



The Old Ironsides Report



Sunday, December 14, 2003

Civil affairs soldiers making a difference one project at a time

Story and photos by Sgt. Mark Bell
372nd MPAD

BAHGADAD, Iraq – He's opened the canals that supply water to farmers across southern Baghdad, provided a medical clinic to an isolated community, and given new schoolbooks to young Iraqi children, but more importantly he is giving his soldiers the chance to make a change for the Iraqi people.

Col. John Huntley, 50, Albany, N.Y., 414th Civil Affairs Battalion commander, a 21-year Army veteran and the New York state veterinarian, said being a soldier in Iraqi is the best place to make a difference in the world today.

"We are working in a way to help the Iraqi people here, and at the same time working for the best interest of Iraqi people and coalition forces," he said.

Although Huntley commands the small unit of 17 soldiers from Utica, N.Y., he said his soldiers deserve all the credit for a big difference. Although small, Huntley said the civil affairs teams around Iraq is where the small war on terrorism is going to be won.

"In the aftermath, what we are working on is civil administration," he said. "Everything you are associated with the normal function of a municipal government we are trying to restore and build in Iraq."

Huntley said working with the neighborhood, district and city level administration is the key element that will allow the Iraqi people to move to a better Iraq.

"They need to have the ability to build those structures," he said. "That will carry them into the future with a new Iraq that will interact with the international community."

Huntley's said his biggest gift to the Iraqi people is education. "It gives you a fresh perspective in life," he said about educating the Iraqi people. "It's one of the few things that keeps you engaged on a daily basis and as you get older you keep learning to keep from getting stale. Everyday is an adventure. You are always learning something new."

Huntley said his teams have the opportunity to help a lot of people here. With school projects filling his calendar, Huntley said seeing the end result of a lot of hard work is the ultimate gift give to him and his soldiers.

"You can see it in the children's faces," he said. "They truly appreciate the restoration we have done. The teachers are happy with the upgrade with facilities."

Whether he is cutting the ribbon on a new school, putting the final touches of paint on a medical clinic or turning the crank to release fresh water to the desert croplands, Huntley said changes won't happen overnight.



Col. John Huntley, 50, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion commander, an Army Reserve unit from Utica, N.Y., rotates the floodgate handle releasing water into the agriculture communities southwest of Baghdad.

"The American people need to realize we are not here for the short term," he said. "Right now, especially in the environment we are in, we need to worry about our long-term goals."

Although a high-ranking officer, Huntley said his soldiers are the drive behind his success as a battalion commander.

"I couldn't do it without my soldiers," he said. "I am just the commander, they are like my children. It amazes me what they have accomplished in such a short period of time."

More importantly, Huntley said his soldiers are proud of the work they have done

"They enjoy working with the people here, and I think this definitely something they'll be proud of rest of their lives," he said.

Together, Huntley and his small band of soldiers working nonstop behind the scenes and without the high-profile media coverage are making a difference – one small project at a time.

"I have something to return home to be really happy about," he said. "The whole experience has taught me that I really have enjoyed working with the Iraqi people. They generally want what is best for their children, and I hope I have helped them achieved their goal."

News

Iraq Army Desertions May Force Pay Raises

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Faced with the desertion of nearly half the new Iraqi army, the U.S. military is thinking about raising the pay scale for Iraqi soldiers as it trains more to join the force, the commander of U.S.-led coalition forces in Iraq said Saturday. U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez said a separate, 550-member force drawn from militias affiliated with Iraqi political parties was being trained to fight insurgents in Baghdad. The unit, he said, was part of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps and would work under the command of the 1st Armored Division, the U.S. military unit in charge of the Iraqi capital.

Delegates Begin Afghan Constitution Talks

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Delegates assembling from every corner of Afghanistan on Saturday faced tough debate in hammering out the first post-Taliban constitution, the bedrock of what Afghans hope will be a better life after years of war. Under intense security, some 500 representatives - from village mullahs to Western-educated exiles - must work out the role of Afghan women, Islam's place in politics and the sharing of power in a nation accustomed to fighting over it.

Scientists Warn of Coming Flu Pandemic

NEW YORK (AP) - As bad as this year's flu season is, it hasn't brought the worldwide outbreak known as a pandemic. But experts warn that a pandemic is coming, it's just a question of when. "It's going to happen," said Dr. Greg Poland of the Mayo Clinic. "For the American public in particular. I think it will be horrific."

