

Striker Brigade rebuilds quality of life for Soldiers

Story by Sgt. M. Trent Lowry, USMC, 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, have a new mission, a new home and new quality of life programs and services.

After a year of living and working in buildings and palaces used by Iraq's former dictator, Soldiers now call "Camp Striker" a tent city located on Baghdad International Airport, home.

Despite Spartan living conditions, the camp has a dining facility, shower facilities and a movie theater. A Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) tent is also available, featuring Internet service, DVD movies, a pool table, PlayStation 2 game stations and a weight room area.

"I think the MWR tent is pretty good," said Sgt. Kerry Kinlaw, a nuclear, biological and chemical non-commissioned officer in charge, assigned to 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, as he played "Crazy Taxi" on PlayStation 2.

"We've got to make the best of the situation, and they've done a good job of squaring us away here."

Over the course of the past year, 2nd BCT Soldiers and leaders had worked hard to build up QOL services and facilities.

Now that they are in Iraq for a few more months, the Soldiers have gone back a step in living conditions, but are taking it in stride, ready to sacrifice comfort to do their duty.

"You've got to get the job done. We were available to continue the mission and we're ready," said Pvt. Randall Wood, a combat engineer with 40th Engineer Battalion. "It's like they say: adapt and overcome." The Soldiers say they have adapted, and appreciate the facilities they do have available.

"We were staying at a palace before. Considering what we could have, the MWR tent is nice," said Spc. Erik W. Metcalf, a combat engineer with 40th Engineers. "I know we appreciate it."



Photo by Sgt. M. Trent Lowry

Pvt. Randall Wood, a combat engineer with 40th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, lines up a shot while playing pool at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent at Camp Striker on Baghdad International Airport.

Quote of the Day...

"Without friends no one would choose to live, though he had all other goods."
Aristotle (384 BC – 322 BC)

Oddly Enough...

Gum Returns to Singapore After 12 Years

SINGAPORE (AP) -- Ultra-tidy Singapore is lifting its notorious ban on chewing gum after 12 long years - but getting a pack won't be entirely hassle-free.

Wrigley's Orbit gum has just started appearing in pharmacies along with several other brands. Before Singaporeans even think about unwrapping a pack, however, they must submit their names and ID card numbers. If they don't, pharmacists who sell them gum could be jailed up to two years and fined \$2,940.

The decision comes after new trade talks that included pressure from U.S. Rep. Philip Crane, R-Ill., whose state is home to gum giant Wrigley Co. Singapore has also been at pains in recent years to shed its "nanny state" image and promote itself as a hip, cosmopolitan hub for media and the arts in Asia.

But that has proven a difficult task in a country where films and television shows are often censored, home satellite TV antennae are banned and various books, magazines and even popular songs are outlawed. Fines are levied for spitting or failing to flush public toilets.

Today in History...

1937: Golden Gate Bridge Opens

HISTORYCHANNEL.COM -- San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, a stunning technological and artistic achievement, opens to the public after five years of construction.

On opening day--"Pedestrian Day"--some 200,000 bridge walkers marveled at the 4,200-foot-long suspension bridge, which spans the Golden Gate Strait at the entrance to San Francisco Bay and connects San Francisco and Marin County. On May 28, the Golden Gate Bridge opened to vehicular traffic.

Construction began on January 5, 1933, at the height of the Great Depression. Workers overcame many difficulties: strong tides, frequent storms and fogs, and the problem of blasting rock 65 feet below the water to plant earthquake-proof foundations. Eleven men died during construction.

On May 27, 1937, the Golden Gate Bridge was opened to great acclaim, a symbol of progress in the Bay Area during a time of economic crisis. At 4,200 feet, it was the longest bridge in the world until the completion of New York City's Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in 1964. Today, the Golden Gate Bridge remains one of the world's most recognizable architectural structures.



