



FREEDOM WATCH



October 19, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Police seize white truck with shell casing inside

ROCKVILLE, Maryland— Investigators of the Washington-area sniper shootings Friday night seized a white box truck after a shell casing was found inside the vehicle at a Virginia car rental agency, Montgomery County Police said. The caliber of the casing is unknown at this point. The casing and the truck are to be examined by forensics experts at an undisclosed location. The federal bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is expected to have results of ballistics testing on the shell casing no sooner than 9 a.m. Saturday.

Senators may be targets on golf courses

WASHINGTON — U.S. senators were warned earlier this week that those who play golf may be targets of al

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Students take advantage of the nice weather that summer and fall bring in an outdoor classroom

Girls school provides hope in Konduz

Story & photo by Spc.

Renee Mahan

300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

While driving through the city of Konduz, Afghanistan signs of war can be seen everywhere; on streets, buildings, and even on roads.

Yet, in the outskirts of Konduz, hope for the future of their nation can be seen in the faces of the girls attending the BiBiKhativa Girls

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Army chefs perform on national TV

By Bruce Zielsdorf
Army News Service

NEW YORK CITY— Soldier-chefs from the U.S. Army Culinary Arts Team performed cooking demonstrations on the nationally syndicated “Today” show on the plaza of the NBC studios at Rockefeller Center in New York City Oct. 14.

Members of the culinary arts team, Warrant Officer 2 Travis Smith from Fort Lee, Va.; Sgt. 1st Class Willie Meeks from Fort Bragg, N.C.; and Spc. Scott Graves from Heidelberg, Germany, were guests on the “To-

day” show, which is co-anchored by Matt Lauer and Katie Couric. The soldier-chefs exhibited their award-winning culinary skills on the cooking segment with Al Roker, the show’s celebrity weatherman.

During the “Today” show broadcast, there was a live cooking demonstration and the soldiers discussed the USACAT program, as well as the team’s prediction for success at the Culinary World Cup competition in Luxembourg this November. In addition, one of the recipes from the cooking segment was posted to the show’s

web site at www.msnbc.com/news/8

Even before French Gen. Napoleon Bonaparte declared, “An army marches on its stomach,” soldiers have commented, often disparagingly, on field rations. It was obvious the skills exhibited on the “Today” show by chefs in the modern Army were light-years ahead in quality and nutrition of the Civil War “hard tack” and World War II “C-rations” soldiers lugged into historic battle.

For example, soldier-chef Smith, captain of the Army’s Culinary Arts Team and recent

gold medal winner at the world championship for military catering, provided a flambé finish to the “Today” show serving up his recipe for chicken with brandied apple roast.

“It was an amazing experience, being on national television and meeting so many celebrities,” Smith said. “It’s a special feeling to represent the Army and the Culinary Arts Program.”

The goal of this Army program is to continuously improve the overall quality of food service in the military.

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SCHOOL, from Page 1

School. Girls talk and laugh in the courtyard, some sit in the shade and whisper secrets to each other, while others are on benches reading books. A bell rings, and the girls rush inside the building.

More than 3,500 girls grades 1-12 attend BiBiKhativa. During the Taliban, girls were not allowed to attend school. This left a nation full of girls without education for over five years. After being out of school for so long, Alia Kolay, a logics teacher, says she's happy the children have not forgotten their lessons. "I am so happy to see them back in school and doing so well." Kolay says with a smile. "You could never tell they've been away for so many years. It's as if they left yesterday and returned today." Though students and teachers alike are glad to be back in

school, a hint of sorrow still lingers in the air. "Of course we're all very happy to be back educating our students as the children are glad to be learning. But when I think of all the time that was taken away from their education, I can't help but feel sad. Five years is a long time." Though nothing could ever compensate for years of education deprivation, teachers and students are approaching things the best way they know how.

According to the headmaster of BiBiKhativa, the easiest and best way to start school again is to make the environment as normal and consistent as possible. "Homework is given everyday, quizzes once a week, exams once a month, and final exams are given twice a year. When we're consistent with the way we teach and test, it establishes a rhythm for stu-

dents and teachers alike."

The school is just one of many projects taken on by the Konduz Coalition Humanitarian Liaison Cell. The CHLC team of soldiers is responsible for rebuilding over four schools in the area. The liaison cells are part of the Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force. CJCMOTF and the CHLC's are on a mission to rebuild Afghanistan.

Major Bill Mandrick, a 489th civil Military Operations officer and member of CHLC-Konduz, says that in this city, rebuilding schools is top priority. "The most important thing here is education. People without education can not conquer life," said Mandrick. "In school they learn that there is a whole world outside their villages, outside of the nation. Our presence at the schools shows them that people all over the world are willing to help them

succeed." Mandrick says he is overcome with joy when he sees the team's hard work pay off. "It's so motivating to see a school filled with children and to see the look on their faces when they first see their new school. Just that, makes everything we do worthwhile," explains Mandrick. "Only half the war is won when the bad guys are defeated. The other half is won in helping those people that are still here."

