

Thursday, January 29, 2004

'Ready First' Combat Team delivers supplies to Mustansyria school

Story and photo by Capt. Jean-Pierre Brown,
1st BCT PAO

Baghdad, Iraq -- As on any day in Baghdad, the sun rose on the students of the Al-Jasmine primary school located in the neighborhood of Mustansyria. But on this bright day, the students were in for a big surprise.

It was 10:30 in the morning Jan. 26 and as the children were standing quietly in the backyard of the school preparing for the last day of examinations, U.S. Army appeared.

About a dozen soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team including some from 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, arrived with loads of school supplies for the children of Al-Jasmine.

Soldiers enlisted the help of a disabled student in a wheelchair to distribute hundreds of backpacks loaded with school supplies of all types, to include pencils, crayons, copybooks, erasers, and much other needed material.

McDonalds Corporation donated more than \$6,000 worth (100 cases) of crayons and the citizens of New Ulm, Minn., added nearly \$10,000 worth of other supplies to the cause.

The supplies were mailed directly to the "Ready First" Brigade and its commander, Col. Peter Mansoor, arranged for the distribution to schools like Al-Jasmine in the Rusafa district.

The charity event began with a speech from Lieutenant Colonel Sexton, as he commented,

"We would like you to be our kids for a few moments, because we miss our families back home and consider all Iraqi children as members of our extended family" said Lt. Col. Chuck Sexton, 1-36 Infantry commander. "So please except our gifts."

"These school supplies are important to us because you children represent the future of Iraq," Mansoor told the students. "Use them for



Students in the Al-Jasmine Primary School in the Mustansyria neighborhood show off school supplies donated by McDonalds Corporation and the citizens of New Ulm, Minn.

learning, use them with our best wishes, use them in peace."

The supplies are not gifts from the U.S. Government, he said. "(They are) from your friends in the McDonald's corporation, the people of New Ulm, Minnesota, and from many of our friends and families in the United States."

Mansoor said that organizations and individuals in the United States asked how they could help the Iraqi children. He said his reply was to "send school supplies for the kids – they are eager to learn but lack a great deal of support."

Sexton said that he was very happy to give the children these gifts, for when he is amongst the children, he feels at peace and far away from military matters.

These contributions were but a simple gift, but they symbolize a tremendous amount of caring and commitment extended and expressed by all Americans towards the Iraqi people, he said.

The Old Ironsides Report *January 29, 2004*

News...

Kay Blames Weak Intel in Iraq WMD Failure

WASHINGTON (AP) - Former top U.S. weapons inspector David Kay told members of the Senate Wednesday that the failure to turn up weapons of mass destruction in Iraq exposed weaknesses in America's intelligence-gathering apparatus. "We've had a number of surprises," Kay said. "It's quite clear we need capabilities that we do not have with regard to intelligence."

Bomber Kills Four Outside Baghdad Hotel

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - A suicide bomber driving a van disguised as an ambulance blew up his vehicle Wednesday in front of a hotel frequented by Westerners. Iraqi police reported four people were killed, and South Africa said one of its nationals was among them.

Blair Cleared in Weapons Expert's Suicide

LONDON (AP) - A judge cleared Prime Minister Tony Blair's administration Wednesday of any direct involvement in the suicide of a government expert on Iraqi weapons, but criticized the BBC for its reporting of the scandal that shook the British leadership. The government did not act in a "dishonorable, underhand or duplicitous" way in revealing the identity of weapons expert David Kelly, said senior appeals judge Lord Hutton.

Flight Attendant Calm on Sept. 11 Tape

WASHINGTON (AP) - The flight attendant aboard American Airlines Flight 11 seemed calm and professional beyond reason as she reported a ghastly scenario during a 23-minute telephone call just before the plane slammed into one of the World Trade Center towers. The panel investigating the Sept. 11 attacks heard portions of flight attendant Betty Ong's 23-minute conversation with the operations center on the second of a two-day hearing Tuesday.

U.S. Government Offers Free Cyber Alerts

WASHINGTON (AP) - Aiming to increase Internet security, the government is now offering Americans free cyber alerts and computer advice from the Homeland Security Department. Anyone who signs up with the new National Cyber Alert System will receive e-mails about major virus outbreaks and other Internet attacks as they occur, along with detailed instructions to help computer users protect themselves.

Chaplain's thought for the day...

Leadership

Leaders aren't born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal.

— Vincent Lombardi

Travel...

Guide Praises North Korean Fine Dining

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press Writer
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) -- Many North Koreans barely get enough to eat. But the capital of the totalitarian state is awash in good restaurants for those who can afford it, according to a guide compiled by three foreign aid workers.

