



The Old Ironsides Report



Friday, February 20, 2004

Gate duty serious business for MPs, ICDC security team



An Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldier searches workman before allowing him to pass through Forward Operating Base Falcon's gate G in southern Baghdad.

Story and photo by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Protecting an entire military post from enemy attack is a job that military police offices from the 143rd Military Police Company and their Iraqi Civil Defense Corps colleagues take very seriously.

The 143rd, an Army National Guard unit from Hartford, Conn., part of Task Force 1st Armored Division, is responsible for gate G on Forward Operating Base Falcon, home of 1st Armored Division Artillery. With the help of some fellow Soldiers from the ICDC, they screen all incoming vehicles and personnel for possible threats to the safety of the post.

"We are maintaining overall security for this post," said Sgt. Kevin Arrojado, team leader with 1st Platoon, 143rd MP Company. "With the present threat of (improvised explosive devices), car bombs and overall terrorist attacks, our presence is absolutely necessary."

The gate is a multilayered defense with high-walled perimeters and lookout towers to deter any threat, said Arrojado. Like any military

fortification, however, gate G relies heavily on manpower – U.S. and Iraqi manpower.

"We have several lines of defense here at the gate, and the ICDC personnel here are American-trained to help us out with screenings and traffic control," said Arrojado. "These ICDC (soldiers) are professional and do an excellent job out here."

The presence of ICDC service members is surprising to many Iraqis who enter through gate G and (they) stand as a statement to would-be attackers and members of the community, said Spc. Armando Bettini, military policeman with the 143rd.

"Their presence shows the Iraqis that we are serious about integrating Iraqis into the country's security," said Bettini. "Development, coexistence and training with ICDC personnel shows Iraqis that we are not leaving until our mission is complete."

It also shows that the Iraqis are taking a greater role in their country's security.

As they enter the gate, drivers are ordered to slow their vehicle and prepare to be searched. Signs written in English and Arabic spell out the consequences of ignoring orders from gate personnel or for trying to run through or avoid the checkpoint.

All "pat-down" searches are performed by ICDC servicemen under the MPs' supervision.

Bettini said that all security searches are conducted with the safety of FOB Falcon's Soldiers' safety in mind, allowing the Soldiers to relax in their living areas during and after carrying out their daily activities.

"We keep the FOB safe so troops can feel safe in a secure environment," said Bettini.

Luckily, Gate G has not had any direct-attack incidents under the 143rd, said Arrojado, but the MPs and ICDC soldiers are always alert, prepared and ready for any challenge.

NEWS...

Bremer: Iraqi Power Transfer Date to Hold

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - U.S. administrator L. Paul Bremer said Thursday that the formula for establishing a new Iraqi government could be changed but the date for the U.S.-led coalition to hand over power remains firm. At the United Nations, Secretary-General Kofi Annan backed the U.S. position against holding elections before the June 30 transfer of power to Iraqis. He also said the June 30 date for the U.S.-led coalition to restore sovereignty to Iraq must be respected.

Five Britons at Guantanamo to Go Home

LONDON (AP) - Five Britons being held at Guantanamo Bay will be returned within the next few weeks, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Thursday. Discussions about four other prisoners were continuing, he told a news conference.

AFL-CIO Gives Kerry a Powerful Ally

WASHINGTON (AP) - Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry is getting a formidable ally to ward off rival John Edwards' challenges to his position on trade - the labor unions that have been most concerned about U.S. jobs going overseas. Kerry will get the endorsement of the AFL-CIO at a meeting of union leaders Thursday.

Ex-Enron CEO Skilling Pleads Innocent

HOUSTON (AP) - Former Enron Corp. chief executive Jeffrey Skilling, taken to court in handcuffs Thursday, was charged with three dozen counts of fraud and other crimes in the highest-reaching indictment yet stemming from Enron's colossal collapse. Skilling, the top-ranking executive arrested so far in the scandal that shook Wall Street and Washington alike, was accused of participating in widespread schemes to mislead government regulators and investors about the company's earnings.

Leading Indicators Rise in January

NEW YORK (AP) - A key economic forecasting gauge advanced a strong 0.5 percent in January, suggesting that the nation's economy will expand further in coming months. The business-funded Conference Board said Thursday its Composite Index of Leading Economic Indicators rose to 115.0 last month following gains of 0.2 percent in December and 0.3 percent in November. Analysts had expected a rise of about 0.3 percent for January.

