



The Old Ironsides Report

Saturday, November 29, 2003

Comics entertain paratroopers, turn motor pool into comedy club

Story and photo by Spc. Jason B. Baker
49th Public Affairs Detachment (Abn.)

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A large, motor pool warehouse became a comedy club and a shipping container, a stage for two hours when the soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team were entertained by a comedy tour Nov. 25.

More than 300 U.S. soldiers showed up to enjoy "The Comics On Duty World Tour," run by Armed Forces Entertainment. The show featured headline comics, Scott Henry, Gary Brightwell, Danny Villalpando, Kevin Jordan and Robert Hawkins.

The tour is a little more than halfway through its 20 days in Iraq and Kuwait, and will be performing for several forward operating bases throughout the Iraqi theater of operations. Their stop at Camp Falcon was the second of three performances that day.

"I hope it breaks up the monotony of and regiment they have to live by day-to-day," said Scott Henry, star of the UPN television show "Hank," "... maybe they can have a wake that is positive for them, for the rest of their tour in Iraq."

The crowd grew during the two-hour show as the professional comedians incited the soldiers to applause and laughter. The audience remained captivated through the end of the performance as the five comics taunted and teased for more than two hours of stand-up comedy.

"I thought it was awesome," said Sgt. Michael Boyd, Company B, 313th Military Intelligence Battalion. "Probably one of the best things I've seen; a definite morale boost."

The largest laughs could be heard when the comics brought up situations or experiences that are unique to soldiers on deployment, like the "port-a-potty."

"I don't know how many times I've been in there doing my business," comedian Gary Brightwell said to the soldiers gathered at his feet. "And it never fails someone will come up and rattle the door!"

"Hey," he screamed while imitating door-rattling noises, "Stevie Wonder! Move it on down, can't you see it's red!"

Comedian Kevin Jordan, said he has done so many of these tours, meeting with different service members over time, that he has gained material they can relate to, making the show more personal for the audience.

Comedian Robert Hawkins animated his experiences as a former Army medic for his routine, extracting applause and laughter from his audience.

Comedian Robert Hawkins animated his experiences as a former Army medic for his routine, extracting applause and laughter from his audience.

The comedians have been touring and doing stand-up comedy around the country for several years, some more than a decade, but volunteered their time and talent to entertain the troops.

Brightwell admitted to his audience that the motor pool warehouse and shipping container were not the MGM Grand



Danny Villalpando takes a load off for the paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team during a Nov. 25 show. The comedian was one of five performers in "The Comics on Duty World Tour" sponsored by the Armed Forces Entertainment. The comedy troupe will be visiting with U.S. Forces until Dec. 1.

where he was opening for Comedian Dennis Miller the week prior, but for him it has been an eye-opening experience to come to Iraq.

"On the news back home, you don't get to see how you guys are really living," Brightwell said. "But we get to see first hand how you live and experience a little bit of it for ourselves."

When asked how different a tour here is compared to back in the United States, Henry said, "It's been an amazing trip. Every time we get off stage, we climb into a Blackhawk."

"One night, half our audience had to leave as the (quick reaction force), and it ended up they had caught some bad guys," he recalled.

"More than anything," Henry added, "just meeting a bunch of incredibly courageous men and women has been rewarding."

After the show the five comedians took time to talk to the troops, sign autographs and hand out souvenir "Comics On Duty" patches.

The tour is scheduled to continue through December 1, making stops at several forward operating bases around Iraq.

News...

Holiday Shoppers Crowd Stores for Sales

Bargain-hunters braved long lines in the cold early Friday as retailers inaugurated the holiday shopping season with the usual gimmicks, including early bird specials. Imbia Barry of Marietta, Ga., lost her scarf as hundreds of shoppers, some of them running at full speed, crowded into Wal-Mart when the doors opened at 6 a.m.

Midsized SUVs Fare Poorly in Bumper Test

WASHINGTON (AP) - Midsized sport utility vehicles fared poorly in bumper crash tests performed by the insurance industry, including several that needed more than \$2,000 in repairs following 5 mph collisions. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety rated nine vehicles in results released Friday. None got the institute's highest rating, but the 2003 Honda Pilot earned the second-highest rating. The Pilot sustained an average of \$404 in damages in each of four tests.

Army Reservist Accused of Insubordination

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) -- An Army reserve officer faces insubordination charges after he questioned the legality of a waiver that his battalion was asked to sign allowing their third deployment to a war zone since January 2002.

Capt. Steve McAlpin of 401st Civil Affairs Battalion was notified in a memorandum Wednesday that he was being removed from the unit's battle roster. Members of the 401st will be deployed for duty overseas on Dec. 3.

