



The Old Ironsides Report

Friday, April 23, 2004



Councils give citizens a voice in neighborhood government



Members of the Kadhimyah Neighborhood Council and soldiers from B Company, 16th Engineer Battalion, Task Force 1st Armored Division, pose for a photograph during one of their recent meetings. Courtesy photo.

By Maj. Scott Caldwell, 1 AD civil-military affairs officer

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The establishment of Neighborhood and District Advisory Councils gave the people of Baghdad an opportunity to experience community democracy for the first time in more than 35 years.

More than 700 Iraqi's served as members of their local councils, representing the 5.9 million citizens of Baghdad.

For the first time since Saddam Hussein came to power the people of Baghdad have a democratic, representative system in place that gives them a voice and provides a direct communication link to the governing body of Iraq.

In May 2003, the Coalition Provisional Authority-Baghdad in coordination with the 1st Armored Division's brigade combat teams launched a program to secure the first foothold for democracy for the citizens of Baghdad.

Battalion commanders, along with a committee of Baghdad municipal and CPA officials held initial gatherings throughout the city's 88 neighborhoods to discuss democracy and to develop the advisory council program.

No citizen was turned away and every person's ideas were considered and discussed.

The leaders decided that each of the 88 neighborhoods, nine districts and the city of Baghdad would have an advisory council.

Residents attending the meetings chose from among themselves the first members to their Neighborhood Advisory Councils.

The size of each council was based on the neighborhood's population. In addition to selecting members based upon community numbers, they were required to ensure that

their council represented the demographic nature of their neighborhood in terms of gender, religion and ethnicity.

Members of the council received training from their battalion sponsors and the CPA Baghdad governance team. Council members were taught principles of council procedures, protocol, problem solving and planning.

Battalions assigned a mentor to each neighborhood council to be their guide as they learned the ropes of representing the people.

After a few weeks, the fledgling councils were functioning well and were ready to implement the next level of councils.

The 88 neighborhoods were grouped into nine districts. District council seats were established and the neighborhood councils selected the district council members.

The Baghdad City Advisory Council was established and new members were selected from the district councils by their members in July 2003.

Later in the year, a Regional and Provincial council was selected, completing the democratic council system for the Baghdad Province.

The councils are functioning in an interim status until formal elections can be held for council membership. The councils are advisory in nature and, although they have no legislative powers, they serve as the voice for the Baghdad communities.

The councils are heavily involved in the reconstruction of all public services such as schools, police stations and fire stations. They work with municipal authorities in coordinating sanitation operations, repairing water and sewage systems, assist in the distribution of propane fuel and work to resolve other challenges arising during the day-to-day management of a city of six million people.

Other council projects undertaken last year include:

- Working with city officials to implement an \$11 million program to improve public services such as trash removal and road repair which employed more than 75,000 people.

- Arranging for water treatment units and a distribution network for the 100,000 inhabitants of the Hayy Tarik Neighborhood.

- Working with small business owners and a nongovernmental organization to fund a new \$800,000 commercial center in the Jedidah Neighborhood.

- Obtaining \$10,000 for community improvement projects for Sadr City's 103 sectors. Each sector formed a resident's committee that selected improvement projects for its neighborhoods.

In addition to working with municipal authorities, the advisory council system also coordinates with national-level Iraqi authorities and ministries to help manage their city's operation.

Baghdad's community councils have given a voice to the city's residents. For the first time in more than 35 years, the people of Baghdad have a direct and meaningful say in the affairs of their community and their city.

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NEWS...

U.S. Warns Fallujah Fighting Could Resume

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) - Guerrillas and residents in Fallujah have "days, not weeks" to turn in heavy weapons, the top Marine commander in Iraq said Thursday, warning that fighting could resume and that a U.S. push to take the city could be costly for both sides. The stark warning by Lt. Gen. James Conway came two days after an agreement was reached in which city leaders called on insurgents to hand over their heavy weapons in return for a U.S. pledge to hold back on plans to storm the city and allow the return of families that fled the city.

