

Freedom Watch

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Ready for anything...



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Jory C. Randall.

An infantryman searches for signs of enemy activity just outside Shkin firebase in southeast Afghanistan. The soldier is assigned to the 10th Mountain Division's Company A, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment.

Powell: Bin Laden tape 'encourages' coalition participation

By John D. Banusiewicz
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Despite their apparent goal of scaring the international community away from supporting the coalition in Iraq, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Oct. 19 that new tapes purportedly from Osama bin Laden will have the opposite effect.

The Arab network Al Jazeera aired two audio tapes Oct. 18. The speaker, believed to be the fugitive al Qaeda leader, vowed more attacks by his terror organization inside and outside the United States, and labeled any countries helping the American effort as targets.

In an interview with CNN's John King, Powell said the threat will lead more countries to begin or increase military or financial aid to the coalition in Iraq.

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130th MHD helps Bagram make history

Story by Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – There is an old adage that states those who don't understand history are bound to repeat it. For Army units in Bagram, a repeat performance of past Army calamities is unlikely because of the "understanding" of the 130th Military History Detachment.

The 130th, a three-man National Guard unit out of North Carolina, is the Army's conduit to understanding the welfare of soldiers in Afghanistan.

"Our mission is to collect historical

information and material on Army units," said Maj. Ronnie Baugh, commander of the 130th MHD. "We are responsible for recording the roles and missions of the units in Afghanistan for the Army to understand how it's using its resources and how those resources are performing."

The 130th is one of 26 active, reserve and national guard Army components that gather information about units to be used for historical purposes.

In performing its mission, the 130th collects artifacts, documents and interviews from soldiers to compile files on units that will ultimately finding it's way onto the pages of Army history.

"The information that we collect is given to the Center for Military History, the Center for Army Lessons Learned and Army museums. From [our information] they convert materials into historical items," said Baugh. "We collect American troops weapons, uniforms, equipment, maps, map overlays, fragmentary orders from operations, and anything else that tells the story of units' mission."

Baugh noted that his team helps units to increase their history at the local level by aiding them in keeping items they

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



11 people were killed in Monday's attacks.

Eleven dead in wave of Israeli airstrikes in Gaza

GAZA CITY — The U.S. State Department cautioned Israel to avoid civilian casualties and collateral damage after five Israeli airstrikes that killed 11 people Monday in Gaza.

About 130 people were wounded in the attacks Monday, a day after Palestinians fired rockets from northern Gaza into southern Israel and killed three Israeli troops in an ambush in the West Bank.

"We urge the government of Israel to take all appropriate cautions to prevent the death and injury of innocent civilians and damage to civilian and humanitarian infrastructure," deputy spokesman J. Adam Erel told CNN.

"We continue to make clear that while Israel has a right to defend itself, we remain concerned of the impact of its actions on innocent civilians, and we continue to reiterate that view."

Erel added that the Bush administration also "reminds the Palestinians of their commitments to crack down on terror." He said officials at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv were monitoring the situation.

Palestinian security sources said the fifth attack Monday was at the same location as the first strike of the day, which Israel described as a weapons factory belonging to the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

It was not immediately clear whether anyone was killed or injured in the fifth strike. Israeli military sources said the latest attack was an effort to make sure the Hamas facility was destroyed.



Muhammad addresses the jury during opening statements Monday.

Sniper suspects wins right to defend himself

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad won the right to defend himself Monday, then denied he had anything to do with last October's shooting spree that left 10 people dead in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

"I had nothing at all to do with the crimes. And they know this. And please pay attention. My life and my son's life is on the line," Muhammad told jurors after a lengthy discourse about the meaning of "truth" and "lies."

Muhammad, 42, frequently told people that his alleged co-conspirator, 18-year-old Lee Boyd Malvo, was his son, but prosecutors say they are not related.

He told jurors that apparent truths can be shown to be wrong, relating an incident in the Caribbean with his young daughter.

He said he caught his daughter apparently stealing chocolate cookies out of a jar and sent her to her room crying. He said his son later told him he had bought cookies for his sister and told her to put the remaining ones in the jar.

"I'm locked up, I'm denied my constitutional rights — based on a guess," Muhammad said. "A guess is not enough to take a human life."

Muhammad is charged with the murder of Dean Harold Meyers, 53, a Vietnam combat veteran and engineer gunned down October 9, 2002, as he refueled his black Mazda at a Sunoco gas station in Manassas, a Washington suburb in north-

ern Virginia.

Meyers was the seventh victim in the three-week shooting spree. Three other people survived gunshot wounds suffered during the spree.

Muhammad also is charged with terrorism, conspiracy and illegal use of a firearm. He faces a possible death sentence if convicted on the murder or terrorism counts.

Muhammad and Malvo — who faces a separate trial beginning next month — were arrested together October 24, 2002, sleeping in a car at a highway rest stop in Maryland.

