



The Old Ironsides Report

Friday, May 21, 2004



Combat Engineers, Cavalrymen battle IEDs



Combat engineers from the 16th Engineer Bn., patrol a Karbala neighborhood during an afternoon's search for IEDs.

Story and photo by Spc. Andrew Meissner, 1 AD PAO
WITH TASK FORCE 1-37, Iraq -- When B Company, 16th Engineer Battalion, rolled into Karbala this month, they came ready for any mission.

One of those missions included "quiet afternoon" looking for improvised explosive devices at a location that was a combat scene the day before.

Task Force 1-37 is part of Task Force 1st Armored Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team.

Pvt. Leo Preston said engineers always anticipate combat when they patrol.

"When we roll out, we expect contact. We look for ambushes. We look for IEDs. We look for anything that will trip us up," he said.

The combat engineers performed route clearance, destroying three IEDs. Some were destroyed with explosives; others were "disrupted" with gunfire.

"We usually fire shots at it (with a) 50 caliber," said Preston.

Looking for IEDs requires patience and vigilance, especially in the heat of an Iraqi afternoon. It is a difficult and dangerous job. If it's not done correctly, the consequences are dire.

Wires leading over walls are a prime indicator of the IEDs found in this area, explained platoon leader 2nd Lt. Josey Sandoval, B Co.

Some IEDs the engineers recently found were different from those the engineers encountered in Baghdad, he said.

"Out here, we're seeing a lot of hard-wired artillery shells," Sandoval said.

While on the lookout for enemy troops, a sniper's round zinged over the engineers' heads. Moments later came another crack of gunfire. A call came over the radio that a Soldier had been hit.

The Soldier's Kevlar helmet had saved him from grave injury, but he required several stitches for a wound to his scalp.

As the afternoon drew to a close, the engineers' M113 armored personnel carriers rolled back to the base camp.

The trip back was dusty. The engineers were hot, but relieved that there was no close combat for them that day.

"We're always looking for the enemy," said Preston, "We got to keep low and make sure no gets hurt."

**Story and photo by
Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 1AD
PAO**

DIWANIYA, IRAQ -- The detonation of an improvised explosive device (IED) in the city of Diwaniya on May 11 was the first for many Soldiers with the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment encountered since arriving here.

Third Platoon, K Troop, a cavalry scout team, was conducting an reconnaissance patrol in Diwaniya when two IEDs were detonated to the left

of their vehicles at 7:28 a.m.

Mortarman Pfc. Gary Soules was driving one of the Humvees in the patrol when the IEDs detonated directly to the front-left of his vehicle.

"We were going down this street, just driving along on patrol, when BAM. "It just blew up right in front of my truck," he said.

"The shockwave just blew right through the Humvee and all of this hot sand just blew all over my face and the left-side of my body."

The IEDs were two 60mm mortars set down on the outside of a curb.

"The guy had put them in these oil cans, which are perfect for shrapnel," he said. "I was lucky though, none of the shrapnel hit me."

No one in the patrol was injured by shrapnel, but the concussion of the blast caused a few minor injuries.

"Just from the blast, my left ear went deaf," Soules said. "I felt like I was knocked out just from the bang and I had this migraine headache for a while afterward."

Soules' hearing loss was only temporary, he said.

After the IEDs detonated, the patrol sped away down the road, moving out of the area, know as a kill zone, as quickly as possible in case of any more IEDs or enemy forces.

"As soon as it blew up, we just floored it and drove past,"

Soules said. "We turned around after going a couple of hundred meters."

Right after the patrol cleared the detonation site and a quick reaction force was sent out from Camp Wolfpack, the 3rd Squadron's forward operating base.

"We were half-way through breakfast when we got called to respond to the IED attack," said Spc. Michael Oglesbee, a scout with K Troop. "But we didn't catch the attackers and the locals we questioned didn't have any information for us."

For Soules, the IED detonation was more than just his first experience in Diwaniya.

"My unit's been pretty lucky this past year, but that was my first experience with an IED ever," he said. "When I got hit with all that hot sand, I really thought that I was done for."



NEWS...

GIs, Iraq Police Raid Home of Former Ally

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - U.S. soldiers and Iraqi police raided the home of America's one-time ally Ahmad Chalabi on Thursday, seizing documents and computers. U.S. officials, meanwhile, disputed Iraqi claims that American aircraft bombed a wedding party near Syria's border, killing more than 40 people. The raid and air strike came amid rising public anger over the U.S. occupation, which an increasing number of Iraqis consider oppressive. The Americans plan to install an interim Iraqi government June 30 and formally end the occupation but retain significant military forces and influence over Iraqi affairs.