The school headmaster said he will never be able to thank the CHLC team enough. "It feels good to see BiBiKhativa like this once again. I'm very grateful for what the CHLC has done here with rebuilding our school and supporting us in every way. My only hope is that other organizations will see this and we hope to get the same help from them as we have gotten from the CHLC," said the headmaster. "Not just this

school but universities, etc. Education is the first priority in rebuilding a nation. It's education that makes a nation a society. If a country has education, it has a good relationship with its neighbors and the world."

According to Kolay, the possibilities for these young women are endless. "Our school is the best in the area. When these girls finish here, the skies will open up for them. These are future lawyers, doctors, and engineers. I'm sure that our students can do whatever they please...they are very smart and talented."

As schools all over this war-torn nation struggle to rebuild, BiBiKhativa is a shining light in the midst of it all. With the hard work of CHLC soldiers and the determination of students and teachers to succeed, the future for Konduz children looks better and brighter everyday.

CHEF, from Page 1

Smith was a project officer and competition organizer for the 27th Annual Army Culinary Arts Competition held in March at Fort Lee. He's since been awarded an honorary membership in the Canadian Federation of Chefs & Cooks in recognition of "his outstanding contribution to international culinary excellence, the promotion of global military standards and the sharing of knowledge and expertise."

Smith was joined on the "Today" show by Meeks who was recently chosen as the Army's Senior Chef of the Year at the annual culinary contest. After presenting his gourmet soup to Roker, Meeks reflected on what the national TV exposure meant to him.

"Fantastic," said Meeks, a fellow member of the Army Culinary Arts Team headed to Luxembourg next month for the international competition. "It's all about promoting the Army and showing

how the Army's food service program has changed over the years."

Graves was the third member of the soldier-chef team on "Today." He served up his desert specialty on the show and was recognized by Roker as the recent winner of the Army's Junior Chef of the Year competition.

"This was a great experience," Graves noted. "It's great to be part of a team that's so dedicated, passionate and committed to culinary excellence. The cast and crew of 'Today'

were so friendly and helpful. It sure made it a lot easier to be on the show."

Smith, Meeks and Graves left the bright lights of network TV to finalize their preparation for next month's competition in Europe.

"We're almost ready," Smith explained. "We have a comprehensive plan, we know what we need to do, and we have what it takes. I know the team will give its all. And when we bring home the gold medals, we'll have done our job."

Meeks is equally opti-

mistic about the team's showing at the World Cup competition in Luxembourg.

"We're going for the gold," he said confidently. "It's the only way to go."

The Culinary Olympics was organized and carried out for the first time in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1900 and has become the world-class competition for chefs globally.

(Editor's note: Bruce Zielsdorf is a member of the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs in New York.)

BRIEFS, from Page 1

HIND SIGHT

1873

Yale, Princeton, Columbia and Rutgers university draft first code of football rules.

1949

The People's Republic of China is formally proclaimed.

1950

The North Korean capital of Pyongyang is captured by U.N. troops.

1973

President Richard Nixon rejects an Appeals Court demand to turn over the Watergate tapes.

1987

In retaliation for Iranian attacks on ships in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. Navy disables three of Iran's offshore oil platforms.

Qaeda snipers on golf courses and were given tips on how to protect themselves, a U.S. Capitol Police spokeswoman said. Police were notified about the potential threat to senators, said Marcia Krug, a Capitol Police spokeswoman. She would not say which agency notified the Capitol Police or when exactly they were told. But she said her department, in turn, notified the sergeant-at-arms, who then notified the senators that al Qaeda snipers might be looming near golf courses, ready to pick them off. The sergeant-at-arms, who is in charge of lawmakers' security, did suggest precautions the senators should take, Krug said. She would not elaborate.

Attorneys seek \$3M in Louima case

NEW YORK— They may not be the Dream Team, but three little-known lawyers are seeking a piece of nearly \$3 million in legal fees in the Abner Louima police brutality case. The attorneys, who represented Louima before he hired O.J. Simpson lawyers Johnnie Cochran Jr., Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld, have gone to federal court to demand one-third of the fees. The group of former Simpson lawyers, along with attorney Sanford Rubenstein, argue the money's all theirs because the first set of lawyers mishandled Louima's civil lawsuit in the case before quitting.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 79F L: 46F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 77F L: 45F
Kandahar:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 100F L: 75F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 102F L: 73F
Kabul:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 79F L: 46F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 77F L: 45F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Sunny</i> H: 87F L: 51F	<i>Sunny</i> H: 85F L: 51F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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COALITIONSPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Hall of Famer Puckett charged with sexual assault

MINNEAPOLIS — Baseball Hall of Famer Kirby Puckett was charged Friday with dragging a woman into a restaurant bathroom last month and grabbing her breast.

