



# The Old Ironsides Report

Monday, May 17, 2004



## 2nd ACR working with Al Kut leaders to improve city

**By Capt. Sean Kirley, 2nd ACR Regimental PAO**  
Al KUT, Iraq -- The "War Eagles" of 1st Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, moved from Baghdad to Al Kut during the latter part of April.

During their initial assessment of the town, the War Eagles discovered a looted and bombed out Coalition Provisional Authority building.

Many of the city's bridges, much-needed structures in the town that are dominated by dams and reservoirs off the Euphrates River, were damaged or rendered unusable by Muqtada Al Sadr's Muqtada Militia.

Many of the other major structures in Kut had also been looted or desecrated.

Just six weeks later, all of those buildings mentioned have been fixed. Al Kut's streets are busy, but remain peaceful.

The threat of Muqtada's Militia returning has been nullified by Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, who patrol the streets with elements of 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment.

The citizens of Al Kut have responded well to the Coalition Soldiers' presence.

The War Eagles quickly added Civil Military Operations missions to their agenda in Al Kut. They are reaching out to the city's tribal, business and municipal leaders.

Soldiers are helping the community reopen its schools and clean its streets.

The Coalition has focused a lot of attention on schools in the area. Projects included cleaning and furnishing supplies, all making sure children of Al Kut can experience a comfortable learning environment.

"We did this in Sadr City for the past year. We can do it here too," said Maj. George Sarabia, who serves as the central Coalition's civil-military relations representative in Al Kut.

Lt. Col. Mark Calvert, the War Eagles' squadron commander, quickly established a positive relationship with the tribal leaders of Al Kut, meeting numerous times. Those meetings continue on a regular basis and discussions cover



**Pupils at a girls' school in Al Kut enjoy their recently renovated classrooms. Soldiers from the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment's "War Eagle" Squadron have been working with members of the community to improve the quality of life for the city's residents. Photo by Capt. Sean Kirley, 2nd ACR.**

issues ranging from the city's security to ongoing community renovation projects.

Calvert also produced several television and radio announcements pledging assistance from Coalition Forces.

So far, the Coalition has spent close to \$95,000 in materials and labor for the city of Al Kut.

"We make sure everyone gets a chance to bid on a project. No one tribe gets any favoritism over the other," said Capt. Kelvin Mote, one of the officers supervising several projects in Al Kut.

"It is important that Iraqis do the work. We try to contract Iraqi companies that hire local labor for each project."



Thursdays at 3 p.m.

1st Armored Division  
**IRON RADIO**



SPC Alexander Cruz, B Co 123rd Main Support Bn., takes the oath of reenlistment during a recent ceremony. The Light Wheel Vehicle Operator received a guaranteed assignment to Mannheim, Germany and lump-sum bonus of \$9,400. Photo courtesy of 1 AD Reenlistment Office.

## NEWS...

### **Powell: Arab Response to Berg Insufficient**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Secretary of State Colin Powell scolded Arab governments Sunday for not expressing more outrage over the videotaped beheading of an American civilian in Iraq. He also pledged action against American military prison guards and perhaps others responsible for prisoner abuses in Iraq that have drawn worldwide condemnation. "People are disappointed in the United States," Powell said. He added, "Justice will be done."

### **Pentagon Denies Rumsfeld OK'd Prison Plan**

NEW YORK (AP) - Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld authorized the expansion of a secret program that encouraged physical coercion and sexual humiliation of Iraqi prisoners to obtain intelligence about the growing insurgency in Iraq, The New Yorker reported Saturday. The Defense Department strongly denied the claims made in the report, which cited unnamed current and former intelligence officials and was published on the magazine's Web site. Pentagon spokesman Lawrence Di Rita issued a statement calling the claims "outlandish, conspiratorial, and filled with error and anonymous conjecture."

