



The Old Ironsides Report



Thursday, December 18, 2003

FSB mechanics put vehicles back in the fight

Story and photos by Spc. Ryan Smith, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - - When soldiers are badly wounded or seriously ill they are sent to combat support hospitals. When vehicles are seriously damaged or require extensive repairs, they go to "the third shop."

Soldiers with B Company, 501st Forward Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, operate one of these shops at Provider Forward Operating Base in Baghdad.

"Our mission is to bring dead lined vehicles up to speed," said Staff Sgt. William Brown, shop foreman, B Company, 501st FSB.

Any vehicle belonging to a 1st Brigade Combat Team unit, from a Humvee to an Abrams tank that is considered dead lined and unserviceable by its unit's motor pool shop is sent to the B Company shop.

"Any vehicle in 1st BCT—you name it—we fix it right here in our shop," Brown said.

Their specialty, however, is not in performing routine maintenance or tune-ups. The B Company mechanics have taken vehicles that have been hit by rocket-propelled grenades and other explosive devices, repaired them and sent them back into service.

"We're like a combat support hospital for Humvees and other vehicles," Brown said. "We do major repair work."

Though the work goes on in the shop where the mechanics repair the vehicles, the heart of the operation is in the shop's office where Sgt. Willie Jones, automated logistical specialist, B Company, 501st FSB, orders and tracks the parts that the mechanics need to repair each vehicle.

"Soldiers need these vehicles to accomplish their mission," Jones said. "Our job is to keep these vehicles mission-capable."



Spc. Anthony Dickerson, a tracked-vehicle mechanic with B Company, 501st Forward Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, tightens loose valves on a Humvee at the shop at Provider Forward Operating Base.

Jones does that by expediting orders and ensuring that parts get to the mechanics when they need them.

The experience has been rewarding, said Spc. Anthony Dickerson, tracked-vehicle mechanic, B Company, 501st FSB. He's had the chance to improve his skills in working on different kinds of vehicles, rather than just the track vehicles he specializes in.

"We do a little bit of everything. It's great to show what we've been trained to do," he said.

"It's satisfying when you get a piece-of-crap vehicle in here and no one thinks you can fix it," Dickerson said. "Then we do the repairs and it's on the road again in a few days or weeks."

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News...

Jury Deliberates Sniper Suspect's Fate

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP) - Jurors began deliberating Wednesday whether Lee Boyd Malvo was a puppet or a partner in the sniper spree that sent panic through the Washington area. Circuit Judge Jane Marum Roush sent the case to the jury Tuesday afternoon after closing arguments, and the eight women and four men selected a foreman. They began their discussions Wednesday morning.

Chirac Seeks Law Banning Head Scarves

PARIS (AP) - French President Jacques Chirac asked parliament on Wednesday for a law banning Islamic head scarves and other religious insignia in public schools, a move that aims at shoring up the nation's secular tradition, despite cries that it will stigmatize France's 5 million Muslims.

U.S. Reaches Central America Trade Deal

WASHINGTON (AP) - Overcoming a last-minute snag on textiles, the United States reached a free trade agreement on Wednesday with four Central American countries. Negotiators reached agreement in all areas, including textiles and agriculture, according to a U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Rain Delays Flight Re-Enactment in N.C.

KILL DEVIL HILLS, N.C. (AP) - A bald eagle soared into the sky Wednesday, a symbol of flight, as a poncho-clad crowd cheered the 100th anniversary of man's first powered, heavier-than-air flight. But a heavy downpour scuttled plans to re-enact the flight 100 years to the minute after the seminal event. President Bush was on hand before the planned attempt to re-enact the Wright brothers' flight - timed to come exactly a century after the brothers from Dayton, Ohio, made their first tentative hops through the air with a delicate contraption fashioned in their bicycle shop.

A sign of the times?

Tariq Aziz Stops Calling Son Saddam

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) -- Former Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz has started calling his youngest son - named Saddam after Iraq's ousted leader - by the name Zuhair instead, according to letters obtained by the London-based Arabic daily Asharq Al-Awsat.

"My regards to everybody, how is your mother? And your youngest brother Zuhair?" Aziz said in a July letter to his two daughters, Zeinab and Maysaa. He also referred to the son as Zuhair in an October letter, the paper said in its Wednesday editions, which reproduced several of Aziz's letters.

The widely read Arabic daily said it got the letters from Aziz's older son, Zayad, 37. Zayad told the paper his brother is a student at the University of Jordan. While the paper's headline was that Aziz "changed" his son's name, Zayad still referred to his brother as Saddam.

Tariq Aziz, who once served as the public face of Saddam Hussein's regime, was one of the former officials called in to identify the ousted Iraqi president after his arrest on Saturday, U.S. officials said.