Prosecutors have said the shootings were part of a plot to extort \$10 million from local and state governments.



Osama bin Laden

CIA: Latest bin Laden tape likely authentic

WASHINGTON — The latest audiotape purportedly from Osama bin Laden likely featured the voice of the al Qaeda leader, a CIA spokesman said Monday.

The spokesman said CIA officials believe the tape was recorded in the last six months, citing "specific references to recent events." Among those was the mention of former Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who resigned in September.

The tape aired Saturday on the Qatar-based, Arabic-language TV news channel Al-Jazeera. The recording threatened to launch suicide attacks against the United States and any countries that help it in Iraq.

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“I know that it now encourages them,” Powell said. “It might have scared them in the past, but everybody now knows you are not immune, you can’t hide from it, you can’t walk away. He is a threat to all of us.

“And when you see these kinds of tapes,” he continued, “it just reminds us that this kind of terrorist is still on the face of the earth, and we have to come together, and we have to do even more with the exchange of law enforcement information, intelligence information (and) the use of military forces. We all have to come together.”

Earlier, in an interview on “Fox News Sunday” with Tony Snow, Powell cited the passage Oct. 16 of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1511, which calls for international support for reconstruction and multinational participation in a stabilization force in Iraq.

“The real achievement of the resolution was to bring the power of the Security Council, and, in turn, the United Nations, behind the strategy that we are following,” Powell said. He described that strategy as creation of a multinational force and the transfer of sovereignty to Iraq in a measured way as Iraqi institutions become ready to accept authority. He added the strategy avoids arbitrary deadlines, such as, “In the first of January, we’re out of here, and you’ve got your country back, and we won’t have anything else to do with it.”

Powell praised the Security Council for passing the resolution unanimously.

“There were some nations who had some reservations about that resolution, but nevertheless voted for it,” Powell said. “And we now have the entire international community aligned

with our policy of gradually – but as fast as we can, nevertheless in a gradual way – restoring sovereignty to the people of Iraq and coming home as fast as we can.

“But we’re going to do it right,” he continued. “And when we have done it right, Iraq will be a better country, living in peace with its neighbors.”

A democratically elected government in Iraq, Powell said, would not threaten its neighbors, develop weapons of mass destruction, create mass graves, destabilize the region or provide weapons to terrorists.

Also on Oct. 19, Powell spoke with Bob Schieffer, host of the CBS program “Meet the Press.” In that interview, Powell said he can’t predict whether the current American casualty rate in Iraq will continue.

“I can’t look into the future,” he said. “What’s clear, though, is that we still have a dangerous environment in Iraq. There are still remnants of the old regime who do not want to see progress. But I am confident that our military leaders there and the wonderful young men and women who are serving their nation so proudly will ultimately get the security situation under control.”

The secretary added that over time, the new Iraqi police force and army increasingly will take on security responsibilities.

“It’s going to take us time, and we have to persevere, and there will be casualties — and we regret each and every one of them,” Powell said. “But not one of these casualties is a life lost in vain, or an injury sustained in vain. We are doing this for a better world, a better region, and I think history will be a good judge of ... not only our intentions, but our accomplishments.”

Powell spoke from Bangkok, Thailand, where he accompanied President Bush for an economic summit.

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gain on missions.

“For battalion level unit and higher, we help with the process of retaining one piece of artifact they seized from a mission for their own unit history.”

Along with collecting material used to “capture the moment” for the Army, material collected is also used to create and amend Army doctrine.

“Our mission is to create a database for the Army’s history, but the information units give us also helps the Army understand what is working and what is not working for the soldiers,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dwight Green, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 130th MHD.

Using laptop computers, digital cameras, voice recording equipment and transcription equipment, the 130th en-

gages unit to get a thorough understanding of what are the goals of the unit and what the unit has accomplished.

“We are focusing on the nation building stage of Afghanistan,” said Baugh. “We are recording information to tell the story of reconstruction period of Afghanistan. That’s our main concern.”

Along with the Army, the 130th interacts with the U.S. Air Force and Marines to gain information said Baugh, adding that because Bagram is a coalition base his unit plans on working with the coalition countries to increase their story on the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

The unit is scheduled to visit the Kabul Military Training Center and document the structure and training of the Afghan National Army.

“The history unit of the Army has been established since World War I, but

not until Desert Storm has there been a big push to capture the Army’s history and its story [from within the organization],” said Baugh. “Since that time [the Army] has been committed to capturing its history.”

Green noted that history detachments are currently serving in Iraq and Bosnia.

Eighteenth century French military officer, novelist and poet, Alfred de Vigny said,

“History is a novel for which the people is the author.” If his theory holds true, the 130th MHD is the journal in which soldiers in Afghanistan write their novel.

