



The Old Ironsides Report



Saturday, February 14, 2004

'By Daring Deeds' battalion welcomes ICDC comrades



An Iraqi Civil Defense Corps joining the 1st battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, marches past the audience in their pass and review during the graduation ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon Jan. 8.

Story and photo by Capt. Wayne F. Rush, Assistant Personnel Officer/ PAO, 1-4 ADA Bn.

Baghdad, Iraq – On Thursday morning, Jan. 8, a new company of Iraqi Civil Defense Corps recruits graduated from their basic training at Forward Operating Base Falcon outside of Baghdad.

The last event in the five-day course was a graduation ceremony where the ICDC soldiers join their respective units.

Following the graduation ceremony, 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery -- "By Daring Deeds" -- hosted a reception for their first class of 31 ICDC graduates at the Radwaniyah Palace to welcome them to the unit.

It was a bright, shining day just like the determination glinting off the ICDC graduates' eyes to "fight for Iraq."

Their company's motto is, "we fight for Iraq." All the soldiers stood proud in new camouflage uniforms with AK-47 assault rifles slung over their shoulders as the guests assembled into the reviewing stands.

Presiding over the ceremony was the commander 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, Col. Kurt Fuller.

"You fight for a free Iraq and for the next generation. You will be their heroes," Fuller told the graduates.

Afterwards, the five ICDC platoons conducted a pass and review for their guests and then exited the parade ground with the strains of the 1AD Band in the background.

The Iraqi Civil Defense Corps is a force of soldiers much like the U.S. Army National Guard and Reserve. They are recruited from local communities to serve with the coalition units in their communities.

The five-day basic training course taught them many of the professional soldier skills they will need in order to fight alongside their U.S. Army comrades.

Noncommissioned officers trained the ICDC recruits during the course at FOB Falcon. They served as platoon sergeants and squad leaders for each platoon assigned to the unit.

The guardsmen learned basic skills which included drill and ceremony, marksmanship, patrolling and first aid.

After completing the last bit of paperwork at FOB Falcon, 1-4 ADA's graduates and their NCOs enjoyed a reception at the Radwaniyah Palace.

"You have proven that you are not afraid to stand up and fight for the liberation of your country and I want to personally commend you for your courage and your willingness to stand up for your country," said Lt. Col. Jenks Reid, 1-4 ADA commander during his welcoming remarks.

"You are the citizen soldiers that will ultimately defend your families and your way of life once we move out of your country."

"By Daring Deeds" soldiers look forward to fighting alongside their Iraqi allies to defeat the remnants of the former regime and the terrorists who fear this great nation's free future, Reid said.

Later in the month a second class of 128 ICDC soldiers will graduate to join the ranks of 1-4 ADA's force protection mission of Baghdad International Airport. These platoons will be followed by a third class of 33 to form an entire ICDC company.

NEWS...

Official: Early Iraq Elections Unlikely

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - A U.N. official said Friday it was unlikely elections could be held before a U.S.-set June 30 deadline for handing power to the Iraqis, and several Iraqi leaders said there was growing support for scrapping the U.S. blueprint for establishing a new government. U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, meanwhile, warned Iraqis to be aware of the risks of civil war as they try to find an acceptable formula for sovereignty.

Senate Panel to Review Bush Info on Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Senate Intelligence Committee has agreed to expand its review of intelligence on Iraq to examine whether the Bush administration accurately described the information it had on Saddam Hussein's weapons. The committee will examine "whether public statements and reports and testimony regarding Iraq by U.S. government officials (between the 1991 Gulf War and the Iraq War) were substantiated by intelligence information," committee leaders said in a statement Thursday night.

Feds Preparing Charges Vs. Ex-Enron CEO

HOUSTON (AP) - Federal prosecutors are preparing criminal charges against former Enron Corp. chief executive Jeffrey Skilling for an indictment that could come as early as next week, sources close to the case said Friday. The two sources, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, confirmed the pending charges, which would come on the heels of last month's guilty plea to two counts of conspiracy by former Enron finance chief Andrew Fastow. The sources said, however, that the process was delicate and public revelation of the new case could be delayed.

Kerry Says He's Ready for GOP Onslaught

John Kerry, attacked by President Bush's campaign as a pretend foe of the special interests, said Friday he is "ready to fight back" in the battle for the White House. Former candidate Wesley Clark offered to help the front-runner oust the Republican incumbent. "These guys will want to try to do everything to change the subject," the Democratic presidential front-runner said in an interview on the Don Imus radio program.

4 Men to Appear in Court in Steroid Case

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Four men charged with running a steroid-distribution ring were given until Friday to turn themselves in and make an initial court appearance. If not, warrants were to be issued for their arrest. The ring is accused of providing performance-enhancing drugs to dozens of athletes in the NFL, the major leagues and track and field. The men accused of providing steroids to dozens of sports stars were meticulous. Federal prosecutors said the men gave their drugs code names, carefully worded e-mails to avoid detection and even provided athletes with cover stories if caught.

Thought for the day...

Heroism

When the will defies fear, when duty throws the gauntlet down to fate, when honor scorns to compromise with death - that is heroism.