Aziz started sending letters to his family - scattered between Amman and Baghdad- after he surrendered to coalition forces on April 24, Zayad told Asharq Al-Awsat.

In his letters, Aziz asked his family to sent him heavy clothing, bread, dates, milk, slippers, Marlboro cigarettes, underwear, newspapers and magazines.

Seven letters were delivered to Aziz's family by the International Red Cross, but no letters have arrived since the Red Cross left Baghdad in October following a deadly suicide attack on its headquarters, Zayad told the newspaper.

"My father is ... an ailing man. He is an extraordinary politician. We are not allowed to communicate with or visit him," the paper quoted Zayad as saying.

He added that Aziz had suffered from a stroke, diabetes and hypertension before turning himself in to coalition authorities.

Asked if an attorney had been appointed to defend his father in case of a trial, Zayad said an Iraqi lawyer, Shawkat Shabeb, had volunteered and a French lawyer also may become involved in the case.

"Those who came to rule Iraq, came for revenge from the former regime. ... His (Aziz's) enemies will not be fair if they were the ones to try him," Zayad told the newspaper.

Safety Message...

A "TYPICAL" IED:

- Two propellant cartridges
- 8 inches in diameter; 8 inches tall
- Packed with plastic explosives
- Two blasting caps each
- Thin metal cover
- Command detonated by car alarm device (50' of wire)
- Hidden in propane tank along road side

ENSURE YOU

- Maintain high SITUATIONAL AWARENESS
- When driving, use middle lane, to maintain freedom of movement
- Don't drive over, step on or kick trash
- When found, secure site, report to command for EOD assistance
- Avoid radio communications within 300 meters of IED

Chaplain's thought for the day...

"Delayed Gratification"

In 1944, Leander McCormick-Goodheart, a recruiter for the Ford Motor Company, toured 50 universities across the United States to recruit the outstanding graduating student of each institution.

At Leigh University, he met a young man named Lee Iacocca and offered him a position at Ford. His greatest ambition was to one day work for Ford. Yet Iacocca asked if he could delay the starting date of his employment for one year. He had the opportunity to earn a master's degree from Princeton University.

Even though the ambitious and talented Iacocca had the opportunity to launch his meteoric auto making career immediately upon his graduation, he was determined to be fully prepared for whatever opportunities might come his way in the future.

--Richard and Henry Blackaby, [Spiritual](#)

[Leadership](#)

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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2003

As of: Wednesday, December 17, 2003 4:45:06 AM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: INVENTORS : - THE WRIGHT STUFF	TODAY		00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			HEADLINE NEWS	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - THE WRIGHT BROTHERS		LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT: BORN OF A DREAM			01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00		ESPNEWS	RUGRATS : - DAYSCARE	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - IVE GOTTA BE ME	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: PRINCETON @ DUKE	NBA SHOOTAROUND	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - YOU WISH / GARY TAKES A BATH	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00		NBA - DALLAS MAVERICKS @ BOSTON CELTICS	THE SIMPSONS : - HUNGRY HUNGRY HOMER	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - KNEE DEEP			04:30
05:00			CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON (2003)	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30	NHL - MINNESOTA WILD @ COLORADO AVALANCHE					05:30
06:00			THE WEST WING : - THE INDIANS IN THE LOBBY	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS	06:00
06:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - CLEVELAND, HOUR 1	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30		ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00	NHL 2NIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS	USAF ACADEMY BAND IN COLORADO SPRINGS		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	MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS : - POISON IVY / TWELVE ANGRY PUPS	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				HEY ARNOLDI : - RANSOM & MS. PERFECT		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - IVE GOTTA BE ME		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - CARRYING ON	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - THE ROCK		10:30
11:00	NHL - SAN JOSE SHARKS @ DETROIT RED WINGS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	RUGRATS : - DAYSCARE	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - YOU WISH / GARY TAKES A BATH	HEADLINE NEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	11:30
11:46						11:46
11:52		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW		PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS : - HUNGRY HUNGRY HOMER	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - KNEE DEEP	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON (2003)	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - JAKE'S NUTS ROASTING ON AN OPEN FIRE	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:17
13:25				WILL & GRACE : - SEX LOSERS, AND VIDEOTAPE		13:25
13:30	SPORTSCENTER					13:30
13:50				REEL TIME		13:50
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING : - THE INDIANS IN THE LOBBY	TRISTA AND RYAN'S WEDDING : - PART 3	60 MINUTES II	14:00
14:30	INSIDE THE NFL	JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00		TODAY	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - CLEVELAND, HOUR 1		GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
15:30	NBA - DALLAS MAVERICKS @ BOSTON CELTICS					15:30
16:00			USAF ACADEMY BAND IN COLORADO SPRINGS	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00		DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS : - POISON IVY / TWELVE ANGRY PUPS	MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30	SPORTSCENTER	HEY ARNOLDI : - RANSOM & MS. PERFECT			ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:30
18:00		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - CARRYING ON			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	NFL LIVE	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - THE ROCK		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	RUGRATS : - DAYSCARE	MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - YOU WISH / GARY TAKES A BATH			19:30
20:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - FIM: SPEEDWAY GRAND PRIX (DENMARK)	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - HUNGRY HUNGRY HOMER		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - KNEE DEEP			20:30
20:45				ANNIE HALL		20:45
21:00	SPORTSCENTER	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - JAKE'S NUTS ROASTING ON AN OPEN FIRE	CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON (2003)		60 MINUTES II	21:00
21:25		WILL & GRACE : - SEX LOSERS, AND VIDEOTAPE				21:25
21:50		REEL TIME				21:50
22:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - FIM: SPEEDWAY GRAND PRIX (HOLSTED)	TRISTA AND RYAN'S WEDDING : - PART 3	THE WEST WING : - THE INDIANS IN THE LOBBY		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:30				CINEMA SECRETS : - REMAKING REALITY		22:30
23:00	ESPNEWS		ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - CLEVELAND, HOUR 1	ESPNEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	23:00
23:30	ESPNEWS			HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

