



# The Old Ironsides Report

Monday, May 24, 2004



## 'Chicken Farm' readies Soldiers for urban operations

By Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer, 1AD PAO

CAMP SLAYER, Iraq -- In an abandoned, makeshift town referred to as the "Chicken Farm," Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment practice battle drills and combat skills essential to their every-day missions.

For most of last year, some of these Soldiers have done this sort of mission nightly. Others were experiencing "the farm" for the first time. But regardless of their background, these Soldiers needed to come together quickly as a team to be successful during these drills.

"We are doing refresher training on the things we need to be very familiar with; that we do every day," said Capt. Jerry Patak, B Troop commander.

Three distinct, yet related training lanes were set up. The first dealt with reacting to an improvised explosive device. In the second area, Soldiers practiced gathering intelligence during a dismounted patrol. The last lane consisted of sets of Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain drills like crossing a danger zone or clearing a room.

"We need to maintain that razor's edge -- become experts at this," Patak said.

Throughout the farm, observer-controllers acted as graders and guides through the scenarios. Other Soldiers, dressed in authentic clothing, acted out parts of local government officials, religious leaders or police officers.

Patak said that the simulation of events adds realism to the training and is also useful in elevating the training's effectiveness.

"It not only hones our everyday skills, it allows the platoons to learn from each other," he said. "It is a good opportunity to cross-pollinate our good ideas and skills that we have learned during our actual experience out there in the zone."

Bringing real-world experience to the training environment is exactly the kind of thing the trainers are looking for.

"It gives us more practice in a safer environment," said Staff Sgt. Walter Milligan, B Troop.

Milligan supervised the "React to an IED" lane. During this training exercise, a small group of Soldiers drove through the dirt roads of the Chicken Farm until they came upon a tangled mass of garbage, wires and cloth.

"I think we have an IED up here," said a lookout from the turret of the lead Humvee.

The convoy stopped and the Soldiers ran through the steps they had rehearsed a few minutes earlier.

The soldiers were taught to recognize and react to improvised explosive devices "so they will know what to do if they get attacked by one or their vehicle gets damaged by one," Milligan said.

The repeatable aspect of lane training gives the students a chance to rotate through leadership positions and try different tactics.

"(This training) helps our younger soldiers who are not in leadership positions to get into one and see what it is like. That way they will know what to do if their leader gets injured," Milligan said. "We alter our training to reflect what new tactics the enemy is using."



Members of Bandit Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, practice intelligence gathering techniques during a mock patrol in the "Chicken Farm" training area located on Camp Slayer.

The troop trains here monthly for more than those reasons, however.

"This deployment has shown that people can be thrown into situations that they are not accustomed to or trained for," said Sgt. 1st Class Pierre Thibodeaux, B Troop's mortar platoon section sergeant.

"This deployment has changed a lot of people. Truck drivers are now MPs; tankers are doing dismounted patrols," he said. "This (training) adds confidence and shows a different perspective from their normal duties."

Thibodeaux immersed his students in a town populated with actors who dealt with the Soldiers much the same way Iraqis would. The Soldiers needed translators, patience and good boots to make it through the 2-mile foot patrol simulation.

All three training sites were developed to compliment and build on lessons learned in the preceding lane. Most of Baghdad presents an urban terrain environment, so the urban warfare tactics taught in the third lane will be used in numerous missions.

Assault teams practiced in a 'glass house' where white engineer tape represented walls and doorways. The openness of the structure allowed squads to practice "stacking" and silent communication techniques within view of OCs.

Common Soldier's tasks like applying first aid, communicating with radios and reacting to indirect fire were also added to the "street skills" to round out the training and realism.

"We start with the skills they learned in Basic Training and add to those," Thibodeaux said.

This gives Soldiers a chance to practice a wider range of combat skills.

"These Soldiers are giving up sleep and maintenance time to get in this training," 1st Sgt. Roy Bartnick, B Troop's top enlisted leader said. "It is that important, to us and to them."

## News...

### U.S. Forces Raid Kufa, Kill 32 Militiamen

KUFA, Iraq (AP) - U.S. forces launched their first incursion into the center of the holy city of Kufa, raiding a mosque for weapons and killing at least 32 fighters loyal to a radical Shiite cleric in clashes early Sunday. American tanks and troops moved into the stronghold of Muqtada al-Sadr, a fiercely anti-U.S. cleric who launched an uprising against the coalition in early April. Al-Sadr has taken refuge in the nearby city of Najaf and routinely delivers a sermon at Friday prayers in Kufa.

