



# FREEDOM WATCH



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Bagram, Afghanistan

## News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

### Prosecutors seek death penalty for Runnion killer

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Prosecutors announced Monday they intend to seek the death penalty against Alejandro Avila, the man accused of killing 5-year-old Samantha Runnion. Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas made the announcement at a Monday afternoon news conference.

### Woman accused of running down husband

HOUSTON — Suspecting her husband of having an affair, Clara Harris did what wealthy wives can afford to do: she hired an investigator to follow her husband. While doing his job he video taped an enraged Harris allegedly killing her husband in a parking lot by running him over three times with her silver Mercedes-Benz.

## West Pointers pick up war experience

By Spc. Erica Leigh Foley  
*28th Public Affairs Detachment*

With a classroom of cadets waiting for them at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., five members of the faculty deployed to Afghanistan with a multi-faceted mission.

The instructors came from diverse backgrounds in the Army and academics. Infantry, aviation, armor, field artillery and Special Forces experiences are combined with the academic specialties of physics, physical education and computer science within this

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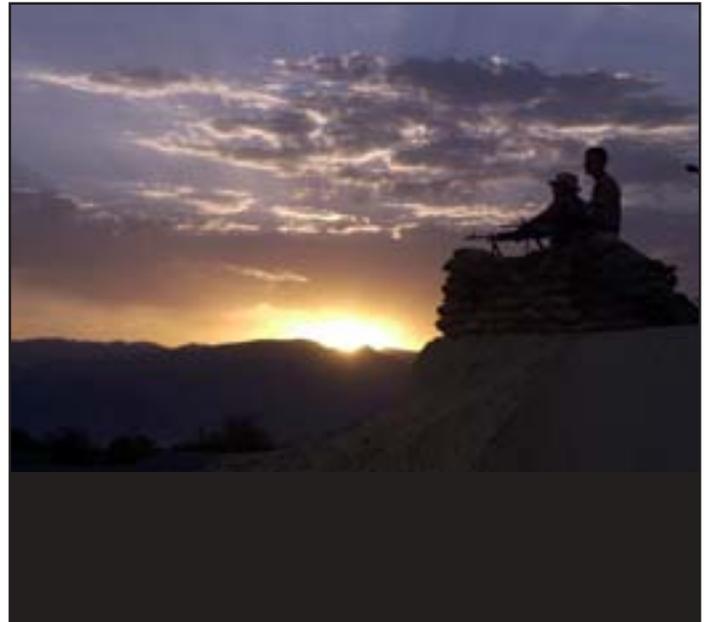


Photo by Pfc. Matthew Acosta, 49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne)

## Guard duty

The sun sets behind a guard tower occupied by paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division's Company B, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., serving in Operation Enduring Freedom as security for various patrols.

## All in the Family

### Father, stepson serve together in Khandahar

By Spc. Jason B. Baker  
*49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne)*

Most service members deployed to Kandahar Airfield share their experiences with loved ones through letters, e-mail or a phone call. It is a rare opportunity when the experience can be shared together.

Two paratroopers, stepfather and son, de-

ployed with the 82nd Airborne Division's Task Force Panther, are sharing and supporting each other while serving in the war on terror.

"He's my motivation," said Sgt. Edward Guardo, engineer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 307th Engineer Battalion Fort Bragg, N.C. "It's a good feeling to see him here. It makes it easier for me."

Guardo says his father has supported him throughout his military career and now on his first deployment, his father is still there to help.

"My Dad helped me pick my MOS (military occupational specialty)," Guardo said. "He's also the only reason I went airborne."

Before accepting his father's help on a career choice, Guardo, in an act

of adolescent rebellion, tattooed USMC on his arm while in the Marine delayed entry program for a year, remembers his step father, Staff Sgt. Robert Long, nuclear, biological and chemical non-commissioned officer, 3rd Brigade, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Abn. Div., Fort Bragg, N.C.

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Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser

## Enforcing standards

**Spc. Steven Tucker, 21st Military Police Company, Fort Bragg, N.C., writes an Armed Forces Traffic Ticket. The Bagram Air Base MPs are now enforcing CJTF - 180 policies and will issue tickets for violations including pedestrians walking on Disney Drive, speeding and those driving military vehicles without proper headgear and seatbelts. Those driving Armored Tactical Vehicles must also wear hearing and eye protection.**



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group of soldiers.

