



The Old Ironsides Report



Monday, November 17, 2003

Sometimes soccer balls are more than just sporting goods

Story courtesy of 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor
BAGHDAD, Iraq -- You can look into the future of Iraq through the eyes of its children. Driving in and out of the city each day, we see different attitudes towards American soldiers.

Most children between the ages of five and eleven show a lot of enthusiasm by waving their hands, smiling, and raising their thumbs. Some do show animosity towards the American soldiers by throwing rocks or giving us the cold shoulder.

This is what they learned from their parents, relatives and friends.

As the school year came to an end in July and August, the children had no idea what would come of their schools. Each school had many problems that had occurred during and after the ground war. Due to excessive looting, the schools did not start classes until the first week of October. Many of the repairs did not get accomplished in time or did not even get started.

Our civil affairs team was tasked to pass out some soccer balls that had been donated from the Nike Corporation, to all the schools throughout Abu Ghraib. While driving around the city we noticed that a kindergarten school had been completely renovated.

As we entered the building the children jumped out of their seats to say hello and wave their hands in appreciation for the rebuilding of their school. The headmistress showed us what improvements had been accomplished. The entire school was painted inside and out, the floor was carpeted from wall to wall, and the classrooms were furnished with new desks and chairs. One room was transformed into a recreation room with swings, merry-go-rounds, and slides.

The children gathered around the soldiers to look at what they had brought. They were very enthusiastic to see the soccer balls since soccer (football in Iraq) is their number 1 sport. I was pleased to see that the girls were just as excited as the boys to receive the soccer balls. The joy of watching all the kids running around filled my heart with happiness.

We then drove to another school to pass out



A young Iraqi child winds up for the kick. The children were excited about the new equipment donated by Nike and passed out by 2-70 Armor, but the real winners were the soldiers who showed the children that the Americans are in Baghdad to help Iraqis.

soccer balls; a school that has not yet been renovated.

We feared that the children and teachers would have negative thoughts toward us. Like most schools, they were told that their school would be renovated prior to the new school year and they had seen little or no improvement. As we entered into the headmaster's office, we were greeted with small waving hands and bright smiles peeking around corners.

The children were excited to see some American soldiers at their school. They, too, were running around in such joy after receiving the soccer balls. As we were leaving, the headmaster reached out to shake the hands of all of the civil affairs team to show appreciation for the donation of balls.

We may not be able to fix everything in this country as quick as the Iraqi citizens want but we can show the children that we will help them in any way we can. Passing out soccer balls is a little thing for us to do, but in the children's eyes we are showing interest in them. These children are the next leaders of this country and if we can help them realize that their best interests are what's most important to us, then the future is bright.

Do you want to raise your GT score?

Many soldiers throughout the 1st Armored Division want to raise their general technical (GT) score. Certain Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT) scores are required for re-enlistment, Warrant Officer, Officer Candidate School, Green to Gold, Special Forces, special assignments and other special programs.

"We are going to be deployed for a year," said Sergeant Maj. Jim Jaranowski, 1AD retention sergeant major. "However, some soldiers are currently in their re-enlistment window, and many others would like to submit applications now for Green to Gold, flight school, the next OCS Board, or Special Forces."

Rather than leave these soldiers without options, 1AD will be providing a way for soldiers to re-take AFCT, formerly known as the Army Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), while they are deployed.

Representatives from Installation Management Agency – Europe, Army Continuing Education System (IMA–E ACES) will be on Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) from Dec. 5-11 to administer the Flight Aptitude Test (FAFAST) and the AFCT to soldiers wanting to raise their GT score, or other scores to qualify them for training or assignments.

It is not known whether the ACES representatives will be able to return in the coming months, so Jaranowski encourages all soldiers to act now.

Soldiers who want to re-take any of these tests need to get with their respective career counselors immediately. Career counselors will provide study guides, or soldiers themselves may purchase them online. Though all preparation is individually paced, the division has also hired 10 U.S. educated Iraqi nationals that will be available as tutors.

