



The Old Ironsides Report



Wednesday, December 17, 2003

Job fair links workers, employers

Story and photo by Spc. Anthony Reinoso, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The soldiers of Task Force 1st Armored Division's 352nd Civil Affairs Command and the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, both from Riverdale, Md., coordinated a job fair recently at the Baghdad Convention Center.

Charged to manage the Iraqi Assistance Center, the civil affairs soldiers help Iraqis with medical issues, search for family members who may be detainees, compensation for damage that may have occurred during a military operation and job assistance.

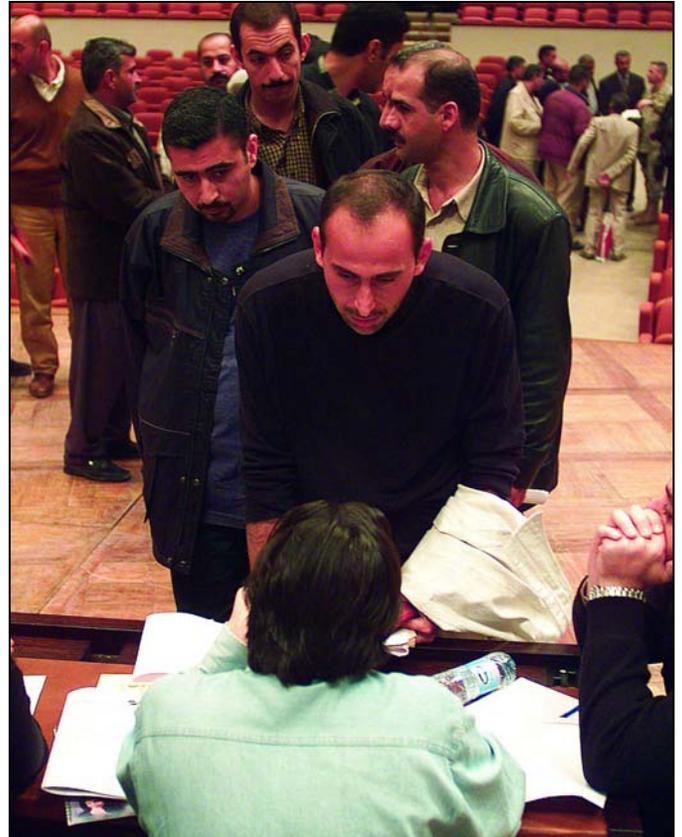
"In preparation for the job fair, we have firm commitments from human resource staffing coordinators from Titan, Proctor and Gamble, USAID and Bechtel," said Lt. Col. Vanetta Ratcliffe, economy and commerce team chief with the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, which is part of Task Force 1st Armored Division. "Some 450 invitational flyers were passed out or e-mailed, to include Baghdad University. We expected about 200 participants."

The job fair kicked off with registration of participants. The fair included two workshops: How to prepare a western-style resume and how to conduct oneself in a job interview.

Afterward, clients gave a 15-20 minute overview of their company, which was followed by networking between clients and applicants, said Ratcliffe. During the fair, clients provided copies of the positions available, application forms and face-to-face discussions with potential candidates. There were approximately 350 jobs available.

According to Ratcliffe, the intent is to arrange publicity to the Iraqi Assistance Center and Iraqi Business Center "to attract employers to use our services".

The lessons learned from this event will go a long way to assist the economy and commerce team in planning a spring career fair. In



Iraqi participants stand in line to turn in application forms for employment to several companies looking for workers during the job fair at the Baghdad Convention Center.

practice, the event will help the soldiers and the employers to get a better feel for participant expectations, makeup of the candidate pool, perception and logistics to support this event.

"Jobs give people a sense of worth, self-respect, a way to support their families and an active role in the reconstruction of their own nation," said Col. Scott Brennan, director of the 352nd CACOM. "A person who is employed is much less likely to take their frustrations and aggravations out on coalition forces or on the Iraqi public."

The Old Ironsides Report

December 17, 2003

News...

