

# Freedom Watch

May 13, 2003

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Bagram, Afghanistan



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

## From the mouths of babes...

*An Afghan boy takes the initiative to teach his class part of their daily lesson. During the reign of the Taliban, many schools were closed and many curriculums forbidden. Due to the intervention of American and coalition forces, thousands of schools have been rebuilt throughout the country and children can continue their education.*

## Bagram reference via 527<sup>th</sup> engineers

By Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — None of them work as surveyors as civilians and none of them really get a chance to perform their job in garrison, but here in Afghanistan they are Bagram's survey team from the Louisiana National Guard.

For four months now, the six Army National Guard members from the 527<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Ruston, La., here have been in Afghanistan with a mission of surveying Bagram Air Field for various projects.

The team is concurrently surveying the entire area of Bagram for a future water and sewage system and a current base map, which they say may take two and a half months.

They are working side by side with Maj.

Erwin Blankefort, the base engineer for Bagram, who designs initial plans for Bagram.

"In lots of jobs in the military you don't see the results of what you started. (In) this job you can see what we've done," said Staff Sgt. James Tuma, 527<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn.

The team has a layout of the last map constructed of Bagram and uses it as reference to know which portion of the air base they will survey for that day. Typically, the team surveys for about three to four hours and then go back and draw everything up they saw throughout the day, said Spc. Richard Munoz, 527<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn.

Satellite images were taken for the last map of Bagram, which prove to be inaccurate, said Sgt. Heather McGuffee, 527<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn.

"This way it will be accurate," said

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## Italians, U.S., Afghans work historic mission

By Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BERMEL VALLEY**, Afghanistan — May 2 marked a historical day for the Italian Military. The Alpini battalion L'Aquila and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment "Blue Devils," Fort Bragg, N.C., executed the first combat air assault in Italian Military history.

The mission was in the Bermel Valley. The helicopters landed and released a flood of Italian and Afghan National Army soldiers.

The day before the assault began differently for the rest of the Italian troops. Against the backdrop of the rising Afghanistan sun, approximately 20 Italian vehicles and one American vehicle headed for the Bermel Valley. Fifteen hours later, after driving on every imaginable terrain, the convoy arrived at Forward Operating Base Shkin. The next day started with the move into the valley.

Their mission was to secure the valley and establish a sense of security and trust in the ANA in the villages of Bermel and Margah, said Maj. Dan Fields, Task Force Nibbio liaison officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3-504 PIR.

Once in the valley, all of the soldiers merged to accomplish the mission. They set up blocking positions within the valley to prevent unfriendly forces from entering or exiting the valley, said Fields. The positions are not permanent due to the lack of manpower and for strategic and security reasons, he added.

The next step was to win the hearts of the people through the distribution of aid by the peoples' own new national army. The

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Smoke rises over the scene of one of the three attacks on compounds known to house U.S. citizens.

## U.S., Saudis suspect al-Qaida in Riyadh blasts

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — U.S. and Saudi officials said they suspect al-Qaida in simultaneous explosions that rocked the Saudi capital late Monday, killing at least one person and hurting dozens of others.

The blasts tore through three compounds housing Americans here, officials and witnesses said. All resulted from vehicles detonating. Saudi officials said the assailants shot their way into the upscale, gated communities before setting off their explosives.

A fourth compound suffered collateral damage in the attacks, but there was not a fourth explosion, a senior State Department official said.

According to diplomatic sources, the housing complexes were Courdoval, Jedawal and The Hamra.

Official sources in Riyadh said the son of the city's deputy governor was killed in one of the blasts. U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Robert Jordan said more than 40 Americans were wounded and some Americans were killed, although he could not confirm the number of deaths.

## Iraq's 'Dr. Germ,' military chief in custody

CNN — The Iraqi woman whom Central Command labels "Dr. Germ" is in custody, as is the former head of Iraq's armed forces, U.S. officials said Monday.

Rihab Taha al-Azawi al-Tikriti, a British-educated Iraqi, was No. 197 on Central

Command's most-wanted list.