## ***Thought for the day...*** **Another Move**

A famous chess master noticed a man badgering his opponent that he had him "checkmated" The chess master could not contain himself, all at once he startled everyone around by shouting excitedly, "It's a lie! It's a lie! The king and the knight have another move."

Many people experience situations that appear hopeless, and thus they give up thinking that there is no 'way out'.

However, God always has another option if we but trust Him and believe that he can never be 'checkmated'. When problems seem impossible and we can't face another day. The Lord extends his helping hand and shows us he can make a way.

## ***Entertainment...***

### **Report: Jammed Phones Skew 'Idol' Tallies**

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Many would-be "American Idol" voters are disenfranchised by overburdened phone lines and by "power dialers" who hog the system, the magazine Broadcasting & Cable reported.

According to the magazine's issue being released Monday, "the only people choosing the next 'American Idol' are the ones lucky enough to get through - or skilled enough to get around - tremendously overtaxed phone lines."

Fox TV, which airs the talent contest, has failed to address the difficulties viewers must overcome to log votes, the magazine said.

The show is a ratings winner and valuable property for its producers and Fox, but Broadcasting & Cable said the network is alienating viewers who repeatedly get a busy signal when they try to call in their votes.

The voting system has been called into question in recent weeks as contestants who appeared to be front-runners were dumped in favor of others who many viewers have complained were lesser performers. Last week, favorite La Toya London was voted off while Jasmine Trias survived a shaky performance.

Fox said both it and the show's producers have "gone to great lengths" to ensure the integrity of the voting process.

The contest winner, who gets a record contract, will be decided in the series finale May 25-26. Trias, Fantasia Barrino and Diana DeGarmo are still in the running.

Questions about "Idol" voting are nothing new.

In last year's finale between Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken, a total of 24 million votes were recorded, with Studdard declared the winner by a slim 134,000-vote margin.

But on the same night, Verizon, the nation's largest phone company, saw its daily volume increase by 116 million calls while SBC reported a call-volume increase of 115 million, according to Broadcasting & Cable.

That indicates a logjam in which millions of potential voters never got through, the magazine said.

Fox dismissed the allegation as speculative.

Viewers are allowed to vote repeatedly by phone during a two-hour window following the Tuesday show. Votes also can be cast by text messaging, which hasn't seen the same problems, the report said.

Jammed local phone lines, not the long-distance carrier network, creates the problem for callers, AT&T told the magazine.

Fox acknowledged there are times the phone network can't handle all calls due to the volume, but said it is using "the most sophisticated system available in the nation."

Ratings and call volume have risen over the show's three seasons.

Broadcasting & Cable said so-called power-dialers, who use fast Internet connections and computer autodialing software, also affect the outcome by the number of votes they are able to cast and by tying up lines so that others can't vote.

The magazine cited an August 2002 story by The Associated Press in which "American Idol" producers acknowledged power-dialers were casting thousands of votes.

In its statement Sunday, Fox said there are procedures in place to prevent individuals from "unfairly influencing the outcome of the voting," adding that producers can remove votes identified as power-dialing.

*Today in history...*

**May 17, 1970: HEYERDAHL SAILS PAPYRUS BOAT**

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) -- On May 17, 1970, Norwegian ethnologist Thor Heyerdahl and a multinational crew set out from Morocco across the Atlantic Ocean in *Ra II*, a papyrus sailing craft modeled after ancient Egyptian sailing vessels. Heyerdahl was attempting to prove his theory that Mediterranean civilizations sailed to America in ancient times and exchanged cultures with the people of Central and South America. The *Ra II* crossed the 4,000 miles of ocean to Barbados in 57 days.

Heyerdahl, born in Larvik, Norway, in 1914, originally studied zoology and geography at the University of Oslo. In 1936, he traveled with his wife to the Marquesas Islands to study the flora and fauna of the remote Pacific archipelago. He became fascinated with the question of how Polynesia was populated. The prevailing opinion then (and today) was that ancient seafaring people of Southeast Asia populated Polynesia. However, because winds and currents in the Pacific generally run from east to west, and because South American plants such as the sweet potato have been found in Polynesia, Heyerdahl conjectured that some Polynesians might have originated in South America.