Spc. Johnny Brown, an armored crewmember assigned to 1st Armored Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Company operations section is reenlisted by Lt. Col Thomas James, 1AD operations officer. Brown reenlisted for Current Station Stabilization to stay in 1AD. He will be heading back to 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment. He is also receiving the tax free lump sum deployment bonus and a free round trip plane ticket to his home of record, in conjunction with his reenlistment to stay with 1AD. Photo provided.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

Determination Pays Off

Plato wrote the first sentence of his famous Republic nine different ways before he was satisfied. Cicero practiced speaking before friends every day for thirty years to perfect his elocution.

Noah Webster labored 36 years writing his dictionary, crossing the Atlantic twice to gather material.

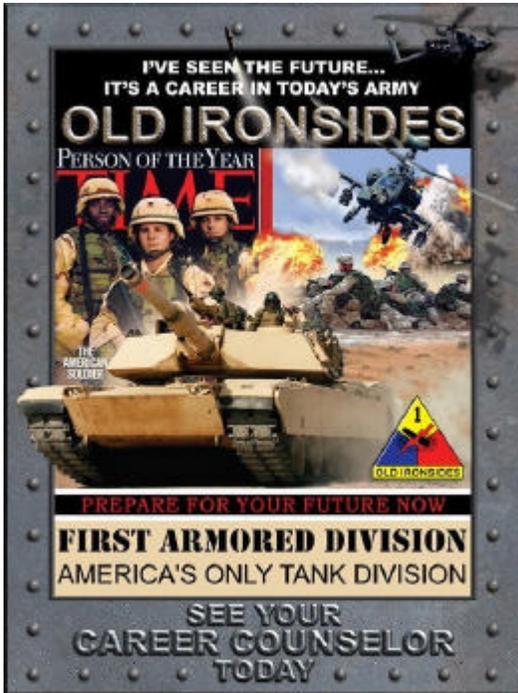
Milton rose at 4:00 am every day in order to have enough hours for his Paradise Lost.

Gibbon spent 26 years on his Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.

Bryant rewrote one of his poetic masterpieces 99 times before publication, and it became a classic.



For your Information...



Special Reenlistment ceremony...

Each year, our nation pays honor to our fallen Soldiers on Memorial Day.

This year will be no different, but as the Task Force 1st Armored Division Commanding General salutes those fallen Soldiers, a group of Soldiers shall take the Oath of reenlistment as a tribute to their comrades. This part of the ceremony is a combined effort of the Soldier's chain of command and their servicing Career Counselor.

Any Soldier who wishes to participate in this very special reenlistment ceremony or any commander wanting to showcase their fine soldiers that are currently due to reenlist, should contact their servicing Career Counselor or contact Division Retention at 551-9405.

Also from the reenlistment office....

The Army has authorized a retroactive lump sum reenlistment bonus for eligible Soldiers who reenlisted while deployed in Afghanistan, Kuwait, or Iraq between 18 March 2003 and 18 September 2003. Soldiers in grades E-4 through E-6 (including PFCs) with less than 10 years active service, and who reenlisted for either Option 1 (Regular Army) or Option 2 (Current Station Stabilization) should see their respective Career Counselor **today**.

Help for Iron Families in the 104th ASG

The extension of 1st Armored Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom has raised many questions in the minds of Soldiers and families stationed throughout the 104th Area Support Group. In order to respond to the needs of Iron Families, the 104th ASG has set up specific information links on their website.

As the morale and welfare of the Soldiers currently deployed to Iraq is being addressed by the 1AD chain of command, the 1AD rear detachment and the 104th ASG are addressing issues on the home front. Realizing that many of the issues faced by deployed Soldiers and families at home often overlap, the 104th ASG website offers a tool with which to address some of those issues.

Specifically for the families in the rear, Stop Loss/Stop Move is still in effect and certain policy exceptions are already in place in order to aid families in a variety of issues ranging from relocating within the 104th ASG to attending DODDS this fall.