Taha could prove instrumental in leading U.S. and British forces to any biological, chemical and nuclear weapons the former regime possessed, officials said.

She is married to Iraq's former oil minister, Amir Rashid Muhammad al-Ubaydi, an adviser to ex-President Saddam Hussein.

Al-Ubaydi was No. 47 on the list and the six of spades in the deck of cards issued to U.S. troops to help identify fugitive Iraqi leaders. He surrendered to coalition forces April 28.

## Principal: School will seek expulsions for hazing

GLENVIEW, Ill. — School officials said Monday they have suspended — and will move to expel — some students involved in a hazing incident in which other students were injured last week.

"We are moving to expel all of those students who we feel are in violation and [whose] actions warrant expulsion," Glenbrook North High School Principal Michael Riggle said at a news conference.

Earlier, school officials had said they did not have the authority to issue academic suspensions or expulsions because the hazing — which took place in a public park — occurred outside the school's jurisdiction.

But Riggle sought the most severe measures possible after the district's counsel advised school officials that the school had broader powers than previously thought.

Riggle announced the suspension of some of the students, caught on videotape assaulting younger students May 4, from both academic and extracurricular activities for 10 days — the maximum suspension a school administrator in Illinois is authorized to hand down. He said the Board of Education could extend the suspensions.

## Sharon, Abbas plan weekend meeting

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas will meet this weekend to discuss the "road map" to a final peace plan,



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, left, and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas meet Sunday.

Israeli and Palestinian officials said Monday.

It was not immediately clear whether the talks will be held Friday or Saturday, nor was it clear where they will be held, said officials.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell met Sunday and Monday with Israeli and Palestinian representatives to pressure both sides to follow the road map.

Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath told CNN that Abbas will urge Sharon to publicly accept the so-called road map, which Israel has not yet done, "and to start together to implement this road map — each of us implementing his share of these obligations and responsibilities."

## Sheriff: Texas woman says God told her to kill sons

TYLER, Texas — Whether authorities will seek the death penalty against a Texas woman accused of beating to death two of her three young sons has not been decided, according to the district attorney who will try the case.

Smith County D.A. Jack Skeen said he wants to wait until all the evidence is gathered before making that decision in the capital murder case of Deanna LaJune Laney, 38.

In Texas, a capital murder charge carries a punishment of either life in prison or death.

Laney made a brief court appearance Monday, in which a judge read aloud her rights and put her bail at \$3 million, the district clerk said. Laney's court-appointed lawyer, F.R. "Buck" Files, advised her to stand silent.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

*Afghan National Army soldiers hand out aid to the villagers of Margah.*

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villagers, who wanted any little thing they could receive, immediately crowded the ANA soldiers.

“This is very important,” said Italian Maj. Gianpaolo Romolli, L’Aquila commander. “We want to show the people that their army is here to help them and that we will be here also — as a coalition — to rebuild Afghanistan.”

Along with humanitarian aid, medical aid was also given. Limited medicines were given out to those who most needed it. The ANA and Italians donated all of the aid that was handed out.

“We are hoping to promote a more stable country — politically and within the population,” said Fields.

Both Fields and Romolli said that the mission was a success.

“This was a big effort and brought together many elements that normally don’t work together,” Romaolli said. “I think we have made a great impact on the people in the valley.

Fields agreed.

“I think we started to show the people of the villages that they can trust their army,” he said.”

Fields also praised the Italian soldiers and the ANA.

“These soldiers executed very well,” he

said. “They are confident in their skills and abilities and they proved to be capable and compassionate.”

This mission was a first for the Italian Army and is being touted as their first combat mission since WWII.

But the people of Italy are being told a different story.

“They don’t say war for political reasons,” said Romolli. “The people are told that this is for peace, and for the people it is difficult to see otherwise when they don’t see any injuries. But the soldiers know that

this is a potentially dangerous mission in a dangerous area.”