Once a soldier feels prepared to re-take a test, they may request to be administered a pre-test. The pre-test should indicate whether that soldier is ready to re-test or if more studying is needed.

"We're doing everything we can to set a soldier up for success," said Jaranowski.

News

Notes Claim al-Qaida Behind Turkey Bombs

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) - Two Arabic-language newspapers received separate statements Sunday claiming the Al-Qaida terrorist network carried out the car bombings outside two Istanbul synagogues - attacks that killed 23 people. A statement received by the London-based daily Al-Quds Al-Arabi, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, said a unit of al-Qaida executed the attack on Saturday because it learned that agents of the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad were in the synagogues.

U.S. Investigates Iraq Helicopter Crash

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - The U.S. military tried to determine Sunday whether insurgent gunfire caused the crash of two Black Hawk helicopters, killing 17 soldiers in the worst single loss of American life since the war in Iraq began. Meanwhile, an audio tape purportedly by Saddam Hussein urged Iraqis to escalate attacks against the occupation and "agents brought by foreign armies" - Iraqis who support the coalition.

'Elf' Scuttles 'Master' to Win Box Office

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Will Ferrell's "Elf" scuttled Russell Crowe's "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" to finish as the weekend's No. 1 movie. "Elf," about a man-child raised by Santa's helpers at the North Pole, took in \$27.2 million, off just 12 percent from its second-place debut the previous weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Recipe for a Rollover

- A dark night
- Minimal illumination (blackout drive)
- No night vision devices
- Unfamiliar terrain

Mix in a couple of soldiers, both more interested in spotting aggressors than watching the ground around them and allow a few minutes for the mixture to come together. Result: one HMMWV "parked" in an anatomically incorrect position. The good news is that the soldiers were wearing their seatbelts and Kevlar and walked away unhurt.

NFL Scores as of 17 November, 0500 Baghdad

FINAL		
	RAMS (7-3)	23
	BEARS (3-7)	21
FINAL		
	JAGUARS (2-8)	3
	TITANS (8-2)	10
FINAL		
	GIANTS (4-6)	10
	EAGLES (7-3)	28
FINAL		
	CARDINALS (3-7)	6
	BROWNS (4-6)	44
FINAL OT		
	RAVENS (5-5)	6
	DOLPHINS (6-4)	9
FINAL		
	JETS (3-6)	31
	COLTS (7-2)	38
FINAL		
	VIKINGS (6-3)	18
	RAIDERS (2-7)	28

FINAL		
	CHIEFS (9-1)	19
	BENGALS (5-5)	24
FINAL		
	REDSKINS (4-6)	17
	PANTHERS (8-2)	20
FINAL		
	TEXANS (4-6)	12
	BILLS (4-6)	10
FINAL OT		
	FALCONS (2-8)	20
	SAINTS (5-5)	23
FINAL		
	CHARGERS (2-8)	8
	BRONCOS (6-4)	37
FINAL		
	LIONS (3-6)	14
	SEAHAWKS (6-3)	35
FINAL		
	PACKERS (5-5)	20
	BUCCANEERS (4-6)	13

