



Artillerymen take on non-doctrinal missions in Najaf

Story and photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis, 1AD PAO

AN NAJAF, Iraq – Task Force 1st Armored Division's Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment has been tasked with the unique mission of guarding the An Najaf governor's compound and protecting the governor's life.

"He receives daily assassination threats," said Capt. Brandon Anderson, Bravo Battery commander. "It's the (Muqtada Militia's) attempt to undermine the coalition."

Anderson and his men have secured a block around the compound and nearby government buildings. They are assisting the Iraqi Police Service Officers and the governor's personal bodyguards in guarding the compound.

While a small contingent of Bravo troops lives in the governor's mansion, the rest of the battery works and lives in a neighboring building. They also pull security duties for the compound and surrounding area.

Though the governor's mansion might appear extravagant on the outside, the inside is nearly empty. Electrical power is sporadic. Even the governor lives without some "creature comforts."

Down the road from the mansion, the rest of the battery takes up residence in vacant offices of the abandoned Ministry of Agriculture building. Electricity is even less reliable and there is limited running water.

But the "Bulldog" Soldiers are adapting quickly to their new mission of fixed-site security.

"Everybody is tired and ready to go (home,)" said Staff Sgt. Wallace Stevens, a section chief with B, 2-3 FA. "(But) we are ready to do what we have to."

The battery used to live in one of Uday's Hussein's (the son of deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein) former palaces. The battalion moved to Camp Victory near the Baghdad International Airport for two weeks before receiving orders for their guard mission.

Bravo's new mission is drastically different from their Baghdad assignment. In the city, they conducted approximately 84 major raids, countless patrols and participated in August's Operation Longstreet near Fallujah, said Anderson.



Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, stand in line for chow at the Ministry of Agriculture building in An Najaf, Iraq. The Soldiers have taken up residence in the building while on the mission to guard the Najaf governor's compound.

"We have a lot of guys (new to the Army). For them, this deployment is all they know of the Army," Anderson said. "As far as they know, this is what field artillerymen do."

He joked that the Army may have to amend the field artillery basic doctrine based on the varied missions that artillerymen have undertaken in Iraq.

This deployment has cleared some mysteries for soldiers like Spc. Benjamin Morse, battery medic. As a medic he could have been stationed virtually anywhere – a field or garrison hospital or line unit.

"When I got assigned to field artillery I wanted to know what it was like in an infantry unit," he said. "Now I pretty much know."

Morse added that the new mission gives a sense of purpose for 1AD's extension in Iraq.

Despite being tired from a yearlong mission in Baghdad, the Soldiers of Bravo Battery went in to their new mission in An Najaf head-on.

"They started working to improve conditions as soon as we got here – filling sandbags and HESCO barriers," said Anderson. "They never cease to amaze me."

Quote of the Day...

Every moment is a golden one for him who has the vision to recognize it as such.

Henry Miller (1891 - 1980)

News...

Bush Says U.S. Will Persevere in Iraq

CARLISLE, Pa. (AP) -- President Bush, trying to dispel rising doubts about the war, declared Monday night the United States would stay in Iraq until it was free and democratic and suggested more U.S. soldiers might have to be sent to stop enemy forces bent on destroying the new government.

"There are difficult days ahead and the way forward may sometimes appear chaotic," he said. "The terrorists and Saddam loyalists would rather see many Iraqis die than have any live in freedom. But terrorists will not determine the future of Iraq."

In a prime-time address at the U.S. Army War College, he also promised to demolish the Abu Ghraib prison that has become an ugly symbol of the U.S. occupation.

Five months before the U.S. presidential election, violence in Iraq has helped push down Bush's approval rating to a new low and has increased skepticism about his handling of the war.

In response, he outlined five steps that he said would help Iraq achieve democracy and freedom: transferring authority to a sovereign new Iraqi government on June 30, helping establish security in areas still gripped by chaos, urging broader international support, reconstructing the country and setting up national elections.

Oddly Enough...