Across the valley, the soldiers of 3-504 had a different mission. They, along with Special Operations Forces and the ANA went into the Bermel bazaar to give back documents that were taken out of the village a year ago.

The people of the village gathered in the middle of the bazaar to the sound of a beating drum, where ANA and American SOF soldiers greeted them. Aid was handed out and a presentation was made to village leaders returning the seized documents.

The documents were taken because they were thought to be suspicious and belonging to al-Qaida and Taliban, said ANA Maj. Wahab, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Kandac (battalion) through an interpreter.

When it was discovered that they were personal affects of the people, the U.S. and ANA soldiers returned them.

“We are the new national army,” Wahab said. “It is important that we are the ones who give them aid. It shows them that we are here for them and that they are safe. Once they know this, then they will work with us to stay safe.”

Wahab is proud of his new army and boasts that for the first time in the history of Afghanistan, people of different tribes have come together for a common goal – and the goal is the rebuilding of the country and the safety of its people.



*A boy gives a thumbs up to an Italian soldier when the convoy momentarily stopped in a village.*

**SURVEY**, from Page 1

Mcguffee about surveying the entire perimeter of Bagram manually.

The team uses a \$50,000-automated-surveying tool to give accurate distances of anything stationary here by reading angles, distances and elevations of any given spot.

It remains a lot for the small team of engineers to take care of this project while taking care of other current projects; soldier details and dealing with unplanned weather, said Mcguffee.

This is why each member of the team knows the ins and outs of the job, said Tuma.

“It doesn’t matter if it is a specialist or a staff sergeant, everyone is proficient in doing every aspect of the job to complete the mission,” he said.

As a soldier in the National Guard, there really isn’t a whole lot of surveying being done in garrison, said Mcguffee. Here, she says she has a different aspect on performing her job.

“Here we are more confident that what we do will be utilized,” she said.



Photo by Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

*Sgt. Heather Mcguffee, 527<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Louisiana National Guard, Ruston, La., uses the automated surveyor to get the distance, elevation and angle of a needed location here Monday from Spc. Richard Munoz, 527<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn.*

# Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “My Blue Heaven.” An all too uptight FBI agent must protect a larger than life mobster with a heart of gold, currently under witness protection in the suburbs.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Man With Two Brains.”

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Wednesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Mostly cloudy H: 84F L: 54F	Mostly clear H: 81F L: 52F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dust H: 88F L: 59F	Dust H: 90F L: 54F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 84F L: 52F	Mostly clear H: 79F L: 48F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 78F L: 50F	Mostly cloudy H: 75F L: 49F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



*Singh thinks Annika has no business playing in the Colonial.*

## Singh says he'd withdraw if paired with Sorenstam

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Vijay Singh says Annika Sorenstam has no business playing in the Colonial next week and “I hope she misses the cut.” On the odd chance he gets paired with her, he’ll withdraw. She doesn’t belong out here,” Singh said after his runner-up finish in the Wachovia Championship. “If I’m drawn with her, which I won’t be, I won’t play.” Singh knows he won’t be playing in the same group as Sorenstam when she becomes the first woman in 58 years to compete on the PGA Tour. His name will be drawn from a pool of PGA Tour winners when the pairings are made. Still, his comments were the strongest yet about Sorenstam’s decision to accept a sponsor’s exemption to play in the Colonial. The last woman to play on the PGA Tour was Babe Zaharias, who qualified for the 1945 Los Angeles Open. Nick Price, the defending champion at Colonial, has said Sorenstam’s presence “reeks of publicity.” He thinks she ought to qualify if she wants to prove herself at the highest level. Scott Hoch, who once played with Sorenstam in a mixed-team tournament, said he wants to see her play well so people will realize “how much separation there is between us and the ladies’ tour.” Still, most players have been cautious with their comments, not willing to predict a score and hopeful she plays well so it doesn’t reflect poorly on the LPGA Tour. Singh held nothing back in an interview with The Associated Press as he left the locker room at Quail Hollow late Sunday afternoon, saying the 32-year-old Swede should stick to her own tour. “What is she going to prove by playing? It’s ridiculous,” said Singh, a two-time major champion who is No. 7 in the World Ranking. “She’s the best woman golfer in the world, and I want to emphasize ‘woman.’ We have our tour for men, and they have their tour. She’s taking a spot from someone in the field.” The Colonial is an invitational with a limited field. Sorenstam received one of eight sponsor’s exemptions. Singh speaks from experience. In 1998, he played in an unofficial event called the “Super Tour” that matched the scorecards of nine professionals after play-

