



# The Old Ironsides Report



Thursday, December 04, 2003

## Soldier helps establish democracy in Baghdad

Story and photos by Cpl. Todd Pruden, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – He inputs data into his hand-held computer organizer to remind himself of important details. He attends every meeting. He has a busy job -- aiding in the establishment of a new government. One could say his work is history in the making.

Capt. Lance Lauchengco, the government development officer for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, is an adviser for the neighborhood and district advisory councils within his unit's sector in Baghdad. With the help of the Coalition Provisional Authority and soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team the West Point graduate has helped develop a democratic system of government for the people of Iraq.

"Our involvement is to mentor the district councils so that they are more efficient and better able to perform their governing functions," said Lauchengco. "Our function is to provide advice and recommendations."

According to Lauchengco, there are three levels of municipal government in Baghdad. The first and most localized are the neighborhood advisory councils (NAC). Those who showed up to the first neighborhood meetings selected the neighborhood council members.

The neighborhood councils are lead by a chairperson and the number of council members varies from neighborhood to neighborhood. The neighborhood councils report to the district councils, as well as a U.S. military company level commander.

The district advisory council (DAC) members were selected by each neighborhood council within the district to represent the neighborhood, though, the chairperson of a neighborhood council does not serve on the district council. The district councils report to the Baghdad city council, presently called the Interim City Advisory Council, as well as a U.S. military battalion-level commander.

Members of the city council were selected by the district council and are members of the councils they represent. The number of representatives each district has on the city council is based on population within their district. All city council members are also members of a district and a neighborhood council.

"The power that they have is that (the U.S. military) listens (to the councils) and we encourage their advice and recommendations," said Lauchengco. "So many people are listening to what the DAC members have to say. That has, in effect, given them significant leadership after the war."

The main issues, according to Lauchengco, that have been addressed and have been or are in the process of being worked out are schools, electricity and sewage.

"We asked each neighborhood to provide a list of schools they wanted to be renovated," said Lauchengco, citing schools as an example.

"The neighborhoods passed their list up to the district council and the district council then gave (2nd Brigade Combat



**Capt. Lance Lauchengco, 2nd Brigade Combat Team government development officer talks with council members at a Karkh District Advisory Council meeting in Baghdad Nov. 30.**

Team) the list of the schools they wanted renovated. Using the Commander's Emergency Response Program, we renovated about \$200 million worth of schools."

According to Lauchengco, all did not run smoothly to start out.

"When we first started, the district councils didn't know how to make recommendations, have discussions or reach a consensus," said Lauchengco.

He said a process was created to make the democratic system run more smoothly. The process involves what are called "implementing documents." The neighborhood and district councils make recommendations and proposals and pass them along in writing to the higher council.

"These implementing documents are the vehicle by which each council gets their voice heard by the next higher level," said Lauchengco.

Committees were formed within the councils to deal with more specific issues, he said.

"One of the early problems of the district councils was that they became a large, disorganized, debating society. To shake that and to be more productive, we created committees so that the discussions and debating could occur in the committees."

Although the councils appear to be working out well and are becoming more organized and productive, they still do not have legislative powers yet. Lauchengco said the idea at this stage is to get the councils ready for self-governance and the phase the councils are in is a learning phase. The plan is to give complete governing control to the Iraqi people by June 2004.

"It's very enjoyable to see democracy taking hold and to see the enthusiasm that the council members bring to their jobs. They embrace democracy," he said.

# The Old Ironsides Report

December 4, 2003

## News...

### Iraqi Council Head Demands Direct Vote

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - The head of the Iraqi Governing Council renewed his demand Wednesday that a proposed transitional legislature be elected by Iraqi voters, a move opposed by U.S. occupation officials.

Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, a Shiite Muslim cleric who has recently been a vocal critic of American plans for restoring sovereignty to Iraqis, holds the rotating presidency of the U.S.-appointed council for the month of December.

### Powell Urged Not to Meet Accord Authors

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel reacted with disappointment Wednesday after U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell confirmed he will meet with organizers of an informal Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty.