U.S. Focuses on Remaining Iraqi Figures

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. intelligence agencies are turning their efforts toward rounding up remaining principals of Saddam Hussein's regime who may be playing a more direct role than the now-captured former president did in running guerrilla operations in Iraq, officials say.

Some insurgents evidently kept Saddam informed about their activities "on the chance that someday he might be able once again to be their patron," Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey, commander of the 1st Armored Division in Iraq, told CNN on Tuesday.

Germany Agrees to Help Relieve Iraqi Debt

BERLIN (AP) - U.S. special envoy James A. Baker III won German and French agreement Tuesday to work for Iraqi debt relief, overcoming serious misgivings in Berlin about the U.S. exclusion of German firms from Iraqi reconstruction.

"Germany and the United States, like France, are ready not only for debt restructuring but also for substantial debt forgiveness toward Iraq," German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's spokesman Bela Anda said in a statement.

Bush Signs Anti-Spam Legislation

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush signed legislation Tuesday meant to stem the flood of unwanted e-mail pitches that irritate Internet users and drain the economy.

"Spam, or unsolicited e-mails, are annoying to consumers and costly to our economy," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said after Bush signed the bill. "This will help address the problems associated with the rapid growth and abuse of spam by establishing a framework of technological, administrative civil and criminal tools, and by providing consumers with options to reduce the volume of unwanted e-mail."

FDA Debates Sale of Morning-After Pill

WASHINGTON (AP) - The maker of a morning-after pill and the nation's largest gynecologists' group asked the government Tuesday to allow emergency contraception to sell without a prescription, saying easier access could slash unplanned pregnancies and abortions.

The Food and Drug Administration says emergency contraception is very safe, having been used by 2.4 million American women and millions abroad with few side effects.

News you can use...

No War Trophies Allowed from Iraq

By Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 2003 – Do not even think about bringing back to the United States war trophies from your service in Iraq.

With about 140,000 American service members due to rotate out of Iraq, U.S. Central Command officials are very clear that service members cannot bring home weapons, ammunition and other prohibited items.

A few soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division understand how serious the command is. Some soldiers tried to smuggle weapons back from Baghdad, and they have gone through courts martial. Others received Article 15 administrative punishments. "There is a whole spectrum of punishments, depending on the severity of the offense," said Maj. Robert Resnick, an Army lawyer at Fort Stewart, Ga.

Army Gen. John Abizaid, the commander of U.S. Central Command, has put out the policy. Basically, under no circumstances can individuals take as a souvenir an object that was formerly in the possession of the enemy. The taking of war trophies goes against the coalition mission in Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said.

"We didn't go into Iraq to conquer, but to liberate," said Marine Capt. Bruce Frame, a Central Command spokesman. "Taking articles from those countries sends the wrong message."

Service members with questions should work through the chain of command, CENTCOM officials said, adding that service members will be given ample briefings on what is allowed and what is not. In the case of Iraq, unit commanders will brief service members on the policy before leaving for Kuwait.

In Kuwait, military police will explain the policy and will permit an amnesty period before searching gear and vehicles. In the United States, U.S. Customs Service officials will examine individual gear.

The same prohibitions pertain to American civilians serving in the Central Command area of operations.

Other federal laws pertain to other items. For example, service members cannot bring back plants, animals or other organic materials. Some Marines returning from Afghanistan in April 2002, for example, tried to bring back the skulls of sheep attached to their guidons. The Customs agents met the Marines as they landed on the beach at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and confiscated the items.

No one can bring back antiquities into the United States, and of course, no one can bring drugs or drug paraphernalia into the United States.

The overall prohibition does not pertain to souvenirs that can be legally imported into the United States, officials said.

Chaplain's thought for the day...

"Finishing the Task"

Billy Sunday was a pro Baseball player in the early 1900's who became one of the most famous preachers of his day and laid the groundwork for Billy Graham in Crusade Evangelism.

Billy Sunday said "Stopping at third adds no more to the score than striking out."

It doesn't matter how well you start if you fail to finish....