Chaplain's Thought for the Day

"You'd be amazed what you could learn"

Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would have preferred to talk.

--Doug Larson.

We have two ears and only one mouth. Therefore, we should listen twice as much as we speak.

Sports

Heisman Trophy Up for Grabs Tonight

NEW YORK (AP) -- While winning the Heisman tonight would be the crowning moment of a college career for Larry Fitzgerald, Eli Manning, Jason White or Chris Perry, it won't necessarily be a launching pad to NFL greatness. "It puts you in a very elite group," said Fitzgerald, a receiver for Pittsburgh. "It's something that can never be taken away from you regardless of how your career is after college. It can never be tarnished. That one year you played, you were the best player in college football."

No. 17 Gonzaga Tops No. 3 Missouri in OT

SEATTLE (AP) - Ronny Turiat scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half, then added another four points in overtime as No. 17 Gonzaga beat No. 3 Missouri 87-80 on Saturday. Blake Stepp had 14 points and 10 assists while freshman Adam Morrison scored 17 points in a reserve role as Gonzaga (7-1) won its seventh straight.

Oddly Enough...

Man Pledges to Stop Storing Body Parts

KIRKWOOD, Mo. (AP) -- - A man has apparently promised authorities he'll stop storing and brokering human body parts out of his home. Richard Leutheuser, a designer and builder of swimming pools who dabbles in providing donated body parts for science, says he's working with this St. Louis suburb to find a location where zoning allows his sidelight business. Leutheuser's business surfaced last month when FedEx workers opened leaking packages bound for his home and found an arm and two legs, each limb wrapped and placed in dry ice. Leutheuser said he was a middleman for a California-based company, and investigators said he did nothing wrong, aside from having an unlicensed home business. City zoning rules also bar the storage of business inventory in a residential area, whether "they're body parts or whatever," said Dan Niebaum, Kirkwood city planner. Leutheuser has told the city he would move that business to a site commercially zoned, Niebaum said.

This Day in History

On 14 December, 1774, after receiving word from Paul Revere that the British troops would be coming to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Major John Sullivan led a raid against the British at Fort William and Mary, in Portsmouth. Sullivan and his band carried off guns and powder of belonging to the British. It was the first military conflict of the American Revolutionary War.

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The Old Ironsides Report Guide to the College Bowls

2003-04 December Bowl Schedule					
Bowl	Matchup	Date/Time	Bowl	Matchup	Date/Time
New Orleans at New Orleans, La.	Memphis vs. North Texas	Dec. 16 7 p.m.	Continental Tire at Charlotte, N.C.	Pittsburgh vs. Virginia	Dec. 27 11 a.m.
GMAC at Mobile, Ala.	Miami (Ohio) vs. Louisville	Dec. 18 7:30 p.m.	MasterCard Alamo at San Antonio	Michigan State vs. Nebraska	Dec. 29 9 p.m.
Mazda Tangerine at Orlando, Fla.	NC State NC State	Dec. 22 5:30 p.m.	EV1.net Houston at Houston	Navy vs. Texas Tech	Dec. 30 4:30 p.m.
PlainsCapital Fort Worth at Fort Worth, Texas	TCU vs. Boise State	Dec. 23 7:30 p.m.	Pacific Life Holiday at San Diego, Calif.	Washington State vs. Texas	Dec. 30 8 p.m.
Las Vegas at Las Vegas, Nev.	Oregon State vs. New Mexico	Dec. 24 7:30 p.m.	Silicon Valley Football Classic at San Jose, Calif.	UCLA vs. Fresno State	Dec. 30 10:30 p.m.
Sheraton Hawaii at Honolulu	Houston vs. Hawaii	Dec. 25 8 p.m.	Gaylord Hotels Music City at Nashville, Tenn.	Wisconsin vs. Auburn	Dec. 31 Noon
Motor City at Detroit	Northwestern vs. Bowling Green	Dec. 26 5 p.m.	Wells Fargo Sun at El Paso, Texas	Minnesota vs. Oregon	Dec. 31 2 p.m.
Insight at Phoenix, Ariz.	California vs. Virginia Tech	Dec. 26 8:30 p.m.	AXA Liberty at Memphis, Tenn.	Southern Miss vs. Utah	Dec. 31 3:30 p.m.

