



FREEDOM WATCH



November 4, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Operation Alamo Sweep continues

BAGRAM, Afghanistan

— Task Force 82 Paratroopers completed a 24-hour operation in support of Alamo Sweep Sunday. They confiscated a significant amount of weapons and ammunition northeast of Khowst, to include:

- ❖ 20 mines,
- ❖ 60 hand grenades,
- ❖ 8,500 DSHK rounds and
- ❖ Taliban literature and documents.

“Twenty-three year of factional war is the most common reason the Afghans have these weapons in country,” said Col. Roger King, Public Affairs officer, Combined Joint Task Force - 180. “We will keep searching for the weapons because we know every weapon we find and destroy is one less that is used against the Coalition.” TF82 destroyed all the weapons and ammunition on their objective and took the documentation back to their forward operating base.

See BRIEFS, Page 3

Landmines still a major safety issue

Story & photo by Sgt. Eric C. Barker
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A land mine blows up every 22 minutes, killing or disfiguring 26,000 people a year. By some estimates, there are more than 100 million land mines buried all over the world.

The countries most devastated by land mines are Afghanistan, Angola and Cambodia. According to UNICEF, Afghanistan has an estimated 10-15 million mines in place.

The Task Force Panther ‘Military Mine Action Center,’ headed by members of the 307th En-

gineer Battalion, has the huge responsibility of coordinating Kandahar Air Field mine clearance and safety.

“The Mine Action Center handles force protection and keeps the airfield safe,” said Maj. Steven A. Baker, TF Panther engineer. “Clearance of KAF is a joint venture with the 307th Engr., 769th Engr., the Jordanians and Army contractors.”

In Afghanistan, land mines were placed by the Soviets in the 1970s and ’80s, then later by tribal warlords and the Taliban. It is clear that many of these have been randomly scattered in inhab-

See MINE, Page 2



Sgt. 1st Class Robert Navra, Mine Action Center liason, 307th Engr. Bn., and Sgt. 1st Class David Crews, Mine Action Center KAF, observe an RONCO mine worker at training course for contract dogs at KAF.

339th CSH gets new commander



Photo by Spc. LaTorry Sidney, 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
A Marine Harrier taxis down the flightline before an early morning take off Tuesday morning. The last of the Marine Attack Squadron, 513 arrived at Bagram Monday.

By Staff Sgt. Bobby Yettman
455th EOG Public Affairs Office

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The Marines have landed, literally.

The last group of Marine Harriers landed Monday and is now sharing ramp space with the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron A-10s.

The Marines, from

the Marine Attack Squadron, 513 out of Yuma, Ariz., are in theater to provide an added close air support capability, according to Lt. Col. Jim Dixon, the unit’s commanding officer.

“We do close air support like the A-10s but we also have a limited escort capability,” he said.

The Harriers’ intelli-

See MARINE, Page 2



Photo by Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler, Combined Joint Task Force - 180

Adopt-a-Village

Staff Sgt. Tyler Ekwel, 401st Civil Affairs Battalion, Webster, N.Y., distributes bags of beans to the villagers of Surat Khawl during the Adopt-A-Village program held Thursday. Read more about the program in Tuesday's *Freedom Watch*.

MARINE, from Page 1

gence and operations department works out of the air control tower while the remainder of their forces are on their own compound to the North of Air Force Village.

Ramadan

Fasting for Ramadan will be Wednesday to Dec. 6.



Please increase sensitivity to Muslims during this period.

MINE, from Page 1

ited areas precisely to cause civilian casualties and terrorize the population.

"Kandahar is one of the most mined cities in a country that has the most mines in the world. Most of the Russian areas are not marked. Mines were placed by artillery, aircraft and by hand. Numerous mines from numerous armies, everybody put something in a different place," explained Baker.

With millions of mines unaccounted for, no place is 100 percent safe. According to the MMAC, there are mines still inside the perimeter of the airfield. Clearance of mines is high priority, so the Army enlisted some help.

The Army contracted the RONCO Corporation and their mine-sniffing dogs to assist in clearing KAF, said Baker.