--Robert Green Ingersoll

In other news...

Many Schools Ban Valentine Deliveries

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) -- Many high school students in South Carolina will have to say "I love you" on their own time. A growing number of high schools in the state are banning Valentine's Day gift deliveries during school hours.

Principals say the flowers, balloons and other love tokens disrupt classes and distract the students.

Northwestern High in Columbia instituted its ban eight years ago. Principal James Blake says he pulled the plug on classroom deliveries when some parents wanted the school to pay for roses that went to the wrong kid.

Many school districts have no policy on deliveries, leaving it up to the schools. Some schools allow limited deliveries, for example, letting students pick up deliveries from a room in the school at the end of the day and allowing students to receive delivery only if they don't ride the bus. Other schools ban them altogether.

Gift mix-ups are just part of the problem, school officials say. Large numbers of deliveries can force the school to find volunteers to get gifts to students. On school buses, big balloons can keep drivers from seeing the road. In some cases, students are called to the office throughout the day to pick up gifts.

"It's quite a few interruptions," said Northwestern Principal James Blake. "It was a distraction because when guys and girls are receiving teddy bears they're not concentrating on the instructional process. They're more concerned with the roses and flowers and all those other goodies."

And if the school fails to deliver the gifts until the next day?

"The balloons are flat and the flowers are wilted," said Greer High Principal Marion Waters said. "Woe to us if a delivery gets here late Friday afternoon and the student has early dismissal."

At Greer, school officials let florists and specialty shops know that the school won't accept deliveries.

School "is not the only place in town where Cupid can strike," Waters said. "In fact, it can happen right at their front door."

But it's just not as much fun at the front door, says 16-year-old Priscilla Clousell.

"The exciting part about getting flowers and balloons is having someone there to see it," said Clousell. "It's a competition."

Last year, Clousell wound up with two dozen roses, three balloons and a big bear. With a card and dinner, her boyfriend was out about \$150. She spent about \$30.

"Boys usually spend way more than girls," she said.

Even with schools' efforts, a few deliveries sometimes come when people are unaware of bans, some principals said.

"If something does show up ... we do call them and give them items," said Randy Reagan, principal of Lakewood High in Sumter.

Today in History...

Feb 14, 1943 Battle of the Kasserine Pass

(Historychannel.com) On this day, German General Erwin Rommel and his Afrika Korps launch an offensive against an Allied defensive line in Tunisia, North Africa.

The Kasserine Pass was the site of the United States' first major battle defeat of the war.

General Erwin Rommel was dispatched to North Africa in February 1942, along with the new Afrika Korps, to prevent his Italian Axis partner from losing its territorial gains in the region to the British. Despite his skill, until this point Rommel had been unable to do much more than manage his own forces' retreats, but the Battle of Kasserine Pass would finally display the "Desert Fox's" strategic genius.

In the Battle of El Alamein in August 1942, British General Bernard Montgomery pushed Rommel out of Egypt and into Tunisia, behind the Mareth Line, a defensive fortification built by Vichy French forces. After taking several months to regroup, Rommel decided on a bold move. Rommel set his sites of Tunis, Tunisia's capital and a key strategic goal for both Allied and Axis forces.

From the 1 AD History...

January 1943 found the Division under control of the II Corps. Old Ironsides received the mission of defending central Tunisia against an Axis counterattack. A month later, the 1st Armored Division collided with a superior German armored force at Kasserine Pass, a 2-mile-wide gap in Tunisia's Dorsal Mountains.

Rommel's first strike was repulsed, but with tank reinforcements, Rommel broke through on February 20, inflicting devastating casualties on the U.S. forces. The Americans withdrew from their position, leaving behind most of their equipment. More than 1,000 American soldiers were killed by Rommel's offensive, and hundreds were taken prisoner.



Adding to a long list of Soldiers re-enlisting while deployed on Operation Iraqi Freedom SPC Christopher Snow swore in again today for another five years of service. Snow is a member of 2-3 Field Artillery (2-3 FA), 1st Armored Division. The Artillery unit is deployed to the Adhamiya district of Baghdad, Iraq. Snow swore in this afternoon in the rubble of what was Uday Hussein's former palace and is now the grounds of 2-3 FA's Forward Operations Base (FOB). His commanding officer Capt Steve Kuhaida said a few encouraging words to Snow's credit and then proceeded with the ceremony. Battalion officers credit the morale of Soldiers as the reason for the high numbers. Contributing to that morale are the sense of purpose Soldiers feel when missions produce results, and a work hard play hard philosophy. (1st BCT PAO Photo)

Reenlistment bonus available until soldiers depart Theater

Currently, more than 1,400 soldiers have taken advantage of the deployed force reenlistment bonus since October. Soldiers must understand the bonus is no longer available once they redeploy to their home station.

The most frequently asked question from soldiers is "how long am I eligible for the reenlistment bonus?"

The answer is simple: once a soldier leaves Iraq, Afghanistan, or Kuwait, the lump sum tax-free bonus no longer exists.

As we begin to redeploy, our Career Counselors and key retention personnel will become much less accessible as they will be spread thin throughout Iraq, Kuwait, and Germany.