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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2003					
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - 2003 DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIP: NORTH DAKOTA VS GRAND VALLEY STATE	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - THE BASKETBOWL: KENTUCKY @ MICHIGAN STATE	CELEBRATION OF VICTORY : - HOW TO HANDLE CHAINS	FOX NEWS LIVE	0:00
0:30			CORAL RIDGE HOUR : - FALSE GODS		0:30
1:00			THE WORD IN THE WORLD : - THE STORY OF JEROBOAM	FOX NEWS LIVE	1:00
1:30			CAFE VIDEO : - THE STARS OF GOSPEL		1:30
2:00		ESPNEWS	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PAC-10: UNLV @ STANFORD	HEADLINE NEWS	2:00
2:30				MCLAUGHLIN GROUP	2:30
3:00	SPORTSCENTER	SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (03-04) : - AL SHARPTON/PINK		CAPITAL GANG	3:00
3:30					3:30
4:00	BOXING - NIGHT OF THE UNDISPUTED: BERNARD HOPKINS VS WILLIAM JOPPY, HASIM RAHMAN VS JOHN RUIZ...		SPORTS SPECIAL - 2003 HEISMAN TROPHY PRESENTATION	WASHINGTON WEEK IN REVIEW	4:00
4:30		LIVE IN HOLLYWOOD		HEADLINE NEWS	4:30
5:00				PEOPLE IN THE NEWS	5:00
5:30		THE ENTERTAINERS			5:30
6:00			HEADLINE NEWS	CNN SATURDAY NIGHT	6:00
6:30		ESPNEWS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS		6:30
7:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE SANTA CLAUSE	DATELINE INTERNATIONAL	7:00
7:30		HOUR OF POWER - MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH PT. 2			7:30
8:00	NFL MATCHUP	CELEBRATION OF VICTORY : - HOW TO HANDLE CHAINS		LARRY KING LIVE	8:00
8:30	ESPNEWS	CORAL RIDGE HOUR : - FALSE GODS			8:30
9:00	GOLF - USGA YEAR IN REVIEW	THE WORD IN THE WORLD : - THE STORY OF JEROBOAM	MOTORWEEK	AT LARGE WITH GERALDO RIVERA	9:00
9:30		CAFE VIDEO : - THE STARS OF GOSPEL	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES		9:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	WISHBONE : - THE SLOBBERY HOUND	WWE SMACKDOWN!!	BELTWAY BOYS	10:00
10:30		CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG : - CLOTHES DONT MAKE THE DOGS SHORT-CHANGED		FOX NEWS WATCH	10:30
11:00	PGA TOUR - TARGET WORLD CHALLENGE: THIRD ROUND	THE SANTA CLAUSE	ANDROMEDA : - WHAT HAPPENS TO A REV DEFERRED?	HEADLINE NEWS	11:00
11:30				AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM	11:30
12:00			HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	12:00
12:30			ESPNEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	12:30
13:00		MOTORWEEK	SMALLVILLE : - DICHOTIC	BIG STORY WEEKEND EDITION	13:00
13:30		EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES			13:30
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	THE SANTA CLAUSE 2	CNN PRESENTS	14:00
14:30		AIR FORCE TV NEWS			14:30
15:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PAC-10: MARQUETTE @ ARIZONA	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - MEMPHIS @ ILLINOIS		FOX & FRIENDS	15:00
16:00			HEADLINE NEWS	FOX & FRIENDS	16:00
16:30			SEINFELD : - THE OPERA		16:30
17:00	ESPNEWS	SPORTSCENTER	MEET THE PRESS	CBS NEWS SUNDAY MORNING	17:00
17:30	ESPNEWS				17:30
18:00	THE SPORTS REPORTERS	WWE SMACKDOWN!!	AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM		18:00
18:30	SPORTSCENTER		ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	FACE THE NATION	18:30
19:00	NFL COUNTDOWN	ANDROMEDA : - WHAT HAPPENS TO A REV DEFERRED?		HEADLINE NEWS	19:00
19:30			ESPNEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	19:30
20:00		FOX NFL SUNDAY	THE NFL TODAY	LATE EDITION W/ WOLF BLITZER	20:00
20:30					20:30
21:00	NFL - SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS @ CINCINNATI BENGALS	NFL - SEATTLE SEAHAWKS @ ST. LOUIS RAMS	NFL - BUFFALO BILLS @ TENNESSEE TITANS		21:00
21:30					21:30
22:00				FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:30					22:30
23:00				FOX NEWS LIVE	23:00