

Freedom Watch

July 28, 2003

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan



Photo by Sgt. Greg Heath

Ready to answer the call...

Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division load onto CH-47 Chinook helicopters at Bagram Airbase early morning July 23 as they began Operation Warrior Sweep. The ongoing operation is taking place in southeast Afghanistan.

Troops conduct survey at Kabul Int'l Airport

Story by Pfc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

Bagram, Afghanistan — Civil Engineers went from Bagram to Kabul International Airport yesterday but they left their luggage at home. They weren't there to catch a plane, but to open communications with German troops operating the airport – the first step towards their mission of surveying the runways.

Five members of the 175th Engineer Company attached to the CJ-7 cell here, made the journey that will soon be an everyday event for them. The mission is expected to take 21 days to complete and then the troops will be heading back home to Fort Bragg, N.C.

“By DoD (Department of Defense) directive, each air field has to be surveyed every five years,” said Sgt. Donald Bick, Topographical Surveyor, 175th Eng. Co. This is Bick's 12th survey of an airfield.

The team will apply known coordinates to the airfield to establish elevations on the runway, he said.

“(Our work) prevents planes from crashing into things that they don't know are there and it allows them to fly blindly using only their instrumentation,” said Bick.

The troops' mission provides information that will “ensure the safety of pilots and their crews” and helps supplies come in and out of the airport in a timely manner “without incidents or accidents,” Bick said.

The civilian airport is very important due to a process of elimination. Afghanistan is landlocked. There are no seaports and there is no rail system, said Capt. Mike Deer, Aerial

Attacks on troops in Iraq lessen

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The July 22 deaths of Saddam Hussein's sons Uday and Qusay at the hands of U.S. forces who were tipped of by an Iraqi citizen is bringing forth intelligence information that has led to weapons seizures and the arrests of Saddam loyalists.

During a video-teleconference briefing from Tikrit, Iraq, Army Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno told Pentagon reporters that recent tips from Iraqis have led to the discovery of several large caches of weapons and the detention of what may prove to be some of Saddam's personal security detachment.

Odierno said that in the past 24 hours his soldiers visited five separate cache sites and have detained or killed at least 60 Iraqi subversives.

The more Iraqi citizens feel coalition forces will act on their tips, the more likely they are to come forward, the general explained.

For example, an Iraqi came into one of the unit's brigade headquarters and gave the location of a cache of weapons buried near a house near Samarra, Odierno said.

There, soldiers using mine detectors found a container with 10 AK 47s, 34 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 150 RPG rounds, 80,000 feet of detonation cord, 45,000 sticks of dynamite, 11 improvised explosive devices, 33 SA-7 launchers, and 28 submachine guns.

Odierno said another Iraqi informant provided information that led to a raid on a house south of Tikrit in which 13 individuals were detained, some of whom are believed to be from Hussein's personal security detachment.

Meanwhile, Odierno noted, attacks against

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. Army soldiers inspect a home during a raid on three farms in Tikrit on Sunday.

U.S.: Saddam's 'on the run'

TIKRIT, Iraq — U.S. forces early Sunday raided three farmhouses in Saddam Hussein's ancestral hometown of Tikrit where officials said intelligence indicated Saddam's security chief — or possibly the deposed dictator himself — had been recently.

An official in Baghdad told *CNN* the security chief was not found at any of the locations and that no one was taken into custody.

Another U.S. military source, this one in Tikrit, told *CNN* the raids were based on "very reliable" intelligence that Saddam likely had been at the farms before the raids.

The official told *CNN* the military believes it has Saddam "on the run," that he is in the Tikrit area and is changing his location every two to four hours.

The official in Baghdad said, however, the raids targeted Saddam's security chief, not the former Iraqi leader.

Officials said they believe they are closing in on the deposed Iraqi president but would not predict when he would be captured, other than to say it is just a matter of time.

"I've been hunting this guy for a long time," one military official said. "I know how slippery he can be."

DNA samples will be taken from the farmhouses to determine whether Saddam had been there, officials said.

