



The Old Ironsides Report



Thursday, December 11, 2003

Cavalry scouts take on Baghdad's streets

Story and photo by Sgt. Brent M. Williams
49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne)

BAGHDAD, Iraq— Through the narrow streets south of Baghdad International Airport, the metallic tread of the 1st Armor Division could be heard rumbling in the neighborhoods along Highway 8.

Three M3A2 Bradley Cavalry Fighting Vehicles came to an abrupt stop, cordoning a street from unnecessary traffic and separating an enemy from the rest of the world. The vehicles, lone and menacing at the ends of the street, lowered their ramps from the rear of their iron hulls, delivering the "Iron Soldiers" to their latest objective.

The Comanche Troop of 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment poured from the armor track vehicles, converging on a house in south-central Baghdad, to detain an Iraqi man suspected of attacks against Coalition Forces, a bomb-maker, Dec. 4.

The squadron, part of the 1st Armored Division, is currently attached to the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Working at lightening speed, the armor cavalry scouts hammered their way through the wrought-iron and glass door of the suspect's house, entering the structure and detaining their targets. Within minutes, the soldiers cleared and secured the site; their objectives complete. The scouts also confiscated a mortar sight and two AK-47 rifles.

Since assuming responsibility for military operations in Iraq's capitol city in June, the armored cavalry scouts are serving in versatile or non-traditional roles to help maintain a safe and secure environment for Coalition Forces and the people of Baghdad, said team leader Sgt. Chad Cochran.

Traditionally, a raid of this nature would be undertaken by Coalition Special Forces or infantrymen, he said.

"This is the part of the scout's duty," Cochran said. "(The scouts) have been down the same road 100 times. We're taking each mission seriously, always keeping the threat in mind."

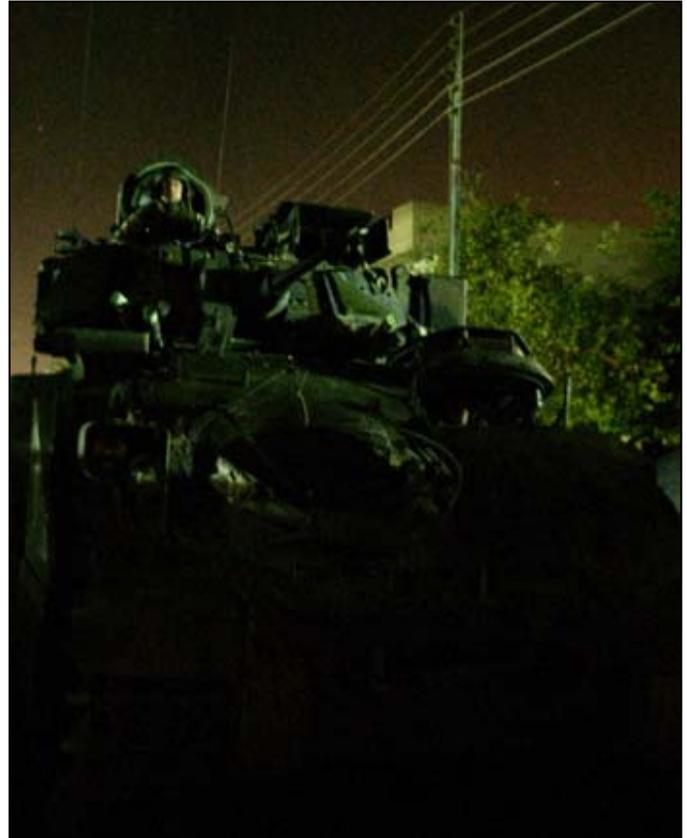
The scouts conducted Military Operations in Urban Terrain, combat training in urban tactics, before assuming their current role in the streets of Baghdad, he said. The training has helped prepare the soldiers for the raids being conducted to find former regime loyalists, terrorist and criminals in Iraq.

"We're unique as a CAV squadron since we have all ... (cavalry scouts)," said team leader Sgt. Robert Brunner. "These guys know what they're doing. It's a battle drill for them at this point."

