



The Old Ironsides Report



Wednesday, December 10, 2003

“Bulldog” Brigade takes on enemy in west Baghdad

Story by Sgt. Christopher Stanis, 1AD PAO

ABU GHURAYB, Iraq – Task Force 1st Armored Division’s 3rd Brigade Combat Team from Fort Riley, Kansas, conducted a brigade-sized cordon and search of an Abu Ghurayb apartment complex, northwest of Baghdad Dec. 4, making it one of the largest military operations since President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat operations in May.

The operation was named Operation Bulldog *Mammoth*

“Cordon and searches are normally at the platoon and company level,” said Maj. Dale Ringler, 3BCT operations officer. “Very rarely do we (include) two battalions (plus supporting units) and make it a brigade-sized operation.”

Forces on ground ranged from infantry to military intelligence, with major players including 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored Regiment; Fort Bragg, N.C., based 1st Bn., 325th Airborne Infantry Reg.; over 300 Iraqi Civil Defense Corps personnel; and an Estonian platoon – all conducting the search of the 2,400 apartments and 53 additional buildings.

Two companies from the 709th Military Police Bn. provided an outer cordon.

The 1210th Tactical Psychological Operations Team broadcast messages to the complex residents about the coalition’s objective.

Two explosive ordnance disposal teams were on site and a platoon of AH-64 Apache helicopters provided air support for the duration of the operation.

In total, according to Ringler, approximately 1,447 troops were involved in the five-and-a-half-hour operation.

This operation was the wrap up of a trilogy of large-scaled cordon and searches planned by the brigade – the first two were conducted during Operation Iron Hammer.

Reports show the Abu Ghurayb area to be a dangerous place for coalition forces, and additional intelligence reports over the past several months narrowed in on the particular apartment complex as a haven for anti-coalition forces.

“These are the guys supposedly attacking us,” said Spc. Travis Morrone, Company A, 1-325 AIR, who was part of the operation’s search element. “We had to come take their (weapons) from them.”

Intelligence efforts paying off, the search revealed more than 220 AK-47 assault rifles, along with a number of machine guns, pistols and other rifles; five rocket-propelled grenades and 15 RPG sites; 10 grenades; 12 mortar sites; various electrical components associated with improvised explosive devise construction; Russian-made night vision devices; protective masks; 24 plates of body armor and a U.S.-made vest; Saddam Hussein paraphernalia; and 16 cases of U.S. military meals, ready to eat.

Additionally, more than 40 personnel were detained, including three from 2-70’s by-name “black” list of suspects.

According to Ringler, the three were caught in the outer cordon while trying to escape the area.



Spc. Travis Morrone, Company A, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, carries an arm load of AK-47 assault rifles confiscated during a cordon and search of an apartment complex in Abu Ghurayb, Iraq Dec. 4. The search covered 2,400 apartments and 53 additional buildings, and captured hundreds of weapons and 40 detainees.

“(One man) is possibly responsible for the mortar attack against the MPs in the old Abu Ghurayb Police Station, killing a female (soldier,)” Ringler said.

This operation is just another “day at the office” for soldiers like Morrone.

“For a while we were doing (cordon and searches) every other day,” he said. Now they do them less frequently, but with larger masses of forces.

And their proficiency showed in the overall success of Operation Mammoth, according to the 3rd BCT commander.

“Our soldiers have become a seasoned combat force,” said Col. Russ Gold, 3BCT commander. “The two battalions conducting this offensive operation also participated in the ground war.

They know how to use finesse and brute force, and when to use what means. They are a professional and extremely competent group of soldiers that will act with precision and exactness with little to no guidance.”

The key in an operation like this is to give the residents the peace of mind that the coalition is there only to weed out the bad guys, Gold said.

No shots were fired during this operation; however, the thought of danger lurking around the corner was not to be dismissed.

“One of Col. Gold’s sayings is, he uses the three Ps: be polite, be professional, but be prepared to kill,” Ringler said. “That’s the motto that goes through the brigade.”

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News...

Gore Endorses Dean for Party Nomination

NEW YORK (AP) - Former Vice President Al Gore endorsed Howard Dean for the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday, adding momentum and political prestige to Dean's front-running campaign.

