

# Freedom Watch

February 18, 2003 ♦ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ♦ Bagram, Afghanistan



Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Adam Johnston

## A lake-front view?

*Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ralph Zarker, a security forces night shift supervisor with the 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group walks by a gigantic water puddle on the way to his tent Sunday in Air Force Village. Weather officials here said troops were showered with more than three inches of snow this weekend that melted into just over an inch of water during the weekend. Zarker is normally assigned to the 824<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.*

## An Afghan village assessment

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jason Wynnycky  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**AULOS**, Afghanistan — Surrounded by a landscape of dirt with the occasional patch of vegetation, two SUVs pulled up to an intersection of mud huts and earthen walls in a remote part of northern Afghanistan. After traveling for about an hour, stopping several times to ask wandering Afghans the names of villages passed, a team of civil affairs soldiers arrived in what would soon be discovered to be the small village of Aulos.

Stepping away from their vehicles, the soldiers encounter the local populace who appeared from their homes. For many of these people, it is the first time they have encountered people from outside their area, let alone from the other side of the globe.

As the team gains situational awareness, the soldiers begin the task of seeking out the leaders of the community.

See **AULOS**, Page 4

## 678<sup>th</sup> Engineer Det. on the move

Pfc. Christina Carde  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – When an engineer battalion deploys, they are equipped with electricians, plumbers, carpenters and masons to complete their mission. However, for the 678<sup>th</sup> National Guard Engineer Detachment, North Charleston, S.C., they must complete the work of a battalion, with less than 50 soldiers.

Members from the 678<sup>th</sup> said this has been one of the most challenging experiences of their life. Aside from having a limited amount of people to complete a large number of tasks, this is their first time deployed to a combat zone.

See **678<sup>th</sup>**, Page 5

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Emergency workers hurry a victim of the stampede away from a Chicago nightclub.

## Official: Chicago club was told to close second floor

**CHICAGO** — The owner of a building where 21 people died early Monday in a stampede from a second-floor nightclub was under court order not to use the second floor because the structure didn't meet city building codes, Chicago officials said late Monday.

"The owner knows damn well that he is not to open that second-floor facility," Chicago Fire Commissioner James Joyce said.

But the owner's attorney disputed that charge, saying that an agreement reached in October between the club, called E2, and the city allowed it to operate, as long as a lounge on the north side of the building remained closed.

The attorney, Andre Grant, said the club's operations were "open and well-publicized" and that the city was "100 percent aware" that it was being used.

City officials plan to seek criminal contempt charges against the building's owner, Lesly Motors, possibly as soon as Tuesday, said Dorthy Capers, a city attorney.

In July 2002, Motors and the holder of the building's liquor license, Le Mirage Inc., were ordered not to use the second floor after city inspectors cited the establishment for 11 building code violations. The dispute triggered three court hearings, Capers said.

Joyce said the violations included "shoddy" rehabilitation work, and stairwells and exit lights that were not up to code.

## Hacker accesses credit cards

**NEW YORK** — A hacker has gained access to as many as 2.2 million Visa and MasterCard accounts, the two companies announced Monday.

The hacker breached the security system of a company that processes credit card transactions on behalf of merchants, Visa and MasterCard said.

None of the Visa accounts has been used fraudulently, Visa spokesman John Abrams said.

The affected accounts make up about one-third of 1 percent of the 560 million MasterCard and Visa cards in the United States. Spokesmen for the two companies said they have notified the banks that issued the affected cards.

Both card companies have zero-liability policies, which protect cardholders from being held responsible for unauthorized or fraudulent charges.

MasterCard and Visa would not disclose how many banks they had notified, nor would they say whether the hack was a regional or national problem.

Citizens Bank, a financial institution serving the Northeast, shut down the accounts of 8,800 customers whose card numbers had been accessed after being notified by MasterCard on Friday, bank spokeswoman Pamela Crawley said. All of those accounts were safe, she said.

CNN called several leading card issuers, but only one, First USA Bank, returned calls for comment. Thomas Kelly, a spokesman for its parent, BankOne, said FirstUSA's cards were not affected and that the bank was not aware of any security problems affecting its customers.

MasterCard said it is working with authorities, including the FBI, to help identify the culprit.