“Our information is tapped into the soldier,” said Green. “Their information is what creates doctrine, creates changes in the Army, but most importantly what creates the Army history.”

ANA National Army Volunteer Center opens in Kabul

The first National Army Volunteer Center (NAVC) in Kabul opened during a ceremony attended by several key leaders Oct. 3. The Afghan National Army (ANA) continues to grow as more and more NAVCs open around Afghanistan.

This center is the third NAVC to open, the first two were opened in Jalalabad and Gardez last month. Other NAVCs are scheduled to open in Bamian on Oct. 7 and Charikar before the end of the month.

On hand to witness the event in Kabul were the Mayor Anwar Jagdalik and his deputy as well as the chief of police, Lt. Gen. Baba Jan; Maj. Gen. Moeen, commander, ANA Central Corps; Maj. Gen. Karimi, operations chef, general staff; Brig. Gen. Ibrahim, Chief of Military Recruiting for Kabul; Lt. Gen. Gliemeroth, Commander, International Security Assistance Forces; and Brig. Gen. Prasek, chief of the Office of Military Coordination – Afghanistan.

Many other Afghan dignitaries attended the initial ceremony, conducted inside the Kabul Municipality building. Following several speeches, the group moved across the street to cut the ribbon at the Kabul NAVC. This high traffic area is expected to draw many potential volunteers for the ANA.

Even as the VIPs toured the NAVC several young men gathered around to ask questions about joining the ANA.

At the ribbon cutting, a sheep was sacrificed in honor of the event and many dignitaries had their pictures taken to record the historic moment.

The NAVC opening comes after several weeks of work during which the office was selected and completely renovated. The interior includes quality furnishings and presents a professional atmosphere appropriate for discussing the ANA with future soldiers desiring to join Afghanistan's National Army.

Following the graduation of the 11th Kandak last week, the ANA now has approximately 6,000 men under arms as it continues to build towards the end strength of 70,000 within the next few years.

(Information provided by CJTF 180 press release.)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

“Blood Work”

1530Z at the MWR building:

Still recovering from a heart transplant, a retired FBI profiler returns to service when his own blood analysis offers clues to the identity of a serial killer.

Tomorrow's movie: “Showtime”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 75F L: 43F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 75F L: 41F
Kandahar:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 81F L: 45F	<i>Mostly Cloudy</i> H: 81F L: 46F
Kabul:	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 75F L: 48F	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 77F L: 46F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Mostly Cloudy</i> H: 72F L: 36F	<i>Partly Cloudy</i> H: 74F L: 38F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *SI.com*)

Kobe Bryant must stand trial, judge rules



Bryant and attorney Pamela Mackey in court.

EAGLE, Colo. — NBA superstar Kobe Bryant must stand trial on a charge of felony sexual assault on 19-year-old woman, a Colorado judge announced Monday.

“The court finds that the evidence, taken in a light most favorable to the prosecution, is sufficient to ‘induce a

reasonable belief’ that defendant committed sexual assault as charged,” Eagle County Judge Frederick Gannett wrote in his nine-page ruling.

If convicted of one count of sexual assault, Bryant could face a maximum sentence of life in prison and a fine of up to \$750,000. Bryant denies the charge, saying it was consensual sex — not rape.

Gannett will next set a date for an arraignment, where the accused Los Angeles Laker guard must enter a plea, and then set a trial date. The case is not expected to go to trial until next spring.

Bryant, who practiced with the Los Angeles Lakers Monday, said shortly before the ruling: “I’ve pretty much done all I can here and, you know, God will carry me the rest of the way, so I’m pretty comfortable with that.”

Bryant, 25, is accused of sexually assaulting the woman on June 30. The alleged victim was a clerk at a mountain lodge in Edwards, west of the Vail ski resort, where Bryant was a guest.

Split at Yankee Stadium an appetizer for Games 3, 4, 5 at Pro Player

NEW YORK — So everybody goes south happy. The Florida Marlins skip home after almost literally stealing Game 1 of the World Series at Yankee Stadium on Saturday night. The New York Yankees follow, merrily, after getting back on track with a 6-1 win in Game 2 on Sunday.

And so, after two games in a frigid Yankee Stadium, it’s off to South Florida for Games 3, 4 and 5.

That’s where the real Series begins.

After two games, this World Series has a definite Sybil look to it. As bad as the Yankees looked Saturday, they looked equally good Sunday. As speedy and aggressive as the Marlins looked in Game 1, they looked equally lost and overmatched in Game 2.

Sure, you can chalk it up to pitching. Brad Penny was good for the Marlins in the opener, holding the Yanks to seven hits. Andy Pettitte was superb Sunday, scattering six hits and giving up only an unearned run in 8 2/3 innings. It was the third time in three postseason Game 2 starts this

year (the division series, American League Championship Series and now the World Series) that Pettitte has come in with his team facing an 0-2 hole and won.

