



# FREEDOM WATCH



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Bagram, Afghanistan

## News briefs

### SF soldiers report rocket activity

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — Special Operations Forces at Chapman Airfield reported a rocket attack Monday. According to reports, a single rocket was observed being fired at about 10 a.m. (local), landing west of the airfield. There were no injuries. Sunday, three Afghans reported the location of rockets to SF soldiers in Shkin. The soldiers recovered three rockets and identified them as U.S. 2.75 inch rockets, a type that has not been used for years by U.S. forces.

### Nightclub terror plans revealed

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (CNN)—Anal Qaeda operative now in U.S. custody has told the FBI about plans to attack popular bars and nightclubs in Southeast Asia, according to classified documents. FBI documents obtained by CNN tell how Jabarah admitted to planning suicide-bombing attacks against the U.S. embassies in Singapore and the Philippines.

## Morgan: cheats death even in combat

Story & photo by  
Sgt. Reeba Critser  
28th Public Affairs  
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**KHOWST, Afghanistan** — At first, he looks ordinary, wearing dark Oakley sunglasses and talking to his soldiers. He wears a killed-in-action memorial bracelet with Ranger Pfc. John Price's name on it.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Roderick Morgan, Company D, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., doesn't consider himself special. He doesn't stand out, except for a bandage wrapped around his right hand.

The Atlanta native leads the anti-tank platoon in the company.



**Sgt. 1st Class Roderick Morgan, platoon sergeant, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., looks at a picture of his family. Morgan was shot while on patrol outside of Kandahar Airfield in July.**

“We're the guys riding around in vehicles with .50 calibers and Mark 19s,” he said.

“We're intertwined with other companies during our missions.”

The platoon overwatches battalion

soldiers clearing a compound. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne

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## 229th QM takes Kandahar troops to cleaners

Story & photo by  
Spc. Kevin Buckley  
300th Mobile Public  
Affairs Detachment

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** — “Here's 230 bags of dusty, stinky, dirty laundry. Make sure that you have them done in the next 48 hours.”

To the average soldier, this would seem an overwhelming task, but this is business as usual for the 229<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company (Field Service) from Fort Polk, La.

The 229<sup>th</sup> runs the laun-



**From left to right Spc. Annabel Campos, Pfc. Iashia Washington and Spc. Thomas Sampson laundry specialists with the 229th Quartermaster Company sort out laundry.**

dry service and shower tents here at Kandahar Airfield.

“Our mission is to provide field service in the form

of laundry and shower services for American and Coalition service members in order to reduce the likelihood of disease, improve

sanitation and increase morale,” said Capt. Joseph J. Malizia, commander of the 229<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company.

To complete their task of doing the base laundry, the 229<sup>th</sup> previously used the Laundry Advanced System, which they train on when they go through advanced individual training. The LADS system is a laundry system that washes and dries the clothes in one cycle. The soldiers would drop off their clothes and

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Division soldier had to kill the enemy – once in Gardez in August, and another in Khowst the following month.

His combat skills are proven on his desert-camouflaged top – Expert Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist, Air Assault, Pathfinder, High-Altitude, Low-Opening qualified and Emergency Medical Technician.

The 36-year-old bears his flag proudly on his right shoulder. He sewed another flag on the inside of his boonie cap.

Morgan's brown shirts are uniform. They all say "SFC Morgan" and "O+." He's even tattooed his name, social security number and blood type on his left rib cage. As an additional precaution, he places dog tags in each boot.

"The soldiers do it for precaution," he joked. "I do it because I know it's going to be used."

He looks at a family photo. He misses them, he said. He's thankful he lives another day.

His wife, Stephanie, a native of Lawrenceville, Ga., is a staff sergeant with 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Fort Bragg. The two are going on eight years of marriage with three boys – Justin, Cody and Ryan – and a baby on the way.

"My family is my life," he said. "I would do anything for them."

## Fiery crash

"That's what started things off," Morgan said. "An F-16 crashed on top of us in jumpmaster school."

In March 1994, an F-16 collided with a C-130 upon landing at Fort Bragg. The C-130 landed safely, but the F-16 couldn't be controlled. The pilot pointed the aircraft in a safe direction and ejected. But the after-burners kicked in and made the plane take a right turn.

"It was coming toward us,"

Morgan recalled. "In the area I was standing in, everyone was deceased."

Fort Bragg suffered about 300 casualties that day.

"I don't know if you call that lucky or unlucky," he said.

## Lightening

With Co. B, Morgan was conducting a company live fire exercise in July of 1995, when a storm rolled in.

"You could see all the blue sky over the black cloud," he said.

Range control told the soldiers to seek cover until the storm passed.

"Lightening hit the tree I had my hooch tied on," he said. "It got me and the guy with me. Both of us flatlined."

The soldiers in the company and the medical staff revived the two patients.

But fate had other plans for Morgan.

"The day I got out of the hospital, I was talking on the phone with my mom. 'I'm OK and I'm out of the hospital,' I told her. Then lightening struck the phone line and knocked the phone out of my hand."

## Seven months

Morgan recalls seven months of his life that were not the happiest.

