

## Smallpox vaccine to start late Feb.

Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — The first of U.S. forces in Afghanistan could be immunized for smallpox by the end of February.

Bagram and K2 healthcare providers will be the first to receive the vaccine as part of President Bush's mandatory program, announced Dec. 13.

The Army ended its original smallpox vaccination program in the early 1980s and President Bush ordered the new inoculations to begin with military and primary-response

healthcare workers.

Doctors haven't seen a natural case of smallpox since 1972 in Somalia, but the threat of the disease as a biological weapon has been ever increasing since the U.S. began its War on Terror.

Roughly 500 defense-medical personnel have already received the vaccination since the inception of the program.

To get ready to immunize troops here, experts are being brought in educate healthcare providers on how to give the immunization, care for the injection site and treat any bad reactions to the vaccination.

The smallpox vaccine is not

given like a traditional shot, said Lt. Col. Edward Boland, deputy surgeon for Coalition Joint Task Force-180. It is given with a bifurcated needle, which looks like a mini two-pronged fork. The tip has a reservoir that holds a tiny amount of the vaccine. The needle will then be used to prick the skin about 15 times in rapid succession over the span of about three seconds.

"It sounds really painful, but is no more than a regular shot," Boland said.

Unlike regular shots in which a vaccine is put deep inside a person's tissue, the smallpox vaccine is meant to go just be-

neath the skin's surface.

The vaccine may cause some unusual side effects.

Immediately after the shot is given, patients may feel a stinging and tingling sensation, which will last about a minute.

"Most have people mild reactions, such as sore arm, fever, headache, body ache and fatigue that resembles a cold," Boland said. These symptoms may peak 8 - 12 days after vaccination.

The vaccination site will also become red, tender and itchy. A blister will also appear.

— See **SMALLPOX**, Page 3



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

### The mandatory martial way...

Marine Lance Cpl. Richard Miley, logistics, VMA 513<sup>th</sup>, Marine Support Squadron, Yuma, Ariz., practices a vertical knee strike in the Marine martial arts combat-training class. The skill of martial arts was introduced to the Marine Corps' close-hand combat training about three years ago and is mandatory for all Marines.

## Kandahar opens runway for Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca

Cpl. Keith A. Kluwe  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan** — More than 1,250 Muslims from the local area have departed in the last week through Kandahar Air Field for their annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for the Hajj.

The Hajj is the largest annual journey by people to any religious site in the world. Several million Muslims go to Mecca to pray each Hajj. Islamic religious law requires a pilgrimage to the holy site at least once in a lifetime for anyone who is capable of going.

"We recognize that the Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, and is very important for individual Muslims," said Lt. Col. Walt Pjetraj, the civil-military officer for Combined

— See **HAJJ**, Page 3

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.N. weapons inspectors need more information about where to look in Iraq, Hans Blix says.

## Rice, Blix meet on Iraq inspections

NEW YORK — National security adviser Condoleezza Rice met with U.N. chief weapons inspector Hans Blix on Tuesday to try to persuade him to interview Iraqi scientists outside the country.

Earlier, Blix had urged the United States and Britain to provide “actionable evidence” to help his team find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

The exchange came on a day when President Bush made clear that he was losing patience with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Bush told reporters the burden of proof is on Iraq — not the inspectors — to produce any weapons of mass destruction it might have.

“The world came together, and we have given him one last chance to disarm,” Bush said. “So far I haven’t seen any evidence that he is disarming. Time is running out on Saddam Hussein — he must disarm. I’m sick and tired of games and deception.”

## British officer killed in ricin probe

MANCHESTER, England — A police officer was stabbed to death and four others were wounded Tuesday during a counterterrorism raid connected to the investigation into an alleged plot to use the deadly poison ricin, authorities said.

Three suspects — described as North Africans — were taken into custody, and a murder investigation has been launched, said Manchester Police assistant chief constable Alan Green.

“We’ve lost a colleague; many people have lost a friend. This is a tragedy,” Green

told reporters.

He said the four wounded officers’ injuries included stab wounds and a broken ankle. None of the injuries appeared to be life-threatening.

A team of officers and immigration officials had gone to the three-story apartment in north Manchester to arrest one man under Britain’s anti-terrorism laws. But when they arrived, they found two other men inside the apartment, Green said.

## Postal Service tests for anthrax

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service began testing for anthrax at one of its Washington facilities after the Federal Reserve said its own testing of mail had indicated the potential presence of the bacteria, a postal official said Tuesday.

Tom Day, vice president for engineering at the Postal Service, emphasized that the tests were being performed “out of an abundance of caution” and said there is no evidence of anthrax contamination or any health risk to postal workers or the public.