"Eating Out in Pyongyang" lists more than 50 restaurants where foreigners and the North Korean elite can sample a wide variety of Western and Asian fare: hamburgers, hotdogs, "American-style" pancakes, chicken a la Kiev, sushi, shark fin soup, flying fish egg salad and such Korean staples as kimchi, cold noodles and bibimbap, a rice and vegetable dish.

"Some of it was delicious," said Roberto Christen, a Peruvian co-author who left Pyongyang last year after a five-year stint. He worked on agricultural and environmental projects for the UN Development Programme and traveled widely in the North, which restricts the movements of foreigners and its own citizens.

The unpublished guide, distributed by the authors to friends and colleagues, categorizes restaurant prices as cheap - an average-sized meal for under \$6.20 per person; moderate - \$6.20 to \$12.40 per person; and expensive - over \$12.40. The prices are well beyond the means of most people in North Korea, where natural disasters and economic mismanagement have devastated food production.

The World Food Programme has estimated that up to 3.8 million North Koreans could be deprived of critical international food aid by the end of the winter because of falling international donations. Top U.S. officials have accused North Korean leader Kim Jong Il of squandering the nation's resources on weapons programs and for his own personal gain.

The Pyongyang guide rates eateries with images of chopsticks, or choggarak: on a scale of one to five, one pair of chopsticks is below average and five signal excellence.

Christen and co-authors Olof Nunez, a colleague at UNDP, and Sofia Malmqvist wrote the guide after venturing beyond the dozen restaurants that the relatively few foreign residents and tourists always visit. Armed with a map, they found a host of options.

The best of the lot include the Pirobong Restaurant in the Pyongyang Hotel, which serves an extensive buffet with seaweed salad, miso soup, desserts, fruit and cheese. "International hotel lobby ambience. Very clean and nice. Popular with the Pyongyang elite. Good service. So new it did not have a menu our first time there," the guide says.

Then there is the Moranbong Hotel, where diners peruse a pictorial menu in English, munch on complimentary peanuts and listen to "soft, non-revolutionary music" as they sit at tables divided by "classy" bamboo dividers. Try the tempura vegetables, clam soup or vegetable omelette, the guide suggests.

Some places are cold in winter, a common problem in a country with a crumbling power grid. The Koryo is one of the city's largest hotels, and it's pleasant to sit in the Japanese landscaped garden of one of its restaurants, but "watch out for the rats!"

SAFETY TIP

Look for exposed wires running from road to possible hiding places that could be for a command-detonated IED. Look for exposed wires running up a post or wall as this could be an antenna for a remote-detonated IED.

The Old Ironsides Report

January 29, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2004

As of: Wednesday, January 28, 2004 9:43:52 PM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SUICIDE MISSIONS : - BALL TURRET GUNNERS	TODAY		00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			HEADLINE NEWS	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		MOSCOW ON THE HUDSON		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			ABC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: NC STATE @ NORTH CAROLINA	NHL - PHILADELPHIA FLYERS @ FLORIDA PANTHERS	ROCKET POWER : - THE NIGHT BEFORE	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - AS DIFFERENT AS DAY AND NIGHT	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS : - A MILE IN MY SHOES/ SUPER BIKE	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS : - BART THE GENIUS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	CNBC: THE NEWS	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - THEO AND THE JOINT			04:30
05:00	NBA - SACRAMENTO KINGS @ HOUSTON ROCKETS		DHARMA & GREG : - MOTHER AND DAUGHTER REUNION	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30		ESPNEWS	MY WIFE AND KIDS : - PILOT			05:30
06:00		ESPNEWS	THE WEST WING : - 100,000 AIRPLANES	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
06:30		HEADLINE NEWS		JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - HOT SPRINGS, HOUR 2	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30	SPORTSCENTER	ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	GOLDI : - THE STUFF OF DREAMS		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30	NBA FASTBREAK	HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	NFL TOTAL ACCESS	SESAME STREET	MASTERPIECE THEATER: - OTHELLO	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIONS : - ALIVE! CHICKEN/ PRIMA DOGGY	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				HEY ARNOLDI : - SAVE THE TREE/ NEW TEACHER		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - AS DIFFERENT AS DAY AND NIGHT		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - BEAUTY AND THE BREEDER	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - THROUGH THE RABBIT HOLE		10:30
11:00	REAL SPORTS WITH BRYANT GUMBEL	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	ROCKET POWER : - THE NIGHT BEFORE	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS : - A MILE IN MY SHOES/ SUPER BIKE	HEADLINE NEWS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00	AUSTRALIAN OPEN TENNIS - WOMEN'S SEMIFINALS		THE SIMPSONS : - BART THE GENIUS	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - THEO AND THE JOINT	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			AMERICAN IDOL	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - THE BIG LEAP	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:17
13:25				WILL & GRACE : - 23		13:25
13:50				REEL TIME		13:50
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING : - 100,000 AIRPLANES	THE BACHELORETTE II	60 MINUTES II	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00	SPORTSCENTER	TODAY	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - HOT SPRINGS, HOUR 2	C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - PLAY WITH FIRE	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00	NBA - SACRAMENTO KINGS @ HOUSTON ROCKETS		GOLDI : - THE STUFF OF DREAMS	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00		DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIONS : - ALIVE! CHICKEN/ PRIMA DOGGY	MASTERPIECE THEATER: - OTHELLO		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		HEY ARNOLDI : - SAVE THE TREE/ NEW TEACHER			THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	NBA FASTBREAK	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - BEAUTY AND THE BREEDER			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - THROUGH THE RABBIT HOLE		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	ROCKET POWER : - THE NIGHT BEFORE	GALAXY QUEST		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS : - A MILE IN MY SHOES/ SUPER BIKE			19:30
20:00	NFL LIVE	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - BART THE GENIUS		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	NBA FASTBREAK	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW : - THEO AND THE JOINT			20:30
21:00	SPORTSCENTER	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - THE BIG LEAP	AMERICAN IDOL	BLOWN AWAY	60 MINUTES II	21:00
21:25		WILL & GRACE : - 23				21:25
21:50		REEL TIME				21:50
22:00	AUSTRALIAN OPEN TENNIS - MEN'S SEMIFINAL MATCH #1	THE BACHELORETTE II	THE WEST WING : - 100,000 AIRPLANES		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00		C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - PLAY WITH FIRE	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - HOT SPRINGS, HOUR 2	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30				HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30

