



FREEDOM WATCH



October 30, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Boatload of Haitians swarms ashore in Florida

MIAMI — More than 200 Haitians jumped from a 50-foot boat near Key Biscayne Tuesday afternoon, swimming to shore and swarming the highway leading into Miami. Dozens of Haitians jumped in the back of a black pickup truck and others appeared to try to get rides from motorists on the Rickenbacker Caseway. Local police rounded up dozens of the Haitians, seating them on the side of the highway. Kendall Coffey, a former U.S. attorney and one of the lawyers for Cuban refugee Elian Gonzalez, told CNN that by reaching U.S. soil, at least the Haitians could apply for political asylum. If they're intercepted while still on the open sea, they are sent back immediately. How-

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PSYOP soldiers trade toys for guns in Kabul

Story & photo by Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson
28th Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — Staff Sgt. Ed picks up a toy gun that looks strikingly like a silver 9mm pistol. Out of habit, he puts his finger near the trigger, points the weapon at the floor and cocks it.

“These are the ones we want off of the street,” he said as he places the weapon back on the desk.

The toy was one of about 50 collected Monday morning at the Paktiakot Primary School in Kabul as part of a program to deter children from playing with realistic-looking toy guns.



Staff Sgt. Ed helps three students pick out toys with the help of an interpreter.

Once a week, Ed and other psychological operations soldiers visit area schools to replace the guns with more harmless toys like cars and plastic soccer balls. The guns are then taken away

and destroyed.

“I feel like Santa Claus,” laughed Ed, who is referred to only by rank and first name for security reasons. “They give me the gun and I let them pick a toy.”

The Toys for Guns program, according to Maj. Robert, a civil affairs officer, began as a force protection issue for the military police

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489th CA Bn. makes way for future projects

Story & photo by Staff Sgt. Zelda Thomas-Gates
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — On a sunny October morning, soldiers from the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion out of Knoxville, Tenn., and Governor Sharzai attended the opening ceremony of Sophia Sahab High School.

This school, located in the Kandahar Province, was damaged during the Taliban reign. Officials from the 489th CA Bn. say its refurb-



Maj. Gregory S. McMillan, 489th CA Bn., speaks at Sophia Sahab High School opening ceremony.

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bishment benefits all Afghan children in the province and helps promote Coalition assistance in the surrounding areas.

“This project fully supports my priority of repairing and supplying schools,” said Gov. Sharzai. “All coordination for this project was done through my aide and the

provincial minister of education. Education is a top priority.”

“It was a pleasure to helped refurbish the school for the children and to serve Afghanistan for years to come,” said Maj. Gregory S. McMillan, team chief of Coalition Humanitarian Liaison Cells in Kandahar.

A majority of the projects the CHLCs in

Kandahar assess are sent to the Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force in Kabul. With the help of CJCMOTF, CHLCs and the governor, Sophia Sahab High School now serves more than 2,000 students, 24 teachers and has 22 classrooms.

The CJCMOTF currently has 78 humanitarian assistance projects being developed

throughout the country, 41 of them are school projects. With many schools having been heavily damaged during 23 years of war, these projects will make a difference in the lives of the students attending these schools and provide a more suitable environment in which to teach and learn, McMillan said.

“Completion of this project creates a positive sentiment toward the coalition forces and will demonstrates that the coalition is indeed helping and caring for the Afghan children and the people of these communities,” said Staff Sgt. Turk G. Yordy, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the CHLCs in Kandahar.



Photo by Capt. Jan Cabovsky, Slovakia Army

Runway repair

Slovak engineers place concrete as padding on either side of the Bagram Air Base runway as preparation for winter.

Mine Field Marathon

The 26.2-mile Mine Field Marathon will be Nov. 29. Registration is during dinner at both dining facilities in Bagram Air Base today through Friday. The first 200 people to sign up can purchase a t-shirt for \$16.

TOYS

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who patrol Kabul. He explained that as they were doing their patrols, young children would point realistic-looking guns at them. This nearly caused them to retaliate until they realized that the guns were only toys.

Although no one has been hurt from these incidents, Robert said an accident would seriously damage their credibility with the local population.

“We have a very good rapport with the local population and we don’t want to hurt that,” he said.

“All the work that we’ve done here would be nothing if a little kid gets shot by an American citizen,” Ed added.

To help avert this, Robert bought toys from the local economy and went to the schools to trade them for the guns.

“We wanted to get as many guns out of our patrol area as possible, so we decided to go where the kids are, which was the schools,” Robert said.

Although the children were apprehensive at first about giving up their toys, they soon warmed up to the idea. Now, the children volunteer to bring their guns to school, knowing they will get something in return. In fact, their last visit to the Pol-E Charkhi School in Kabul yielded more than 100 guns.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rhonda M.

Lawson
These toys caused concern among the military police who perform patrols in the area because they look like real firearms.