Results of the tests are expected early Wednesday, he said.

It is not clear whether the possible anthrax might have come from a letter or any other piece of mail, Day said, though the sample was “generally gathered” from the mail processed at a government-only mail facility in the District of Columbia.

“This is a facility that has the specific purpose of sorting the mail going to the 202 through 205 ZIP code range — the federal government here in the District,” he said.

## Victim’s spouse talks shooting

FAIRFAX, Va. — Struggling for composure on the witness stand, the husband of a woman killed last fall outside a store, described Tuesday how his wife was gunned down and became a victim of a string of slayings in the Washington, D.C. area.

William Franklin fought back tears as he recounted the death of his wife Linda



John Lee Malvo leaves court Tuesday.

at a hearing being held to determine whether 17-year-old John Lee Malvo should face capital murder charges for the slaying of the woman.

Authorities accuse Malvo and John Allen Muhammad, 42, of being behind the series of sniper shootings that killed 10 people and wounded four in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Investigators also have linked Malvo and Muhammad to slayings in Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and Washington state.

## Couple held in terror plot on word of witness seen as unreliable

HEIDELBERG, Germany — An American woman and her fiance arrested this past September on suspicion of plotting to blow up a U.S. Army base in Germany are still being held in prison, largely on the word of a witness discredited by others who knew her.

Astrid Eyzaguirre, a U.S. citizen, and her German-born Turkish fiance, Osman Pekmezci, were arrested Sept. 5, 2002 after the witness, herself a young American woman, told authorities the two were making explosives in their suburban apartment and planning an attack on the military base — headquarters for the U.S. Army in Europe — on the anniversary of Sept. 11.

No charges have been brought against either Eyzaguirre or Pekmezci, but are expected soon. The prosecution has indicated the two will be charged with terrorist-related offenses. In Germany, certain criminal suspects can be held for up to six months without charges.

**SMALLPOX**, from Page 1 —

“It is extremely important that people do not scratch at the blister,” he said. After receiving the vaccine, the blister fills with puss, and contains small amounts of cowpox or vaccinia. The vaccine itself contains no smallpox.

“If the blister opens, it may be possible to spread the cowpox virus to other people or other parts of your body — resulting in blisters elsewhere,” Boland said.

Boland stresses the importance of taking care of the blister.

“I know it will be hard for a lot of people to care for their site properly. We all have to wear long sleeves, carry a weapon and are constantly moving — this all increases the chance of opening the blister,” Boland said. “We are going to take every precaution that we can. Education is the key. Every servicemember needs to

know the ramifications of opening the blister. In the end, it will be up to the servicemember to make sure nothing happens to the site.”

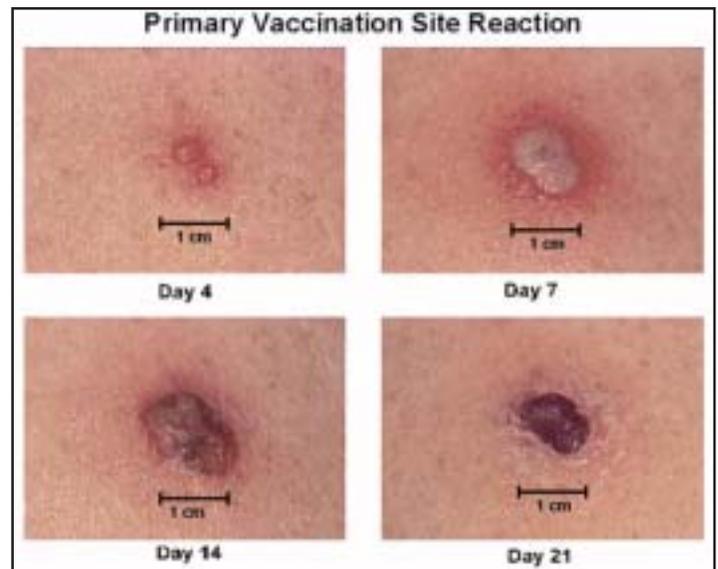
The blister will eventually dry up and form a scab in about 14-21 days after the shot. This is a good indication that it was a successful vaccination, said Boland. The only thing that is left is a small scar at the inoculation site.

But the immunization is not for everyone.

“Individuals with any history of eczema, those with eczema now, women who are pregnant, those who are immuno-compromised, or in close contact with people with these conditions and those who have children less than a year old in their home, will not receive the vaccine, Boland said.

Intensive and complete screenings will be done before the vaccine is given.