RONCO's involvement in humanitarian de-mining in post-conflict countries also evolves from 20 years experience with worldwide development and hu-

manitarian assistance programs.

"We have an experienced group here," said Tomislav Byncic, RONCO field supervisor. "The dog handlers are from Bosnia and Croatia, so they know about mines. Our dogs are some of the best trained in the world."

In September 1995, the U.S. military field tested of some 30 discrete de-mining technologies, at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia. There, the RONCO/Global dogs were described as: At the top of the list in terms of finding mines and trip wires. They detected every trip wire set and discovered more mines than any other system.

According to the Mine Action Center, there are significant mine belts around KAF and Bagram Air Base. There are mines and trip wires still in the perimeter and with that, soldier education becomes very important.

"The biggest safety issue is mine awareness. We find the big stuff, but soldiers find the scattered stuff. So if soldiers know what to do around it, we are okay," said Baker. "The main thing to remember is if you didn't

drop it, don't pick it up."

"Soldier safety is a precedence, that is why we have refresher training, extraction methods, vehicle extraction methods, post info at the dining facility and on the web. All this is done with the soldier in mind," replied Sgt. 1st Class David G. Crews, MMAC, C Co. 307th Engineer Bn.

Most victims are not soldiers, but women and children who happen to live in areas that were once war zones.

"Recently two children playing with a mine died. We are trying to convince parents and kids not to play with this stuff," explained Crews. "With so many mines in so many places, people become complacent and when complacency sets in, people get careless and people get hurt."

"Mine awareness is essential, whether it's on the radio, on a poster or word of mouth. It's important we get the word out and make the people aware not to touch," replied Baker.

To get the word out the Army also works closely with the United Nations.

"The U.S. is mainly responsible for inside the wire, but we assist the UN in anyway we can," stated Baker.

"We have a meeting every two weeks and share information back and forth. We don't know everything, but we are learning a lot more every day," explained Crews.

Clearing mines is a costly project, in terms of both money and most importantly human lives.

According to UNICEF, it would take \$33 billion and 11 centuries, at the current pace, to clear the active mines scattered in 64 countries around the world. A single land mine costs \$3 to \$30 to make. The cost of finding and clearing a single land mine ranges from \$300 to \$1,000.

RONCO has lost six workers in the last eight months, stated Byncic.

"It's an acceptable risk. You really don't think about it. With all the training over the years, you just learn to respect the danger and restraints," said Crews.

HIND SIGHT

1493

Christopher Columbus discovers Guadeloupe during his second expedition.

1798

Congress agrees to pay a yearly tribute to Tripoli, considering it the only way to protect U.S. shipping.

1854

Florence Nightingale and her nurses arrive in the Crimea.

1922

The U.S. Postmaster General orders all homes to get mailboxes or relinquish delivery of mail.

1922

The entrance to King Tut's tomb is discovered.

BRIEFS, from Page 1

Earthquakes rattle Alaska, central U.S.

FAIRBANKS, Alaska—A strong earthquake struck 75 miles south of Fairbanks Sunday, cracking roads and triggering mudslides, but there were no immediate reports of injuries, officials said. The U.S. Geological Survey estimated the quake's preliminary magnitude at 7.9. "We have heard of items being knocked off shelves," geophysicist Dale Grant said. The earthquake happened at 5:15 p.m. ET and was felt throughout the state, the Alaska Earthquake Information Center reported. It was centered 45 miles east-northeast of Cantwell in the interior of the state near Mount McKinley, North America's tallest peak.

Volcano coats Ecuador's capital in ash

QUITO, Ecuador—A volcano outside Ecuador's capital spewed a cloud of hot ash Sunday, forcing the closure of its airport and a nearby highway near, and showering Quito in white ash. No injuries were reported from the eruption of Reventador—an 11,775-foot volcano located 59 miles northeast of Quito on the eastern slope of the Andes. Alexandra Avarado of the Geophysical Institute said the volcano began erupting at 7:30 a.m. with a larger blast at 9:00 a.m. The latter blast sent clouds of burning ash that reached the Baeza-Lago Agrio highway.