Congress Seeks More Details on Iraq Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) - Two days of Capitol Hill hearings on Iraq have produced some new details on Bush administration plans for the beleaguered campaign, but not all that lawmakers had hoped for. "We've got to get hold of this situation. We've got to do it quickly and we've got to spend a whole lot of money," Arizona Republican John McCain, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Thursday on NBC's "Today" show.

AP Poll: Terror Attack Fears Remain High

WASHINGTON (AP) - With fears about a future attack running high and anxiety about Iraq growing, many Americans now wonder if the terrorists may be winning, an Associated Press poll found. Half of those surveyed in the AP-Ipsos poll said they have concerns that terrorists may be winning, and a fifth of those polled felt strongly that is the case.

Report: Trains Explode in North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - North Korea declared a state of emergency after as many as 3,000 people were killed or injured Thursday when two fuel trains collided and exploded at a station near the Chinese border, South Korean media reported. The North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, reportedly had passed through the station as he returned hours earlier from a three-day trip to China, South Korea's all-news cable channel, YTN, reported. During his secretive visit to China, Kim met with the country's leaders and discussed the standoff over the North's nuclear weapons program.

Jobless Claims Drop by 9,000 Last Week

WASHINGTON (AP) - Fewer people signed up for jobless benefits last week, a sign that companies are feeling less inclined to slash their work forces now that the economy is rebounding.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that new applications filed for unemployment insurance dropped by a seasonally adjusted 9,000 to 353,000 for the week ending April 17. The decline, which came after new applications rose sharply in the previous week, left claims at a level that was higher than the 340,000 analysts were expecting.

In other news...

Relatives Use Technology to Reach Iraq

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) -- The families of Maine Army National Guard soldiers guarding a prison in Iraq used e-mail and phone trees to spread the news after a barrage of mortar rounds killed 22 prisoners but hurt none of the Americans at the prison.

"That's not the first time it's happened, but it's the first time it made CNN," said Sam Jackson, whose son Cpl. Samuel "Craig" Jackson was deployed in January with the 152nd Field Artillery Battalion's Waterville battery. "Thankfully, nobody in our unit was hurt."

Maine soldiers in the unit, based in Caribou, are guarding the Abu Ghraib prison in western Baghdad. They escaped injury Tuesday as guerrillas fired a barrage of mortar rounds at the compound in what U.S. officials said may have been an attempt to spark an inmate uprising against American guards.

"This isn't the first time that we have seen this kind of attack. We don't know if they are trying to inspire an uprising or a prison break," U.S. Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt told The Associated Press. In August, six security prisoners were killed in a mortar attack on the lockup, which was once Saddam's most notorious prison.

The Maine soldiers were at the prison when the attack occurred, Maine National Guard Maj. Peter Rogers said, leading to anxious moments for family members in Maine.

Rogers said stateside commanders received an e-mail from Capt. Phillip Trevino that read: "The facility did receive a significant mortar attack today. All my soldiers are fine."

Jackson said his son chooses to take lunch in the guard tower in which he and his men serve 12-hour shifts rather than cross an exposed area to the cafeteria.

"If everything is going smoothly in the prison, everything is easy. Right now, their big thing is staying out of harm's way," Jackson said.

An estimated 30,000 Iraqis were executed at the Abu Ghraib prison before Saddam Hussein emptied the cells in October 2002.

Thought for the day...

Error Education

Early in the 88-89' college basketball season, University of Michigan's Rumeal Robinson stepped to the foul line for two foul shots late in the fourth quarter. Anxious, he missed both shots, allowing Wisconsin to upset favored Michigan.

Feeling like he made a mental error, Rumeal shot one hundred extra foul shots at the end of each practice for the rest of the season. Thus, he was ready, with three seconds to go in overtime during the national championship game, to complete two foul shots and win the game for Michigan.

Everyone makes mistakes; but it is the leaders who make a difference that learn from them and thus set the template for success.

Today in history...

April 23, 1975: Ford says that war is finished for America

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) At a speech at Tulane University, President Gerald Ford says the Vietnam War is finished as far as America is concerned. "Today, Americans can regain the sense of pride that existed before Vietnam. But it cannot be achieved by re-fighting a war." This was devastating news to the South Vietnamese, who were desperately pleading for U.S. support as the North Vietnamese surrounded Saigon for the final assault on the capital city.