Though immunizations are



*The photo chart above illustrates the cycle of the blister as it should appear after the small pox shot. Those inoculated are warned not to scratch the blister as blisters may spread to other people or other areas of the body.*

**HAJJ**, from Page 1 —

Task Force-82. “We are trying to help the local government and the central government facilitate their pilgrimage.”

The Saudi Arabian government provides a quota for the Hajj to all the countries that have Muslims. The quota for Afghanistan is 25,000 people. Of the 25,000 people who will depart from Afghanistan to go to Saudi Arabia, 7,100 are scheduled to depart from Kandahar Air Field. The other hub for Hajj flights is Kabul. Minor hubs will feed into the Kabul airport. Each individual Hajji, as the religious pilgrims are called, is paying \$1,500 to get his passport, make sure his shots are up to date, and to get his flight ticket.

The Afghan Ministry of the Hajj is the driving force behind this year’s pilgrimage.

“This is an Afghan activity. This is a Muslim tradition,” said Pjetraj. “This is going to be Afghans helping Afghans, Muslims helping Muslims.”

The Afghan Ministry of the Hajj is the liaison between individual Hajjis and the Saudi Arabian government for the issuing of visas.

The Afghan Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and the Afghan Ministry of Cooperation are coordinating transportation to and from Mecca while the Kandahar Police Department and local Afghan Militia Forces are providing security. Ariana Air Lines, the Afghan national air carrier, is providing all the planes, pilots and support crews.

“The coordination and cooperation with all the ministries is excellent,” Pjetraj said. “We’ve had a lot of face-to-face contact the night before and the day of each flight. We had a half-dozen meetings before the flights began and meetings everyday after the Hajj flights departed to make sure we are all in sync.”

Flights going to the Hajj began Jan. 5 and will continue through the beginning of next month. The flights were delayed a few days while the local representative of

the Ministry of the Hajj waited on the return of passports and visas.

Because of the late start, Ministry officials prepared for departures to extend past the projected end date. Instead, larger aircraft have been provided to help get the departures back on schedule.

Governor Sharzi, Kandahar’s governor and his brother Gen. Sharzi, commander of the local Afghan Militia Forces, are very grateful for the cooperation of the Coalition and for our support of the pilgrimage, said Pjetra.

“We have also had our soldiers at the front gate and at the (waiting area) — several of the Hajjis come up and have thanked them for their role and for allowing them to go on this Hajj.”

Last year’s Hajj could not be supported because of the bombed out conditions of the airfield, but coalition forces have since repaired and reopened the runway.

Flights will return from Mecca to Kandahar Air Field during March and April, bringing the Hajjis home.

scheduled to begin in February, not everyone here will receive the vaccine.

“Those who have thirty days or less left (in theater) will not be immunized,” Boland said. “We don’t want to chance those individuals still having a blister

and taking cowpox back home with them.”

But all of those who are going to be deployed to the area will receive the vaccine. “It is becoming a mandatory step in the deployment process,” he said.

# Critter of the Week: Jirds



Courtesy Photo

A jird captured on Bagram.

By Capt. Cory Campora  
791<sup>st</sup> Preventive Medicine Detachment

When walking past the various embankments and fields surrounding Bagram Airbase, you may see small burrows in the ground and wonder what kind of critter is living there. If you take the time to watch for a few minutes, you may actually see one of the mysterious tunnelers — a medium-sized brown rodent with large back feet, a white under belly and a long tail with a tuft of black hair at the end. What you are most likely seeing is a jird — a rodent similar to a gerbil.

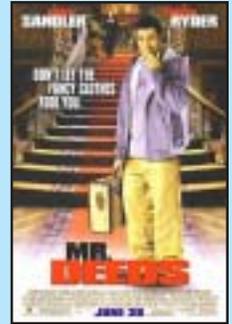
Jirds are very good natured and often exist in small social groups or colonies. They eat everything from insects to grains, fruits, and vegetables. Typically they do not enter structures, although they have been known to be caught inside tents. The rodents most often caught in tents on base, however, are mice that will actually live in a tent. For this reason it's wise to not to keep too much food in living areas and store it in sealed containers.

Information on jirds may be readily found on the internet because in the U.S. and other parts of the world they are bred and kept as pets. If a soldier is considering having a jird as pet, he or she may want to think twice. Rodents may carry disease, and General Order 1A prohibits adopting as pets or mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal.

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Mr. Deeds."  
When Longfellow Deeds, a small-town pizzeria owner and poet, inherits \$40 billion from his deceased uncle, he quickly begins rolling in a different kind of dough. Moving to the big city, Deeds finds himself besieged by opportunists all gunning for their piece of the pie.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Bad Company."



