



The Old Ironsides Report

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

1AD NCO named USAREUR Equal Opportunity Advisor of the Year

Story and photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis, 1st Armored Division PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Although engaged in combat and helping to rebuild Iraq, there is still a need to continue to enforce the Army's standards for an equal opportunity.

Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe has recognized one Task Force 1st Armored Division soldier for his efforts in the EO battle.

Competing against equal opportunity advisers from throughout USAREUR, Master Sgt. Richard Vater took the title of 2003 USAREUR Equal Opportunity Adviser of the Year Oct. 23.

Vater said it feels good to be recognized for his work.

"The work I've done resulted in me being selected, but every EO adviser worked just as hard in their units," Vater said. "They deserve to receive recognition too."

As humble as Vater tries to be, soldiers who know him said he is deserving of the honor.

"I've known Master Sgt. Vater for about 13 months," said Lt. Col. Sherry Sargent, 1AD EO program manger. "He is an extremely knowledgeable EO Adviser. I have even gone to him for advice – and that's the truth."

So, how did Vater, a military police officer by profession, get to this point?

It started with a nomination.

"Equal opportunity advisers must be nominated by their brigade commanders and command sergeants major," Vater said.

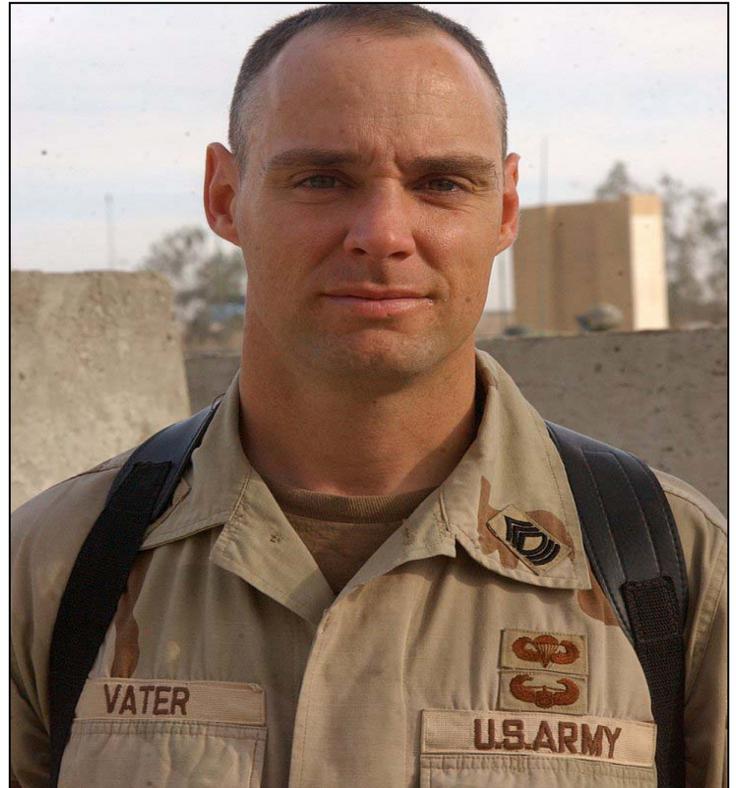
From there, a packet - consisting of a biography on the soldier, as well as letters of recommendation and a narrative on his equal opportunity achievements and performance, written by his brigade commander and command sergeant major - was forwarded to V Corps.

Vater will go on to compete in the Department of the Army EO competition.

Vater has served as the division's Artillery Brigade equal opportunity adviser since May 2001.

"Each brigade is authorized one equal opportunity adviser and division (level) is authorized two," Vater said. "(EOAs) serve as tools for the chain of command. (The equal opportunity program) gives soldiers an outlet to let (the chain of command) know when something is wrong. Those complaints can be identified by the leadership so it doesn't happen to other soldiers."

Before serving as the EOA for DIVARTY, Vater



Master Sgt. Richard Vater, 2003 USAREUR Equal Opportunity Adviser of the Year

acted as a company-level equal opportunity leader in addition to his daily MP responsibilities, in 2nd MP Co., 2nd Infantry Division, Korea, and 101st MP Co. at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Equal opportunity leaders – as they are called overseas, or equal opportunity representatives Stateside - are selected by unit commanders and trained locally. EOAs, on the other hand, go through a four-month school where they "receive extensive training in human relations and equal opportunity," Sargent said.

During his time in the EO world, Vater said he has been approached with a lot of concerns, but there are five "protective categories" the concern must fall in to be a legitimate EO case: race, color, sex, native origin and religion.