His wife was doing a tour in Korea. He had a friend, "he's just like my brother," live with him – Sgt. Robert Brownfield, who was shot and killed in a McDonald's parking lot on Morgan's 10-year anniversary with the Army.

Two months later, his mother died.

Then came Kosovo.

Morgan remembers patrolling the streets in Kosovo July 13, 2000. He was still with Company B.

"We stopped at a corner, I checked my watch," he said. "It was 3 a.m."

The patrol moved up the

road.

"Two minutes after we left the corner, I was shot by a sniper in a three-story window," he said.

One bullet hit Morgan in the right hand, one in the right shoulder and one in his Kevlar, knocking him unconscious.

## Kandahar

This past July, he was on a road 10 kilometers from Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

Children were gathered to his right. It was not quite dark.

"The engines (to the vehicles) were running," Morgan said. "I was letting my sergeant know we were getting ready to leave and to change the radio to another channel. I was walking back to my vehicle. That's when it happened."

A ditch ran parallel to the road. Someone was there, someone armed. A shot was fired in an upward angle. It hit Morgan in the right foot and another in his Kevlar.

"When the colonel called to notify Stephanie, her exact words were 'not again!'" Morgan said. "She's used to it. Nothing surprises her anymore."

He said the injuries were worse than those at Kosovo. Morgan suffered a severe concussion, lost eyesight for a couple of days and sustained nerve injuries.

"I don't know why people like to shoot me," he said. "I guess I just look like someone who's in charge. I need to give someone else my job. My dad said I'd learn the hard way and these are tough lessons."

Morgan spent 27 days in hospitals en route from Kandahar to Walter Reed Medical Hospital, Washington, D.C.

At Walter Reed, he said personnel there conducted tests on the Kevlar.

"They never did decide what type of round ... just not a United States bullet," he

said.

Although he just had surgery performed on his right hand this month to remove old scar tissue, Morgan is working again.

"I've been fighting tooth and nail to stay in this country," he said. "Medically, it's a challenge. But it's my own battle."

He said Stephanie's support has kept him strong.

"My wife's the coolest person I've met," Morgan said proudly. "She's always been all the way for me. She knows things happen to me. She knows I'll be all right."

Before arriving in theater, Morgan volunteered for the deployment twice.

"When I left Fort Bragg, they (co-workers) had a big, ongoing joke – when, how and how bad it (my injury) would be," Morgan said, laughing.

Before he joined the Army, Morgan was a bull rider and a rodeo clown. He even has 148 static line jumps under his belt – all without injuries.

His father, also a paratrooper in 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, and uncles fought in World War II.

"Where else can I do this – what I love – and get paid for it? Jump out of airplanes, fight for my country, watch a young soldier develop and know you had something to do with that," he said.

"Things happen to me because I make things happen," Morgan said. "As a leader, there's no way I'd have my soldiers go into harm's way with me leading them."

Morgan said the one lesson learned from his soldiering is to never quit.

"Never give up regardless of any situation you're in," he said. "There's always one more thing to keep me going – except being shot in the head. Oh, and wear a Kevlar."

# HIND SIGHT

**1864**

The Battle of Westport is fought in Kansas City, Missouri.

**1906**

Woman suffragists demonstrate in the outer lobby of the British House of Commons. Ten of the demonstrators are charged the following day and sent to prison.

**1924**

The first radio network broadcast to the Pacific Coast allows listeners in California, Oregon, and Washington to hear U.S. President Calvin Coolidge dedicate the Chamber of Commerce building in Washington, D.C.

**1956**

In Budapest, Hungarian students and workers demonstrate against Soviet domination and Communist rule.

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the 229<sup>th</sup> would place the laundry in mesh bags, then wash the laundry in the bags.

“Washing the clothes in bags allowed us to do a lot more laundry, but it took away from the quality,” said Malizia.

To help with the quality of the laundry and shower services in Afghanistan, the 229<sup>th</sup> received Force Provider shower modules and Containerized Batch Laundry Systems.

“The new system takes a little longer to wash clothes, but the quality of service is much higher,” said Sgt. Douglas J. Everhart, Laundry NCO with the 229<sup>th</sup>

Quartermaster Co.

“You can tell the morale of the soldiers has increased since we switched to the CBLS. Keeping the customers satisfied is our biggest goal and I think that we achieve that goal everyday,” added Sgt. Antoinette C. Whetley, Laundry NCO with the 229<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Co.

The 229<sup>th</sup> receives about 230 bags of laundry a day and they do their best to have the laundry ready to pick up in 48 hours.

“I think that the CBLS is a good system,” said Malizia. “The system allows us to produce a better quality product, and also enables us to use commer-

cial products like fabric softener.”

The 229<sup>th</sup> had to train their soldiers on how to use the new CBLS here in the combat zone. The old LADS system was used to wash large quantities of clothes in a short period of time because it used the bag system. The new CBLS takes longer as each and every item of clothing is tagged, washed and folded, then put back in the bags they came in.

“I like my job and enjoy being here in Kandahar. It feels good to be able to provide a service that the soldiers need,” said Pvt. Shawn C. McConahey, Laundry and Bath Specialist.