### Bush to Lay Out Iraq Handover Details

President Bush is trying to calm anxieties about rising casualties and spreading violence in Iraq by promising to cede political power to an interim government of Iraqis on June 30, which the president insists will put that country firmly on a path to democracy. In a Monday night speech, Bush will lay out details of the transfer at a time when his approval ratings are at the lowest level of his presidency and just six months before he faces the verdict of American voters on a second term.

### U.S. Denies Report That General Saw Abuse

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - The U.S. military command on Sunday denied a report that the top U.S. general in Iraq was present during some interrogations at the Abu Ghraib prison and witnessed some abuse of Iraqi inmates. The Washington Post, in a story published Sunday, said a military lawyer stated at an open hearing April 2 that Capt. Donald J. Reese told him that Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez and other senior military officers were aware of the abuse at the prison.

### Tornadoes Sweep Across Nebraska; One Dead

HALLAM, Neb. (AP) - More than a dozen tornadoes swept across southern Nebraska, killing at least one person and prompting Gov. Mike Johanns to declare a state of emergency. The tornadoes capped two days of severe weather that knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of people in from Nebraska to Michigan to West Virginia.

## Entertainment...

### Shrek 2' Rakes in \$104.3M at Box Office

By ANTHONY BREZNICAN, AP Entertainment Writer  
LOS ANGELES (AP) -- It's a humongous "happily ever after" for "Shrek 2." The computer-animated fairy tale satire collected an estimated \$104.3 million at the weekend box office, the second-biggest three-day tally in movie history behind 2002's "Spider-Man," which took in \$114.8 million.

"Shrek 2" also scored the biggest opening ever for an animated film, easily topping "Finding Nemo's" \$70.2 million. "Shrek," which opened in 2001, earned \$42.3 million in its first weekend - but went on to collect \$267.6 million and win the first Oscar for an animated feature film.

For the sequel, the grumpy green ogre collected \$28.4 million on Friday, and then jumped a remarkable 58 percent Saturday to earn \$44.8 million, according to Jim Tharp, head of distribution for DreamWorks.

Saturday's earnings broke Hollywood's overall record for highest one-day earnings, also held by "Spider-Man" with \$43.6 million.

DreamWorks estimated the movie would earn an additional \$31 million on Sunday - but even rival studios suggested the take would be higher than that. Final figures will be released Monday.

Last week's No. 1 film, the Brad Pitt epic "Troy," fell to second place in its second weekend, earning \$23.8 million for a total of \$85.8 million. The movie cost a reported \$200 million to make.

Meanwhile, third-place "Van Helsing" crossed the \$100 million mark with weekend earnings of \$10.1 million, and "Mean Girls" ranked fourth with \$6.9 million.

"Shrek 2" was cutting into everybody else's audience," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations Co.

In the sequel, the title ogre (voiced by Mike Myers), his bride, Fiona (Cameron Diaz), and their pal Donkey (Eddie Murphy) visit Fiona's royal parents in the kingdom of Far, Far Away.

Critics loved the movie, which appealed to young kids with colorful characters, teenagers with comedy, couples with romance, and older audiences with a subplot about parents accepting the decisions of their grown-up children.

"Shrek 2," which opened Wednesday, screened in the largest number of opening theaters ever - 4,163 locations. It also brought in \$125.3 million over its first five days, breaking the record set by "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," which grossed \$124.1 million.

The sequel is a great victory for DreamWorks, which has occasionally struggled to find its footing in the animated movie market. The first "Shrek" was a success and the studio had a modest hit with 1998's computer-animated "Antz," but traditionally animated fare like "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron," "The Road to El Dorado" and "Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas" were all money-losers.

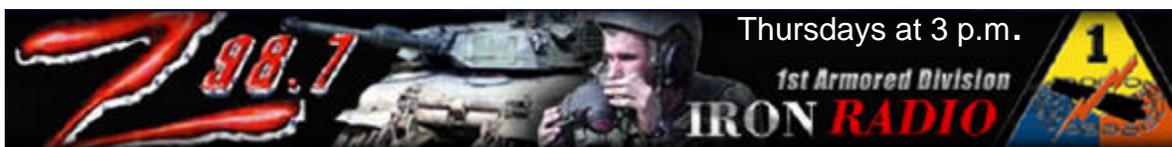
About 60 percent of the audience was comprised of parents and their children, Tharp said. Studio exit polling found that 70 percent of respondents wanted to see the movie again, which bodes well for the movie's future in the competitive summer blockbuster season.

