

THE LIBERATOR

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Police academy graduation

Battle kings set sights on children

Iraqi Vaccination Day

Weapons cache captured

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On the cover: Master Sgt. David James, 3rd Inf. Div. Provost Marshal operations sergeant, and an Iraqi police officer show off the brassards that unite the military and Iraqi police forces. Photo by Spc. Katherine Robinson

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COMMENTARY

What is the price of freedom?

STAFF SGT. BRIAN SIPP
3rd ID PAO

The word freedom is tossed around so often in the news and media that I fear its true meaning has become blurred.

I have also become convinced the Iraqi people do not yet fully understand the implications of the gift we have chosen to bestow upon them.

Freedom is not a tangible good that can be bought or sold. It is an all-encompassing state of mind which reveals itself in one's thoughts and actions. It is a belief structure that holds death as preferable to subjugation.

The American mind set is firmly entrenched with the ideals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as absolute necessities. America is synonymous with the concept of individual rights and freedoms.

It is an integral part of our culture and defines who we are. No explanations are necessary and, without exception, no apologies. We earned every bit of it, many times over, through blood, sweat and toil.

Let me take a step back and focus on the word earned. We earned our freedom. No one gave it to us; we took it. We suffered immensely against incredible odds for, what was at the time, only a concept. We went to war against Britain, the premier world power of the time, for what we believed to be right. We swallowed our pride and asked the French (yes, the French) for help.

We were ill-equipped, not schooled in the art of warfare, and desperately outnumbered; yet we won. We won because we believed.

We won, because as cold as it may have been in Valley Forge during that long, cold winter, it was preferable to continued British tyranny and control.

We demanded the right to chart our own destiny; to succeed or fail based on our own merits.

We, as Americans, understand what the cost

of freedom entails.

Many question why we are still here. They ask "what have the Iraqis done to 'earn' the gift of freedom?" I will counter by saying the Iraqi people are earning their freedom a little bit every day. Each morning when they wake up to uncertainty, no electricity, fear of looters and crime, and resolve to march on through the day to try and make tomorrow a little better for their families and themselves.

For 50 percent of the nation, there exists no other point of reference. We cannot unring a bell in a matter of weeks that has rung the same way for years.

Change will come in time if we can remain patient. For every criminal out there who seeks to stop

change, there are thousands who embrace it.

I read recently, there are now some 70 different publications in the city of Baghdad. While 68 of them are probably anti-American, it's a sign. By the very fact that so many people are now allowed to voice their opinions, we're already turning the tide and opening eyes. That's the beauty of freedom.

Even when the opinions

are contrary to yours, you win by their very existence. It is impossible to stop an idea whose time has come.

In time, they will come to understand the price that was paid by us on their behalf. In time, they will be able to repay the gift by affording every citizen the chance to realize their full potential.

Yes, we fought for our freedom and struggled to eventually emerge as a dominant world power. With that title comes an obligation to help other nations experience and enjoy what we have dedicated our existence to. Freedom is a concept that is much larger than any one person.

Pundits and nay sayers in the media will say Operation Iraqi Freedom was about oil, or power, or sending a message, or any of a number of reasons. Perhaps some or all of these are true, I don't know. The reason we are here has always been crystal clear to me, however, freedom.



Sgt. Akilah Clarke

A translator for 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) holds an Iraqi child while on a humanitarian aid mission at a local school.

Battle Kings set sights on children, aid

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY
50th PAD

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq – Battle Kings soldiers shifted their aim from military targets to humanitarian aid, delivering more than 200 rations, and buckets of candy to Iraqi children in villages outside Fallujah Thursday.

“When you give (food and candy) to the kids, it makes them happy, which will hopefully go up the chain to their parents,” said Pfc. Andrew Atterson, a 1st Platoon, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery soldier describing the intent of the Battle Kings’ “Hearts and Minds” campaign.

The soldiers drove through the winding, rural streets of villages waving to everyone they saw. They stopped their humvees and armored track vehicles where crowds gathered, and handed out rations and candy. The children swarmed the soldiers and their vehicles – 1-9 soldiers have been handing out food and candy since



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

B Battery 1st Sgt Garry Hunt hands Iraqi Children candy outside Al Fallujah Thursday.

they arrived in Fallujah about a month ago.

Spc. Kenny Nguyen handed them the food first from inside the track. They clutched the food to their chests with one arm so their other hands were free to receive candy from B Battery 1st Sgt. Garry Hunt.

“(Giving out food and candy) feels great. That’s the only reason I come out. At first I didn’t want to come to this country, but

seeing the kids changed my mind,” he said of the benefits they receive for helping the children.

The Battle Kings also checked on schools, water treatment plants and warehouses along their route because, according to 1st Platoon Fire Direction Officer 1st Lt. Erik Balunis, “Handing out MREs and candy is good, but we’ve also got to focus on their basic needs – water and electricity, which will make peace easier.”

The relationship between the Battle Kings and Iraqis is relatively good, Hunt said. “The more time you spend with them, the more they trust you and open up to you. They were fed misinformation from Saddam; they want the truth from us. Like every city, this has pockets of resistance. We’ve been fortunate that nobody’s been injured.”

Hunt explained the Iraqis’ misconceptions about Army soldiers. “People ask us, ‘Are you going to take my house?’ We tell them, ‘No, we’re here to help you.’ Most of them think we’re here for oil. They also ask how long the United States will be in Iraq. We tell them we’ll be here until they can run themselves.”

A child threw a rock at one of the Battle Kings’ vehicles as they were driving to another distribution point. The soldiers stopped, got out of their vehicles, and gave the children candy, showing they mean what they say – they’re in Iraq to help.

New commander takes DISCOM’s reins

SPC. JACOB BOYER
3ID (M) PAO

A new leader took charge of Division Support Command June 29 at Camp Maintain in Iraq.

Col. Brian R. Layer took command of the brigade-sized element from Col. Jim Hodge in a ceremony at the camp located southeast of Baghdad. Hodge is going on to serve as chief of plans for the J-4, CENTCOM.

During Hodge’s two years in command, DISCOM units participated in three rotations at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., two rotations to Kuwait in support of Operation Desert Spring and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He praised his soldiers’ “Herculean” efforts during the recent conflict.

“It was a heroic effort, and you made things happen as a group,” he told the assembled soldiers. “And as a group, I could not be more proud of you. You didn’t whine, gripe or complain. You accepted every task, and your morale was unshakable.”

Layer, who comes to the Marne Division after serving as logistics transformation team chief at Headquarters, Department the Army, called the soldiers of his new command a “battle-hardened force.”

“It is an honor to stand with so many heroes here today,” he said. “It takes a strong heart to run so hard and so fast. You soldiers did



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Command Sgt. Maj. Tony Bridgewater, DISCOM sergeant major, accepts the DISCOM colors from Col. Brian R. Layer, who took command of the brigade-sized element June 29.

great things on the battlefield, and you look great today.”

