



The Old Ironsides Report



Friday, April 09, 2004

US CENTCOM, TF 1 AD staying the course

By Sgt. Merrion Lasonde, 122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – U.S. forces will remain in Iraq as long as necessary to bring peace and stability to Iraq according to the commanding generals of the U.S. Central Command and Task Force 1st Armored Division.

Speaking at an impromptu press conference following a mission briefing, Gen. John Abizaid, commander, U.S. Central Command, and Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, Task Force 1st Armored Division commanding general, addressed the current situation in Iraq April 8.

Abizaid said that the current unstable situation in Iraq is due to insurgents who do not want to see a free and prosperous Iraq. Members of these bands include small groups of former Hussein loyalists, militiamen, terrorists and religious extremists. Battles between these groups and coalition forces have taken place in Baghdad and southern Iraqi cities of Najaf, Kufah and Nasiriyah.

"I feel it is a small group of people, anti-democratic in their outlook, that are trying to stop the forward movement of the Iraqi people," Abizaid said.

Dempsey said that battles between the insurgents and U.S. forces have been decisive and swift.

"There are militia's seeking to intimidate the local populace," Dempsey said. "When confronted, our attackers have been defeated. We have said that there will be no militias allowed. When we have encountered fights, they have been rapid, violent and very successful on our part."

Task Force 1st Armored Division Soldiers are battle hardened, know their communities and have relationships with local leaders and residents, Abizaid said.

"We have some of the most experienced and battle-ready troops currently on the ground. If the troops' stay here has to be extended to get the job done, so be it," he said. "This is a slow campaign. We are trying hard not to harm innocent civilians. We will use U.S. and coalition troops as needed to get the job done."

There are about 25,000 Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division being joined in and around Baghdad by about 15,000 arriving 1st Cavalry Division troops, a total of 40,000 American troops are now in the Iraqi capital. Roughly 11,000 more than before the troop rotation began in January.

Currently there are about 134,000 military personnel in Iraq, up from 120,000 in November.

We have plenty of military capacity to deal with the problem," Abizaid said. "We have a sufficient force on the ground to deal with the problem."



Gen. John Abizaid, commander, U.S. Central Command, and Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, Task Force 1st Armored Division commanding general, meet with members of the press during an informal news conference April 8.

In addition to U.S. and other Coalition forces, Iraqi defense forces – the new Iraqi Army, the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps and Iraqi Police Service – are fighting for their country, he said.

"We have gotten these organizations effective to a point and we will continue to work with them," Dempsey said.

"We need to empower the Iraqi leaders so that they can take control of their country," Abizaid added.

Thank you

Readers:

This is the last edition of the "Old Ironsides Report." Starting Saturday, April 10, the "Daily Charge" will be taking its place. It is produced by the Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Section and the 122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. Thank you for supporting the Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division and for your readership.

Master Sgt. David Melancon, NCOIC, 1st Armored Division PAO, editor

NEWS...

Militiamen Control Parts of 3 Iraq Cities

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Shiite Muslim militants held partial control Thursday over three southern Iraqi cities, while Sunni insurgents killed a U.S. Marine in the battle for Fallujah. In escalating violence against foreign civilians, insurgents kidnapped three Japanese, eight South Koreans and two Arab aid workers from Jerusalem. The militia led by radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has full control over the city of Kut and partial control in Najaf, but coalition forces will move soon to break their hold, said Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez. Residents of Kufa said militiamen also control that southern city by holding police stations and government buildings.

Rice Says Bush Understood al-Qaida Threat

WASHINGTON (AP) - National security adviser Condoleezza Rice testified Thursday "there was no silver bullet that could have prevented" the Sept. 11, 2001 terror strikes, conceding the United States was ill-prepared despite a threat two decades in the making. President Bush "understood the threat, and he understood its importance," in advance, she told a national commission in implicit rejection of claims made last month by former terrorism aide Richard Clarke.