Job Figures, Strong Earnings Boost Dow 57

NEW YORK (AP) - A surprisingly low number of first-time jobless claims and strong earnings from the technology sector boosted stocks Thursday. Unemployment claims fell by a seasonally adjusted 24,000 to 344,000 for the week ending Feb. 14, the lowest level since Jan. 24, giving investors hope that corporate bottom lines were secure enough to prevent more large-scale layoffs.

Entertainment...

Family Won't Let Cash Song Be Used in Ad

NEW YORK (AP) -- Advertising writers in Florida were planning to pitch hemorrhoid-relief products with a commercial featuring Johnny Cash's classic song "Ring of Fire," but his family says there's no way they'll let it happen.

"We would never allow the song to be demeaned like that," Cash's daughter, singer Rosanne Cash, told The Tennessean in Sunday's editions.

"Ring of Fire" was written by Cash's wife, June Carter Cash, and Merle Kilgore, who is now Hank Williams Jr.'s manager. Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash died last year.

TV producer Sula Miller of Big Grin Productions in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said she came up with the idea when she was struggling with that uncomfortable medical condition and heard the song on the radio.

At the time, Kilgore said he thought the idea was funny, and that he often joked about hemorrhoids onstage whenever he'd introduce "Ring of Fire," which includes the words "burns, burns, burns."

But Cash's family isn't laughing.

"He (Merle) started talking about this moronic tie-in without talking to any of us," Rosanne Cash told the newspaper. "The song is about the transformative power of love and that's what it has always meant to me and that's what it will always mean to the Cash children."

Kilgore said it wasn't his intention to upset the family.

Colorado Coach on Leave for His Comments

DENVER (AP) - Colorado football coach Gary Barnett was suspended for his comments about a female player who accused a teammate of rape, the latest blow to an already-troubled football program.

Barnett was placed on paid leave Wednesday night by university president Elizabeth Hoffman, who also said she was "utterly distressed" over comments Barnett made in a 2001 police report filed by another woman who said a football player raped her.

Woman Fined for Registering Cows As Voters

LONDON (AP) - Brenda Gould is in trouble again for registering her cows as voters.

For the second year running, the woman from Newmarket, near Cambridge in eastern England, has listed two names on the registration form who turned out to be cows, East Cambridgeshire District Council said Thursday.

Thought for the day...

Leadership

A leader, once convinced that a particular course of action is the right one, must be undaunted when the going gets tough.

— Ronald Reagan

Today in History...

February 20, 1962: AN AMERICAN ORBITS EARTH

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) From Cape Canaveral, Florida, John Hershel Glenn Jr. is successfully launched into space aboard the *Friendship 7* spacecraft on the first orbital flight by an American astronaut.

Glenn, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, was among the seven men chosen by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1959 to become America's first astronauts. A decorated pilot, he flew nearly 150 combat missions during World War II and the Korean War. In 1957, he made the first nonstop supersonic flight across the United States, flying from Los Angeles to New York in three hours and 23 minutes.

Glenn was preceded in space by two Americans, Alan B. Shepard Jr. and Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, and two Soviets, Yuri A. Gagarin and Gherman S. Titov. In April 1961, Gagarin was the first man in space, and his spacecraft *Vostok 1* made a full orbit before returning to Earth. Less than one month later, Shepard was launched into space aboard *Freedom 7* on a suborbital flight. In July, Grissom made another brief suborbital flight aboard *Liberty Bell 7*. In August, with the Americans still having failed to make an orbital flight, the Russians sprinted further ahead in the space race when Titov spent more than 25 hours in space aboard *Vostok 2*, making 17 orbits. As a technological power, the United States was looking very much second-rate compared with its Cold War adversary. If the Americans wanted to dispel this notion, they needed a multi-orbital flight before another Soviet space advance arrived.

It was with this responsibility in mind that John Glenn lifted off from the launch pad at Cape Canaveral at 9:47 a.m. on February 20, 1962. Some 100,000 spectators watched on the ground nearby and millions more saw it on television. After separating from its launching rocket, the bell-shaped *Friendship 7* capsule entered into an orbit around Earth at a speed of about 17,500 miles per hour. Smoothing into orbit, Glenn radioed back, "Capsule is turning around. Oh, that view is tremendous."

During *Friendship 7's* first orbit, Glenn noticed what he described as small, glowing fireflies drifting by the capsule's tiny window. It was some time later that NASA mission control determined that the sparks were crystallized water vapor released by the capsule's air-conditioning system. Before the end of the first orbit, a more serious problem occurred when *Friendship 7's* automatic control system began to malfunction, sending the capsule into erratic movements. At the end of the orbit, Glenn switched to manual control and regained command of the craft.