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2003						
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00		NFL - GREEN BAY PACKERS @ TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	MAGNUM P.I. : - BLACK ON WHITE	NFL - NY JETS @ INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	CNN SUNDAY	0:00
0:30	NFL - DETROIT LIONS @ SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (JIP)					0:30
1:00			FAMILY TIES : - DON'T GO CHANGING		MEET THE PRESS	1:00
1:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - IS THERE A HAMSTER IN THE HOUSE			1:30
2:00			CHIPS : - PILOT EPISODE		TIM RUSSERT	2:00
3:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	RUGRATS : - GHOST STORY/ CHUCKIE'S COMPLAINT	DORA: THE EXPLORER	FOX REPORT	3:00
3:30	NFL PRIMETIME	SEINFELD : - THE WALLET (PT. 1)	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - CULTURE SHOCK/ F.U.N.	WHEEL OF FORTUNE		3:30
4:00		THAT 70'S SHOW : - HYDE'S FATHER	THE SIMPSONS : - ALONE AGAIN NATURA-DIDDLY	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THIS WEEK	4:00
4:30	NFL - DALLAS COWBOYS @ NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - BACK IN THE SADDLE SHOES AGAIN			4:30
5:00			BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - SAME TIME, SAME PLACE	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - RELEASING YOUR INNER SEXPOT	DATELINE INTERNATIONAL	5:00
5:30		WWE SMACKDOWN!				5:30
6:00			LAW & ORDER : - RETURN	HEADLINE NEWS	60 MINUTES	6:00
6:30		AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM		JUDGE JUDY		6:30
7:00		MEET THE PRESS	CRITICAL RESCUE : - BURIED ALIVE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	CNN PRESENTS	7:00
7:25				GUIDING LIGHT		7:25
7:30	SPORTSCENTER					7:30
8:00		HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN CHOPPER		LARRY KING LIVE	8:00
8:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		8:13
8:30		ESPNEWS				8:30
9:00	NFL PRIMETIME	SESAME STREET	48 HOURS	ZOOBOOMAFOO : - CATS	AT LARGE WITH GERALDO RIVERA	9:00
9:30				DISNEY'S BUZZ LIGHTYEAR OF STAR COMMAND : - RETURN TO KARN		9:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	DORA: THE EXPLORER		CYBERCHASE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		EVEN STEVENS : - WHATLL IDOL DO?		10:30
11:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - TEXAS VS DUKE	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - RELEASING YOUR INNER SEXPOT	RUGRATS : - GHOST STORY/ CHUCKIE'S COMPLAINT	JEOPARDY!	BELTWAY BOYS	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - CULTURE SHOCK/ F.U.N.	HEADLINE NEWS	FOX NEWS WATCH	11:30
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	THE SIMPSONS : - ALONE AGAIN NATURA-DIDDLY	ESPNEWS	BULLS & BEARS	12:00
12:25		GUIDING LIGHT				12:25
12:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - BACK IN THE SADDLE SHOES AGAIN	HEADLINE NEWS	CAVUTO ON BUSINESS	12:30
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - KANSAS STATE VS PURDUE		BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - SAME TIME, SAME PLACE	31ST ANNUAL AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS	60 MINUTES	13:00
13:13		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:13
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	LAW & ORDER : - RETURN		DATELINE NBC	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00	SPORTSCENTER	TODAY	CRITICAL RESCUE : - BURIED ALIVE		GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			AMERICAN CHOPPER	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30	TENNIS MASTERS SERIES - TENNIS MASTERS CUP HOUSTON: FINALS			TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00		ZOOBOOMAFOO : - CATS	48 HOURS		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		DISNEY'S BUZZ LIGHTYEAR OF STAR COMMAND : - RETURN TO KARN		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00		CYBERCHASE			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		EVEN STEVENS : - WHATLL IDOL DO?		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	RUGRATS : - GHOST STORY/ CHUCKIE'S COMPLAINT	NATIONAL LAMPOONS LOADED WEAPON		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - CULTURE SHOCK/ F.U.N.			19:30
20:00		ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - ALONE AGAIN NATURA-DIDDLY		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	PGA TOUR - WGC WORLD CUP: FINAL ROUND	HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - BACK IN THE SADDLE SHOES AGAIN			20:30
20:45				MASK		20:45
21:00		31ST ANNUAL AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - SAME TIME, SAME PLACE		DATELINE NBC	21:00
22:00			LAW & ORDER : - RETURN		60 MINUTES	22:00
23:00			CRITICAL RESCUE : - BURIED ALIVE	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30	ESPNEWS			ESPNEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30