Energy Dept. Sees Summer Gas Price Hike

WASHINGTON (AP) - A motorist can expect to see higher gasoline prices, averaging \$1.76 a gallon, throughout the summer as supplies will remain tight and demand is expected to increase to record levels, the Energy Department predicted Thursday. The analysis by the Energy Information Administration said fuel prices will probably continue to increase over the next three months and then decline somewhat during the rest of the summer. It said the average between now and the end of June is likely to be about \$1.81 a gallon nationwide.

U.S. Jobless Claims Tumble to 328,000

WASHINGTON (AP) - The number of people filing new claims for unemployment benefits dropped last week to the lowest level in more than three years, a promising sign that companies feel better about the economy's prospects and are less inclined to get rid of workers. The Labor Department reported that new applications filed for jobless claims declined by a seasonally adjusted 14,000 to 328,000 for the week ending April 3. That marked the lowest level since April 13, 2001.

Thought for the day...

Manners

While shuffling along a crowded railroad platform in Rome one day, Hermann Goering collided with an Italian aristocrat. When the latter gentleman demanded an apology, Goering snidely retorted: "I am Hermann Goering."

"As an excuse that is not enough," the aristocrat replied, "but as an explanation it is ample."

In politics...

Government Licenses First Private Rocket

By LESLIE MILLER, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The government on Wednesday awarded a California aviation company the first license for a manned suborbital rocket.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced that it gave a one-year license to Scaled Composites of Mojave, Calif., a company founded by aviation maverick Burt Rutan. His goal is public space travel within 10 years.

Rutan is best known for designing the Voyager airplane that made the first nonstop, unrefueled flight around the world in 1986. But his dream is to inspire excitement about space flight.

Though he declined to comment on obtaining the launch license, Rutan posted a statement on the company's Web site expressing his hopes that ordinary people can travel to space in 10 years.

"I strongly feel that, if we are successful, our program will mark the beginning of a renaissance for manned space flight," he wrote. "This might even be similar to that wonderful time period between 1908 and 1912 when the world went from a total of ten airplane pilots to hundreds of airplane types and thousands of pilots in 39 countries. We need affordable space travel to inspire our youth."

The Scaled Composites craft consists of a rocket plane, dubbed SpaceShipOne, and the White Knight, an exotic jet designed to carry it aloft for a high-altitude launch. SpaceShipOne, made of graphite and epoxy, has short wings and twin vertical tails. It reached 12.9 miles altitude in a trial flight; the license will allow the spacecraft to reach the edge of space, about 60 miles up.

The license is a prerequisite for the X Prize competition, an international space race that will give \$10 million to the first company or person to launch a manned craft to 62.5 miles above the Earth, and then do it again within two weeks. The craft must be able to carry three people.

The prize, announced in 1996, is sponsored by the privately funded X Prize Foundation in St. Louis. Supporters include Dennis Tito, the American who spent \$20 million to fly in a Russian craft as the first space tourist; pilot Erik Lindbergh, the grandson of Charles Lindbergh; former astronaut and U.S. Sen. John Glenn; and movie actor Tom Hanks.

FAA spokesman Henry Price said the agency is considering two other applications for launch licenses. One is an X Prize contestant.

Twenty-seven contestants from seven countries have registered for the X Prize competition.

Before launching the spacecraft in the X Prize competition, Scaled Composites must give the prize sponsors 90 days notice, Price said. The company can launch its rocket before that, he said, but it must be in an area that isn't risky.

Scaled Composites is located in the Mojave Desert.

FAA inspectors carefully examined the space vehicle to make sure it's safe, said Price.

"There's no sure thing in anything when it comes to rocketry," he said. "We want to do what we can with the knowledge we have to make sure the launch is as safe as possible for the public."

The company also had to demonstrate that it was adequately insured for a launch and that it met environmental standards, Price said.

A suborbital flight reaches space but doesn't travel fast enough or high enough to complete an orbit of the Earth.

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Today in history...

April 8, 563:B.C. GAUTAMA BUDDHA IS BORN

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) -- On this day, Buddhists celebrate the commemoration of the birth of Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, thought to have lived in India from 563 B.C. to 483 B.C. Actually, the Buddhist tradition that celebrates his birthday on April 8 originally placed his birth in the 11th century B.C., and it was not until the modern era that scholars determined that he was more likely born in the sixth century B.C., and possibly in May rather than April.

