



# K2 KOMMAND



Karshi-Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan

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## Behind the Lines



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Pfc. Mary Simms

Afghan men wait patiently in line at the polling center in the village of Raban, north of Bagram Air Field Saturday during Afghanistan's first democratic presidential elections.

## A line in the sand

### Millions vote in the Afghan elections

By Master Sgt. Terry Anderson  
Combined Joint Task Force 76  
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan -- Millions got their first taste of democracy in Afghanistan's first-ever direct presidential elections Saturday.

The desire to vote was so strong, Afghans in the Panjao district began to line up four hours before the polling center was scheduled to open with a foot of snow on the ground.

"The Taliban burned my house, they

kicked us out of (town)," said Madame Gul in the village of Raban. "Now I have freedom. I'm standing in front of you and voting. Of course, my life has been changed."

Despite the inclement weather and threats of spectacular attacks by insurgents, voter turn out was extremely high.

"A week ago I would have said our primary concern would have been attacks on the election process itself," said Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, Combined Joint Task Force 76 commander.

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# It's your future, vote for it

Commentary by

**Gen. Richard B. Myers,**

*Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*

WASHINGTON -- In this election year, you, our men and women in uniform, are stationed around the globe serving our nation and defending democracy. We have both the responsibility and the privilege to participate in our democracy by exercising our fundamental right to vote.

I encourage every one of you, as well as your family members of voting age, to join in the democratic process and cast your ballot. You will have the opportunity to vote, either in person or through absentee ballots, in primary, special run-off and general elections, no matter where you are stationed or what operation you are participating in.

Recent elections have demonstrated the importance of every absentee ballot. Your vote does count!

The 2004 elections will determine our choice for president and vice president, 34 senators, the entire House of Representatives, and 13 governors, as well as thousands of local officials. I urge each of you to participate, starting with

“I encourage every one of you, as well as your family members of voting age, to join in the democratic process and cast your ballot. As members of the Armed Forces, we each have a responsibility to take part in determining our nation’s leadership.”



**Gen. Richard B. Myers**

*Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*

the primaries already underway and continuing through the general election on November 2nd.

Most of you will be using the absentee voting process, which has never been easier than it is today. For those of us in the Armed Forces and our family members, starting the process is as easy as filling

out and mailing the Federal Post Card Application. The FPCA is available from your unit voting assistance officer, who can also assist you with your state procedures.

As members of the Armed Forces, we each have a responsibility to take part in determining our nation's leadership.

**It's your Future.**  
**VOTE**  
**for it!**

## Attention: K2 voters

To ensure you vote counts, contact your unit voting representative today.



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*416th Air Expeditionary Group  
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**Senior Airman Matthew Rosine**  
*Chief, Public Affairs*



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## AF uniform board incorporates feedback, alters design

By Tech. Sgt.  
David A. Jablonski  
*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON -- Based on feedback from the six-month wear test, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper decided to expand the current test program to include a pixelated tiger-striped pattern in a new color scheme on the proposed utility uniform.

The expansion does not involve a full test; instead, there will be a limited production to test pattern and color, said Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean, the uniform board superintendent.

"The color scheme is only one of many improvements we are testing," Sergeant Dean said.

A small, select group of testers will wear the newest pattern. The solid tiger-striped



**Airman 1st Class Chris Hummel Due to feedback from the six-month wear test the Air Force's new uniform will undergo some changes including the color.**

pattern with its dominant blue overtones is gone. The latest pixelated test pattern has a more subdued color scheme

and is not nearly as distinctive as the one unveiled at the start in August 2003; yet it provides the distinctiveness Airmen have requested, officials said.

"We have sufficient input from Airmen throughout the Air Force to ensure that our uniform decisions are on target with regard to wear, ease of maintenance and fit," Sergeant Dean said. "We kept hearing throughout the test that Airmen loved the wash-and-wear feature and the fit. The design of the uniform will essentially stay the same, with minor modifications based on the wear-testers' recommendations."