Neighbors reportedly told soldiers with the 4th Infantry Division the security chief had been in the area shortly before the raids were carried out. No casualties were reported on either side, the official said.

Nixon ordered Watergate break-in, ex-aide says

WASHINGTON — Former White House counsel John Dean said Sunday there's at least a "shred of evidence" to support a new allegation that President Nixon ordered the Watergate break-in.

The widespread belief is that Nixon was forced to resign because of his role covering up the break-in, but that he didn't order the crime to begin with.

Jeb Stuart Magruder, who was Nixon's deputy campaign director, says he heard the president tell John Mitchell, who was running Nixon's re-election campaign in 1972, to go ahead with a plan to break into the Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate complex and bug the party chairman's phone.

Magruder, in a *PBS* documentary set to be broadcast Wednesday and in an *Associated Press* interview last week, says he was meeting with Mitchell on March 30, 1972, when he heard Nixon tell Mitchell over the phone to go ahead with the plan, the *AP* reported Sunday.



Mutinuous soldiers flash V-signs as they agree to drive back to barracks.

Manila rebel standoff ends

MANILA, Philippines — A 21-hour standoff between government troops and a group of rogue soldiers in downtown Manila has ended peacefully.

Nearly 300 rogue military forces had barricaded themselves in a hotel protesting against what they said was corruption in the government.

Each side has made concessions, and the troops have returned to their barracks and

said they are willing to face charges, the sources said.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo told a media conference after the siege ended that the rogue soldiers would be receiving no special treatment over their behavior.

President Arroyo said the government's decision to negotiate with the rebels had brought "positive results."

"Once more, this has been a triumph of democracy," she added.

The rogue forces accuse the government of President Arroyo of arming rebel groups and fanning the flames of the Muslim rebel insurgency in the southern Philippines, so Arroyo can remain in power after her term expires next year.



Burial workers bury a body from attacks in Monrovia, Liberia.

Shelling kills 14 in Liberia - Cease fire proposed

MONROVIA, Liberia — Mortar shells slammed into homes near Monrovia's rebel-held port, killing at least 14 people, aid workers said Sunday, the third straight day of deadly bombardments in the besieged capital.

Rebels attacking Monrovia have waged a three-year insurgency to drive out President Charles Taylor, a former warlord behind 14 years of conflict.

America's ambassador to Liberia, John Blaney, on Sunday proposed that Taylor's forces and rebels set up a new cease-fire line outside the capital at the natural boundary of Po River.

The U.S. ambassador said Taylor had accepted the proposal, and he urged rebels to do the same.

Shooters face off at Bagram Showdown

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – It was like a scene out of an old Western movie as each participant stood in anticipation for that signal to draw and fire, but it wasn't a gun each shooter grabbed for; it was a basketball.

Twenty-two participants lined up to compete for the title of fastest and most accurate shot on Bagram Air Field during Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Second Annual Three-Point Shoot-out Contest, Saturday. The contest was held at the basketball court in the Bagram Civic Center.

The shoot out tested each participant's speed and accuracy.

Five racks were spread evenly out around the three-point line, and five basketballs were placed in each rack.

The first four basketballs in each rack were worth one point each, and the fifth ball was worth two points, so each player had the potential to get 30 points each round.

Each participant had one minute to try and make all 25 baskets.

"It's challenging," said Marshal Williams, an MWR coordinator, "but a lot of these guys play a lot, so they're up to the challenge."

The first round eliminated half of the participants.

The second round eliminated the rest except for the top three who went on to the third and final round to compete for the top spot and bragging rights, said Williams.

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Port of Debarcation, Combined Joint Task Force 180. Deer and his driver are the only two Americans stationed in Kabul working at the airport.

"The road network is also restricted because the mountains run right through the center of their country," he said. "Most of the exporting and importing that they have into Afghanistan is done through the air."

Kabul International Airport is the Afghan peoples only international "hub" so it is "a really busy place and quite



Competitors had one minute to make 25 baskets in the 3-point Shoot-out Saturday at Bagram.

