



# The Old Ironsides Report



Monday, March 01, 2004

## DIVARTY tower guards keep watch over city, comrades

By Staff Sgt. Mark Bell, 372nd MPAD  
CAMP STEEL FALCON, Iraq -- From afar, the tower looks simple, quiet and safe.

As the Soldiers tread through the wet earth, slowly inching closer to their goal, their boots get heavier with each step from the mud-basin surrounding the base of the tower.

Finally, they're there, almost breathless.

They grasp the metal rail and bang their boots against the first step. Instantaneously they're pounds lighter as globs of mud fall from their battle-worn desert boots.

With their weapons slung over their shoulders and their backpack canteens full of water for the long evening, they slowly begin the 30-foot climb to the pinnacle -- to a new world.

Finally, they both are on top of one of the tallest guard towers in Baghdad.

Surrounded by steel, mortar, and sandbags, the two climbers meet familiar faces --the guards who have spent the past two hours protecting their portion of Camp Steel Falcon.

The view from towers numbers 9 and 10 is inspiring; overlooking the heart of the Al Rashid district in southern Baghdad.

They command attention as each tower overlooks some of Baghdad's most dangerous roads.

Armed with squad automatic weapons, the Soldier's silhouettes disappear behind them through the thick camouflage netting

For young Soldiers barely out of their teens, knowing they are protecting the lives their fellow Soldiers below, brings a sense of satisfaction that goes beyond pulling what some consider just a "detail."

"It gives me a large amount responsibility for protecting the FOB and the units here," said Pvt. Jenelle Bower, 19, from Pennsylvania. "It makes me feel good that I am doing something important. We have to protect everyone inside or the mission will fail."

For Spc. Antonio Mahoney, 20, from Washington, Ga., working on the towers has been a great experience.

"It's something I never thought I would ever get to do," he said. "I feel important doing this job here because we're actually making it safer for the people in the FOB while we are pulling guard in the tower."

As the sun slowly inches toward the horizon, they know it is only minutes before everything changes.

The rules change for the hostile insurgents collecting intelligence about the operating base.



**Pvt. Jenelle R. Bower, 19, from Pennsylvania, and Spc. Antonio D. Mahoney, 20, from Washington, Ga., watch closely the Al Rashid district skyline. Photo by Spc. Javier Velasco.**

The rules change for the Soldiers as they flip down and activate their night-vision goggles. From black and gray to shades of light and dark greens, they now are able to watch the large sand-barrier wall separating the busy highway from the forward operating base.

"During the day it's easier because you can see a lot more things than at night," said Mahoney. "You have to be more aware of your surroundings and things around than you do when pulling guard at night."

The night is silent except for the sporadic, awkward honking of automobile horns. The sounds seem to be taunting the Soldiers.

As the Soldiers scan the city, the distinctive sounds of AK-47 assault rifle rounds being fired are heard. Just over the building tops, the sight of red tracers cut through the black skies above before gracefully disappearing into the darkness.

The Soldiers don't flinch or even react - a sign of a veteran guard on the two forward towers.

"My thoughts are always 'how to react if we were to get shot at,'" Mahoney said. "I always wonder what my reaction is going to be like."

Whether the two Soldiers are in Towers 9 or 10 or stopping and searching vehicles entering FOB Steel Falcon, the guards' positive and brave attitudes ensure Soldiers in their rooms can sleep comfortably knowing his or her lives are safe because of their comrades keeping watch.

# *The Old Ironsides Report* March 1, 2004

## **NEWS...**

### **Iraqis Trying Again to Draft Constitution**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Iraq's U.S.-picked leaders, who failed to meet a deadline for adopting an interim constitution, hope to come up with an agreement in the few days but won't sign it until the end of a Shiite religious holiday, a coalition official said Sunday.

An Estonian soldier was killed when a homemade bomb planted by insurgents went off in northwest Baghdad, an Estonian spokeswoman said Sunday. He was the first Estonian soldier killed by hostile fire since the country gained independence in 1991 and the first coalition trooper killed in action since Feb. 19.

### **Aristide Flees Haiti; Judge Claims Power**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - Haiti's beleaguered President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resigned and fled into exile Sunday. Gunfire crackled throughout the capital as it fell into chaos, and the United States said international peacekeepers - including Americans - would be deployed soon. The head of Haiti's supreme court said he was taking charge.

### **Work on Israeli Barrier Ordered Stopped**

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel's Supreme Court on Sunday ordered the government to suspend work for one week on a section of the West Bank security barrier, an attorney said, while security forces arrested three Palestinian youths who planned an attack.