The comments by Zalman Shoval, an adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, was the latest expression of Israel's stiff opposition to the meeting, seen as a U.S. gesture toward the "Geneva Accord" that Sharon has denounced.

### Arguments Under Way in Moussaoui Case

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - The U.S. government argued Wednesday that terrorism suspect Zacarias Moussaoui should not be allowed to benefit from the war on terror by gaining access to al-Qaida witnesses the United States is holding captive abroad.

The defense said Moussaoui must be allowed to question the witnesses in order to get a fair trial.

### Judge Bars Malvo Letter in Sniper Trial

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP) - A judge on Wednesday barred lawyers for sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo from introducing a letter in which Malvo asked for help getting out of a "situation" just weeks before the deadly attacks. Defense lawyer Michael Arif unsuccessfully argued that the letter, written to Muhammad's 17-year-old niece in the summer of 2002, should be allowed because it showed Malvo's state of mind before the sniper spree that killed 10 people in the Washington area.

## Chaplain's Thought for the day...

### "Persistence"

In 1947, a professor agreed to commute twice a week from Wisconsin to the University of Chicago to teach a class on astrophysics. When only two students signed up for the class, many expected the prof to cancel the class. Instead, despite the treacherous winter weather and commuting over 100 miles round trip, the professor taught the class anyway. His students did their homework. Ten years later, in 1957, those two students were awarded the Nobel Prize for physics. The professor also won the award in 1983.

Persistence and dedication despite adverse circumstances will pay off if we do not give up.

## Sports...

### NASCAR's Elliott to Race Limited Schedule

NEW YORK (AP) -- Former NASCAR champion Bill Elliott will race a part-time schedule in 2004, an auto racing source said Wednesday.

The announcement will be made Thursday, the source told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Rookie Kasey Kahne will move up from the Busch Series to race full time in the No. 9 Dodge that Elliott has driven the past three years, according to the source.

Elliott could drive between five and 10 races, and his arrangement is not necessarily for just one year, the source said.

A representative for Evernham Motorsports said Kahne and team owner Ray Evernham were not available for comment.

Kahne has been under a multiyear contract with Ford. The top prospect ended the season with a victory in the Busch Series race at Homestead, his first win in 54 career starts.

There has been speculation since early in the 2003 season that the 48-year-old Elliott, the 1988 Cup champion, was going to retire. A strong surge in the second half of the season carried Elliott to ninth place in the standings.

Elliott's victory at Rockingham in the next-to-last race of the season was the 44th of his career but his first in 50 races, dating to the Brickyard 400 in August 2002. He then dominated the season finale at Homestead before a blown tire on the last lap cost him a second straight win.

"I'm eventually going to retire," Elliott said after the Rockingham race. "Right now, we've fought through some things but we haven't made a decision."

### Man Wins Election in Marbles Game

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP) - All it took for Stewart Bubar to retain his seat on the Board of Education in this Los Angeles suburb was 1,141 votes and one white marble.

After Bubar and challenger Roger Maxwell wound up tied at 1,141 votes apiece in last month's election, school district officials decided to determine the winner by having the two reach into bags filled with red, white and blue marbles. The first one to pull out a white one would be the winner.

## Safety Tip:

### WEAPONS SAFETY

- ALL WEAPONS MUST BE CLEARED UPON ENTERING A FOB, INCLUDING BIAP
- MAGAZINES ARE NOT TO BE CARRIED IN THE WEAPON WHILE IN A SECURED AREA WITHOUT THE COMMANDER'S PERMISSION
- LOCK AND LOAD AT THE FINAL CHECKPOINT, BEFORE DEPARTING THE FOB, NOT IN THE PARKING LOT
- WEAPON STATUS **RED** = KEEP SAFETY ON

