



The Old Ironsides Report

Saturday, December 13, 2003

Bulldog brigade gunners put 'steel on target'

By Sgt. Christopher Stanis, 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The King of Battle is back on his throne in Baghdad.

The 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, of Task Force 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team began its semiannual Table VIII gunnery Dec. 6 and will continue the certification through Dec. 20.

This is the first time guns of this caliber – Paladin Howitzers firing 155 mm artillery rounds – have been fired in Baghdad since May.

A unique feature of this training is that while all other TF 1AD assets are conducting gunnery at Butler Range – approximately 50 kilometers away from the 3BCT area of operation – 4-1 FA is firing within city's borders.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Savitski, 4-1 FA command sergeant major, said the advantage of within-city-limits certification test the gunners' abilities and is a "show of force," he said.

Following the successful Operation Iron Hammer, the big guns are keeping the division on the offensive and the enemy confused by showing that the TF 1AD is capable of reacting with counter-fire to anybody who decides to shoot mortars or rockets at coalition-controlled areas, he said.

Savitski added that the gunnery location took a lot of mission-oriented stress off the unit's soldiers.

"Because of the mission we were already doing we had to figure out how to maximize our time and personnel," he continued. "This plan allows us to support the division's efforts and still get our teams qualified."

But it is not as simple as going out and lobbing rounds.

An open field was quarantined to be the impact zone, with signs posted around the perimeter warning residents stay away. Psychological operations teams were also used to inform residents of the incoming steel.

Additionally, the air space in the approximate six-mile distance between the firing site and impact zone was cleared of all aircraft.

Calling in artillery is a three-step process, Savitski said.

The forward observers, located within sight of the target, are known as the eyes of the artillery.

"We go deep (sometimes 20 kilometers) in to enemy territory to kill the enemy before they get to the brigade, or before the brigade goes to enemy territory," said Staff Sgt. Shannon Williams, platoon sergeant for 4-1 FA's Mustang Platoon, better known as COLT, or combat observation lazing team.

The COLT waits ready at the impact zone to call in the fire and any adjustments that need to be made.

That information is sent to the Fire Direction Center, sometimes called the platoon operation center, said Capt. Steve Tautkus, Battery A, commander.

He said the FDC sends the mission to the guns with information such as what type of propellant, fuse and round to use.

The targeting information is sent to the howitzer – the



Artillerymen from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team put some "steel on target."

muscle of the artillery.

"It puts the steel down," Savitski said.

A howitzer is operated by a four-man crew – the driver, the computer operator, the "number one man," who loads the round in to the chamber and the section chief, supervising to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Ten missions are conducted during the gunnery:

- Low-angle adjustment fires are the standard for every fire mission.
- "At my command" missions hold artillery fire until the forward observers give word that the enemy is gathered in the target zone. This allows for massed fire with maximum effectiveness.
- In an "immediate suppression mission," the crew fires to break enemy contact if a friendly force is pinned down
- "Time on target" missions give the howitzers a specific time to hit a single target; all rounds hit the target at the same time.
- If artillery is firing at an objective and friendly forces start receiving fire from a previously established target, a priority target mission will be called in to redirect artillery to that target.
- Schedule of fires gives a list of targets in sequential order of when they are to be hit.
- Immediate smoke is the same as immediate suppression, but with smoke rounds.
- After the sun goes down, illumination and coordinated illumination missions are conducted. An illumination event fires an illumination round to light up the sky, giving visibility of the target at night. Coordination illumination fires an illumination followed by a high explosive round.

For the artillerymen of 4-1 FA, the gunnery seems to be a welcome break from their normal routine of patrols and guard duty.

"I didn't think I would get to fire in Iraq," said Spc. Joe Wilridge, howitzer crewmember with Battery A. "I love shooting rounds. I'm doing what I get paid to do."

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News...

Bush: Halliburton Must Pay for Overcharge

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush said Friday the United States will expect Vice President Dick Cheney's former company to pay back money that it is suspected of overcharging the government on contract work in Iraq.

