



FREEDOM WATCH



December 5, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from USTODAY.com)

Indonesians nab alleged terror chief

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesian police said Wednesday they had arrested the operations chief of Jemaah Islamiyah, an al Qaeda-linked group widely blamed for attacks throughout Southeast Asia, including blasts that killed nearly 200 people on the resort island of Bali. Investigators hope the arrest of Mukhlas, also known as Ali Gufron, will shed light on the shadowy group and expose the extent of al Qaeda's reach in the world's most populous Muslim nation. Police arrested Mukhlas and eight others suspects late Tuesday in a series of raids in central Java, said national police chief Gen. Erwin Mapaseng. Police detective Brig. Gen. Aryanto Sutadi said

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Deb Alvarado, Air Force Print News

A clean delivery

Senior Airman Nathan Setser, a fuels operator at a forward-deployed location, checks the purity and odor of a liquid oxygen sample to ensure it is operational. Setser is assigned to the 321st Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's fuels management flight. The flight's mission is to provide clean, dry fuel and cryogenics for coalition aircraft.

Holiday greetings for troops only click away

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — With the click of a mouse, heartfelt messages have been sent to thousands of deployed troops this holiday season.

"Your bravery and sacrifices are deeply appreciated by this American family, and our flag and the flags of hundreds of other families in our community are

flying proudly in your honor," wrote Steve and Ellie Earnhart from Vandalia, Ohio.

The Earnharts posted that message using <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>, which is the online version of the holiday letter-campaign dubbed "Operation Dear Abby."

When the "Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs were suspended last

year because of the anthrax mail attacks, Web sites sprung up to give an alternative to people who want to show support to troops during the holiday season, officials said.

The Web site www.anyservicemember.org is another place where greetings can be read such as, "I am grateful for the opportunity to send this message to you and tell you

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Enemy harrass U.S. outposts

By Jim Garamone
Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—Al Qaeda and Taliban sympathizers launched two hit-and-run attacks on U.S. forces in Afghanistan Monday, Department of Defense officials said Tuesday.

There have been no U.S. casualties, the officials said.

In one incident, a U.S. Special Forces detachment based in Jalalabad received automatic weapons fire from about 10 enemy personnel. The U.S. soldiers returned fire. The enemy broke contact in a fighting retreat into the surrounding hills.

Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt IIs responded to a call for air support by dropping flares on the suspect area. U.S. officials in Afghanistan reported the action is still going on.

In another incident, U.S. Special Forces soldiers saw five unidentified persons moving near the perimeter

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how proud I am of our U.S. soldiers," written by Chris D.

Even though "Any Servicemember" mail was suspended, family members and friends can still send loved ones letters and packages overseas by using name, rank and APO address. The Christmas mailing deadline was Wednesday for parcel airlift mail and is Wednesday for first-class and priority mail, letters and cards.

For those who want to send sentimental notes to unknown service members, though, the only authorized way is through e-mail; and more than 500,000 people have already sent messages to the military service of their choice, said an official from the Military Postal Service Agency.

Anyone can read or post a message for troops. School-aged children, spouses of veterans and foreigners have expressed their feelings for the troops that have left their family behind to fight for America's freedoms.

"Good luck against the Taliban. I hope you beat the Taliban's butt," wrote Jamie from New Berlin, U.S. Virgin Islands.

The United States' allies have also taken the time to address troops.

"You brave souls, march onwards my friends," wrote Maria Lambrinos from Adelaide, Australia. "You are truly God's Army, and we thank you with all our hearts. Stay safe and wishing you a speedy return."

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of the Lwara firebase. A U.S. quick reaction force responded and found five rockets. Assisted by helicopter air support, the force chased the enemy into a building, cleared two compounds in the area and detained a person for questioning.

U.S. officials stressed that these and many other similar incidents in recent days illustrate the dangers

U.S. and Coalition forces in Afghanistan still face.

President Bush said Monday during the Pentagon signing ceremony for the 2003 National Defense Authorization Act that U.S. troops are hunting down "a bunch of cold-blooded killers." He said U.S. and Coalition forces are uncovering arms caches and continuing to improve stability in Afghanistan. That stability allows U.S. and French specialists the time necessary

to train the Afghan National Army.

"And while we hunt... the killers down, we'll continue to help the Afghan people as they work to build lives of dignity and lives of security," Bush said. "Afghanistan is no longer a safe haven for hijackers and bomb-makers and assassins. Thanks to the United States military, the terrorist training camps are closed. Many terrorists have met their fate in the

caves and mountains of Afghanistan. Others are now in custody."