The court decision followed a bloody protest last week against the barrier by people who live in the area northwest of Jerusalem. Israeli troops fired live ammunition at the crowd, killing two people.

### **3 Killed, 18 Missing in Va. Tanker Blast**

PORTSMOUTH, Va. (AP) - The Coast Guard searched the frigid Atlantic Sunday for 18 crew members of a tanker that exploded while carrying 3.5 million gallons of ethanol.

Three crewmen were known dead and six others were rescued. "Our first and foremost concern will be finding the 18 people that are missing," Coast Guard spokeswoman Krys Hannum said. Hannum said there was no reason to believe the explosion was anything other than an accident.

### ***Thought for the day...*** **Service**

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

-- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

## **Entertainment...**

### **J.Lo, Affleck Dominate Worst-Film Awards**

By DAVID GERMAIN, AP Movie Writer  
LOS ANGELES (AP) -- The honeymoon's over for Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, but their mob-comedy flop "Gigli" really cleaned up Saturday at the Razzies, the first movie to take all six top trophies in the annual dishonorable-mention awards.

Golden Raspberry Awards voters picked "Gigli" as 2003's worst picture, Affleck as worst actor, Lopez as worst actress and the two as worst screen couple. "Gigli" filmmaker Martin Brest also took the Razzies for worst director and screenplay.

"Gigli" hit theaters last summer amid the tabloid frenzy over Affleck and Lopez's on-again, off-again wedding plans. They finally announced in January the romance was off.

The movie, which starred Affleck as a thug smitten by Lopez as a lesbian crime colleague, fell short of the record seven Razzies won by "Showgirls" and "Battlefield Earth."

"But those are much better bad movies, if that makes any sense," said Razzies founder John Wilson. "If you sit through them with the right people or the right brand of liquor, they can be strangely entertaining.

"But I don't care how medicated you are or what people you're watching it with, 'Gigli' is just a pain in the posterior. It's one of those things that is, as opposed to enjoyably embarrassing, it's just skin-crawlingly embarrassing."

"Gigli" cost \$54 million to make but earned back just \$6 million.

Among other "winners," Sylvester Stallone padded his Razzie resume with a record 10th prize, this time for worst supporting actor in "Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over." Stallone's past Razzies include one for worst actor of the 20th century.

With the 25th annual Razzies coming up next year, the group is considering a special career-achievement prize for Stallone, Wilson said.

In "Spy Kids 3-D," "he plays five characters, so technically the whole supporting-actor category could have been made up of his performances," Wilson said.

Demi Moore took the supporting-actress Razzie for her comeback role in "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle," which also was named worst remake or sequel.

"She tried to come back, and we said, 'No, thanks. We chased you away before. Go away again,'" Wilson said.

The storybook adaptation "Dr. Seuss' the Cat in the Hat" won the Razzie for worst excuse for a movie.

Another top nominee, "From Justin to Kelly," was shut out in the awards balloting by the roughly 600 Razzie voters.

The group decided to give the movie - a spring-break romp featuring "American Idol" stars Kelly Clarkson and Justin Guarini - a special "governor's award" for distinguished underachievement in choreography.

## Today in History...

### March 1, 1961: PEACE CORPS ESTABLISHED

**(HISTROYCHANNEL.COM)** On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy issues Executive Order #10924, establishing the Peace Corps as a new agency within the Department of State. The same day, he sent a message to Congress asking for permanent funding for the agency, which would send trained American men and women to foreign nations to assist in development efforts. The Peace Corps captured the imagination of the U.S. public, and during the week after its creation thousands of letters poured into Washington from young Americans hoping to volunteer.

The immediate precursor of the Peace Corps--the Point Four Youth Corps--was proposed by Representative Henry Reuss of Wisconsin in the late 1950s. Senator Kennedy learned of the Reuss proposal during his 1960 presidential campaign and, sensing growing public enthusiasm for the idea, decided to add it to his platform. In early October 1960, he sent a message to the Young Democrats that called for the establishment of a "Youth Peace Corps," and on October 14 he first publicly spoke of the Peace Corps idea at an early morning speech at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The night before, he had engaged Vice President Richard Nixon in the third presidential debate and was surprised to find an estimated 10,000 students waiting up to hear him speak when he arrived at the university at 2 a.m. The assembled students heard the future president issue a challenge: How many of them, he asked, would be willing to serve their country and the cause of freedom by living and working in the developing world for years at a time?