Hodge charged Layer with getting the soldiers home safely when time for redeployment came.

“I accept as my first duty that task,” Layer said. “I will make sure these soldiers get home safely so they can read the history they’ve written to their children and grandchildren.”

82nd Airborne finds weapons cache in Baghdad

Spc. ANTHONY K. REINOSO
372nd MPAD

Soldiers of 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, N.C., acting on information from an Iraqi, raided a Baath Party building here recently and discovered a sizeable weapons cache.

The soldiers of B Company, 1st Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment, currently attached to 113th Armor, blockaded a perimeter in preparation for the raid somewhere in Baghdad, a city of five million people.

According to Staff Sgt. Jay Hong, 315th Signal Operations Company, an Iraqi man reported that a weapons cache was buried in front of a fence of an old Ba'ath Party building. Most of the information that is gathered in cases like this derives from local Iraqi people.

"We spoke to a gentleman from across the street who showed us where to start digging," Hong said. Apparently the man was present when it was buried. "Most of the time it is not difficult to gather information. The Iraqi people want to give information, especially when it deals with the old regime."

As the soldiers are trained to do in situations such as this, once a blockade around the perimeter had been set, a non-lethal approach was attempted first, and, this time, no shooting was necessary.

Hong said translators, using a loud speaker, told the Iraqi residents to evacuate the targeted buildings and generally told them what the soldiers were doing and why. The translators then addressed any other people in the buildings, who might be armed, and advised them that they should surrender immediately.

According to Capt. Gabe W. Barton, commander, B Co., 1st Bn., 325th Inf. Regiment, they found five mortar tubes, 50 81mm mortars with fuses, 16 to 20 RPG launchers and 30 to 40 RPG rounds. Some RPG rounds were still in their original packaging.

"It was obviously dropped and buried in haste," Barton said. Nothing seemed to have been done to prepare them for burial. According to Barton burying the weapons cache was a short term plan.



B Co., 1st Bn., 325th Inf., found five mortar tubes, 50 81mm mortars with fuses, 16 to 20 RPG launchers and 30 to 40 RPG rounds.

Spc. Anthony K. Reinoso

Armstead takes command of 26th FSB

SGT. CRAIG ZENTKOVICH
50th PAD

The 26th Forward Support Battalion changed command in a ceremony June 28 at 2nd Brigade Combat Team's compound in Al Fallujah.

Lt. Col. Michael A. Armstead assumed command of the battalion from Lt. Col Willie Williams Jr., who is leaving Fort Stewart to work as a logistics officer at the Pentagon.

Williams was confident 26th FSB would continue on the right track.

"You're in great hands," he said to the soldiers, referring to Armstead. "Take care of them, because they'll take care of you."

Armstead, a St. Louis native, is a 1985 Distinguished Military Graduate from Rust College in Mississippi where he was commissioned a second lieutenant.

Upon graduation from the Armor Officer Basic Course, he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 40th Armor, 5th Infantry Division at Fort Polk where he served as a platoon leader.

He transferred to the Transportation Corps in 1988 and served as a light truck platoon leader for 705th Main Support Battalion, 5th Inf. Div.

Following graduation from the Transpor-



Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Col. James Hodge, DISCOM commander, 3rd Inf. Div., passes the 26th FSB colors to its new commander, Lt. Col. Michael Armstead.

tation Officer Advance Course, he was assigned as the Motor Transportation Officer Eight Army Special Troops, Korea, and later served as a company commander for 21st

Transportation Company, 34th Area Support Group, Korea.

After returning to the United States, he served as a company commander and operations officer for the New Orleans Recruiting Battalion, and later deployed to Saudi Arabia to serve as transportation officer for the U.S. Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia.

In 1996, Armstead served as support operations officer for Division Support Command, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., and deployed to Bosnia as the plans and operations officer for 1st Transportation Movement Control Brigade in 1997. Upon his return, he served as the operations officer for 26th FSB.

His last assignment before returning to 3rd Inf. Div. was as executive officer for 180th Transportation Battalion and operations officer for 64th Corps Support Group.

Col. James Hodge, Division Support Command commander, had words of praise for Williams and reassurance for Armstead. "(Williams) has created a highly trained and focused battalion," Hodge said. "(Armstead) is inheriting a great team ... whose framework is already in place."

Armstead and his wife, Alisa, have two children – LaToyia and Michael.

703rd changes hands south of Baghdad

SPC. JACOB BOYER
3ID (M) PAO

The command of 703rd Main Support Battalion changed hands June 26 at Camp Maintain in Iraq.

Lt. Col. Jack Haley took command from Lt. Col. Stephen R. Lyons in a change of command ceremony at the camp, which provides logistical support for 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) and 1st Armored Division.

Lyons commanded the battalion for two years, leading them through two rotations at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He said he was proud to see the battalion maintain its high standards during the recent conflict.

“For two years, I’ve watched you maintain the highest standards in every task,” he said to



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Col. Jim Hodge, DISCOM commander, passes the 703rd Main Support Battalion’s colors to Lt. Col. Jack Haley, incoming commander,

the assembled soldiers. “After two NTC rotations, there was no doubt in my mind that you were ready to support the combat power and freedom of maneuver of the Marne Team. I was not surprised because you soldiers are the best our nation has to offer.”

Lyons told the soldiers that they “represented the United states to the rest of the world.”

“You have set the azimuth for a new century, not with your acumen for war, but with your quiet confidence,” he said. “You showed consideration for a bro-

ken enemy. I was humbled by your performance, and I could not be more proud. This was history in the making.”

Haley said he was proud to be taking command of the battalion.

“A year ago, Brig. Gen. (Lloyd J.) Austin called me up in Washington and said he had some good news and some bad news,” he said. “He said the good news was that I was going to command the 703rd and be part of the 3rd Infantry Division and the bad news was I would have to leave the rarified air in D.C. and mingle with the common folks.

“Both were good news. After watching your performance here, I know these soldiers are far from common. It’s a testament to their training and their commander,” Haley said

Haley has been filling the role of division logistics officer since he arrived in Iraq five weeks ago.

Soldiers learn crowd control techniques

SGT. MARK BELL
372nd MPAD

Soldiers from Task Force 1st Battalion, 35th Armor, have been refining their non-lethal, crowd-control tactics.

According to Lt. Col. Randy Lace, TF 1-35 commander, a recently scheduled training exercise involving nearly 100 1st Armored Division soldiers was developed to ensure better safety for soldiers and civilians.

“We want our soldiers to be prepared and trained to handle any situation at the gate,” Lace said. “The training we are doing here is incorporating non-lethal means of security at this checkpoint.”

Using soldiers from other units acting as aggressive protestors, TF 1-35 soldiers were able to practice fixing bayonets in a hostile-crowd environment, using shields and batons to hold back large crowds and how to use water trucks to deter violent protests.

“I saw a lot of scared faces with our soldiers,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dee Davila, 40, from Harlingen, Texas, a member of the aggressor

team. “We are able to point out to our soldiers their weaknesses now, so they will be more prepared to handle the real riots.”

