



FREEDOM WATCH



November 14, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Homeland security bill clears House

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives Wednesday passed a bill to create a Cabinet-level homeland security agency, and congressional leaders told President Bush they expect to have the measure on his desk by next week. The bill, passed by the House in a 299-121 vote, is a compromise measure, meant to break an impasse over labor rights and civil service protection for the estimated 170,000 workers in the proposed Department of Homeland Security. The proposed agency would combine workers from 22 agencies, including the Border Patrol, Coast Guard and Customs Service, into one Cabinet department with a \$37 billion budget. Congressional sources said the new compromise would give Bush the flexibility he needs to hire and fire workers in the new department, while giving unions a right to challenge new rules.

KMTC troops teach English to locals

By Sgt. Don Dees
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — As Special Forces soldiers in Kabul train new recruits for the Afghan National Army, their battalion chaplain is teaching English to local Afghan children.

Chaplain (Maj.) Andy, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, conceived the idea to foster deeper relations between U.S. forces at the Kabul Military Training Center and the surrounding Afghan population, he said.

U.S. Army Special Forces personnel are identified only by their rank and first name for security reasons.

Andy visits the



Photo by Capt. Charles Mussi, National Guard Bureau
Spc. Jessie Peterson and Sgt. Beth LePage teach Afghan school girls conversational English at the Pol-E-Charkhi school near the Kabul Military Training Center.

school twice each week for several hours each time. One visit is dedicated to teaching the female students, the second focuses on the males. During the visits, students learn to expand on

the basic knowledge they already have, said Spc. Jessie Peterson, a Military Police soldier from the 772nd MP Company from Taunton, Mass.

Peterson's unit is at the training center to

provide security. The 22-year-old soldier hopes to improve her knowledge of Afghans and their culture by assisting Andy in the instruction.

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Mary MacMakin is founder and director of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation for the Support of Afghanistan.

Women's organization thrives throughout years

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

KABUL, Afghanistan — Women's organizations may seem to be a fairly new entity in Afghanistan, but one group has not only withstood the test of time, but outlasted the Taliban.

Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Support for Afghanistan, or PARSА, was founded by an American woman named Mary

MacMakin in 1996, just before the Taliban took power.

MacMakin has lived in Kabul off and on since 1961. She originally moved here with her husband, an American who worked for the Asia Foundation, an organization that promotes world democracy. However, what struck her and what kept driving her to return, even after her divorce in 1979, was the plight of Afghan

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widows.

“Their lives were dependent on a little ration card given out by (non-governmental organizations) who were helping the widows,” she said. “I thought, ‘this is not the way to go. These women have to learn something; they have to have other ways of earning a living.’”

She explained that women in Afghanistan traditionally stay home and keep house while their husbands earn the living. If the husband is killed or seriously hurt, the women usually have no other means of making a living and keeping the family together because they have no working skills outside of handicrafts. So MacMakin used this as a benefit.

She bought the handicrafts the women made and opened a gift shop in her living room. Eventually, the little business grew, and now an entire house holds the store as well as a workshop where more than 120 women can make their merchandise. All of the shop’s merchandise, which includes dolls, clothing, scarves and purses, is handmade and can take anywhere from 10 days to make an embroidered shirt, to two months for a carpet.

Each item is accompanied by a little card that tells the buyer something about the maker.

“It makes it more personal,” MacMakin said. “We sell a lot to different groups in the United



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson

A card bearing the maker's name and a short biography accompanies the merchandise in the PARSA gift shop. needed.

States, including groups who have helped through funding and have helped sell our merchandise. They said ‘we would like to know more about these women.’”

The desire to know these women was so strong, MacMakin said, that a women’s group in the U.S. sent a videotape introducing themselves. Other groups have also written PARSA asking for more information about the women behind the crafts.

“The general term ‘Afghan women’ is very popular in the States now, but nobody knows who these women are,” MacMakin said.

Once the shop grew, MacMakin began branching off into training programs for the women’s children. The programs train the children in trades like electricians and plumbers. Orphans, who are named as such in Afghanistan when they only have one parent, are also trained

and work in the store’s workshop.

“In the context with poor people, kids have to work,” MacMakin said. “If the situation were better, I certainly wouldn’t let them work, but they’re helping their families to survive.”

The women were also trained in the wool business so they could prepare it and sell it to the carpet industry.

Throughout all of this, PARSA met with much resistance from the Taliban once they took power. In its earlier stages, Taliban officials saw both men and women visiting MacMakin’s home, which was located across from a police station. As MacMakin was leaving her home with two women, the police chief apprehended them and took them to the station.

“In doing so, at one point, he just wrapped his hand around and slapped (one of the women) on the side of the head, and the other

one he hit on the shoulder,” she said. “He had three little knives in his hand and he used the butt end of the knives.”

They tried to send MacMakin home, but she wouldn’t leave the women. They then tried to force the women not to visit her, saying that she was a bad influence on them. They were then forced to sign a paper promising never again to visit another foreigner or ex-patriot, which MacMakin was known as.