"If there's an overcharge, like we think there is, we expect that money be repaid," the president told reporters.

Flu Outbreak Spreads to All 50 States

Hundreds of people lined up for free flu shots Friday and some hospitals were discouraging visitors after officials announced the flu had spread to all 50 states, nearly half of those considered hit hard by the illness.

AP: U.N. May Have to Abandon Afghan Effort

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - The United Nations may be forced to abandon its two-year effort to stabilize Afghanistan because of rising violence blamed on the resurgent Taliban, its top official here warned Friday. Sakhdar Brahimi said his team could not continue its work unless security improves. He called for more foreign troops to halt attacks that have killed at least 11 aid workers across the south and east since March.

Struggle by Slain Prosecutor Suggested

BALTIMORE (AP) - Investigators have identified blood from a second person in the car of slain federal prosecutor Jonathan Luna, suggesting he struggled with his killer, a senior law enforcement official said Friday. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, would not say how much blood was found or whether police had any clues to the killer's identity.

Paul Martin Becomes Canada's New PM

OTTAWA (AP) - Jean Chretien stepped down Friday after 10 years as Canada's popular and often combative prime minister, giving way to Paul Martin, a former finance minister who has pledged to seek smoother ties with the United States despite strains over Iraq.

The private resignation and Martin's nationally televised swearing-in took place in back-to-back ceremonies in a chamber guarded by red-coated soldiers at the offices of Canada's governor-general.

Chaplain's thought for the day...

"If we're not careful..."

If we're not careful, Loyalty can lead to fanaticism.
Caution can become timidity.
Freedom can become license.
Confidence can become arrogance.
Humility can become servility.
Almost anything to an extreme can become dangerous to our well-being.

In other news...

Mich. Factory Taxes \$15 Holiday Bonus

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) -- Some bonus.

Hourly workers at Tower Automotive received \$15 gift cards redeemable at Meijer grocery-retail stores before Thanksgiving. Then the automotive supplier decided the cards were "same as cash" gifts subject to federal and state income taxes totaling 36.75 percent.

That means the "gift" will take \$5.51 out of the workers' next paychecks, the Traverse City Record-Eagle reported Friday.

"It's got a lot of people ticked off," said Donald McKee of Kingsley, a welding technician who's worked almost 13 years at the plant in Grand Traverse County's Garfield Township. "This is the lowest they've gone yet to give us something and then take it back."

A Tower manager who didn't want to be named told the newspaper the situation was "very unfortunate." Tighter accounting standards in the wake of Enron and other corporate scandals have prompted more scrutiny of employee benefits, including minor payouts like the gift card, he said.

United Auto Workers Local 5110, which represents about 300 hourly workers, has filed a contract grievance over the matter. Some workers also have returned the gift cards rather than pay the tax, Tower said.

Workers will still get Christmas bonuses. Tower said it will return to issuing gift certificates that can be redeemed for holiday turkeys or hams without being considered cash income.

Report: Ozzy Osbourne Stopped Breathing

LONDON (AP) -- Ozzy Osbourne stopped breathing and his heart stopped beating for more than a minute after a crash on an all-terrain vehicle.

Sharon Osbourne said a security guard who was with the rock star resuscitated him, the Daily Mirror tabloid reported.

"He had stopped breathing and the guard spotted it immediately," she was quoted as saying. "He had stopped breathing for a minute and a half and there was no pulse. But thank God, the security guard was there to revive him. He resuscitated him and got him breathing and his pulse going again. We are so, so grateful to him."

Osbourne fractured his left collarbone, eight ribs and a neck vertebra in Monday's accident at his estate in Buckinghamshire, southern England. He underwent emergency surgery after the crash to restore the flow to a damaged blood vessel.

He has been on a ventilator in intensive care at Wexham Park Hospital in Slough, west of London. Hospital medical director Dr. Dick Jack has said he expects the 55-year-old "Black Sabbath" star to make a steady recovery.