## Thought for the day...

### Happy Land

So, you want to be happy? Do you seek happiness in the world you live in? We all do. Pondering this quest, I have come up with three enemies of our journey to 'happy land': worry, boredom, and selfishness. To counteract these enemies, I suggest the following 'happy meal' for strength on your journey. First, get back control of your life and choices. Second, change your pattern of outlook and attitude. Finally, remember the strength of religious faith and confidence in God. Why worry?

The Master is in control. Why be bored? Life is full of wonder and creativity and bursting horizons, both in nature and in knowledge. Why be selfish? When life lived for others brings such joy and personal satisfaction. As Lord Byron once wrote in verse: "He who joy would win, Must share it. Happiness was born a twin."



Thursdays at 3 p.m.

1st Armored Division

IRON RADIO

**Today in history...**

**May 24, 1883: BROOKLYN BRIDGE OPENS**

**HISTORYCHANNEL.COM** -- After 14 years and 27 deaths while being constructed, the Brooklyn Bridge over the East River is opened, connecting the great cities of New York and Brooklyn for the first time in history. Thousands of residents of Brooklyn and Manhattan Island turned out to witness the dedication ceremony, which was presided over by President Chester A. Arthur and New York Governor Grover Cleveland. Designed by the late John A. Roebling, the Brooklyn Bridge was the largest suspension bridge ever built to that date.

John Roebling, born in Germany in 1806, was a great pioneer in the design of steel suspension bridges. He studied industrial engineering in Berlin and at the age of 25 immigrated to western Pennsylvania, where he attempted, unsuccessfully, to make his living as a farmer. He later moved to the state capital in Harrisburg, where he found work as a civil engineer. He promoted the use of wire cable and established a successful wire-cable factory.

Meanwhile, he earned a reputation as a designer of suspension bridges, which at the time were widely used but known to fail under strong winds or heavy loads. Roebling is credited with a major breakthrough in suspension-bridge technology: a web truss added to either side of the bridge roadway that greatly stabilized the structure. Using this model, Roebling successfully bridged the Niagara Gorge at Niagara Falls, New York, and the Ohio River at Cincinnati, Ohio. On the basis of these achievements, New York State accepted Roebling's design for a bridge connecting Brooklyn and Manhattan--with a span of 1,595 feet--and appointed him chief engineer. It was to be the world's first steel suspension bridge.

Just before construction began in 1869, Roebling was fatally injured while taking a few final compass readings across the East River. A boat smashed the toes on one of his feet, and three weeks later he died of tetanus. He was the first of more than two dozen people who would die building his bridge. His 32-year-old son, Washington A. Roebling, took over as chief engineer. Roebling had worked with his father on several bridges and had helped design the Brooklyn Bridge.

The two granite foundations of the Brooklyn Bridge were built in timber caissons, or watertight chambers, sunk to depths of 44 feet on the Brooklyn side and 78 feet on the New York side. Compressed air pressurized the caissons, allowing underwater construction. At that time, little was known of the risks of working under such conditions, and more than a hundred workers suffered from cases of compression sickness. Compression sickness, or the "bends," is caused by the appearance of nitrogen bubbles in the bloodstream that result from rapid decompression. Several died, and Washington Roebling himself became bedridden from the condition in 1872. Other workers died as a result of more conventional construction accidents, such as collapses and a fire.

Roebling continued to direct construction operations from his home, and his wife, Emily, carried his instructions to the workers. In 1877, Washington and Emily moved into a home with a view of the bridge. Roebling's health gradually improved, but he remained partially paralyzed for the rest of his life. On May 24, 1883, Emily Roebling was given the first ride over the completed bridge, with a rooster, a symbol of victory, in her lap. Within 24 hours, an estimated 250,000 people walked across the Brooklyn Bridge, using a broad promenade above the roadway that John Roebling designed solely for the enjoyment of pedestrians.

The Brooklyn Bridge, with its unprecedented length and two stately towers, was dubbed the "eighth wonder of the world." The connection it provided between the massive population centers of Brooklyn and Manhattan changed the course of New York City forever. In 1898, the city of Brooklyn formally merged with New York City, Staten Island, and a few farm towns, forming Greater New York.

