



The Old Ironsides Report

Tuesday, April 27, 2004



Tanker helps leaders 'see' the battlefield

Story, photo by Sgt. Shauna McRoberts, 1 AD PAO
BAGHDAD, Iraq -- When Sgt. Jose Suarez arrived in Wiesbaden, Germany in the summer of 2001, the first thing he asked to see was his company's motor pool.

Trained as an armored crewmember, he was surprised to discover that the only vehicles in the motor pool of his new unit -- Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division -- were 5-ton vehicles and HMMWVs.

"I asked 'where are the tanks?'" he recalled.

Suarez soon learned that instead of serving as an armored crewmember, he was going to be working in 1AD headquarters' operations section as a Command and Control Personal Computer (C2PC) operator.

C2PC is a computer program that allows a division commanding general and other key leaders to see a clear picture of the battlefield by plotting important information on a digitized map. The operator is responsible for plotting unit locations, checkpoints and boundaries, offensive operations, and any significant actions occurring within the division's area of operations.

"When I found out what I was going to be doing, I was really surprised," Suarez said. "I didn't know what to expect. The only thing I knew was tanks."

Nearly three years later, Suarez now tracks 1AD's battlefield all over Iraq, and is known as "the C2PC subject-matter expert," said Sgt. Maj. David Davenport, 1AD operations sergeant major.

"He is a very smart and aggressive young noncommissioned officer," said Davenport. "And he knows his job very well."

When Suarez, a native of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, enlisted in the U.S. Army in April 1998, he never envisioned he'd one day be working as a computer operator in Iraq.

"I just wanted to be a tanker," said Suarez. "A recruiter showed me a video of tank gunnery and I knew right away that's what I wanted to do."

In May 1998, Suarez started his military career at Fort Knox, Ky., where he went through armor one-station unit training which included basic and military occupational specialty training. He graduated in September 1998.

Suarez, who has been married for seven years to his high school sweetheart, Sandy, and has a four-year old daughter, Lourdes. He reported for his first assignment with Company B, 1st Battalion, 33rd Armor



Sgt. Jose Suarez, an armored crewmember with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division, plots a traffic control point on his Command and Control Personal Computer (C2PC) program at 1AD headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. Suarez has worked as a C2PC operator with 1AD for nearly three years.

Regiment tank driver, loader and gunner.

"It was great, I loved it," he said. "We were always in the field, doing gunneries and battalion, company, and platoon STXs (situational training exercises). When we weren't in the field, we were doing maintenance on our tanks."

In April 2001, Suarez re-enlisted for an assignment in Germany. Though he never expected to wind up as a C2PC operator in a division headquarters, Suarez says he is grateful for the experience.

"I have gained a lot from this unit," he said. "I've worked with some great people who have taught me a lot about leadership and professionalism."

Suarez exemplifies professionalism, said to Maj. David Sink, a 1AD battle major, who has served with him in Baghdad, Iraq for the past year.

"A C2PC operator has an extremely important job because he allows the commanding general to see a picture of the current fight," said Sink. "Sgt. Suarez is dedicated to this job. He sets an example for selfless service."

NEWS...

2 GI's Killed in Iraq Blast in WMD Search

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - An explosion leveled part of a building as U.S. troops searched it for suspected "chemical munitions" Monday. Two soldiers were killed and five wounded, and a cheering mob of Iraqis looted their wrecked Humvees, taking away weapons, a helmet and a bandolier. Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt did not say what sort of chemical munitions were believed to be produced at the site. After the blast, there was no sign in the area of precautions against chemicals.

Barzani Blames U.S. for Iraq Standoffs

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - The current president of Iraq's U.S.-picked Governing Council, Massoud Barzani, said Monday that American mistakes helped lead to the military deadlock outside of Najaf and Fallujah because Washington allowed "an army of liberation" to become "an army of occupation." Barzani warned the United States that civilians must not be harmed during any assault on the cities, but also cautioned that the U.S. cannot act softly and give insurgents "the impression that they have the upper hand."

China Rules Out Hong Kong Direct Election

HONG KONG (AP) - Mainland China dealt a crushing blow to Hong Kong's hopes for full democracy Monday, when its most powerful legislative panel ruled the territory won't have direct elections for its next leader in 2007 or for all its lawmakers in 2008. Many people in Hong Kong have been demanding the right to democratically elect a successor to their chief executive, Tung Chee-hwa, a former shipping tycoon chosen for his position by an 800-member committee that tends to side with Beijing.