Nonetheless, Vater said soldiers are welcome to come in simply looking for advice.

"In EO we have a saying," Vater said. "Not every issue is an EO issue, but every issue is a leadership issue."

News

Sniper Receives Death Sentence

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) - Jurors decided Monday that John Allen Muhammad should be executed for masterminding the deadly sniper attacks that terrorized the Washington area for three weeks last fall. As the verdict was read, Muhammad maintained the same unflinching demeanor he had shown through most of his trial. The jury deliberated five hours over two days before reaching the verdict against the 42-year-old who had asked police to "Call me God" during the October 2002 spree.

Bush Signs \$401 Billion Defense Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush signed a \$401.3 billion defense authorization bill Monday, saying members of the U.S. armed forces are facing "a great and historic task" in confronting and defeating the forces of terrorism. "The stakes for our country could not be higher," he said. "We face enemies that measure their progress by the chaos they inflict, the fear they spread and the innocent lives they destroy."

Colombian Rebels Release Two Hostages

VALLEDUPAR, Colombia (AP) - Colombian rebels on Monday released two European backpackers kidnapped more than two months ago, but there was no word on the fate of five other foreigners still being held. The two, a German and a Spaniard, were handed over by members of Colombia's smaller rebel group, the National Liberation Army, or ELN, to a humanitarian commission in the snowcapped Sierra Nevada mountains.

Chaplain's thought for the day

Routinely Fresh

That which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. — Ecclesiastes 1:9

All of us are bound to repeat ourselves as we go about our daily routine. We can lose our enthusiasm for life if "there is nothing new under the sun."

There is another way to view life, however. The world may be likened to a stage on which the drama of eternity is being unfolded. We are the actors. The sun rises and falls like a great curtain day after day, and every time we "repeat our lines" we make a decision. We either respond to the cues of our daily circumstances just to get our part over with, or we look at our role in life as an opportunity.

As we gladly participate in this repetitive activity, character is formed, faith is strengthened, hope is increased, and endurance is developed. Through the normal course of events, God is saying to us that there is more to our earthly existence. Part of God's plan for us is that we yield to His guidance in ordinary events that occur over and over again. Repeatedly trusting the Lord throughout this month, this week, this day, and this hour is by far the surest way to make life routinely fresh.

If life is a grind, use it to sharpen your character.

Oddly Enough...

Robo-lobsters may roam the seas for scents

By Ying Lou, USA TODAY

Lobster-like robots, equipped with highly refined sensors, might one day help people detect sources of pollution and unexploded mines in the ocean.

Researchers at Brooklyn College in New York are testing two lobster-inspired robots, Wilbur and Orville, to see whether they can effectively track sources of ocean pollutants that might, for example, be killing fish.

As a side benefit, the researchers' work is helping shed light on how animals like lobsters solve problems in the real world.

Jennifer Basil, associate professor in biology, says lobsters rely heavily on their sense of smell. "They can see, but don't rely on their vision. Females and males find each other using odor, and they find food using odor. They are very good at it."

Though a large part of the human brain is devoted to visuals, 70% of a lobster's brain is involved in processing smells.

Frank Grasso, associate professor in psychology, says any potential food source or potential mate gives off an odor whose chemical trail becomes diluted by turbulence in the water.

But lobsters are able to detect even trace elements to the source.

Each lobster robot, which is built like a Dust Buster with wheels and antennae, has a computerized brain and a motor that propels it along the ocean floor.

Researchers are trying to mimic the behavior of real lobsters as they program their robots, but they recognize that a computer program will not always react the same way a real lobster would.

"Our robots are getting better. When we first started, the robots could perform only 2% of what real lobsters do," Grasso says. "But now they can perform 90% in certain difficult tracking situations."

The robots were started off with easy goals in tracking odors. When the robots detected the source in straight flows, for example, the researchers then set them after meandering flows.

So far, the robots, at least in the laboratory, have traced an odor's source across more than 32 feet.

Marc Weissburg, associate professor of biology at Georgia Institute of Technology and an expert in odor-plume-tracking behavior in marine animals, has cooperated with Grasso and Basil's team several times.

Said he believes there are some obstacles.

For instance, consider the plume of smoke from a cigarette, he says. It's dense in some patches but includes spaces of clear air. And the density changes as the plume drifts through the air. Then imagine what happens when two different odors intermingle.

"The work may seem easy, but in fact there is no mechanical device that I know of that's able to orient to a complicated stimulus," Weissburg says.

But with adequate resources and the cooperation among different fields, problems could be solved, he says.