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	Showers H: 73F L: 41F	Partly cloudy H: 72F L: 43F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 79F L: 46F	Haze H: 82F L: 50F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Showers H: 68F L: 41F	Partly cloudy H: 70F L: 43F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Mostly cloudy H: 73F L: 46F	Mostly cloudy H: 66F L: 38F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

## FREEDOM WATCH

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# COALITIONSPORTSZONE

## The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

### Steelers starting to turn corner

**PITTSBURGH**— Benching Kordell Stewart for journeyman Tommy Maddox three games into the season seemed like an act of desperation. It might be the best move Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher could have made.

Maddox threw two touchdown passes to Hines Ward to lead the Steelers to a 28-10 victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Monday night, looking as sharp and steady as a 10-year veteran rather than a quarterback who has barely played in the NFL since 1992.

"I'm having the time of my life," said Maddox, the former XFL star. "I'm not only doing this, but doing this with this group of guys. We just want to keep this rolling."

The Steelers were 0-2 and were heading toward what seemed to be a third straight loss until Maddox rallied them to a dramatic overtime victory over Cleveland. They have now won three of four.

"Now, you're seeing the real Steelers," Jerome Bettis said. "I won't say we've turned the corner, but we're right there at the stop light."

Maddox's ability to spread the ball among his receivers has revitalized the offense and gotten a previously stalled running game going, Ward said.

"We were 0-2 and people were writing us off," Ward said. "It's great to redeem ourselves."

Bettis scored on two short touchdown runs in the first half before leaving with a sprained left knee. Amos Zereoue replaced Bettis and ran for 87 yards, all in the second half. The Steelers also lost center Jeff Hartings to a left knee injury.

Hartings' injury is believed to be worse. Bettis said afterward he has no ligament damage, but would know more Tuesday.

The Steelers, who opened a 21-0 lead, also were helped by their special teams for a change rather than hurt by them. The complete performance helped Pittsburgh (3-3) start to resemble the team that went 13-3 a year ago and was favored to win the AFC this season.

**Sprewell sues Post; Knicks suspend him for violation**  
**NEW YORK** — Latrell Sprewell sued a newspaper, spouted off and got suspended Monday.  
 On a day filled with developments related to Sprewell's injured right hand and his relationship with the New York Knicks, the rift between everyone involved only seemed to worsen.  
 In the morning, Sprewell's agent announced a \$40 million lawsuit against the New York Post for its account of how he got hurt. Sprewell later met with reporters and denounced the way the Knicks have treated him, which was followed by an announcement from the team that Sprewell had been suspended one game for failing to follow his rehabilitation procedures.

### 2002 Bowl Championship Series

TEAM	TOTAL
1.Oklahoma	3.92
2.Miami (Fla.)	6.41
3.Notre Dame	7.07
4.Virginia Tech	8.63
5.Georgia	8.69
6.Ohio State	8.89
7.Washington St.	19.44
8.Michigan	19.83
9.LSU	20.71
10.Texas	21.37
11.N.C. State	22.52
12.Florida State	26.79
13.Iowa	29.09
14.USC	31.16
15.Oregon	35.02



Miami is No. 1 just about everywhere but where it counts most — in the Bowl Championship Series standings.

The Hurricanes, No. 1 since the preseason in The Associated Press media and coaches' polls, were second behind Oklahoma in the first BCS standings released Monday. And look who's third — Notre Dame!

Thanks to friendly computer ratings and a schedule rated toughest in the nation, the Fighting Irish are in position to make a run at the national championship.

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. 8 will play for the title in Tempe, Ariz., at the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 3.

"If we take care of our own business and win, things will work out," Miami coach Larry Coker said. "The system is designed to have the top two teams meet at the end of the year, and I am confident that will be the case."

Notre Dame may be No. 6 in the AP poll, but the Fighting Irish were ranked first by four of the seven computers used by the BCS. Only the top six rankings are used in the BCS calculations.



Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser

## *Holistic training*

Sgts. Adriana Hernandez (left) and Toni McComack, both with the 313th Military Intelligence Battalion, perform yoga exercises in Southeastern Afghanistan. McComack said it is good way to relieve stress.

## **2002 World Series**

*San Francisco vs. Anaheim*

**Oct. 19**

San Francisco 4, Anaheim 3, Giants lead 1-0

**Oct. 20**

Anaheim 11, San Francisco 10, Series tied 1-1

**Tuesday**

Anaheim 10, San Francisco 4, Angels lead 2-1

**Today**

Anaheim at San Francisco

**Thursday**

Anaheim at San Francisco, if necessary

**Saturday**

San Francisco at Anaheim, if necessary

**Sunday**

San Francisco at Anaheim, if necessary

## **Angels beat Giants, take series lead**

Relentless again at the plate and on the bases, Scott Spiezio and the Angels trampled the San Francisco Giants 10-4 Tuesday night to take a 2-1 lead in the World Series.

Spiezio drove in three runs, Darin Erstad had three hits and Anaheim battered Livan Hernandez, the postseason ace who recently boasted, "I never lose in October."

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*"War?! I didn't get any e-mails about a war today!"*

By Kevin Kilgore

*Laugh Support*