U.S. to Investigate Iraqi Inmate's Death

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Justice Department is investigating the death of an Abu Ghraib prison detainee whose body, packed in ice, is documented in photos that also show two American soldiers posing nearby with thumbs up, a U.S. official said Thursday. The photos show Army Sgt. Charles A. Graner Jr. and Spc. Sabrina Harman, both of whom have already been charged in the Iraq prisoner abuse scandal. They were shown first Wednesday by ABC-TV and on Thursday by the Arabic TV station Al-Arabiya.

Bush Seeks to Rally GOP Around Iraq Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush sought to rally Republican lawmakers around his Iraq plan Thursday, saying Iraqis are ready to "take the training wheels off" by assuming some political power. He warned that violence is likely to worsen as that transfer approaches.

Thought for the day...

Truth

Justin Martyr was a second-century man who eagerly sought for truth. He read the Greek classical writers, examining and analyzing every philosophy from all sides. One day, aimlessly wandering on the seashore, he met an elderly man who spoke to his heart as no one had ever spoken before.

He pointed him to God and in that simple witness Justin found the knowledge he had sought all his life, "the knowledge of God", Proverbs 2:4-5.

Perhaps you like Justin Martyr, are searching for insight, looking everywhere for the answer to your longing for truth. You've read widely and thought earnestly about life, but you can find no answers that satisfy the deep needs of your soul. If so, then I suggest looking for truth beyond the limit of human knowledge.

God doesn't force truth on those who don't want it, but He hears the earnest cries of those who request it.

It's your future. Vote for it...

By Sgt. Shauna McRoberts, 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The upcoming 2004 presidential and congressional elections are fast approaching and the time for Soldiers to register to vote is now.

First Armored Division Soldiers, including members of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment serving with 1AD, are encouraged to go see their unit voting assistance officer (VAO) as soon as possible.

"A voting assistance officer's primary goal is to assist Soldiers in registering to vote," said Capt. Allison Morgan, senior VAO for the division.

Each unit's appointed VAO is responsible for providing Soldiers with a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), which is needed to register to vote and to receive an absentee ballot.

"All soldiers will be contacted by June 15th by their battalion's voting assistance officer," said Warrant Officer Max Ivulich, the VAO for 4th Brigade, 1AD. "By this date every soldier will be given a (FPCA) to register. This is our way to ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to register if they desire to do so."

Each state has different requirements, so filling out an FPCA can be confusing, said Morgan. A VAO is there to answer any questions, as well as to provide the address to the Local Election Office (LEO) where a Soldier's FPCA needs to be mailed.

Morgan recommends that Soldiers request that their absentee ballots be sent to their Community Mailroom (CMR) at the home station, as opposed to their deployed address.

"It is advisable to use your CMR address because the division should be back in central region by the time the absentee ballots are mailed out."

Soldiers from 2nd ACR will also need to fill out the FPCA and receive an absentee ballot.

"Second ACR (Soldiers) need to fill out the FPCA because most Soldiers probably don't claim Fort Polk as their home of record," Morgan said. "Soldiers must vote in the congressional district of their home of record, not where they are currently stationed."

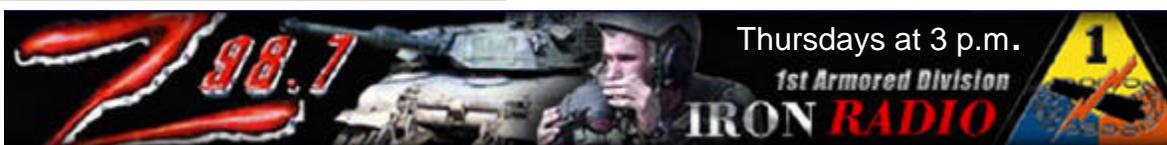
Although slow mail and shortages of FPCAs have caused problems for overseas military members in the past, the Department of Defense and the U.S. Postal Service have arranged a program that should eliminate these obstacles, said Charles S. Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"We're going to move the ballots more quickly and more efficiently," Abell said during a recent press conference in Washington, D.C. "We are really focused on how does that guy in the remotest section of Afghanistan and Iraq get his ballot and get it in and counted."

Abell said the ballots will be placed in specially colored containers signifying the need for priority handling. The Postal Service also plans to track the amount of absentee ballots that are sent out and received.

All Soldiers are encouraged to take the time to see their VAO and fill out the FPCA.

"Soldiers might find it inconvenient, but our vote counts," said Morgan. "Soldiers' lives are impacted greatly by politics and the military population as a whole is a large voice. Take the time to be heard."



Today in history...

May 21, 1927: LINDBERGH LANDS IN PARIS

HISTORYCHANNEL.COM -- American pilot Charles A. Lindbergh lands at Le Bourget Field in Paris, successfully completing the first solo, nonstop transatlantic flight and the first ever nonstop flight between New York to Paris. His single-engine monoplane, *The Spirit of St. Louis*, had lifted off from Roosevelt Field in New York 33 1/2 hours before.

