



FREEDOM WATCH



December 17, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Powell: Iraq declaration has 'problems'

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell has become the first senior Bush administration official to say publicly that "there are problems" with Iraq's declaration to the United Nations about its weapons programs. Powell said Monday a final U.S. analysis of the document should be completed by the end of this week. White House officials said the administration is preparing an assessment for the U.N. Security Council but said they were aware of no plans to release a public analysis. At a news conference in Washington, Powell said: "We said at the very beginning that we approached it with skepticism, and the information I have received so far is that skepticism is well-founded. There are problems with the declaration. We will withhold making a final judgment statement until we have completed our analysis." Powell said

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Army family supports careers

By Sgt. Reeba Critser
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The Porters' spent four days together before 1st Lt. Donald Porter, platoon leader, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. His wife, Capt. Liza Porter, had just returned from the same operation.

The natives to San Marcos, Calif., celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary in those four September days. Porter said it was 13 years of compromise that made it possible.

Love at first sight

"I was in summer school when I was 13," Porter said. "The teacher's assistant had taken (her daughter) Liza to the dentist and stopped by the class afterward. That was when I first met her. Later, our lockers were next to each other."

The son of retired

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Lance Cpl. Eric R. Evans and Cpl. Ricard Defreitas, both switchboard operators with Marine Air Control Squadron-4, dig a trench to lay communication wire in Afghanistan.

Defending freedom abroad

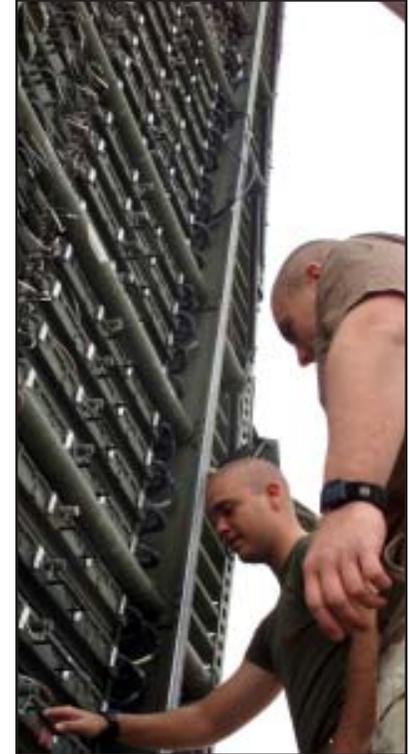
Story & photos by Sgt. John Sayas
U.S. Marine Corps News

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — With the sight of concertina wire surrounding many areas of Kandahar Air Field, and buildings in shambles and filled with bullet holes, it remains clear to troops living here that they are in a very hostile environment.

Despite all the security at bases in the area, small skirmishes have occasionally appeared outside the camp, and mortar rounds fly overhead unexpectedly with no real target in site.

"The rocket attacks we have make you realize where you are," said Staff Sgt. Fredrick A. Smith, communications chief, Tactical Air Operations Center, Marine Air Control Squadron-4, Marine Air Control Group-18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Smith and the rest of his unit arrived



Tactical Air Operations Center Marines replace many radar panels such as this one off the AN/TPS-59 Long Range Radar.

here last month to replace fellow Marines in their detachment.

The squadron, headquartered at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on Okinawa, Japan, along with other air command and control agencies within Marine Air Control Group-18, has been deployed here and in Uzbekistan since April 2002 in support of America's war against terrorism.

"Everybody pretty much knows why we are here. There isn't any question about that," said Staff Sgt. Robert L. Sidders, technical controller and Bell Fountain, Ohio native. "A lot of these guys are here for the first time, not just on a real-world operation, but on any type of field operation. They get a chance to do something that makes a difference."

The unit, comprised of radar and radio

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operators, communication technicians, repairmen, motor transportation personnel and a headquarters staff, has the responsibility of detecting, identifying and controlling intercepts of hostile

aircraft and missiles for allied forces. Some of their other tasks include managing anti-warfare assets, selecting and assigning weapons to engage enemy air threats, and regular maintenance of equipment and gear.

“It is an interesting experience,” said Lance Cpl. Eric C. Johnston, radar repairman, and St. Louis, Mo., native. “The living conditions are a lot better than the way they were when I was here the first time.”