**TASK FORCE 1<sup>ST</sup> ARMORED DIVISION**  
**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE**

**1**  
**OLD IRONSIDES**

*Celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage 28 May 2004.*

*Events for the celebration include:*

*5K Fun Run 0600hrs at Hanger 1, sponsored by the 501<sup>st</sup> MIB BN*

*Ethnic Lunch menu at Bob Hope Dining Facility.*

*Polynesian Review starting 1900hrs. Where? The "Circus" MWR tent on BIAP*

*Music by 1<sup>st</sup> AD Rock Band*

**'Freedom for all, A nation we call our own'**

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: MONDAY, MAY 24, 2004				As of: Sunday, May 23, 2004 10:46:20 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00	MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER - COLUMBUS CREW @ CHICAGO FIRE	MLB - BALTIMORE ORIOLES @ ANAHEIM ANGELS	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	CHAMP CAR AUTO RACING - TECATE TELMEX GRAND PRIX	CNN SUNDAY	0:00
1:00			AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		MEET THE PRESS	1:00
2:00	IRL AUTO RACING - INDY 500 TIME TRIALS: BUMP DAY		FANTASY ISLAND (TVG): - PHOTOGRAPHS/ROYAL FLUSH	ESPNEWS	TIM RUSSERT	2:00
2:30				ESPNEWS		2:30
3:00	BASEBALL TONIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - TWO'S COMPANY	SESAME STREET	FOX REPORT	3:00
3:30		SEINFELD (TV14): - THE MASSEUSE	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - SB129 / KARATE CHOPPERS			3:30
4:00	MLB - ST. LOUIS CARDINALS @ CHICAGO CUBS	NBA - PLAYOFFS - WESTERN CONF. FINALS GM2: LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - CAPE FEARE	DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - THE LOST CITY	THIS WEEK	4:00
4:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - TOGETHER AGAIN AND AGAIN	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		4:30
5:00			LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - REPRESSION	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	DATELINE INTERNATIONAL	5:00
6:00			LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - REDEMPTION	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	60 MINUTES	6:00
7:00	SPORTSCENTER	INSIDE THE NBA	MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - HOT DOG CAR	HEADLINE NEWS	CNN PRESENTS	7:00
7:30				JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		7:30
8:00		MEET THE PRESS	THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - ABSENT WITNESS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	8:00
8:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		8:25
8:30	BASEBALL TONIGHT					8:30
9:00		SESAME STREET	DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN		CNN SUNDAY NIGHT	9:00
9:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		9:13
9:30	SPORTSCENTER					9:30
10:00		DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - THE LOST CITY		LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - SPROUT	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - FORGET ABOUT IT!		10:30
11:00	PGA TOUR - BANK OF AMERICA COLONIAL: FINAL ROUND	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - TWO'S COMPANY	I SPY (TVY): - A STARRY SKY/CIRCUS THINGS IN ALL THREE RINGS	BELTWAY BOYS	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - SB129 / KARATE CHOPPERS	EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - LOVE AND BASKETBALL	FOX NEWS WATCH	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - CAPE FEARE	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	BULLS & BEARS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - TOGETHER AGAIN AND AGAIN	HEADLINE NEWS	CAVUTO ON BUSINESS	12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
13:00			AMERICAN IDOL 3: PHENOMENON	ESPNEWS	DATELINE NBC	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30				PACIFIC REPORT		13:30
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - REDEMPTION	60 MINUTES		14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
15:00		TODAY	MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - HOT DOG CAR	COLD CASE (TV14): - CHURCHGOING PEOPLE	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
15:30	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - ALL-STAR CHALLENGE					15:30
16:00			THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - ABSENT WITNESS	WITHOUT A TRACE (TVPG): - KAM LI		16:00
17:00		LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - SPROUT	DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN	PACIFIC REPORT	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - FORGET ABOUT IT!		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 STARRY SKY/CIRCUS THINGS IN ALL THREE RINGS			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - LOVE AND BASKETBALL		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - TWO'S COMPANY			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - SB129 / KARATE CHOPPERS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00		ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - CAPE FEARE	SANDS OF IWO JIMA	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	FRENCH OPEN TENNIS - EARLY ROUND COVERAGE DAY 1	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - TOGETHER AGAIN AND AGAIN			20:30
21:00		60 MINUTES	AMERICAN IDOL 3: PHENOMENON		DATELINE NBC	21:00
22:00		COLD CASE (TV14): - CHURCHGOING PEOPLE	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - REDEMPTION	THE COUCH TRIP		22:00
23:00	THE HOT LIST	WITHOUT A TRACE (TVPG): - KAM LI	MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - HOT DOG CAR		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30	NBA FASTBREAK				INSIDE POLITICS	23:30