



FREEDOM WATCH



November 18, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Rumsfeld warns Iraq

SANTIAGO, Chile — Complaining about Iraq firing once again at U.S. and British planes patrolling the “no-fly” zones, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld Sunday warned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that he must help U.N. weapons inspectors if he expects to avoid war. Firing at Coalition aircraft defies the United Nations even before the inspectors have even arrived, said Rumsfeld, who arrived in Chile Sunday for talks with the country’s president and other South American officials. “The resolution addresses the subject, and it’s up to the Security Council to make conclusions about whether it is or is not a material breach,” Rumsfeld said.

Skepticism over N. Korea nuclear claims

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Reports from North Korea that the reclusive nation has developed nuclear weapons are

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Photo by Pfc. Matthew Acosta, 49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne)

The search continues

Army soldiers from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg N.C., arrive at a suspected enemy compound after marching an estimated five kilometers along a riverbed as part of an assault during Operation Alamo Sweep in South-eastern Afghanistan.

SF find, remove threats in theatre

By Sgt. Don Dees
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. soldiers stationed at the Kabul Military Training Center recovered a British-made anti-aircraft missile near Bagram Air Base recently, making air travel in the area a little safer.

A team from the 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, mobilized from Fort Carson, Colo., learned of the surface-to-air missile,

commonly called a “blowpipe,” when a local Afghan civilian approached them at the training center, said Staff Sgt. Jason, who helped recover the weapon.

Soldiers from the battalion are identified only by rank and first name for security reasons.

The Afghan man came to the front gate and indicated he had information about the weapon and would like

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CA continues to extend helping hand

Story & photo by Spc.
Erica Leigh Foley
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Education in Afghanistan has been getting better the past year thanks to the help from foreigners.

The United States has provided \$588 million for humanitarian assistance since October 2001, and \$1.45 billion has been authorized to continue the help over the next four years.

More than 61 schools have already been built or renovated. One such remodeled school is the Jabel



Boys line up outside their new school in Jabal Ussarj waiting for class to begin. The school reopened with help from Army Civil Affairs.

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to turn it over to U.S. forces.

“He wanted to do it so it wouldn’t fall into the hands of organizations trying to cause chaos in Afghanistan,” said Jason.

The man received a reward for his patriotic and compassionate act.

Battalion staff members turned the information over to other organizations

and through a relationship with the International Security Assistance Force, British explosive ordnance disposal soldiers began working with the 5th Battalion to recover the weapon.

“Their background is EOD, but they are also working on weapons recovery operations,” said Jason.

Jason and his team verified that the information the Afghan provided was accu-

rate, he said. Once the location and condition of the blowpipe was confirmed, British and U.S. forces worked to retrieve it. The British soldiers were on hand to verify the weapon’s authenticity and to ensure it was safe to handle.

The mission was a success in that no one was hurt and the threat to Coalition forces is reduced by having one less missile that could take down

an aircraft, said Jason.

Afghans provide information to U.S. forces frequently, but it does not always result in recovered weapons, said Jason. Sometimes the claims are bogus.

“A lot of man-hours go into verifying something like this,” said Jason.

He said the concepts at work in Afghanistan are very different than the formal training and exercises

they have participated in before, he said. He and his fellow soldiers are re-writing the book.

“I think we are laying the groundwork for future operations everywhere,” said Jason.

Jason is satisfied with the results of the mission and with his work in Afghanistan.

“This is the best group of guys I’ve ever worked with,” he said.

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Sabaj Boys School in Jabal Ussarj. The 450th Civil Affairs Detachment out of Riverdale, Md., helped reopen its doors this month to the school that teaches grades one to nine.

“The school was destroyed by civil fighting during the time of the Taliban,” said Mativllh, one of the 27 teachers at this school. “I used to teach here about six years ago when it was still up and running. It’s nice to be back teaching in a place I know.”

“Civil Affairs coordinated the event between the governor, minister of Education and school officials,” said Maj. Mark Ciepel.

Workers for the project were taken from the local community and all of the materials were purchased locally as well.

“It is a great feeling initially to see the short term results of the rebuilding of the school and the opening,” said Ciepel.

The school holds about 700 students. Classes taught include math, chemistry, physics, geography, world history, English, Dari and Pashtu.

Although the school is fully functional, Civil Affairs continues to help.

“CA will occasionally visit to listen to any new concerns and deter-

mine any future needs,” Ciepel said.

In addition to the 10 boxes of supplies given to the school at its opening, Ciepel said that more supplies will be given to the school.

To date, the U.S. has provided schools in Afghanistan 10 million textbooks and 4,000 teacher-training kits.

Egypt also donated 60 metric tons of educational items.

“As we visit from time to time, we can see the long-term difference made in the children’s faces,” Ciepel said. “They love to demonstrate to you what they have learned.”

“We are very happy and thankful that our education will improve and that Civil Affairs is helping us,” said Mativllh.

Education is the key to the future of Afghanistan, he said.

Since the children are also its future, Ciepel said it makes sense to rebuild the schools for the children’s education.