Some of the basic com-

modities the Marines have here, i.e., cable, warm showers and hot meals, keep morale high, along with letters of support and care packages filled with food and snacks not available here from family and friends back home.

“I am very proud of the effort we are making out here and proud to be a part of Operation Enduring Freedom,” Smith said. “I hope we get this operation done quickly, so that we can get everyone home to their families.”

PORTER, from Page 1

Army Sgt. Maj. Donald Porter Sr., Porter joined the Army after high school. He was assigned to the 1st Ranger Battalion, Savannah, Ga..

Liza attended California Lutheran University for a biology degree.

“She opposed the military,” Porter said. “She was very liberal.”

But that didn’t stop them from getting married.

Compromise

Now 35, Porter recalled all the sacrifices the two made to support each other.

After he left the Army in 1989, he attended school at Southern Oregon State University, Ashland, Ore., with a criminal justice degree.

“I liked their promising football program,” Porter said. “I ended up playing ball for them as a walk in.

“She was working for a hotel, helping with the books,” he said. “She got tired of that because she wasn’t using her degree.”

In March 1993, Liza enlisted in the Army for biological research.

“I transferred to Catholic University in D.C. because she was stationed



Photo by Sgt. Reebea Critser

1st Lt. Donald Porter (left) , 2nd Platoon leader, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., always keeps a picture of his children in his folder. Here, Porter shows Staff Sgt. Kevin Scharmen, a route on the map.

at Walter Reed (Maryland) as a specialist,” Porter said. “I was very supportive. She found a job she was happy in.”

A friend in the D.C. area convinced Porter to join the National Guard while living there.

“I joined 20th Special Forces Group National Guard in Maryland,” he said. “My section leader was in the 1st Ranger Battalion. He coaxed me to join the 20th Group.”

Between the hectic days of work and school, they managed to have Cory on Oct. 24, 1993.

“He was an instant hit with the football team at Catholic,” Porter said. “I was 26 – played college ball, older, married with a kid – I was a novelty.”

A year later, Porter attended the Special Forces Qualification Course. As a result, Liza put off submitting her Officer Candidate School packet.

“She couldn’t put her packet in until I finished the Q course because someone had to watch Cory,” he said.

Liza finally turned in her packet in 1996 and was accepted. But because she was pregnant again, the

class date was delayed.

Bailey was born in December 1996.

Five months later, Liza attended OCS and was commissioned in the medical service corps.

Later that year, Porter returned to active duty.

“I was at Fort Bragg in the 7th Special Forces Group,” he said. “I was in Special Forces and had the kids while Liza was in OCS.”

After Liza returned, she too was stationed at Fort Bragg.

When Porter was up for his promotion to sergeant first class, he at-

tended OCS.

“She harassed me into it,” he said. “She said I had a natural ability to do it.”

The roles reversed as Liza took care of the children while Porter attended the school.

The homecoming

In April, Liza deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Porter was on convalescent leave from knee reconstruction.

“The kids are used to me being gone,” he said. “This was the first time mom left. So I was playing Mr. Cripple Mom.”

On Sept. 15, the two celebrated their 13-year anniversary. Two days later Porter deployed.

Porter said the two always support each other and compromise when the other has a goal. He also said Liza is his role model.

“While I’m here, I’m always looking for the voice of reason,” he said. “If only I was half the officer she is, I’d be outstanding. She’s a stud as an officer.

“We call her ‘Momma Bear’ because she doesn’t let anything bad happen to the kids,” he continued. “She’s a career woman, excellent mom and an excellent wife.”

HIND SIGHT

1861

The Stonewall Brigade begins to dismantle Dam No. 5 of the C&O Canal.

1903

Orville Wright makes the first recorded flight at Kittyhawk, N.C.

1948

The Smithsonian Institution accepts the Wright brothers' plane, the Kitty Hawk.

1950

The French government appoints Marshal de Lattre de Tassigny to command their troops in Vietnam.

1981

Red Brigade terrorists kidnap Brig. Gen. James Dozier, the highest-ranking U.S. NATO officer in Italy.

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that President Bush and other world leaders remain hopeful that the situation will be resolved peacefully.