Lace said soldiers would continue practicing their newly learned techniques until they understand and perform to standard.

“It is a scheduled training exercise and will continue to be a scheduled training event until every soldier has the confidence in himself and herself to do the job right,” he said.

Soldiers spent several days learning unique non-lethal means to protect themselves and the Iraqi people, Lace said. At their disposal, soldiers have an assortment of non-lethal weapons such as bean bags that can be shot out of their grenade launchers and shotguns to disable violent protestors.

Trainers have used lessons learned from earlier protests to improve the training and



Sgt. Mark Ball

Soldiers practice non-lethal crowd control techniques during a recent training session. They are learning how to defuse potentially violent situations.

the site, he said.

“We’ve improved this checkpoint with concertina wire, and by trying to get a greater separation between ourselves and the protestors,” Lace said.

Through non-lethal, crowd-control training, Lace said the end result would be everyone going to bed each night alive.

Marne soldiers talk, see through VTC

SGT. AKILAH C. CLARKE
3ID (M) PAO

The technology once reserved for high-ranking military officials to discuss operational matters is now available for the lowest-ranking soldier.

Deployed soldiers of 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) are keeping in touch with their friends and family back home through use of the division's video teleconference system.

Soldiers are getting their first opportunity to actually see how things are going back home since being deployed, according to Maj. Gen. Buford Blount, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) commanding general.

"I'm just glad we can provide this service to the soldiers. It gives them an opportunity to alleviate some of the worries they have had about their families, and vice versa," Blount said. "So far, we've had about three or four fa-



Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke

Spc. Terry Jones, an armor crewman with B Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor and Portal, Ga. native, talks to his wife, Charlotte and their son.

thers see their newborns for the first time."

Getting the system operational took about three weeks, and required a lot of time and dedication from a number of personnel, Blount said.

Overall, the effort was worth it, said Maj. Denton Knapp, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry's execu-

tive officer.

"These soldiers have been working hard 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and although their minds are focused on the mission at hand, they are still thinking about home," said Knapp, a Gillette, Wyo. native.

Coordination plays a key role in ensuring as many soldiers as

possible get the opportunity to use the system, according to Staff Sgt. John Michel, a signal specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 123rd Signal Battalion.

Michel, from Cincinnati, Ohio, operates the VTC equipment and helps unit representatives quickly resolve any scheduling problems that could possibly arise.

"Time slots are pre-determined and assigned to the units. Soldiers get five to 10 minutes each, depending on how many personnel sign up," he said.

Unit representatives are appointed to stay in contact with family readiness groups in the rear, to ensure soldiers and family are notified of the unit's scheduled time, according to Michel.

One soldier summed the experience seeing loved ones up in a few words.

"Five minute is better than nothing at all."

Sappers bid farewell to commander, CSM

SPC. KATHERINE ROBINSON
50th PAD

FALLUJAH, Iraq – The 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) Engineer Brigade commander and command sergeant major bid their soldiers farewell and gave up their command in



Photos by Spc. Katherine Robinson

Col. Edward Cardon, incoming Engineer Brigade commander, receives the guidon from Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) commanding general, signifying Cardon's taking command.

a change of responsibility/change of command ceremony June 27.

Col. Edward C. Cardon replaced Col. John W. Peabody as brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Coker replaced Command Sgt. Major David M. Galka as brigade sergeant major.

Peabody will go back to the U.S., although his brigade is still in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He said although he is proud of his soldiers, he doesn't feel a sense of completion, since they're not home yet. He said the Sapper brigade did an outstanding job during the war and thanked them for it.

"Before you stand the best Sappers I've ever known and probably the best Sappers in the world," he said. "They proved their mettle in the campaign to liberate Iraq."

Galka shared his commander's sentiments. "I pray every day that you will follow me shortly back home," he told his soldiers. "That would be more of an award for me than anything I could receive here."



An Engineer Brigade detachment moves into position for its role in the change of command ceremony.

During Galka's speech, the soldiers and audience took a moment of silence to remember the five engineer soldiers killed during the campaign in Iraq.

Peabody thanked Galka during the ceremony for his outstanding service.

"The most important thing I can say about David Galka is that he was a good friend," he said. "My right hand man, the best confidante I've ever had, the best sergeant major I've ever seen, and the best Sapper I've ever known."

Spartans bid adieu, welcome own

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY
50th PAD

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq – Command Sgt. Maj. William A. Barnello Jr. assumed responsibility of the Spartans in a change of responsibility ceremony July 2 at the MEK compound in Fallujah.

Former 2nd Brigade Combat Team Command Sgt. Maj. Otis Smith Jr. relinquished responsibility to assume the position of sergeant major of the Armor School at Fort Knox, KY.

Smith said, “It saddens me that (my soldiers) are still here, because we all deployed as a team. My plan is to hang around Fort Stewart as long as I can so I can watch them come home and say ‘mission complete’.”

Barnello said he has big boots to fill, and will try his best.

Barnello has a long history with the Spar-



SpC. Mason T. Lowery

Command Sgt. Maj. Smith, outgoing command sergeant major, Col. DiSalvo, brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Barnello, incoming command sergeant major salute the colors during the 2nd BCT change of responsibility ceremony.

tans and 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized). He served as division master gunner for 3rd

Inf. Div. He stepped straight out of the command sergeant major position for 1st Battalion, 64th Armor into this position at the Spartan Brigade level.

He holds an Associates Degree in general studies from the University of Maryland. His military education encompasses all four levels of the Noncommissioned Officers Education System; Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Technical Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, and he is a graduate of the United States Sergeants Major Course.

Barnello is a member of the Sergeant Morales Club, Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and is knighted in the Order of Saint George.

He has two sons; William A. Barnello III – who serves in the Marine Corps, and James A. Barnello of Cape Coral, Fl.

Cavalry crews keep ‘copters climbing

SPC. ADAM NUELKEN
3rd ID PAO

“If aircraft don’t run, we don’t fly,” a platoon leader for D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry said in regard to the mechanics working constantly to keep them aloft.

In six weeks, the aviators of D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry put in more flight time in Iraq than they would in a year at home.

The added flight hours puts a major burden on the OH-58D Kiowa Warriors that are used for presence patrols, reconnaissance and security missions, according to Capt. Robert Wright, a platoon leader for the troop.

The maintenance teams have their work cut out for them by working around the clock to meet and exceed the Department of the Army standard for having a certain percentage of helicopters flying.

Other major problems facing aviation units are environmental – the heat, and amount of sand

and dust in the air. The sand is kicked up during take-off and landings, and damages the rotor blades, and heat damages the avionics and electrical equipment.