Court Won't Reinstate Prayer at School

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court said Monday it will not consider reinstating mealtime prayers at a state-funded military college, turning aside an appeal from Virginia officials who wanted to preserve the tradition. Justice Antonin Scalia blasted his colleagues for refusing to hear the case, arguing that it raised important church-state and other questions. Leaving those issues unresolved is unfair to Virginia Military Institute, Scalia wrote in a dissent joined by fellow conservative Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist.

In other news...

Army Wants Radar to Detect Terror Attacks

By THEO EMERY, Associated Press Writer
LEXINGTON, Mass. (AP) -- For the U.S. Army, Doppler radar isn't just about more precise weather mapping and detecting wind shear. It also holds promise as an early warning system for airborne biological and chemical attacks.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers are working with the Army to develop a detection system that would involve modifying federal radar stations in nearly three dozen cities.

Congress has so far allocated \$15 million to develop the so-called Homeland Defense Chemical Biological Umbrella, with a handful of stations expected to be functional by year's end.

The threat of airborne releases of chemical or biological agents in the skies, once grist for pulp spy novels, took on new urgency after the Sept. 11 attacks. Investigators found evidence that groups of men - which may have included one of the hijackers - made repeated inquiries about crop-duster planes in Florida, possibly to disperse chemical agents like the nerve agent VX, or biological poisons such as anthrax.

Army project leader Arne Johnson said he's confident the system will work. He declined to discuss detailed results of tests, which began last year. "They show the radar does have the capability of this type of event detection," he said.

The project will eventually use 45 Federal Aviation Administration radar sites around the country that are located near airports to detect wind shear - the sudden, dangerous air currents that can dash an airplane to the ground as it takes off or lands. The FAA's Terminal Doppler Weather Radar system is separate from the National Weather Service and commercial Doppler radar.

The Army won't discuss how the radar will identify potential attacks, except to say that the computer programs will be able to differentiate between typical air and weather patterns around aircraft, and a chemical or biological event. Once a release is detected, the cloud's movement can be tracked to help local emergency personnel respond and try to protect people in the vicinity.

Some experts have concerns, however, about whether the umbrella makes economic sense - and whether it will be able to accurately warn against deadly agents in the air.

Dr. Tara O'Toole, a physician and bioterrorism expert who heads the Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, questioned whether the undertaking was technically possible. Even if it works, she said, it might be hard to distinguish between harmless dust and pollution and something more sinister.

"You get a lot of false positives if you're monitoring the area 24 hours a day, seven days a week," she said.

The Army has already tested whether Doppler radar - which detects the movement, speed and direction of objects rather than simply pinpointing their location as conventional radar does - could detect substances released into the air.

Last year, a plane sprayed harmless grain alcohol, clay dust and a mix of water and polyethylene glycol - an ingredient in lotions and mascara - over Oklahoma fields. Final tests that would closely mimic an actual release are planned for early May. A demonstration that will be evaluated by observers is tentatively set for late May or June.

Officials said the Army hopes to have five Doppler locations scanning the skies by year's end, with other places added later. The system is just part of a much broader strategy.

Thought for the day...

Opportunity

The story goes of Sam and Jed, two hunters who wanted to capture a live wolf to collect a bounty of \$5,000. Day and night, they scoured the mountains and forests looking for their valuable prey. Exhausted one night, they fell asleep dreaming of their potential fortune.

Suddenly, Sam awoke to see that they were surrounded by about 50 wolves with flaming eyes and bared teeth. He nudged his friend and said, "Jed, wake up! We're rich."

Most often, people fail to see opportunity because it comes disguised as a problem.

Today in history... APRIL 23

April 27, 1521: MAGELLAN KILLED IN THE PHILIPPINES

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) After traveling three-quarters of the way around the globe, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan is killed during a tribal skirmish on Mactan Island in the Philippines. Earlier in the month, his ships had dropped anchor at the Philippine island of Cebú, and Magellan met with the local chief, who after converting to Christianity persuaded the Europeans to assist him in conquering a rival tribe on the neighboring island of Mactan. In the subsequent fighting, Magellan was hit by a poisoned arrow and left to die by his retreating comrades.