Today in history... Jan. 29, 1942

Iran signs Treaty of Alliance with Great Britain and USSR

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) -- On this day, Britain and the USSR secure an agreement with Iran that offers the Iran protection while creating a "Persian corridor" for the Allies-a supply route from the West to Russia.

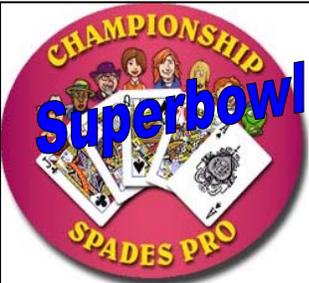
Early in the war, Iran collaborated with Germany by exporting grain to the Axis power in exchange for technicians. But the Allies viewed Iran as a valuable source of oil and conveniently situated as a route for shipping Western war material east to the USSR. On August 25, 1941, both Allied powers invaded Iran (which Prime Minister Winston Churchill preferred to call "Persia," so there would be no confusion between "Iran" and "Iraq"), the Soviets from the north and the Brits from the south. In four days, the Allies effectively controlled Iran.

On September 16, the ruling shah abdicated, and his 23-year-old son, Muhammad, assumed power and pushed through the Iranian parliament the Treaty of Alliance, which allowed the Allies freedom to move supplies through the country and gave them whatever else they needed from Iran to win the war. The new shah also vowed "not to adopt in his relations with foreign countries an attitude which is inconsistent with the alliance."

In exchange, Iran was promised wartime protection from Axis invasion-and a guarantee that the Allies would leave Iranian soil within six months of the close of the war.

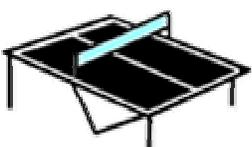
The alliance started off shakily: the Soviets bought up most of Iran's grain harvest, which caused a bread shortage and riots in the streets. Allied troops put the rebellion down, and the United States shipped in grain to compensate for the losses. The Soviet Union then attempted to agitate for the overthrow of the shah by supporting the Tudeh (Farsi for "masses") party, which the Soviets believed would be more generous in oil concessions. Tudeh forces did manage temporarily to take over northern Iran in December 1944.

When the war ended, the Allies began leaving Iran as promised-except for the USSR. Complaints were made to the United Nations, and pressure was applied by the United States and Great Britain, as this was a violation of one of the terms of the Treaty of Alliance. The Soviets finally began pulling out of Iran in April 1946, but as they withdrew, they continued to foster more bloody rebellions between the shah's government and the Tudeh; the Tudeh were decisively defeated in December 1946 when the shah declared martial law.



Superbowl Pregame

February 1st	
Dominoes	1000
9-Ball	1200
Spades	1400
Ping Pong	1600
NCAA 2004	1800



Come join us and pit your skills against those who claim to be the best for BIAP bragging rights



Everyone wishing to participate must sign up by 0900 on Feb 1st



Sign up at the BIAP MWR recreation tent located near the Bob Hope (DFAC)



Competition