



The Old Ironsides Report

Friday, May 14, 2004



16th Engineers block enemy's escape, clear weapons from city park

By Spc. Andrew Meissner, 1AD PAO

WITH TASK FORCE 1-37, Iraq -- For two successive nights last week, B Company, 16th Engineer Battalion traversed the streets of Karbala in support of Operation Iron Saber.

The company is part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, Task Force 1st Armored Division.

The first night of operations found the combat engineers setting roadblocks and conducting dismounted security in support of tank, infantry, and air assaults on known militia strong points in that city.

The roadblocks were intended to encircle and trap escaping enemy forces, said team leader 1st Lt. David Drake.

"We're the ground-pounders out here, making sure (the roadblock personnel) have good security on the ground. We've done a lot of this stuff," he said.

The evening was filled with uncertainty as the sounds of explosions echoed down the streets and red tracer fire streamed overhead.

Soldiers assigned to secure the area acted with deliberate speed, deftly stringing concertina wire across the broad boulevards.

The teams found cover in the underbrush, in dry irrigation ditches and under covered alleyways, denying the enemy pathways of escape around cordon.

According to Pvt. James Watkins, 1st Platoon M249 Squad Automatic Weapon gunner, the engineers are skilled in many areas.

"Whatever they (the other Soldiers) need help with, we can do it," he said.

Although there was no contact with the enemy during their operations, the engineers knew their contribution was necessary to the whole effort.

"I was hoping we'd be able to see more... but we did our part," Watkins said.

After only a few hours of sleep, the engineers were out again the following night. This time the mission was a search for weapons at an abandoned amusement park.

Dismounted infantrymen initially combed the area, encountering some resistance, which they quickly dispatched.

After the infantry secured the park, it was the engineers' turn to fan out.

"You have to do most of your Soldiering first, and be a mechanic second," said first Platoon mechanic Pfc. William Lockey. "Actually, it's been quite challenging. Most mechanics don't do the things I do."



Illumined by the red glow of Karbala's street lamps, Pfc. Alec Fowler, an M113 Armored Personnel Carrier driver from B Co., 16th Engineers strings concertina wire across the roadway, while platoon mechanic Pfc. William Lockey and Squad Automatic Weapon gunner Pvt. James Watkins provide security.

The engineers did not need ground-penetrating radar to find the weapons and ammunition caches that evening. The hidden contents of the park were slowly being discovered by visual searches.

Many of the small structures in the park contained deadly weapons of war: mortars, RPG launchers, heavy caliber ammunition and improvised explosive devices -- many readied for emplacement.

The sappers collected the ordnance and destroyed them. In a thunderous explosion, the weapons disintegrated so completely that none of the items were left for salvage.

Pfc. Alec Fowler, a M113 armored personnel carrier driver, said missions like this validate the task force's move to Karbala to provide a safe and secure community for the city's residents.

"They sent us here because they feel that there is more that (Coalition Forces) need to do. I have no problems staying here until it's done."

NEWS...

Rumsfeld Makes Surprise Visit to Iraq

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq (AP) - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, making a surprise visit to Iraq, went to the Abu Ghraib prison Thursday and told U.S. troops "we'll get through" the international uproar over abuse of inmates there. Arriving here with Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Richard Myers by helicopter in a dust storm, the embattled Rumsfeld called the abuse scandal a "body blow for all of us" but said he was determined that those in the wrong be punished.

U.S. Offered Berg a Flight Out of Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. government warned a young American to leave Iraq, and offered him a flight out of the country, a month before his grisly beheading was broadcast on an al-Qaida-linked Web site, officials said. But authorities in Baghdad denied that Nicholas Berg, 26, was held in U.S. custody before he disappeared in early April, despite claims to the contrary by his family. The authorities said he had been held by Iraqi police for about two weeks and questioned by FBI agents three times.

