



The Old Ironsides Report

Friday, October 24, 2003

1AD Docs bring advanced obstetrics knowledge to Iraqi physicians

By Sgt. Mark Bell, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Dr. Arwa Al Shahwani and 31 other physicians from across Baghdad gathered at the Iraqi Forum for a three-day Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) course taught by 1st Armored Division doctors Oct. 22.

With hands-on training and the latest information, the course participants will soon be able to teach fellow physicians, residents and midwives procedures that could curb the number of deaths attributed to bleeding during pregnancy and delivery, said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Mark Harris, 1st Armored Division's deputy division surgeon.

"We have been very delayed during the last 13 years after the Gulf War in the latest medical treatment procedures," said Shahwani. "We need to be in touch with new advances in obstetrics and gynecology."

Both Shahwani and Harris agreed Baghdad has an average rate of five births per mother, which is considered high. Harris said although the Iraqi physicians are highly trained and educated, bringing the course to them could help decrease both the mother and child mortality rates during and after pregnancy.

"We were looking for a way that we could get together with some Iraqi physicians and share some good medical education," said Harris. "We are giving them a tool they can use to teach their residents, students, midwives and non-specialists, who don't deliver babies, the best ways to handle emergencies in obstetrics during delivery of babies."

Harris said most women who have been pregnant before have some sort of bleeding in their first trimester. "Bleeding in the first trimester of pregnancy is frightening and has dangers of losing the baby," he warned. "There are some causes for bleeding, some of which are very dangerous. We are teaching them how to manage that bleeding safely."

Harris said other complications during pregnancy, such as seizures, the inability to deliver a baby vaginally or when the baby has trouble in the uterus, are also life-threatening situations the team of doctors are teaching the Iraqi physicians to handle.

Because of the high rate of deaths associated with bleeding, Shahwani said being a physician trained on latest techniques allows her to do her most important job helping give the greatest gift of life.

Shahwani comes from a large family of doctors who currently practice in both United States and Canada.

Growing up in Michigan and returning to Iraq to go to school to be a doctor, Shahwani said the process of bringing a new life into the world doesn't have political agendas or language barriers. It does not matter if a mother is giving birth in America or Iraq, it has the same joyous feeling.

"I feel that I am helping women and babies, and I am dealing with a very difficult moment in their lives," she said. "I am looking out for two people at the same time, and it's great for me to be a witness giving a new life. I like to help humanity and that's why I am a doctor."

The ALSO course is taught in 18 countries and is the preferred method of teaching obstetrics, Harris said.



Dr. (Lt. Col.) Mark Harris, 1st Armored Division's deputy division surgeon, talks with Baghdad area physicians during a three-day Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics course taught by 1st Armored Division doctors.

"It's a very good and solid way of doing things," he said.

Using the "evidence-based" medicine method for teaching the Iraqi people, ensures that not only the instruction methods and practices are proven, but helps the Iraqi doctors understand the importance of participating in the world medicine community, said Dr. (Capt.) Lisa Foglia, a provost OB/GYN doctor assigned to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

"Hopefully, they will teach these proven methods to other doctors and residents," she said. "We are teaching them everything that has been graded on validity, and it's not based on one person's personal experience or practice, but rather a worldwide group consensus."

"According to the Iraqi doctors I have spoken with, Saddam neglected the women's health care terribly," Harris said. "It's something that resulted in higher numbers of mothers and babies dying in the time during pregnancy or right afterwards. So there is a tremendous need for this type of education here."

Harris said the physicians in Iraq are very gracious people and are very well educated. "In most cases, what they don't have is the equipment, supplies and communications in order to practice American-style medicine."

With only 10 to 15 family practitioners in a city of more than five million, being able to train the qualified doctors to train other medical staff will help put a small dent in the larger problem of the neglected health care system, said Harris.

In the end, the Baghdad region will graduate several dozen physicians not only trained in the latest pregnancy and birthing techniques, but also gain new friendship with doctors from across large oceans and different cultures.

"This has been very rewarding, and the best thing I have done since I have been deployed here," said Foglia. "It's a great feeling to open dialog between fellow medical physicians."

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NEWS

300 Illegal Workers Arrested at Wal-Marts

WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal officials arrested more than 300 illegal workers at 61 Wal-Mart stores across the country early Thursday morning and searched the office of one of the retail chain's corporate executives. Several law enforcement sources said the investigation grew out of earlier probes of Wal-Mart cleaning crew contractors in 1998 and 2001. Based on recordings of meetings and conversations among Wal-Mart executives, managers and contractors, the law enforcement officials said "various immigration violations had continued to occur with direct knowledge by the Wal-Mart corporation."

