



# FREEDOM WATCH



October 31, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

## News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

### Mondale gets the nod

**MINNEAPOLIS** — Former Vice President Walter Mondale was officially nominated by Minnesota democrats tonight to run for the Senate seat of Paul Wellstone, who died in a plane crash last week. Mondale will face Republican Norm Coleman, the former mayor of St. Paul.

### Manhunt launched for fugitive priest

**MILWAUKEE**—When Siegfried Widera got word last May that child molestation charges would soon be brought against him, authorities say the Catholic priest immediately booked a Caribbean cruise, returned to the United States a few weeks later and then vanished. Widera, 61, was moved from parish to parish in Wisconsin and California in the 1970s through the mid-1980s, remaining in the priesthood even af-

See BRIEFS, Page 3

— *Halloween special* —

## Haunted OP spook MPs

By Sgt. Don Dees  
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — In the hours between dusk and dawn, military police soldiers at the Kabul Military Training Center keep watch over the compound, but they may not be alone.

Some members of the 772<sup>nd</sup> Military Police Company, from Taunton, Mass., say one of their observation posts is haunted.

“I’ve just been noticing some different things going on at the OP,” said Spc. Jessie Peterson, a

See SPOOK, Page 2



Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser

## Reveille

(From left) Pfc. Joshua Ramirez, Pfc. John Wickham and Pfc. Richard Benavidez, all from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., fold the flag during a rainy Reveille at a forward operating base in Southeastern Afghanistan.

## Medevacs: Ready to fly over Afghanistan



A medic jumps out of a UH-60 as part of a demonstration for hoist training. The pilots are from the 1042<sup>nd</sup> Medical Air Ambulance, Oregon National Guard, and conduct the training as often as the environment and hostile conditions permit.

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

**KHOWST, Afghanistan** — The Oregon National Guard contributes to the war against terrorism by bringing the Salem-based 1042<sup>nd</sup> Medical Air Ambulance to Afghanistan.

In August, the 1042<sup>nd</sup> replaced Forts Bragg, N.C., and Campbell, Ky.,

See MED, Page 2

**SPOOK**, from Page 1

22-year-old college student mobilized to serve in Afghanistan with her National Guard unit.

“My flashlight will be fine going up the stairs to the point, but when I get up there it won’t work,” she said. “Then later, at another point, it will be fine.”

Peterson says other things happen that no one can explain.

“The phones work during the day, but at night they won’t work,” she said. “We have to use the radio at night.”

The same phone system serves other points, but they report no problems, Peterson said.

Other electronic equipment has also failed at the OP. Peterson’s camcorder malfunctioned during one evening’s shift at the so-called haunted point.

“I was excited about the footage I got too, but when I turned it on, there was nothing there,” she said.

*Freedom Watch* visited the site to document the phenomenon, and experienced a similar malfunction. A digital recorder used to capture an interview at the point with two soldiers recorded only static.

Notes from the interview revealed, despite these malfunctions, some soldiers are

skeptical.

“When you sit in the same place hour after hour, in the dark, with nothing to do but let your imagination work overtime, you might think you heard something or saw something that wasn’t there,” said Sgt. Michael David.

Stories by other soldiers did not bother David, who recently switched to the night-shift and had never been to the point at night before.

Some soldiers report seeing people near the position, then the figures vanish.

Peterson told *Freedom Watch* of one such episode involving a sergeant from her team.

The sergeant informed his partner at the point that their relief had arrived when he heard footsteps coming up the stairs, Peterson said. When the sergeant and the other soldier gathered up their gear to get ready to leave, there was no one at the point and no one in the stairwell below.

That was enough to convince some members of the unit, Peterson said. There is one sergeant who has yet to be assigned to the point, which is fortunate for him.

“He won’t go up,” she said. “He’s scared to death.”



Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser

**A medic is hoisted to a UH-60 with a patient as part of a demonstration for hoist training.**

**MED**, from Page 1

Until a forward surgical team arrives in Southeastern Afghanistan, the forward support medical units in theatre. Now, all medical evacuation assets in theatre belong to the 1042<sup>nd</sup>.

“We wait for nine-line or medevac requests,” said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. West Fairchild, maintenance test pilot from Keizer, Ore.

The unit boasts that its UH-60 helicopters are currently operating in Oregon, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Afghanistan. The crews always remain at battle ready.

“We have a 15-minute launch time,” said Fairchild, a regional test pilot in his civilian career.

For patients in Bagram and Kandahar, they are taken to the base hospitals. For those wounded in Southeastern Afghanistan, Orgun-e is the destination.

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“We try to do demonstrations as often as possible,” said Chief Warrant Officer Trent Wilms, pilot from Salem. “We are restricted because of the environment and hostile conditions.”

When the pilots conduct demonstrations like hoist training in a combat zone, time is of the essence.

“When someone is hanging in the air for 20 minutes, he makes an easy target,” said Wilms, a safety management consultant for Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration. “Hoist training is the last

method we use for medevac, and it’s only if we can’t land.”

The 1042<sup>nd</sup> is no stranger to rescues and medevacs. Those left in the rear rescued a crew after an avalanche hit them at Mount Hood, Ore. Each helicopter has, at minimum, two pilots, one crew chief and one medic.

“I love my job,” said Chief Warrant Officer Ken Tinseth, pilot from Portland. “We’re helping soldiers that need to be helped. It’s a good mission.”

He said when they receive notification, the pilots and crew chief begin prechecks on the ship. Then they receive a mission packet, which details the mission and the players. With approval for launch, the crew conducts its final checks on the helicopter before engine start, taking off only with an Apache escort.

“If it is a mission, we’re concerned about performing expeditiously and efficiently,” Wilms said. “Our job is to be ready at a moment’s notice and help someone.”

“As a pilot, I don’t have to deal with critical stuff like the medic does in the back. I just get them there and back.”

Wilms said it’s hard to leave loved ones behind, but he’s glad to support the war against terrorism by doing what he does best — “flying a \$10 million helicopter.”

# HIND SIGHT

**1517**

Martin Luther nails his 95 Theses to the door of the church at Wittenberg in Germany. Luther's theories and writings inaugurate Protestantism, shattering the external structure of the medieval church and at the same time reviving the religious consciousness of Europe.

**1941**

After 14 years of work, the Mount Rushmore National Memorial is completed.

**1952**

The United States explodes the first hydrogen bomb at Eniwetok Atoll in the Pacific.

**1984**

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is assassinated in New Delhi by two Sikh members of her bodyguard.

## BRIEFS, from Page 1

ter a 1973 child molestation conviction. He is now one of the most wanted sex crime fugitives, accused of 42 counts of child molestation in both states. He has never been defrocked from the priesthood. A massive manhunt is under way to find Widera, with more than seven different local, state and federal agencies taking part in Wisconsin, California, Arizona and Texas. Authorities say they believe Widera poses a danger to children, and they are seeking the public's help in tracking him down.

## Canada issues U.S. travel warning

**WASHINGTON** — Canada issued a travel advisory this week urging Canadian citizens born in Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Syria to consider avoiding travel to the United States. The advisory, released by the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday, was in response to U.S. legislation passed after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks authorizing the Immigration and Naturalization Service to monitor the entry and exit of citizens from those countries. Such monitoring allows those individuals to be photographed and fingerprinted. Canadian officials said Canada and the United States have enjoyed excellent security cooperation, which makes the regulations unnecessary.

## Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff present "Sleepy Hollow" tonight at 1530Z at the MWR building. Tomorrow's movie will be "Wind Talker," showing at the same time.