## EU urges Iraq to disarm

**BRUSSELS**, Belgium — A European Union communiqué calls for Iraq's "full and effective disarmament" and says U.N. weapons inspections cannot continue indefinitely without Iraq's cooperation, but that war

should be a last resort.

"We achieved an agreement. We have arrived at common conclusions," Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis said at the end of an emergency EU summit Monday.

Greece, which holds the EU's rotating presidency, had warned that failure to reach consensus would plunge the European Union into "deep crisis."

Earlier Monday, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan reminded the organization that the United Nations had set no deadline for war.

Annan, speaking in Brussels before the emergency summit, said: "There is no fixed deadline in the resolution, but at some stage, the Security Council may decide we are just wasting time and we should call a halt to inspections."

## N. Korea in armistice threat

**PYONGYANG**, North Korea — Pyongyang has ratcheted up tensions on the Korean peninsula another notch with threats to quit the armistice which ended the Korean War.

Accusing the United States of violating the 1953 agreement, North Korea's army says it will "immediately take all steps to cope with it".

"If the U.S. side continues violating and misusing the armistice agreement as it pleases, there will be no need for the DPRK (North Korea) to remain bound to the AA (armistice) uncomfortably," an army spokesman was quoted as saying in the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

"The armistice agreement that was signed to provide a peaceful solution to the Korean issue has been systematically ditched by the U.S. and used for the purpose of its hostile policy toward the DPRK," the statement said.

The North accuses the United States of bolstering its forces by putting "aircraft carriers and strategic bombers in and around the Korean Peninsula in violation" of the armistice.

Such moves were part of Washington's plan for "preemptive attacks" on North Korea — a situation "getting more serious as the days go."

## OEF begets new awards

Pvt. 2 Terri. A. Rorke  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — With the launch of Operation Enduring Freedom, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, has approved new service awards for troops.

Already, military personnel assigned to the Combined Joint Task Force-180 are authorized the National Defense Service Medal and the Shoulder Sleeve Insignia for Former Wartime Service better known as the combat patch. The overseas service bars are sanctioned for serving six months in the designated area.

The new approved service awards a soldier may be qualified for are the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with “M” device.

The proposed design and criteria, currently being finalized for consent via President George W. Bush, will provide an incentive for troops supporting OEF, said chief of Personnel Service Support, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jose S. Vigil, who has been assigned to the CJ-1, CJTF-180 for a little over nine months.

Once a soldier’s chain of command submits a recommendation, it’s approved or disapproved by the awards section.

Since May 31, 2002, soldiers have been presented with 5,630 awards. This number does not include Task Force Mountain, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., or Coalition Task Force-82 awards.

If a soldier is on a joint manning document and is assigned to the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force or the headquarters of CJTF-180, they qualify for Department of Defense awards. They are the Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Joint Service Commendation Medal. These awards are equivalent to the Army Achievement Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

In addition to these entitlements, troops may qualify for military occupational specialty-specific awards.

For the most part, everyone who comes here receives an award, said Vigil.

As he put it, “(If) they do good, they get recognized.”

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Big Trouble.” The lives of several Miami denizens, from ad agents to gunrunners to street thugs to law enforcement to school-children, intersect with humorous and dangerous results.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “Gone in 60 Seconds.”



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 37F L: 26F	<i>Fog</i> H: 37F L: 25F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 52F L: 39F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 50F L: 36F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 37F L: 28F	<i>Fog</i> H: 43F L: 27F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 36F L: 22F	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 42F L: 23F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Photos by Spc. Karlene E. Hemerly-Fluck 109th MPAD

*Sgt. Joseph Gibson, 450<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Bn., conducted an assessment of the village Aulos Feb. 1. They gathered information about what the village has and what it needs to improve the lives and the health and welfare of its people.*

## **AULOS**, from Page 1

This is the typical way a civil affairs team in Afghanistan begins a village assessment. The teams are considered the foot soldiers within the branch of civil affairs.

Through village assessments, they analyze the needs of countless villages throughout Afghanistan to determine what if any projects can help the village.

In contrast to most personnel based at the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force in Kabul, who work at the planning level, mapping and tracking civil affairs activities throughout Afghanistan, soldiers assigned to teams regularly travel into the countryside, to find and assess the needs of the Afghan population.