"We're nothing but proud of the 82nd and their support of us," said Troop Commander Capt. Chase G. Metcalf.

"Together, we're a combined combat-arms team that can't be beat by anybody."

One of the missions for Troop Comanche, upon arriving in Baghdad in June, was providing security for the "Blue Falcons," 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, said Metcalf.



Cavalry scouts from the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, conduct a raid to detain a suspected bomb maker wanted for attacks against Coalition Forces and the Iraqi people. During the raid, the scouts used M3A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles to cordon off the street where the suspect lives while others breached the house, cleared and secured it.

"Our first role was as the outer cordon during search operations, serving as the (quick reaction force) for the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team," Metcalf said.

The troop, Metcalf said, would later be picked by their squadron commander to serve as the QRF for Task Force 121, the coalition's Special Forces operating in Iraq.

The soldiers considered the assignment a testament of their ability and professionalism and ultimately an honor, said Metcalf.

"These guys, they're in the right frame of mind, focused on the mission," said Staff Sgt. Robert Eplee, platoon sergeant.

A "close-knit bunch of guys" the soldiers of Troop Comanche are working to make Baghdad safe for the coalition and the people of Iraq, he said.

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News...

Iraq Establishes War Crimes Tribunal

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Iraq's U.S.-installed interim government established a special tribunal Wednesday to deal with crimes against humanity committed by Saddam Hussein's regime. Outside the capital, Iraqi guerrillas pressed their attacks against U.S. forces, killing two soldiers and hitting a heavy transport plane landing at Baghdad airport. Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, the current president of the Iraqi Governing Council, said the new court will cover crimes committed from July 14, 1968 - the day Saddam's Baath Party came to power - until May 1, 2003 - the day U.S. President George W. Bush declared major hostilities over.

White House Defends Bid Policy in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) - The White House, defending a new policy barring companies from nations that opposed the Iraq war from bidding on \$18.6 billion in reconstruction contracts, said countries wanting a slice of that lucrative pie must participate militarily in the postwar effort. Responding to the angry response from Germany, Canada and other U.S. allies, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the policy was "appropriate and reasonable."

Iranian Activist Accepts Nobel Prize

OSLO, Norway (AP) - Iranian democracy activist Shirin Ebadi, the first Muslim woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize, said her award would inspire other women in the Islamic world to seek their rights and denounced leaders in the region who use religion as a pretext for dictatorship. Ebadi, Iran's first female judge, appeared at the award ceremony without the headscarf that Iran requires women to wear in public, in what many viewed as a silent expression of her battle for freedom.

Six Afghan Children Killed in U.S. Attack

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Six children were crushed to death by a collapsing wall during an assault by U.S. forces on a weapons compound in eastern Afghanistan - the second time in a week that children have been killed in U.S. action against Taliban and al-Qaida suspects. Both incidents occurred in Pashtun-dominated areas, risking further alienation among the country's largest ethnic group from which the Islamic militant Taliban emerged. The areas already have been a focus of insurgent attacks on coalition and government targets, and international aid workers.

Supreme Court Upholds Political Money Law

WASHINGTON (AP) - A sharply divided Supreme Court upheld key features of the nation's new law intended to lessen the influence of money in politics, ruling Wednesday that the government may ban unlimited donations to political parties. Those donations, called "soft money" and totaling hundreds of millions of dollars, had become a mainstay of modern political campaigns, used to rally voters to the polls and to pay for sharply worded television ads.

Tapes: Nixon Called Reagan 'Strange'

By JONATHAN D. SALANT, Associated Press Writer
COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) -- President Nixon didn't think much of fellow Californian and Republican icon Ronald Reagan, calling him "strange" and not "pleasant to be around," newly released White House tapes show.

Talking politics with White House Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman at Camp David in August 1972, Nixon switched the conversation to two Republican governors, Reagan of California and Nelson Rockefeller of New York. Both men unsuccessfully sought the 1968 Republican presidential nomination that Nixon received.

"Reagan is not one that wears well," Nixon said.

"I know," Haldeman agreed.

"On a personal basis, Rockefeller is a pretty nice guy," Nixon said. "Reagan on a personal basis, is terrible. He just isn't pleasant to be around."