Magellan, a Portuguese noble, fought for his country against the Muslim domination of the Indian Ocean and Morocco. He participated in a number of key battles and in 1514 asked Portugal's King Manuel for an increase in his pension. The king refused, having heard unfounded rumors of improper conduct on Magellan's part after a siege in Morocco. In 1516, Magellan again made the request and the king again refused, so Magellan went to Spain in 1517 to offer his services to King Charles I, later Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.

In 1494, Portugal and Spain, at the prompting of Pope Alexander VI, settled disputes over newly discovered lands in America and elsewhere by dividing the world into two spheres of influence. A line of demarcation was agreed to in the Atlantic Ocean--all new discoveries west of the line were to be Spanish, and all to the east Portuguese. Thus, South and Central America became dominated by the Spanish, with the exception of Brazil, which was discovered by the Portuguese explorer Pedro Álvares Cabral in 1500 and was somewhat east of the demarcation line. Other Portuguese discoveries in the early 16th century, such as the Moluccas Islands--the Spice Islands of Indonesia--made the Spanish jealous.

To King Charles, Magellan proposed sailing west, finding a strait through the Americas, and then continuing west to the Moluccas, which would prove that the Spice Islands lay west of the demarcation line and thus in the Spanish sphere. Magellan knew that the world was round but underestimated its size, thinking that the Moluccas must be situated just west of the American continent, not on the other side of a great uncharted ocean.

The king accepted the plan, and on September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail from Spain in command of five ships and 270 men.

Magellan sailed to West Africa and then to Brazil, where he searched the South American coast for a strait that would take him to the Pacific. He searched the Ryo de la Plata, a large estuary south of Brazil, for a way through; failing, he continued south along the coast of Patagonia. At the end of March 1520, the expedition set up winter quarter at Port St. Julian. On Easter day at midnight, the Spanish captains mutinied against their Portuguese captain, but Magellan crushed the revolt, executing one of the captains and leaving another ashore when his ship left St. Julian in August.

On October 21, he finally discovered the strait he had been seeking. The Strait of Magellan, as it became known, is located near the tip of South America, separating Tierra del Fuego and the continental mainland. Only three ships entered the passage; one had been wrecked and another deserted. It took 38 days to navigate the treacherous strait, and when ocean was sighted at the other end Magellan wept with joy.

He was the first European explorer to reach the Pacific Ocean from the Atlantic. His fleet accomplished the westward crossing of the ocean in 99 days, crossing waters so strangely calm that the ocean was named "Pacific," from the Latin word *pacificus*, meaning "tranquil." By the end, the men were out of food and chewed the leather parts of their gear to keep themselves alive. On March 6, 1521, the expedition landed at the island of Guam. Ten days later, they reached the Philippines--they were only about 400 miles from the Spice Islands.

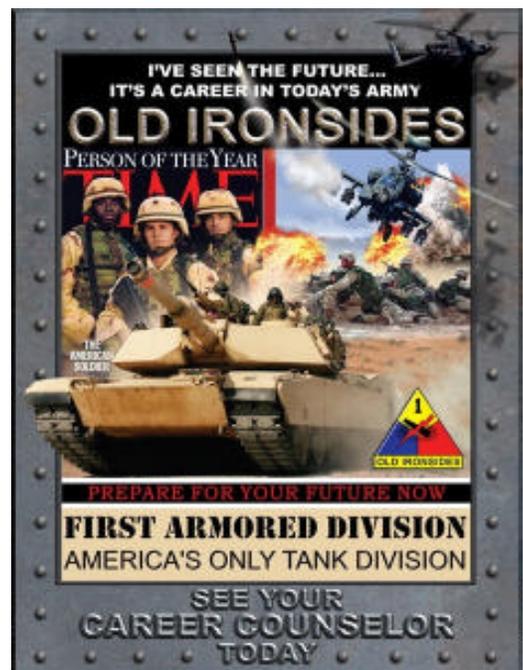
After Magellan's death, the survivors, in two ships, sailed on to the Moluccas and loaded the hulls with spice. One ship attempted, unsuccessfully, to return across the Pacific. The other ship, the *Victoria*, continued west under the command of the Basque navigator Juan Sebastián de Elcano. The vessel sailed across the Indian Ocean, rounded the Cape of Good Hope, and arrived at Seville on September 9, 1522, becoming the first ship to circumnavigate the globe.

Legal Services Return

Legal Assistance is once again available for soldiers on the Baghdad International Airport, although the location has changed. Soldiers are advised to review their Powers of Attorney - they may be nearing their expiration date. Individual soldiers in need of a power of attorney, a will, basic legal advice, or just a listening ear, should stop by the Legal Support Center located on the 2nd floor of "Hotel California." Hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7 days a week.