When the dust finally cleared, Sgt. Eric Lawton, Co. K, 4-159th Aviation, 507th Corps Support Command, was the last man standing.

He earned his bragging rights after making 15 baskets out of 30, the most out of the top three.

"I love to play, I love to compete, and I love the competition," said Lawton.

"I play with most of these guys every night, and they pretty much know that I'm one of the best shooters out here, so it's a very competitive thing just to compete against me."

Second place went to Spc. Carlos Spruill, Co. E, 120th Air Support Control Services, who made 10 baskets.

Third place went to Sgt. Hatuey Javier, Co. C, 3504th Parachute Infantry Regiment who made nine baskets.

This event really helped personnel

get their minds off daily troubles, said Williams, because they focus on the game and the competition.

He added that the players really enjoy the sport and the talking trash that goes along with it.

"You have a lot of basketball players who really think they can shoot, and it gives you bragging rights to say you're the best three-point shooter on the camp," said Williams. "It really gets the competitive juices flowing out there."

It also improves the soldiers' camaraderie and morale, said Williams.

"We organize these events because we want to get the soldiers out and get their minds off of what's really going on around here," said Williams. "It lets them relax a little bit."

At the end of the showdown, the participants and the spectators collected for an after-game party.

important to Afghanistan and to the rebuilding of Afghanistan," said Deer.

The German personnel are currently in command of the airport and according to Deer, they call the airport, "The window and door to the world."

The troops from the 175th Eng. Co. will head to Kabul to begin their mission soon. The crew is ready to tackle the project, said Bick, who is quite confident in the work of his troops. "The hardest part (of the mission) will be the convoying back and forth (from the base to the airfield.)"

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his troops have lessened over the past two months. Asked to quantify that downturn, he cited a 50 percent decrease.

“We’ve detained an awful lot of people,” he said, noting that over the last 30 days the units have arrested more than 1,000 individuals. “I think we’ve taken a lot of the middle managers. So, they had to cut down the number of attacks. ... I believe we were cutting into the number of people that were available to make those attacks.”

Odierno said that over the pasts two months 4th ID soldiers have conducted search and attack missions and presence patrols to defeat and disarm remnants of the former regime who are responsible for attacks on American troops.

One such assault, “Operation Ivy Serpent,” which concluded last week, led to the capture of 52 “mid-level” Baathist members, he said.

The operation also netted \$100,000 and 38 million dinars, money that he Odierno said he suspects was being used to finance attacks against U.S. and coalition troops. The operation also netted more than 250 AK-47 assault rifles, over 1,000 RPG rounds, 3,000 mortar rounds, and 2,700 pounds of C-4 explosives.

Odierno reported that his unit continues to work to better Iraq through several civil service projects throughout the country. He noted that such projects have included the repair of 27 hospitals and 174 health clinics. In addition, 11 schools have been rebuilt, and 35 more are currently under construction. Five water treatment plants in major cities are also undergoing repairs.

As for the duration of the 4th ID’s stay, the general said, “Undoing 35 years of repression and tyranny will not be quick or easy, but it is the right thing to do. I believe the division will be here about a year. If conditions are met that allow (return of forces sooner), it might not be that long. But all of our soldiers and family members are planning on being here for a year, and we all understand the commitment that we must have in order to accomplish the mission.

“The road ahead will be challenging,” he added. “But our soldiers are professionals. They will persevere and complete this continuing mission with the same motivation and dedication they have displayed since the beginning of this operation.”

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “The Pianist.”

A Polish Jewish musician struggles to survive the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto of World War II.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “Antwone Fisher..”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
Bagram:	Mostly clear H: 99F L: 68F	Mostly clear H: 97F L: 72F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 108F L: 82F	Dusty H: 108F L: 84F
Kabul:	Haze H: 97F L: 70F	Haze H: 97F L: 70F
Uzbekistan:	Sunny H: 97F L: 63F	Sunny H: 96F L: 57F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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

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Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

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All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Lance Armstrong is already thinking about a record sixth straight Tour victory in 2004.