The North Vietnamese had launched a major offensive in March to capture the provincial capital of Ban Me Thuot (Darlac province) in the Central Highlands. The South Vietnamese defenders there fought very poorly and were quickly overwhelmed by the North Vietnamese attackers.

Despite previous promises by both Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford to provide support, the United States did nothing.

In an attempt to reposition his forces for a better defense, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu ordered his forces in the Highlands to withdraw to more defensible positions to the south. What started out as a reasonably orderly withdrawal soon degenerated into a panic that spread throughout the South Vietnamese armed forces. The South Vietnamese abandoned Pleiku and Kontum in the Highlands with very little fighting and the North Vietnamese pressed the attack from the west and north. In quick succession, Quang Tri, Hue, and Da Nang in the north fell to the communist onslaught. The North Vietnamese continued to attack south along the coast, defeating the South Vietnamese forces at each encounter.

As the North Vietnamese forces closed on the approaches to Saigon, the politburo in Hanoi issued an order to Gen. Van Tien Dung to launch the "Ho Chi Minh Campaign," the final assault on Saigon itself. Dung ordered his forces into position for the final battle.

The South Vietnamese 18th Division made a valiant final stand at Xuan Loc, 40 miles northeast of Saigon, in which the South Vietnamese soldiers destroyed three of Dung's divisions. However, the South Vietnamese finally succumbed to the superior North Vietnamese numbers. With the fall of Xuan Loc on April 21 and Ford's statement at Tulane, it was apparent that the North Vietnamese would be victorious. President Thieu resigned and transferred authority to Vice President Tran Van Huong before fleeing Saigon on April 25.

By April 27, the North Vietnamese had completely encircled Saigon and began to maneuver for their final assault. By the morning of April 30, it was all over. When the North Vietnamese tanks crashed through the gates of the Presidential Palace in Saigon, the South Vietnamese surrendered and the Vietnam War was officially over.



1ST ARMORED DIVISION RETENTION

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM REDEPLOYMENT SUPPORT



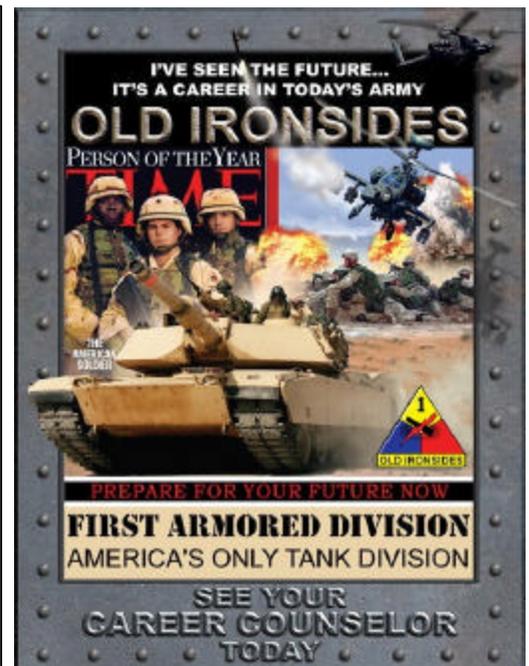
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TAX FREE LUMP SUM DEPLOYMENT BONUS
When the wheels go up heading back to Germany the money goes away

EXAMPLES OF BONUS PAYMENTS:

	3YR REUP	4YR REUP	5YR REUP	6YR REUP
SPC W/3 YEARS	\$4317.00	\$6650.00	\$8547.00	\$10,000.00
SGT W/6 YEARS	\$2663.00	\$7457.00	\$9588.00	\$10,000.00
SSG W/8 YEARS	\$3145.00	\$7925.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

*BONUS PAYMENTS VARY BASED UPON THE NUMBER OF YEARS REENLISTED FOR AND THE NUMBER OF MONTHS PRIOR TO ORIGINAL ETS SOLDIER REENLISTS. THESE FIGURES ARE BASED UPON A SOLDIER REENLISTING 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO ORIGINAL ETS DATE. SEE YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH MONEY YOU ARE ENTITLED TO.