# Local weather

## TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

|                    | <i>Today</i>                             | <i>Friday</i>                            |
|--------------------|--|--|
| <b>Bagram:</b>     | <i>Mostly cloudy</i><br>H: 75F<br>L: 43F | <i>Mostly cloudy</i><br>H: 73F<br>L: 50F |
| <b>Kandahar:</b>   | <i>Mostly clear</i><br>H: 82F<br>L: 50F  | <i>Mostly clear</i><br>H: 79F<br>L: 48F  |
| <b>Kabul:</b>      | <i>Mostly cloudy</i><br>H: 73F<br>L: 50F | <i>Mostly cloudy</i><br>H: 73F<br>L: 50F |
| <b>Uzbekistan:</b> | <i>Partly cloudy</i><br>H: 75F<br>L: 47F | <i>Showers</i><br>H: 58F<br>L: 45F       |

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

# FREEDOM WATCH

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# COALITION SPORTSZONE

## The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

### Jordan misses dunk, Wizards fall to Raptors in season opener

**TORONTO** — Morris Peterson scored 20 points and Michael Jordan went scoreless in the second half — and even missed a dunk- as the Toronto Raptors opened their season with a 74-68 victory over the Washington Wizards on Wednesday night.

Jordan, coming off the bench, scored just eight points in 25 minutes. After missing two free throws with 4:06 left, he missed a breakaway dunk as the ball clanged off the back rim. The crowd laughed at Jordan, who turns 40 in February.

The Wizards, down by 12, never recovered.

Jordan finished 4-for-14 from the field.

The only positive for the new-look Wizards, who shot just 29.6 percent from the field, was the play of Kwame Brown, who had a career-high 18 rebounds, 12 points and five blocks.

Vince Carter had 18 points in his first game since surgery on his left knee in March.

Peterson also had a career-high 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who also got a career-high 12 rebounds from new center Jelani McCoy.

The Wizards started the game with four new starters in their lineup, including Jerry Stackhouse, who had a team-high 19 points. Stackhouse, acquired from Detroit in exchange for Richard Hamilton, went 6-for-17 from the field.

Carter had eight points, including an impressive fadeaway jumper after spinning around his defender, as Toronto took a 18-11 lead in the first quarter with Jordan on the bench.

### Patriots struggling to address woes

Not all 3-4 records, many New England Patriots coaches and players will readily acknowledge these days, are created equal.

Just a year ago the Patriots sputtered to 3-4. The overcame an 0-2 start and the loss of starting quarterback Drew Bledsoe to prevail in three of the first five outings by untested backup Tom Brady to claw back to respectability.

But this year, the 3-4 mark after seven games has come as the result of a perilous spiral, with the defending Super Bowl champions in the throes of an ugly and certainly unexpected four-game losing skein.

So when a few Patriots players have attempted to trivialize the current state of affairs, and reminded the critics that the franchise is no worse off than it was at the same juncture of the glorious 2001 campaign, it's no wonder that such rationalizations are largely regarded as hollow.

"If they're saying it's the same, well, that's a reach, for sure," said Seattle defensive tackle and former Patriots starter Brandon Mitchell. "When we were 3-4 last year, the team was just starting to get confident in (Brady), and things were on the upswing. This time, they started off hot, and now seem to have problems. From what I see and hear, it's not the same team, man."

During a nosedive extended by last weekend's home defeat to Denver, a game that came after a bye week some players felt would offer a cure-all to the team's myriad shortcomings, New England experienced the same kind of inconsistencies it had exhibited in three previous losses. After the game, Brady strongly hinted some teammates weren't expending the same level of energy they did in 2001, and coach Bill Belichick allowed finger-pointing could soon become an unwelcome by-product of his club's slide.

Likely, there are some things going on with the Patriots to which only some insiders are privy. But it doesn't take 20/20 vision to conclude that this isn't the same team on the field as the one that upset the St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI less than nine months ago.