They came to help with the Joint Task Force headquarters new requirement to conduct monthly operational assessments of progress of the overall mission in Afghanistan, said Lt. Col James Dickens, deputy director of plans, Joint Task Force – 180.

“This is a substantial mission that we have adopted from (U.S. Central Command). These officers came to perform the task of coming up with an assessment system that is useable by a small staff, as we have here at CJTF 180,” he said.

Beyond that, the assessment process is meant to enhance staff coordination specifically in the area of formulating future plans, said Lt. Col. Daniel Ragsdale, Ph. D., team chief for the assessment cell team.

“This is fairly new — there is no doctrinal (tactics, techniques and procedures) that tell you how to do an assessment at this level,” said Maj. Hank Taylor, U.S.M.C. instructor and assessment cell member.

The soldiers are assessing the mission, it’s effectiveness and if the goals are set at optimal levels. Based on how well they are working out, it may be used as the basis for future plans.



Photo by Spc. Erica Leigh Foley

**Pictured left to right, Lt. Col Daniel Ragsdale, Maj. Jamie Gough, Maj. Kevin Murphy and Maj. Hank Taylor, the Coalition Joint Task Force assessment cell officers, study a terrain model of Afghanistan.**

“We look at the whole campaign, not just specific operations. It’s a much bigger and broader based assessment,” said Taylor.

“We try to bring it all together so we can provide the commander his assessment of operations and if the objectives are being met,” Taylor said.

Although the news isn’t always that positive, he said the commander appreciates and needs an honest review.

Realigning of resources is one of the areas being looked at.

If one area is ahead of expectations and another is lacking, they adjust assets for the best overall conditions for the mission.

“The biggest contribution we are leaving behind is helping to refine the process, but we are also leaving behind a software product that will help them continue in the evolution of the process,” said Ragsdale.

He said one of the challenges of the software is to reduce the number of soldiers doing the review.

“Nobody probably expected there to be a team of people at West Point sleeping in their offices working to develop software to support the assessment process,” said Ragsdale.

Another important part of what they are doing is taking back lessons learned to the ca-

dets and faculty at West Point.

The team agrees, they wanted to learn and experience as much as they could to take back to the classroom.

Often times the instructors will take time during class to share an experience he has had in the army and use that as a means to make a point or enhance the lesson that day.

Their times here will also be shared with other West Point instructors, not only through stories, but, through briefings and after action reports.

Ragsdale said that there was an unbelievable amount of support from both CJTF-180 and from the U.S.M.A.

CJTF – 180 headquarters and the soldiers on ground made the crew feel like they were part of the team from the first day to the end of their eight-week visit to Afghanistan.

What they have done will help the commander of the joint task force in Afghanistan, the commander of CENTCOM and ultimately the president have an understanding of how the military mission in Afghanistan is going.

As a result of their monthly assessments, soldiers and the American public may better understand how much longer military operations will continue here.

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“He (Long) always said I was going to be a ‘leg’,” Guardo said. “He wouldn’t tell me what a leg was, but when I finally found out, he helped me realize I would have a better chance of going airborne in the Army.”

“We went to MEPS (military entrance processing station) together and he helped me pick out combat engineer as a job.

“I had the tattoo covered up before I went to basic training.

“I didn’t like my job at first,” Guardo added. “But now that I’ve been

doing it for a few years I really like it. Engineers get a lot of respect because of all the work we do.”

Early on, Long remembers Guardo coming to him and telling him the trials of being a private in the Army. Long told his son the hardships he experienced would “build character.”

But now here in Afghanistan support goes both ways, said Long.

“Misery loves company” and just seeing each other around camp and knowing his son is here enduring the same thing, motivates each of them.

Guardo and Long stated they do not get to see as much of each other as they would like because of differences in shifts, but every once in a while the two will end up going to breakfast at the same time.

Long said, he and his stepson use the rare moments they spend together as a chance to talk about the mother and wife they left back at home and about how the day is going.

Being on the deployment together will not only help them now but also in the future, when they are both in rocking chairs as old veterans, said Guardo.



Photo by Spc. Jason B. Baker

**Staff Sgt. Robert Long, nuclear, biological and chemical non-commissioned officer, 3rd Brigade, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment and stepson Sgt. Edward Guardo, engineer, Headquarters and Headquarters Co. 307th Engineer Battalion, share their time in a combat zone together.**

“We have shared experiences,” said Guardo. “Most father and sons go fishing together, swimming or boating, but we are in

combat together. Just Tommy and his dad fishing doesn’t make history, but this is a story that will last years.”