To explore this theory, he built a copy of a prehistoric South American raft out of balsa logs from Ecuador. Christened *Kon-Tiki*, after the Inca god, Heyerdahl and a small crew left Callao, Peru, in April 1947, traversed some 5,000 miles of ocean, and arrived in Polynesia after 101 days. Heyerdahl related the story of the epic voyage in the book *Kon-Tiki* (1950) and in a documentary film of the same name, which won the 1952 Oscar for Best Documentary.

Heyerdahl later became interested in the possibility of cultural contact between early peoples of Africa and Central and South America. Certain cultural similarities, such as the shared importance of pyramid building in ancient Egyptian and Mexican civilizations, perhaps suggested a link. To test the feasibility of ancient transatlantic travel, Heyerdahl built a 45-foot-long copy of an ancient Egyptian papyrus vessel in 1969, with the aid of traditional boatbuilders from Lake Chad in Central Africa. Constructed at the foot of the Pyramids and named after the sun god Ra, it was later transported to Safi in Morocco, from where it set sail for the Caribbean on May 24, 1969. Defects in design and other problems caused it to founder in July, 600 miles short of its goal. It had sailed 3,000 miles.

Undaunted, Heyerdahl constructed a second papyrus craft, the *Ra II*, with the aid of Aymaro Indian boatbuilders from Lake Titicaca in Bolivia. With a multinational crew of seven, the *Ra II* set sail from Safi on May 17, 1970. After a voyage of 57 days and 4,000 miles, the ship arrived in Barbados. The story of this voyage is recorded in the book *The Ra Expeditions* (1971) and in a documentary film.

In 1977, Heyerdahl led the *Tigris* expedition, in which he navigated a craft made of reeds down the Tigris River in Iraq to the Persian Gulf, across the Arabian Sea to Pakistan, and finally to the Red Sea. The goal of the expedition was to establish the possibility that there was contact between the great cultures of Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, and Egypt across the sea. Heyerdahl later led research expeditions to Easter Island and an archeological site of Túcume in northern Peru. For the most part, Heyerdahl's ideas have not been accepted by mainstream anthropologists.



CONTACT YOUR UNIT VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICER  
TO FIND OUT HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE  
AND RECEIVE YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

The following are upcoming Presidential and State Primaries:

**May:** Indiana, North Carolina, Nebraska, West Virginia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Oregon, Idaho

**June:** Alabama, New Mexico, South Dakota, Iowa, Maine, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, South Carolina, Virginia, Utah

**July:** Georgia, Oklahoma

**August:** Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, Colorado, Connecticut, Wyoming, Alaska, Florida

**September:** Guam, Arizona, Nevada, Delaware, Virgin Islands, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Hawaii, Louisiana

**November:** American Samoa, **2004 GENERAL ELECTION (NOVEMBER 2)**

\*\*Unit VAO's can direct questions to the Division VAO, CPT Morgan, at DNV 551-0311\*\*