There are 9,000 U.S. personnel stationed in the country. Another 48,000 service members are serving in the U.S. Central Command area of operations. This area stretches from Kenya and Egypt to Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

A total of 36 Americans have died in the conflict in the country.

More specialties drop from Stop-Loss list

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

WASHINGTON—The Army recently removed Stop-Loss restrictions that impacted two warrant officer specialties and seven enlisted military occupational specialties. The second partial Stop-Loss lifted via Military Personnel Message 03-044 Nov. 27.

Warrant officers with the 350D imagery intelligence technician specialties or 352G voice intercept technician (Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese-Mandarin, Czech, French, German, Hebrew-Modern, Hungarian, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Polish, Spanish, Russian, Serbo-Croat, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese language only) specialties may now retire or otherwise separate from the Army under normal procedures.

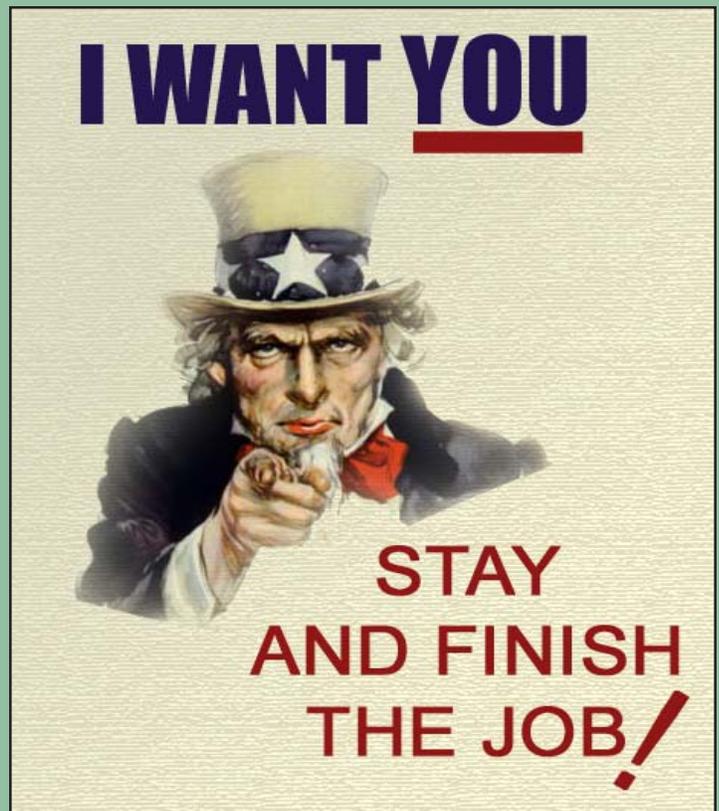
The latest enlisted MOSs off the Stop-Loss list include: 13C field artillery automation fire support specialist; 13D field artillery tactical data systems specialist; 13E cannon fire direction specialist; 14E patriot fire control specialist; 33W intelligence electronic

warfare repairman; 96R ground surveillance systems specialist; and 98G voice interceptor (only those with the same languages covered by the warrant voice intercept technician lift).

Stop-Loss was initiated in November 2001 as a way to manage

critical Army manpower needs in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

As of Nov. 27, there were 24,677 Reserve and National Guard soldiers serving in a mobilized status, according to Department of Defense statistics.



HIND SIGHT

1484

Pope Innocent VIII issues a bill deploring the spread of witchcraft and heresy in Germany.

1791

Composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart dies in Vienna.

1909

George Taylor makes the first manned glider flight in Australia in a glider that he designed himself.

1966

Comedian and political activist Dick Gregory heads for Hanoi, North Vietnam, despite federal warnings against it.

1978

The Soviet Union signs a 20-year friendship pact with Afghanistan.

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one of those detained, identified only as Hermianto, was believed to have arranged accommodations for the bombers in Bali.

Iraq: Inspectors spying for U.S., Israel

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq protested sharply Wednesday over U.N. weapons inspectors' surprise intrusion into one of Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces, accusing the arms experts of spying for the Israelis and Americans and staging the palace search as a provocation that could lead to war. The harshest criticism came from Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan, who charged — in language reminiscent of clashes with inspectors in the 1990s — that the new teams of U.N. monitors are gathering intelligence for Washington and Israel. Ramadan, known for his fiery statements, claimed to his all-Arab audience that the inspectors went to the palace hoping to provoke the Iraqis into refusing them entrance — something he said would be interpreted as a "material breach" of the U.N. resolution that mandated the inspections, and a cause for war. The resolution includes "several land mines," Ramadan said, "and the aim is that one of them will go off."

