



FREEDOM WATCH



August 31, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Mass graves raise questions in Afghanistan

MAZAR-E SHARIF, Afghanistan — The discovery of numerous mass graves, filled with bones and skulls, raises questions about exactly what happened to Taliban prisoners after they were captured last November in the northern city of Konduz by forces of the Northern Alliance Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum. U.N. investigators hope to unlock the mystery, and outside Mazar-e-Sharif, they are standing watch over a patch of desert where as many as 1,000 Taliban fighters may be buried.

UK deploys troops near Zimbabwe

LONDON — Britain is to mount a military exercise on South Africa's border with Zimbabwe. The Ministry of Defense is playing down suggestions that the deployment of up to 300 members of the elite Parachute Regiment is because of increasing fears

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ROWPU water safer than bottled



Spc. Allen Grooms looks over one of the filters in the ROWPU treatment facility.

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

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — In a field environment, the Army has an effective way of filtering raw well water into safe drinking water.

Since bottled water use has declined in theater, some have questioned how safe the water in the water buffalos is and why it's safer than bottled water.

During testing for impurities, bottled water comes up with 140-150 parts per million of impurities compared to three or four parts per million from the ROWPU water, said Spc. Allen Grooms, water treatment specialist

in Bagram, 196th QM.

Even though bottled water is inspected by the Army veterinarians, and the water is good when it leaves the plant, the water has no chlorine residuals. Sometimes the bottles are slightly damaged in shipment or are stored improperly (uncovered in the sun). This can allow bacteria or other contaminants to get inside the bottle and grow, and possibly make someone sick after drinking, Lt. Col. Steve Horosko, Preventive Medicine Sciences officer.

The Quarter Master Corps at Bagram Air Base has a specialized

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CA soldiers' efforts recognized at Bragg

By Spc. Kyle J. Cosner
USASOC Public Affairs Office

FORTBRAGG, N.C. — Nearly 50 soldiers from the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) recently garnered a variety of awards for their efforts as part of Operation Enduring Eagle.

The awards were presented in a ceremony at Fort Bragg's "Bull" Simons Plaza Monday.

"We're here today to recognize and to celebrate the service, valor, bravery and dedication of these fine officers and noncommissioned of-

ficers," said Maj. Gen. Herbert L. Altshuler, commander of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne).

Altshuler presided over the ceremony and presented the awards.

Presented honors included the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, Combat Infantryman Badge, Combat Medical Badge, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

The 49 Civil Affairs soldiers re-

ceiving the awards had been deployed to Afghanistan and the Philippines, assisting those nations with the task of eliminating terrorism and rebuilding infrastructure. The soldiers also provided food and technical assistance to local populations.

"The awards being made here today are more than a bit of colored cloth," Altshuler said. "They are universally recognized throughout our armed forces as symbols of meritorious service, selfless dedica-

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filtration system to help them supply the potable water. The process is called reverse osmosis, and the purifying machine is called a reverse osmosis water purification unit.

The QM unit gets water from a local well and pumps it into a large storage container. The water is then circulated through the multi-filtrating unit.

The ROWPU sends well water through three levels of filtration.

The first is the multimedia filter, which removes matter such as sand, dirt and chemicals.

"This filter consists of activated charcoal and sand of varying grain sizes. The objective is to remove gross particulate matter with the

sand, chemicals and activated charcoal," said Horosko.

The large container of varying sand sizes is mostly full of the filtering sands, but air at the top constantly provides a high level of pressure that forces the water down through the filtering system. As the water moves downward, it leaves behind the impurities.

The cartridge filtration provides the second stage for water treatment after it is processed through the multimedia filter.

"The cartridge filter consists of woven fabric tubes that are inserted into a cartridge. The filter tubes act as micron filters removing fine particulate matter carried over from the multimedia filter," Horosko said.

The filters look like white cotton yarn wrapped around a tube in a criss-crossing pattern. The water is moved through the yarn, which screens the contaminations, said Grooms.

Reverse osmosis, the final stage of filtration, is a process in which the filtered water is pumped against a semi-permeable membrane under great pressure. The membrane allows product water to pass through while rejecting the impurities, both suspended and dissolved. Horosko said.

Although the water is clean and drinkable, calcium hypo-chlorinate, similar to what is used in swimming pools, is added.

There is only about two parts per million

added to the ROWPU water. This residual is sufficient to protect the water in unit storage and distribution systems such as the delivery trucks and the water buffalos, and it acts as an indicator of recontamination after initial disinfection Horosko said.

