



FREEDOM WATCH



October 29, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Four dead at Arizona nursing college

TUCSON, Ariz. — A student flunking out of the University of Arizona nursing school shot three of his professors to death Monday, then killed himself as dozens of terrified students rushed to get away. Police said Robert Flores Jr., 41, specifically targeted the instructors, killing one in her office on the second floor and shooting the others in a fourth-floor classroom as students dove for cover. He was later found dead by officers searching the school. The victims — Robin Rogers, 50, Barbara Monroe, 45, and Cheryl McGaffic, 44 — all were Flores' instructors. Flores had failed a pediatric nursing class and was struggling in a critical care class. He was also a Gulf War veteran, who worked until September at the Southern Arizona Veterans Administration Health Care System as a licensed practical nurse, and was studying to become a registered nurse.

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AF team predicts weather in theatre



Photo by Spc. Erica Leigh Foley
Staff Sgt. Paul Walker, an Air Force forecaster, transmits a weather observation from the functional weather station in the air control tower.

By Staff Sgt. Bobby Yettman
455th EOG Public Affairs

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — There will be rain today and heat tomorrow. No, there will be snow today and dusty winds tomorrow. Or maybe that's just everyday with snow lurking just around the corner. These are some of the things the nine-member Air Force Weather Flight must contend with here at Bagram Air Base.

Everyone wants or needs to know what the weather is — from the A-10s pilots wondering if they'll have

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Chaplain team ministers on the battlefield

Story & photo by
Sgt. Reeba Critser
28th Public Affairs
Detachment

KHOWST, Afghanistan — For Capt. Thomas Helms and Spc. Adam Burgess, there is no such thing as an average day in South-eastern Afghanistan.

“Combat operations revolves around their (the soldiers’) schedules,” said Helms, chaplain, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C. “And because there’s combat operations on Sunday, there’s no set Sunday service.”

Helms, from Brevard, N.C., said he often performs ministry on the battlefield.

“It’s like a doctor going out on a mission,” he said. “They’re hoping not to use them, but they’re there just in case.”

Helms’ top priority, he said, is to administer to the wounded.

“Luckily that hasn’t happened yet,” he added.

He also gives them the opportunity to worship too.

“Sometimes we have worship services in the fighting positions,” Helms said. “There’s usually two to three people in the position, we share scripture, prayer, short messages and just talk.”

But Helms never travels alone.

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Capt. Thomas Helms (right) and Spc. Adam Burgess, Chaplain's Office, 3rd Bn., 505th PIR, get to know a soldier.

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"I'm his body guard," said Burgess, chaplain's assistant, from Belton, S.C. "The chaplain can't carry a weapon, so I'm trained to assist and protect him."

"I'm not allowed to move on the battlefield without him," Helms said. "He's an expert (qualification). But I'm not worried about my safety. I'm surrounded by excellent troops."

Burgess also keeps Helms' schedule open and available for soldiers.

"I try to free him up so he can be available for the

troops and talk to them," Burgess said.

Helms said that although he is primarily a protestant minister, ministers to all religions including Islam.

"Our Muslims are very patriotic," he said. "In Kandahar, Muslims attended their service at the Jordanian compound. Here they pray five times a day and fast when they can."

Even the Jews are able to perform their religious activities.

"One of the leaders in the battalion led Yom Kippur, even though he was not ordained," Burgess said.

The two-man team conducts bible study that's schedule twice a day. Worship is never on Sundays but on other days of the week.

Some other projects the team has taken on are to make video messages and put it on a CD to be sent to the soldiers' loved ones. In addition, Helms provides counseling.

"It's tough on soldiers because they're not home," he said. "Here, you have the same problems as at home, only they're multiplied because the soldier is not there."

Burgess starts off by screening the soldier and setting an appointment. He also conducts some informal counseling.

"Some soldiers would rather talk to enlisted than officer," he said. "I get a feel for how morale is and keep the chaplain informed."

Helms said that he does a fairly low amount of counseling.

