



The Old Ironsides Report



Tuesday, December 16, 2003

501st FSB's SSA soldiers keep supplies in stock

Story and photos by Spc. Ryan Smith, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - - There is one thing the military relies on to accomplish its mission: stuff. Cooks need food, mechanics need vehicle parts and doctors need tongue depressors.

In order to ensure that each unit has the right stuff it needs to get the mission accomplished, soldiers with A Company, 501st Forward Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, operate the Supply Support Activity (SSA), acting as a clearing house for all the supplies needed by units in the 1st Brigade Combat Team.

"We're the middleman," said Chief Warrant Officer John M. Burns, SSA supply technician, A Company, 501st FSB. "We process all the supplies issued to our customers within 1st BCT."

On a typical day, customers show up at the SSA's door at 8:30 in the morning.

"My soldiers are out there ready to support our customers picking up their items," he said. About 50 customers come in throughout the day, to pick up items ranging from pens and paper to petroleum and tank parts.

The SSA's warehouse contains bins that hold smaller items ordered for each unit. Outside are larger items that do not fit in the bins, such as tires, petroleum cans and building materials. "These bins will be empty by the end of the day," he said.

"Everything is ordered through me, and picked up through me," Burns added.

Customers drop off their orders to Spc. Kyrin Smith, the SSA's stock control specialist. "The customers drop off a floppy disk with their information on it," she said. "I put it into the system, order the supplies for the customer, and track the order. I can give them the status for everything on order."

When the supplies arrive, they are checked in by soldiers at the SSA and customers can pick up their items. As the customers receive and inspect their orders, customer-issue specialists scan each item into the SSA's computer system to record that it has been received.



Sgt. Anthony Lewis, parts specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, picks up supplies for his unit while Spc. Mashonda Harris, customer-issue specialist, A Company, 501st Forward Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, checks his supplies into the computer system at the 501st FSB's Supply Support Activity at Provider Forward Operating Base in Baghdad.

The SSA also employs Iraqi workers, Burns said. They work on construction and repairs in and around the warehouse. They also break down parts and clean the area, and help with customer issue as well. Burns even has two Iraqi employees who are skilled forklift operators operating their own forklifts. Sixty-six units order their supplies through this SSA, Burns said. Armor, infantry, signal, military intelligence and medical units all order and pick up their items on a daily basis.

"There are three things you don't want to mess with in the military," Burns said, "food, supply and mail."

The SSA keeps supply in order.

The Old Ironsides Report

December 16, 2003

News...

Bush Says Saddam Will Be Put on Trial

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush said Monday that Saddam Hussein will be put on public trial for his crimes, in a manner to be set in consultation with Iraqis brutalized across three decades of tyranny.

"All the atrocities need to come out and justice needs to be delivered," Bush said at a year-end news conference.

Military: Saddam's Capture Led to Others

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Interrogations of Saddam Hussein and documents in his personal briefcase, seized with him, have led to the arrest of several prominent regime figures in Baghdad, a U.S. general said.

Suicide bombers attacked police stations in the capital, killing eight people as the insurgency showed no sign of letting up. A member of the Iraqi Governing Council said Saddam could be put on trial in the next few weeks and face execution if convicted, though another member said it could take four to six months to begin the trial before a war crimes tribunal set up last week.

Powell Will Have Prostate Cancer Surgery

WASHINGTON (AP) - Secretary of State Colin Powell was scheduled to undergo surgery for prostate cancer Monday at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The surgery had been scheduled for some time and he described it as "routine intervention."

High Court to Hear Cheney-Energy Dispute

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court said Monday it will settle a fight over whether Vice President Dick Cheney must disclose details about secret contacts with energy industry officials as the Bush administration drafted its energy policy.

The court agreed to hear an appeal from the administration, which is fighting a lawsuit brought by watchdog and environmental groups over the energy task force Cheney assembled.

The panel met for several months in 2001 and issued a report that favored opening more public lands to oil and gas drilling and proposed a range of other steps supported by industry.

Seven Deaths Blamed on Nor'easter Storm

BOSTON (AP) - A nor'easter storm blanketed parts of the Northeast with heavy snow and slush Monday, just a week after another snowstorm pounded the region.