U.S., U.N. Seek Billions to Rebuild Iraq

MADRID, Spain (AP) - U.S. and Iraqi officials pleaded for billions to rebuild Iraq at a donors conference that opened Thursday with warnings that they might not get all they need right away. Despite the approval last week of a U.N. resolution setting out Iraq's future course, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan acknowledged that lingering divisions over Washington's role in running the country might deter some donors.

Iran Turns Over Nuclear Program Documents

VIENNA, Austria (AP) - Iran gave the U.N. nuclear watchdog a dossier meant to dispel fears it is trying to make atomic bombs, but a Tehran envoy acknowledged Thursday the files omitted key information about a bomb-making ingredient found in the country. Ali Akbar Salehi, Iran's chief delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency, suggested the dossier did not specify the origin of traces of highly enriched weapons-grade uranium found in his country by agency experts.

Army Motor Vehicle Accident Prevention

Soldiers continue to operate vehicles in an unsafe way. Speeding is still rampant on all Iraqi roads. AMVs that follow proper speed limits are passed by other AMVs. Leaders must enforce standards to prevent accidents.

- ✓ Enforce speed limits – 50 MPH on highways, 30 MPH on other roads and 10 MPH or less when passing pedestrians.
- ✓ Check vehicle dispatches and operators license.
- ✓ Ensure operator conducts proper vehicle PMCS.
- ✓ Wear seatbelts. Soldiers who are ejected will sustain an injury.

SPORTS

Track Officials Propose Stiff Drug Rules

By ROB GLOSTER, AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- Threatened with decertification and confronted with fresh evidence its athletes are using banned substances, USA Track & Field has proposed tougher drug rules that could include lifetime bans for first steroid offenses.

The proposed rules also could include fines of up to \$100,000 for athletes who test positive for banned drugs - and for their coaches.

The plan was unveiled Wednesday as Dwain Chambers, Europe's fastest man, became the first athlete to admit testing positive for a newly discovered designer steroid and as Masback announced that four U.S. track and field athletes also tested positive for the drug this summer.

The previously undetectable steroid, THG, is at the center of a potentially colossal scandal involving chemists, athletes and coaches. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency believes the THG came from a laboratory that supplies some of the nation's top sports stars with nutritional supplements.

Masback said the USATF's proposal is "twinned with an admission on our part that we have not done everything we could have done in the past."

Just days ago, the U.S. Olympic Committee gave the national track governing body a month to deal with doping and athlete conduct issues - or face possible decertification.

The USATF hopes to vote on the new anti-doping policy at its annual meeting Dec. 4-8 in Greensboro, N.C., after determining if it can legally implement the increased penalties under the Amateur Sports Act. Current USATF rules call for a two-year ban for a first steroid offense.

Masback said the proposed changes would not be retroactive, which means athletes who tested positive this summer for tetrahydrogestrinone, or THG, would not face a possible lifetime ban.

The plan also proposes fines of up to \$10,000 for stimulant use and up to \$100,000 for drugs such as steroids or amphetamines.

Coaches could face bans and fines of up to \$100,000 if their athletes flunk drug tests.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day: Am I Alone?

Elijah cried to the Lord, "I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." -1 Kings 19:14 (NRSV)

Elijah was depressed and lonely. He was also in danger! Ahab and Jezebel had vowed to kill him because he had stood for the Lord against the prophets of Ba'al. He was in hiding, alone. What a great gift it must have been when God told him that there were 7,000 people in Israel who also had not bowed to Ba'al! Knowing this army was standing with him helped him summon the courage to go on.

We each have times when we feel utterly helpless and alone. Others bless us by showing us that we are not. At other times, we bring God's gift of support and encouragement to them.

Lord, thank you for the ministering persons you send to us. Show us how we can be ministers for someone else. Amen.