"Many platoon sergeants and NCO leaders do a good job of talking to soldiers with problems and it's easy for them," he said. "If it wasn't for the

incredible leaders, our counseling would be higher.

Before patrolling in Southeastern Afghanistan, the duo built the Power Ministry building in Kandahar Air Field because there was no place for worship. "It's the only solid structure in KAF for ministry," Helms said.

He said that in KAF, stable ministry was conducted, but in the middle of combat operations, "it's hard to find places to sleep, let alone chapel space. So what we do is really on-the-fly ministry."

Mine Field Marathon

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

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enough visibility to see their target to the explosive ordnance disposal teams wondering when the season's first freeze will be.

"Our mission is to provide weather information to all of Bagram," said Master Sgt. Mark Adams, weather flight chief. "We tell the people here what they can expect from the weather before it gets here."

Any aircraft coming to, going from or flying near Bagram Air Base has communication with the weather flight team for constant updates on the weather. The weather flight on Air Force village monitors and briefs weather information for 11 different locations in this theater.

Monitoring such varying locations is not an easy task, said Adams.

"The biggest challenge we face out here is probably the lack of records," he said. "For the last 30 plus years the Afghan people have been dealing with more important

issues like fighting wars than the weather. That means we don't have the type of database we usually have to help us predict what the weather is going to do."

For weather forecasters, the length of time spent in one location can begin to help predict the weather of that area, Adams said. With the nature of deployments, weather forecasters coming to this region don't have that type of first-hand knowledge available to them.

"About a month before I came here, I spent a lot of time preparing for this region, looking at the various weather patterns and such to give me a head start when I arrived," Adams said.

Once on station the new forecasters "soak up" as much information from their predecessors as possible about a very challenging weather region.

"We're virtually in a bowl," Adams said. "We have mountains all around us and we're sitting at the mouth of a valley. That combined with our high elevation can make

predicting the weather very difficult."

The members of the Air Force weather flight operate in the functional weather station inside the air control tower and in two operations centers on the Army's compound. They also have regular communications with other weather forecasters in the Central Air Forces 28th Operational Weather Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., and the Navy Meteorological Operation Center in Bahrain.

The forecasters, like Staff Sgt. Paul Walker, work an average of 13 hours per day briefing pilots, taking weather observations and issuing warnings and advisories for different weather conditions.

"I spend about the first two hours after shift change going over what already happened the night before," Walker said. "After that it's a constant onslaught of tasks for the rest of the day."

For Walker, making forecasts that directly affect Operation Enduring Freedom missions helps him feel like he's somehow making more of a

difference than usual.

"When all of this began, I told them if something comes up, just tell me when and where and I'll go," he said. "I feel more useful deployed than at a home station. Being able to tell the pilots that they will be able to see to put their bombs on target is all I need to know."

Besides forecasting the weather, the members of the weather flight also operate a flag-flying program similar to the one done by the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. They have a flagpole outside their office in the air control tower on which people can fly a flag and take it back with them as a souvenir.

"Anyone can take pictures of the base," Adams said. "But to have their own flag that has flown over Afghanistan is something they can take back with them, fly at their own house and be proud of."

Between flying flags and eyeing the weather, the members of the Air Force weather flight know they're in the fight and part of the team.

HIND SIGHT

1927

Russian archaeologist Peter Kozloff apparently uncovers the tomb of Genghis Khan in the Gobi Desert, a claim still in dispute.

1929

Black Tuesday—the most catastrophic day in stock market history, the herald of the Great Depression. 16 million shares were sold at declining prices. By mid-November \$30 billion of the \$80 billion worth of stocks listed in September will have been wiped out.

1945

The first ballpoint pen goes is sold by Gimbell's department store in New York for a price of \$12.

1952

French forces launch Operation Lorraine against Viet Minh supply bases in Indochina.