December 18, 1865

SLAVERY ABOLISHED IN AMERICA

Following its ratification by the requisite three-quarters of the states earlier in the month, the 13th Amendment is formally adopted into the U.S. Constitution, ensuring that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude... shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Before the American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln and other leaders of the anti-slavery Republican Party sought not to abolish slavery but merely to stop its extension into new territories and states in the American West. This policy was unacceptable to most Southern politicians, who believed that the growth of free states would turn the U.S. power structure irrevocably against them. In November 1860, Lincoln's election as president signaled the secession of seven Southern states and the formation of the Confederate States of America. Shortly after his inauguration in 1861, the Civil War began. Four more Southern states joined the Confederacy, while four border slave states in the upper South remained in the Union.

Lincoln, though he privately detested slavery, responded cautiously to the call by abolitionists for emancipation of all American slaves after the outbreak of the Civil War. As the war dragged on, however, the Republican-dominated federal government began to realize the strategic advantages of emancipation: The liberation of slaves would weaken the Confederacy by depriving it of a major portion of its labor force, which would in turn strengthen the Union by producing an influx of manpower. With 11 Southern states seceded from the Union, there were few pro-slavery congressmen to stand in the way of such an action.

In 1862, Congress annulled the fugitive slave laws, prohibited slavery in the U.S. territories, and authorized Lincoln to employ freed slaves in the army. Following the major Union victory at the Battle of Antietam in September, Lincoln issued a warning of his intent to issue an emancipation proclamation for all states still in rebellion on New Year's Day.

That day--January 1, 1863--President Lincoln formally issued the Emancipation Proclamation, calling on the Union army to liberate all slaves in states still in rebellion as "an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity." These three million slaves were declared to be "then, thenceforward, and forever free." The proclamation exempted the border slave states that remained in the Union and all or parts of three Confederate states controlled by the Union army.

The Emancipation Proclamation transformed the Civil War from a war against secession into a war for "a new birth of freedom," as Lincoln stated in his Gettysburg Address in 1863. This ideological change discouraged the intervention of France or England on the Confederacy's behalf and enabled the Union to enlist the 180,000 African American soldiers and sailors who volunteered to fight between January 1, 1863, and the conclusion of the war.

As the Confederacy staggered toward defeat, Lincoln realized that the Emancipation Proclamation, a war measure, might have little constitutional authority once the war was over. The Republican Party subsequently introduced the 13th Amendment into Congress, and in April 1864 the necessary two-thirds of the overwhelmingly Republican Senate passed the amendment. However, the House of Representatives, featuring a higher proportion of Democrats, did not pass the amendment by a two-thirds majority until January 1865, three months before Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

On December 2, 1865, Alabama became the 27th state to ratify the 13th Amendment, thus giving it the requisite three-fourths majority of states' approval necessary to make it the law of the land. Alabama, a former Confederate state, was forced to ratify the amendment as a condition for re-admission into the Union. On December 18, the 13th Amendment was officially adopted into the Constitution--246 years after the first shipload of captive Africans landed at Jamestown, Virginia, and were bought as slaves.

Slavery's legacy and efforts to overcome it remained a central issue in U.S. politics for more than a century, particularly during the post-Civil War Reconstruction era and the African American civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s.