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: MONDAY, MAY 17, 2004			As of: Sunday, May 16, 2004 3:05:51 AM			
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00	ESPNEWS	NHL - PLAYOFFS - CONF. FINALS GM 4: SAN JOSE SHARKS @ CALGARY FLAMES	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		CNN SUNDAY	0:00
0:30	ESPNEWS					0:30
1:00	NFL EUROPE - RHEIN FIRE @ BERLIN THUNDER		AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		MEET THE PRESS	1:00
2:00			FANTASY ISLAND (TVG): - SUBSTITUTE WIFE/ COWBOY	ESPNEWS	TIM RUSSERT	2:00
2:30		SPORTSCENTER		ESPNEWS		2:30
3:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - SHOW ME THE BUNNY	SESAME STREET	FOX REPORT	3:00
3:30		SEINFELD (TV14): - THE BARBER	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - NATURE PANTS/ OPPOSITE DAY			3:30
4:00	MLB - ANAHEIM ANGELS @ BALTIMORE ORIOLES	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 6: DETROIT PISTONS @ NEW JERSEY NETS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - THE FRONT	DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - JOURNEY TO THE PURPLE PLANET	THIS WEEK	4:00
4:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - PENTANQUE	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		4:30
5:00			AVERAGE JOE (TV14): - THE GRIPPING 2-HOUR FINALE	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	DATELINE INTERNATIONAL	5:00
6:00				THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	60 MINUTES	6:00
6:30		AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM				6:30
7:00	SPORTSCENTER	MEET THE PRESS	AIRLINES (YR. 1) (TVPG): - THE DELICATE ART OF SAYING NO	HEADLINE NEWS	CNN PRESENTS	7:00
7:30			AIRLINES (YR. 1) (TVPG): - CONSIDER YOURSELF ONE OF THE FAMILY	JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		7:30
8:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - CRIMES OF PASSION	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	8:00
8:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		8:25
8:30	BASEBALL TONIGHT	ESPNEWS				8:30
9:00		SESAME STREET	SHANGHAI NOON		CNN SUNDAY NIGHT	9:00
9:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		9:13
9:30	SPORTSCENTER					9:30
10:00		DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - JOURNEY TO THE PURPLE PLANET		LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - TANK	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - HOME AWAY FROM HOME		10:30
11:00	PGA TOUR - EDS BYRON NELSON CHAMPIONSHIP: FINAL ROUND	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - SHOW ME THE BUNNY	I SPY (TVY): - A RUNAWAY ROBOT/A LITTLE LOST LAMB	BELTWAY BOYS	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - NATURE PANTS/ OPPOSITE DAY	EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - HEAD GAMES	FOX NEWS WATCH	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - THE FRONT	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	BULLS & BEARS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - PENTANQUE	HEADLINE NEWS	CAVUTO ON BUSINESS	12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
13:00			AVERAGE JOE (TV14): - THE GRIPPING 2-HOUR FINALE	ESPNEWS	DATELINE NBC	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30				PACIFIC REPORT		13:30
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS		60 MINUTES		14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
15:00		TODAY	AIRLINES (YR. 1) (TVPG): - THE DELICATE ART OF SAYING NO	COLD CASE (TV14): - OUR BOY IS BACK	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
15:30	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - CHEVY AMERICAN REVOLUTION 400		AIRLINES (YR. 1) (TVPG): - CONSIDER YOURSELF ONE OF THE FAMILY			15:30
16:00			THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - CRIMES OF PASSION	WITHOUT A TRACE (TVPG): - CLARE DE LUNE		16:00
17:00		LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - TANK	SHANGHAI NOON	PACIFIC REPORT	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - HOME AWAY FROM HOME		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00		I SPY (TVY): - A RUNAWAY ROBOT/A LITTLE LOST LAMB			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - HEAD GAMES		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - SHOW ME THE BUNNY			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - NATURE PANTS/ OPPOSITE DAY	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00		ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - THE FRONT	THE SEVENTH SIGN	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	BASEBALL TONIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - PENTANQUE			20:30
21:00		60 MINUTES	AVERAGE JOE (TV14): - THE GRIPPING 2-HOUR FINALE		DATELINE NBC	21:00
21:30	AFL - LOS ANGELES AVENGERS @ NY DRAGONS					21:30
21:45				BATMAN FOREVER		21:45
22:00		COLD CASE (TV14): - OUR BOY IS BACK				22:00
23:00		WITHOUT A TRACE (TVPG): - CLARE DE LUNE	AIRLINES (YR. 1) (TVPG): - THE DELICATE ART OF SAYING NO		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30			AIRLINES (YR. 1) (TVPG): - CONSIDER YOURSELF ONE OF THE FAMILY		INSIDE POLITICS	23:30