# The Old Ironsides Report December 4, 2003

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2003				As of: Wednesday, December 03, 2003 8:05:55 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SUICIDE MISSIONS : - AIR RESCUE	TODAY		00:00
00:30	ESPNEWS	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			HEADLINE NEWS	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		GROSS ANATOMY		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	NHL - PITTSBURGH PENGUINS @ PHILADELPHIA FLYERS	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC/BIG TEN CHALLENGE: GEORGIA TECH @ OHIO STATE	RUGRATS : - THE JOKE'S ON YOU	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - TUTTTER'S TINY TRIP	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - BIG PINK LOSER / BUBBLE BUDDY	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS : - HOMER VS DIGNITY	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - AL'S FAIR LADY			04:30
05:00		COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC/BIG TEN CHALLENGE: DUKE @ MICHIGAN STATE	TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL : - I WILL WALK WITH YOU (PT. 2)	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - CAT IN THE HAT STARS: MIKE MYERS & KELLY PRESTON	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC/BIG TEN CHALLENGE: MINNESOTA VS VIRGINIA					05:30
06:00			THE WEST WING : - WAR CRIMES	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS	06:00
06:30				JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - KANSAS CITY, HOUR 2	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				THE VIEW		07:25
07:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00	NBA FASTBREAK	HEADLINE NEWS	WALKING WITH CAVEMEN : - PART 1		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:12				LAURA MCKENZIE'S TRAVEL TIPS - PUERTO RICO		08:12
08:30	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	NFL TOTAL ACCESS	SESAME STREET	MASTERPIECE THEATER : - A RESPECTABLE TRADE (PT. 2)	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS : - THE MALTESE CHICKEN	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				HEY ARNOLD! : - EATING CONTEST/ RHONDA'S GLASSES		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - TUTTTER'S TINY TRIP		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - TYPE CASTING	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - BULLIES		10:30
11:00	NHL - ANAHEIM MIGHTY DUCKS @ DETROIT RED WINGS	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - CAT IN THE HAT STARS: MIKE MYERS & KELLY PRESTON	RUGRATS : - THE JOKE'S ON YOU	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - BIG PINK LOSER / BUBBLE BUDDY	HEADLINE NEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	11:30
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	THE SIMPSONS : - HOMER VS DIGNITY	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:25		THE VIEW				12:25
12:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - AL'S FAIR LADY	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL : - I WILL WALK WITH YOU (PT. 2)	THE BACHELOR	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:12		LAURA MCKENZIE'S TRAVEL TIPS - PUERTO RICO				13:12
13:30	NFL LIVE					13:30
13:50				REEL TIME		13:50
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING : - WAR CRIMES	TRISTA AND RYAN'S WEDDING : - PART 1	60 MINUTES II	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC/BIG TEN CHALLENGE: CLEMSON VS PURDUE	TODAY	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - KANSAS CITY, HOUR 2	C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - LUCKY STRIKE	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			WALKING WITH CAVEMEN : - PART 1	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS : - THE MALTESE CHICKEN	MASTERPIECE THEATER : - A RESPECTABLE TRADE (PT. 2)		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		HEY ARNOLD! : - EATING CONTEST/ RHONDA'S GLASSES		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	NFL FILMS PRESENTS	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - TYPE CASTING			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - BULLIES		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	RUGRATS : - THE JOKE'S ON YOU	FROM HERE TO ETERNITY		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - BIG PINK LOSER / BUBBLE BUDDY			19:30
20:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC/BIG TEN CHALLENGE: GEORGIA TECH VS OHIO STATE	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - HOMER VS DIGNITY		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - AL'S FAIR LADY			20:30
21:00		THE BACHELOR	TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL : - I WILL WALK WITH YOU (PT. 2)		60 MINUTES II	21:00
21:15				MONDAY AFTER THE MIRACLE		21:15
21:50		REEL TIME				21:50
22:00	ESPNEWS	TRISTA AND RYAN'S WEDDING : - PART 1	THE WEST WING : - WAR CRIMES		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:30	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC/BIG TEN CHALLENGE: DUKE VS MICHIGAN STATE					22:30
23:00		C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - LUCKY STRIKE	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - KANSAS CITY, HOUR 2	HEADLINE NEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	23:00
23:30				ESPNEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30