Gore said the former Vermont governor also was the only Democratic candidate who made the correct judgment about the Iraq war.

Bush Opposes Taiwan Bid for Independence

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush said Tuesday after meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao that he opposes the apparent interest of Taiwan's leaders in taking steps toward independence. Bush said he had told the premier, "The United States policy is one China."

Dow Briefly Crosses 10,000, Pulls Back

NEW YORK (AP) - Wall Street reached one of the most significant milestones of its recovery from the bear market Tuesday, as the Dow Jones industrials crossed 10,000 for the first time in 18 months.

Stocks moved higher as upbeat investors picked up shares on bets the Federal Reserve will keep interest rates low for some time, but later gave back much of the gains to profit-taking.

Suicide Blast Near Moscow Hotel Kills 5

MOSCOW (AP) - A suicide bomber blew herself up outside the National Hotel across from Moscow's Red Square on Tuesday, killing five bystanders, wounding at least 12 and sparking fears of a new wave of terror attacks in the heart of the Russian capital.

Politicians said the State Duma, or lower house of parliament, might have been the intended target - not the hotel. The attack came shortly before President Vladimir Putin addressed a meeting nearby at the Kremlin, and two days after Russian parliamentary elections.

Just in time for R & R...

Seattle OKs Elvis Impersonator Cabbies

By GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press Writer
SEATTLE (AP) -- The King could be your cabbie under the city's new taxi driver dress code.

The City Council voted Monday to approve legislation that would allow drivers to sport rhinestone capes, blue suede shoes or whatever other appropriate costume they wish.

"Uh, a-thank you verrah much," cabbie Dave Groh, an Elvis Presley impersonator, said after the vote.

It was Groh's case that prompted the change to the city's 1997 taxi dress code.

Adopting an Elvis look after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in hopes of bringing some levity to the city, Groh pleased many passengers, but drew the ire of taxi inspectors.

He was fined \$60 last spring for not wearing the required black pants and a crisp shirt.

After losing an appeal of the fine, the 37-year-old cabbie filed a lawsuit, which he has now agreed to drop.

Under the new law, any driver choosing to wear a costume must pick a "readily identifiable and generally well-known public figure, personality or fictional character."

Outfits can't include masks, can't depict police officers or firefighters, and can't be skimpy.

They also have to be approved by the cab association for which the driver works, and drivers have to post photos of themselves inside their cabs in and out of costume.

The legislation will take effect unless Mayor Greg Nickels vetoes it; his spokeswoman was not immediately able to say what he planned to do.

Groh, who has been driving since 1999, said he doesn't worry about whether the change in the law will result in competition - and that he wouldn't be surprised to see some cab drivers dressed as Santa Claus in the coming weeks.

"That would be wonderful," Groh said. "It's all about having fun."

Chaplain's thought for the day...

"Our Sacrifice"

Adoniram Judson was a great missionary. His statement below can easily be applied to what we are doing here in Iraq:

"There is no success without sacrifice. If you succeed without sacrifice it is because someone has suffered before you. If you sacrifice without success it is because someone will succeed after."...

We may not be in Iraq long enough to see all of our plans come together (I for one am not complaining about this!), but we can know the work we are doing now will leave behind a legacy for those following us to emulate.

Today's safety message...

SPEEDING MAY BECOME NECESSARY IN A HOSTILE SITUATION

HOWEVER, IT CAN BECOME THE ENEMY IN EVERY DAY DRIVING!

THE FOLLOWING SPEED LIMITS WILL BE OBEYED UNLESS IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION:

- ON LOCAL HIGHWAYS: 50 MPH
- ON DOWNTOWN STREETS: 30 MPH
- ON FOB PERIMETER ROADS: 30 MPH
- NEAR FOB OFFICES OR LSAs: 10 MPH
- WHEN PASSING TROOPS: 10 MPH

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Following up...

1st Iraqi Runner completes marathon

Ali Hashim Hamdan Al-Bahadly, from Amara Misan, Iraq, finished the 21st Annual California International Marathon (CIM) in Sacramento in 3 hours, 16 minutes Dec. 7.

Ali is the first Iraqi citizen to compete in an international sports competition since the liberation of Iraq. Task Force 1st Armored Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team sponsored the 16-year-old.