“So what did (the women) do? They walked across the street and came into my office,” MacMakin said.

Through the years, the Taliban resistance never stopped, even to the point of MacMakin being placed in detention and kicked out of the country. But she always came back, and the women of PARSA remained loyal.

PARSA met with even more resistance

when they began another activity – secret schools for girls.

“The Taliban knew we were doing it, and they didn’t want us to do it, but they couldn’t stop it,” MacMakin said.

“I was never afraid of the Taliban,” she said. “Taliban are like paper tigers. If you imagine a real tiger, it’s very frightening. But if it’s just cut out of a piece of paper, it’s not very frightening.”

After U.S. and Coalition forces invaded Afghanistan and the new government took over, the girls were allowed to attend school openly, but MacMakin found that there were still girls in rural areas who couldn’t attend school. This has become PARSA’s new focus, and will potentially be their biggest program to date if funding goes through.

“We now have a pilot program for 10 home schools and 11 teachers,” she said. “I’m using that as the bait to get as much as \$1 million because it will be 14 different districts, with each district having at least 1,500 girls.”

Presently, nearly 300 women and young girls have enrolled in the program.

Other future projects for PARSA include opening a beauty school, selling food and candy and eventually moving the organization from Kabul to Bahmian.

For more information on PARSA, write P.O. Box 3149, Kabul, Afghanistan, or e-mail parsa@brain.net.pk.

HIND SIGHT

1799

American astronomer Andrew Ellicott Douglas witnesses the first meteor shower on record, the Leonids meteor shower, from a ship off the Florida Keys.

1948

An international war crimes tribunal in Tokyo passes death sentences on seven Japanese military and government officials, including General Tojo Hideki, who served as premier of Japan from 1941 to 1944.

1971

U.S. President Richard Nixon proclaims the end of the U.S. offensive role in the Vietnam War and withdraws 45,000 troops.

1980

Voyager I comes within 78,000 miles of Saturn.

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“I’ve been looking for an opportunity to learn something from this culture and to take something positive back with me,” said Peterson.

Peterson, along with another female soldier from the military police company, is crucial to the success of the program because the school administration doesn’t want male soldiers teaching the female students, said Andy.

Interacting with the

students has broadened Peterson’s perspective, she said.

“As an MP, your job is to serve and protect. We’re here to serve and protect our people. You have to be cautious,” she said.

In the classroom though, Peterson can be more relaxed, she said. But even in her role as an English teacher, force protection is at the top of her mind.

“If they respect and like us, they’ll share information with us if they hear something nega-

tive,” she said.

Building a relationship of trust and understanding is not difficult, he added. People are the same wherever you go, he said. Basic human needs do not change.

The program provides these students with a skill for life, said Andy.

“This will help them to learn about information technology, medicine, engineering, administration, and politics. English is the international language,” he said.

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff present “Thirteen Days” tonight at 1530Z at the MWR building.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “A Gentleman’s Game,” showing at the same time.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	Today	Friday
Bagram:	Sunny H: 59F L: 36F	Partly cloudy H: 59F L: 37F
Kandahar:	Partly cloudy H: 73F L: 45F	Partly cloudy H: 73F L: 45F
Kabul:	Partly cloudy H: 57F L: 36F	Partly cloudy H: 57F L: 37F
Uzbekistan:	Rain H: 67F L: 50F	Mostly cloudy H: 64F L: 42F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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COALITION SPORTSZONE



2002 Bowl Championship Series

TEAM	TOTAL
1. Ohio State	3.41
2. Miami, Fla.	4.10
3. Washington State	8.77
4. Oklahoma	10.05
5. Texas	11.50
6. Georgia	14.48
7. Notre Dame	14.93
8. Iowa	16.01
9. USC	17.71
10. Michigan	24.02
11. Florida State	30.58
12. Kansas State	31.17
13. LSU	33.45
14. Florida	35.11
15. Penn State	36.41

Emotional Mackovic apologizes to players, coaching staff

TUCSON, Ariz. — His voice choking with emotion, Arizona football coach John Mackovic admitted Wednesday that he's made some major mistakes in dealing with his players and assistant coaches, and he vowed to do a better job.

The Wildcats are 3-7 and 0-6 in the Pacific-10 Conference, and when the school called an afternoon news conference, there was speculation that the coach might step down.

The 59-year-old Mackovic, who's in the second year of a five-year contract that pays him \$800,000 per year, said he would not resign but would work to improve his communication with his team.

An earlier report that Mackovic was going to step down turned out to be premature.

"This afternoon I have met with my coaches and our team separately to express my feelings and regrets," he said. "I'm terribly sorry for my part in this turmoil and unrest. I accept full responsibility for my actions and pledge to work tirelessly to mend any fences."

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Alou named Giants manager, receives three-year deal to take NL champions back to Fall Classic

Felipe Alou was hired Wednesday to manage the National League champion San Francisco Giants, returning to the team he played for in the 1950s and '60s. He calls himself a "soldier of this game."