ing 18 holes a day in four Asian cities. Laura Davies was invited to play, and finished 39 strokes behind Singh. “Laura Davies is a long-ball hitter, but she still had to hit good irons,” Singh said. “It’s just different for ladies to play on the men’s tour. It’s like getting the Williams sister to play against a man, and they’re far better athletes than she (Sorenstam) is.” Sorenstam has become significantly stronger in the last two years as she has taken over women’s golf. She won 13 times around the world last year, the most by a woman in nearly 40 years, and two years ago became the first woman to shoot 59. Sorenstam was returning from Japan on Monday, where she won the Nichirei Cup by nine shots, and was not available for comment. Sorenstam has been playing from the back tees to gear up for the Colonial, including a round with Tiger Woods in which she is said to have finished 10 strokes behind. “Some people don’t believe she should be out here — golfers and men in general,” Hoch said. “Most guys hope she plays well, and what comes out of this is that she realizes she can’t compete against the men.”

## Martinez upsets Dokic at Italian Open

ROME — Conchita Martinez upset ninth-seeded Jelena Dokic 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 at the Italian Open, giving the Spaniard another victory at a tournament she once won four years in a row. Martinez made the most of her steady game Monday in advancing to the second round of this \$1.3 million tournament leading to the French Open, which starts May 26. Martinez, ranked 27<sup>th</sup>, won this event from 1993 to



*Conchita Martinez won the title in Rome from 1993 to 1996.*

1996, when she was a mainstay in the top five. She improved her overall record in Rome to 46-7. “I was surprised how I could keep up with her physically and mentally,” Martinez said. “In the last weeks I wasn’t practicing so well. I had a shoulder injury and my confidence was not very up.”

Martinez had lost her past five matches with Dokic, including a semifinal in Rome in 2001. Dokic, of Serbia-Montenegro, went on to win the tournament that year. “I lost the match. She didn’t do very much,” Dokic said afterward. “I don’t think she’s ever played worse against me — we’ve played like 15 times — and I’ve never played so

## SPORTS from page 5

badly against her. I was basically playing against myself. She hit two or three winners in the whole match. I just made loads of mistakes." Dokic, who was back in the top 10 when Monday's rankings came out, said she's having a bad year. "Right now, I'm struggling a little against myself and I'm losing a few matches," Dokic said. "I just hope a change comes quickly. Mentally, I'm not as strong as I used to be." Laura Granville eliminated 15<sup>th</sup>-seeded Meghann Shaughnessy 7-5, 6-3 in a match between Americans. Fourteenth-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa rallied past Iroda Tulyaganova of Uzbekistan 2-6, 6-3, 6-0, and 16<sup>th</sup>-seeded Anna Pistolesi of Israel downed Elena Tatarkova of Ukraine 6-0, 6-4. Top-seeded Serena Williams, the defending champion, has a first-round bye and does not play until Tuesday. U.S. qualifier Ashley Harkleroad lost to France's Nathalie Dechy 1-6, 6-3, 6-2. Harkleroad advanced to the semifinals in Charleston, S.C., last month and is her ranking has jumped to 57<sup>th</sup>.

### Despite meltdown, Irwin recovers for first win of '03

AUSTIN, Texas — A whiff, a triple bogey and a playoff. What a way for Hale Irwin to win the inaugural Kinko's Classic. Irwin recovered from a front-nine mental meltdown that included a ball tossed into a creek in anger and a whiff on a tap-in — reminiscent of his gaffe at the 1983 British Open — to win his first Champions Tour title of the season Sunday with a birdie on the second playoff hole with Tom Watson. "Call it an airball," Irwin said afterward, seemingly amazed that he won the tournament in such an unusual way. "I would never have believed anything like this would happen. What a day." Watson was amazed, too.