McAlpin said he could face other punishment, including a court martial and losing rank, over the charges.

S. Korea Explains Iraq Troop Deployment

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) -- President Roh Moo-hyun said Friday that he decided to send troops to Iraq hoping it would encourage the United States to continue to work to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis.

Roh said history may judge him harshly for making the decision earlier this month to send up to 3,000 troops to Iraq to help U.S. forces restore order in Iraq. South Korea already has hundreds of non-combat troops, mostly medics and engineers in the country, a move that set off violent protests earlier this year.

Safety Message

FUEL STORAGE:

STORE FUEL CANS AT LEAST 25 FEET AWAY FROM:

- GENERATORS, TENTS AND BUILDINGS
- PREFERABLY IN THE SHADE

Sports...

Tiger Woods Engaged to Swedish Girlfriend

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) -- Tiger Woods and his Swedish girlfriend, Elin Nordegren, are engaged.

The golfer's agent, Mark Steinberg confirmed the couple's engagement to The Associated Press on Friday but declined to give details.

"She called this morning and was incredibly happy," Nordegren's father, Thomas, told the Swedish newspaper Expressen. "I only spoke shortly with them on the telephone but they were happy and I congratulated them."

Thomas Nordegren, a correspondent for Swedish Radio in Washington, could not immediately be reached for comment by the AP.

Ashley Cocks, a spokesman for the Shamwari Game Reserve in South Africa, said in a statement that Woods proposed to Nordegren while at the game park outside Port Elizabeth. Woods had been in Fancourt, South Africa, for the Presidents Cup, which ended Sunday.

The proposal came during a walk at sunset Tuesday, he said, adding that when the couple left Friday aboard a private jet, Nordegren had a "huge diamond on her finger."

Woods, 27, and Nordegren, a 23-year-old model, have been dating for nearly two years.

The South African Broadcasting Corp. also reported the engagement, saying the couple spent the night under the stars in sleeping bags and prepared their own food.

Woods and his entourage later left Port Elizabeth via Barbados to the United States, SABC reported.

Expressen said the date and location of the wedding were not disclosed, but that it was likely to take place in Sweden.

Woods' caddie, Steve Williams of New Zealand, got engaged the weekend before the President's Cup.

Chaplain's thought for the day

True Understanding

We decided that it was no good asking what is the meaning of life, because life isn't an answer, life is the question, and you, yourself, are the answer.

--Ursula K. LeGuin

How many times have we felt like we were drifting aimlessly, constantly searching for meaning in a world that seems so mixed up, seeking direction but getting nowhere? But looked at differently, "nowhere" becomes "now here." When we take things apart, stand back, and examine them from a different angle, we often find we held the answer from the beginning. Sometimes, when we're convinced we are the problem, we discover we were the solution all along.

When we look for true understanding, we can be sure it exists in this moment, and that we can find it within ourselves, with God's help.

IRON SOLDIER SHOW SCHEDULE

DATE & TIMES	LOCATION
1 DEC 03, 1500	3BCT Auditorium
3 DEC 03, 1500	3BCT Auditorium
4 DEC 03, 2000	Dogwood
5 DEC 03, 1930	Dogwood
9 DEC 03, 1200	Bandit Island
10 DEC 03, 1700	Martyr's Monument
12 DEC 03, 1900	Convention Center
13 DEC 03, 1900	Convention Center
16 DEC 03, 1600	4th BDE Hangar
19 DEC 03, 1400	19 DEC-Camp Falcon
20 DEC 03, 1400	20 DEC-Camp Falcon White
23 DEC 03, 1400	23 DEC-Camp War Eagle
24 DEC 03, 1400	24 DEC-Camp Mule Skinner
26 DEC 03 TBD	1457th ENG
27 DEC 03 TBD	389th ENG