Charles Augustus Lindbergh, born in Detroit in 1902, took up flying at the age of 20. In 1923, he bought a surplus World War I Curtiss "Jenny" biplane and toured the country as a barnstorming stunt flyer. In 1924, he enrolled in the Army Air Service flying school in Texas and graduated at the top of his class as a first lieutenant. He became an airmail pilot in 1926 and pioneered the route between St. Louis and Chicago. Among U.S. aviators, he was highly regarded.

In May 1919, the first transatlantic flight was made by a U.S. hydroplane that flew from New York to Plymouth, England, via Newfoundland, the Azores Islands, and Lisbon. Later that month, Frenchman Raymond Orteig, an owner of hotels in New York, put up a purse of \$25,000 to the first aviator or aviators to fly nonstop from Paris to New York or New York to Paris. In June 1919, the British fliers John W. Alcock and Arthur W. Brown made the first nonstop transatlantic flight, flying 1,960 miles from Newfoundland to Ireland. The flight from New York to Paris would be nearly twice that distance.

Orteig said his challenge would be good for five years. In 1926, with no one having attempted the flight, Orteig made the offer again. By this time, aircraft technology had advanced to a point where a few thought such a flight might be possible. Several of the world's top aviators--including American polar explorer Richard Byrd, French flying ace Ren  Fonck--decided to accept the challenge, and so did Charles Lindbergh.

Lindbergh convinced the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce to sponsor the flight, and a budget of \$15,000 was set. The Ryan Airlines Corporation of San Diego volunteered to build a single-engine aircraft to his specifications. Extra fuel tanks were added, and the wing span was increased to 46 feet to accommodate the additional weight. The main fuel tank was placed in front of the cockpit because it would be safest there in the event of a crash. This meant Lindbergh would have no forward vision, so a periscope was added. To reduce weight, everything that was not utterly essential was left out. There would be no radio, gas gauge, night-flying lights, navigation equipment, or parachute. Lindbergh would sit in a light seat made of wicker. Unlike other aviators attempting the flight, Lindbergh would be alone, with no navigator or co-pilot.

The aircraft was christened *The Spirit of St. Louis*, and on May 12, 1927, Lindbergh flew it from San Diego to New York, setting a new record for the fastest transcontinental flight. Bad weather delayed Lindbergh's transatlantic attempt for a week. On the night of May 19, nerves and a newspaperman's noisy poker game kept him up all night. Early the next morning, though he hadn't slept, the skies were clear and he rushed to Roosevelt Field on Long Island. Six men had died attempting the long and dangerous flight he was about to take.

At 7:52 a.m. EST on May 20, *The Spirit of St. Louis* lifted off from Roosevelt Field, so loaded with fuel that it barely cleared the telephone wires at the end of the runway. Lindbergh traveled northeast up the coast. After only four hours, he felt tired and flew within 10 feet of the water to keep his mind clear. As night fell, the aircraft left the coast of Newfoundland and set off across the Atlantic. At about 2 a.m. on May 21, Lindbergh passed the halfway mark, and an hour later dawn came. Soon after, *The Spirit of St. Louis* entered a fog, and Lindbergh struggled to stay awake, holding his eyelids open with his fingers and hallucinating that ghosts were passing through the cockpit.

After 24 hours in the air, he felt a little more awake and spotted fishing boats in the water. At about 11 a.m. (3 p.m. local time), he saw the coast of Ireland. Despite using only rudimentary navigation, he was two hours ahead of schedule and only three miles off course. He flew past England and by 3 p.m. EST was flying over France. It was 8 p.m. in France, and night was falling.

At the Le Bourget Aerodrome in Paris, tens of thousands of Saturday night revelers had gathered to await Lindbergh's arrival. At 10:24 a.m. local time, his gray and white monoplane slipped out of the darkness and made a perfect landing in the air field. The crowd surged on *The Spirit of St. Louis*, and Lindbergh, weary from his 33 1/2-hour, 3,600-mile journey, was cheered and lifted above their heads. He hadn't slept for 55 hours. Two French aviators saved Lindbergh away from the boisterous crowd, whisking him away in an automobile. He was an immediate international celebrity.

President Calvin Coolidge dispatched a warship to take the hero home, and "Lucky Lindy" was given a ticker-tape parade in New York and presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor. His place in history, however, was not complete.

In 1932, he was the subject of international headlines again when his infant son, Charles Jr., was kidnapped, unsuccessfully ransomed, and then found murdered in the woods near the Lindbergh home. German-born Bruno Richard Hauptmann was convicted of the crime in a controversial trial and then executed. Then, in the late 1930s and early 1940s, Lindbergh became a spokesperson for the U.S. isolationism movement and was sharply criticized for his apparent Nazi sympathies and anti-Semitic views. After the outbreak of World War II, the fallen hero traveled to the Pacific as a military observer and eventually flew more than two dozen combat missions, including one in which he downed a Japanese aircraft. Lindbergh's war-time service largely restored public faith in him, and for many years later he worked with the U.S. government on aviation issues. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed him brigadier general in the Air Force Reserve. He died in Hawaii in 1974.