According to the *Tripitaka*, which is recognized by scholars as the earliest existing record of the Buddha's life and discourses, Gautama Buddha was born as Prince Siddhartha, the son of the king of the Sakya people. The kingdom of the Sakyas was situated on the borders of present-day Nepal and India. Siddhartha's family was of the Gautama clan. His mother, Queen Mahamaya, gave birth to him in the park of Lumbini, in what is now southern Nepal. A pillar placed there in commemoration of the event by an Indian emperor in the third century B.C. still stands.

At his birth, it was predicted that the prince would either become a great world monarch or a Buddha--a supremely enlightened teacher. The Brahmins told his father, King Suddhodana, that Siddhartha would become a ruler if he were kept isolated from the outside world. The king took pains to shelter his son from misery and anything else that might influence him toward the religious life. Siddhartha was brought up in great luxury, and he married and fathered a son. At age 29, he decided to see more of the world and began excursions off the palace grounds in his chariot. In successive trips, he saw an old man, a sick man, and a corpse, and since he had been protected from the miseries of aging, sickness, and death, his charioteer had to explain what they were. Finally, Siddhartha saw a monk, and, impressed with the man's peaceful demeanor, he decided to go into the world to discover how the man could be so serene in the midst of such suffering.

Siddhartha secretly left the palace and became a wandering ascetic. He traveled south, where the centers of learning were, and studied meditation under the teachers Alara Kalama and Udraka Ramaputra. He soon mastered their systems, reaching high states of mystical realization, but was unsatisfied and went out again in search of nirvana, the highest level of enlightenment. For nearly six years, he undertook fasting and other austerities, but these techniques proved ineffectual and he abandoned them. After regaining his strength, he seated himself under a pipal tree at what is now Bodh Gaya in west-central India and promised not to rise until he had attained the supreme enlightenment. After fighting off Mara, an evil spirit who tempted him with worldly comforts and desires, Siddhartha reached enlightenment, becoming a Buddha at the age of 35.

The Gautama Buddha then traveled to the deer park near Benares, India, where he gave his first sermon and outlined the basic doctrines of Buddhism. According to Buddhism, there are "four noble truths": (1) existence is suffering; (2) this suffering is caused by human craving; (3) there is a cessation of the suffering, which is nirvana; and (4) nirvana can be achieved, in this or future lives, though the "eightfold path" of right views, right resolve, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration.

For the rest of his life, the Buddha taught and gathered disciples to his *sangha*, or community of monks. He died at age 80, telling his monks to continue working for their spiritual liberation by following his teachings. Buddhism eventually spread from India to Central and Southeast Asia, China, Korea, Japan, and, in the 20th century, to the West. Today, there are an estimated 350 million people in 100 nations who adhere to Buddhist beliefs and practices.