Lawyer: Proof Withheld in England Case

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) - The lawyer for an Army private photographed taunting naked Iraqi prisoners has accused the Pentagon of withholding evidence necessary to her defense. Giorgio Ra'Shadd maintains the Defense Department has denied him access to pictures, names and other information that could help his client, Pfc. Lynndie England.

Politicians, policy & poetry

Rumsfeld's 'Poetic' Voice Set to Music

By RON HARRIS, Associated Press Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- After hearing Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld dress down the media at Pentagon press briefings, two San Francisco musicians came to an inevitable conclusion: his words simply must be set to chamber music.

So they've taken Rumsfeld's explanations of world affairs and set them to airy classical compositions.

"The Poetry of Donald Rumsfeld and Other Fresh American Songs" includes "The Unknown" from Rumsfeld's Feb. 12, 2002, briefing on the situation in Iraq:

"As we know,

"There are known knowns.

"There are things we know we know.

"We also know there are known unknowns ..."

Now those words are lyrics sung by soprano Elender Wall, set to the lofty chords of composer and pianist Bryant Kong.

The self-published CD has been featured on National Public Radio and several Web sites. Kong is hoping coverage will fuel brisk sales.

Kong says Rumsfeld's unscripted remarks are at once deliberate and casual, and often simply odd. The combination is perfect for classical music.

"What we show in the songs is that we believe that Rumsfeld is telling a story that doesn't hold up - that he is trying to sell a war that is not justified," Kong said. "These classically based forms are a great way of doing that."

Among those enjoying the sendup: Rumsfeld himself!

"Someone gave me a copy of this thing, and here is this woman with a wonderful voice singing my press conference," Rumsfeld said. "Now, if that doesn't tell you something about the state of the world!"

Last year, journalist-humorist Hart Seely took selected Rumsfeld briefings and without changing a word, presented them in the form of free verse, sonnets and haiku in his book "Pieces of Intelligence: The Existential Poetry of Donald H. Rumsfeld."

Kong, who got permission to use Seely's work for his musical compositions, has considered whether the words of other top politicians might work as forms of art. He thinks President Bush's statements lack the necessary substance, while Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry would put people to sleep.

Thought for the day...

Courage

During a confrontation between Malaysia and Indonesia in 1964, a unit of Gurkhas from Nepal were asked by the British Military if they would be willing to jump from the transport planes into combat against the Indonesians.

Although the Gurkhas usually agreed to anything, they provisionally rejected the plan until they had talked it over.

The next day they told the British Officer that they would jump only under the following two conditions: 1) The land was marshy or reasonably soft with no rocky outcrops because they were inexperienced in falling; and 2) The transport plane must fly as slowly as possible and no more than one hundred feet off the ground. The British Officer replied that it was impossible to jump from 100 feet because the parachutes would not open in time from that height.

"Oh," said the Gurkhas, "That's all right, then. We'll jump with parachutes anywhere. You didn't mention parachutes before!"



Today in history...

May 14, 1948: STATE OF ISRAEL PROCLAIMED

HISTORYCHANNEL.COM -- On May 14, 1948, in Tel Aviv, Jewish Agency Chairman David Ben-Gurion proclaims the State of Israel, establishing the first Jewish state in 2,000 years. In an afternoon ceremony at the Tel Aviv Art Museum, Ben-Gurion pronounced the words "We hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine, to be called Israel," prompting applause and tears from the crowd gathered at the museum. Ben-Gurion became Israel's first premier.

In the distance, the rumble of guns could be heard from fighting that broke out between Jews and Arabs immediately following the British army withdrawal earlier that day. Egypt launched an air assault against Israel that evening. Despite a blackout in Tel Aviv-- and the expected Arab invasion--Jews joyously celebrated the birth of their new nation, especially after word was received that the United States had recognized the Jewish state. At midnight, the State of Israel officially came into being upon termination of the British mandate in Palestine.