According to Col. Peter Mansoor, 1st BCT commander, reports from California said Ali "was a great representative for Iraq - very well spoken for a 16 year old." Ali's story appeared in the Dec. 6 edition of the Old Ironsides Report.

Above: Col. Peter Mansoor, 1st Brigade Combat team commander, and Ahmed Al-Samarrai, chairperson of the Iraqi Interim Olympic Committee, bids marathon runner Ali Hamdan Hashim Al-Bahadly farewell during an informal ceremony at Martyr's Monument. Courtesy photo.

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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2003				As of: Tuesday, December 09, 2003 9:03:51 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY	TODAY		00:00
00:30	ESPNEWS	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			ARMY NEWSWATCH	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN				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	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES		NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	NFL LIVE	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - 2003 JIMMY V CLASSIC: ILLINIOS VS PROVIDENCE	RUGRATS : - DON'T POOP ON MY PARADE	BOB THE BUILDER	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30	NFL'S GREATEST GAMES - THE ICE BOWL - 1967 NFL CHAMPIONSHIP		SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - PRE-HIBERNATION WEEK / LIFE OF CRIME	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS : - HOMR	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - MR LIKEABLE			04:30
05:00	FIGURE SKATING - GRAND PRIX OF FIGURE SKATING: CUP OF RUSSIA	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - 2003 JIMMY V CLASSIC: ARIZONA VS TEXAS	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION : - RELIGS	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
06:00			WHO WANTS TO MARRY MY DAD?	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS	06:00
06:30				JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	MAIL CALL	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30	SPORTSCENTER	ESPNEWS	SURVIVING WEST POINT		NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SUICIDE MISSIONS : - COMBAT PHOTOGRAPHERS		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	NFL TOTAL ACCESS	SESAME STREET	AIR BUD	BABY LOONEY TUNES : - THE CREATURE FROM THE CHOCOLATE CHIP	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				I SPY		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BOB THE BUILDER		A WALK IN YOUR SHOES	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		LIBERTY'S KIDS (EPS 14-26)		10:30
11:00	NBA FASTBREAK TUESDAY	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	RUGRATS : - DON'T POOP ON MY PARADE	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - PRE-HIBERNATION WEEK / LIFE OF CRIME	HEADLINE NEWS		11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS : - HOMR	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - MR LIKEABLE	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00	SPORTSCENTER		STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION : - RELIGS	THE PARKERS : - LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:17
13:30				CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER : - EPISODE 15		13:30
14:00	HBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING - HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: VITALY KLITSCHKO VS KIRK JOHNSON	HEADLINE NEWS	WHO WANTS TO MARRY MY DAD?	EXTREME MAKEOVER	CNN DAYBREAK	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00		TODAY	MAIL CALL	THE OC : - PILOT	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
15:30			SURVIVING WEST POINT			15:30
16:00	SPORTSCENTER		SUICIDE MISSIONS : - COMBAT PHOTOGRAPHERS	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00	NFL LIVE	BABY LOONEY TUNES : - THE CREATURE FROM THE CHOCOLATE CHIP	AIR BUD		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30	WINTER X GAMES - CLASSIX - MOTO X	I SPY		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	WINTER X GAMES - CLASSIX - GLOBAL X WHISTLER	A WALK IN YOUR SHOES			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	LIBERTY'S KIDS (EPS 14-26)		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	RUGRATS : - DON'T POOP ON MY PARADE	THE SOUND OF MUSIC		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - PRE-HIBERNATION WEEK / LIFE OF CRIME			19:30
20:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PAC-10: TEMPLE @ ARIZONA STATE	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - HOMR		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - MR LIKEABLE			20:30
21:00		THE PARKERS : - LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION : - RELIGS		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
21:30		CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER : - EPISODE 15		PHANTOM OF THE RUE MORGUE		21:30
22:00	ESPNEWS	EXTREME MAKEOVER	WHO WANTS TO MARRY MY DAD?		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:30	NHL - ST. LOUIS BLUES @ TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS					22:30
23:00		THE OC : - PILOT	MAIL CALL	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30			SURVIVING WEST POINT	ESPNEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30