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	Today	Thursday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Haze H: 52F L: 25F	Haze H: 55F L: 25F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Cloudy H: 64F L: 34F	Haze H: 63F L: 35F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze H: 55F L: 30F	Haze H: 54F L: 28F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Isolated showers H: 61F L: 40F	Scattered rain H: 55F L: 37F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Coalition Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

CJTF-180 Commander —  
Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill  
CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —  
Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England  
Public Affairs Officer —  
Col. Roger King  
Public Affairs Sergeant Major —  
Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler  
Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Commander — Maj. William Mott  
NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti  
Editor — Sgt. W. Cullen James  
Journalists — Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw, Pfc. Christina Carde

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 11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

Visit the CENTCOM Web site at [www.centcom.mil](http://www.centcom.mil) and click on the CJTF-180 link to get the latest editions of the Freedom Watch.

To be added to the daily distribution list email [william.james@us.army.mil](mailto:william.james@us.army.mil)



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Milwaukee 97, Atlanta 88

**MILWAUKEE** — Glenn Robinson liked what he heard but not what he saw.

Robinson got the loudest ovation and the best seat in the house for the big reunion at the Bradley Center on Tuesday night.

He watched from the bench as his former team, the Milwaukee Bucks, beat the Atlanta Hawks 97-88 behind 21 points each from Sam Cassell and Ray Allen, the two remaining members of the "Big Three" shooting trio.

Robinson, who missed his third straight game with an injured right elbow, received a standing ovation when he walked out of the tunnel and another when he was introduced.

"It was cool," Robinson said. "We had some good times when I was here. It was nice to have the crowd show they appreciated me. I saw only two negative signs. That's a pretty good ratio. I think most everybody else was happy to see me back."

And many of them had to be just as happy to see him and his 20.5-point scoring average on the bench.

Surprisingly, Bucks coach George Karl wasn't one of them.

"To be honest with you, I hope Glenn plays" next time the Hawks come to town, Karl said. "I hope the people of Milwaukee get the opportunity to again thank him and respect him, and then we can get to compete against one of the great scorers in the game."

## Ohio looks into James's eligibility

**AKRON, Ohio** — LeBron James drove his Hummer toward the basket, made a hard left near the baseline, spun around some cheerleaders and brought it to a screeching stop.

Under the bench.

While his teammates warmed up two hours before a game Tuesday night, James, whose recent acquisition of a luxury sports utility vehicle has led to a state investigation into his eligibility, toyed with the controversy spiraling around him.

Sitting on the floor at midcourt, the nation's top high

school basketball player, smiled as he steered a remote control Hummer around the floor of Akron's James A. Rhodes Arena.

"OK," he said. "Here's my real Hummer."

When a basketball nearly crushed his four-wheeled camouflaged gadget, James yelled, "Hey, you almost hit my truck."

Guess he's not too worried about things.

On Monday, the Ohio High School Athletic Association began an investigation into how James, the expected No. 1 choice in the NBA draft this year, acquired a 2003 Hummer H2 vehicle.

State officials are concerned that James, a senior, might have violated his amateur status by accepting an improper gift.



*The finger has been pointed at Robinson for Atlanta's 14-22 record.*

## 2 rookies give Heat good outlook

**MIAMI** — Rookies Caron Butler and Rasual Butler showed there might be better days ahead

for the Miami Heat.

Caron Butler scored 22 points, Rasual Butler added 16 and Miami survived some last-minute jitters Tuesday to snap a season-

See **SPORTS**, Page 6



## 2002 NBA standings

Eastern Conference		Western Conference	
<b>Atlantic</b>		<b>Midwest</b>	
(1) New Jersey	27-10	(1) Dallas	31-5
(4) Boston	20-17	(3) San Antonio	24-14
(5) Philadelphia	19-18	(6) Utah	21-15
(7) Orlando	20-20	(7) Houston	21-15
(8) Washington	19-19	(8) Minnesota	20-17
<b>Central</b>		<b>Pacific</b>	
(2) Indiana	27-10	(2) Sacramento	28-10
(3) Detroit	25-12	(4) Phoenix	24-15
(6) New Orleans	20-19	(5) Portland	22-14
Milwaukee	17-20	L.A. Lakers	17-20
Atlanta	14-23	Seattle	16-20



**SPORTS**, from Page 5

high six-game losing streak by beating the Detroit Pistons 88-85.

Miami won despite missing six of eight free throws in the final 1:05. Detroit's Jon Barry was short with a fallaway 30-footer at the buzzer that would have forced an overtime.