At least seven deaths were blamed on the storm. Scattered school closings were reported from North Carolina to Maine, where speed limits on major highways were lowered to 45 mph because of slippery pavement.

Safety message...

EFFECTING COMBAT EFFICIENCY

Many TCs use the PVS-7s as binoculars rather than mounting them on their helmets because of the difficulty of moving up and down in the hatch.

When PV-7s are used as binoculars, TCs should know that when they remove their NODs it will take two to three minutes for their eyes to effectively adapt to the dark.

During that time, their vision will be reduced and they need to take special care.

And in other news...

'Bored' Teens Rack Up \$160 Million Internet Bill

BERLIN (Reuters) - Three German teenagers were being investigated for fraud Friday after they spent 130 million euros (\$160 million) in a two-hour Internet shopping spree because they were "bored," authorities said Friday.

The 19-year-olds splashed out on light aircraft, patents, industrial machinery, restaurants and artwork after hacking into an account on an Internet auction site. "They gave boredom as the motive and made no attempt to disguise what fun they had buying only the most expensive things," according to police in the western town of Limburg. They said state prosecutors are investigating.

Microsoft to Remove Swastikas from Software Fonts

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Microsoft Corp. said on Friday that its latest version of Office software inadvertently contained a font featuring two swastikas, and said it would offer tools to remove and replace the offending characters from the program.

The swastika, which was made infamous by Nazi Germany, was included in Microsoft's "Bookshelf Symbol 7" font. That font was derived from a Japanese font set, said Microsoft Office product manager Simon Marks.

"It was discovered by one of our customers a couple weeks ago," Marks said, adding that there was "no indication of malicious intent."

The Redmond, Washington-based software maker said that it had contacted various Jewish organizations about the font and said a utility would be immediately available on its Web site that would remove the characters from the system.

Microsoft said it will release other tools at a later date to remove only the offending characters.

A form of the swastika has been used in the Buddhist religion to symbolize the feet or footprints of the Buddha.

The symbol, which was also used widely in the ancient world including Mesopotamia, Scandinavia, India and the Americas, became common in China and Japan with the spread of Buddhism.

German dictator Adolf Hitler adopted the swastika as the symbol of the Nazi Party because of its nationalist identification, according to the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, an international Jewish human rights group.

Chaplain's thought for the day...

"DISCRETION"

I have never been hurt by anything I didn't say.
Calvin Coolidge.

I'm sure there have been times when we said something we later wished we hadn't. If we take a split second to think about what we're going to say, we might just save ourselves years of heartache and regret.