Safety Tip

AMV accidents are normally the result of:

- Excessive speed, following too closely, failure to yield right of way, fatigue, and inattention.
- Failure to operate a vehicle as prescribed in the vehicle operator's manual.
- Failure to accomplish before, during and after operational checks/required maintenance.

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November 25, 2003

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2003				As of: Monday, November 24, 2003 9:54:57 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN CHOPPER	TODAY		00:00
00:30	ESPNEWS	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			HEADLINE NEWS	00:30
01:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - EA SPORTS MAUI INVITATIONAL: DAYTON VS CENTRAL MICHIGAN		A FISH CALLED WANDA		LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				01:30
02:00				SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - EA SPORTS MAUI INVITATIONAL: NORTH CAROLINA VS DAVIDSON	ESPNEWS	RUGRATS : - WRESTLING GRANDPA	DRAGON TALES : - FINDERS KEEPERS/ REMEMBER THE PILLOW FORT	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30		MONDAY NIGHT COUNTDOWN DELIVERED BY UPS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - VALENTINE'S DAY / THE PAPER	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS : - LAST TAP DANCE IN SPRINGFIELD	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - LET'S GO TO THE VIDEOTAPE			04:30
05:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - EA SPORTS MAUI INVITATIONAL: OHIO STATE VS SAN DIEGO STATE	MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL - NY GIANTS @ TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	J.A.G. : - NEED TO KNOW	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - JULIA ROBERTS, KIRSTEN DUNST, JULIA STILES	MSNBC LIVE	05:00
06:00			BLOOPERS : - BLOOPERS	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS		06:00
06:30				JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT		BIOGRAPHY : - RIVER PHOENIX	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - EA SPORTS MAUI INVITATIONAL: HAWAII VS SANTA CLARA				NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00			PETER JENNINGS REPORTING : - THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION: CRIME AND CONSPIRACY		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00		SESAME STREET		DISNEY'S PB&J OTTER : - TREASURE OF HOOHAW ROCK/ A SLEDDING WE GO	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30	SPORTSCENTER			WHAT'S NEW SCOOBY DOO? : - THERE'S NO CREATURE LIKE SNOW CREATURE		09:30
10:00		DRAGON TALES : - FINDERS KEEPERS/ REMEMBER THE PILLOW FORT	WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY?	LIZZIE MCGUIRE : - NIGHT OF THE DAY OF THE DEAD	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30	ESPNEWS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES	ALL THAT		10:30
11:00	MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER - 2003 MLS CUP CHICAGO FIRE @ SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - JULIA ROBERTS, KIRSTEN DUNST, JULIA STILES	RUGRATS : - WRESTLING GRANDPA	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - VALENTINE'S DAY / THE PAPER	HEADLINE NEWS	ARMY NEWSWATCH	11:30
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	THE SIMPSONS : - LAST TAP DANCE IN SPRINGFIELD	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:25		GUIDING LIGHT				12:25
12:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - LET'S GO TO THE VIDEOTAPE	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			J.A.G. : - NEED TO KNOW	NFL - NY GIANTS @ TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:13		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:13
13:30	SPORTSCENTER					13:30
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	JOE MILLIONAIRE		PRIMETIME	14:00
14:30	PBA - PBA EMPIRE STATE OPEN	JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00		TODAY			GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - MVC: AIR FORCE @ SAN DIEGO STATE		PETER JENNINGS REPORTING : - THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION: CRIME AND CONSPIRACY	ESPNEWS		16:00
16:30				HEADLINE NEWS		16:30
16:52				PACIFIC REPORT		16:52
17:00		DISNEY'S PB&J OTTER : - TREASURE OF HOOHAW ROCK/ A SLEDDING WE GO		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		WHAT'S NEW SCOOBY DOO? : - THERE'S NO CREATURE LIKE SNOW CREATURE			CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00		LIZZIE MCGUIRE : - NIGHT OF THE DAY OF THE DEAD	WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY?	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		ALL THAT	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES			18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	RUGRATS : - WRESTLING GRANDPA	MR. DESTINY		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - VALENTINE'S DAY / THE PAPER			19:30
20:00	A ROUND THE HORN	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - LAST TAP DANCE IN SPRINGFIELD		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - LET'S GO TO THE VIDEOTAPE			20:30
21:00	NFL - NY GIANTS @ TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	SMALLVILLE : - REDUX	J.A.G. : - NEED TO KNOW	MIDNIGHT MADNESS	PRIMETIME	21:00
22:00		PLANES, TRAINS & AUTOMOBILES	JOE MILLIONAIRE		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00				HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30				ESPNEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30

