



# The Old Ironsides Report



Thursday, January 22, 2004

## Florida National Guardsmen begin journey home

Story and photo by Capt. Jean-Pierre Brown, 1st Brigade Combat Team

Baghdad, Iraq – The 3rd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, Florida Army National Guard, cased its colors for the unit's return trip home during a transfer of authority ceremony Jan. 19.

The Guardsmen were part of the 1st brigade Combat team, Task Force 1st Armored Division.

Since the beginning of the Coalition's efforts, the "Helmets," a nickname based on the unit's patch, have been located in the old Iraqi Officer's Club in Adhamiya. Their "Iraqi Home" was extremely damaged and war torn, mostly because of looters.

From the beginning of their stay the unit has spent countless hours rebuilding and reconstructing the facility. In the beginning, the establishment was the main meeting ground for many Neighborhood Advisory Council and District Advisory Council meetings for the District of Adhamiya.

Along with reconstructing their own facility, 3-124 Infantry has spent a large amount of money rebuilding the local schools, hospitals, and many prominent businesses in the Adhamiya area.

In addition to a farewell ceremony, the event also marked the handing over of the facility to the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and the Iraqi Police Service.

These agencies officially assumed responsibility for guarding and protecting this installation after the ceremony.

Members of the DAC and NAC were joined by Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey, Task Force 1st Armored Division commanding general and Col. Peter Mansoor, 1st Brigade Combat Team commander.

"You are the elite, and that if I were on the battle field, I would call on the warriors to support my team," Mansoor told the departing Guardsmen. "You conducted many missions and you did not let me down one bit. You are true warriors."

"I am glad that we are handing this building over to the Iraqis, because this means two things" said Lt. Col "Thad" Hill, the battalion's commander. "We have finally reached our goal of rebuilding the Iraqi defense and the Iraqis are now able to protect themselves, and secondly, we are going back home safely to our families."

In the next few weeks, about 1,500 troops from three battalions of the Florida Guard's 124th Infantry will be shipped home after serving their one-year "boots on the ground" now required of U.S. troops in Iraq.

The Florida units, which began the war in Kuwait, Jordan and Qatar, have been serving in Baghdad,



**Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, Florida National Guard, prepare to case their unit colors for their return trip home during transfer of authority ceremonies Jan. 19. Courtesy photo.**

Ramadi and Balad, all inside the so-called "Sunni triangle" of central Iraq, where opposition to U.S. forces has been the harshest.

The Florida troops' return home is part of a massive rotation that will replace tens of thousands of seasoned units in Iraq with fresh troops.

Few of the citizen-soldiers, who ordinarily spend one weekend a month and two weeks a year in uniform, expected to be gone from home for so long.

Florida National Guard infantry soldiers hadn't been sent to duty overseas since World War II, when battalions from the 124th Infantry fought in New Guinea and the Philippines, and few deployments since then have lasted more than a few weeks.

The returning soldiers will be required to attend counseling designed to help their readjustment, and sessions also are available for their family members.

After a brief reunion with their families, the soldiers will spend an additional five days or so at Fort Stewart for processing, said Jon Myatt, a spokesman for the Florida National Guard.

Then they will be returned to their armories throughout the state, where they will spend two days returning and storing their gear. After that, they will get a few weeks of leave, Myatt said.

(Roger Roy, Staff Writer for *The Orlando Sentinel*, contributed portions of this story.)

# The Old Ironsides Report *January 22, 2004*

## **News...**

### **Bush: Parts of U.S. Face 'Troubled Times'**

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush, drawing from his State of the Union speech, said Wednesday that America's economy is strong but "there are still troubled times" in some parts of the country.

The morning after he addressed a national television audience and a joint session of Congress, Bush flew to Toledo, Ohio to begin a two day swing that also will take him to Arizona and New Mexico to highlight his job training and counterterrorism proposals.

### **Candidates Criticize Bush, Tout Proposals**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Democrats seeking to challenge President Bush in his bid for re-election used the occasion of his State of the Union address to tout their own proposals and question whether the president could be trusted on the war on terrorism and homefront economic issues.

"I don't agree with his premise that the war in Iraq was part of the war on terror," Wesley Clark told NBC's "Today" on Wednesday. "We really don't know why we went to war with Saddam Hussein. ... Why send people to attack a country when it didn't pose an imminent threat to the United States and wasn't associated with those who did the damage on 9-11?"

### **Iran Officials Quit in Election Protest**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - A number of Iranian Cabinet ministers and vice presidents have submitted their resignations to protest the barring of thousands of would-be candidates from upcoming elections, a senior official said Wednesday.

The resignations are the latest twist in an ongoing political crisis, sparked when hard-liners disqualified the candidates in what reformists said was an attempt to assure conservative victory in the February legislative election.