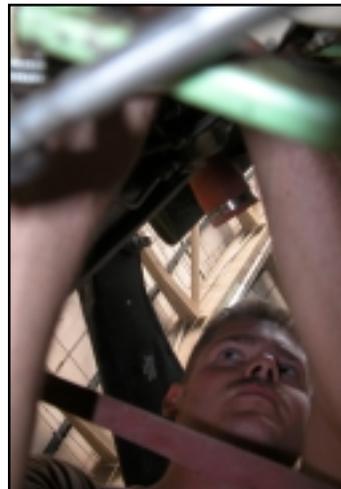
“In the past two months, heat (has been) killing all of our electrical systems and sand is getting in our rotor blades – sand kills everything,” said Spc. Benjamin Brown, crew chief for D Trp., 3-7 Cav.

The crews work to keep the helicopters clean, but it is very difficult, according to Brown, because all the wiring and electrical equipment is in the way.

In order to maintain a strong percentage of available helicopters ready to fly, the crews work 12-hour shifts day and night.

Every 100 hours, the maintenance crews and crew chiefs inspect the helicopters and perform routine maintenance as well.

“On top of anything that breaks, we also have inspections where the aircraft has to be perfect for flying,” Spc. Chris



SpC. Adam Nuelken

Sgt. Brian Patrick, crew chief, D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, tightens down some bolts on the engine of his Kiowa.

Schafer, helicopter engine mechanic for the troop, said.

Unlike maintenance on other military vehicles, helicopter mechanics must annotate everything that is removed to include the smallest bolts and screws. The forms must be annotated again

once parts are replaced.

Upon completion of the maintenance the work is inspected and every annotation is noted and further inspected, not once but twice, according to the mechanics.

Until recently, mechanics had trouble getting needed parts. Most parts were stocked, but if the part wasn’t on hand, it could take weeks before arriving.

“The biggest thing helping us out is logistics and getting the parts we need up here,” Wright said. There are some things they keep on stock, but when other parts break down, they have to be ordered, causing the Kiowas to be grounded.

“We just started to get parts rolling in, so that’s helping a lot,” said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Butcher, flight platoon sergeant for D Trp., 3-7 Cav.

Throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom, mechanics proved themselves time and time again by maintaining 96 percent of the aircraft ready to fly.



Staff Sgt. Tyrone Conyers sings while Spc. JohnJames Bloom, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.), dances outside the Division Main.

Photos by Spc. Adam Nuelken



Sgt. Maj. James Brown, G-6 sergeant major, helps out the dining facility by cooking hamburgers and brautwurst.

3ID celebrates Independence Day

SPC. ADAM NUELKEN
3ID PAO

Soldiers at Baghdad International Airport took time out July 4 for a chance to relax and compete against each other to celebrate Independence Day.

Some of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) soldiers have been deployed since August, and July 4 was one of only a few days they have gotten to take some time out of their busy days.

"I think the key is to let the soldiers have a good time," Sgt. Maj. Jeff Patterson, G-2 sergeant major, who participated in the 5k run. "They've been very busy since August, and other than the holidays, this was the only time they really got a chance to relax and enjoy the festivities."

The day started like most military celebrations – with a 5k run. Initially, T-shirts were going to be given out, and even though the contract fell through, it didn't stop nearly 100 runners from coming out to race as a team, individually, or just run for some exercise.

"The run is always a good start to a day," Patterson said, taking a drink of water and wiping away sweat from the run. "I think it's

one of the events in the Army we use to build esprit de corps and cohesion; we work hard together, we play hard together – we run together"

1st Lt. Kurt Cassel, officer in charge of the 5k run and water balloon toss, echoed the sergeant major on the importance of a good start.

"The 4th of July is always a special day, especially for us soldiers while we're over here doing our jobs, so we're trying to give everyone a day off, a little enjoyment and try to build a little esprit de corps and cohesion," he added. "And I think a 5k run is a good way to start that off."

During the day, soldiers participated in horseshoes, volleyball, basketball and tug-of-war competitions as well as dominoes and spades tournaments. In the afternoon, a barbe-que was held and leaders took their chances in the dunking booth.

"We hope this boosts morale," Cassel explained. "We want them to have a good time, this is all for fun, help celebrate the 4th while we're over here in a difficult situation, and we want everyone to relax and get out there and be competitive – and hopefully give them a break from everything we've got going on."



Runners take off at the start of the 5k run that opened the July 4 festivities.

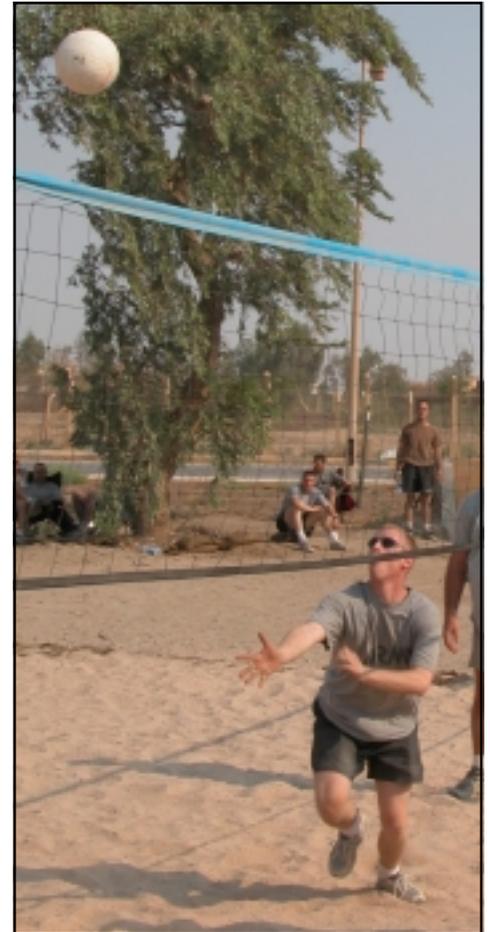


(Above left) Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Lusk, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation's sergeant major, takes a plunge in the dunk booth.

(Above) Christopher Berry tries for a ringer during the horseshoe tournament.



(Left) Bradley Bruce, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-3 Avn, tries to keep himself from sliding into the ditch during a tug-of-war match.



Ryan Dean, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation, runs to save the ball during a volleyball game while a teammate looks on.

Brotherhood of the badge

MPs, IPF work to make Fallujah safe

SPC. KATHERINE ROBINSON
50th PAD

Fifty Fallujah police officers and two Habbaniyah police officers graduated from the first Iraqi Police Refresher Course July 1 at the mayor's office.

The week-long course was taught by Sgt. 1st Class Terry Ford, a 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) Provost Marshal operations sergeant, Master Sgt. David James, and Staff Sgt. Sean Sullivan. Ford and James, who were both military police school instructors and drill sergeants at one time, are now serving with 3rd Military Police Company under 2nd Brigade Combat Team in Fallujah. Sullivan is a 411th Civil Affairs Battalion soldier, who works as a police instructor in Springfield, Mich.

"Police are brothers no matter where they're from," Ford said. "This is the building block of our relationship."

The course covered the basics of day-to-day police work, and served as a refresher for the more experienced policemen and an eye-opener for some of the fresh recruits.

