

# Freedom Watch

February 26, 2003 ♦ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ♦ Bagram, Afghanistan

## Fire Department prevents, fights fires

By Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – Flames engulf the tent, licking the sides as they threaten to spread to the next.

This is a situation no one would like to see, but the Bagram Fire Department is ready if it does happen.

The 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group Fire Department, Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. is responsible for fighting fires on Bagram.

“Our primary mission is to provide aircraft crash, fire and rescue. So our number one priority is the fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. Our secondary mission is to provide structural firefighting for the tents and base facilities,” said Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Matlock, fire chief, 455<sup>th</sup> EOG Fire Department.

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Photo by Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

### Jammin' with Jag...

*Knoxville, Tenn.-based pop rock band, Jag Star is currently on a month-long Armed Forces Entertainment-sponsored tour of the Middle East region to entertain troops. The AFE is a branch of the Department of the Defense that provides free entertainment to U.S. soldiers and families in remote locations. Jag Star performed Tuesday at Bagram Air Base and is playing in Kabul today.*

## Bagram aerial view shows big picture



Photo by Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

*Task Force Dragon makes weekly force protection flights over the areas surrounding Bagram Air Base. The flights allow military police or intelligence personnel new to the region a quick orientation.*

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

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** - Every now and then an Afghan may be out on his roof looking up in the sky and see a Blackhawk.

This is because the force protection flight makes weekly trips of the surrounding area of Bagram Air Base.

Force protection flights provide new soldiers with an orientation via an aerial view of the perimeter.

Depending on the soldiers military occupational specialty, they may be allowed a ride. Pri-

marily, military police, intelligence, civil affairs and security personnel are authorized.

Not only does the flight offer essential intelligence for troops, but also a touristy glimpse into the life of an Afghan.

For Americans, it is like looking into another era, with all of the clay structures, the unpaved roads, the exhaustless air and the untouched terrain.

But for those interested in force protection, they are not interested in the pretty view.

“We go out and we recon our main areas of interest,” said 2<sup>nd</sup>

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## After Saddam, then what?

**WASHINGTON** — American and allied troops have been in Bosnia since 1995.

They've been in Kosovo since 1999. They've been in Afghanistan since Oct. 2001.

And now there are concerns over how long U.S. troops may remain in Iraq if there is a war.

U.S. Deputy national security adviser Stephen Hadley has one answer.

"The answer is straightforward: We will stay as long as is necessary but not one day more," Hadley said.

How long troops remain in Iraq depends on what the United States decides to do in the country — transition quickly to some sort of unelected Iraqi leadership acceptable to the West, or transform Iraq into a democratic nation.

Democrat Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware said he senses a split on the matter even within the Bush administration.

"My sinking suspicion [from] Cheney, Rumsfeld and company ... is transition," Biden said earlier this month. "The president's occasional comments talk transformation."

After a period of stabilizing the country under U.S. Army Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. Central Command, the United States and its allies may place a non-Iraqi civilian as head of Iraq.

State Department officials talk about "transforming" Iraq after that with a new constitution, a new criminal code, and real democracy.

It's the kind of project that took Gen. Douglas MacArthur seven years in post World War II Japan.

## Prosecutor: Malvo says he and Muhammad 'were equals'

**WASHINGTON** — Sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo has implicated his alleged accomplice, John Allen Muhammad, claiming they "were equals" and that either man "could call a particular shot on or off," according to Virginia prosecutors.

Malvo, 17, and Muhammad, 42, are accused of killing 13 people and wounding six others in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mary-

land, Virginia and the District of Columbia. They are being tried first in Virginia, where both could face the death penalty.

The information about Malvo's confession is buried in a document filed Tuesday by Raymond F. Morrogh, the chief deputy of Virginia Commonwealth's Attorney Robert Horan.

Defense attorneys had sought information about any evidence that would show that another person was "more culpable, more dominant or more dangerous" than Malvo in the fatal shooting of FBI analyst Linda Franklin on Oct. 14 outside a Home Depot store.

## Energy sec. talks gas prices

**WASHINGTON** — Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said Tuesday it may be two to three months before Venezuelan oil shipments to the United States return to normal levels, now that the crisis that shut down production in the South American country has passed.

Abraham, appearing before a Senate committee, also said the Bush administration was ready to tap its emergency reserves, but would do so only if there are "severe disruptions" of supplies and only after consultation with other major energy-consuming nations.

While promising to consult with other International Energy Agency member countries on use of emergency reserves, Abraham later told reporters that the administration, nevertheless, is prepared to take action on its own.

"We would consult with the IEA members before we would make a decision. Its a matter of process," he said.