This guy could stop a New York City cab during rush hour in the rain. On a dime.

“All it’s been doing this postseason is adding a little more gray hair to my head,” Pettitte said.”



Jason White and Oklahoma beat Missouri 34-13 on Saturday to improve to 7-0

Sooners lead first BCS standings; Northern Illinois comes in at No. 10

NEW YORK (AP) — Oklahoma is in a familiar place — first in the initial Bowl Championship Series standings. The Sooners’ task this year is to stay there.

Oklahoma was No. 1 in the first BCS standings for the third straight year, matching the spot it has held in the two major polls all season.

“It’s a positive indicator that we’ve played awfully well for seven games,” Sooners coach Bob Stoops said Monday. “We’ve earned that position and have played well through this part of the season. Now, it’s our job to continue it, finish it and keep it.”

Miami and Virginia Tech, the other two undefeated teams from major conferences, are second and third.

The BCS standings are used to determine which teams play in a national title game. The teams that finish 1-2 in the final BCS standings on Dec. 7 will play for the title at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans on Jan. 4.

The formula uses the *AP* media and coaches’ polls, seven computer rankings, strength of schedule, losses and a bonus-point system for quality wins.

The Sooners (7-0) have a 1.0 for poll average, 1.33 for computer-rank average, 0.44 for strength of schedule and zero for losses for a 2.77 total. Oklahoma is ranked first in four of computers with Miami the top team in the other three.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Taliban Leader blamed for rocket attacks caught

KABUL (*Reuters*) – U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan said Monday they had captured a Taliban commander thought responsible for rocket attacks on a base in southern Afghanistan.

A statement from the U.S. military said Mullah Janan was captured by Special Forces soldiers in an operation with Afghan Militia Forces (AMF) near the U.S. base at Deh Rawud in Uruzgan province Sunday night.

“Janan was observed leaving the area by coalition special operations forces,” it said. “He was brought under control at an AMF checkpoint as he attempted to flee the area.”

The statement gave no further details.

Earlier this month an Afghan official said a close aide to supreme Taliban leader Mullah Omar was been killed in a clash in the south of the country in what was the second major blow to the hard-line Islamic movement in under a month.

News of the death of Mullah Abdul Razzaq Nafees — a member of the 10-strong Taliban shura (council) formed in June — came just days after the Taliban confirmed that Mullah Abdul Rahim, its top military commander in southern Afghanistan, had been killed.

The latest report comes after a period of stepped up Taliban activity that has seen the deaths of more than 300 people, including many guerrillas, since the start of August.

Deh Rawud is one of several U.S. bases in Afghanistan that has come under persistent rocket attack since the overthrow of the Taliban in late 2001. However, such attacks, while a nuisance, have rarely caused damage or casualties.

Earlier this month, Uruzgan was the scene of intense fighting between U.S.-led forces and Taliban guerrillas in which government officials said at least 10 guerrillas were killed in attacks led by U.S. helicopter gunships.

Afghan police force maintains security in North

(*Bloomberg*) – Areas of northern Afghanistan are now stable as a result of the deployment of a police force in the region, said Manoel de Almeida e Silva, the United Nations envoy in the country.

Security in the region has improved since the police unit sent from the capital, Kabul, began deploying in recent weeks, the UN cited de Almeida e Silva as saying on its Web site. Police officers are deployed at checkpoints in Mazar-e-Sharif, the main city in the region, he said.

Ethnic Tajik and Uzbek militias signed a peace agreement in August in Balkh province where a “nascent police force” is now operating, the envoy said. Outbreaks of fighting have occurred in the region with more than 70 people killed earlier this month in two days of violence between militias, *Agence France-Presse* reported at the time.

The government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai has been unable to assert its authority outside Kabul since it replaced the Taliban regime in December 2001. The UN Security Council last week voted to expand the 5,300-strong international peacekeeping force beyond the

city. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization took control of the force in August.

The police contingent in the northern region is equipped with vehicles, radios and uniforms as a result of international donations, de Almeida e Silva said.

“The result is the emergence of a force that is representative of the population they serve and inclusive of the factions in this area,” he said.

Reconstruction Threatened

Afghanistan’s reconstruction is being threatened by armed gangs, drug militias and terrorists from neighboring countries, Karzai said last month. Karzai wants to create a 70,000-member national army and end the power of warlords in the country.

Many Taliban fighters and supporters of the al Qaeda terrorist network fled into neighboring Pakistan to escape the U.S.-led war against terrorism that began after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington.

The U.S. State Department said last week security has deteriorated in eastern Afghanistan along the border with Pakistan where Taliban and al-Qaeda remnants are fighting U.S. soldiers, international aid workers and Afghans.

“Sir, my drill instructor sent me to pick up my idiot pills.”



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support