Modern Israel has its origins in the Zionism movement, established in the late 19th century by Jews in the Russian Empire who called for the establishment of a territorial Jewish state after enduring persecution. In 1896, Jewish-Austrian journalist Theodor Herzl published an influential political pamphlet called *The Jewish State*, which argued that the establishment of a Jewish state was the only way of protecting Jews from anti-Semitism. Herzl became the leader of Zionism, convening the first Zionist Congress in Switzerland in 1897. Ottoman-controlled Palestine, the original home of the Jews, was chosen as the most desirable location for a Jewish state, and Herzl unsuccessfully petitioned the Ottoman government for a charter.

After the failed Russian Revolution of 1905, growing numbers of Eastern European and Russian Jews began to immigrate to Palestine, joining the few thousand Jews who had arrived earlier. The Jewish settlers insisted on the use of Hebrew as their spoken language. With the collapse of the Ottoman Empire during World War I, Britain took over Palestine. In 1917, Britain issued the "Balfour Declaration," which declared its intent to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Although protested by the Arab states, the Balfour Declaration was included in the British mandate over Palestine, which was authorized by the League of Nations in 1922. Because of Arab opposition to the establishment of any Jewish state in Palestine, British rule continued throughout the 1920s and '30s.

Beginning in 1929, Arabs and Jews openly fought in Palestine, and Britain attempted to limit Jewish immigration as a means of appeasing the Arabs. As a result of the Holocaust in Europe, many Jews illegally entered Palestine during World War II. Radical Jewish groups employed terrorism against British forces in Palestine, which they thought had betrayed the Zionist cause. At the end of World War II, in 1945, the United States took up the Zionist cause. Britain, unable to find a practical solution, referred the problem to the United Nations, which in November 1947 voted to partition Palestine.

The Jews were to possess more than half of Palestine, although they made up less than half of Palestine's population. The Palestinian Arabs, aided by volunteers from other countries, fought the Zionist forces, but by May 14, 1948, the Jews had secured full control of their U.N.-allocated share of Palestine and also some Arab territory. On May 14, Britain withdrew with the expiration of its mandate, and the State of Israel was proclaimed. The next day, forces from Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq invaded.

The Israelis, though less well equipped, managed to fight off the Arabs and then seize key territory, such as Galilee, the Palestinian coast, and a strip of territory connecting the coastal region to the western section of Jerusalem. In 1949, U.N.-brokered cease-fires left the State of Israel in permanent control of this conquered territory. The departure of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs from Israel during the war left the country with a substantial Jewish majority.

During the third Arab-Israeli conflict--the Six-Day War of 1967--Israel again greatly increased its borders, capturing from Jordan, Egypt, and Syria the Old City of Jerusalem, the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights. In 1979, Israel and Egypt signed an historic peace agreement in which Israel returned the Sinai in exchange for Egyptian recognition and peace. Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) signed a major peace accord in 1993, which envisioned the gradual implementation of Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli-Palestinian peace process moved slowly, however, and in 2000 major fighting between Israelis and Palestinians resumed in Israel and the occupied territories.

OLD IRONSIDES PRESENTS...