"No, he isn't," Haldeman said.

"Maybe he's different with others," Nixon said.

"No," Haldeman said.

"No, he's just an uncomfortable man to be around," Nixon said, "strange."

The conversations are part of the 240 hours of White House tape recordings from the Nixon administration released Wednesday by the National Archives. Covering July through October 1972, the tapes are the 10th batch of Nixon recordings, totaling 2,109 hours, that the Archives has released since 1980. In all, there are about 3,700 hours of Nixon White House tapes.

Nixon installed a secret taping system in the White House. Some of those tapes later showed a White House cover-up in connection with the 1972 break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate office building. The release of those tapes, which Nixon fought all the way to the Supreme Court, eventually led to his resignation in 1974 rather than face almost-certain impeachment and conviction.

The popular Reagan later served two terms as president.

In 1980, Nixon told Parade magazine that he had several good talks with Reagan. "I think he values my foreign policy advice," the magazine quoted Nixon as saying. "I will be available for any assistance or advice."

Reagan had corresponded with Nixon for years. When Reagan was elected president, he sought Nixon's advice.

The disgraced former president offered some suggestions for Cabinet posts and a strategy for Reagan's first few months in office, urging him not to travel abroad for the first six months of his administration so he could concentrate on the economy rather than foreign policy. Nixon also pushed for his former chief of staff, Gen. Alexander Haig Jr., as Reagan's secretary of state.

Later, Nixon said Reagan's economic policies were unduly harsh and cautioned against giving him too much credit for winning the Cold War. "Communism would have collapsed anyway," he told Monica Crowley, a Nixon aide in his last years, according to her 1996 book, "Nixon Off the Record."

Chaplain's thought for the day...

"Peace in the world"

There is an old proverb that says, "When there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty of character. When there is beauty of character, there is honor in the home. When there is honor in the home, there is order in society. And when there is order in society, there is peace in the world."

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

YELTSIN ORDERS RUSSIAN FORCES INTO CHECHNYA:

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) In the largest Russian military offensive since the 1979 invasion of Afghanistan, thousands of troops and hundreds of tanks pour into the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya. Encountering only light resistance, Russian forces had by evening pushed to the outskirts of the Chechen capital of Grozny, where several thousand Chechen volunteers vowed a bitter fight against the Russians.

With the collapse of the USSR in 1991, Chechnya, like many of the other republics encompassed by the former Soviet Union, declared its independence. However, unlike Georgia, the Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and the other former Soviet states, Chechnya held only the barest autonomy under Soviet rule and was not considered one of the 15 official Soviet republics. Instead, Chechnya is regarded as one of many republics within the Russian Federation. Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who permitted the dissolution of the Soviet Union, would not tolerate the secession of a state within territorial Russia.

About the size of Connecticut and located in southeastern Russia on the Caspian Sea, Chechnya was conquered by the Russians in the 1850s as the Russian empire pushed south toward the Middle East. Its people are largely Muslim and fiercely independent, and the region has been a constant irritant to its Russian and Soviet rulers.

In August 1991, Dzhokhar Dudayev, a Chechen politician and former Soviet air force general, toppled Chechnya's local communist government and established an anti-Russian autocratic state. President Yeltsin feared the secession of Chechnya would prompt a domino effect of independence movements within the vast Russian Federation. He also hoped to recover Chechnya's valuable oil resources. After ineffective attempts at funding Chechen opposition groups, a Russian invasion began on Decemb After the initial gains of the Russian army, the Chechen rebels demonstrated a fierce resistance in Grozny, and thousands of Russian troops died and many more Chechen civilians were killed during almost two years of heavy fighting. In August 1996, Grozny was retaken by the Chechen rebels after a year of Russian occupation, and a cease-fire was declared. In 1997, the last humiliated Russian troops left Chechnya. Despite a peace agreement that left Chechnya a de facto independent state, Chechnya remained officially part of Russia.

