BRIEFS, from Page 1

Mexico worked together to target “major narcotics criminals who had substantial resources to fund new identities and frequent movements,” the Marshals Service announced Tuesday. The operation, which was carried out between March and mid-July, dismantled narcotics organizations in Texas, Arizona, and southern California, the Marshals Service said.

Serial killer stalks Baton Rouge

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana — Women in Louisiana’s capital were on edge Tuesday, a day after police confirmed three unsolved slayings were the work of a serial killer. Many walkers and joggers were staying away from a Louisiana State University path near where two of the slain women had lived at one point, although only one of the victims was attacked in her home near the path.

Iraq accuses U.S. over arms teams

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq has accused the United States of wanting U.N. arms inspectors to return to update intelligence information for a possible attack to oust President Saddam Hussein. Foreign Minister Naji Sabri said Washington wants to topple the Iraqi government and install “a puppet regime” to control its oil, the world’s second-largest reserve.

HIND SIGHT

1785

Caroline Herschel becomes the first woman discoverer of a comet

1834

Slavery abolished in British empire

1873

San Francisco’s first cable car begins service

1914

Germany declares war on Russia in WW I

1958

First class postage increases to \$0.04 (had been \$0.03 for 26 years)

1990

Iraq pulls out of talks with Kuwait

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<u>Bagram:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 95F L: 73F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 95F L: 72F
<u>Khandahar:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 106F L: 75F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 106F L: 75F
<u>Kabul:</u>	<i>Haze</i> H: 93F L: 63F	<i>Haze</i> H: 93F L: 64F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	<i>Clear</i> H: 99F L: 67F	<i>Clear</i> H: 100F L: 67F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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COALITION SPORTS ZONE

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Arrest made in alleged skating, dancing fix

NEW YORK — An alleged Russian crime boss was arrested in Italy on U.S. charges he tried to fix the pairs and ice dancing figure skating competitions at the Salt Lake City Olympics, according to a federal criminal complaint filed Wednesday.

Alimzan Tokhtakhounov was arrested at his resort in Forte dei Marmi in northern Italy. He was charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to commit bribery relating to sporting contests.

He faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count.

The criminal complaint filed in Manhattan federal court identified Tokhtakhounov as a "major figure in international Eurasian Organized Crime."

According to the complaint, Tokhtakhounov "has been involved in drug distribution, illegal arms sales and trafficking in stolen vehicles."

A confidential source told the FBI that he also had fixed beauty pageants in Moscow in the early 1990s.

The complaint alleges he used his influence with members of the Russian and French skating federations "in order to fix the outcome of the pairs and ice dancing competitions at the 2002 Olympics."

2002 Major League Leaders

Batting Average		Wins	
1. L. Walker, Col	.361	1. C. Schilling, Ariz	18-3
2. M. Sweeney, KC	.355	2. B. Zito, Oak	15-3
3. I. Suzuki, Sea	.351	3. R. Johnson, Ariz	14-4
4. B. Bonds, SF	.343	3. B. Colon, Cle/Mont	14-5
5. J. Kent, SF	.333	3. D. Lowe, Bost	14-5
Home runs		Earned Run Average	
1. A. Rodriguez, Tex	35	1. D. Lowe, Bos	2.23
2. S. Sosa, CHC	32	2. P. Martinez, Bos	2.38
3. J. Thome, Cle	31	3. G. Maddux, Atl	2.56
3. L. Berkman, Hou	31	4. B. Colon, Cle/Mont	2.62
5. B. Bonds, SF	28	5. E. Dessens, Cin	2.68
Runs Batted In		Strikeouts	
1. A. Rodriguez, Tex	90	1. C. Schilling, Ariz	212
2. L. Berkman, Hou	87	2. R. Johnson, Ariz	200
3. J. Giambi, NYY	86	3. P. Martinez, Bos	178
3. N. Garciaparra, Bos	86	4. A. Burnett, Fla	156
5. M. Ordonez, CHW	85	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	

Wednesday

Detroit 2-1 Seattle, Top 5th
 Arizona 5-1 Montreal
 Baltimore 12-2 Tampa Bay
 Philadelphia 8-6 San Francisco
 Toronto 9-2 Kansas City
 Pittsburgh 7-6 Colorado
 Minnesota 2-1 Chicago W. Sox
 Florida 8-5 St. Louis
 Texas 17-6 NY Yankees
 Los Angeles 11-5 Cincinnati
 Boston 1-0 Anaheim, Top 6th
 NY Mets 10-0 Houston
 Oakland 6-4 Cleveland
 Atlanta 9-1 Milwaukee
 San Diego 8-6 Chicago Cubs

Today

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