



The Old Ironsides Report



Thursday, November 27, 2003

Engineers work together to provide assured mobility in Baghdad

Story and photo by Capt. Jason Railsback, C Co., 16th Engineer Battalion

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- The Al-Muthana Bridge in Northern Baghdad is important to the economic vitality of Baghdad and critical to the support of military operations in the city.

The northernmost bridge in Baghdad, it supports heavy industrial traffic.

The bridge has two Mabey-Johnson bridges that were emplaced by the U.S. military in June. One of the ramps was severely deteriorated. A large split in the ramp deck threatened to fail completely or at least seriously damage a car or truck.

A British company developed the Mabey-Jonson Bridge a few years ago as an easier to set up quick emplacement bridge. It is similar to the Bailey Bridge that was used extensively in World War II.

Soldiers from the 671st Multi-role Bridge Co. (Oregon National Guard), alongside soldiers from C Company, 16th Engineer Battalion quickly developed a plan to repair the bridge.

"The 671st Multi Role Bridge Company helped install the bridge we are repairing back in June," said Lt. Col. John Kem, 16th Engineer Battalion commander. "They were the lead with C Company, 16th (Engineers) for the installation of a bridge across the large canal near Taji back in September."

On November 18, after a thorough reconnaissance, the 671st convoyed to Camp Anaconda to the "bridge park" to get the parts needed for repair.

Excited about the mission and ready to start, the soldiers didn't want to wait until the next day to initiate repair. Headquarters and First Platoon, C Co. 16th Engineers and the company's maintenance team joined forces with the 671st to quickly reestablish a functioning bridge.

Within an hour's notice, 1st Platoon, Charlie Company was moving. The 671st provided traffic control and on-site security. Traffic flow was diverted to the northbound bridge.

Repairs took place from 9 p.m. and 11 p.m..

The engineers hauled replacement panels for the bridge ramps and the necessary bolts to the work site. A "contact truck" carried tools and acetylene torches.

Repairs first required using an acetylene torch to cut away damaged decking and deck bolts. Once complete, the two damaged deck panels were removed and replaced.



Engineers from the 671st Multi-role Bridge Co. (Oregon National Guard) and soldiers from C Company, 16th Engineer Battalion remove damaged section of a Mabey-Johnson bridge, known as the Al-Muthana Bridge, Nov. 18. One of the bridge's ramps was severely deteriorated and a large split in the ramp deck threatened to fail completely. As the northernmost bridge in Baghdad, it supports heavy industrial traffic.

The repair project allowed the sappers to work on repair techniques, Kem said.

"For example, they had to analyze how to cut out damaged portions where the bolts were too damaged to remove with tools," he said.

The mission was completely done at night, said Kem. The engineers also wanted to get to work quickly.

"Since the repair materials arrived at 7 p.m. they all wanted to start immediately," he said. "Additionally, doing it at night was better because there was much less traffic so made mission easier to control."

"The Al-Muthana Bridge is key to all movements in and out of Baghdad to the North," said 1st Lt. Charles Sleeman, 1st Platoon Leader, C Co., 16th Engineer Bn. "We, as engineers, will continue to keep this line of communication open day and night and support the good Iraqi people, causing as little disruption as possible to their daily lives."

News

U.N. Atomic Agency Censures Iran

VIENNA, Austria (AP) - The U.N. atomic agency on Wednesday adopted a resolution censuring Iran for past nuclear cover-ups and warning that its activities would be thoroughly policed to put to rest suspicions that the country had a weapons agenda. The resolution, adopted by the 35-nation board of governors of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, did not confront Iran with a direct threat of U.N. sanctions - resolving a sticking point between the United States and key European powers over how to deal with Tehran.

Iraqi Baby Undergoes Surgery in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israeli doctors operated on an Iraqi baby girl Wednesday in a lengthy procedure intended to correct a potentially fatal heart defect. Bayan Jassem was born a little more than a week ago near the northern city of Kirkuk with the arteries to her heart reversed. An American military doctor with the occupation forces discovered the infant's life-threatening condition and matched her parents with the Israeli humanitarian organization Save a Child's Heart.