The Old Ironsides Report December 16, 2003

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2003

As of: Monday, December 15, 2003 8:10:06 PM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	NFL PRIMETIME	HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN CHOPPER	TODAY		00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			ON ASSIGNMENT	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		THE PRINCE OF EGYPT		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		ESPNEWS	RUGRATS : - FINSTERELLA	DRAGON TALES : - A NEW FRIEND/ HAVE NO FEAR	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30	BOWLING - PBA DEXTER TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS @ MOHEGAN SUN	MONDAY NIGHT COUNTDOWN	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - MERMAID MAN III / SQUIRREL JOKES	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS : - DAY OF THE JACKNAPES	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - CHOP SHOP TIL YOU DROP			04:30
05:00	FIGURE SKATING - GRAND PRIX OF FIGURE SKATING: CUP OF RUSSIA	MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL - PHILADELPHIA EAGLES @ MIAMI DOLPHINS	J.A.G. : - THE KILLER	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
06:00			THE PRACTICE : - LIAR'S POKER	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS	06:00
06:30				JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00	PGA TOUR - YEAR IN REVIEW		BIOGRAPHY : - THE VON TRAPP FAMILY	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30					NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00	SPORTSCENTER		RAIN MAN		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	NFL TOTAL ACCESS	SESAME STREET		DISNEY'S PB&J OTTER : - GO AWAY GORILLA/ MAMA FOR A DAY	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				WHAT'S NEW SCOOBY DOO? : - BIG SCARE IN THE BIG EASY		09:30
10:00	ESPNEWS	DRAGON TALES : - A NEW FRIEND/ HAVE NO FEAR		LIZZIE MCGUIRE : - GORDO AND THE MAGIC DWARVES	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30	ESPNEWS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES	ALL THAT		10:30
11:00	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	RUGRATS : - FINSTERELLA	JEOPARDYI	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30	NBA FASTBREAK		SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - MERMAID MAN III / SQUIRREL JOKES	HEADLINE NEWS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00	WINTER X GAMES - CLASSIX		THE SIMPSONS : - DAY OF THE JACKNAPES	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - CHOP SHOP TIL YOU DROP	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00	SPORTSCENTER		J.A.G. : - THE KILLER	MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL - PHILADELPHIA EAGLES @ MIAMI DOLPHINS	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:17
14:00	BOXING - NIGHT OF THE UNDISPUTED: BERNARD HOPKINS VS WILLIAM JOPPY, HASIM RAHMAN VS JOHN RUIZ...	HEADLINE NEWS	THE PRACTICE : - LIAR'S POKER		CNN DAYBREAK	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00		TODAY	BIOGRAPHY : - THE VON TRAPP FAMILY		GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			RAIN MAN	ESPNEWS		16:00
16:30				HEADLINE NEWS		16:30
16:52				PACIFIC REPORT		16:52
17:00		DISNEY'S PB&J OTTER : - GO AWAY GORILLA/ MAMA FOR A DAY		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		WHAT'S NEW SCOOBY DOO? : - BIG SCARE IN THE BIG EASY			WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:30
17:45					WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	ESPNEWS	LIZZIE MCGUIRE : - GORDO AND THE MAGIC DWARVES		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	NBA FASTBREAK	ALL THAT	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES			18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDYI	RUGRATS : - FINSTERELLA	BILOXI BLUES		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - MERMAID MAN III / SQUIRREL JOKES			19:30
20:00	AROUND THE HORN	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - DAY OF THE JACKNAPES		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - CHOP SHOP TIL YOU DROP			20:30
20:45				BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS		20:45
21:00	MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL - PHILADELPHIA EAGLES @ MIAMI DOLPHINS	SMALLVILLE : - DICHOTIC	J.A.G. : - THE KILLER		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
22:00		THE SANTA CLAUSE 2	THE PRACTICE : - LIAR'S POKER		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:30				CINEMA SECRETS : - VISIONS OF THE FUTURE		22:30
23:00			BIOGRAPHY : - THE VON TRAPP FAMILY	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30				HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

December 16, 1944:

BATTLE OF THE BULGE BEGINS:

(Historychannel.com) With the Anglo-Americans closing in on Germany from the west and the Soviets approaching from the east, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler orders a massive attack against the western Allies by three German armies.

The German counterattack out of the densely wooded Ardennes region of Belgium took the Allies entirely by surprise, and the experienced German troops wrought havoc on the American line, creating a triangular "bulge" 60 miles deep and 50 miles wide along the Allied front. Conditions of fog and mist prevented the unleashing of Allied air superiority, and for several days Hitler's desperate gamble seemed to be paying off. However, unlike the French in 1940, the embattled Americans kept up a fierce resistance even after their lines of communication had been broken, buying time for a three-point counteroffensive led by British General Bernard Montgomery and American generals Omar Bradley and George Patton.

Fighting was particularly fierce at the town of Bastogne, where the 101st Airborne Division and part of the 10th Armored Division were encircled by German forces within the bulge. On December 22, the German commander besieging the town demanded that the Americans surrender or face annihilation. U.S. Major General Anthony McAuliffe prepared a typed reply that read simply:

To the German Commander:

Nuts!

From the American Commander

The Americans who delivered the message explained to the perplexed Germans that the one-word reply was translatable as "Go to hell!" Heavy fighting continued at Bastogne, but the 101st held on.

On December 23, the skies finally cleared over the battle areas, and the Allied air forces inflicted heavy damage on German tanks and transport, which were jammed solidly along the main roads.

On December 26, Bastogne was relieved by elements of General Patton's 3rd Army. A major Allied counteroffensive began at the end of December, and by January 21 the Germans had been pushed back to their original line.

Germany's last major offensive of the war had cost them 120,000 men, 1,600 planes, and 700 tanks. The Allies suffered some 80,000 killed, wounded, or missing in action, with all but 5,000 of these casualties being American. It was the heaviest single battle toll in U.S. history.