Comics On Duty



HANGAR #1, 4TH BDE, EAST BIAP

FRIDAY, 21 MAY 2004

**1AD ROCK BAND 1800-1900
COMEDY SHOW 1900 - 2030**

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2004					As of: Thursday, May 13, 2004 9:55:05 PM	
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00	PGA TOUR - EDS BYRON NELSON CHAMPIONSHIP: FIRST ROUND	HEADLINE NEWS		ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		0:00
0:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	SUNRISE OVER TIANANMEN SQUARE	HEADLINE NEWS	ARMY NEWSWATCH	0:30
1:00			MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - WHITE TEETH (PT. 1)	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	1:00
1:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				1:30
2:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS	2:00
2:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	2:30
3:00	NHL - PLAYOFFS - CONF. FINALS GM 3: TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING @ PHILADELPHIA FLYERS	4 QTRS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - ON THE RIGHT TRACK	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	3:00
3:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - SANDYS ROCKET/SQUEAKY BOOTS		CBS EVENING NEWS	3:30
4:00		NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 5: LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ SAN ANTONIO SPURS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - SO IT HAS COME TO THIS	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - THE MEANEST THING TO SAY/LAVATORY STORY	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	4:00
4:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - ONCE UPON A TIME	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		4:30
5:00			THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - SCARS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	5:00
5:30	NHL 2NIGHT					5:30
6:00	NHL - PLAYOFFS - CONF. FINALS GM 3: SAN JOSE SHARKS @ CALGARY FLAMES		BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER ELEVEN	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	6:00
6:30		ESPNEWS				6:30
7:00		HEADLINE NEWS	DINOSAUR PLANET (TVPG): - LITTLE DAS HUNT	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	7:00
7:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	7:30
8:00		HEADLINE NEWS	TOYOTA WORLD OF WILDLIFE (TVG): - SEASONS & CYCLES	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	8:00
8:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		8:25
8:30	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES (TVG): - WILDLIFE IN THE BIG CITY			8:30
9:00		SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - TABULA RASA		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	9:00
9:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		9:13
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - THE MEANEST THING TO SAY/LAVATORY STORY	THE X-FILES (TV14): - TERMS OF ENDEARMENT	HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - DAISY'S DEBUT	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		ALL GROWN UP (TVY): - COUP DEVILLE		10:30
11:00	MLB - FLORIDA MARLINS @ HOUSTON ASTROS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - ON THE RIGHT TRACK	OZZY & DRIX (TVY7): - REFLEX	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - SANDYS ROCKET/SQUEAKY BOOTS	AS TOLD BY GINGER (TVY): - LOVE WITH A PROPER TRANSFER STUDENTS	HEADLINE NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - SO IT HAS COME TO THIS	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - ONCE UPON A TIME	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - SCARS	ESPNEWS	MSNBC LIVE	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30				HEADLINE NEWS		13:30
13:52				PACIFIC REPORT		13:52
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER ELEVEN	SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG):	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
15:00	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 5: LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ SAN ANTONIO SPURS	TODAY	DINOSAUR PLANET (TVPG): - LITTLE DAS HUNT	THE APPRENTICE (TVPG): - MEET THE BILLIONAIRE	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			TOYOTA WORLD OF WILDLIFE (TVG): - SEASONS & CYCLES	ALIAS (TVPG): - THE NEMESIS		16:00
16:30			JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES (TVG): - WILDLIFE IN THE BIG CITY			16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - DAISY'S DEBUT	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - TABULA RASA	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:22				PACIFIC REPORT		17:22
17:30		ALL GROWN UP (TVY): - COUP DEVILLE		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	AROUND THE HORN	OZZY & DRIX (TVY7): - REFLEX	THE X-FILES (TV14): - TERMS OF ENDEARMENT		THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	AS TOLD BY GINGER (TVY): - LOVE WITH A PROPER TRANSFER STUDENTS		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - ON THE RIGHT TRACK			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - SANDYS ROCKET/SQUEAKY BOOTS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00	ESPNEWS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - SO IT HAS COME TO THIS	VIETNAM	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:19	BASEBALL TONIGHT					20:19
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - ONCE UPON A TIME			20:30
21:00	NHL - PLAYOFFS - CONF. FINALS GM 3: SAN JOSE SHARKS @ CALGARY FLAMES	SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG):	THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - SCARS		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
21:45				MOONSTRUCK		21:45
22:00		THE APPRENTICE (TVPG): - MEET THE BILLIONAIRE	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER ELEVEN		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00	THE HOT LIST	ALIAS (TVPG): - THE NEMESIS	DINOSAUR PLANET (TVPG): - LITTLE DAS HUNT		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30	THE HOT LIST			CINEMA SECRETS (TVG): - FANTASY WORLDS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30