“We are the primary doers where others are primarily the planners,” said Capt. Catherine Bologna, of 414<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, Utica, NY, and member of the Civil Affairs Team-A based in Konduz. “We are the direct liaisons between the U.S. government and the local population of the host nation, in this case Afghani-



*Soldiers assigned to civil affairs teams regularly travel out into the countryside, finding and assessing the needs of the Afghan population.*

stan.”

The assessment process for a village involves the completion of an AIMS village assessment form, which was developed specifically for Afghanistan. The information collected through AIMS is then transferred to a database that various non-governmental organizations in Afghanistan can access.

Sharing information about different villages prevents duplication of effort.

A village assessment begins with the team meeting face-to-face with the local village elder or mullah. The mullah is the spokesperson for the Afghan community; who speaks for the needs of the village.

Unlike assessing, selecting a village is not an exact science. Members of the team headquartered in Konduz assessed this village with very little prior contact. Local maps are not always accurate, and the original village sought out by the team could not be found.

The assessment process gathers to determine the needs of the village. This information includes geographic details, population description, economic conditions, agricultural capabilities, natural resources, local industry and other determining factors. The information is compiled and analyzed by the team to determine the priority of needs for a particular

village.

Like many other village assessments, the needs of Aulos were quite predictable. Schools to educate the children, clean drinking water, and new medical facilities to provide basic medical care for the community were identified as critical needs for the village and its inhabitants.

The end result gave the team the information needed to prioritize the projects that would benefit the village most. An

additional benefit of the assessment is the information passed to the inhabitants of the village and their local leaders.

“It gives them the knowledge, skills, and ability to see what they need to progress,” said Bologna.

Although village assessments are only one part of what the civil affairs teams are doing in Afghanistan, it is becoming more prevalent in the day-to-day workings of the team.

The team in Konduz is very active in assessing villages throughout the Konduz Province.

“When we first got here, village assessments were a small part of the job that we did here,” Bologna said. “But more recently, they have become more important as we realize there are many villages throughout Afghanistan that are in need.”

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“It gives them the knowledge, skills, and ability to see what they need to progress,”

- Capt. Catherine Bologna

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# Teaching skills benefit personnel soldier

Pfc. Charles D. Meseke  
CTF-82 PAO

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — “How would you like to earn money for college, valuable job skills, and an enlistment bonus of up to \$20,000?” Being enlisted in the military, there is a good chance you’ve heard these words coming from a recruiter as you perused the options for your future. For many, the incentives were enough to spark an interest in the military that would eventually lead to volunteering to serve the nation.

For Spc. Patrick Smith, Coalition Task Force 82, C-1 awards clerk, these incentives were not the reason he decided to join the Army.

“It (enlisting in the Army) was just something that I had always wanted to do,” Smith said.

Smith isn’t an average specialist in the Army. At 29, he has a **678<sup>th</sup>**, from Page 1

“I believe we are the first Army unit to ever be deployed to a combat zone from South Carolina,” said Sgt. Alfred Sherrill, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, 678<sup>th</sup>. “We have about 45 troops in our detachment whose mission is to do all the engineer work for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division here.”

Since the 678<sup>th</sup>’s arrival in October, they have accompanied the 82<sup>nd</sup> on missions all over Afghanistan, building tents, medical and dining facilities, showers, and installed electricity and plumbing in many different forward operating bases and safe houses throughout the country.

“We work from sunrise to sunset six days a week,” said Sherrill. “There is a lot of reconstruction to be done all over the country so every member of our detachment is constantly moving.”

Because there are few soldiers to handle such a large workload, each soldier must have a working knowledge of not only their specialty but of every engineer skill.

“Our detachment is broken up into three teams,” said Spc. Brian Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, 678<sup>th</sup>. “Because of the diverse nature of many tasks, and the small number of engineers to accomplish the mission, each engineer must know how to do masonry, electrical work, carpentry and plumbing to effectively get the job done.”

Even though the job can be stressful at times, Sherrill said it’s well worth it.

bachelor’s degree in education and is close to earning his master’s degree in special education. Smith also has experience teaching high school-level math and English.

He said, the past experience of teaching has helped Smith do his job in the Army, that requires him to process up to 200 awards a day.

“Being a teacher in charge of 450 students has helped with my maturity level and leadership abilities,” Smith said.