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

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

Tomorrow's movie will be "The Brothers," showing at the same time.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Mostly sunny</i> H: 52F L: 19F	<i>Partly sunny</i> H: 52F L: 21F
Kandahar:	<i>Haze</i> H: 46F L: 28F	<i>Haze</i> H: 45F L: 32F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 46F L: 27F	<i>Haze</i> H: 52F L: 27F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Haze</i> H: 29F L: 2F	<i>Haze</i> H: 35F L: 5F

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)

Canucks outlast red-hot Devils in OT, extend division lead

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Todd Bertuzzi got his second goal of the game on a scramble in front 56 seconds into overtime to give the Vancouver Canucks a 3-2 victory over the New Jersey Devils Wednesday night.

Trevor Linden also scored, and Dan Cloutier made 24 saves as the Canucks rebounded just one night after having their franchise-record 10-game winning streak snapped.

Scott Niedermayer and Brian Gionta scored for New Jersey,

which had its three-game winning streak ended.

Bertuzzi, who tied the game early in the third period, had a wide-open net on the game-winner that handed New Jersey only its second overtime loss (5-2-1).

A shot from the point by Brent Sopel, who had two assists, went to the right of Martin Brodeur. Brendan Morrison flubbed an attempt at the rebound, but defenseman Mattias Ohlund backhanded the puck in front and Bertuzzi netted his 13th goal.

2002 Bowl Championship Series

TEAM	TOTAL
1. Miami, Fla.	3.53
2. Ohio State	4.01
3. Georgia	9.03
4. USC	9.84
5. Iowa	10.55
6. Washington St.	17.67
7. Oklahoma	18.87
8. Kansas St.	20.05
9. Texas	20.28
10. Notre Dame	20.73
11. Michigan	24.08
12. Colorado	25.97
13. Penn St.	27.69
14. Florida St.	36.12
15. West Virginia	38.43



USC's Palmer wins Uinitas award

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern California's Carson Palmer Wednesday won Johnny Uinitas Golden Arm Award, given annually to the nation's top senior quarterback.

Palmer completed 288 of 458 passes for a USC record 3,639 yards and 32 touchdowns during the regular season for the fifth-ranked Trojans (10-2). Palmer is the Pac-10's career leader in passing yards and total offense. The Trojans have averaged 42 points during their seven-game winning streak.

The 6-foot-5 quarterback beat out Miami's Ken Dorsey, Marshall's Byron Leftwich, Iowa State's Seneca Wallace and Louisville's Dave Ragone.

The winner is chosen by a panel of football experts. The presentation will be made in Louisville on Dec. 13 by Hall of Famer Bart Starr. The award is named for Hall of Fame quarterback Johnny Uinitas, who played at Louisville before his 18-year NFL career. Uinitas died Sept. 11 at 69. Former Fresno State quarterback David Carr won the award last year. Past winners include current NFL quarterbacks Chris Redman (1999), Peyton Manning (1997) and Danny Wuerffel (1996).



2002 National Hockey League standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic

(3) New Jersey	31 pts
(6) Philadelphia	29 pts
(7) N.Y. Rangers	28 pts
(8) Pittsburgh	28 pts
N.Y. Islanders	21 pts

Northeast

(1) Boston	36 pts
(5) Ottawa	29 pts
Toronto	26 pts
Montreal	25 pts
Buffalo	15 pts

Southeast

(2) Carolina	31 pts
(4) Tampa Bay	29 pts
Florida	26 pts
Washington	24 pts
Atlanta	16 pts

Western Conference

Central

(3) Detroit	32 pts
(5) St. Louis	31 pts
Chicago	23 pts
Columbus	22 pts
Nashville	16 pts

Northwest

(2) Vancouver	36 pts
(4) Minnesota	32 pts
(6) Edmonton	29 pts
(8) Colorado	27 pts
Calgary	20 pts

Pacific

(1) Dallas	36 pts
(7) Los Angeles	27 pts
Anaheim	27 pts
San Jose	22 pts
Phoenix	22 pts

Mironov leaves team, demand trade

CHICAGO — Chicago Blackhawks defenseman Boris Mironov has left the team and demanded a trade.

Mironov, who didn't play Wednesday night against Ottawa, skipped practice Tuesday and didn't participate in Wednesday's game-day skate.

Chicago GM Mike Smith said Mironov will not be paid during his absence, and that the team will try to deal the defenseman.

"I think Boris just figures it's time to play someplace else," Smith said. "I'm not going to speak for Boris. I can't get inside his head."

Lemieux leads All-Star voting

NEW YORK — Mario Lemieux leads the Eastern Conference in All-Star voting, it was announced Wednesday.