Toward the end of Glenn's third and last orbit, mission control received a mechanical signal from the spacecraft indicating that the heat shield on the base of the capsule was possibly loose. Traveling at its immense speed, the capsule would be incinerated if the shield failed to absorb and dissipate the extremely high reentry temperatures. It was decided that the craft's retrorockets, usually jettisoned before reentry, would be left on in order to better secure the heat shield. Less than a minute later, *Friendship 7* slammed into Earth's atmosphere.

During Glenn's fiery descent back to Earth, the straps holding the retrorockets gave way and flapped violently by his window as a shroud of ions caused by excessive friction enveloped the spacecraft, causing Glenn to lose radio contact with mission control. As mission control anxiously waited for the resumption of radio transmissions that would indicate Glenn's survival, he watched flaming chunks of retrorocket fly by his window. After four minutes of radio silence, Glenn's voice crackled through loudspeakers at mission control, and *Friendship 7* splashed down safely in the Atlantic Ocean. He was picked up by the USS destroyer *Noa*, and his first words upon stepping out of the capsule and onto the deck of the *Noa* were, "It was hot in there." He had spent nearly five hours in space.

Glenn was hailed as a national hero, and on February 23 President John F. Kennedy visited him at Cape Canaveral. He later addressed Congress and was given a ticker-tape parade in New York City.

Out of a reluctance to risk the life of an astronaut as popular as Glenn, NASA essentially grounded the "Clean Marine" in the years after his historic flight. Frustrated with this uncharacteristic lack of activity, Glenn turned to politics and in 1964 announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate from his home state of Ohio and formally left NASA. Later that year, however, he withdrew his Senate bid after seriously injuring his inner ear in a fall from a horse. In 1970, following a stint as a Royal Crown Cola executive, he ran for the Senate again but lost the Democratic nomination to Howard Metzenbaum. Four years later, he defeated Metzenbaum, won the general election, and went on to win reelection three times. In 1984, he unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination for president.

In early 1998, NASA announced it had approved Glenn to serve as a payload specialist on the space shuttle *Discovery*. On October 29, 1998, nearly four decades after his famous orbital flight, the 77-year-old Glenn became the oldest human ever to travel in space. During the nine-day mission, he served as part of a NASA study on health problems associated with aging. In 1999, he retired from his U.S. Senate seat after four consecutive terms in office, a record for the state of Ohio.



TASK FORCE 1ST ARMORED DIVISION
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE



At HHC ANNEX area
at 1030hrs.



Come over and join us in
our celebration!

The guest speaker is:

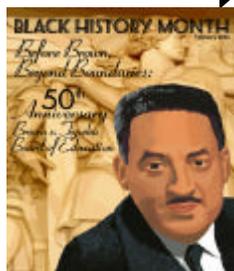
COL D.A. HARRIS

4th BCT CDR

123rd MSB Choir (Voices of Power) will
sing a Great music selection!!

Poetry and more...