The names haven't changed dramatically — there are only three starters different from those who opened for the Patriots in the championship game and Belichick suffered no losses from his staff — but the results have. What is most puzzling is that the current losing streak followed an opening three games in which New England

### 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 |



## Jordan wants out, Rocket a free-agent

**NEW YORK** — Brian Jordan filed a trade demand Wednesday after the Los Angeles Dodgers refused to extend his contract.

Roger Clemens, meanwhile, declined to exercise the phantom \$10.3 million player option in his contract with the New York Yankees. The five-time Cy Young Award winner gets the \$10.3 million, anyway, in the form of a buyout and becomes eligible for free agency.

While the Yankees are the favorites to retain the future Hall of Famer's services — Clemens has said he wants to remain in pinstripes — it's also likely the Rocket will field offers from other teams.

It's no secret George Steinbrenner and Joe Torre want Clemens back, if for no other reason than to see him win his 300th game in a Yankees uniform. He currently sits at 293 and will likely pick up No. 300 in 2003.

Clemens, who was 13-6 with a 4.35 ERA, made \$15 million this season.

On Wednesday, 17 players filed, including first baseman Orlando Palmeiro, the first player on the Anaheim Angels to become a free agent since the team won Game 7 of the World Series on Sunday.

Of 180 players potentially eligible for free agency, 119 filed in the first three days.

St. Louis Cardinals reliever Dave Veres filed Wednesday after the team declined a \$5.25 million option and gave him a \$500,000 buyout. St. Louis would like to re-sign Veres, but for a lower price for 2003. The 35-year-old setup man was 5-8 with a 3.48 ERA and four saves last year.

Philadelphia declined a \$1.75 million option on pitcher Ricky Bottalico and instead will pay a \$50,000 buyout.

"We are basically in a mode where we are going to try to improve our bullpen, and we had some concerns about Ricky's health," assistant general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said.

Bottalico's season was cut short in June when he tore a labrum in his right shoulder. He had surgery on June 28.

The injury is expected to heal, but Amaro said Bottalico's pitching was inconsistent last spring. In 30 games he went 0-3 with a 4.61 ERA.

Right-hander Pat Hentgen, who had been eligible for free agency, agreed to a one-year contract with the Baltimore Orioles, a deal that contains a team option for 2004.

## Lemieux scores three points to lead Penguins past Senators

**OTTAWA** — Mario Lemieux scored a goal and had two assists to lead the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 4-1 victory over the Ottawa Senators on Wednesday night.

Dick Tarnstrom, Jan Hrdina and Alexei Kovalev also scored for Pittsburgh, which won its third straight to improve to 6-2-2.

Lemieux increased his league-leading points total to 23 in 10 games, setting up goals by Tarnstrom and Kovalev before scoring his sixth of the season on a power play 2:56 into the third.

Lemieux and Kovalev extended their points streaks to nine games. Both players have points in every Penguins game since a season-opening 6-0 loss to Toronto.

Senators captain Daniel Alfredsson scored his fifth of the season as Ottawa's winless streak stretched to four games.

Penguins goalie Johan Hedberg made 21 saves to improve to 5-1-2.

Alfredsson opened the scoring with a power-play goal 2:07 in as Hedberg misplayed his slap shot from the point that passed through a screen set up by Senators right wing Brad Smyth.

Pittsburgh tied it on a power play at 6:28 as Lemieux passed the puck back and forth with Aleksey Morozov before Morozov fed Tarnstrom, who shot into the open right side past Patrick Lalime.

The Penguins took a 2-1 lead 5:51 into the second after Lalime misplayed the puck behind his net. Pittsburgh's Alexandre Daigle passed to Kris Beech, who fanned on his attempt from the slot before Hrdina swept in to beat Lalime for his third of the season.

Kovalev got his eighth of the season at 12:11 to increase the lead to 3-1. Lemieux made it a three-goal advantage early in the third when he one-timed a slap shot from the point through Lalime's legs.



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By Kevin Kilgore

**Laugh Support**