Sharon Osbourne reportedly said doctors did not yet know whether her husband would have any long-term effects.

"The doctors are hoping there hasn't been any lasting damage, but until Ozzy can actually come round and get off the ventilator and then they will know," she was quoted as saying.

She reportedly added that Ozzy Osbourne crashed as he drove over uneven ground and the bike landed on top of him.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DRAKE SETS OUT:

English seaman Francis Drake sets out from Plymouth, England, with five ships and 164 men on a mission to raid Spanish holdings on the Pacific coast of the New World and explore the Pacific Ocean. Three years later, Drake's return to Plymouth marked the first circumnavigation of the earth by a British explorer.

After crossing the Atlantic, Drake abandoned two of his ships in South America and then sailed into the Straits of Magellan with the remaining three. A series of devastating storms besieged his expedition in the treacherous straits, wrecking one ship and forcing another to return to England. Only *The Golden Hind* reached the Pacific Ocean, but Drake continued undaunted up the western coast of South America, raiding Spanish settlements and capturing a rich Spanish treasure ship.

Drake then continued up the western coast of North America, searching for a possible northeast passage back to the Atlantic. Reaching as far north as present-day Washington before turning back, Drake paused near San Francisco Bay in June 1579 to repair his ship and prepare for a journey across the Pacific. Calling the land "Nova Albion," Drake claimed the territory for Queen Elizabeth I.

In July, the expedition set off across the Pacific, visiting several islands before rounding Africa's Cape of Good Hope and returning to the Atlantic Ocean. On September 26, 1580, *The Golden Hind* returned to Plymouth, England, bearing treasure, spice, and valuable information about the world's great oceans. Drake was the first captain to sail his own ship all the way around the world--the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan had sailed three-fourths of the way around the globe earlier in the century but had been killed in the Philippines, leaving the Basque navigator Juan Sebastián de Elcano to complete the journey.