British Company Makes DVD for Parrots

LONDON (AP) -- No more bored birds. No more annoyed avians. A British company on Friday introduced "Pollyvision," an 80-minute DVD of wild parrots preening, feeding and flying through the rainforest. The World Parrot Trust hopes will entertain caged parrots and budgies while their owners are out at work.

The Trust, based in Hayle, southwest England, said it believes the work is the first to be aimed at an avian audience. It has been launched as part of celebrations for World Parrot Day on May 31.

Film producer Jamie Gilardi, a Californian parrot biologist, believes the DVD could improve the lives of Britain's 5 million pet parrots and budgies.

"Parrots are highly intelligent, sensitive and social creatures, so they need a great deal of enrichment and stimulation or they get bored and depressed," he said.

The film has been edited to appeal to parrots' interests and attention span.

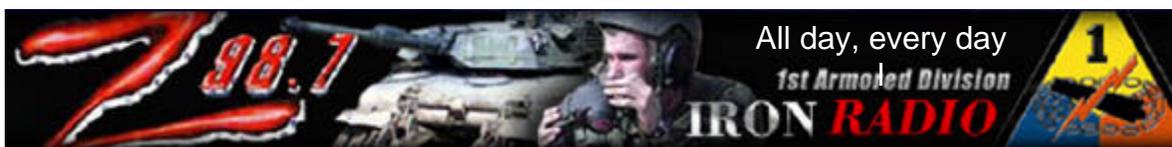


Spc. Jessie Morales, an armored crewmember with 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, surveys a portion of MSR Tampa from his turret seat in a Humvee. Route security is just one of the new missions 2nd BCT has taken on in recent months. Photo by Marine Corps Sgt. M. Trent Lowry, 1AD PAO.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

Yea, But...

Some people are so negative! All they know how to do is complain because they focus on what is 'wrong' in life. People usually develop a negative perspective of life due to past hurts and disappointments. However, the unseen price of such bitterness is the absence of joy and peace. During this extended deployment take time out to check out your own attitude and perception of life. Instead of focusing on the 'dark clouds', look at the 'silver lining' and be conscious of the many blessings of life. ."



Today in History... May 25

1861: President Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus during the Civil War

HISTORYCHANNEL.COM -- John Merryman, a state legislator from Maryland, is arrested for attempting to hinder Union troops from moving from Baltimore to Washington during the Civil War and is held at Fort McHenry by Union military officials. His attorney immediately sought a writ of habeas corpus so that a federal court could examine the charges. However, President Abraham Lincoln decided to suspend the right of habeas corpus, and the general in command of Fort McHenry refused to turn Merryman over to the authorities.

Federal judge Roger Taney, the chief justice of the Supreme Court (and also the author of the infamous Dred Scott decision), issued a ruling that President Lincoln did not have the authority to suspend habeas corpus. Lincoln didn't respond, appeal, or order the release of Merryman. But during a July 4 speech, Lincoln was defiant, insisting that he needed to suspend the rules in order to put down the rebellion in the South.

Five years later, a new Supreme Court essentially backed Justice Taney's ruling: In an unrelated case, the court held that only Congress could suspend habeas corpus and that civilians were not subject to military courts, even in times of war.

This was not the first or last time that the U.S. federal government willfully ignored its own laws during times of strife. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps following the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into World War II. Some forty years later, a U.S. congressional commission determined that those held in the camps had been victims of discrimination. Each camp survivor was awarded \$20,000 in compensation from the U.S. government.

1979: Worst air crash in U.S. history

HISTORYCHANNEL.COM -- On Friday afternoon, Memorial Day weekend, American Airlines Flight 191, a Los Angeles-bound DC-10, takes off at 3:03 p.m. from Chicago-O'Hare International airport with 271 aboard. As Flight 191 raised its nose during the initial stage of the takeoff, an engine under the left wing broke off with its pylon assembly and fell to the runway.