### **Expert Unconvinced on North Korea Nukes**

WASHINGTON (AP) - An American nuclear weapons expert who recently visited North Korea's main nuclear complex said Wednesday he saw no convincing evidence that Pyongyang can build a plutonium-based nuclear device, but it most likely can make plutonium.

Siegfried Hecker, a former director of the Los Alamos, N.M., nuclear research laboratory, also said he remained unconvinced that the North Koreans could convert any such nuclear device into a nuclear weapon. Hecker, who visited North Korea's secretive Yongbyon nuclear site on Jan. 8 as part of an unofficial U.S. delegation, was speaking to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

## **SAFETY TIP**

### **Overpasses**

Be extremely cautious when approaching overpasses. Be on the lookout for personnel on overpasses observing you; they may be preparing to drop/throw a grenade or explosive device at your convoy.

Roll/Zip windows up in crowded areas and watch for personnel approaching your vehicles.

## **Sports...**

### **Bush Makes Anti-Drug Appeal to Athletes**

By ROB GLOSTER. AP Sports Writer

President Bush's call for athletes and pro sports leagues to eliminate the use of performance-enhancing drugs was welcomed by a number of sports officials.

"Athletics play such an important role in our society, but, unfortunately, some in professional sports are not setting much of an example," the president told Congress. "The use of performance-enhancing drugs like steroids in baseball, football and other sports is dangerous, and it sends the wrong message - that there are shortcuts to accomplishment, and that performance is more important than character."

Bush's remarks come as athletes in two sports are testing positive for the new steroid THG, which was unmasked last summer by drug officials. Five track and field athletes face two-year suspensions for THG use, and four members of the Oakland Raiders flunked tests for the steroid.

Also, a parade of athletes in sports from baseball to boxing appeared this fall before a San Francisco grand jury probing a nutritional supplements lab that is accused of providing THG to athletes. Bush said that "to help children make right choices, they need good examples."

"So tonight I call on team owners, union representatives, coaches and players to take the lead, to send the right signal, to get tough, and to get rid of steroids now."

Frank Uryasz, president of the National Center for Drug Free Sport, said he was "delighted" by Bush's remarks.

"Given the weighty issues of the world right now, I think it's fantastic that it was addressed," said Uryasz, whose Kansas City, Mo., company coordinates drug testing for the NCAA and runs a drug supplement hotline for NFL players.

Though Bush proposed an additional \$23 million for schools that want to do drug tests, he did not call for any money or new laws to combat drugs in pro sports.

"We shouldn't underplay the importance of the president of the United States speaking out on this issue," Uryasz added. "I think it sends a strong message to sports that government is watching this."

But Gene Upshaw, the head of the NFL players' union, said the president must not have been speaking about pro football and insisted no drug problem exists in the NFL.

"I don't know who Bush is talking about, but he's not talking about the NFL, because we've already dealt with steroids, performance-enhancing drugs and all of that," Upshaw said.

John Walters, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, said he spoke at length with the president - a former owner of the Texas Rangers - last month about the problem of drugs in sports.

"The president has had a personal involvement with major league baseball and he's particularly concerned that it's bad for players, it's bad for the sport, it's bad for young people and he's calling for them to fix it," Walters said.

### **Chaplain's thought for the day...**

#### **Self-esteem**

Outstanding leaders go out of the way to boost the self-esteem of their personnel. If people believe in themselves, it's amazing what they can accomplish.