In 1581, Queen Elizabeth I knighted Drake, the son of a tenant farmer, during a visit to his ship. The most renowned of the Elizabethan seamen, Sir Francis Drake later played a crucial role in the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2003				As of: Friday, December 12, 2003 9:59:35 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	NFL FILMS PRESENTS - GAME OF THE WEEK	HEADLINE NEWS	THE LIFE OF MAMMALS			00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			HEADLINE NEWS	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - FOOL FOR LOVE	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE (YR. 6) : - THE GREAT BANDINI	LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN		FRANKLIN : - FRANKLIN'S COOKIE QUESTIONS/FRANKLIN'S PICN		01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER		IRON CHEF : - QUAIL/SAKAI VS SEIYA KAWASAKI	ROCKET POWER : - REGGIE'S PEN IS MIGHTIER/ KAYAKS AMOK	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00		NATIONAL LAMPOON'S GOLF PUNKS	THE VIEW	YU-GI-OHI (TV-7): - GIVE UP THE GHOST	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30	NBA SHOOTAROUND			THE PROUD FAMILY : - THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT RENE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00	NBA - NEW JERSEY NETS @ ORLANDO MAGIC		LIVING BETTER WITH CARRIE WIATT	OUTWARD BOUND: COSTA RICA/ COLORADO (TV-7): - EPISODE 17	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30			HOMES WITH STYLE : - ASIAN INSPIRATION	DAVID SHEEHAN'S HOLIDAY MOVIE MAGIC		04:30
04:45		ANASTASIA				04:45
05:00			WHILE YOU WERE OUT	FRIDAY NIGHT FIGHTS - JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: TOKUNDO OLAJIDE VS LARRY MARKS	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
06:00			THE AMAZING RACE : - SUCH A NICE PHEREMONE SMELL TO YOU, JUST MAKES ME WANT TO STAY CLOSE TO YOU		THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS	06:00
06:30	NBA - DALLAS MAVERICKS @ LOS ANGELES LAKERS	CINEMA SECRETS : - HANGING BY A THREAD				06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	GILMORE GIRLS : - A DEEP-FRIED KOREAN THANKSGIVING	SPORTSCENTER	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:30		ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE DIVISION : - FORCES OF DEVIANCE	WWE RAW!	LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE (YR. 6) : - THE GREAT BANDINI	MISS CONGENIALITY	TRADING SPACES FAMILY : - NORTH CAROLINA: LOVE VALLEY DRIVE	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30		FRANKLIN : - FRANKLIN'S COOKIE QUESTIONS/FRANKLIN'S PICN				09:30
10:00	NFL TOTAL ACCESS	ROCKET POWER : - REGGIE'S PEN IS MIGHTIER/ KAYAKS AMOK		HEADLINE NEWS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS		NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS		10:30
11:00	NHL - CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS @ DALLAS STARS	YU-GI-OHI (TV-7): - GIVE UP THE GHOST	THE VIEW	ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30		THE PROUD FAMILY : - THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT RENE			AIR FORCE TV NEWS	11:30
12:00		TRADING SPACES FAMILY : - NORTH CAROLINA: LOVE VALLEY DRIVE	LIVING BETTER WITH CARRIE WIATT	HEADLINE NEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			HOMES WITH STYLE : - ASIAN INSPIRATION	ESPNEWS		12:30
13:00		OUTWARD BOUND: COSTA RICA/ COLORADO (TV-7): - EPISODE 17	WHILE YOU WERE OUT	ONE ON ONE : - DADDY'S OTHER GIRL	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:30	SPORTSCENTER	DAVID SHEEHAN'S HOLIDAY MOVIE MAGIC		ACCORDING TO JIM : - THE CHRISTMAS PARTY		13:30
14:00		ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	THE AMAZING RACE : - SUCH A NICE PHEREMONE SMELL TO YOU, JUST MAKES ME WANT TO STAY CLOSE TO YOU	THE PRACTICE : - CHARACTER EVIDENCE	DATELINE NBC	14:00
14:30	INSIDE THE NFL					14:30
15:00		WWE RAW!	GILMORE GIRLS : - A DEEP-FRIED KOREAN THANKSGIVING	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT : - TORTURED	CNN SATURDAY MORNING	15:00
15:30	NBA - DALLAS MAVERICKS @ LOS ANGELES LAKERS					15:30
16:00		ONE ON ONE : - DADDY'S OTHER GIRL	THE DIVISION : - FORCES OF DEVIANCE	HEADLINE NEWS	20/20	16:00
16:30		ACCORDING TO JIM : - THE CHRISTMAS PARTY		SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (03'-04') : - AL SHARPTON/PINK		16:30
17:00		THE PRACTICE : - CHARACTER EVIDENCE	MISS CONGENIALITY		SATURDAY TODAY	17:00
17:30	SPORTSCENTER					17:30
18:00		LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT : - TORTURED		LIVE IN HOLLYWOOD		18:00
18:30	NFL LIVE					18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	THE VIEW	THE ENTERTAINERS	WALL STREET JOURNAL	19:00
19:30		NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS			AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM	19:30
20:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG TEN: UW-MILWAUKEE @ WISCONSIN	INSIDE THE NFL	LIVING BETTER WITH CARRIE WIATT	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - CUSA: FLORIDA @ LOUISVILLE	NEWS FROM CNN	20:00
20:30			HOMES WITH STYLE : - ASIAN INSPIRATION			20:30
21:00		SPORTSCENTER	WHILE YOU WERE OUT		DATELINE NBC	21:00
22:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG XII: OREGON VS KANSAS	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - MISSOURI @ GONZAGA	THE AMAZING RACE : - SUCH A NICE PHEREMONE SMELL TO YOU, JUST MAKES ME WANT TO STAY CLOSE TO YOU	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	22:00
22:30				ESPNEWS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS	22:30
23:00			GILMORE GIRLS : - A DEEP-FRIED KOREAN THANKSGIVING	HEADLINE NEWS	20/20	23:00
23:30				HOOR OF POWER - MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH PT. 2		23:30