For more information, please visit the Q&A site at:

http://www.hanau.army.mil/HanauWeb/04_services/newsfront/vlc.asp

All questions can be directed to:

http://www.hanau.army.mil/HanauWeb/04_services/newfront/form2.htm

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2004				As of: Wednesday, May 26, 2004 8:09:46 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00	THE HOT LIST	HEADLINE NEWS		ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		0:00
0:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS		0:30
1:00	AROUND THE HORN		DAYS OF THUNDER	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	MLB - OAKLAND ATHLETICS @ BOSTON RED SOX	4 QTRS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - GIFT OF GAB	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	3:00
3:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - ARRGH! / ROCK BOTTOM		CBS EVENING NEWS	3:30
4:00		SPORTS SPECIAL - NBA DRAFT LOTTERY	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - TREE HOUSE OF HORROR IV	PLAY WITH ME SESAME	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	4:00
4:30		NBA - PLAYOFFS - EASTERN CONF. FINALS GM 3: INDIANA PACERS @ DETROIT PISTONS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - MOVE IT	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		4:30
5:00			DHARMA & GREG (TV14): - FOR PETE'S SAKE	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	5:00
5:30			MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - JAY GETS FIRED			5:30
6:00	MLB - ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS @ SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS		THE WEST WING (TVPG): - GAME ON	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	6:00
7:00		HEADLINE NEWS	BECOMING AMERICANS: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE (TVPG): - PART 3	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	7:00
7:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	7:30
8:00		HEADLINE NEWS		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	8:00
8:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		8:25
8:30		HEADLINE NEWS	MAIL CALL (EPS 1-13) (TVPG):			8:30
9:00	NBA FASTBREAK	SESAME STREET	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - THE WAY WE LIVE NOW (PT. 1)		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	9:00
9:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		9:13
9:30	TOTALLY NASCAR					9:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	PLAY WITH ME SESAME		DISNEY'S HERCULES (TVY): - THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - CRABBY AUTHOR / RICH KID		10:30
11:00	BALLROOM BOXING	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - GIFT OF GAB	YU-GI-OH! (TVY): - THE SCARS OF DEFEAT	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - ARRGH! / ROCK BOTTOM	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - AGENT TAG	ARMY NEWSWATCH	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - TREE HOUSE OF HORROR IV	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - MOVE IT	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
13:00	SPORTSCENTER		AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30				PACIFIC REPORT		13:30
14:00	FRENCH OPEN TENNIS - TODAY AT THE FRENCH OPEN	HEADLINE NEWS		39TH ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
15:00		TODAY	BECOMING AMERICANS: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE (TVPG): - PART 3		GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
15:30	NBA - PLAYOFFS - CONF. FINALS GM 3: INDIANA PACERS @ DETROIT PISTONS					15:30
16:30			MAIL CALL (EPS 1-13) (TVPG):			16:30
17:00		DISNEY'S HERCULES (TVY): - THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - THE WAY WE LIVE NOW (PT. 1)	PACIFIC REPORT	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30	SPORTSCENTER	HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - CRABBY AUTHOR / RICH KID		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00		YU-GI-OH! (TVY): - THE SCARS OF DEFEAT			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	NBA FASTBREAK	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - AGENT TAG		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - GIFT OF GAB			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - ARRGH! / ROCK BOTTOM	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00	ESPNEWS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - TREE HOUSE OF HORROR IV	THE OUT-OF-TOWNERS	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	MLB - FLORIDA MARLINS @ CINCINNATI REDS	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - MOVE IT			20:30
21:00		39TH ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
21:45				OPPOSING FORCE		21:45
22:00					FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00			BECOMING AMERICANS: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE (TVPG): - PART 3		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30	FRENCH OPEN TENNIS - EARLY ROUND COVERAGE DAY 4 (JIP)			CINEMA SECRETS (TVPG): - CATAclysmic EVENTS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30