“Knowing that you are making long term differences in their lives for them to help themselves is very rewarding,” said Ciepel.

Civil Affairs has plans to help repair 44 more schools to support more than 70,000 more school children across Afghanistan.

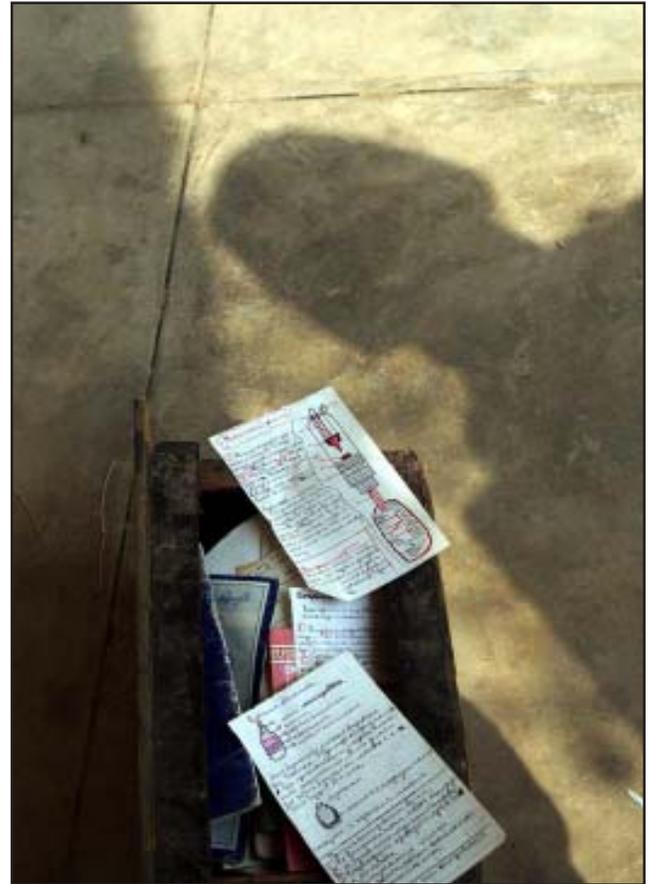


Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser

Along came a soldier

A U.S. Army soldier stands watch by a box containing possible Taliban or al Qaeda instructions on how to make explosive devices. The items were found during a search conducted during Operation Alamo Sweep in Southeastern Afghanistan.

HIND SIGHT

1626

St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome was officially dedicated.

1905

The Norwegian Parliament elected Prince Charles of Denmark to be the next King of Norway. Prince Charles takes the name Haakon VII.

1928

Mickey Mouse makes his film debut in *Steamboat Willie*, the first animated talking picture.

1949

The U.S. Air Force grounds B-29s after two crashes and 23 deaths in three days.

1983

Argentina announces its ability to produce enriched uranium for nuclear weapons.

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being met with confusion and skepticism. North Korea's *Pyongyang Radio* said Sunday the country "has come to have nuclear and other strong military weapons to deal with increased nuclear threats by the U.S. imperialists." It was unclear, however, whether the report referred to a plutonium- or uranium-based weapon.

Poll: Most say Gore will be on 2004 ballot

WASHINGTON — With the next presidential election two years away, undeclared candidate Al Gore is trailing in a new poll. A *CNN/Time* poll conducted Nov. 13-14 shows two-thirds of the public thinks Gore will be the likely Democratic nominee in 2004, but half surveyed said the former vice president won't win the White House. Only 41 percent said they would vote for him if the election were held today. The poll was conducted by interviewing 1,006 people, including 454 Democrats. It had a maximum error margin of plus or minus 6 percentage points. Gore won the popular vote in 2000 but lost to George W. Bush when the Republican challenger earned 537 more votes in Florida to tip the Electoral College in his favor. Gore has said he will make a decision this year whether to seek a rematch.

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

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

Tomorrow's movie will be "Scooby Doo," showing at the same time.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 57F L: 33F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 57F L: 30F
Kandahar:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 64F L: 38F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 55F L: 34F
Kabul:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 64F L: 38F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 55F L: 34F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 55F L: 32F	<i>Sunny</i> H: 59F L: 32F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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COALITION SPORTSZONE



Photo by Capt. Jan Cabovsky, Slovakia Air Force

Volleyball fun

The Slovakian engineers (civilian clothes) and the U.S. Marine Corps recently held a volleyball game. The score was not reported because the outcome of the game was positive — friendship.

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Sonics continue to impress

LOS ANGELES — Gary Payton is keeping Seattle's solid start in perspective.

Payton had 22 points and 10 assists and the Pacific Division-leading SuperSonics rallied in the fourth quarter to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 84-78 Sunday for their fourth consecutive victory.

The Sonics are off to their best start since 1999-00 when they opened 9-2. Three of their wins came against such struggling teams as Golden State, Utah and Miami.

"It's still early. We haven't played a lot of good teams, but we're starting off good," Payton said. "This is the most together team we've had here, where everybody isn't worried about who's getting the shot. We've got confidence that everybody's going to make the shot."