His testimony came as energy prices across the board — from gasoline to crude oil, heating oil and natural gas — continue to soar. The price of natural gas, used widely across the Midwest and elsewhere for heating, doubled this week at the key Henry hub in Texas.

"It's my understanding that the crisis that has essentially shut down production (in Venezuela) has passed," Abraham said when asked.



*The body of one of the shooting victims lies covered outside the employment agency Tuesday.*

## Suspected gunman surrenders in office shooting

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.** — A man looking for work opened fire at a temporary employment agency Tuesday during an argument over a CD player, killing four fellow job-seekers and wounding a fifth, police said.

The suspected gunman later surrendered after a standoff at his apartment, where police tracked him down using the address he put on his job applications. Authorities turned off the building's electricity while the temperature was near freezing. Police said the man shot at officers early in the standoff.

The shooting started at about 6:30 a.m. in the lobby of Labor Ready Inc., where as many as 15 people were waiting for work. Witnesses said they scrambled for cover.

"A fight broke out among two groups of men over a CD player," said police spokesman Wendell Johnson. He said the suspect, Emanuel Patterson, 23, regularly went to the office looking for work and was well known both to employees and other laborers.

"People who know him say he is a very unstable individual," Johnson said without elaboration.

Michael Tucker Jr. said his father was in the office and told him the argument "was all over something about CDs and \$20. There was some guys picking at (the gunman) and pushing him, laughing at him. They pushed him into a corner."

Three people were dead at the scene and a fourth died during surgery. Police said the wounded man was hit in the leg.

The gunman drove off after the shooting.

# Bagram ASP stays combat-ready

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

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – Before a soldier deploys into a combat zone, his or her unit gives them the most valuable piece of equipment they can have — a weapon. However, that weapon is useless without one important item — ammunition.

The ammunition supply point on Bagram Air Base carries ammunition for every troop, weapon and aircraft deployed here with enough to sustain them for as long as they will be in country.

“Presently, we have about 109,000 pounds of ammunition in this ammo point and about 225,000 on the entire air base,” said Cpt. James Pope, 351<sup>st</sup> Ordnance Company commander, Romney, West Va. “That much ammo can range from \$16 to \$20 million at a time.”

Any unit, individual or aircraft on Bagram in need of ammunition, must go through the Bagram ammunition supply point.

## FIRE, from Page 1

In addition to providing these services, the fire department also advises Army ground safety and inspects facilities and tents here.

There are 26 firefighters, who work 24-hour shifts. Of the 26 firefighters, 13 are on duty at a time.

According to Matlock, since December, the fire department has responded to an average of eight emergencies a month.

The fire department has three different kinds of vehicles they use, including crash trucks, a water tender and a rescue vehicle.

There are three crash trucks, one is used strictly for aircraft crashes, while the other two may be used for aircraft or structure fire-fighting.

The water tender stores 2,000 gallons of water for reserve. It is used mainly because there are no fire hydrants here. There are also two emergency water reserves, which each hold 2,500 gallons of water, located on the flightline.

The rescue truck has various tools and equipment including tools used to cut into

“We carry all types of ammunition from small arms to aircraft missiles,” said Pope. “Explosives, bombs, grenades ... are also available to any unit with the proper qualifications.”

Obtaining ammunition from the ASP however, takes more than just a simple request, according to Pope. “Every unit in need of ammunition must first fill out DA form 581.”

“If they do not have the weapon systems to support the type or amount of ammunition requested, their request will be denied,” he added.

In some cases, units may want to access their own ammunition without having to go

vehicles and aircraft, and ropes and harnesses for confined space rescue.

In any emergency, the responding unit must be quick. For the most part, the fire department response time is ample.

“For an announced emergency on the flightline, we take one minute to get from one end to the other. If it is unannounced, we can be there in three minutes or less. Getting to the tents depends on traffic. Since we drive on the flightline, we can be at Viper (City) in three minutes or less. Dragon (City) takes longer, because we have to cross Disney (Road). Since they are repairing the road, the time should improve,” said Matlock.

Being deployed has created a few difficulties for the department.

“Communication is difficult because we have so few radios. This hampers interior fire-fighting because we have to keep people together so we can keep track of everyone. We can’t spread out to fight the fire,” said Matlock.

The department also has less manpower than a department in the United States would so they have to use different tactics.



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

*A sign hangs outside an ammunition bunker at the Bagram Air Base ammunition point as a warning that there is white phosphorous inside .*

through ASP’s procedures.

“We offer storage units for those who have ammunition aside from our supply,” said Pope. “Unlike ASPs in the states, our ammunition is reserved strictly for operational

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“Traditionally, what firefighters will do is go into an offensive mode of operation — we’re going to go right to the fire and fight the fire, but here we have a calculated risk,” said Matlock. “We know if one tent in a quadrant catches fire, the chances are, by the time we get there, several in that quadrant are going to be on fire. What we do, is start a defensive posture first to make sure that we protect the adjacent quadrants, then we will actually fight the fire.”