Israelis Seize Bin Laden, Saddam Dolls

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israeli customs agents seized 400 Osama bin Laden dolls and 50 more Saddam Hussein dolls Wednesday, saying they were inciteful material, the customs authority said in a release. An Arab Israeli had ordered the singing and dancing dolls that carry toy guns as a "gimmick" for sale to Arabs and Jews in Israel, he told the agents when he was questioned.

Chaplain's thought for the day

Fitness Training

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. —Psalm 119:97

Some people are really into exercise. They walk, rollerblade, and bike to keep in shape. Because of their interest in exercise, they encouraged others to exercise as well.

Why do they feel this is so important? It's simple: When they don't exercise several times a week, they don't feel physically fit. They feel sluggish and lethargic. They feel that their heart is not being strengthened as it should be.

But it shouldn't stop with the physical part of our life. We also need to participate in spiritual exercise. In our walk with God we need "heart exercise" to stay fit.

The writer of Psalm 119 saw the importance of daily spiritual exercise. He loved the Word of God, meditated on it throughout the day, and obeyed it. His prayers were from his whole heart, and his hope for each new day came directly from God's Word.

How much more spiritually healthy we would be if we engaged in a spiritual fitness training program that matched that of the psalmist!

Sports...

2004 Olympics Flame to Make World Journey

By THEODORA TONGAS Associated Press Writer
ATHENS, Greece (AP) -- The flame for the Athens Games will make an unprecedented global journey from the Olympics' ancient birthplace that will include visits to South America and Africa.

The torch also will stop in Istanbul, where dozens of people died in recent terrorist bombings. The attack in neighboring Turkey heightened security fears in Athens for the Aug. 13-29 Olympics.

"The ancient and modern symbolisms of the flame - the values of peace, truce, security, brotherhood, cooperation - are more relevant today than ever," Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, head of the Athens Organizing Committee, said Wednesday.

Following its traditional lighting at Ancient Olympia, birthplace of the games 3,000 years ago, the torch will pass through all former Summer Olympic cities - from Berlin, where the torch relay was first introduced in 1936, to Sydney.

The torch will be in the United States on June 16-19, stopping in Los Angeles, St. Louis, Atlanta and New York.

Organizers said they will propose to the International Olympic Committee that the torch be lit March 25, which is Greek independence day and the day on the Julian calendar the first modern Olympics opened in Athens in 1896. Under the Gregorian - the calendar used today by most of the world - the Athens Games opened April 6, 1896.

Under the proposal, to be considered by the IOC on Thursday, the flame will make a seven-day journey through southern Greece and will then burn outside the all-marble stadium that hosted the first modern games until June 4, when it will travel to Australia.

The 2000 host will begin the international stage of the relay and the first runner in Australia will be 400-meter Sydney gold medalist Cathy Freeman, who lit the Olympic flame in Sydney.

The flame will then visit Asia and Africa before crossing the Atlantic to the Americas. Then it will zigzag through Europe to return home. Beijing, host of the 2008 Games, is also on the global route that will end in Athens on Aug. 13.

More than 3,600 torchbearers will carry the flame on its global journey, for 78 days outside Greece and covering about 48,500 miles. It will travel by air and sea, as well as by car, bicycle, motorcycle and wheelchair.

Stops will include some cities that bid for the 2004 Olympics: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in the relay's maiden visit to South America; Cape Town, South Africa, during the flame's first trip to that continent; and Istanbul.

The Greek leg will last 35 days and pass through 170 cities and towns in Greece. While Berlin introduced the torch relay, Amsterdam actually lit the first flame for its 1928 Games. A flame also burned during the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics.

The torch is lit before each Olympics by the sun's rays in a concave mirror in a ceremony at Ancient Olympia.