"We've gone over police ethics, interpersonal communications, how to deal with the public, different types of searches – individuals, vehicles or buildings – how to process and transport offenders, how to conduct a traffic stop ..." Ford explained. The list goes on and on.

The Iraqi police in the class welcomed the training with open arms, and shared some of their own experiences as well.

"Regarding the investigation part, it is not very different from ours," said Asaad Ali through a translator. Ali has been on the Iraqi Police Force for 14 years. "Our officers have ideas and theories, but what was missing was the application of that."

The police got mostly classroom training, but some hands-on as well. Ford said during a class on civil disturbance, the police had a hard time grasping the concept of riot control formation. James, Ford and Sullivan integrated themselves into the formation, did it with them, and when the officers got it right, they started cheering, clapping and hugging each other. "They were so proud of what they accomplished," Ford said.

Ford said the biggest setback for the IPF



Photos by Spc. Katherine Robinson

Master Sgt. David James, a 3rd Inf. Div. Provost Marshal operations sergeant, talks to members of the Iraqi Police Refresher Course about investigation techniques July 1.

is lack of equipment. The military has issued them, along with new uniforms, several weapons, and new patrol cars.

Ford said the participation in the classes started out slow, but the IPF officers got into it as time went by.

"They're starting to gain our trust," Ford explained. "We see them reinforcing (the training) with each

other."

He said it's important for the police to view MPs as people who are here to help, not as conquerors. "It's important not to come in with a holier-than-thou attitude."

"We came here to teach and help," James said. "However we were also educated by our students on the laws, customs and history of Iraq."

"The course was ... to help you hone and sharpen your skills, and help you build confidence in your ability," James told the IPF graduates during the ceremony. "You are the first group to move forward, turning over a new page in Fallujah and Iraq history. You will be called upon even more as the people of Iraq start to learn and enjoy new freedoms."

The police proudly accepted their graduation certificates from the mayor of Fallujah, and the chief of police.

"Only God knows what will happen in the future," Ali said. "But good people called us to wear these uniforms and restore order."

Now that the first class is over, the instructors are immediately embarking on a three-day course for facility security guards, a two-day seminar on senior leadership, and then they'll start over with the police refresher course. The instructors hope to make the second class three weeks long, instead of one.



Staff Sgt. Sean Sullivan, a 411th Civil Affairs soldier, instructs Iraqi Police on handcuffing techniques.

Iraqi clinic celebrates Vaccination Day

SPC. ANTHONY K. REINOSO
372nd MPAD

Soldiers of 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion visited a children's health clinic here to commemorate Iraq's National Vaccination Day June 22, and to show U.S. support for public health in Iraq.

National Vaccination Day in Iraq is not a day when all the children get vaccinated; it is just a day to emphasize the importance of immunizations. The clinics here regularly give vaccinations free of charge, twice a week.

Maj. Roger McDaniel and Staff Sgt. Robert Laverick of 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit based in Greensboro, N.C., said their role is to assess the needs of the children's clinic and discover any flaws in the system that may prevent the clinic from functioning properly.

One example, according to Laverick, is that the refrigeration system at the Fakhir El Din Al Jamil clinic is unreliable because of the frequent power failures in Baghdad's electrical grid. The vaccination medicines are kept under refrigeration at a local hospital, which has a generator for electrical backup, so not to risk spoiling at the clinic.

According to Dr. Nada (first name withheld at her request), head of Fakhir El Din Al Jamil children's clinic, prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, the clinic ran its immunization program twice a week and has missed only two sessions since the main parts of the fighting ended in late April.

The clinic practices preventive action against various diseases such as measles, mumps, tuberculosis, hepatitis, tetanus, and typhoid, especially due to circumstances after the war, when there was no running water and no electricity in parts of Baghdad and in other parts of

Iraq. "People need hygienic education, especially now," Nada said.

However, only about 30 to 50 children are brought to the clinic per session (twice a week) in Baghdad. Because of the present circumstances, such as mass unemployment and lack of an Iraqi government, not enough people are visiting the clinic for treatment or education. But, Nada said, when things are back to normal again, she is confident more people will frequent the clinic.

Hygienic education and classes are very important for Iraq, she said. The clinic provides classes for parents and their children in addition to the vaccinations. According to Nada, classes should also air on television and radio in Iraq, emphasizing how imperative it is that good hygiene be practiced to avoid disease outbreaks.



Spc. Anthony K. Reinoso

An assistant at the Fakhir El Din Al Jamil children's clinic prepares for the next patient's vaccination in Baghdad on Iraq's National Vaccination Day.

Suspected Fedayeen colonel's home raided

SPC. ANTHONY REINOSO
372nd MPAD

Soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division's H Troop, 1st Cavalry Regiment, conducted a nighttime raid June 17 at a reported Fedayeen colonel's home in Baghdad and confiscated weapons, including submachine guns and rifles.

According to 1st Lt. Mark Stahlin, 2nd platoon leader, H Troop, 1st Cavalry Regiment, intelligence reported that a Fedayeen colonel was living in one of two houses south of Baghdad. The report indicated that the house could include two brothers, two sisters, some children, his father and two bodyguards armed with AK-47 assault rifles.

At approximately 2 a.m., the soldiers of "Hawk Troop" swooped in and tore down the front gates of the first suspected home. While a small number of soldiers swiftly entered the house, the others provided security and



Spc. Anthony Reinoso

Sgt. Stephen Sweeny, 2nd platoon, H Troop, 1st Cavalry Regiment, clears ammunition from a confiscated bolt-action rifle.

submachine gun, a FAL assault rifle, a PKS submachine gun and a plastic grocery bag of ammunition.

The Iraqi male, a major in the Special Republican Guard, was detained for questioning, but no Fedayeen colonel or bodyguards were found.

"The second house looked as though they were in the process of moving in or moving out," Stahlin said. Most of the household items were in boxes and suitcases. No weapons were found.

While searching the second house, it was discovered

guarded the perimeter.

It was discovered that one man and two women occupied the first house. Inside the house, the platoon found a bolt-action rifle, a

that the building consisted of two separate homes, like a duplex. According to Stahlin it was decided to search the third home as well. The third home was completely empty.

Blackhawks keep watch over Baghdad

SPC. CHRISTOPHER STANIS
1AD PAO

When 1st Armored Division needs someone to keep an eye “over” an operation, it employs 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment.

A 4th Brigade Combat Team asset, this Blackhawk helicopter battalion does everything from conducting day and night patrols over Baghdad and the surrounding area, to flying resupply missions and escorting the command group.

The unit proved that by initiating observation patrols around the

Blackhawks from 2nd Bn., 501st Avn. Regiment land in front of the crossed swords of the parade field in Baghdad.

Spc. Christopher Stanis



clock immediately after arriving in theater early May.

“We have people on standby 24 hours a day to fly missions,” said Lt. Col. James Schrote, 2-501 Avn. commander. “We’re taking advantage of every day and every night. We can fly any time we want and in any condition we want.”