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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2003				As of: Thursday, October 23, 2003 10:24:02 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00			MASTERPIECE THEATER : - HER MAJESTY MRS. BROWN	TODAY	60 MINUTES II	00:00
00:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				00:30
01:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS	01:00
01:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	01:30
02:00		ESPNEWS	RUGRATS : - LINEASY RIDER/ WHERE'S GRANDPA	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	02:00
02:30	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - ACC: MARYLAND @ GEORGIA TECH	ESPNEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - THE SNOWBALL EFFECT/ ONE KRABS TRASH		CBS EVENING NEWS	02:30
03:00		MLB - 2003 WORLD SERIES GM 5: NY YANKEES @ MARLINS	THE SIMPSON : - THEY SAVED LISA'S BRAIN	MLB - 2003 WORLD SERIES GM 5: NY YANKEES @ MARLINS	THE NEWSHOUR	03:00
03:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - A FROZEN MOMENT			03:30
04:00			CHARMED : - WITCHES IN TIGHTS		HANNITY & COLMES	04:00
05:00			THE X-FILES : - PILOT		THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS	05:00
05:30	NBA - PRESEASON: CLIPPERS @ LAKERS					05:30
06:00			THE JEFF CORWIN EXPERIENCE : - THE BIG BAD WOLF?		BET NIGHTLY NEWS	06:00
06:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	AMAZON SHOCKER: THE ELECTRIC EEL	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30		HEADLINE NEWS				07:30
08:00	INSIDE THE NFL	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - BUFFY VS DRACULA		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
09:00	SPORTSCENTER	TELETUBBIES : - CHRISTMAS TREE	IRON CHEF : - MATSUTAKE/SAKAI VS MASAMITSU TAKAHASHI	CALILOU : - PETS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	09:00
09:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		WEEKENDERS : - SUPER KIDS		09:30
10:00	NHL - CAROLINA HURRICANES @ BOSTON BRUINS	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - SECRETS OF WOMEN WHO	RUGRATS : - LINEASY RIDER/ WHERE'S GRANDPA	POWERPUFF GIRLS : - THE ROWDYRUFF BOYS	NIGHTLINE	10:00
10:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - THE SNOWBALL EFFECT/ ONE KRABS TRASH	THE PROUD FAMILY : - MAKEOVER	HEADLINE NEWS	10:30
11:00		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	THE SIMPSON : - THEY SAVED LISA'S BRAIN	JEOPARDY!	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	11:00
11:25		GUIDING LIGHT				11:25
11:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - A FROZEN MOMENT	HEADLINE NEWS		11:30
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			CHARMED : - WITCHES IN TIGHTS	ESPNEWS	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	12:00
12:13		GENERAL HOSPITAL				12:13
12:30	NFL LIVE			HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	THE X-FILES : - PILOT	KING OF THE HILL : - BOXING LUANNE		13:00
13:30		JUDGE JUDY		THAT 70'S SHOW : - GOING TO CALIFORNIA		13:30
14:00	MLB - 2003 WORLD SERIES GM 5: NY YANKEES @ MARLINS	TODAY	THE JEFF CORWIN EXPERIENCE : - THE BIG BAD WOLF?	SURVIVOR: PEARL ISLANDS	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	14:00
15:00			AMAZON SHOCKER: THE ELECTRIC EEL	24 : - DAY 2: 9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.		15:00
16:00		CALILOU : - PETS	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - BUFFY VS DRACULA	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30		WEEKENDERS : - SUPER KIDS		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO	CHANNEL ONE	16:30
16:45					WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	16:45
17:00	BASEBALL TONIGHT	POWERPUFF GIRLS : - THE ROWDYRUFF BOYS	IRON CHEF : - MATSUTAKE/SAKAI VS MASAMITSU TAKAHASHI		THE EARLY SHOW	17:00
17:30	GILLETTE WORLD SPORT	THE PROUD FAMILY : - MAKEOVER		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN		17:30
18:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	RUGRATS : - LINEASY RIDER/ WHERE'S GRANDPA			18:00
18:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - THE SNOWBALL EFFECT/ ONE KRABS TRASH	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	INSIDE THE NFL	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSON : - THEY SAVED LISA'S BRAIN	EVIL DEAD II	MSNBC LIVE	19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - A FROZEN MOMENT			19:30
20:00	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - ACC: MARYLAND @ GEORGIA TECH	KING OF THE HILL : - BOXING LUANNE	CHARMED : - WITCHES IN TIGHTS		FOX NEWS	20:00
20:30		THAT 70'S SHOW : - GOING TO CALIFORNIA				20:30
20:45				ARMY OF DARKNESS (AKA EVIL DEAD III)		20:45
21:00		SURVIVOR: PEARL ISLANDS	THE X-FILES : - PILOT		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
22:00	PGA TOUR - FUNAI CLASSIC @ THE WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT: SECOND ROUND	24 : - DAY 2: 9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.	THE JEFF CORWIN EXPERIENCE : - THE BIG BAD WOLF?		STUDIO B WITH SHEPARD SMITH	22:00
22:30				CINEMA SECRETS : - FROM COMICS TO CINEMA		22:30
23:00		HEADLINE NEWS	AMAZON SHOCKER: THE ELECTRIC EEL	TODAY	INSIDE POLITICS	23:00
23:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			HEADLINE NEWS	23:30