Matlock believes the main function of the department is prevention.

“Preventing a fire is much more of a success than putting one out. The less fires we have the better we are doing on the prevention side,” said Matlock.

When prevention doesn’t work, Matlock encourages everyone to be aware of how to report a fire, and to make sure if a fire does start in a tent, the occupants ensure all the personnel in that quadrant vacate their tents.

“We don’t mind losing tents. We don’t mind losing contents,” said Matlock. “But we do mind losing soldiers.”



Photo by Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

*Afghans near Bagram Air Base watch as the Blackhawk helicopter makes a pass over their village.*

**FLIGHT**, from Page 1

Lt. Henry Blust, assistant security officer for Task Force Dragon, who takes turns supervising the flight.

Main areas of interest may include any place with a history of hostile activity.

Not only do they check out these locations, but they look for changes as well.

After the Blackhawk lands, Blust will ask the passengers what they saw. He is looking for anything that is happening. Especially in a wartime situation, the level of attention to detail may mean a matter of life or death.

On a recent security flight, passengers noticed a couple bicyclists, many children waving, sheep being herded, war rubble and clay homes.

Despite the mostly uninhabited soil, the Afghans were active in wading in water, playing volleyball and tending to crops.

"I think it is a tremendous benefit to the base," said Blust. "It helps us identify threats."

The countryside appears docile and harmless, yet U.S. soldiers are trained to know that something usually happens when everything seems fine.

# Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Enemy at the Gates." A Russian and German sniper play a game of cat-and-mouse during the Battle of Stalingrad.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Joe Dirt."



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Thursday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Scattered showers H: 59F L: 34F	Rain H: 46F L: 30F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Rain H: 72F L: 46F	Rain H: 68F L: 45F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze H: 59F L: 30F	Rain H: 45F L: 32F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Mostly cloudy H: 57F L: 31F	Rain H: 49F L: 35F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Johnson scores victory for progress



*Charlotte expansion owner Robert Johnson is the first majority black owner in major pro sports.*

ESPN — Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball many years ago. Numerous African-Americans have coached, although the NFL and college football should be ashamed of its hiring practices. And there have been African-American front-office personnel for years.

But this past December, professional sports entered a new era when Robert Johnson, the billionaire founder of Black Entertainment Television, was awarded the NBA's new Charlotte franchise and became the first black majority owner of a major sports team. With Black History

Month in full bloom, the latest of the black sports pioneers definitely deserves his just due.

"Interestingly enough, I think the real last door Bob opened by becoming an owner," said Ed Tapscott, the man Johnson has hired to run Charlotte's new team. "My title here is executive vice president. That is nothing new. I had that title when I was in New York (with the Knicks). Members of the African-American community have held executive positions throughout the NBA. Obviously, coach, GM, player ... I think the last door that we can talk of opening, Bob opened."

*He got hired only to fill a quota. She was hired only because of Affirmative Action. He got the job because he is black.*

Those whispers and sometimes flat-out racist comments are harsh words that many African-Americans have heard through the years when they got an opportunity. So when Johnson beat out an ownership group led by legend Larry Bird, such ludicrous talk was expected to follow.

But maybe we're seeing a slight change of the times, since such ignorance didn't arrive along with Johnson. Or maybe, with his business expertise and success and the fact that he is the first African-American billionaire, even the biggest bigot knew such criticism would only make him or her look silly.

"Bob happens to be black, but he also happens to be one of the most successful entrepreneurs in America," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "And he also has a substantial individual net worth that allows him to make an investment like this."

"There is no question about his qualifications as a businessman," Tapscott said. "People can describe circumstances any way they want. Certainly, one of the things that Bob brings to the table here is he's not earned tremendous wealth for himself, but has done so for others with his career. This wasn't a guy that was brought to the table. He walked to the table on his own. He probably owned the table. His financial power, his network, his acumen in his business really sort of speaks for itself."

## Reel it in, Kobe

ESPN — "What's good for the team is the ball in the basket."

Last week Ralph Wiley made the compelling case for Kobe Bryant as the greatest scoring force in the NBA ever, his argument was based on that statement.

There is, I think, a logical extension: What's good for the team is the ball in the basket, *because what's best for the team is to win the game.*

And that's why Kobe's brick-city, me-first performance on Sunday night has me believing that he has veered out of control, nine games into his captivating 40-plus ppg streak:

Late in the game, sitting just under 40, Kobe couldn't put the ball in the basket, but he kept (mis)firing anyway, admittedly just to get his points — literally, "shoot-first, apologize-later." And he nearly shot his team out of the game at a point in the season where every win is critical.