The Old Ironsides Report December 17, 2003

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2003

As of: Tuesday, December 16, 2003 6:24:34 AM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	RAIN MAN	TODAY		00:00
00:30	ESPNEWS	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			HEADLINE NEWS	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	FIGURE SKATING - GRAND PRIX OF FIGURE SKATING: NHK TROPHY	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - 2003 NEW ORLEANS BOWL: MEMPHIS VS NORTH TEXAS	RUGRATS : - BAD SHOES	BOB THE BUILDER	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - PRESSURE / THE SMOKING PEANUT	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS : - NEW KIDS ON THE BLECCH	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - HOME ALONE			04:30
05:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - SEC: UTAH @ LSU		STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION : - SCHISMS	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		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	NOVA : - WRIGHT FLIERS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30		ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00	RODEO - NATIONAL FINALS RODEO: NINTH ROUND	HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: INVENTORS : - THE WRIGHT STUFF		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00		SESAME STREET	LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - THE WRIGHT BROTHERS	BABY LOONEY TUNES : - TIME AND TIME AGAIN	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30			CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT: BORN OF A DREAM	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	RODEO - NATIONAL FINALS RODEO: CHAMPIONSHIP	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	RUGRATS : - BAD SHOES	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - PRESSURE / THE SMOKING PEANUT	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS : - NEW KIDS ON THE BLECCH	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - HOME ALONE	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION : - SCHISMS	THE PARKERS : - THE PARENT TRAP	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:17
13:30	SPORTSCENTER			CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER : - EPISODE 16		13:30
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	WHO WANTS TO MARRY MY DAD?	EXTREME MAKEOVER	CNN DAYBREAK	14:00
14:30	NHL - EDMONTON OILERS @ LOS ANGELES KINGS	JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00		TODAY	NOVA : - WRIGHT FLIERS	THE OC : - THE MODEL HOME	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: INVENTORS : - THE WRIGHT STUFF	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - 2003 NEW ORLEANS BOWL: MEMPHIS VS NORTH TEXAS	BABY LOONEY TUNES : - TIME AND TIME AGAIN	LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - THE WRIGHT BROTHERS		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		I SPY	CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT: BORN OF A DREAM	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:30
18:00		A WALK IN YOUR SHOES			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		LIBERTY'S KIDS (EPS 14-26)		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	RUGRATS : - BAD SHOES	A CHRISTMAS STORY		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - PRESSURE / THE SMOKING PEANUT			19:30
20:00	BOXING - NIGHT OF THE UNDISPUTED: BERNARD HOPKINS VS WILLIAM JOPPY, HASIM RAHMAN VS JOHN RUIZ...	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - NEW KIDS ON THE BLECCH		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - HOME ALONE			20:30
20:45				HOME ALONE 2: LOST IN NEW YORK		20:45
21:00		THE PARKERS : - THE PARENT TRAP	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION : - SCHISMS		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
21:30		CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER : - EPISODE 16				21:30
22:00		EXTREME MAKEOVER	WHO WANTS TO MARRY MY DAD?		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00		THE OC : - THE MODEL HOME	NOVA : - WRIGHT FLIERS	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30				HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

December 17, 1991

Yeltsin supporters announce Soviet Union will cease to exist by New Year's Eve

After a long meeting between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin, a spokesman for the latter announces that the Soviet Union will officially cease to exist on or before New Year's Eve.

Yeltsin declared that, "There will be no more red flag." It was a rather anti-climactic culmination of events leading toward the dismantling of the Soviet Union.

Despite its dramatic implications, the announcement inspired mostly yawns and skeptical jokes from a Russian population weary from months of political intrigue and instability and a crumbling economy. For many people, the Soviet Union had already disintegrated.

The various Russian republics had already declared their independence; in a few days they would meet and form the Commonwealth of Independent States. Gorbachev's power was steadily ebbing: a coup attempt the previous August had already nearly toppled him.

Yeltsin, on the other hand, was busily planning the takeover of Soviet facilities and the symbolic lowering of the Soviet hammer-and-sickle to be replaced by the flag of Russia. Even Gorbachev seemed to accept the inevitable, taking time off from his less and less meaningful job to have a photo op with the rock group Scorpion.

It was all a rather unexciting end to the nation President Ronald Reagan once called "the evil empire."