Smith plans to put his leadership skills to use when he becomes a noncommissioned officer. If he decides to stay in the Army beyond his enlistment contract, he’s looking toward Officer Candidate School as an option for the long-term future.

Soldiers working with Smith find it natural to look up to him.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

*Soldiers from the 678<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment, North Charleston, S.C., work to finish a sleep tent for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in Gardez.*

“Our team recently went to Gardez to do engineer work for the 82<sup>nd</sup>. Within six weeks, our team of 10 erected five sleep tents, five showers, latrines, floors for two medical facilities and a DFAC,” said Sherrill. “After all of that hard work, the infantry soldiers came to us with so much gratitude, thankful that they didn’t have to spend another night on the ground. That in it self made it all worth it.”

Even though Sherrill loves being deployed as an engineer, he lives his life as a civilian superintendent for a contracting company.

“I took a \$1,500 monthly pay cut to come on active duty and deploy,” said Sherrill. “To me, this is the better of the two jobs because I am making a difference.”

Williams said he misses home, but he knows he is needed for this mission.

“I miss being with my family, but I’m doing what I love to do out here,” said Williams. “Without engineers, soldiers wouldn’t have running water, a warm place to sleep or any other amenities troops enjoy on a daily basis. It’s nice to know people like me are the difference between a good and bad deployment.”



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Hooked on 'Horns

AUSTIN, Texas — If it seems as if they've been chatting constantly with Dave and Jay and Regis and Oprah and Leo and J-Lo and even passing notes to Colin Powell at the United Nations, it might be because the Texas Longhorns have garnered more face and body screen time these past few months than, well, Jennifer Garner.

Their impressive debut in Madison Square Garden against Georgia. That down-to-the-last-second thrilling defeat at Arizona. The already classic battle — Dick Vitale is still confused whether Nick Collison was Larry Bird and T.J. Ford was Magic Johnson (or was it the other way around?) — featuring them losing on the road at Kansas. Another Magnificent Monday highlighted by a win at home over Oklahoma.

Pick a number, any number (or night) and Texas has answered the call, ingraining itself into our viewing consciousness. Not so much as Survivor. But as the most prominent titleholders on Are You Hot? — since those folks in Lexington, Ky., turned into an NBA team.



Little T.J. Ford has Longhorn fans thinking bigger than ever this season.

“That’s the way it’s supposed to be. We’re Texas,” says ‘Horns Coach Rick Barnes, the fair-haired, boyish North Carolinian who seems to know whereof he speaks — so what if he speaks a sort of sophisticated Goober, prepped for the job at George Mason, Providence and Clemson, still looks as if he should be suiting up for his alma mater back in Lenoir Rhyne, N.C., and seems about as Texan as Bill Parcells?

As for his team, hoopsologists of all regions may not have driven a Ford lately, but they’ve surely been driven to paroxysms of delight watching Texas’ little point guard drive his mates near to the top of the polls and himself into a leading candidate for player of the year.

As for his team, hoopsologists of all

## NCAA Division 1: ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll



Team	Record
1. Arizona	20-2
2. Kentucky	20-3
3. Louisville	19-2
4. Texas	17-4
5. Oklahoma	17-4
6. Kansas	19-5
7. Florida	20-4
8. Duke	17-4
9. Pittsburgh	17-4
10. Notre Dame	19-5
11. Wake Forest	17-3
12. Marquette	18-4

Team	Record
13. Maryland	15-6
14. Xavier	18-4
15. Illinois	16-5
16. Oklahoma State	19-4
17. Syracuse	17-4
18. Creighton	22-3
19. Mississippi St.	16-5
20. California	18-4
21. Stanford	19-6
22. Missouri	15-6
23. Purdue	16-6
24. Connecticut	15-6
25. Georgia	14-7



## Mids have more to lose than gain

ESPN — Bracket Buster Saturday nearly went “bust” over the weekend.

San Jose State beat Hawaii.

Wichita State beat Creighton.

Ohio beat Kent State.

Louisiana Tech beat Fresno State earlier last week — and even though Louisiana Tech is in Saturday’s nine-game, mid-major extravaganza, unlike the three victors above — Fresno State had a more realistic shot to earn an at-large bid than Louisiana Tech.