This showed that despite the weather conditions of the region, Schrote said, the aircraft received no more than the same initial shock the crew did, he said. In fact, all their Blackhawks have remained mission capable since they arrived, even with the mechanics conducting maintenance using a bare minimum of equipment.

“We flew the aircraft, in two weeks, as many hours as we’d fly in a month (in Germany), and we did that all without parts and tools,” Schrote said, adding that given the environment his maintenance company did a phenomenal job keeping the aircraft together.

With major combat operations over, Schrote’s team came in anticipating sustainment and stability operations rather than pure combat operations, but realized the threat of conflict is still there.

“We’re not moving with impunity, but we’ve got our eyes open and our ears open,” Schrote said.

Basketball blues:

Iraq national team trumps ‘U.S.’ 73-52

SPC. CHAD D. WILKERSON
372nd MPAD

The crowd roared as the U.S. soldiers jogged out of the locker room for a friendly scrimmage against the Iraqi national basketball team. The U.S. basketball team, made up mostly of soldiers from 501st Forward Support Battalion (FSB) took to the court for four action-packed quarters of competition.

The Iraqi national team, with an organized and fundamentally sound approach to the game, took the victory over the Americans 73-52. The friendly competition, which was the first of its kind in Iraq, had multiple benefits for both the soldiers and Iraqi players.

“It went pretty well,” said Capt. Milt Kelly, support officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 501st FSB, and head coach of the soldiers team. “I am surprised that we did this well in the short amount of time we had to put the team together.”

The U.S. team, which consisted entirely of volunteers, were able to practice only a handful of times before the game against a team that has been practicing and preparing for this match for two months.

“We have to hand it to the Iraqis. They played well together, were disciplined, had

good teamwork and executed good decision making,” Kelly said.

The game’s underlying benefits are competitive practice on the court for the Iraqi national team. It was also a chance to blow off steam and have fun for the soldiers on the court and in the bleachers, Kelly said.

“I think the game was really a reflection upon the American society,” said Capt. Tom Duncan, executive officer, 628th Forward Surgical Team, an Army Reserve unit from San Antonio, Texas, and plays center for the U.S. team. “Kids grow up watching the NBA and they want to be like them.”

This basketball saturation in the U.S., said Duncan, can account for such decent competition against a professional team, but the best is yet to come.

“They want to play against us regularly, once a week,” Duncan said. “The more we play, the better we are going to get.”

All the players involved with the game expressed thanks for being able to participate in the program, and are chomping at the bit for a rematch.

“Anytime you can come out and put a team together and get out on the court and have a good time, you can’t help but bring smiles,” Kelly said.



Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson

An Iraqi national player follows his own rebound with a tip in over a U.S. player.

GLOBAL NEWS

Liberia's Taylor may step down

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONROVIA, Liberia — Liberia's besieged President Charles Taylor said Friday he would step down, but only after an international peacekeeping force is deployed to his west African nation.

President Bush, who is considering whether to send peacekeepers to Liberia, has said Taylor's removal from power was a condition for any progress in the war-torn nation.

But Taylor insisted peacekeepers must deploy before he would go.

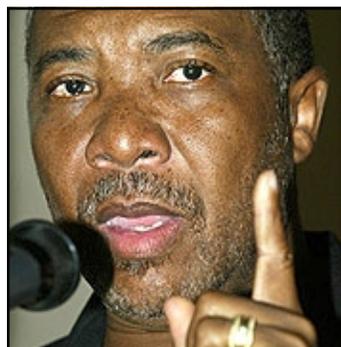
"It makes a lot of sense for

peacekeepers to arrive in this city before I transit," Taylor told a meeting of Liberian clerics in the capital of Monrovia.

He called on Washington to send troops as part of any peacekeeping force. "I welcome and will embrace the presence of American troops in Liberia. I think it will be essential for stability," he said.

"I don't understand why the United States government would insist that I be absent before its soldiers arrive," he said.

Rebel forces have been bearing down on the Liberian capital, Monrovia, and after heavy fighting in June that killed hundreds,



Associated Press

Liberian President Charles Taylor speaks to an audience of church leaders in Monrovia.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, France and Britain called for a peacekeeping force,

preferably led by Americans.

Taylor's government signed a cease-fire deal with rebels last month committing Taylor — who has been indicted on war crimes charges — to quit power. But he subsequently refused, saying he would serve out the rest of his term.

In his comments Friday, Taylor repeated his pledge to step down, but warned his rebel opponents that government forces were still "capable of carrying out havoc in the city ... fighting for right now is that there would be such a normal transition that anger, frustration and other things don't creep in," Taylor said.

WHO drops last SARS hotspot from list

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAIPEI, Taiwan — The U.N. health agency declared Saturday that SARS is no longer spreading in Taiwan, closing a chapter in a battle with the deadly virus that ravaged Asia and infected thousands across the globe.

"Today is a milestone," said Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, the WHO's director-general, as she announced the news.

But as the World Health Organization scratched off Taiwan from its list of SARS-infected areas, it warned that the mysterious illness could return.

"One single case can spark a new outbreak," Brundtland said.

SARS was believed to have originated in southern China, where the first known cases of the mysterious virus began appearing last November. From China, experts believe the flu-like illness jumped to Hong Kong, Vietnam and Singapore.

The highly contagious illness eventually traveled as far as South Africa and Canada, killing more than 800 people worldwide and infecting at least 8,400.

Initially, Taiwan had great success fending off SARS. Officials grew confident that



Associated Press

A Chinese girl gets help lighting duck candles on a float to celebrate the end of SARS in Shanghai.

they had whipped the virus as the death tolls continued to climb in China, Hong Kong and Singapore.

But in late April, the virus exploited weaknesses at Taiwanese hospitals, which failed to properly diagnose and isolate infected patients. SARS quickly spread in the capital, Taipei, and the deaths began accumulating.

Taiwan eventually became the world's No.

3 SARS hotspot, with a total 84 deaths and 682 infections.

But the island of 23 million people trailed far behind the top two places for SARS deaths and infections: China and Hong Kong.

Mainland China reported 348 deaths and more than 5,300 cases, while Hong Kong registered 298 deaths out of 1,755 infections.

China and Hong Kong were dropped from the SARS-infected list last week. WHO next removed Canada's biggest city, Toronto, from the list last Wednesday. The city had the biggest outbreak outside of Asia, with 39 deaths and almost 250 cases.

To get off the WHO's list, infected areas have to go 20 consecutive days without reporting a new infection. In Taiwan, the countdown began from June 15, the day the island's most recent SARS patient was isolated in a hospital.

On Saturday, Dr. David Heymann, WHO's executive director of communicable diseases, said WHO believed the virus has been contained.

But he warned against becoming too complacent.

"A false sense of security could become our worst enemy," he said.

CIA to study tape containing Saddam's voice

CNN

The CIA will analyze the latest audiotape purportedly of Saddam Hussein to determine whether the voice on the tape broadcast Friday by Al-Jazeera is actually the ousted Iraqi leader who now has a \$25 million dollar price on his head.