Armstrong wins fifth straight Tour

PARIS — Never did his reign look so uncertain. Never did he savor a victory quite like this one.

Only with his Tour de France title finally assured during the last leg on the cobblestoned Champs-Élysées, did Lance Armstrong celebrate by lifting a flute of champagne to a resounding “Cheers!”

Overcoming crashes, illness, hard-charging rivals and plain old bad luck, the Texan won his hardest but sweetest Tour on Sunday — a record-tying fifth straight that places him among the greatest cyclists ever.

Unlike previous years, when he won by comfortable margins, the grueling 23-day, 2,125-mile clockwise trek around France pushed Armstrong to the limit.

“Before the Tour started I was very confident about winning. But before next year’s Tour, I won’t be so confident,” he said.

Armstrong joined Spaniard Miguel Indurain as the only riders to win cycling’s most brutal and prestigious race five times consecutively — a record Armstrong plans to break in 2004.

“It’s a dream, really a dream,” Armstrong said in French after climbing the podium while “The Star-Spangled Banner” rang out.

“I love cycling, I love my job and I will be back for a sixth. It’s incredible to win again.”

So action-packed was this Tour that Armstrong was prepared for the unexpected — even Sunday, on the largely processional final stage.

“If a plane landed in the race I wouldn’t be surprised,” he said before setting off from the Paris suburb of Ville d’Avray on the 92.4-mile ride through streets packed with cheering spectators, many waving American flags.

Armstrong shared the podium with five-time runner-up Jan Ullrich and third-place finisher Alexandre Vinokourov, holding their

hands above his head in a fitting tribute to the two men who battled him to the end.

Search for physical evidence continues

WACO, Texas — Waco police found a badly decomposed body in a watery gravel pit Saturday and have told Patrick Dennehy’s family that they believe the body is that of the missing Baylor basketball player, *ESPN* has learned.

An autopsy was performed Sunday morning, *ESPN*’s John Barr reported. Because of the decomposition of the body, positive identification likely will come through DNA testing and will take at least one to three days, Barr reported.

On Sunday evening, authorities also have recovered a human head in the same area where they found the body.

Dennehy’s stepfather, Brian Brabazon, said he and his wife Valorie would remain in Albuquerque, where Dennehy’s girlfriend lives, and return to Waco if the body is determined to be Dennehy. The couple left Waco on Friday after cleaning out Dennehy’s apartment and meeting with police and Baylor officials.

“We still have hope that Patrick is still alive, but we want closure,” Brabazon told *The Associated Press*.

Carlton Dotson, who played basketball for Baylor last season and had been living with Dennehy for a few months, was charged with Dennehy’s murder last week in his home state of Maryland. He remains jailed without bond awaiting extradition to Texas.

Dotson, 21, gave police three locations in Waco where Dennehy’s body might be found, Dennehy’s family said. The body was found in one of those, about five miles southeast of Baylor.

Meanwhile, the McLennan County Sheriff’s Department is continuing to search for physical evidence in the area in which the body was found. Sheriff Larry Lynch issued a short statement Saturday afternoon, saying that the body was discovered at 8:50 p.m. ET Friday and that his officers guarded the area until daybreak Saturday.

McLennan County Justice of the Peace Belinda Summers told the *Dallas Morning News* that the remains recovered lay in chest-high grass. According to the newspaper, the area is about a quarter-mile off FM3400, a rural road that becomes University Parks Drive — the main thoroughfare that runs past Dennehy’s apartment, the Ferrell Center, where he had hoped to play basketball, and the rest of Baylor’s campus — when it reaches Waco’s city limits.

Jaguars’ lineman collapses during practice

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jaguars defensive lineman Larry Smith collapsed during practice Sunday but was recovering in a Jacksonville hospital.