"STAY STRONG, STAY PROUD, STAY 1AD"



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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2004

As of: Thursday, April 22, 2004 9:39:02 PM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - SPORTSCENTER NFL DRAFT SPECIAL	HEADLINE NEWS	JOURNEYS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH - THE PEOPLE OF THE FLAME	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS	00:30
01:00	THE HOT LIST		MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - THE JURY (PT. 1)	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30	THE HOT LIST	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				01:30
02:00	AROUND THE HORN				HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 3: NEW JERSEY NETS @ NY KNICKS	THE HOT LIST	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - THE GREAT BANGABOO	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30		NHL - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 1: CALGARY FLAMES @ DETROIT RED WINGS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS		CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER THE HERETIC	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - THE CHICKEN POX/SHIPWRECK SATURDAY	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		04:30
05:00			THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - ASCENT	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 3: SAN ANTONIO SPURS @ MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES					05:30
06:00		BASEBALL TONIGHT	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER EIGHT	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	DINOSAUR PLANET (TVPG): - WHITE TIP'S JOURNEY	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00	INSIDE THE NBA	HEADLINE NEWS	TOYOTA WORLD OF WILDLIFE (TVG): - WINGS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		08:25
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS	JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES (TVG): - THUNDERING SMOKE			08:30
09:00	ESPNEWS	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - LIFE SERIAL		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		09:13
09:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION					09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - THE CHICKEN POX/SHIPWRECK SATURDAY	THE X-FILES (TV14): - DRIVE	HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - DONALD'S PUMBAA PRANK	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		ALL GROWN UP (TVY): - LUCKY 13		10:30
11:00	NHL - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 1: TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS @ PHILADELPHIA FLYERS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - THE GREAT BANGABOO	KIM POSSIBLE (TVY7): - THE RON FACTOR	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TVY7): - THE WONDERFULL WORLD OF WIZZLEY/CALL HAITING	HEADLINE NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER THE HERETIC	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - ASCENT	ESPNEWS	PRIMETIME	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30	ESPNEWS			HEADLINE NEWS		13:30
13:52				PACIFIC REPORT		13:52
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER EIGHT	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MILHOUSE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG): - WATCHING THE BABY		14:30
15:00	NHL - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 1: COLORADO AVALANCHE @ SAN JOSE SHARKS	TODAY	DINOSAUR PLANET (TVPG): - WHITE TIP'S JOURNEY	SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG):	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			TOYOTA WORLD OF WILDLIFE (TVG): - WINGS	ALIAS (TVPG): - A MISSING LINK		16:00
16:30			JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES (TVG): - THUNDERING SMOKE			16:30
17:00		HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - DONALD'S PUMBAA PRANK	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - LIFE SERIAL	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:22				PACIFIC REPORT		17:22
17:30	NHL 2NIGHT	ALL GROWN UP (TVY): - LUCKY 13		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	ESPNEWS	KIM POSSIBLE (TVY7): - THE RON FACTOR	THE X-FILES (TV14): - DRIVE		THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TVY7): - THE WONDERFULL WORLD OF WIZZLEY/CALL HAITING		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - THE GREAT BANGABOO			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00	ESPNEWS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER THE HERETIC	CHARLIE'S ANGELS	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:19	BASEBALL TONIGHT					20:19
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN			20:30
21:00	SPORTSCENTER	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MILHOUSE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE	THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - ASCENT		PRIMETIME	21:00
21:30		MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG): - WATCHING THE BABY				21:30
21:45				TOOTSIE		21:45
22:00	REAL SPORTS WITH BRYANT GUMBEL	SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG):	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER EIGHT		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00	MLB - NY METS @ CHICAGO CUBS	ALIAS (TVPG): - A MISSING LINK	DINOSAUR PLANET (TVPG): - WHITE TIP'S JOURNEY		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30					INSIDE POLITICS	23:30