"The CIA will do its usual assessments. They have not had an opportunity to begin it yet, as the tape was just released," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Friday.

The assessments are expected to include both technical analysis and comparisons by people familiar with Saddam's voice.

"We don't know if he's dead or alive," Fleischer said. "Regardless, he's out of power; regardless, there's a reward out for information that either results in his capture if he's alive, or proves that he's dead if he's dead."

On the streets of Baghdad, Iraqis told CNN that the voice sent shivers down their spines. One



Associated Press

U.S. soldiers gather evidence along a highway in Baghdad after action involving an Army convoy Friday.

Iraqi said he had listened to broadcasts by Saddam for 30 years, and that the voice was definitely that of the deposed Iraqi president.

The purported voice of Saddam can be heard praising resistance against the U.S. occupation and urging Iraqis to protect the "mujahedeen" in their fight against the "invaders."

"Brothers and sisters, I have for you good news. Jihad cells and brigades have been organized," the speaker said, according to a CNN translation of the audiotape that was broadcast on the Arabic-language satellite TV network.

The voice on the tape said it was recorded June 14 and urges the Iraqi population to support the resistance. The speaker refers to actions "related to confronting the enemy and the aggression."

The speaker said the damage inflicted by fighters against "the infidel invaders" is greater than what people have been hearing, and predicted more bad times for coalition forces.

"No recent days and weeks have passed without the blood of the infidels being shed on our pure land as a result of the jihad of the mujahedeen.

"What the coming days will bring will be, with God's help, hard on the infidel invaders and which is a source of honor for the believers."

The speaker urges the "heroic mujahedeen ... not to give the infidel invaders and supporters" any information about them or their actions "during their execution of jihad operations."

A previous audiotape purported to contain Saddam's voice was released in early May, about a week after his 66th birthday. On that tape, an unemotional and tired-sounding voice called on the people of Iraq to reject the "invaders," while promising that victory was coming.

On Thursday, the United States announced a \$25 million reward for Saddam's capture or confirmation of his death. A \$15 million reward each was offered for similar information about Saddam's sons, Uday and Qusay.

The United States blames remnants of Saddam's government — Baathists and Republican Guard members — for many of the attacks that have killed 27 U.S. troops since President Bush declared the end of major combat May 1.

R&B 'Love Doctor' Barry White dies at 58

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Velvet-voiced R&B crooner Barry White, whose lush baritone and throbbing musical compositions oozed sex appeal on songs like "Can't Get Enough of Your Love, Babe," died Friday. He was 58.

White, who had kidney failure from years of high blood pressure, had been undergoing dialysis and had been hospitalized since a September stroke. He died about 9:30 a.m. at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, said his manager, Ned Shankman.

His canyon-deep, butter-smooth vocals emphasized his songs' sexually charged verbal foreplay, like on 1975's "Love Serenade," which began with White purring: "I want you the way you came into the world, I don't want to feel no clothes ..."

The heavysset musician enjoyed three decades of fame for songs like "You're the First,



Associated Press

Singer Barry White after receiving the Heritage Award at the Soul Train Music Awards on March 15, 1994.

the Last, My Everything" and "It's Ecstasy When You Lay Down Next To Me."

Although his popularity peaked with several disco hits in the 1970s, White's music

was introduced to a new generation by sample-hungry rappers.

He received belated recognition for his work in 2000 when he won his first two Grammys, for best male and traditional R&B vocal performance for the song "Staying Power."

Don Cornelius, founder of the "Soul Train" TV show, remembered White as "a true master."

"There was no match for Barry White. His music is just going to live forever," Cornelius said. "It's not limited to disco or soul or hip-hop or anything."

Cornelius said White's lyrics were directed toward his second wife, Glodean James.

"Love was a very important aspect of his life," Cornelius said. "He had this tremendous love for the lady. He wasn't just singing for your mate and your bedroom, he was singing and writing for his own bedroom."

Palestinians protest arrests by Gaza security forces

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAZACITY, Gaza Strip — Gunmen fired volleys into the air to protest the arrests of militiamen who are accused of violating a truce with Israel, the first time Palestinian security forces took action against renegades refusing to lay down their arms.

Seven militiamen were arrested in Gaza City and the town of Khan Younis, apparently for firing anti-tank rockets at the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom on Wednesday. The rocket fire injured four people.

The Palestinian security chief, Mohammed Dahlan, had assured Israel he would go after anyone who breaks the cease-fire, including those who attacked Kfar Darom.

Late Thursday, several dozen Palestinians, led by about a dozen gunmen shooting in the air, marched in Gaza City to protest the arrests. Marchers also set off homemade grenades, but there were no clashes with police.

The cease-fire declarations by Palestinian militias last weekend set in motion steps linked to the U.S.-backed “road map” peace plan to halt violence and set up a Palestinian state in 2005.



An Israeli soldier, center left, shakes hands with a Palestinian Security Officer during a meeting at Netzarim Junction.

AP

Among those backing the truce are the Islamic militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and Yasser Arafat’s ruling Fatah movement.

Touring northern Gaza on Thursday, after Israel’s withdrawal four days earlier, Pales-

tinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas denounced the shelling. “This is an act of sabotage which we cannot accept,” he said.

Abbas has rejected an armed confrontation with militants, fearing a civil war, preferring to negotiate an end to armed attacks.

Near Rafah in southern Gaza, next to the Egyptian border, Palestinians fired an anti-tank missile, threw grenades and opened fire at an Israeli army post overnight, the military said Friday. No one was hurt.

Southern Gaza, which has been the scene of daily confrontations throughout the 33-month conflict, is a stronghold of the “Popular Resistance Committees,” splinters of Fatah. The groups refuse to take orders from Fatah leaders, pledging to continue attacking Israelis.

Since the truce declarations Sunday, Israel has pulled out of parts of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Bethlehem, turning them over to Palestinian security.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was upbeat Thursday. “For the first time since I entered the office of prime minister, there is a real possibility of an end to terror and the return to normal life,” he said.

Report: Earth’s climate becoming increasingly harsh

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENEVA — Record extremes in weather and climate will likely become increasingly common as temperatures rise because of climate change, the United Nations weather agency said.

New record extreme events occur every year somewhere in the globe but in recent years, the number of such extremes has been increasing,” the World Meteorological Organization said in a statement Wednesday.

The Switzerland-based agency has just registered the hottest June since measurements were first taken 250 years ago, with temperatures nearly 11 degrees Fahrenheit above average. In neighboring France, maximum temperatures in June were more than 104 degrees F (40 degrees C).

WMO said there were 562 tornados in the United States in May, an increase of 163 on the previous record. The southeastern part of the country was exceedingly wet and cold this spring, with some states receiving about 14 more inches of rain than usual from March through May.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, however, has found no connection between warming and the number of tornadoes in the USA.