The aircraft climbed to about 350 feet above the ground and then began to spin to the left, continuing its leftward roll until the wings were past the vertical position, with the nose pitched down below the horizon. Moments later, the aircraft crashed into an open field about a half-mile from its takeoff point, killing all 271 people aboard and two others in a nearby trailer park. It was the worst domestic air crash in U.S. history.

1992: Jay Leno's first *Tonight Show*

HISTORYCHANNEL.COM -- On this day in 1992, Jay Leno makes his first appearance as host of the *The Tonight Show*. Leno replaced Johnny Carson, who had hosted the show for nearly 30 years.

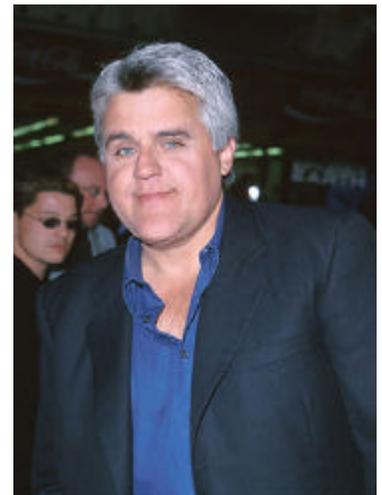
The Tonight Show first appeared as a local program on NBC's New York station, hosted by Steve Allen, who stayed on as host when the show moved to the network in 1954. Allen's hosting style was informal: He started each show at the piano, playing and talking. Later in the show, he chatted with guests at his desk, but unlike later versions of *Tonight*, conversation wasn't the focus of the show; the emphasis was on Allen's ad-libbed comedy, ranging from skits to man-on-the-street interviews. In 1956, Allen cut back to three nights a week, and Ernie Kovacs filled in on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Allen left the show in 1957, and the network changed the format, renaming the program *Tonight! America After Dark*, making it more similar to NBC's *Today Show*, with an increased emphasis on news. However, the new format failed to catch on with audiences, and after six months the program returned to the comedy-talk format, reinstated the name *The Tonight Show*, and installed comedian Jack Paar as host.

Paar's humor was gentler than Allen's and he emphasized celebrity interviews, often delving into controversial political subjects that led him to emotional outbursts. He supported Fidel Castro's revolution in Cuba and broadcast from the Berlin Wall several times. When NBC censors edited his jokes one too many times in February 1960, Paar walked off the set and didn't return for several weeks. He left the show for good in 1962. NBC hired Johnny Carson as a replacement, but Carson had to finish up a contract with ABC, so a series of guest hosts, including Soupy Sales, Jerry Lewis, and Groucho Marx, filled in from April to September 1962.

Carson's calm, controlled demeanor contrasted with Paar's emotional style. Carson started each show with a monologue and continued with sketches in which he played recurring characters like magician "Carnac the Magnificent," "Carswell" the fortuneteller, and "Faharishi" the yogi. In 1965, Carson insisted on delivering his monologue at 11:30 instead of 11:15, the show's official starting time, because many stations ran news until 11:30 and didn't join *The Tonight Show* until the half hour. In 1967, Carson walked out over contract differences, returning several weeks later when the network allegedly offered him a contract worth more than \$1 million a year—an exorbitant salary at that time. In 1971, Carson stopped working on Mondays; the program featured guest hosts instead. In March 1978, he received a contract reportedly worth \$3 million. Frequent guest hosts included Joan Rivers, who became "permanent guest host" from 1983 to 1986, and Jay Leno, who became "permanent guest host" in 1987. David Letterman also served as a guest host more than 50 times.