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

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

Tomorrow's movie will be "Harlem Nights," showing at the same time.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 68F L: 39F	<i>Thunderstorms</i> H: 64F L: 39F
Kandahar:	<i>Haze</i> H: 82F L: 59F	<i>Haze</i> H: 81F L: 55F
Kabul:	<i>Rain</i> H: 66F L: 41F	<i>Thunderstorms</i> H: 61F L: 36F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 71F L: 45F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 74F L: 45F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180.

- ❖ CJTF - 180 Commanding General — Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill
- ❖ CJTF - 180 Command Sergeant Major — Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England
- ❖ Public Affairs Officer — Col. Roger King
- ❖ Public Affairs Sergeant Major — Sgt. Maj. C.J. Costello

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper publication, is produced by the 28th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

- ❖ Commander — Capt. Timothy Beninato
- ❖ NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson
- ❖ Editor — Sgt. Reeba Critser
- ❖ Sports Editor — Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
- ❖ Journalists — Sgt. Jason Allgood, Spc. Erica Leigh Foley, Pfc. Nathan Akridge and Pfc. Eleazar Craig.

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas. Contents of *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 28th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF - 180, Bagram Air Base.

Visit the CENTCOM Website to see the latest editions of *Freedom Watch* at www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm

To be added to the daily distribution list, e-mail reeba.critser@us.army.mil



COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Brady, Patriots look like contenders again

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Tom Brady exchanged cordial greetings with former teammate Drew Bledsoe before and after Sunday's game.

Brady saved his biggest statement for the game, sparking the New England Patriots to a 38-7 victory over the Buffalo Bills.

Completing 23 of 27 passes for 310 yards and four touchdowns, it was the most efficient performance of Brady's career. His 154.1 passing rating was 4.2 points short of perfection, and it came in his biggest test of the season.

Brady and the defending Super Bowl champions (4-4) snapped a four-game losing streak to climb back into the AFC East race. And it came against Bledsoe, the Patriots' former franchise player, who was facing New England for the first time since being traded to the Bills in April.

Jets make Chargers look nothing like they did

SAN DIEGO — At any rate, the reeling New York Jets got better in a hurry with a 44-13 rout Sunday of the AFC-leading San Diego Chargers, who came dressed in their powder-blue throwback jerseys and left looking like powderpuffs after getting worked over all afternoon.

The stunning victory came a week after the Jets (3-5) blew an 18-point lead in a 24-21 loss to Cleveland, prompting defensive end John Abraham to harshly criticize the conservative play-calling.

"Just getting a win was good for us, just to put a lot of negatives behind us," Abraham said. "We're trying to build a season now. A lot of people put us in the dirt right now. We know we're a better team than we've shown."

Niners' offense keeps Raiders off field

OAKLAND, Calif. — The short kick went wide left, and Jose Cortez knelt in agony as the Raider Nation joyously screamed for overtime.

But just when things were at their silver-and-blackest in the Battle of the Bay, Jeff Garcia smiled. Terrell Owens shouted encouragement to the crushed kicker, and with one more drive that recalled the best days of the storied franchise, the 49ers beat the Oakland Raiders 23-20 on Sunday.

Atoning for his 27-yard miss on the final play of regulation, Cortez made a 23-yard field goal 8:41 into overtime that capped more than 15 consecutive minutes of ball control by the 49ers.

"It was gritty, it was courageous, it was off the charts," San Francisco coach Steve Mariucci said. "This team was not intimidated by this crowd, nor by the distractions."

The 49ers (6-2) ran the game's final 30 plays — and that was after a 15-play, 88-yard drive that ate up almost nine minutes spanning the third and fourth quarters. San Francisco's dynamic duo largely was responsible, with Garcia passing and scrambling spectacularly and Owens carving up the Raiders' weary defense.

Garcia was 25-of-36 for 282 yards, completing 17 of his 19 passes after halftime and rushing for 46 yards to keep the 49ers moving downfield. Owens caught 12 passes for 191 yards in his best game of the season.

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

Buckeyes, 'Horns give poll new look

The first 10 in the *ESPN/USA Today* coaches' top 25 underwent a major renovation Sunday after four previously unbeaten teams were upset Saturday.