BRIEFS, from Page 1

U.S. diplomat killed in Jordan

AMMAN, Jordan — A U.S. diplomat was shot dead Monday by an unknown assailant near his home in Amman. The masked gunman opened fire as Laurence Foley, an official with the U.S. Agency for International Development, was leaving for the U.S. Embassy, striking him with six bullets as he was getting into his car. Later, police officials said that seven or eight bullets had been fired from a single weapon. The slaying occurred about 12:20 a.m. EST. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, and U.S. officials said they did not know whether terrorism was involved.

Key clues lost in Wellstone crash

EVELETH, Minn. — The mangled remains of the plane in which Sen. Paul Wellstone died were so badly damaged by the impact and subsequent fire that some key clues to help investigators understand the cause of the crash appear to have been lost. On Friday, the plane was two miles away from the Eveleth-Virginia Municipal Airport, headed away from the runway, when it crashed in a heavily wooded area. Damage to nearby trees indicated that the plane descended at 25 degrees, much steeper than usual. The plane carried Wellstone, his wife and daughter, three campaign aides and two pilots — all of whom died in the crash.

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff present "Life Or Something Like It" tonight at 1530Z at the MWR building.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Rat Race," showing at the same time.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	Today	Wednesday
Bagram:	Partly cloudy H: 75F L: 41F	Partly cloudy H: 75F L: 43F
Kandahar:	Haze H: 84F L: 55F	Haze H: 86F L: 54F
Kabul:	Partly cloudy H: 70F L: 39F	Partly cloudy H: 72F L: 41F
Uzbekistan:	Partly cloudy H: 72F L: 43F	Partly cloudy H: 75F L: 46F

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
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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

Irish closes in on Hurricanes, Sooners remain on top

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Notre Dame moved a lot closer to national title territory.

The Fighting Irish narrowed the gap behind second-place Miami in the Bowl Championship Series standings released Monday, with Oklahoma holding on to the top spot.

The difference between second and third is so tiny that if Notre Dame beats Boston College next weekend, it might be enough to move the Fighting Irish ahead of Miami. The Hurricanes, No. 1 in both the *AP* media and the coaches' polls, visit weakling Rutgers.

But it's the final BCS standings Dec. 8 that will determine which teams play in the national title game at the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., on Jan. 3.

For now, though, the possibilities are intriguing — the top six teams in the BCS standings are unbeaten, and five can finish the season with perfect records.

"If five teams finish undefeated, the BCS poll still determines who plays in the national championship game," BCS coordinator Michael Trughese said. "And, yes, there will be controversy. But this is the system."

The BCS formula uses the *AP* media and coaches' polls, computer polls, strength of schedule, won-loss record and a bonus-point system.

Notre Dame, 8-0 after a 34-24 win over Florida State, moved up thanks largely to its rise from No. 6 to No. 4 in the media poll.

Oklahoma (7-0) had 3.33 points — 2 for poll average, 1.17 for computer-rank average, 0.56 for strength-of-schedule, zero for losses and a 0.4 deduction for a victory over Texas.

Miami (7-0) had 6.69 points — 1 for poll average, 4.33 for computer average, 1.36 for strength of schedule, zero for losses and no bonus-point deduction.

Notre Dame had 6.99 points — 5 for poll average, 1.83 for computer average, 0.16 for strength of schedule and no bonus-point deduction. Georgia was fourth at 8.24, followed by Ohio State (9.49) and Virginia Tech (10.88).

Oklahoma, No. 2 in the *AP* media and the *ESPN/USA Today* poll, probably will reach the title game if they stay unbeaten. The remaining games for Miami and Notre Dame appear to give the Hurricanes an edge in strength of schedule. After this week, Notre Dame plays weak teams Navy (1-7) and Rutgers (1-7) before its finale against USC (6-2). Miami plays Tennessee (4-3), Pittsburgh (6-2), Syracuse (2-6) and Virginia Tech (8-0).

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



Hawkeyes stun Wolverines

Brad Banks threw three touchdown passes as the 13th-ranked Hawkeyes handed the eighth-ranked Wolverines their worst home loss since 1967.

"Wow, that's a long time," Banks said when told of the fact. "It was real fun being in the Big House and doing some big things."