"It's just stupid," Watson said of his playing partner's bumble. "If he can whiff it from inches out and still win the tournament, that shows he's the best on the tour." It was the 37<sup>th</sup> Champions Tour win for Irwin, who will be 58 next month. Last year Irwin, who won three U.S. Opens, became the oldest player on tour to win the money title. Watson won the 1983 British Open, beating Irwin by a stroke. "I guess he got me back today," Watson said. "The '83 British Open was another one that constituted an airball," Irwin said. "That one was just bad judgment. Today was just being upset."

Irwin and Watson both shot 1-over 73 in the final round at The Hills Country Club on Sunday and finished at 8-under 208.

They both birdied the 18<sup>th</sup> hole of regulation, snapping what had been a four-way tie with Tom Kite and Bob Gilder. Irwin and Watson both parred No. 18 on the first playoff hole, but Watson nearly won it when his bunker shot for birdie lipped out.

Then they headed back to the par-3 16<sup>th</sup>, the course's

signature waterfall hole. Watson's birdie attempt curled short about two inches out.

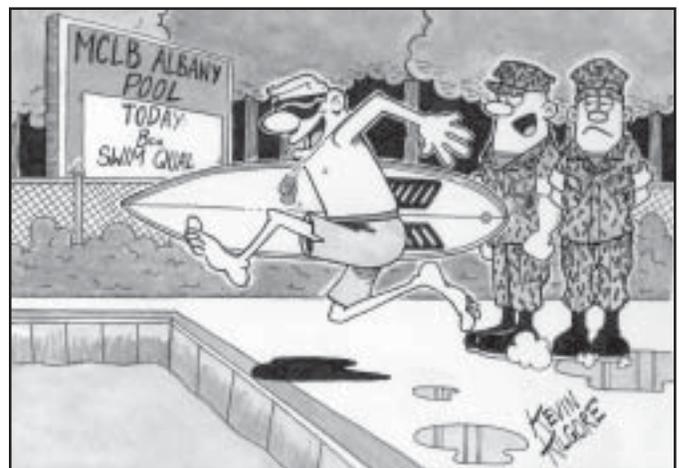
Irwin then sank an 8-footer for the win. "I thought I made my putt," Watson said. "It really banked right." It was the first Champions Tour event of the season to go to a playoff, and Irwin became the 11<sup>th</sup> different winner in 11 tour events this year.

### This week, Kuerten makes it past first round

HAMBURG, Germany — Gustavo Kuerten took a step in reviving his clay-court game, beating Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina 6-2, 6-4 on Monday night to reach the second round of the Hamburg Masters. Kuerten, once the game's best player on clay, bounced back from a first-round loss at the Italian Open last week. The three-time French Open champion had hip surgery in February 2002 and has not won a title on clay in 22 months. Kuerten, seeded 11<sup>th</sup>, was the 2000 champion at Hamburg, a \$2.4 million tuneup for the French Open. The Brazilian rolled through the first set, broke serve for a 2-1 lead in the second and had no trouble the rest of the way. Paradorn Srichaphan struggled again on clay, losing 6-4, 6-3 to Feliciano Lopez of Spain. Lopez, an accomplished clay-court player, raced to a 4-0 lead against the seventh-seeded Thai. Paradorn has won only two matches in five clay-court tournaments this year.

"It's tough for me. I didn't grow up on clay," he said. "But I still try to enjoy it. Last year I didn't win a match on clay until the French Open. But the clay season helps me get ready for the hard-court season," he added. "Clay teaches you to become patient, and it helps my fitness as well." Tim Henman of England topped Jan-Michael Gambill 7-5, 6-4. Henman is coming back from shoulder surgery in November and entered the match 2-5 for the year.

**"West coast Marine, sir."**



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support