The Old Ironsides Report

November 29, 2003

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2003				As of: Friday, November 28, 2003 8:20:39 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	TRACKING DEADLY VIPERS			00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			HEADLINE NEWS	00:30
01:00			BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - NO PLACE LIKE HOME	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE (YR. 6) : - THE VIEW FROM YOU	LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN		FRANKLIN : - FRANKLIN'S CANOE TRIP/FRANKLIN'S INTERVIEW		01:30
02:00			IRON CHEF : - SHANGHAI CRAB/CHEN VS TADASHI SUGITA	ROCKET POWER : - THE LINGOS/ SHARK ATTACK	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	ESPNEWS	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - SEC. ARKANSAS @ LSU	THE VIEW	YU-GI-OHI (TV-7): - EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30	NBA SHOOTAROUND			THE PROUD FAMILY : - SURF AND TURF	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00	NBA - TORONTO RAPTORS @ ORLANDO MAGIC		LIVING BETTER WITH CARRIE WIATT	OUTWARD BOUND: COSTA RICA/ COLORADO (TV-7): - EPISODE 15	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30			HOMES WITH STYLE : - HIGH POINT HOME FURNISHINGS MARKET	THE BEST OF : - LITTLE ITALY'S		04:30
05:00			WHILE YOU WERE OUT	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - ARIZONA @ ARIZONA STATE	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
06:00		ESPNEWS	THE AMAZING RACE : - WERE NOT AT CHARM SCHOOL LEARNING HOW TO BE A GENTLEMAN, WE'RE RACING		THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS	06:00
06:30	NBA - SAN ANTONIO SPURS @ LOS ANGELES LAKERS	ESPNEWS				06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	GILMORE GIRLS : - THEY SHOOT GILMORES, DON'T THEY?		BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:30		ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE DIVISION : - THERE BUT FOR FORTUNE	WWE RAW!	LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE (YR. 6) : - THE VIEW FROM YOU	SHINE	TRADING SPACES FAMILY : - NEW JERSEY: ORCHARD AVENUE	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30		FRANKLIN : - FRANKLIN'S CANOE TRIP/FRANKLIN'S INTERVIEW				09:30
10:00	INSIDE THE NFL	ROCKET POWER : - THE LINGOS/ SHARK ATTACK		HEADLINE NEWS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS		NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS		10:30
11:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PRESEASON NIT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: TEAMS TBD	YU-GI-OHI (TV-7): - EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE	THE VIEW	ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30		THE PROUD FAMILY : - SURF AND TURF			AIR FORCE TV NEWS	11:30
12:00		TRADING SPACES FAMILY : - NEW JERSEY: ORCHARD AVENUE	LIVING BETTER WITH CARRIE WIATT	HEADLINE NEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			HOMES WITH STYLE : - HIGH POINT HOME FURNISHINGS MARKET	ESPNEWS		12:30
13:00	SPORTSCENTER	OUTWARD BOUND: COSTA RICA/ COLORADO (TV-7): - EPISODE 15	WHILE YOU WERE OUT	ONE ON ONE : - EVERYBODY LOVES WHOM?	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:30		THE BEST OF : - LITTLE ITALY'S		ACCORDING TO JIM : - FATHER DISFIGURE		13:30
14:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - MASS MUTUAL CLASSIC: FLORIDA VS ARIZONA	ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	THE AMAZING RACE : - WERE NOT AT CHARM SCHOOL LEARNING HOW TO BE A GENTLEMAN, WE'RE RACING	THE PRACTICE : - DOWN THE HATCH	DATELINE NBC	14:00
15:00		WWE RAW!	GILMORE GIRLS : - THEY SHOOT GILMORES, DON'T THEY?	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT : - MERCY	CNN SATURDAY MORNING	15:00
16:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - GREAT ALASKA SHOOTOUT - SEMIFINAL: TEAMS TBD	ONE ON ONE : - EVERYBODY LOVES WHOM?	THE DIVISION : - THERE BUT FOR FORTUNE	HEADLINE NEWS	20/20	16:00
16:30		ACCORDING TO JIM : - FATHER DISFIGURE		SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (03'-04') : - EPISODE 8		16:30
17:00		THE PRACTICE : - DOWN THE HATCH	SHINE		SATURDAY TODAY	17:00
18:00	SPORTSCENTER	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT : - MERCY		LIVE IN HOLLYWOOD		18:00
18:30	COLLEGE GAMEDAY					18:30
19:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE VIEW	ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	WALL STREET JOURNAL	19:00
19:30		NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS			AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM	19:30
20:00	INSIDE THE NFL	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - MID-AMERICAN: TOLEDO @ BOWLING GREEN	LIVING BETTER WITH CARRIE WIATT	SPORTSCENTER	NEWS FROM CNN	20:00
20:30			HOMES WITH STYLE : - HIGH POINT HOME FURNISHINGS MARKET			20:30
21:00	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - BIG EAST: VIRGINIA TECH @ VIRGINIA		WHILE YOU WERE OUT	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - GEORGIA @ GEORGIA TECH	DATELINE NBC	21:00
22:00			THE AMAZING RACE : - WERE NOT AT CHARM SCHOOL LEARNING HOW TO BE A GENTLEMAN, WE'RE RACING		HEADLINE NEWS	22:00
22:30					AIR FORCE TV NEWS	22:30
23:00			GILMORE GIRLS : - THEY SHOOT GILMORES, DON'T THEY?		20/20	23:00
23:30		COLLEGE FOOTBALL - SEC: FLORIDA STATE VS FLORIDA				23:30