The Sonics certainly did in the fourth quarter, going 10-of-17 from the floor. The Clippers were a woeful 4-of-24.

"When the shots were supposed to count, we made them count. That's why we kept taking the shots, because we knew something was going to go down pretty soon," Payton said. "Nobody got down on each other. We just kept playing hard, picked up the defense, grabbed the rebounds, and then things started to fall our way."

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



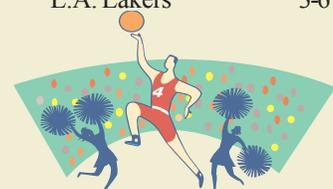
2002 NBA standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic	
New Jersey	7-3
Philadelphia	7-3
Boston	6-4
Orlando	6-4
Washington	6-5
Central	
Indiana	8-1
Detroit	8-2
New Orleans	7-3
Milwaukee	5-4
Atlanta	5-4

Western Conference

Midwest	
Dallas	10-0
San Antonio	6-4
Houston	4-3
Minnesota	5-6
Utah	4-7
Pacific	
Seattle	8-2
Phoenix	5-3
Sacramento	6-4
Portland	4-6
L.A. Lakers	3-6



Hurricanes still on top

Miami was the unanimous choice at No. 1 in both college football polls released Sunday, while Ohio State remained second despite a shaky win and Texas tumbled out of the top 10.

Miami (9-0) was idle Saturday but retained all 61 first-place votes and a total of 1,525 points in the *ESPN/USA Today* coaches' poll, and all 74 first-place votes and 1,850 points in *The Associated Press* media poll.

The Hurricanes have won a school-record 31 games and host Pittsburgh (No. 19 *ESPN/USA Today*, No. 17 *AP*) on Thursday, then finish the regular season Dec. 7 against Virginia Tech (No. 12, No. 13).

Texas (9-2) plunged eight spots to No. 11 in both polls after its national title hopes evaporated with a 42-38 upset loss at Texas Tech.

Ohio State (12-0) struggled to a 23-16 overtime win at Illinois, but the Buckeyes can't do so this coming Saturday. They play host to Michigan (No. 9 *ESPN/USA Today*, No. 12 *AP*) needing a victory to clinch a spot in the BCS national title game in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 3.

Washington State (9-2) did not play on Saturday, but moved up to No. 3 in the coaches' poll. The Cougars were followed by Iowa, Oklahoma, Georgia, Southern California, Notre Dame, Michigan and Kansas State.

Virginia Tech (8-2), is No. 12, followed by Florida (8-3), Florida State (8-3) and Colorado State (9-2).

Penn State (8-3) routed Indiana but remained 16th. Colorado (8-3), Maryland (9-2), Pittsburgh (8-2) and Louisiana State — which was hammered 31-0 by Alabama — round out the top 10. LSU (7-3) was 12th last week.

Boise State (10-1) climbed two spots to No. 21, followed by Texas Christian (8-1). Following their big victory, Texas Tech (8-4) moved into the poll at No. 23 with UCLA (7-3) and Hawaii (8-2) completing the top 25.

North Carolina State (9-3), Oregon (7-4) and Bowling Green (8-2) dropped out of the poll.

Johnson rushing toward 2,000 yard club

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Larry Johnson's opponents are little more than a speed bump.

The Penn State running back keeps right on going, and is trying to become the ninth player in Division I-A to gain 2,000 yards in a season.

Johnson has been virtually untouchable the last five weeks. On Saturday, he carried 28 times for a school-record 327 yards and had a career-high four touchdowns in a 58-25 victory at Indiana.

"A lot of backs seem to get tired or something as the game goes on," Penn State quarterback Zack Mills said. "Larry seems to get out of tackles and breaks more tackles as the game goes on."

Johnson set Penn State's single-game rushing record with 257 yards against Northwestern on Oct. 19. That mark lasted two weeks — until Johnson piled up 279 yards against Illinois on Nov. 2.

On Saturday, Johnson broke his own record again while averaging 11.7 yards. He moved past the likes of Ki-Jana Carter, former Heisman Trophy winner John Cappelletti and Lydell Mitchell to break the Nittany Lions' single-season rushing record.

The Legacy Project:

The Legacy Project is looking for e-mails written by military personnel in Afghanistan and sent to their loved ones back in the States.

The e-mails can be from any member of the U.S. armed forces who is serving or has served in Afghanistan. The e-mails can be on any subject, including expressions of love, patriotism, homesickness, determination and encouragement. In short, any e-mail that will help people on the homefront better understand the thoughts and experiences of those serving in and around Afghanistan.

Include contact information with the e-mail for the project coordinator. The Legacy Project will not use anything without permission from the person who wrote the e-mail and will, if the sender so requests, edit out any comments or information (including the servicemember's name) in the e-mails that the servicemember does not want shared.

All suggestions, questions and e-mails can be forwarded to warletterproject@aol.com.

"Signal over there, and ask them if we can get a jump start."



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support