“No systematic changes in the frequency of tornadoes, thunder days, or hail events are evident in the limited areas analyzed” in the 20th century, the report, released in 2001, says.

At least 1,400 people died in India from hot weather that peaked at 120 degrees F, while in Sri Lanka heavy rainfalls from tropical cyclone 01B resulted in flooding and landslides that killed at least 300 people.

WMO said all these extreme events were taken into account by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which has found average global temperatures rose by 0.6 C over the course of the 20th century and the increase is accelerating.

Still, the IPCC report’s findings conclude that “no global changes have been noted during the 20th century in terms of the numbers of storms or their strength.”

The WMO reports: “While the trend toward warmer globally averaged surface temperatures has been uneven over the course of the last century, the trend for the period since 1976 is roughly three times that for the past 100 years as a whole.”

“Global average land and sea surface temperatures in May 2003 were the second highest since records began in 1880.”

The agency said it does not yet know the extent of involvement of El Niño and other major short-term climate changes on extreme weather events but research is continuing.

El Niño is characterized by rising sea temperatures and changes in the jet stream, leading to increased rain on the Pacific Coast of Central America and lower rainfall than usual in areas like Indonesia and northern Australia. But the phenomenon can affect weather around the globe.



Sports Highlights



NASCAR

WINSTON CUP

1 Matt Kenseth	2396
2 Jeff Gordon	2222
3 Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2220
4 Bobby Labonte	2136
5 Michael Waltrip	2024
6 Kurt Busch	2012
7 Jimmie Johnson	1965
8 Rusty Wallace	1940
9 Kevin Harvick	1901
10 Sterling Martin	1892

BUSCH SERIES

1 David Green	2335
2 Scott Riggs	2290
3 Todd Bodine	2255
4 Ron Hornaday	2247
5 Jason Keller	2235
6 Brian Vickers	2206
7 Bobby Hamilton Jr.	2152
8 Johnny Sauter	2055
9 Mike Bliss	2038
10 Scott Wimmer	2008

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Wednesday

Baltimore 7	NY Yankees 3
Detroit 5	Toronto 0
Tampa Bay 4	Boston 3
Chi White Sox 6	Minnesota 1
Kansas City 6	Cleveland 3
Anaheim 7	Texas 5
Oakland 3	Seattle 2

Thursday

Oakland 5	Seattle 2
Tampa Bay 6	Boston 5
Baltimore 6	Toronto 5
Kansas City 3	Detroit 2
Cleveland 4	Minnesota 1
Texas 6	Anaheim 5

Friday

Boston 10	NY Yankees 3
Baltimore 8	Toronto 5
Minnesota 9	Cleveland 2
Tampa Bay 5	Chi White Sox 3
Kansas City 9	Detroit 8
Anaheim 1	Oakland 0

Texas 7 Seattle 3

Saturday

Boston 10	NY Yankees 2
Tampa Bay 3	Chi White Sox 2
Baltimore 9	Toronto 2
Detroit 9	Kansas City 5
Cleveland 13	Minnesota 2
Seattle 3	Texas 2
Anaheim 6	Oakland 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Wednesday

Florida 20	Atlanta 1
Philadelphia 4	Chi Cubs 3
Cincinnati 5	Pittsburgh 3
NY Mets 7	Montreal 6
Colorado 7	Arizona 4
San Diego 7	Los Angeles 1

Thursday

St. Louis 9	San Francisco 5
Philadelphia 12	Chi Cubs 2
Houston 7	Milwaukee 3
Pittsburgh 8	Cincinnati 7
Montreal 5	Atlanta 4
Arizona 8	Colorado 4
San Diego 7	Los Angeles 4

Friday

NY Mets 7	Cincinnati 2
St. Louis 11	Chi Cubs 8
Pittsburgh 3	Houston 2
Colorado 8	Milwaukee 6
Florida 2	Philadelphia 1
Atlanta 8	Montreal 6
San Francisco 8	San Diego 6
Arizona 3	Los Angeles 1

Saturday

Chi Cubs 6	Seattle 5
Los Angeles 2	Arizona 0
Atlanta 3	Montreal 2
Florida 5	Philadelphia 4
Pittsburgh 4	Houston 3
NY Mets 6	Cincinnati 2
Colorado 9	Milwaukee 8
San Diego 4	San Francisco 2

WNBA

Saturday

Charlotte 67	Sacramento 65
Cleveland 79	Minnesota 71
Houston 76	Washington 54
San Antonio 81	Phoenix 70

Serena backhand champ

The final in this sixth all-Williams sister Grand Slam final and fifth in the last 13 months was 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. But Serena displayed little celebration after defeating her sister Venus.

"Anyone who has had an abdominal strain knows what it's like and how painful it can be," tennis analyst Mary Carillo said referring to Venus' injuries. "You're not supposed to be playing a Wimbledon championship with this."

Earnhardt races to win

It was all Dale Earnhardt Jr. in Friday night's Winn-Dixie 250 Busch Series race, as he led all 100 laps at Daytona International Speedway.

Earnhardt has won all three Busch races he has entered this year, including the race here in February and in Talladega in April.

"We stayed out front all night," Earnhardt said. "I didn't think that was possible. It was possible. It's a lot easier to be out front than run second."

'It doesn't look good'

Frustration and pessimism are growing in the case of missing Baylor basketball player Patrick Dennehy.

"Everybody involved in the case wants to find Mr. Dennehy, and the longer it goes on, yes, there is frustration," police spokesman Steve Anderson said. "We're following up on all the leads, and I know (the media) are following up ... and you are getting to a dead end just like we are."

Authorities said they have received hundreds of leads over the past few days.

Tiger roars away

If Tiger Woods keeps this up, he's going to own the record book at the Western Open. Woods shot a 65 Saturday, setting a 54-hole tournament record with 18-under 198 at the Golf Club in St. Paul.

"Obviously if Tiger keeps playing the way he is, no, there's no way," Rich Beem said when asked if anyone could catch Woods. "Maybe somebody can shoot 63 or even 62 and maybe he'll shoot even par. He's hitting the ball fantastic and playing fantastic."

Lance pedals to seventh

Lance Armstrong began his quest for a record-tying fifth straight Tour de France victory with a seventh-place finish in the prologue time trial Saturday. Armstrong started last because he is the defending champion and finished seven seconds behind opening stage winner Bradley McGee of Australia, who clocked 7 minutes, 26.16 seconds.

"I didn't feel great. I started slow. It wasn't very comfortable," Armstrong said. "But the race will change."

Park lands Daytona Pole

Steve Park won the pole position for Saturday night's Pepsi 400, leading a 1-2 sweep by Richard Childress-owned cars in Thursday qualifying at Daytona International Speedway. Kevin Harvick was second, Jeff Gordon third, Sterling Marlin fourth and Dale Earnhardt Jr. fifth.

"We're just reaching the tip of the iceberg now," he said. "We know we can go fast for two laps, now we've got to see if we can go fast for 400 miles."