General Jumper will announce the final decisions regarding the new utility uniform once the test data are analyzed and presented. Determination is expected within the next two months, officials said.

The new design represents a uniform that could be universally worn in all environments, Sergeant Dean said. The unique fit and design will remain the same, as Air Force officials said they want a distinctive uniform for Airmen that fits better and is easier and less expensive to maintain.

"There really wasn't much that Airmen didn't like about the design of the uniform," she said, basing her comment on the large volume of feedback the board received via e-mail, surveys, focus groups and online questionnaires. "We really did capture what they needed and what they wanted." "The chief of staff listened to the Airmen," Sergeant Dean said. "We asked what they wanted in a uniform, what they needed in a uniform and, as a result, this is exactly what we're getting."

## Voting

*Continued from Page 1*

"Because of the tremendous courage of United Nations elections officials and the willingness to cooperate with Afghan security forces and the Coalition, we overcame that challenge. The Afghan security forces working with the Coalition pre-empted insurgent attacks on Afghans going to the polls."

Afghan National Army troops, along with Afghan National Police, provided security at the 4,780 polling centers throughout Afghanistan. Coalition troops from Combined Joint Task Force 76 were on standby, ready to react to any attack by insurgents.

But for the most part, the attacks never came.

"We showed (the insurgents) a little bit different set today than we have shown any other day because today's mission is to specifically secure the elections," Olson said. "We've maintained more capable and

plentiful reserves to react to anything today."

The Joint Electoral Management Body, a U.N.-Afghan organization, was in charge of administering the electoral process. The JEMB ensured many safeguards were in place to prevent voter fraud.

First, the JEMB officials would mark the thumb of each voter with indelible ink, and then would punch a hole in their voting registration card. Reports from a few polling stations early in the day said the indelible ink was washing off too easily, creating allegations of voter fraud.

Afghan officials then called for the formation of an independent commission to investigate irregularities in the voting process. The 15 presidential candidates opposing interim Afghan President Hamid Karzai said they would boycott the results of the election.

Following a meeting with U.N. representative Jean Arnault and U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad, top challenger Yunus Qanooni said he would accept the findings of the

independent electoral commission.

Also on the Afghan election ballots was one female presidential nominee, Dr. Massouda Jalal and Uzbekistan Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Despite a few bumps in the road to democracy, Olson says the elections are the first of many steps to a safe and secure Afghanistan.

"If you talk to soldiers of CJTF-76, they'll tell you that our top priority are these elections," Olson said. "They understand that there is a link between free elections in Afghanistan and a secure and stable environment here. A secure and stable environment here means no sanctuary or safe haven for terrorism in Afghanistan. The elections were a huge success."

As Madame Gul left the polling center in Raban, she had a simple, basic message about democracy.

"We want freedom, we would like to live in peace," Gul said. "We don't want anybody to take our life away from us, we want to be free. This is my message to the people of America."



Senior Airman Matthew Rosine

## Lending a hand

Above: Senior Airman Jeremy Brown hands a bunch of cotton to Malohat Toshiba during a recent cotton picking feild trip. During the trip, base military members picked cotton with local Uzbekistan pickers. Local Uzbeks earn three cents for every two pounds of cotton picked. Right: Staff Sgt. Christoper Clark adds his bag of cotton to Nazgul Jarilova's bag of cotton. Local women work from sunrise to sunset picking cotton by hand. K2 Airmen and soldiers doubled the pickers' workforce during their visit to the feilds.



Senior Airman Matthew Rosine



Senior Airman Matthew Rosine  
Staff Sgt. Alexander Mason adds more cotton to the bail that had already been picked.



Senior Airman Matthew Rosine  
Above: Army Chief Warrant Officer Jody Remakel works alongside locals picking cotton. Right: Army Spc. Bradley Fink reaches for a cotton bloom.



Senior Airman Matthew Rosine

# TSP opens today

By Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the "open season" today through Dec. 31.

"TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider," said Senior Master Sgt. Felipe Ortiz, superintendent of the Air Force Personnel Contact Center. "It's a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans."

"It's also important to note that TSP is not limited to investing in stocks," he said. "People can choose safer government securities as well."

This open season applies only to regular TSP contributions. It does not include TSP catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons, said Janet Thomas, of AFPC's civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute, while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

"Eligible employees can take out loans and make in-service withdrawals from their TSP accounts," Ms. Thomas said. "And you can keep your account, even if you leave military or federal civilian service."

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck "so you never have to think about it," Sergeant Ortiz said. "That makes it easy to 'pay yourself first' while only investing what you deem appropriate."

The five TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

"As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better," Ms. Thomas said.

Contribution elections or changes made between today and Dec. 11 will take effect Dec. 12, for both military and civilian employees. Changes made on or after Dec. 12 will become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military. Some of the specifics of the program include:

- Military members can contribute up to 10 percent of their base pay, as long as the annual total of tax-deferred investment does not exceed \$14,000 for 2005. Airmen also have the ability to invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay.

- Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$41,000 in annual contributions.

- Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest money among the five funds) can be made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine, (877) 968-3778 for employees in the 50 States, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and Canada; (504) 255-8777 for employees elsewhere, or on the TSP Web site at [www.tsp.gov/](http://www.tsp.gov/).

## Words of Inspiration

Weekly Words of Inspiration submitted by  
Chaplain (Maj.) Art Ullrich

"Disease starts secretly. It enters your body secretly and grows secretly. Then it begins to sap your strength, rob your appetite and weaken you. Unless something is done, unless you go to the doctor and treat your condition, it can do serious damage to you -- even kill you."

So is it with our human condition before God. All of us make poor decisions in life. We can't get better if we don't learn from our errors in judgment. Our world wouldn't be in the condition today if it wasn't for people breaking the 10 commandments or laws of God. People know and choose to play with fire without realizing its potential danger. We can take sin for granted. I've taken sin for granted. It is like the analogy of frog soup. If you take a frog and place it in hot water it will jump right out. But if you place a frog in cold water and slowly heat it up you will eventually have frog soup. The point being, when we see the first signs of danger in our lives (sin) we ought to be concerned, concerned so much that we would take the necessary steps to get ourselves out of the water before it starts boiling and we cook to death. The sad reality for many of us is that we often don't do anything until it is too late --until we are in too deep, the pain too severe and our lives appear unrecoverable. It is not too late to change and get out! We must survive.

Doctor's of medicine will tell you, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Why do the doc's give us our immunizations? To keep us from disease. In the Air Force we pass all kind of policies that enforce prevention. We make sure we are trained in fire prevention, we are computer trained in recognizing potential viruses in our computers. We are becoming trained to recognize and prevent terrorism. We are trained in work area safety. Anything that can improve our lives and keep us from harm is good. Are these preventive measures full proof? No. Should it be any different for you and I that we be trained with good prevention habits to protect our heart and soul? Absolutely not. We need Spiritual food and God has not left us without help and strength.

Today, if you find yourself lacking and in need of spiritual and emotional care seek out a chaplain to talk too. We are always available and ready to listen. Remember, God is just a prayer away. Reach out to him for He cares for you.

# K2 News

## FOD checks required

Beginning immediately, all drivers going into entry control point 1 and ECP 4 are required to do a foreign object damage inspection.

All FOD checks must be done on all vehicles including forklifts, gators and mules. Base security forces will not allow entry to the flightline without drivers completing a FOD check.

For more information, call security forces at 821-1247.

## Flags over Afghanistan

The "Rising 5" is now selling American flags flown over Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The cost is \$3 per flag.

Each flag is 12 inches by 18 inches in size. Flags are sold on a first come, first served basis while they last.

To purchase a flag, call Airman 1st Class Ed Slavik at 821-1245 or by e-mail at slavike@k2.afgn.army.mil.