--Sam Walton

# The Old Ironsides Report

January 22, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2004

As of: Wednesday, January 21, 2004 8:23:39 PM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SUICIDE MISSIONS : - WILD WEASELS	TODAY		00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			YOUR CORPS	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		PURE COUNTRY		LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	NFL LIVE	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - CUSA: CINCINNATI @ LOUISVILLE	ROCKET POWER : - BLADER BOWL	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - ITS A MYSTERY TO ME	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30	MOTORCYCLE RACING - FIM: SPEEDWAY GRAND PRIX (NORWAY)		THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS : - DREAM GOAT/ THE SAME GAME	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS : - THE SWEETEST APU	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30	ESPNEWS		THE COSBY SHOW : - FATHER'S DAY			04:30
05:00	NBA - NY KNICKS @ HOUSTON ROCKETS	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: DUKE @ MARYLAND	CANDID CAMERA ACROSS AMERICA	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
06:00			THE WEST WING : - H. CON - 172	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	CNBC: THE NEWS	06:00
06:30				JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - HOT SPRINGS, HOUR 1	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30	AUSTRALIAN OPEN TENNIS - EARLY ROUND COVERAGE DAY 4	ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	GOLDI : - COLD HARD CASH		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00		SESAME STREET	HELEN WEST : - A CLEAR CONSCIENCE	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS : - HAIL TO THE CHIEF/ FOOD FOR THOUGHT	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				HEY ARNOLDI : - HELGA'S LOVE POTION/ GERALD'S SECRET		09:30
10:00		BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - ITS A MYSTERY TO ME		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - HOOK, LINE AND STINKER	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30	ESPNEWS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - DAY OF THE DRAGON PT. 2		10:30
11:00	NHL - SAN JOSE SHARKS @ PHOENIX COYOTES	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	ROCKET POWER : - BLADER BOWL	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS : - DREAM GOAT/ THE SAME GAME	HEADLINE NEWS	ARMY NEWSWATCH	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS : - THE SWEETEST APU	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - FATHER'S DAY	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00		GENERAL HOSPITAL	AMERICAN IDOL	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - MUTT AND JAKE	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17						13:17
13:25				WILL & GRACE : - MAY DIVORCE BE WITH YOU		13:25
13:30	SPORTSCENTER					13:30
13:50		HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING : - H. CON - 172	REEL TIME		13:50
14:00		JUDGE JUDY		THE BACHELORETTE II	60 MINUTES II	14:00
14:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT					14:30
15:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: DUKE @ MARYLAND	TODAY	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - HOT SPRINGS, HOUR 1	C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - FOREVER	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			GOLDI : - COLD HARD CASH	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS : - HAIL TO THE CHIEF/ FOOD FOR THOUGHT	HELEN WEST : - A CLEAR CONSCIENCE		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		HEY ARNOLDI : - HELGA'S LOVE POTION/ GERALD'S SECRET		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	NFL LIVE	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - HOOK, LINE AND STINKER			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	SPORTS SPECIAL - 2004 L.A. AUTO SHOW: OHANA ROAD	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - DAY OF THE DRAGON PT. 2		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	ROCKET POWER : - BLADER BOWL	THE DISORDERLY ORDERLY		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS : - DREAM GOAT/ THE SAME GAME			19:30
20:00	NFL LIVE	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - THE SWEETEST APU		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW : - FATHER'S DAY			20:30
20:45				ANNA AND THE KING OF SIAM		20:45
21:00	SPORTSCENTER	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - MUTT AND JAKE	AMERICAN IDOL		60 MINUTES II	21:00
21:25		WILL & GRACE : - MAY DIVORCE BE WITH YOU				21:25
21:50		REEL TIME				21:50
22:00	NBA - NY KNICKS @ HOUSTON ROCKETS	THE BACHELORETTE II	THE WEST WING : - H. CON - 172		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00		C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - FOREVER	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - HOT SPRINGS, HOUR 1	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30				HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30

## *Today in history... Jan. 22, 1901*

### **QUEEN VICTORIA DIES:**

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) The death of Queen Victoria on January 22, 1901, ends an era in which most of her British subjects know no other monarch. Her 63-year reign, the longest in British history, saw the growth of an empire on which the sun never set. Victoria restored dignity to the English monarchy and ensured its survival as a ceremonial political institution.

Born in 1819, she came to the throne after the death of her uncle, King William IV, in 1837. As a young woman ascending to the throne, her future husband described her "as one whose extreme obstinacy was constantly at war with her good nature." Her first prime minister, Lord Melbourne, became her close friend and adviser, and she succeeded in blocking his replacement by Tory leader Sir Robert Peel in 1839. Two years later, however, an election resulted in a Tory majority in the House of Commons, and Victoria was compelled to accept Peel as prime minister. Never again would she interfere so directly in the politics of democratic Britain.

In 1839, her first cousin Albert, a German prince, came to visit the English court at Windsor, and Victoria proposed to him five days after his arrival. Prince Albert accepted, and in February 1840 they were married. He soon became the dominant influence in her life and served as her private secretary. Among his greatest achievements as royal consort was his organization of the Great Exhibition of 1851, the first world's fair, in the Crystal Palace in London. He also steered her support away from the Whigs to the conservative Tories; she later was a vocal supporter of Benjamin Disraeli, leader of the Conservative Party.

Victoria and Albert built royal residences at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight and at Balmoral Castle in Scotland and became increasingly detached from London. They had nine children, including Victoria, later the empress of Germany, and the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. In 1861, Albert died, and Victoria's grief was such that she did not appear in public for three years. She never entirely got over the loss, and until the end of her life she had her maids nightly lay out Albert's clothes for the next day and in the morning replace the water in the basin in his room.

Disraeli coaxed her out of seclusion, and she was impressed by his efforts to strengthen and expand the British Empire. In 1876, he had her made "empress of India," a title which pleased her and made her a symbol of imperial unity. During the last few decades of her life, her popularity, which had suffered during her long public absence, increased greatly. She never embraced the social and technological advances of the 19th century but accepted the changes and worked hard to fulfill her ceremonial duties as head of state. When she died, she had 37 surviving great-grandchildren, and their marriages with other monarchies gave her the name the "grandmother of Europe."