"I'm going back home to where I started and, hopefully, I'm going to end it right there," Alou said.

The former manager of the Montreal Expos takes over for Dusty Baker and inherits a team that came within six outs of a World Series title.

The 67-year-old Alou, the bench coach for Detroit last season, agreed to a three-year contract and becomes the oldest manager in the major leagues. He was 691-717 in 10 seasons managing the Expos.

The popular Baker did not have his contract renewed by the Giants. Baker is talking with the Chicago Cubs about becoming their manager. Alou's son Moises plays for the Cubs.

"I was happily surprised," Moises said. "For him to get a job with a team like the Giants is awesome."

Alou played for the Giants from 1958-63 as part of a 17-season major league career in which he hit .286 with 206 homers and 852 RBIs. He also spent 1970 and part of 1971 in the Bay area playing for the Oakland Athletics.

On the Giants, he joined brothers Matty and Jesus in an all-Alou outfield in some games. That's one of the highlights of his playing days in San Francisco, along with a string of nine consecutive hits.

"When I received the first notice that I might be the guy, or the club was interested in me, I was really shocked," he said. "I was working with a team in the Dominican Republic and was far from major league baseball."

It is the first time in nearly three decades that a manager takes over a pennant-winning team in the offseason. Alvin Dark became manager of the A's when Dick Williams retired following their 1973 World Series championship.

We're obviously thrilled we're able to welcome Felipe back," general manager Brian Sabean said. "Everybody in baseball realizes what he's done in the game. It's thrilling because he's a Giant at heart.

"He calls himself a baseball soldier in conversation. He's more like baseball royalty to us."

Alou was fired by the Expos during the 2001 season, and was with the Tigers this year.

He is a native of the Dominican Republic. The Giants had hoped to replace Baker, who is black, with another minority.

Shortstop Rich Aurilia appreciated the Giants' speed in hiring a manager. The team announced Baker would not return last Wednesday.

"We were a few steps behind other clubs having been in the World Series," Aurilia said. "It's nice to know that they went out and got somebody who's well respected around baseball and has done a good job with his teams."

Nowitzki gets hot late, carries Mavericks to victory

CLEVELAND— The Dallas Mavericks are still perfect.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 13 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter as Dallas remained the NBA's only unbeaten team, improving to 8-0 with a 103-99 victory Wednesday night over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Michael Finley scored a season-high 26 points and Walt Williams and Steve Nash had 14 apiece for the Mavericks, who overcame a career-high 34 points by Zydrunas Ilgauskas and a dunk by Cavs guard Ricky Davis on which he jumped over Nash.

Dallas rallied from a 13-point deficit in the third quarter to extend the best start in franchise history.

Jumaine Jones had 23 points for the Cavs, who dropped their fifth straight since their home opener when they stunned the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers.

Nowitzki made two free throws with 4:14 left to put Dallas ahead 89-87.

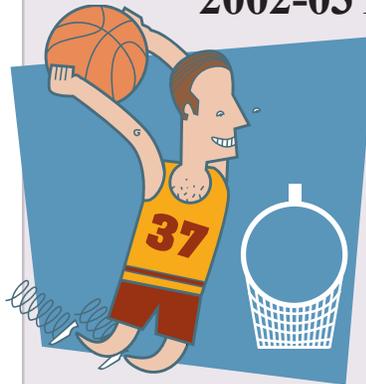
Davis, who was kept out of the starting lineup while being disciplined by coach John Lucas, then hit a runner in the lane to tie it, and made a steal on Dallas' next possession.

As he approached the basket, the 6-foot-7 Davis took off in the middle of the lane and soared over the 6-foot-3 Nash's head before slamming the ball in to give the Cavs a 91-89 lead.

After a basket by Williams, Nash hit a runner in the lane to put the Mavericks up 93-91 with 2:31 to play.

Cleveland point guard Milt Palcio was then whistled for traveling — the first of two violations for him in the final 1:39 — and Nowitzki hit two free throws for a 95-92 lead.

2002-03 NBA standings



Western Conference

Midwest

Dallas	8-0
Houston	4-2
San Antonio	5-3
Minnesota	4-4
Utah	3-5

Pacific

Seattle	6-2
Sacramento	5-3
Phoenix	3-3
L.A. Clippers	3-4
Portland	3-6

Eastern Conference

Atlantic

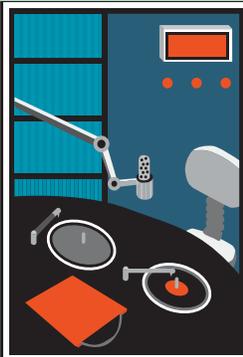
New Jersey	6-2
Boston	6-2
Orlando	5-3
Philadelphia	4-3
Washington	4-4

Central

Indiana	6-1
Detroit	6-2
New Orleans	5-2
Milwaukee	4-3
Atlanta	4-4



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105.7FM

Power Rock (music & news)
107.5FM

AFN Europe (news, talk, music)
103.1FM



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support