The Peace Corps proposal gained momentum in the final days of Kennedy's campaign, and on November 8 he was narrowly elected the 35th president of the United States.

On January 20, 1961, in his famous inaugural address, he promised aid to the poor of the world. "To those peoples in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery," he said, "we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required--not because the communists may be doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right." He also appealed to Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

After March 1, thousands of young Americans answered this call to duty by volunteering for the Peace Corps. The agency, which was headed by Kennedy's brother-in-law, R. Sargent Shriver, eventually chose some 750 volunteers to serve in 13 nations in 1961. In August, Kennedy hosted a White House ceremony to honor the first Peace Corps volunteers. The 51 Americans who later landed in Accra, Ghana, for two years of service immediately made a favorable impression on their hosts when they gathered on the airport tarmac to sing the Ghanaian national anthem in Twi, the local language.

On September 22, 1961, Kennedy signed congressional legislation creating a permanent Peace Corps that would "promote world peace and friendship" through three goals: (1) to help the peoples of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women; (2) to help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served; and (3) to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

By the end of 1963, 7,000 volunteers were in the field, serving in 44 Third World countries. In 1966, Peace Corps enrollment peaked, with more than 15,000 volunteers in 52 countries. Budget cuts later reduced the number of Peace Corps volunteers, but today more than 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers are serving in over 70 countries. Since 1961, more than 161,000 Americans have joined the Peace Corps, serving in 134 nations.

### Reenlistment bonus available until soldiers depart theater

Currently, more than 1,400 soldiers have taken advantage of the deployed force reenlistment bonus since October. Soldiers must understand the bonus is no longer available once they redeploy to their home station.

The most frequently asked question from soldiers is "how long am I eligible for the reenlistment bonus?"

The answer is simple: once a soldier leaves Iraq, Afghanistan, or Kuwait, the lump sum tax-free bonus no longer exists.

As we begin to redeploy, our Career Counselors and key retention personnel will become much less accessible as they will be spread thin throughout Iraq, Kuwait, and Germany.

Soldiers eligible for this incentive are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity well in advance of their expected redeployment date. Soldiers should contact their Career Counselors who are standing by to assist our Iron Soldiers in continuing to serve proudly and "Stay Army."

For more information, contact your career counselor.

### LOOKING FOR EVEN MORE CHALLENGES? LOOK INTO THE U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES.

The SF Recruiter is in theater until March 30.

The 1AD Division Reup Team will host the Brief at the Soldier Support Center classroom (2nd floor) on March 5 at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact your career counselor.

