



# The Old Ironsides Report



Wednesday, November 19, 2003

## 2 BCT, CA combine efforts to hire new police force

By Sgt. Mark Bell, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Several hundred Baghdad-area residents arrived early morning Nov. 13 to begin what could be a career as an Iraqi police officer. Sponsored by 1st Armored Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), residents spent hours waiting patiently in line during an initial application process at the Iraqi Forum.

From a brief physical examination to random security background checks, 2nd BCT soldiers scrutinized application forms, checked for diabetes and several other stations to ensure the best 500 applicants are submitted for possible selection into the police academy.

Applicants ranged from young 20-year old adults looking for their first job to Iraqi army veterans.

"I want to serve my country," said Muafaq Adnan, 31 a former Iraqi Special Forces first sergeant. "I served my country for 16 years in the Army, now I want to continue to serve my country as an Iraqi police officer. I know being a police officer would be much easier than being in the special forces."

Adnan said he was driven to apply for the 500 applicant positions because he wants to make a difference in a new Iraq.

"I don't want to go through the same tragedies we did under Saddam," he said. "I know we can make a difference in a better Iraq."

Possible applicants must be 20 years old and have a diploma from a primary secondary school, said Sgt. Chris Miller, 22, from Carbondale, Ill., 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment.

Dixon was at the first station that looked over applications to ensure they were properly completed and the applicants met the basic age and education requirements.

Working to help make a better Iraq with the new Iraqi police makes Dixon's job feel more important as he personal looks over each application with the help of two 2nd BCT soldiers.

"It's time the Iraqis begin to police themselves," said Dixon. "They know their people better than we will over understand. Together with the help of the new Iraqi police, we will be able to make a better Iraq. The end result we all want is to help Iraq get back to a safe environment."

From the initial application review process, division medics, physician's assistants and doctors saw applicants for some their first medical examination in their life. From head to toe, applicants' blood pressure, eyes and abdomen were checked to ensure the Iraqis have an overall health checkup before being selected to attend the academy.

Obesity, uncorrectable bad vision and diabetes will disqualify an applicant from being an Iraqi police officer, said 2nd Lt. Kenny Rivera, 38, from Panama City, Panama, a physician's assistant with 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment.

"We basically are doing a quick and general head to toe medical check to ensure there are no obvious medical conditions that would hinder in their ability to perform as an Iraqi police officer," said Rivera. "All the applicants should be fit



**2nd Lt. Kenny Rivera, 38, from Panama City, Panama, a physician's assistant with 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, examines an applicant's eyes during the first day of Iraqi Police recruitment day sponsored by the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.**

enough to handle the routine tasks required as an police officer here. They need to be fast reacting and to be able to provide protection to the Iraqi people."

From eyes, throat, lungs and heart checks, the staff of three medical officers worked together dividing the body into thirds to move applicants through the process for efficiently and quickly.

"We can't do any blood tests or get into deep medicines here," he said. "We are just giving a general check to make sure they are physically capable of completing the academy."

Within four days, the team of several dozen 2nd BCT soldiers and a platoon of infantry providing security and escort service will have seen more than 1,000 applicants. Maj. Linda Scharf, brigade civil affairs officer, said she hopes to meet the division requirement of 500 qualified applicants.

More important than the basic education, age and health requirements, Scharf hopes the new Iraqi police force is built on a foundation of pride and honor.

"We are helping rebuild the Iraqi police that is not corrupt and taking bribes and making a safer place to live for the Iraqi people," she said. "We are basically looking for a good morale character. We have developed a set of questions to help us determine character, but unlike the other requirements character is a very gray area – it's not black and white."

## **News**

### **Bush Arrives in London to Defend Iraq War**

LONDON (AP) - President Bush brought a forceful defense of the Iraq invasion to skeptical Britons on Tuesday, arguing that history proves war is sometimes necessary when certain values are threatened. Bush arrived here Tuesday evening for a three-day visit to America's staunchest ally, a trip that promised contrasting pictures of elegant ceremonies at Buckingham Palace and noisy street protests by thousands of anti-war demonstrators. Britain has 9,000 soldiers in Iraq, the largest non-American force in the coalition.

### **Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch Raided**

LOS OLIVOS, Calif. (AP) - Officers conducting a criminal investigation searched Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch on Tuesday. The purpose of the raid was not disclosed. Court TV cited unidentified sources as saying the search warrant was tied to sexual-abuse allegations brought by a 12- or 13-year-old boy. But there was no immediate confirmation from authorities.

### **House Approves Far-Reaching Energy Bill**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The House approved a far-reaching energy bill Tuesday that would provide billions of dollars in tax incentives for oil, gas and coal producers and give a boost to corn farmers by requiring a doubling of ethanol use in gasoline. It also would impose federal reliability rules on operators of high-voltage power lines for the first time, to reduce the likelihood of another cascading blackout like the one last summer.

### ***Chaplain's thought for the day***

#### **Communication**

People are lonely because they build walls instead of bridges.--Joseph Fort Newton

Communication is much more than words. Words are merely fingers pointing the direction to understanding--they are not understanding itself. To really communicate with someone, we have to allow ourselves, just for a moment, to become that other person. When we do this, we begin to be able to see beyond the masks that hide what another person is really feeling.

When we take the time to really see others, we may discover they are frightened, timid people longing for understanding. When we get beyond reacting to their outward behavior and move toward viewing their inner selves, it is much easier to extend a hand of friendship, to say we care, and truly mean it.

## **Oddly Enough**

### **Archaeologists Unearth Ancient Toothbrush**

BERLIN (AP) -- German archaeologists have unearthed what could be Europe's oldest toothbrush, officials said Tuesday. The brush, dug up at the site of a former hospital in the western city of Minden, is at least 250 years old, said the Landscape Association of Westfalen-Lippe, which oversees the excavation. While the bristles have rotted away, the brush's 4-inch handle of animal bone is carved at the other end into a tiny spoon believed to be used for cleaning out the owner's ears. The toothbrush is almost identical to one found earlier this year near Quedlinburg, about 100 miles farther east. Experts dated that brush at around 1750, making it the oldest found in Europe at the time, and suggest the latest find may have been come from the same workshop. Toothbrushes first became widely used in the 18th century, as tooth-rooting sugar became a fixture in the diet of wealthier Europeans.

## ***Safety Tip of the Day***

### **Acting safely is...**

- **An attitude, not a checklist**
- **A 24 hour-a-day job**
- **Everyone's responsibility**
- **Protecting our resources**

### ***This Day in History***

#### **1967: Chaplain Charles Watters receives Medal of Honor**

On this day, Chaplain (Major) Charles Watters of the 173rd Airborne Brigade is awarded the Medal of Honor. Chaplain Watters was serving with the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry when it conducted an attack against North Vietnamese forces entrenched on Hill 875 during the Battle of Dak To. The Catholic priest from New Jersey moved among the paratroopers during the intense fighting, giving encouragement and first aid to the wounded. At least six times he left the defensive perimeter with total disregard for his own personal safety to retrieve casualties and take them for medical attention. Once he was satisfied that all of the wounded were inside the perimeter, he busied himself helping the medics, applying bandages, and providing spiritual strength and support. According to reports filed by survivors of the battle, Father Watters was on his knees giving last rites to a dying soldier when an American bomber accidentally dropped a 500-pound bomb onto the group of paratroopers. Father Watters was killed instantly. He was awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor on November 4, 1969, in a ceremony at the White House.

Source: [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com)