The impurities, which are separated from the well water by the ROWPU process, are flushed out with wastewater and used for washing vehicles, said Grooms.

Chlorine has a real strong taste, but with the low concentration used in the ROWPU process, it is hard to taste the difference from bottled water. The ROWPU operators perform daily quality control checks and preventive medicine personnel

from the 25th Med Det in Bagram do weekly tests on the raw well water and finished ROWPU water. Some of the items tested for are bacteria, ph, total dissolved solids, turbidity and chlorine residual. Preventive medicine personnel also test for NBC agents.

"Given the ROWPU water purification process, and all of the quality control checks and tests conducted before the water gets to the unit, ROWPU water is actually safer to drink than bottled water," Horosko said.

"Since Desert Storm, Preventive Medicine personnel have found more problems/contamination causing illness with bottled water than with ROWPU water during deployments," he said.

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tion and heroism in the face of, and in contact with, an armed force."

Capt. Curtis Anderson, a 96th team leader and Bronze Star recipient, said his award was a validation of his team's hard work.

"It means all the work my team did in Afghanistan paid off," Anderson said. "It is not so much a personal award as it was a team effort."

Other recipients echoed Anderson's feelings about the teamwork found within their battalion.

"Getting these awards is a great honor, but it was even nicer to be recognized with my

fellow soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Byron R. Shrader, a 96th team medic. Shrader received both the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device and the Combat Medical Badge.

"We went there as a group, and all that we do ... is a team concept, and I am just one of the members of a team," Shrader said. "Certainly, this recognition is not solely for me, but for all those that have helped me on this particular mission and during my career in the Army."

Lt. Col. Michael J. Warmack, commander of the 96th CA Bn., said that although he was glad to see his soldiers recognized for their achievements, he was happier just to see them come home in one piece.

"We're getting a lot of awards, but none of them are Purple Hearts," Warmack said. "That's a good thing."

Altshuler thanked the awardees for doing their duties without fanfare or loss of life.

"Congratulations — you have acquitted yourselves with honor in the crucible of armed conflict," he said. "You have won the battle, and with it our gratitude and our respect. Thank you for your service, for your sacrifices and your continued dedication to being quiet professionals."

"All of us here, and all Americans everywhere, can be justifiably proud of these brave men. I certainly am."

9th CSM of Army Reserve selected

WASHINGTON — The selection of the next Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve was announced Wednesday.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michele S. Jones has been selected by Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, chief, Army Reserve, to become the ninth command sergeant major of the Army Reserve.

Jones is the first woman to be selected as the top noncommissioned officer in the Army Reserve, as well as the first woman to be chosen as the senior NCO in any of the Army's components.

As the Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve, Jones will serve as the principal enlisted advisor to the Chief of Army Reserve.

Jones will take office effective Oct. 28.

HIND SIGHT

1303

The War of Vespers in Sicily ends with an agreement between Charles of Valois, who invaded the country, and Frederick, the ruler of Sicily.

1951

The 1st Marine Division begins its attack on Bloody Ridge in Korea. The four-day battle results in 2,700 Marine casualties. As U.S. Marines tried to fight their way out of a Chinese trap, Korea suffered its worst winter of the century.

1961

A concrete wall replaces the barbed wire fence that separates East and West Germany — it will be called the Berlin wall.

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for the safety of white farmers, many of them Britons, threatened by Robert Mugabe's land seizures. Defense chiefs stress the long-planned operation in South Africa is not connected to the violence over the border.

N. Korea 'armed to the teeth'

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea is "armed to the teeth" with weapons of mass destruction and busy selling its weapons and missile technology to any state willing to pay for it, a top U.S. official has warned. Denouncing the North Korean leadership as "an evil regime," U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton said that unless the secretive communist state halted its weapons exports and development of weapons of mass destruction it would risk losing what international assistance it was currently receiving. Among the recipients of North Korean missile exports were "notable rogue state clients such as Syria, Libya and Iran," he told a meeting of the Korean American Association.