Lindbergh's autobiographical works include *"We"* (1927), *The Spirit of St. Louis* (1953) and *The Wartime Journals of Charles A. Lindbergh* (1970).



TF 1AD AER FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

25 May – 25 June 2004

Contact your unit AER Representative to find out how you can contribute!

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2004			As of: Wednesday, May 19, 2004 5:40:03 AM			
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00	THE HOT LIST	HEADLINE NEWS	HORATIO'S DRIVE (TVPG):	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		0:00
0:30	THE HOT LIST	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS	0:30
1:00	AROUND THE HORN		MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - WHITE TEETH (PT. 2)	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	1:00
1:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	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	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 7: NEW JERSEY NETS @ DETROIT PISTONS	SPORTS TBD	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - THORNBERRY ISLAND	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	3:00
3:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - SCAREDY PANTS/I WAS A TEENAGE GARY		CBS EVENING NEWS	3:30
4:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER'S BARBERSHOP QUARTET	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - BIG KID/THE BILLS GO TO WORK	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	4:00
4:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - GONE FISHING	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		4:30
5:00			THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - MISBEGOTTEN	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	5:00
5:30	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 7 (IF): MIAMI HEAT @ INDIANA PACERS					5:30
6:00		SPORTS TBD	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER TWELVE	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	6:00
7:00		HEADLINE NEWS	AUTOMOBILES: DREAM CARS - DREAM CARS	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	7:00
7:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	7:30
8:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	TOYOTA WORLD OF WILDLIFE (TVG): - HUNTERS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	8:00
8:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		8:25
8:30		HEADLINE NEWS	JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES (TVG): - MYSTERY AT THE AUDUBON			8:30
9:00	WNBA - SPECIALS - THE ROOKIE CLASS	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - SMASHED		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	9:00
9:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		9:13
9:30	WNBA - SPECIALS - THE ROOKIE CLASS					9:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - BIG KID/THE BILLS GO TO WORK	THE X-FILES (TV14): - RAIN KING	HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - GOOFY FOR A DAY	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		ALL GROWN UP (TVY): - CHUCKIE'S IN LOVE		10:30
11:00	MLB - LOS ANGELES DODGERS @ PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - THORNBERRY ISLAND	OZZY & DRIX (TVY7): - STREP-FINGER	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - SCAREDY PANTS/I WAS A TEENAGE GARY	AS TOLD BY GINGER (TVY): - FAMILY THERAPY	HEADLINE NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER'S BARBERSHOP QUARTET	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - GONE FISHING	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
13:00			THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - MISBEGOTTEN	ESPNEWS	MSNBC LIVE	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30				PACIFIC REPORT		13:30
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER TWELVE	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - THE ZIFF WHO CAME TO DINNER	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG): - THANKSGIVING		14:30
15:00	PRCA RODEO - BULL RIDING	TODAY	AUTOMOBILES: DREAM CARS - DREAM CARS	THE APPRENTICE (TVPG): - SEX, LIES AND ALTITUDE	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00	MLB - TEAMS TBD		TOYOTA WORLD OF WILDLIFE (TVG): - HUNTERS	ALIAS (TVPG): - PRELUDE		16:00
16:30			JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES (TVG): - MYSTERY AT THE AUDUBON			16:30
17:00		HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - GOOFY FOR A DAY	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - SMASHED	PACIFIC REPORT	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		ALL GROWN UP (TVY): - CHUCKIE'S IN LOVE		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00		OZZY & DRIX (TVY7): - STREP-FINGER	THE X-FILES (TV14): - RAIN KING		THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		AS TOLD BY GINGER (TVY): - FAMILY THERAPY		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - THORNBERRY ISLAND			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - SCAREDY PANTS/I WAS A TEENAGE GARY	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00	ESPNEWS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER'S BARBERSHOP QUARTET	MEMPHIS BELLE	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	NBA FASTBREAK	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - GONE FISHING			20:30
21:00	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 7 (IF)	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - THE ZIFF WHO CAME TO DINNER	THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - MISBEGOTTEN		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
21:30		MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG): - THANKSGIVING				21:30
21:45				BENNY & JOON		21:45
22:00		THE APPRENTICE (TVPG): - SEX, LIES AND ALTITUDE	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER TWELVE		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00	MLB - ST. LOUIS CARDINALS @ CHICAGO CUBS	ALIAS (TVPG): - PRELUDE	AUTOMOBILES: DREAM CARS - DREAM CARS		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30				CINEMA SECRETS (TVG): - WHEN IN ROME	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30