The 6-foot-5, 310-pound Smith fell while the team was taking a water break during the morning practice. The temperature was 87

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degrees around the time Smith collapsed, and with the humidity factored in, it felt like 95 degrees, according to National Weather Service data.

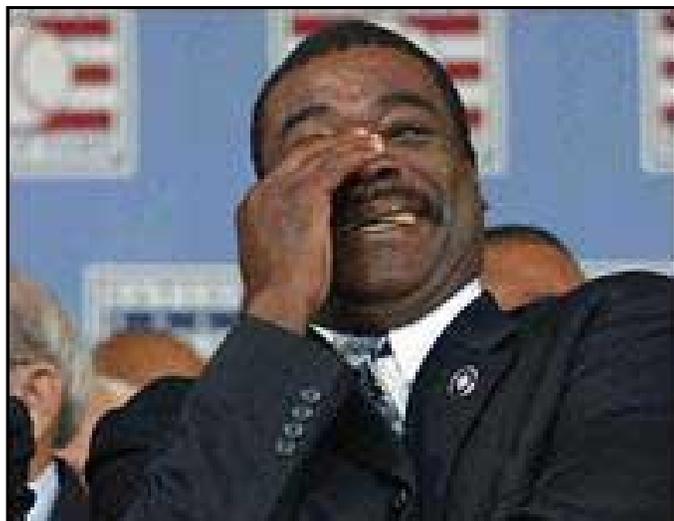
Team spokesman Dan Edwards said Smith, a fifth-year player, would be kept in the hospital overnight for observation. He said Smith was listed as being in good condition.

“He went to the hospital to have tests done,” coach Jack Del Rio said. “He had an episode of heat. He went down, got dizzy. It’s a serious issue and we’re taking it seriously, but he appears to be doing fine.”

Smith will not practice Monday, the team said. He is expected to return within a few days.

Like most teams around the NFL, the Jaguars advise their players on dealing with heat and dehydration. They have had relatively few heat-related episodes in their history despite training in one of the hottest locales in the league.

Smith went down once, then got back up, but fell again. Jaguars trainers rushed onto the field and took him off on a cart.



Eddie Murray couldn't help but laugh at Bob Uecker's acceptance speech.

In the end, Murray lets fans have final say

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — The Ed-die chant that Orioles fans bestowed upon Eddie Murray unnerved him years ago when he first heard it. Murray would be trying to concentrate at the plate, the chant would begin and Murray would find himself thinking about his own name instead of the next pitch.

But Murray beckoned the fans to chant for him at the Baseball Hall of Fame ceremony Sunday, when he and Gary Carter were inducted. Murray lifted his arms like a conductor and waved to the thousands of Orioles fans who congregated here, summoning the chant. “I’d like to end, in closing, with that Ed-die chant,” Murray said, grinning.

Murray and Carter fought their emotions intermittently — particularly as they each talked about the influence of an elder brother — during the 2½ -hour ceremony that was attended by 18,000, including former president George Bush. Hal McCoy, the Reds beat

writer for the Dayton Daily News, received the 2003 J.G. Taylor Spink Award, and spoke about the help he received from others after sustaining an optic stroke last winter.

Bob Uecker, the Milwaukee Brewers broadcaster who has made a second career making fun of his own inability as a major-league catcher, received the Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasting. Uecker broke up the crowd and the 44 attending Hall of Famers repeatedly.

Uecker told a deadpan story about how his mother made his first athletic supporter with a flour sack, and about how proud he was to see his own children blowing Little League games. “I still — and this is not sour grapes by any means — I still think I should’ve gone in as a player,” said Uecker.

Bad weather south of Cooperstown prevented Daniel Rodriguez, who was scheduled to sing the Canadian and U.S. anthems, from arriving. An official from the Hall of Fame filled in to sing the U.S. Anthem, and then Johnny Bench, the Hall of Fame catcher, volunteered to sing the Canadian version. “It’s like catching without a cup, folks,” Bench told the crowd, “so help.”

“How’s a fella’ supposed to get any shut-eye ‘round here?!”



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support