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Mostly sunny</i> H: 100F L: 64F	<i>Showers</i> H: 100F L: 66F
<b>Khandahar:</b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 106F L: 73F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 108F L: 73F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 102F L: 73F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 97F L: 73F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Clear</i> H: 105F L: 67F	<i>Clear</i> H: 105F L: 70F

*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](http://www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm)

## FREEDOM WATCH

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- ❖ Public Affairs Officer — Col. Roger King
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To be added to the daily distribution list, e-mail [reeba.critser@us.army.mil](mailto:reeba.critser@us.army.mil)

# COALITION SPORTSZONE

## The NFL wants 'you' for their campaign

The National Football League is looking for a few good men and women for a special mission.

The NFL will produce a series of commercial spots called "Postcards from Home," profiling deployed service members keeping in contact with loved ones and friends back home. The "Postcards From Home" campaign will consist of 15-20 commercials altogether. The first four to five spots will air Sept. 5 through the fall, with additional ads for Thanksgiving, Christmas and the Super Bowl.

The NFL film team is looking for heartwarming, dynamic and visually stunning stories of service men and women who are communicating often with their families to help illustrate both sides of personal dedication and sacrifice.

Some examples of story ideas include:

- ❖ A sports coach who is serving but keeps in touch with his team.
- ❖ Military personnel who left a corporate job but e-mail their co-workers often.
- ❖ A farming family who will be missing their son or daughter during harvest time while he or she serves.
- ❖ A class of inner city children who write often to a particular service member.

Recommendations must include the service member's name, rank, unit, installation, age, current duty location, hometown and contact information (DSN/e-mail). It must also include the service member's current deployment duties, who and how that service member keep in touch with those back home and the nature of the relationship shared (parents, friend, students, spouse, etc.). In addition, include the submitter's name, DSN number and e-mail where, the unit's location (in theatre) and the unit commander or first sergeant's name.

Send all entries to [timothy.beninato@us.army.mil](mailto:timothy.beninato@us.army.mil) or [rhonda.m.lawson@us.army.mil](mailto:rhonda.m.lawson@us.army.mil). Or stop by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent on Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Zulu, and 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Zulu, and sign up at the Hometown News Release desk.

For more information, call DSN 318-231-4239.

*(Combined Joint Task Force – 180 news release)*

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

<b>2002 Major League standings</b>			
<b>American League East</b>			<b>GB</b>
N.Y. Yankees	69-42	.622	-
Boston	65-46	.586	4
Baltimore	53-57	.482	15.5
<b>American League Central</b>			<b>GB</b>
Minnesota	69-45	.605	-
Chicago (AL)	53-61	.465	16
Cleveland	49-62	.441	18.5
<b>American League West</b>			<b>GB</b>
Seattle	69-44	.611	-
Anaheim	67-45	.598	1.5
Oakland	65-48	.575	4
<b>National League East</b>			<b>GB</b>
Atlanta	73-38	.658	-
N.Y. Mets	56-56	.500	17.5
Montreal	56-56	.500	17.5
<b>National League Central</b>			<b>GB</b>
St. Louis	59-50	.541	-
Houston	58-53	.523	2
Cincinnati	58-53	.523	2
<b>National League West</b>			<b>GB</b>
Arizona	69-43	.616	-
San Francisco	61-50	.550	7.5
Los Angeles	62-51	.549	7.5
<b>Monday</b>			
Kansas City 12-4 Minnesota			
Toronto 7-1 Baltimore			
Philadelphia 7-5 Los Angeles			
Arizona 2-0 N.Y. Mets			
Chi Sox 4-3 Tampa Bay			
Anaheim 6-3 Detroit			
<b>Today</b>			
Minnesota at Baltimore			
Oakland at Boston			
Tampa Bay at Cleveland			
Texas at Detroit			
Kansas City at N.Y. Yankees			
Seattle at Toronto			
Anaheim at Chicago W. Sox			
N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee			
Florida at Houston			
Montreal at St. Louis			
Cincinnati at Colorado			
Philadelphia at San Diego			
Atlanta at Arizona			
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles			
Chicago Cubs at San Francisco			
<b>NL Wild Card race</b>		<b>AL Wild Card race</b>	
1. San Francisco .550		1. Anaheim .598	
2. Los Angeles .549		2. Boston .586	
3. Houston .523		3. Oakland .575	
4. Cincinnati .523		4. Baltimore .482	
5. N.Y. Mets .500		5. Chicago (AL) .465	