Kobe is, by all accounts, legacy-driven; to his credit, he wants to be considered the best basketball player ever. But I'm not quite sure where he got the idea that scoring an outrageous number of points translates into ascension into that top spot. It didn't do much for Wilt, for Dominique or for the Mailman.

There is one statistic that matters most in building an

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## 2002 NBA standings



### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic

(2)New Jersey	37-21
(4)Philadelphia	31-24
(5)Boston	31-25
(8)Orlando	29-29
Washington	27-29

#### Central

(1)Detroit	37-19
(3)Indiana	37-20
(6)New Orleans	31-27
(7)Milwaukee	28-28
Atlanta	21-35

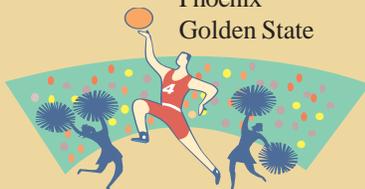
### Western Conference

#### Midwest

(1)Dallas	44-13
(3)San Antonio	38-17
(4)Minnesota	37-21
(6)Utah	33-23
(8)Houston	30-27

#### Pacific

(2)Sacramento	39-18
(5)Portland	35-20
(7)L.A. Lakers	30-25
Phoenix	30-27
Golden State	27-30



NBA legacy: wins. You need to accrue enough to get into the playoffs, then 16 as fast as you can get 'em. That's it.

The difference between Karl Malone and Michael Jordan, based on individual statistics, is negligible relative to the 6-0 gap in hand candy. Think Wilt wouldn't have traded in some of his gaudy numbers for a few of Russell's rings?

Kobe's place among the Legends — even at the very top — will not be earned by crossing some mythical mathematical mark that happens to be a nice even integer. It will come by being the best player that leads a team — any team — to a bunch of championships. In other words: By establishing the "Kobe Dynasty."

So why is he jacking up six bad shots in the final five minutes against Seattle on Sunday night? Just to reach some arbitrary stat plateau? Meanwhile, the Sonics crept back into a game that the Lakers desperately need in the ultra-competitive West playoff race.

Kobe might average 40 per game this season, but this legacy he cares so much about will be irrevocably tarnished if he puts himself ahead of his team, and for whatever reason this squad — which has managed to win three straight titles — can't come together for a fourth.



*Kobe and Phil: A happy family?*

## ***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.

**Mae C. Jemison;** *physician, astronaut*

**Born:** Oct., 17 1956 **Birthplace:** Decatur, Ala.

Astronaut Mae Jemison became the first African-American woman to enter space when she served on the crew of the Space Shuttle *Endeavor* in September 1992. Jemison's life, however, is also full of terrestrial accomplishments. A high school graduate at the age of 16, she attended Stanford University on a scholarship, graduating with a B.S. degree in chemical engineering and having fulfilled the requirements for an A.B. in African and Afro-American Studies. After graduating from medical school (Cornell University, 1981), Jemison joined the Peace Corps, serving as its area medical officer from 1983 to 1985 in the West African countries of Sierra Leone and Liberia. After serving in NASA from 1987 to 1993, Jemison founded The Jemison Group, Inc., which developed ALAFIYA, a satellite-based telecommunications systems intended to improve health care delivery in developing nations. In addition, she is a professor in the Environmental Studies Program at Dartmouth College, where she directs the Jemison Institute for Advancing Technology in Developing Countries.

**ASP**, from Page 3

purposes. If a unit has ammunition they use for training, they at least have somewhere safe to store it where they can access it whenever they need to."

Since they are the main supplier for all ammunition on the air base, the ASP takes security seriously.

"Not too long ago, we had an incident where some local nationals breached the perimeter and stole some grenades," said Pope.

"Since then there has been 360-degree security in place at all times consisting of tower guards, gate guards and U.S. and coalition roaming guards every hour on the hour at night," he added.

Even though there are policies and procedures in place to obtain ammunition, there are certain instances where policy is disregarded.

"Since our arrival, we have had about eight emergency issues in the middle of the night, for last minute operations," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Timothy Lester, accountable officer, 351<sup>st</sup>. "For these situations, our no. 1 mission is giving soldiers the ammunition they need to accomplish their mission as quickly as possible. The paperwork can come later."

Lester said even though Bagram isn't under constant attack, combat-readiness is always important.

"You never know when something is going to happen," he said. "If we ever find ourselves in a combat situation, the ASP will be the base's most important asset. For that reason, we need to be ready 24-7."

**"Well, son, this is 'All that You Can Be.'"**



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By Kevin Kilgore

## ***Laugh Support***