No-fly zone hit third time in three days

WASHINGTON — Coalition aircraft dropped precision bombs early Monday on an Iraqi communications site near al Kut, about 100 miles southeast of Baghdad. It was the third such strike the past three days by U.S. and British warplanes patrolling the southern no-fly zone. U.S. defense officials said coalition aircraft in recent days noticed Iraqis had repositioned three surface-to-air missile launchers in the no-fly zone — the largest number of launchers seen in the area in months. According to the U.S. Central Command, Monday's strike specifically was in response to the movements of mobile radar into the no-fly zone and the firing of Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery. The latest action by coalition aircraft also included another drop of leaflets urging Iraqi military troops not to fire on the patrolling aircraft. It was the seventh drop in the past three months. The leaflets were dropped at six locations, including some near communications facilities damaged or destroyed by coalition aircraft flying Operation Southern Watch missions Dec. 14 near al Kut and other areas southeast of Baghdad.

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff present "Rat Race" 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>Wednesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 59F L: 32F	<i>Rain</i> H: 54F L: 28F
Kandahar:	<i>Haze</i> H: 68F L: 36F	<i>Rain</i> H: 63F L: 41F
Kabul:	<i>Rain</i> H: 55F L: 32F	<i>Rain</i> H: 55F L: 28F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 39F L: 25F	<i>Snow</i> H: 35F L: 18F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Kircus' catch wins Division II title for Grand Valley State

FLORENCE, Ala. — David Kircus was determined not to repeat the disappointment of last year when Grand Valley State lost to North Dakota in the final minute of the Division II championship game.

Nobody panicked on the Lakers' sideline when Valdosta State scored 11 points in less than 30 seconds to tie Grand Valley State late in the fourth quarter Saturday.

Curt Anes threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Kircus with 1:04 left to give Grand Valley State of Michigan its first NCAA Division II title with a 31-24 victory over Valdosta State of Georgia.

"This means a lot after last season," Kircus said. "We set the goal at the beginning of the season to win the national championship and to see it come true is an unbelievable experience."

Kircus caught 11 passes for 270 yards and three touchdowns, extending his all-division record for touchdown receptions in a season to 35. He finished his career with 76 receiving touchdowns, a Division II record.

Anes, who won the Harlon Hill Trophy as the best player in Division II on Friday, completed 23 of 36 passes for 361 yards for the Lakers (14-0). Anes finished his career as the Division II offense leader with 11,881 yards.

Anes praised Valdosta State as the best defense he's seen all season.

"I think we have the best offensive line and they were still getting to me," Anes said.

Grand Valley State had a 24-13 lead late in the fourth quarter when the Blazers (14-1) tied the game by scoring 11 points in less than 30 seconds.

Riley doesn't expect UCLA offer today

LOS ANGELES — New Orleans Saints assistant coach Mike Riley, considered the frontrunner to become UCLA's next head coach, said he would not be offered the job Monday.

"I don't anticipate an offer at all," Riley was quoted as saying in an Orange County Register story published Monday. "This is just part of the process."

Riley, who arrived in Los Angeles on Sunday, told the newspaper he will meet with UCLA chancellor Albert Carnesale some time Monday. According to the Register, school officials believe the interview with Carnesale is a final stamp of approval, but Riley assumes other candidates will also come to campus and talk with Carnesale.

"I think I am one of many, but I don't know how many," Riley told the newspaper. "I just know that I'm the first. They're going to take their time, and I think that's smart."

Hours after UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero fired Bob Toledo last Monday, he flew to New Orleans to interview Riley.

Later in the week, Riley turned down what ESPN.com reported to be an eight-year, \$12 million offer from Alabama.

However, Riley told the Register one job offer had nothing to do with another. He expects to be on a return flight to New Orleans on Monday night.

2002 Bowl Championship Series

TEAM	TOTAL
1. Miami, Fla.	2.93
2. Ohio State	3.97
3. Georgia	8.37
4. USC	10.51
5. Iowa	10.79
6. Washington St.	16.14
7. Oklahoma	16.79
8. Kansas St.	20.13
9. Notre Dame	20.93
10. Texas	21.08
11. Michigan	23.91
12. Penn St.	26.97
13. Colorado	33.27
14. Florida St.	33.95
15. West Virginia	35.97



Palmer gives USC another Heisman winner

Carson Palmer capped his rise from mediocrity to stardom by winning college football's most prestigious award Saturday night, taking the bronze statue back to the West Coast for the first time since USC's Marcus Allen did it 21 years ago.