In 1999, Yeltsin's government ordered a second invasion of Chechnya after bombings in Moscow and other cities were linked to Chechen militants. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, Yeltsin's handpicked successor as Russian leader, said of the Chechen terrorists, "we will rub them out, even in the toilet." In 2000, President Putin escalated Russian military involvement in Chechnya after terrorist bombings in Russian cities continued. In this second round of post-Soviet fighting in Chechnya, the Russian army has been accused of many atrocities in its efforts to suppress Chechen militancy. A peace agreement remains elusive.

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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2003

As of: Wednesday, December 10, 2003 8:08:56 PM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SUICIDE MISSIONS : - COMBAT PHOTOGRAPHERS	TODAY		00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			YOUR CORPS	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		AIR BUD		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	THE SOUND OF MUSIC	RUGRATS : - ANGELICON	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - DANCE FEVER	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30	NFL'S GREATEST MOMENTS - ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH		SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - CHRISTMAS WHO?	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00	NHL - DETROIT RED WINGS @ BUFFALO SABRES		THE SIMPSONS : - POKEY MOM	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - THANKS, BUT NO THANKS			04:30
05:00			HARRY FOR THE HOLIDAYS	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30		PHANTOM OF THE RUE MORGUE				05:30
06:00			THE WEST WING : - GONE QUIET	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS	06:00
06:30	NHL 2NIGHT			JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - KANSAS CITY, HOUR 3	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30		ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - FIM: SPEEDWAY GRAND PRIX (BRITAIN)	HEADLINE NEWS	WALKING WITH CAVEMEN : - PART 2		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	NFL TOTAL ACCESS	SESAME STREET	THE SANTA CLAUSE	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS : - CLOSE BUT NO CIGAR/ INVASION ... SNATCHERS	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				HEY ARNOLD! : - THE BIG SCOOP/ HAROLD'S KITTY		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - DANCE FEVER		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - FOSSIL FOODS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - TOUGH BREAK		10:30
11:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - SEC: MARYLAND @ FLORIDA	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	RUGRATS : - ANGELICON	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - CHRISTMAS WHO?	HEADLINE NEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS : - POKEY MOM	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - THANKS, BUT NO THANKS	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG EAST: INDIANA @ NOTRE DAME		HARRY FOR THE HOLIDAYS	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - HI, MY NAME IS JAKE	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:17
13:25				WILL & GRACE : - FAGMALION PART FOUR: THE GUY WHO LOVED		13:25
13:50				REEL TIME		13:50
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING : - GONE QUIET	TRISTA AND RYAN'S WEDDING : - PART 2	60 MINUTES II	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00	SPORTSCENTER	TODAY	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - KANSAS CITY, HOUR 3	C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - CRASH AND BURN	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00	NHL - DETROIT RED WINGS @ BUFFALO SABRES		WALKING WITH CAVEMEN : - PART 2	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 : - CLOSE BUT NO CIGAR/ INVASION ... SNATCHERS	THE SANTA CLAUSE		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		HEY ARNOLD! : - THE BIG SCOOP/ HAROLD'S KITTY			THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	17:30
17:45					CHANNEL ONE	17:45
18:00	ESPNEWS	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - FOSSIL FOODS			WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	18:00
18:30	NFL LIVE	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - TOUGH BREAK			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	RUGRATS : - ANGELICON	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - CHRISTMAS WHO?	HOME ALONE		19:00
20:00	NHL - LOS ANGELES KINGS @ ATLANTA THRASHERS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - POKEY MOM		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - THANKS, BUT NO THANKS			20:30
20:45				ORDINARY PEOPLE		20:45
21:00		GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - HI, MY NAME IS JAKE	HARRY FOR THE HOLIDAYS		60 MINUTES II	21:00
21:25		WILL & GRACE : - FAGMALION PART FOUR: THE GUY WHO LOVED				21:25
21:50		REEL TIME				21:50
22:00		TRISTA AND RYAN'S WEDDING : - PART 2	THE WEST WING : - GONE QUIET		48 HOURS	22:00
22:30	ESPNEWS					22:30
23:00	ESPNEWS	C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - CRASH AND BURN	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - KANSAS CITY, HOUR 3	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30	INSIDE THE NFL			ESPNEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30