1ST ARMORED DIVISION RETENTION

**OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM
REDEPLOYMENT SUPPORT**



**THE DIVISION RETENTION OFFICE WILL PROVIDE RETENTION
SUPPORT FOR SOLDIERS REDEPLOYING THROUGH KUWAIT.**

**SFC NAGLE WILL BE LOCATED AT CP KUWAIT
FROM 6 APRIL 2004 UNTIL MISSION COMPLETE.**

**SFC DAN NAGLE
Career Counselor
daniel.nagle1@us.army.mil**

**SEE YOUR 
CAREER COUNSELOR
TODAY**

The Old Ironsides Report April 9, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, APRIL 09, 2004				As of: Thursday, April 08, 2004 8:02:31 PM	
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS
00:00	PGA TOUR - THE MASTERS: FIRST ROUND	HEADLINE NEWS		ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTRY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE LIFE OF A CAVEMAN	HEADLINE NEWS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS
01:00			MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - DANIEL DERONDA (PT. 1)	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE
01:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):			
02:00					HEADLINE NEWS
02:30	COLLEGE HOCKEY - NCAA FROZEN FOUR: DENVER VS MINNESOTA DULUTH	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	EVERY WOMAN - CONNIE STEVENS/ ELISA SALINAS/ LILLIAN VERNON		NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
03:00		4 QTRS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - VACANT LOT	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
03:30		MLB - NY METS @ ATLANTA BRAVES	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS		CBS EVENING NEWS
04:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER AT THE BAT	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - JUST A BABY/THE CAMPOUT	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - YOU ONLY HURT THE ONE YOU LOVE	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	
05:00	MLB - COLORADO ROCKIES @ ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS		THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - DESCENT	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES
06:00			BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER SIX	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR
06:30		ESPNEWS			
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS (TVPG): - TOOTHED TITANS	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS
07:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT
08:00	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	HEADLINE NEWS	WALKING WITH DINOSAURS - DEATH OF A DYNASTY	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE
08:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):	
08:30	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	WALKING WITH PREHISTORIC BEASTS (TVG): - MAMMOTH JOURNEY		
09:00		SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - AFTERLIFE		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN
09:15				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):	
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - JUST A BABY/THE CAMPOUT	IRON CHEF (TVPG): - CLAM/SAKAI VS KUNIO SANTO	HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - RENT DAY	PAULA ZAHN NOW
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		ALL GROWN UP (TVY): - TWEENAGE TYCOONS	
11:00	COLLEGE HOCKEY - NCAA FROZEN FOUR: MAINE VS BOSTON COLLEGE	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - VACANT LOT	KIM POSSIBLE (TVY7): - GRUDGE MATCH	NIGHTLINE
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TVY7): - DAYDREAM BELIEVER/THIS TIME WITH FEELING	HEADLINE NEWS
11:45		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):			
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER AT THE BAT	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - YOU ONLY HURT THE ONE YOU LOVE	HEADLINE NEWS	
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):			
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT	
13:00			THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - DESCENT	ESPNEWS	PRIMETIME
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):			
13:30				HEADLINE NEWS	
13:52				PACIFIC REPORT	
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER SIX	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - DIATRIBE OF A MAD HOUSEWIFE	THE O'REILLY FACTOR
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		THAT 70'S SHOW (TVPG): - CELEBRATION DAY	
15:00	PGA TOUR - THE MASTERS: FIRST ROUND	TODAY	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS (TVPG): - TOOTHED TITANS	SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG):	GOOD MORNING AMERICA
16:00			WALKING WITH DINOSAURS - DEATH OF A DYNASTY	ALIAS (TVPG): - SUCCESSION	
16:30			WALKING WITH PREHISTORIC BEASTS (TVG): - MAMMOTH JOURNEY		
17:00		HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - RENT DAY	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - AFTERLIFE	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS
17:22				PACIFIC REPORT	
17:30	NHL - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 1: ST. LOUIS BLUES @ SAN JOSE SHARKS	ALL GROWN UP (TVY): - TWEENAGE TYCOONS		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING
18:00		KIM POSSIBLE (TVY7): - GRUDGE MATCH	IRON CHEF (TVPG): - CLAM/SAKAI VS KUNIO SANTO		THE EARLY SHOW
18:30		MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TVY7): - DAYDREAM BELIEVER/THIS TIME WITH FEELING		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):	
19:00		JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - VACANT LOT		
19:30	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	
20:00		ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER AT THE BAT	HOT SHOTS	FOX NEWS LIVE
20:30	NBA - MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES @ SACRAMENTO KINGS	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - YOU ONLY HURT THE ONE YOU LOVE		
21:00		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - DIATRIBE OF A MAD HOUSEWIFE	THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - DESCENT		PRIMETIME
21:30		THAT 70'S SHOW (TVPG): - CELEBRATION DAY		SELENA	
21:45					
22:00		SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG):	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER SIX		FOX NEWS LIVE
23:00	INSIDE THE NBA	ALIAS (TVPG): - SUCCESSION	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS (TVPG): - TOOTHED TITANS		HEADLINE NEWS
23:30	THE HOT LIST				INSIDE POLITICS