So much for advance planning this season.

The purpose of Bracket Buster Saturday was to showcase teams and conferences that have traditionally pulled off upsets in the NCAA Tournament, match them up against each other, and produce one more non-conference game to help as many teams as possible get into the Dance.

The problem with best-laid plans are they don’t always go as planned. Teams like Kent State, Tulsa, Hawaii, Fresno State and Southern Illinois haven’t exactly followed the plan.

Each has lost too many games of late, making their at-large cases extremely tenuous today and in a month on Selection Sunday. Any

**SPORTS**, from Page 6

bump they could get from winning their Bracket Buster game Saturday would likely help their seeding — if they can win their conference tournament — but won't be enough to push them into an ever-growing at-large pool of teams.

Now, this thinking could change if the NCAA Tournament selection committee decides to reward veteran mid-major teams that hit a mini-February slump, instead of penalize them for losing to teams within their conference. The committee talked about being more subjective during its meeting two weeks ago in Indianapolis. Snubbing Butler last season with 25 regular-season wins, because the Bulldogs had lost two of three games to Horizon League teams, made the committee more sensitive to the mid-major plight.

But, it's still a tough sell.

**Bonner's scoring too much for New Orleans**

**GAINSVILLE, Fla.** — Florida's Matt Bonner matched the entire New Orleans team score for score over the first 30 minutes Monday, finishing with 24 points to lift the No. 7 Gators to a 77-48 victory.

Bonner, a senior, fell seven points shy of his career high, but still had nothing to complain about. Florida (21-4) matched a program record with its 18th straight home win in this, a rare midseason nonconference matchup.

Coached by longtime former Gators assistant Monte Towe, the Privateers (13-11) were outmatched from the start. They fell behind 20-3 after 7 minutes and about the only drama after that was whether Bonner could outscore them on his own.

It looked possible well into the second half. The redheaded New Hampshire forward was ahead of the Privateers 22-19 at halftime and when he hit a 14-foot jumper with 15 minutes left in the game, he drew even at 24.

Three minutes later, the Gators led 58-27 and Bonner had an open 3-pointer to try to tie things again. But it clanged high off the rim, and two minutes later, coach Billy Donovan gave him the rest of the night off.

**Black History Month**

February is Black History Month. In light of all the accomplishments made by African-Americans, every day this month the *Freedom Watch* will highlight an individual.

**David Crosthwait, Jr., engineer, inventor**

**Born:** 1898 **Birthplace:** Nashville, Tenn.

David Crosthwait held numerous patents relating to heat transfer, ventilation, and air conditioning, the areas in which he was considered an expert. Holding B. S. and M. S. degrees from Purdue University in engineering, Crosthwait began working as a research engineer and director of research laboratories for C. A. Dunham Company, in Marshalltown, Iowa. He served as technical advisor to Dunham from 1930 to 1970 and, in addition to designing the heating system for Radio City Music Hall in New York City, he authored texts and guides on heating and cooling with water. After his retirement in 1970, Crosthwait taught at Purdue University.

**Died:** 1976

**SMITH**, from Page 5

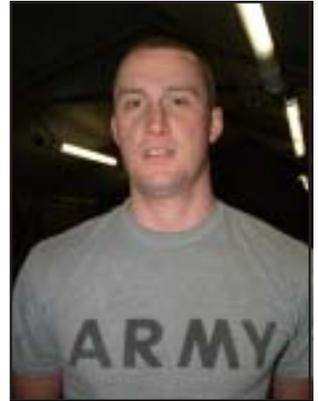
"He has a little more maturity than others," said Pfc. David S. Parra, the strength management clerk, C-1, "He's a school teacher."

Stationed at Fort Jackson, SC., Smith said he was inspired to volunteer for airborne training and come to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division by his recruiter who served in the 325<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment. The opportunity to go airborne and be deployed appealed to him.

"I never thought I would deploy to serve my country while stationed at (Fort) Jackson; when I got to Fort Bragg I knew it was a possibility," Smith said.

His positive attitude has won accolades from coworkers and supervisors.

"Smith is a very motivated individual and a team player who is valuable part of the C-1 section," said Maj. Mark A. Miller, C-1 officer in charge.



Smith



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By Kevin Kilgore

*Laugh Support*