**I'VE SEEN THE FUTURE...  
IT'S A CAREER IN TODAY'S ARMY**

# OLD IRONSIDES

**PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE NOW**

## FIRST ARMORED DIVISION

AMERICA'S ONLY TANK DIVISION

SEE YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR TODAY

# The Old Ironsides Report March 1, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: MONDAY, MARCH 01, 2004					As of: Friday, February 27, 2004 8:52:02 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	KOREA	Start Time
00:00		MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG EAST: SYRACUSE @ PITTSBURGH	AMERICAN IDOL	ESPNEWS	CNN SUNDAY	ESPNEWS	00:00
00:30				ESPNEWS		ESPNEWS	00:30
01:00			AMERICAN IDOL	BEST DAMN SPORTS SHOW PERIOD	MEET THE PRESS	BEST DAMN SPORTS SHOW PERIOD	01:00
01:30			THE TWILIGHT ZONE : - THE PRIME MOVER				01:30
02:00	TRACK & FIELD - USA INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS	ESPNEWS	FANTASY ISLAND : - FOOL FOR A CLIENT/ DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE	SESAME STREET	TIM RUSSERT	SESAME STREET	02:00
02:30		ESPNEWS					02:30
03:00	NHL - PHILADELPHIA FLYERS @ DETROIT RED WINGS	HEADLINE NEWS	ROCKET POWER : - TITO TIME/ THE RETURN OF CLEO	DORA: THE EXPLORER : - CLICK!	FOX REPORT	DORA: THE EXPLORER : - CLICK!	03:00
03:30		SEINFELD : - THE JUNIOR MINT	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE		RUGRATS : - THE BIG HOUSE/ THE SHOT	03:30
04:00		COUNTDOWN TO THE OSCARS	THE SIMPSONS : - BART GETS HIT BY A CAR	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THIS WEEK	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	04:00
04:30		76TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS	THE COSBY SHOW : - THE AUCTION				04:30
05:00			BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - LIES MY PARENTS TOLD ME	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	FOX NEWS LIVE	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	05:00
05:30	NHL 2NIGHT						05:30
06:00	NHRA AUTO RACING - K&N FILTERS WINTERNATIONALS: FINALS		LAW & ORDER : - ALL MY CHILDREN	HEADLINE NEWS	60 MINUTES	HEADLINE NEWS	06:00
06:30				JUDGE JUDY		JUDGE JUDY	06:30
07:00			NOVA : - THE ELEGANT UNIVERSE: THE 11TH DIMENSION (PT. 3)	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	CNN PRESENTS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		GUIDING LIGHT	07:25
07:30		HEADLINE NEWS					07:30
08:00	NBA FASTBREAK	HEADLINE NEWS	MONSTER GARAGE : - NASCAR STREET SWEEPER		LARRY KING LIVE		08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		GENERAL HOSPITAL	08:13
08:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	ESPNEWS					08:30
09:00	ESPNEWS	SESAME STREET	A FAR OFF PLACE	LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES : - MR. STENCHY	AT LARGE WITH GERALDO RIVERA	DATELINE NBC	09:00
09:30	ESPNEWS			DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TV-7): - A CLUE FROM THE DIGI-PAST			09:30
10:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - MONSTER JAM	DORA: THE EXPLORER : - CLICK!		DRAGONFLY TV (YR. 1)	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	DRAGONFLY TV (YR. 1)	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		EVEN STEVENS : - MOVIE MADNESS		ROCKET POWER : - THE BACK BOWL/ GAME DAY	10:30
11:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - FIM WORLD SUPERBIKE RACE 1 (SPAIN)	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	ROCKET POWER : - TITO TIME/ THE RETURN OF CLEO	JEOPARDY!	BELTWAY BOYS	JEOPARDY!	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	HEADLINE NEWS	FOX NEWS WATCH	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW					11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT			11:52
12:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - FIM WORLD SUPERBIKE RACE 2 (SPAIN)		THE SIMPSONS : - BART GETS HIT BY A CAR	ESPNEWS	BULLS & BEARS	ESPNEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - THE AUCTION	HEADLINE NEWS	CAVUTO ON BUSINESS	ADVISORY BLOCK	12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT					12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT			12:52
13:00	SPORTSCENTER		BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - LIES MY PARENTS TOLD ME	76TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS	60 MINUTES	CINEMA SECRETS : - SNAP SHOT	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL					13:17
13:30						RAIN MAN	13:30
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	LAW & ORDER : - ALL MY CHILDREN		DATELINE NBC		14:00
14:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	JUDGE JUDY					14:30
15:00	NBA - MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES @ PHILADELPHIA 76ERS	TODAY	NOVA : - THE ELEGANT UNIVERSE: THE 11TH DIMENSION (PT. 3)		GOOD MORNING AMERICA		15:00
16:00			MONSTER GARAGE : - NASCAR STREET SWEEPER	HEADLINE NEWS		HEADLINE NEWS	16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		PACIFIC REPORT	16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO	16:30
17:00		LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES : - MR. STENCHY	A FAR OFF PLACE		HEADLINE NEWS		17:00
17:30	ESPNEWS	DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TV-7): - A CLUE FROM THE DIGI-PAST		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING		17:45
18:00	NBA FASTBREAK	DRAGONFLY TV (YR. 1)			THE EARLY SHOW		18:00
18:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	EVEN STEVENS : - MOVIE MADNESS		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	ROCKET POWER : - TITO TIME/ THE RETURN OF CLEO	MIDWAY		MIDWAY	19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS				19:30
20:00		ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - BART GETS HIT BY A CAR		FOX NEWS LIVE		20:00
20:30	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: NORTH CAROLINA @ NC STATE	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW : - THE AUCTION				20:30
21:00		76TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - LIES MY PARENTS TOLD ME		60 MINUTES		21:00
21:30				AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS		AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS	21:30
22:00			LAW & ORDER : - ALL MY CHILDREN		DATELINE NBC		22:00
22:30	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: DUKE @ FLORIDA STATE			HEADLINE NEWS		HEADLINE NEWS	22:30
23:00			NOVA : - THE ELEGANT UNIVERSE: THE 11TH DIMENSION (PT. 3)	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	HEADLINE NEWS	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	23:00
23:30				HEADLINE NEWS	CNN'S INSIDE POLITICS	HEADLINE NEWS	23:30