## R&B night

The MWR is hosting a Rhythm and Blues party at 8:30 p.m. Saturday in the green tent next to the Green Bean Café.

## Education center

The base education center is holding a variety of new classes.

The *Effective Military Writing I* class begins Monday. The class will meet from 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The *Personal Financial Management II* class begins Monday. The class will meet from 6-10 p.m. Monday through Friday.

All classes are taught through the Central Texas College.

Each class is worth one semester hour. Classes can be applied to Community College of the Air Force degrees.

For more information about classes and times, call Gaby Nelson at 821-1033 or via e-mail at nelsong@k2.afgn.army.mil.

## Finance hours

The base finance office has changed its hours of operation.

The finance office is now open from

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday and the office will be closed on Sundays. The finance office is also from noon to 1 p.m. every weekday.

For more information, call the finance office at 821-1230.

## Making a difference

The K2 "Rising 5" and "Top 4" are looking for people to join their team or to help out with upcoming events.

The Rising 5 is a volunteer group of E-1s through E-5s who work on morale and quality of life projects for K2.

The next Rising 5 meeting will be held at 4 p.m. Oct. 27 at the MWR community center.

The Top 4 is a volunteer group of E-6s through E-9s who mentor younger troops and work on morale and quality of life projects at K2.

The next Top 4 meeting will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday at the MWR center.

For more information about the Rising 5, call Airman 1st Class Edward Slavick at 821-1160 and for more information about the Top 4, call Master Sgt. George Thomas at 821-1121.

## Post Exchange

The K2 post exchange is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day.

## Chapel schedule

The K2 base chapel holds religious services every day. The current chapel services schedule is:

Saturday:

5 p.m. Catholic music rehearsal

6 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

7 p.m. Gospel choir rehearsal

Sunday:

9 a.m. General Protestant

10:30 a.m. Roman Catholic

12:30 p.m. Gospel

5:30 p.m. Latter-day Saints

7 p.m. General Protestant

Monday:

5:30 p.m. Catholic Mass\*

7 p.m. Catholic Open Forum

Tuesday:

5:30 p.m. Catholic Mass\*

6 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

7 p.m. Protestant Bible study

Wednesday:

5:30 p.m. Catholic Mass\*

6 p.m. Men's Bible study

7 p.m. Gospel Bible study

Thursday:

5:30 p.m. Catholic Mass\*

6 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

7 p.m. Gospel choir rehearsal

Friday:

1 p.m. Muslim prayer time

5:30 p.m. Catholic Mass\*

7 p.m. Protestant Bible study

7 p.m. Gospel choir rehearsal

For more information on chapel services, call 821-1065. \* *When a blue flag is placed on the chapel door mass will be held that day.*

## Movie Madness



The MWR Theater plays movies every day for all K2 personnel. All movie showings are free and the schedule is updated every Sunday.

### Today, Oct. 15

2 a.m. - Walking Tall

5 a.m. - Teresa's tattoo

8 a.m. - Man on Fire

11 a.m. - School of Rock

2 p.m. - Alien vs Predator

5 p.m. - Vampire in Brooklyn

8 p.m. - Man on Fire

11 p.m. - School of Rock

### Saturday, Oct. 16

2 a.m. - Alien vs Predator

5 a.m. - Vampire in Brooklyn

8 a.m. - Manchurian Candidate

11 a.m. - I, Robot

2 p.m. - My Baby's Daddy

5 p.m. - The Fourth Angel

8 p.m. - Manchurian Candidate

11 p.m. - I, Robot

### Sunday, Oct. 17

2 a.m. - My Baby's Daddy

5 a.m. - The Fourth Angel

8 a.m. - Taking Lives

11 a.m. - Big trouble in little China

2 p.m. - Freddy vs Jason

5 p.m. - Two Brothers

8 p.m. - Taking Lives

11 p.m. - Big trouble in little China

For the weekday schedule or for more information, call Randy Ward.