Paktiakot’s headmaster, Geholam Jailani, explained that although the children don’t bring the guns to school, they are taught not to point them at Americans.

“But it’s not possible to know what (they do with their toy guns) because they have them all the time,” he said.

Ed said the Toys for Guns program has yielded an unexpected result — increased attendance.

“The kids see us going (to the schools) so the classes have been 50 percent more full than what they were before we started going,” Cardona said.

Robert added that the program is ongoing. They’ve arranged with the headmasters at the schools to collect the guns and take down the children’s names. In turn, Ed and his crew visit the schools every few weeks to bring the children toys.

HIND SIGHT

1838

Oberlin Collegiate Institute in Lorian County, Ohio, became the first college in the U.S. to admit female students.

1925

Scotsman John L. Baird performed the first TV broadcast of moving objects.

1938

H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* was broadcast over the radio by Orson Welles' Mercury Theatre. Many panicked believing it was an actual newscast about a Martian invasion.

1950

The First Marine Division was ordered to replace the entire South Korean I Corps at the Chosin Reservoir area.

1991

BET Holdings Inc., becomes the first African-American company listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

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ever, he said most of the people who left that boat would most likely be sent back to Haiti because they immigrated for economic reasons. If the estimate of 200 people on board the boat is accurate, it would be the largest single crossing of Haitian migrants to the United States in nearly three years.

Sources: More U.S. Marines head to Djibouti

WASHINGTON — Elements of a U.S. Marine division are being sent to the East Africa nation of Djibouti to search for al Qaeda leaders, Pentagon officials said Tuesday. Members of the 2nd Marine Division will join other U.S. forces already in the Horn of Africa to search for members of the terrorist network behind the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington, the military said. U.S. officials say al Qaeda leaders may be hiding in a variety of places throughout the Horn of Africa after the U.S. campaign in Afghanistan last year destroyed the terrorist network's base in Afghanistan. Topping the list of suspected hideouts is Yemen, the ancestral home of Osama bin Laden's family. Al Qaeda is also blamed for the October 2000 suicide attack on the destroyer USS Cole in the Yemeni port of Aden, in which 17 U.S. sailors were killed. Other spots in the Horn of Africa, including Somalia, are also thought to be potential al Qaeda hideouts.

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff present "Rat Race" tonight at 1530Z at the MWR building.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Sleepy Hollow," showing at the same time.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 73F L: 37F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 75F L: 39F
Kandahar:	<i>Haze</i> H: 82F L: 46F	<i>Haze</i> H: 84F L: 55F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 72F L: 39F	<i>Haze</i> H: 70F L: 39F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 80F L: 51F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 79F L: 55F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Woods: 'It's the right thing to do'

ATLANTA — Tiger Woods expects Augusta National to have a female member by the next Masters because "it's the right thing to do," and he believes golf won't be hurt by the controversy.

"It's an organization's membership," Woods said Tuesday at the season-ending Tour Championship. "It's not the players' fault it's happening."

While the PGA Tour season officially ends Sunday, the debate over the all-male membership at Augusta National doesn't figure to wane.

It began in July, when club chairman Hootie Johnson issued a scathing, three-page statement that he would not let a national women's group force him to admit a female.

Since then, Johnson has dropped corporate television sponsors, while the head of the National Council of Women's Organizations has put pressure on prominent Augusta National members.

Martha Burk also said this week she wanted PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem to take a stand by no longer counting the Masters as an official event.

Brown, Buffs back in the groove

Three weeks into the season the Colorado Buffaloes, as has been their recent custom, had fallen flat on their faces.

Few teams stumble out of the gate as consistently as the Buffaloes, who seemingly make it a habit of losing an early non-conference game to a team they're expected to beat. Few teams have shown the Buffaloes' resiliency, either.

This year they've not only had the requisite early season loss but also had to deal with an impending NCAA probation and the messy situation surrounding the loss of their starting quarterback.

They head into this week's game against BCS leader Oklahoma, though, in a comfortable place. They control their own Big 12 destiny and, at 4-0 and with a de facto two-game lead over Kansas State, who they beat 35-31 on Oct. 5, own some wiggle room.

"It's not as dramatic as everyone thinks," said CU Coach Gary Barnett of the turnaround. "We had the same questions going into the spring, but we had injuries and weren't able to answer them. In the fall we didn't have the same offensive line from practice to practice. It just had to be the right time."

Barnett has been the master of the pick-em-up-and-dust-em-off. At Northwestern, his team lost to Miami of Ohio in 1995 and came back to win the Big Ten title. The next year they lost to Wake Forest and came back to share the title.

Last year the Buffaloes lost their opener to Fresno State, which turned out to be better than advertised. Then CU got hot down the stretch, won the Big 12 in a rematch over the Texas team that had beaten them by 34 points at midseason and came within a BCS computer chip of a shot at the national title.