Italy freezes 'terror' funds

ROME — Italian authorities have frozen the bank accounts of groups and individuals they believe are linked to the al Qaeda terror network. The Italian Finance Ministry said on Thursday the names of the accounts held by 11 individuals and 14 organizations had been passed along to a United Nations panel to be placed on an international terrorism blacklist. The Italian Government made the move in co-operation with the United States, Bahamas and Luxembourg. The 14 entities were owned or controlled by two men, Youssuf Nada, a Tunisian national born in Egypt, and Ahmed Idris Nasreddin, an Ethiopian. The ministry said the two worked together "for many years" as the directors of the Akida Bank and the Bank Al Taqwa, both based in the Bahamas.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<u>Bagram:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 97F L: 70F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 93F L: 66F
<u>Kandahar:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 102F L: 70F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 102F L: 72F
<u>Kabul:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 95F L: 64F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 93F L: 65F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 92F L: 64F	<i>Clear</i> H: 89F L: 62F

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.

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

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

COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

MLB: Season saved

The season will go on after all. Baseball's owners and players agreed on a deal Friday, hours before the strike deadline. As part of the settlement, contraction has been tabled until 2006. And while most fans blamed the players, the owners just might have fooled you. Meanwhile, it was business as usual at ballparks across the country.

Golf: Friendly gesture

Friendship on the PGA Tour can be such a wonderful thing. When David Frost gave Ian Leggatt a swing tip earlier this year, Leggatt went on to win. This week, Leggatt noticed Frost had too much of his weight on his heels, and that little adjustment resulted in Frost firing a 6-under 65 Thursday at the Air Canada Championship.

Soccer: Real claims elusive grail

Finally, Real Madrid's trophy case is full. The Spanish superclub won its record ninth European Cup in May, but had never won the season-opening Super Cup until a 3-1 victory over Dutch UEFA Cup champion Feyenoord. Roberto Carlos caused an own goal and added a goal of his own in a seven-minute first-half stretch. Real's full-throttle effort left observers agog, making it a clear favorite to repeat in the Champions' League.

Tennis: Kureten hard to beat

Marat Safin is supposed to be the big force on the hard courts, not Gustavo Kuerten. Well, Kuerten turned the tables on Safin, writes Greg Garber, using a laser-like serve in one of his best matches this year in posting an easy 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 upset Friday at the U.S. Open.

NFL scoreboard: Week 4

New Orleans 25-21 Indianapolis

College football scoreboard: Week 2

Oklahoma 36-0 Tulsa

Bagram Bench Press Meet

The Bagram Bench Press Meet will be Monday, 0430 (Z), at the U.S. Army gymnasium and is open to all Coalition service members. Weigh-ins will be Sunday, 1430 (Z) - 1500 (Z), and Monday, 0330 (Z) - 0400 (Z).

Labor Day Run

The Army Space Command is hosting a 5.9-mile Labor Day Run, Monday, at 0200 (Z), with showtime at 0130 (Z). Entry fee for the race is \$10, which includes a T-shirt. T-shirts are available to the first 275 participants. Those interested can register on the first floor of Motel 6, located in Dragon City at Bagram Air Base.

For more information, call Sgt. Sean McGraine at DSN 303-587-5663.

2002 Major League standings

American League East			GB
N.Y. Yankees	84-49	.632	-
Boston	75-57	.568	8.5
Baltimore	63-69	.477	20.5
American League Central			GB
Minnesota	80-55	.593	-
Chicago (AL)	64-70	.478	15.5
Cleveland	58-75	.436	21
American League West			GB
Oakland	83-51	.619	-
Anaheim	79-54	.594	3.5
Seattle	79-55	.590	4
National League East			GB
Atlanta	84-49	.632	-
Philadelphia	67-66	.504	17
Montreal	66-68	.493	18.5
National League Central			GB
St. Louis	74-59	.556	-
Houston	72-62	.537	2.5
Cincinnati	66-68	.493	8.5
National League West			GB
Arizona	84-49	.632	-
Los Angeles	77-57	.575	7.5
San Francisco	75-58	.564	9

Thursday's scores

Boston 15-5 Cleveland
 St. Louis 6-3 Chicago Cubs
 Chicago Sox 4-3 Detroit
 Atlanta 4-2 Montreal
 N.Y. Yankees 9-7 Toronto
 Florida 4-3 Pittsburgh
 Milwaukee 9-4 Cincinnati
 Philadelphia 7-5 N.Y. Mets
 Houston 8-4 Los Angeles

W	NL
I	1. Los Angeles .575
L	2. San Francisco .564
D	3. Houston .537
	4. Philadelphia .504
	5. Cincinnati .493
	6. Montreal .493

C	AL
A	1. Anaheim .594
R	2. Seattle .590
D	3. Boston .568
	4. Chicago Sox .478
	5. Texas .477
	6. Texas .455