When Carson announced his retirement in 1992, Jay Leno succeeded him as host, much to the outrage of David Letterman, host of *Late Night*, which ran after *Tonight*. The following year, Letterman accepted CBS's \$42 million offer for his own show and launched the *Late Show* in 1993, running against Leno's time slot. Letterman beat Leno every week for the show's first year.



myafm.net TV SCHEDULES: TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2004				As of: Monday, May 24, 2004 7:50:42 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00	THE HOT LIST	HEADLINE NEWS	THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - ABSENT WITNESS	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		0:00
0:30	THE HOT LIST	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	0:30
1:00	AROUND THE HORN		DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	1:00
1:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				1:30
2:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS	2:00
2:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	2:30
3:00	NHRA AUTO RACING - ROUTE 66 NATIONALS: FINAL ROUND	NBA - SOUNDS OF THE SEASON	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - DARWIN PLAYS THE PALACE	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	3:00
3:30		NBA SHOOTAROUND	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - SLEEPY TIME / SUDS		CBS EVENING NEWS	3:30
4:00		NBA - PLAYOFFS - EASTERN CONF. FINALS GM 2: DETROIT PISTONS @ INDIANA PACERS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER GOES TO COLLEGE	SAGWA	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	4:00
4:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - THE PHYSICAL	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		4:30
5:00	AFL - NY DRAGONS @ ORLANDO PREDATORS		MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK GOES TO THE THEATER	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	5:00
6:00			ER (TVPG): - DEAD AGAIN	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	6:00
6:30		ESPNEWS				6:30
7:00		HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE THE ACTOR'S STUDIO (TVPG): - CLINT EASTWOOD	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	7:00
7:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	7:30
8:00	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	8:00
8:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		8:25
8:30	NBA FASTBREAK	HEADLINE NEWS				8:30
9:00	RIP CURL PRESENTS - FANNING THE FIRE	SESAME STREET	STUART LITTLE		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	9:00
9:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		9:13
9:30	TOTALLY NASCAR					9:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	SAGWA		ARTHUR (TVY): - THE LOUSY WEEK YOU ARE ARTHUR	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):	DISNEY'S DOUG (TVY): - DOUG'S MIDNIGHT KISS		10:30
11:00	FRENCH OPEN TENNIS - TODAY AT THE FRENCH OPEN	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - DARWIN PLAYS THE PALACE	LIZZIE MCGUIRE (TVG): - I DO, I DON'T	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - SLEEPY TIME / SUDS	ALL THAT!	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER GOES TO COLLEGE	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION		THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - THE PHYSICAL	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
13:00	SPORTSCENTER		MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK GOES TO THE THEATER	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30				PACIFIC REPORT		13:30
14:00	NBA FASTBREAK	HEADLINE NEWS	ER (TVPG): - DEAD AGAIN	7TH HEAVEN (TVPG): - GETTING TO KNOW YOU	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	14:00
14:30	TOTALLY NASCAR	JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
15:00	MLB - HOUSTON ASTROS @ CINCINNATI REDS	TODAY	INSIDE THE ACTOR'S STUDIO (TVPG): - CLINT EASTWOOD	OCEAN'S ELEVEN	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
17:00	NBA - PLAYOFFS - EASTERN CONF. FINALS GM 2: DETROIT PISTONS @ INDIANA PACERS	ARTHUR (TVY): - THE LOUSY WEEK YOU ARE ARTHUR	STUART LITTLE		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:15				PACIFIC REPORT		17:15
17:30		DISNEY'S DOUG (TVY): - DOUG'S MIDNIGHT KISS			CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00		LIZZIE MCGUIRE (TVG): - I DO, I DON'T			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		ALL THAT!	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):			18:30
18:45				THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:45
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - DARWIN PLAYS THE PALACE			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - SLEEPY TIME / SUDS			19:30
19:45				ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:45
20:00	FRENCH OPEN TENNIS - EARLY ROUND COVERAGE DAY 2	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER GOES TO COLLEGE		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:15				AIR BUD		20:15
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - THE PHYSICAL			20:30
21:00		7TH HEAVEN (TVPG): - GETTING TO KNOW YOU	MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK GOES TO THE THEATER		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
22:00		OCEAN'S ELEVEN	ER (TVPG): - DEAD AGAIN		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:15				OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE		22:15
23:00	NHL COOL SHOTS		INSIDE THE ACTOR'S STUDIO (TVPG): - CLINT EASTWOOD		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30	SPORTS SPECIAL - LAUREUS AWARDS				INSIDE POLITICS	23:30