The Old Ironsides Report

November 27, 2003

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2003				As of: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 8:51:08 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - EA SPORTS MAUI INVITATIONAL - 3RD PLACE GAME: TEAMS TBD	HEADLINE NEWS	BATTLEFIELD: VIETNAM : - THE FALL OF SAIGON	TODAY		00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			HEADLINE NEWS	00:30
01:00			BORN YESTERDAY		LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				01:30
02:00	ESPNEWS			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30	NFL LIVE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PRESEASON NIT: UTAH VS TEXAS TECH	NBA - DETROIT PISTONS @ PHILADELPHIA 76ERS	RUGRATS : - RUNAWAY RAPTOR (PT. 2)	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - I BUILT THAT	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30			A WINNIE THE POOH THANKSGIVING	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			BUGS BUNNY THANKSGIVING DIET	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30			DAFFY DUCK'S THANKS-FOR-GIVING			04:30
05:00	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT		TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL : - I WILL WALK WITH YOU (PT. 1)	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - CAST OF 'FRIENDS' SAYS GOODBYE	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - EA SPORTS MAUI INVITATIONAL - CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: TEAMS TBD	ESPNEWS				05:30
06:00		ESPNEWS	ARMAGEDDON	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS	06:00
06:30		HEADLINE NEWS		JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - GREAT ALASKA SHOOTOUT: SETON HALL @ ALASKA-ANCHORAGE	ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS			LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00		SESAME STREET	MASTERPIECE THEATER : - A RESPECTABLE TRADE (PT. 1)	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS : - OOZY DOES IT/ BARNBOOZLED	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30	NBA FASTBREAK			HEY ARNOLD! : - STEELY PHIL/ QUALITY TIME		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - I BUILT THAT		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - THE BUG STOPS HERE	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7) : - PROJECT A, FOR ASTRAL		10:30
11:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - RUGBY WORLD CUP FINALS: ENGLAND VS AUSTRALIA	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - CAST OF 'FRIENDS' SAYS GOODBYE	RUGRATS : - RUNAWAY RAPTOR (PT. 2)	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			A WINNIE THE POOH THANKSGIVING	HEADLINE NEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	11:30
12:00		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BUGS BUNNY THANKSGIVING DIET	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:25		GUIDING LIGHT				12:25
12:30			DAFFY DUCK'S THANKS-FOR-GIVING	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
13:00	SPORTSCENTER		TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL : - I WILL WALK WITH YOU (PT. 1)	REEL TIME	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:10				MY DOG SKIP		13:10
13:13		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:13
14:00	REAL SPORTS WITH BRYANT GUMBEL	HEADLINE NEWS	ARMAGEDDON		CNN DAYBREAK	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PRESEASON NIT- SEMIFINAL # 2: GEORGIA TECH VS UCONN	TODAY		TIM ALLEN	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00				HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE 2003	MASTERPIECE THEATER : - A RESPECTABLE TRADE (PT. 1)		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30				THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	INSIDE THE NFL				THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30				ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER		RUGRATS : - RUNAWAY RAPTOR (PT. 2)	ESPNEWS		19:00
19:30			A WINNIE THE POOH THANKSGIVING	ESPNEWS		19:30
20:00	NHL - NEW JERSEY DEVILS @ ANAHEIM MIGHTY DUCKS	FOX NFL SUNDAY	BUGS BUNNY THANKSGIVING DIET	FOX NFL SUNDAY	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		NFL - GREEN BAY PACKERS @ DETROIT LIONS	DAFFY DUCK'S THANKS-FOR-GIVING	NFL - GREEN BAY PACKERS @ DETROIT LIONS		20:30
21:00			TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL : - I WILL WALK WITH YOU (PT. 1)		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
22:00			ARMAGEDDON		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:30	ESPNEWS					22:30
23:00	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - WAC: ARMY @ HAWAII				NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	23:00
23:30		THE NFL TODAY		THE NFL TODAY	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30