If more practical, units may request a dedicated "JAG day" and have Legal Assistance visit the unit itself.

Additionally, if you have had to cancel your travel plans as a result of 1AD's extension, Legal Assistance is initiating a campaign to try and help soldiers obtain refunds. For further information, please contact SPC Redulla, SGT Matsudo, or CPT Dohn at 551-0694.



The Old Ironsides Report April 27, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2004

As of: Monday, April 26, 2004 9:29:18 PM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - THQ WORLD SUPERCROSS GP (250CC) SALT LAKE CITY, UT	HEADLINE NEWS	NOVA (TVPG): - BUILDING BIG: DOMES	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		STAR TREK VI: UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 4: DETROIT PISTONS @ MILWAUKEE BUCKS	SPORTS SPECIAL - NFL DRAFT SPECIAL WRAP-UP	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - DRAGON AND THE PROFESSOR	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS		CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00		NHL - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 3: SAN JOSE SHARKS @ COLORADO AVALANCHE	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - TREE HOUSE OF HORROR III	DRAGON TALES (TVY): - JUST THE TWO OF US/ COWBOY MAX	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - SHAKESPEARE	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		04:30
05:00			MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK GOES TO THE BALLGAME	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 4: SACRAMENTO KINGS @ DALLAS MAVERICKS					05:30
06:00			THE PRACTICE (TV14): - THIS PUD'S FOR YOU / THE VERDICT	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
06:30		BASEBALL TONIGHT				06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE THE ACTOR'S STUDIO (TVPG): - JEANNE MOREAU	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00	INSIDE THE NBA	HEADLINE NEWS	STAR TREK VII: GENERATIONS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		08:25
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - NFL DRAFT SPECIAL WRAP-UP	SESAME STREET			NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		09:13
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	DRAGON TALES (TVY): - JUST THE TWO OF US/ COWBOY MAX	CINEMA SECRETS (TVG): - CRASH COURSE	ARTHUR (TVY): - ARTHUR AND THE BIG RIDDLE/ DOUBLE DARE	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):	DISNEY'S DOUG (TVY): - QUAILMAN VS. SUPERSPORT		10:30
11:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - COLLEGE LACROSSE: JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY VS US NAVAL ACADEMY	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - DRAGON AND THE PROFESSOR	LIZZIE MCGUIRE (TVG): - JACK OF ALL TRADES	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	THE AMANDA SHOW	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - TREE HOUSE OF HORROR III	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - SHAKESPEARE	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00	SPORTSCENTER		MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK GOES TO THE BALLGAME	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30				HEADLINE NEWS		13:30
13:52				PACIFIC REPORT		13:52
14:00	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - AARON'S 499	HEADLINE NEWS	THE PRACTICE (TV14): - THIS PUD'S FOR YOU / THE VERDICT	7TH HEAVEN (TVPG): - PK	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
15:00		TODAY	INSIDE THE ACTOR'S STUDIO (TVPG): - JEANNE MOREAU	SPY KIDS	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			STAR TREK VII: GENERATIONS			16:00
17:00		ARTHUR (TVY): - ARTHUR AND THE BIG RIDDLE/ DOUBLE DARE		HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:22				PACIFIC REPORT		17:22
17:30		DISNEY'S DOUG (TVY): - QUAILMAN VS. SUPERSPORT		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - NFL DRAFT SPECIAL WRAP-UP	LIZZIE MCGUIRE (TVG): - JACK OF ALL TRADES	CINEMA SECRETS (TVG): - CRASH COURSE		THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		THE AMANDA SHOW	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - DRAGON AND THE PROFESSOR			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00	USA SOCCER - WOMEN'S - BRAZIL @ USA	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - TREE HOUSE OF HORROR III	LASSIE	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - SHAKESPEARE			20:30
21:00		7TH HEAVEN (TVPG): - PK	MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK GOES TO THE BALLGAME		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
21:45				MY GIRL 2		21:45
22:00	MLB - CHICAGO CUBS @ ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS	SPY KIDS	THE PRACTICE (TV14): - THIS PUD'S FOR YOU / THE VERDICT		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00			INSIDE THE ACTOR'S STUDIO (TVPG): - JEANNE MOREAU		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30				CINEMA SECRETS (TVG): - MONSTER RAMPAGE	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30