The woman had bruises, and her ankle was swollen from hitting a door frame, according to the criminal complaint, which cited several witnesses.

The former Minnesota Twins star was charged with a felony count of false imprisonment and a gross misdemeanor count of criminal sexual conduct.

If convicted, Puckett probably would be put on probation and given less than a year in the county workhouse, according to County Attorney Amy Klobuchar. She said it's unlikely he would be sentenced to the legal maximum of four years in prison and \$8,000 in fines.

"The only reason Kirby Puckett was charged today is because he is a famous person," said Chris Madel, one of Puckett's attorneys. "If this were anybody else, this case would have never seen the light of day. We will meet and we will beat these allegations in court."

Klobuchar strongly denied Puckett is being treated differently from anyone else, and said as far as she's concerned, he was just a guy in a bar who broke the law.

"I do think that it will be a challenging trial because many jurors will know Mr. Puckett," she added. "In the end, we have faith that the Minnesota jury will be fair and base a decision on the facts and on the evidence, and not on who he is."

Puckett was not present at a brief hearing Friday. He was summoned to report to the county jail for formal booking Monday at 1:30 p.m. He won't have to post the \$20,000 bail prosecutors initially sought unless he fails to report. A date for his next hearing has not been set.

Puckett, an outfielder, retired in 1995 after 12 seasons with the Twins, a team he helped win the World Series in 1987 and 1991. He joined the Hall of Fame last year.

2002 World Series

San Francisco vs. Anaheim

Today

San Francisco at Anaheim

Sunday

San Francisco at Anaheim

Tuesday

Anaheim at San Francisco

Wednesday

Anaheim at San Francisco

Thursday

Anaheim at San Francisco, if necessary

Oct. 26

San Francisco at Anaheim, if necessary

Oct. 27

San Francisco at Anaheim, if necessary

Did you know ...

The Braves are often compared to the 1950s Boys of Summer Dodgers, as a team that kept finishing first but won only one World Series. Here's the difference:

Those Dodgers kept running into the same roadblock (the Yankees). As loyal reader Doug Greenwald points out, the Braves have played almost every team in the National League since their run began in 1991.

Amazingly, the only two teams they haven't played in an October series since then are the only two franchises that haven't played *any* postseason series — the Expos and Brewers. Here are their year-by-year opponents:

1991-92: Pirates **1993:** Phillies **1995:** Rockies, Reds **1996:** Dodgers, Cardinals **1997:** Astros, Marlins **1998:** Cubs, Padres **1999:** Astros, Mets **2000:** Cardinals **2001:** Astros, Diamondbacks **2002:** Giants

Finally, reader Justin Petrossek reports that with the ouster of the Braves and Yankees, it means this is baseball's first Final Four in the division-play era that doesn't include at least one team from the fabulous Eastern time zone. Since 14 of the 30 teams play in that time zone, this is obviously harder than it might seem.

NFL Team Offense — 2002

<i>Yards/Game</i>	<i>Points/Game</i>	<i>Pass yards/game</i>
1. Oakland, 442.6	1. Oakland, 35.0	1. Oakland, 320.0
2. Buffalo, 405.8	2. Kansas City, 34.2	2. Buffalo, 311.2
3. Kansas City, 404.7	3. Philadelphia, 33.0	3. N.England, 279.2
4. Philadelphia, 391.2	4. Buffalo, 32.3	4. Green Bay, 259.5
5. Green Bay, 389.8	5. N.Orleans, 31.0	5.Phil., 250.8

Brewers offer Macha managerial job

MILWAUKEE—Milwaukee Brewers general manager Doug Melvin probably will wait until after the World Series to name the club's next manager, but it appears he's already found the man he wants for the job.

Sources told the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel late Thursday that Brewers general manager had offered A's bench coach Ken Macha a three-year contract and was waiting for an answer.

Melvin met with Macha on Thursday, but Macha has plenty of options other than the Brewers, whose NL-worst 56-106 record last season resulted in the firing of Jerry Royster.

If Macha doesn't want the job, Melvin will likely select his manager from the five whom he's already interviewed: Brewers coach Cecil Cooper, Yankees coach Willie Randolph, Braves coach Ned Yost and Diamondbacks coach Bob Melvin.

The most notable omission in Melvin's hunt is former Rangers manager Jerry Narron, a former colleague in Baltimore and Texas and Melvin's roommate in the minor leagues.

Solution from Friday's Petri Crossword in the *Freedom Watch* (Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

H	A	S	P		P	O	M	E		A	B	A	T	E				
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*“Fireteam
prepare to
rush!”*

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support