The Hawkeyes (8-1, 5-0 Big Ten) won their sixth straight game and beat Michigan for the first time since 1990, the last time Iowa won a Big Ten title.

Michigan (6-2, 3-1) had won four straight. The last time the Wolverines lost this badly at home was a 34-0 defeat to Michigan State on Oct. 14, 1967, two years before Bo Schembechler became head coach.

"It was embarrassing," said running back Chris Perry, who was held to 14 yards on nine carries.

Iowa scored 21 straight points after Markus Curry fumbled a punt return in the third quarter, just after the Wolverines had cut the deficit to 10-9.

Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said the play was the game's turning point.

Refs are blowing calls

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

It keeps happening.

From a non-call Saturday that cost Penn State a potential game-winning drive at Ohio State, to the wrong call two weeks ago that gave USC a touchdown it didn't deserve, college football officiating blunders keep piling up in the games that matter most.

As the season rolls on and the stakes grow higher, every crucial flag dropped or whistle not blown could mean \$13 million in somebody else's pocket. Just look at the Trojans, who were the beneficiaries of a gift touchdown that beat California two weeks ago, keeping alive their BCS hopes and the big-money payout that comes with it.

That score could trigger a domino effect to the national championship game. Notre Dame, which plays USC in its regular-season finale, could get a bigger boost from a late-season victory over USC. Thanks to that controversial score and victory against Cal, USC has just two losses and is 11th in the BCS standings.

It was one call. One mistake. Perhaps worth \$13 million. Or even more.

It's happening frequently enough that several head coaches are lobbying to bring instant replay to the college game. With so much on the line — from job security to bonuses to the pressure of funding the athletic department budget — most coaches are at least curious to see what effect advanced technology could have. And the sooner, the better.

Auburn upsets SEC champion

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Ronnie Brown ran for 95 yards and two touchdowns in place of injured tailback Carnell Williams as Auburn defeated No. 10 LSU 31-7 Saturday.

Auburn's performance featured everything the Tigers (5-3, 3-2 SEC) had failed to do in their previous two games, when they gave up 68 combined points in losses to Arkansas and Florida.

"Today was just a tremendous effort by the whole team," coach Tommy Tuberville said. "We played great all four quarters, made the big plays and got some key turnovers. It was the best effort since I've been here, on both sides of the ball."

LSU's Tigers (6-2, 3-1) managed just 242 total yards. Quarterback Marcus Randall threw four interceptions — including three in his first five passes — and completed just 9 of 20 for 79 yards.

"We turned the ball over too many times to be successful," LSU coach Nick Saban said. "We never had good field position, and that really hurt us. "When you give that many points away and that much field position, it makes it difficult to win ballgames. There is no excuse."

Jason Campbell, making his first start of the season for Auburn since he took over for a struggling Daniel Cobb, completed 7 of 11 passes for 105 yards and a touchdown. He ran for 37 more against the nation's top-ranked defense.

LSU, which had won six straight and won its first three SEC games by an average of 24 points, didn't score until midway through the fourth quarter.

Randall, making his second start for the injured Matt Mauck, was constantly forced into making mistakes.

Travaris Robinson set up Auburn's first touchdown with a 64-yard interception return, and Karlos Dansby set up the Tigers' last score with a 60-yard return.

2002 Heisman Trophy candidates

Byron Leftwich, QB, Marshall

Season stats: 165-for-251 for 2,688 yards, 19 TDs, 6 INTs

Ken Dorsey, QB, Miami

Season stats: 118-for-213 for 1,827 yards, 18 TDs, 7 INTs

Charles Rogers, WR, Michigan State

Season stats: 22 catches for 459 yards, 4 TDs

Philip Rivers, QB, N.C. State

Season stats: 148-of-226 for 2,144 yards, 16 TDs, 6 INTs

Willis McGahee, RB, Miami

Season stats: 137 carries for 847 yards, 14 TDs

Onterio Smith, RB, Oregon

Season stats: 201 carries for 1,015 yards, 12 TDs