The quarterback completed nearly 63 percent of his passes for 3,639 yards and 32 touchdowns with 10 interceptions this year. His biggest performance was his last against Notre Dame in a nationally televised game.

He kissed his fiancée, then stepped up to the podium and accepted the trophy.

"My heart's about to come out of my shirt," Palmer said. "This has been amazing, this whole journey through this season."

Palmer received 242 first-place votes and easily won by 233 points over Iowa quarterback Brad Banks in what was expected to be a much closer race.

2002-03 bowl schedule

- ❖ New Orleans Bowl — Cincinnati vs. North Texas
- ❖ GMAC Bowl — Marshall vs. Louisville
- ❖ Mazda Tangerine Bowl — Clemson vs. Texas Tech
- ❖ Sega Sports Las Vegas Bowl — UCLA vs. New Mexico
- ❖ ConAgra Foods Hawaii Bowl — Hawaii vs. Tulane
- ❖ Motor City Bowl — Boston College vs. Toledo
- ❖ Insight Bowl — Pittsburgh vs. Oregon State
- ❖ Houston Bowl — Southern Miss vs. Oklahoma State
- ❖ MainStay Independence Bowl — Nebraska vs. Mississippi
- ❖ Pacific Life Holiday Bowl — Kansas State vs. Arizona State
- ❖ Continental Tire Bowl — West Virginia vs. Virginia
- ❖ 2002 Alamo Bowl — Colorado vs. Wisconsin
- ❖ Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl — Arkansas vs. Minnesota
- ❖ Seattle Bowl — Oregon vs. Wake Forest
- ❖ Crucial.com Humanitarian Bowl — Iowa State vs. Boise State
- ❖ Wells Fargo Sun Bowl — Purdue vs. Washington
- ❖ AXA Liberty Bowl — Colorado State vs. TCU
- ❖ Silicon Valley Football Classic — Georgia Tech vs. Fresno State
- ❖ Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl — Tennessee vs. Maryland
- ❖ Diamond Walnut San Francisco Bowl — Air Force vs. Virginia Tech
- ❖ Outback Bowl — Florida vs. Michigan
- ❖ SBC Cotton Bowl — Texas vs. LSU
- ❖ Toyota Gator Bowl — NC State vs. Notre Dame
- ❖ Capital One Bowl — Penn State vs. Auburn
- ❖ Rose Bowl — Oklahoma vs. Washington State
- ❖ Nokia Sugar Bowl — Georgia vs. Florida State
- ❖ FedEx Orange Bowl — Iowa vs. USC
- ❖ Tostitos Fiesta Bowl — Ohio State vs. Miami

Western Kentucky, McNeese State rally to make I-AA title

Two more comeback victories by Western Kentucky and McNeese State guaranteed that there will be a first-time NCAA Division I-AA champion next week.

Western Kentucky rallied to beat Georgia Southern 31-28 in Statesboro, Ga., when quarterback Jason Michael ran 2 yards with 46 seconds left.

The Hilltoppers (11-3) will make their first appearance in the title game when they face McNeese State (13-1) on Friday in Chattanooga, Tenn.

McNeese rallied from a two-touchdown deficit to beat Villanova 39-38 in Lake Charles, La. The Cowboys are making their second trip to the championship; they lost to Youngstown State in 1997.

Western Kentucky was without six reserve players who were suspended after a postgame brawl with Western Illinois the previous week. The Hilltoppers came back from 17 points down in that game, winning 31-28 on Peter Martinez's 25-yard field goal with 40 seconds left.

"I thought last week's game was one of the greatest games, if not the greatest, that I have ever played in," Michael said. "This one was just as amazing."

Georgia Southern (11-3) trailed by 17, but took a 28-24 lead before Western Kentucky began a 76-yard drive for the winning score. The key play was a 31-yard pass from Michael to Casey Rooney, who made a leaping catch at the 2.

"I'd be lying to you if I said we practice the two-minute drill every day," Western coach Jack Harbaugh said. "We had a lesson in life today that can't be duplicated in the classroom."



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By Kevin Kilgore

*"Freeze,
Recruit!"*

Laugh Support