Ohio State (10-0) moved up one spot to No. 3 in the poll released Sunday, and Texas — despite losing to No. 2 Oklahoma several weeks ago — resurfaced at No. 4, a three-spot jump after beating Nebraska.

The rises of the Buckeyes and Longhorns, however, was due to four previously unbeaten teams taking their first lumps Saturday. No. 3 Virginia Tech, No. 5 Georgia, No. 6 Notre Dame and No. 8 North Carolina State were beaten, with the Hokies, Bulldogs and Fighting Irish likely playing themselves out of the Bowl Championship Series picture.

Only four teams remain unbeaten, among them No. 1 Miami and No. 2 Oklahoma.

Oklahoma doubled its number of first-place votes to 14 in the poll, released Sunday, after defeating No. 12 Colorado 27-11 on Saturday. Miami had the other 47 first-place votes after garnering 53 the previous week, the result of it struggling for three quarters before pulling away to beat Rutgers 42-17. Miami coach Larry Coker told reporters after the game that his Hurricanes are clearly the nation's best team. The media didn't agree. In The Associated Press writers' poll released Sunday, Oklahoma took over the top spot after receiving 42 first-place votes and 1,818 points to Miami's 32 and 1,804. Miami had a 59-14 edge in first-place votes and a 44-point lead in last week's poll.

'Horns beat Huskers again

LINCOLN, Neb.—No matter how poorly Nebraska has played on the road, it's nearly invincible at home. That is, until the Texas Longhorns come to town.

Chris Simms passed for a career-high 419 yards, and Nathan Vasher intercepted Jammal Lord's pass at the 1 yard-line in the closing seconds to give No. 7 Texas a 27-24 win over Nebraska on Saturday.

Roy Williams caught 13 of Simms' passes for 161 yards as the Longhorns (8-1, 4-1 Big 12) handed the Cornhuskers (6-4, 2-3) just their second home loss since Oct. 19, 1991.

The last loss was on Oct. 31, 1998, when the Longhorns came into Lincoln and won 20-16, snapping Nebraska's school-record streak of 47 consecutive victories at Memorial Stadium. Since that defeat, the 'Huskers had won their next 26 at home.

Until Saturday, Nebraska had won 74 of its previous 75 home games. Texas, led by coach Mack Brown, is the only team to win at Memorial in all that time.

Week 9 scoreboard

Atlanta 20, Baltimore 17
 N.England 38, Buffalo 7
 Philadelphia 19, Chicago 13
 Pittsburgh 23, Cleveland 20
 Detroit 9, Dallas 7
 Tennessee 23, Indianapolis 15
 Tampa Bay 38, Minnesota 24
 Cincinnati 38, Houston 3
 N.Y. Jets 44, San Diego 13
 Washington 14, Seattle 3
 St. Louis 27, Arizona 14
 San Francisco 23, Oakland 20
 N.Y. Giants 17, Jacksonville 0

Monday's game

Miami at Green Bay

2002 National Football League standings

American Football Conference

East

(2) Miami	5-2	.714
(6) Buffalo	5-4	.556
N.England	4-4	.500
N.Y. Jets	3-5	.375

North

(3) Pittsburgh	5-3	.625
Cleveland	4-5	.444
Baltimore	3-5	.375
Cincinnati	1-7	.125

South

(4) Indianapolis	4-4	.500
Tennessee	4-4	.500
Jacksonville	3-4	.429
Houston	2-6	.250

West

(1) San Diego	6-2	.750
(5) Denver	6-2	.750
Kansas City	4-4	.500
Oakland	4-4	.500

National Football Conference

East

(4) Philadelphia	6-2	.750
Washington	4-4	.500
N.Y. Giants	3-4	.429
Dallas	3-6	.333

North

(1) Green Bay	6-1	.857
Detroit	3-5	.375
Minnesota	2-6	.250
Chicago	2-6	.250

South

(2) Tampa Bay	7-2	.778
(5) N.Orleans	6-2	.750
(6) Atlanta	5-3	.625
Carolina	3-5	.375

West

(3) San Francisco	6-2	.750
Arizona	4-4	.500
St. Louis	3-5	.375
Seattle	2-6	.250



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support