Playing again without starters Eddie Jones and Travis Best, the Heat snapped Detroit's five-game road winning streak. Jones has missed six games and Best seven because of ankle sprains, and while both are day-to-day, they're expected to miss the game Wednesday night at Indiana.

"We're doing it without two of our key guys," center Brian Grant said. "It's giving the young guys an opportunity to step up, and they did that tonight."

Caron Butler shot 8-for-14 and added eight rebounds and four assists in 44 minutes.

"With Eddie and Travis out, he has been given a lot more opportunity," coach Pat Riley said. "Balls gravitate to him. I would have to say he's emerging a little more with the obvious responsibility."

## Davis expects to play vs. Lakers

**WESTWEGO, La.** — Baron Davis has returned to practice for the New Orleans Hornets and said he expects to play Wednesday night against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Davis has missed the past six games with back spasms related to a herniated disk suffered at the end of last season and which may at some point require surgery if Davis can't continue to alleviate the pain through rest and stretching.

Davis hit the practice floor Monday for the first time since leaving a Dec. 31 game against Indiana and appeared to practice at full speed.

"I still feel I'm on the right track, and things are getting better for me," Davis said. "I just have to stick to my treatment and therapy. Right now I'm not where I want to be, but I'm working toward it, and that's a positive thing. I had a pretty good day in practice, but the games are a lot different."

The Hornets have lost four of their past six games — including four in a row — without Davis, who is averaging 17.6 points and seven assists.

"It's good to see him out there," coach Paul Silas said. "The difference is like night and day when he's running the show."

## Rigaudeau likely will sign this week

**DALLAS** — Italian League star Antoine Rigaudeau won't join the Dallas Mavericks in time to play against the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday night.

The team plans to sign Rigaudeau this week, possibly as soon as Wednesday, but the deal won't be finalized in time for the West Coast showdown with the Kings. He could be in uniform Friday night in Phoenix.

"Things are progressing in a positive fashion," Donnie Nelson, Dallas' president of basketball operations, said Tues-

day. "We're optimistic we can get something done in the near future."

Rigaudeau must complete the buyout of his contract with Virtus Bologna of the Italian League, sign with the Mavericks and pass a physical.

The Mavs initially were hoping to have the 6-foot-6 swingman for the first meeting this season against the Kings. It would've been a fitting start considering the Mavericks have pursued Rigaudeau to try making their bench as deep as Sacramento's.

Rigaudeau, 31, should be in good shape because he's been playing in the Italian League. He averaged 13.9 points this season for Virtus, making 43 percent of his 3-pointers.

Rigaudeau has helped Virtus win two European championships. He's from France, where he helped his nation win a silver medal at the 2000 Olympics.

Mavericks coach Don Nelson hopes to use him as a point forward, asking him to handle and distribute the ball and shoot from the outside.

## Final hurdle cleared for Charlotte arena

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** — Owner Robert Johnson completed a deal with Charlotte that clears the way for construction of a \$260 million downtown arena for the NBA expansion team.

Johnson signed nine contracts late Monday, allowing the Charlotte City Council to approve them. The city will exercise options on land for the arena that were to expire Wednesday.

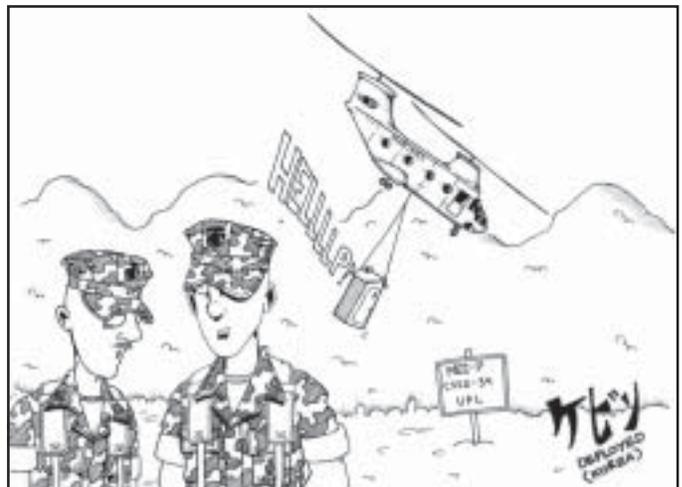
Johnson's NBA team, which will replace the Hornets, will begin play in fall 2004 in the Charlotte Coliseum. The new arena will be ready the season after that.

The city will spend about \$50 million on land for the new arena.



Davis

**"I suppose Higgins has gone and gotten himself lost again."**



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

**Laugh Support**