February 20, 2004



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Old Ironsides Report February 20, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2004					As of: Thursday, February 19, 2004 9:25:36 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	KOREA	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - SWING: THE VELOCITY OF CELEBRATION 1937	TODAY		TODAY	00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			ARMY NEWSWATCH		00:30
01:00			HORATIO HORNBLLOWER : - THE FIRESHIPS		LESTER HOLT LIVE		01:00
01:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN					01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	SESAME STREET	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS		02:30
03:00		4 QTRS	ROCKET POWER : - THE GOOD HOUSEKEEPING SEAL/ WHATS THAT SMELL?	TELETUBBIES : - NUMBERS 2?	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	TELETUBBIES : - NUMBERS 2?	03:00
03:30	NBA - SACRAMENTO KINGS @ MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES	BASEBALL TONIGHT	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	RUGRATS : - WEAVING TOMMY	03:30
04:00		NHL - BOSTON BRUINS @ PHILADELPHIA FLYERS	THE SIMPSONS : - TWO CARS IN EVERY GARAGE	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	CNBC: THE NEWS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - RUDY SUITS UP				04:30
05:00			CHARMED : - NYMPHS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	05:00
06:00	NBA - PHILADELPHIA 76ERS @ SEATTLE SUPERSONICS		THE X-FILES : - YOUNG AT HEART	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWSHOUR	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	06:00
06:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY		JUDGE JUDY	06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS : - GATES OF HELL	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		GUIDING LIGHT	07:25
07:30		ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT		07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	LAVA HUNTERS : - LIVING ON THE EDGE		LARRY KING LIVE		08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		GENERAL HOSPITAL	08:13
08:30	INSIDE THE NBA	HEADLINE NEWS					08:30
09:00	ESPNEWS	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - FOREVER	HOUSE OF MOUSE : - BIG BAD WOLF DADDY	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	PRIMETIME	09:00
09:30	TOTALLY NASCAR			ALL GROWN UP : - CHUCKLES IN LOVE			09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	TELETUBBIES : - NUMBERS 2?	IRON CHEF : - TARO POTATOCHEN VS KUNISHIRO HASHIMOTO	KIM POSSIBLE (TV-7) : - KIMITATION NATION	PAULA ZAHN NOW	THE MUMMY: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TV-7) : - AGAINST THE ELEMENTS	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TV-7) : - EARNO EVILUFO: UNLICENSED FLYING OBJECT		MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TV-7) : - EARNO EVILUFO: UNLICENSED FLYING OBJECT	10:30
11:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: GEORGIA TECH @ MARYLAND	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	ROCKET POWER : - THE GOOD HOUSEKEEPING SEAL/ WHATS THAT SMELL?	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	JEOPARDY!	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW					11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT			11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS : - TWO CARS IN EVERY GARAGE	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	ESPNEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - RUDY SUITS UP	HEADLINE NEWS		ADVISORY BLOCK	12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT					12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT			12:52
13:00	SPORTSCENTER		CHARMED : - NYMPHS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN	THE SIMPSONS : - THE PRESIDENT WORE PEARLS	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	THE SIMPSONS : - THE PRESIDENT WORE PEARLS	13:00
13:07		GENERAL HOSPITAL					13:07
13:30				THAT 70'S SHOW : - HEY HEY WHAT CAN I DO		THAT 70'S SHOW : - HEY HEY WHAT CAN I DO	13:30
14:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - THQ WORLD SUPERCRS GP (125CC)	HEADLINE NEWS	THE X-FILES : - YOUNG AT HEART	SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS	PRIMETIME	SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY					14:30
15:00	NHL - BOSTON BRUINS @ PHILADELPHIA FLYERS	TODAY	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS : - GATES OF HELL	24 : - DAY 2: 2:00 AM - 3:00 AM	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	24 : - 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	15:00
16:00			LAVA HUNTERS : - LIVING ON THE EDGE	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	SPORTSCENTER	HOUSE OF MOUSE : - BIG BAD WOLF DADDY	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - FOREVER		HEADLINE NEWS		17:00
17:30		ALL GROWN UP : - CHUCKLES IN LOVE		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	AROUND THE HORN	KIM POSSIBLE (TV-7) : - KIMITATION NATION	IRON CHEF : - TARO POTATOCHEN VS KUNISHIRO HASHIMOTO		THE EARLY SHOW		18:00
18:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TV-7) : - EARNO EVILUFO: UNLICENSED FLYING OBJECT		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	ROCKET POWER : - THE GOOD HOUSEKEEPING SEAL/ WHATS THAT SMELL?	WEIRD SCIENCE		RUSH HOUR	19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS				19:30
20:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - THQ WORLD SUPERCRS GP (250CC)	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - TWO CARS IN EVERY GARAGE		FOX NEWS LIVE		20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW : - RUDY SUITS UP				20:30
20:45				NATIONAL LAMPOON'S ANIMAL HOUSE		JAILHOUSE ROCK	20:45
21:00	SPORTSCENTER	THE SIMPSONS : - THE PRESIDENT WORE PEARLS	CHARMED : - NYMPHS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN		PRIMETIME		21:00
21:30		THAT 70'S SHOW : - HEY HEY WHAT CAN I DO					21:30
22:00	ROME IS BURNING	SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS	THE X-FILES : - YOUNG AT HEART		FOX NEWS LIVE		22:00
22:30				CINEMA SECRETS : - WHEN FANTASY BECOMES REALITY		CINEMA SECRETS : - WHEN FANTASY BECOMES REALITY	22:30
23:00	PGA TOUR - NISSAN OPEN: SECOND ROUND	24 : - DAY 2: 2:00 AM - 3:00 AM	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS : - GATES OF HELL	TODAY	HEADLINE NEWS	TODAY	23:00
23:30					CNN'S INSIDE POLITICS		23:30