Lemieux, the NHL's top scorer with 47 points, has received 72,366 votes in balloting for the Feb. 2 All-Star game in Sunrise, Fla. Voting will continue until Dec. 31.

The game's format is back to pitting the Eastern Conference against the Western Conference after five years of North America taking on the World.

New York Rangers defenseman Brian Leetch (64,523 votes) was next, followed by Washington forward Jaromir Jagr (56,406) — Lemieux's former Pittsburgh teammate — New Jersey defenseman Scott Stevens (51,801) and Tampa Bay goalie Nikolai Khabibulin (49,724).

Western Conference's results will be Thursday.

Sharks hire Wilson to be next coach

Ron Wilson, fired by Washington last May after five mostly successful seasons, coached the U.S. team in the 1998 Olympics, to the gold medal in the 1996 World Cup of Hockey, and twice in the world championships. He also spent four years as the first coach of division rival Anaheim.

Wearing a tie accented with teal, Wilson accepted the job at a news conference Wednesday night at the Shark Tank. Once he gets to know his new team's personnel, Wilson believes he can point the slumping Sharks back toward the playoffs.

"I can comment from my own personal experience: After four or five years, sometimes a change needs to be made," Wilson said. "I'll initially keep things simple until I

know everybody firsthand ... but everybody's got a clean slate."

Wilson and team owner Greg Jamison needed 10 minutes to hammer out a contract that lasts through next season. Wilson will be among the league's highest-paid coaches, though financial terms weren't immediately available.

The Sharks moved quickly to fill their vacancy with a veteran coach who can get the attention and respect of a veteran team. Sutter, the winningest coach in franchise history during nearly five and a half seasons, was fired Sunday along with assistants Rich Preston and Lorne Molleken in a surprising shakeup of a struggling team aspiring to be a Stanley Cup contender.

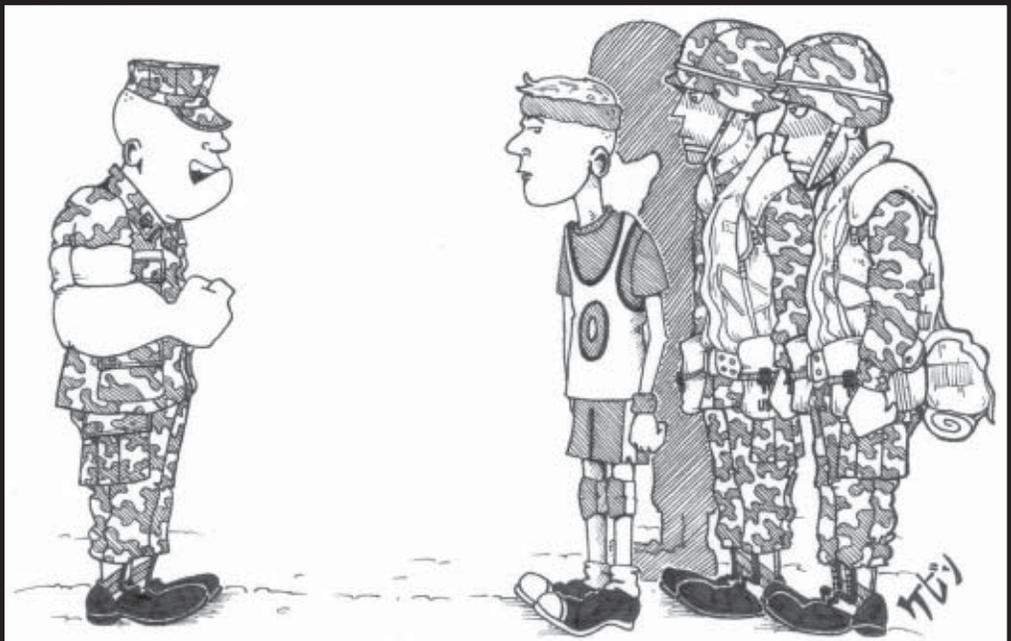
Wilson got the first call on Sun-

day night from Sharks general manager Dean Lombardi, who promised his search wouldn't take more than a few days.

"He's got old-time hockey in him, which is important," Lombardi said of Wilson, whose father and uncle both played for Stanley Cup-winning teams. "Look at his family tree. And he's also very well-versed in the technical side of things. He knows how to take advantage of things that his dad and uncle never dreamed about."

The Sharks struggled to an 8-12-2-2 start that put them in last place in the Pacific Division, but they got a 3-2 overtime victory over Phoenix on Tuesday night with scout Cap Raeder and team executive Doug Wilson coaching the team.

"Someone please tell Murphy the difference between being ready for an exercise and being ready to exercise."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support