2002 Bowl Championship Series

TEAM	TOTAL
1.Oklahoma	3.33
2.Miami (Fla.)	6.69
3.Notre Dame	6.99
4.Georgia	8.24
5.Ohio State	9.49
6.Virginia Tech	10.88
7.Texas	15.64
8.Washington State	19.71
9.North Carolina State	20.73
10.Iowa	22.89
11.USC	23.04
12.Colorado	29.51
13.Michigan	31.22
14.LSU	36.78
15.Kansas State	37.11



Rix responds to benching, criticism

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Chris Rix responded to his benching as Florida State's starting quarterback Tuesday by saying some of his teammates should worry about their own performance before they criticize him.

Rix spoke to the media after practice a day after coach Bobby Bowden announced Adrian McPherson would replace him. The Seminoles (No. 20 ESPN/USA Today, No. 18 AP) play at Wake Forest on Saturday and are mired in their worst start since 1986.

Rix struggled in last Saturday's 34-24 loss to No. 4 Notre Dame, committing two turnovers that led to 10 points.

"People want to win and we didn't win, and people feel I didn't do a well enough job to get the job done and they want to give someone else a shot," Rix said.

Rix has been criticized not only by fans but also by his teammates since taking over the starting job from Heisman Trophy winner Chris Weinke at the start of last season.

Brewers tap Yost as new skipper; Mancha gets A's job, Howe lands in New York

MILWAUKEE — Atlanta Braves coach Ned Yost was hired as manager of the Milwaukee Brewers on Tuesday, returning to the team where he was a backup catcher in the 1980s.

“This is needless to say a very special day in my life,” Yost said during a news conference at Miller Park. “To be able to come back here ... it’s just like being a 4-year-old at Christmas time.”

Yost agreed to a two-year contract that includes a club option for 2005.

“Ned showed great determination for this opportunity,” general manager Doug Melvin said. “He has enthusiasm for the organization and brings a great desire to help us to return to winning baseball.”

Yost will replace the Jerry Royster, who was fired after the Brewers finished with a franchise-worst 56-106 record this season.

Royster replaced Davey Lopes in April.

Oakland bench coach Ken Macha turned down an offer from the Brewers last week. The A’s will introduce Macha as their new manager Tuesday.

Melvin’s other candidates included Brewers bench coach Cecil Cooper, Arizona Diamondbacks bench coach Bob Melvin (no relation) and New York Yankees third-base coach Willie Randolph.

Yost interviewed for a major league managerial job for the first time with the Brewers.

The 47-year-old Yost has been the Braves’ third-base coach the last four seasons, a position he believes has groomed him to become a manager.

“I’m not sure I was ready four years ago because I’d never been tested,” Yost said after interviewing with the Brewers earlier this month.

“I’d never been in situations that were pressure situations. But when you become a third-base coach for a championship-caliber team, it’s almost like you become a player. Your decisions have direct impact on a game, and you better make them correctly and you better make them quickly,” he said.

Yost was a backup catcher on the 1982 Milwaukee team that won the AL pennant. He said he would love a chance to try to turn around the Brewers, who haven’t been to the playoffs since losing to St. Louis in the ’82 World Series.

“I’m not interested in any other job,” Yost said after his interview. “I want to see this organization flourish again because I know how wonderful it is in this town when they can (win), and when they do. That’s what gets me excited.”

Kent, Maddux file for free-agency

Jeff Kent, the 2000 NL MVP, could be one of the top free agents on the market after prospering for six years in San Francisco.

The 34-year-old Kent hit .313 with 37 homers and 108 RBI this season in helping the Giants reach the Series for the first time since 1989. He hit three homers and drove in seven runs in the World Series, won in seven games by the Anaheim Angels on Sunday.

Kent said after the Series ended he would spend some time fishing and hunting, and use that time to think about his future — and whether it is in San Francisco. He made \$6 million in 2002.

“We’ve always had good communications with the Giants. I assume at some point we’ll talk,” Kent’s agent, Jeff Klein, said Tuesday.

First, the Giants must make decisions about their general manager and manager. General manager Brian Sabean’s contract is up, along with manager Dusty Baker’s.

Owner Peter Magowan said he would like to have a GM in place this week and a manager hired within about 10 days.

Once those decisions are made, the Giants say re-signing Kent is one of their top priorities.

“Hopefully, we’ll be able to bring Jeff back if he has the interest in coming back,” assistant general manager Ned Colletti said. “It’s one of our main priorities, providing he has an interest in coming back.”

“He’s been one of our top players the last six seasons, and productive in the middle of the lineup. He’s one of the reasons we’ve been successful.”

Colletti said the Giants are “still in the process of looking at a lot of factors related to our roster.”

Included in those decisions are several mutual club/player options. He said he can’t offer a timeline as to when many player decisions will be final.



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By Kevin Kilgore

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