Soldiers eligible for this incentive are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity well in advance of their expected redeployment date. Soldiers should contact their Career Counselors who are standing by to assist our Iron Soldiers in continuing to serve proudly and "Stay Army."

For more information, contact your career counselor:

- Command Career Counselor: SGM James Jaranowski, 551-9405
- Retention Operations NCO: MSG Gary Schoolfield, 551-9405
- 1st Brigade: SFC Burke, Martyrs' Monument, 550-7027
- 2nd Brigade: SSG Gibson, Presidential Palace, 551-2010
- 4th Brigade: MSG Wolfe, 551-6620
- DIVARTY: SFC Hilton, 551-7030
- DIVENG: MSG Collier, 551-6131
- DISCOM SFC Casnave, 551-9405
- Division Troops: SFC Nagle, 551-9405

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mvafn.net TV SCHEDULES: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2004				As of: Friday, February 13, 2004 3:29:15 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00					THE NEWSHOUR	00:00
01:00		HEADLINE NEWS			BET NIGHTLY NEWS	01:00
01:30	ESPNEWS	ESPNEWS		ESPNEWS	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	01:30
02:00	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS		WWE RAW!	LARRY KING LIVE	02:00
02:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	HEADLINE NEWS	BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY			02:30
03:00	WINTER X GAMES - XIII - REVIEW	BOB THE BUILDER		HEADLINE NEWS	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	03:00
03:30		FRANKLIN : - GEE WHIZ FRANKLIN/FRANKLIN CAN'T WAIT		NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS		03:30
04:00	SPORTSCENTER	ROCKET POWER : - SUMMER BREEZY/ SAMMY'S FORTUNE		OPERATION JUNKYARD : - GO-CART	PAULA ZAHN NOW	04:00
04:30		JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS : - THE EGG-PIRE STRIKES BACK (PT. 1)		HOW TO BOIL WATER : - DONT CHICKEN OUT!		04:30
05:00	NASCAR CRAFTSMAN TRUCK SERIES - FLORIDA DODGE DEALERS 250	YU-GI-OH! (TV-7) : - KEITH'S MACHINATIONS (PT. 2)	WHAT WOMEN WANT	ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	NIGHTLINE	05:00
05:30		THE PROUD FAMILY : - WEDDING BELL BLUES			ARMY NEWSWATCH	05:30
06:00		TRADING SPACES FAMILY : - CONNECTICUT: LOOKOUT HILL ROAD		HEADLINE NEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	06:00
06:30				ESPNEWS		06:30
07:00		OPERATION JUNKYARD : - GO-CART		LIVE WITH REGIS & KELLY WEDDING SPECIAL	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	07:00
07:15			TITANIC			07:15
07:30		HOW TO BOIL WATER : - DONT CHICKEN OUT!				07:30
08:00	SPORTSCENTER	ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT		SAVE THE LAST DANCE	DATELINE NBC	08:00
09:00	NBA - ROOKIE CHALLENGE	WWE RAW!				09:00
10:00		LIVE WITH REGIS & KELLY WEDDING SPECIAL		HEADLINE NEWS	20/20	10:00
10:30			BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY	SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (03'-04') : - MEGAN MULLALLY/CLAY AIKEN		10:30
11:00		SAVE THE LAST DANCE			CNN SATURDAY MORNING	11:00
11:30	SPORTSCENTER					11:30
12:00				LIVE IN HOLLYWOOD	CNN SATURDAY MORNING	12:00
12:30	WIRE TO WIRE					12:30
13:00	SPORTSCENTER	ARMY HEALTHWATCH	WHAT WOMEN WANT	THE ENTERTAINERS	WALL STREET JOURNAL	13:00
13:30		NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS			AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM	13:30
14:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG EAST: SETON HALL @ NOTRE DAME	SPORTSCENTER		NASCAR BUSCH SERIES - HERSHEY'S KISSES 300	DATELINE NBC	14:00
15:00		COLLEGE BASKETBALL - SEC: KENTUCKY @ GEORGIA				15:00
15:15			TITANIC			15:15
16:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ATLANTIC 10: GEORGETOWN @ TEMPLE				HEADLINE NEWS	16:00
16:30					ARMY NEWSWATCH	16:30
17:00		NHL - COLORADO AVALANCHE @ DETROIT RED WINGS		HEADLINE NEWS	20/20	17:00
17:30				HOUR OF POWER - THE DREAM GIVER		17:30
18:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - MID-AMERICAN: BOWLING GREEN @ KENT STATE			CELEBRATION OF VICTORY - HAPPINESS: HAPPINESS: WHAT IT IS & HOW YOU GET IT	FOX NEWS LIVE	18:00
18:30			BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY	CORAL RIDGE HOUR - LIFE: LIFE: AN INALIENABLE RIGHT		18:30
19:00				CHRISTOPHER CLOSEUP - LOOKING BACK	FOX NEWS LIVE	19:00
19:30				CAFE VIDEO : - CAFE VIDEO CHRISTMAS		19:30
20:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC (WOMEN'S): DUKE VS NORTH CAROLINA	SPORTSCENTER		ARMY HEALTHWATCH	HEADLINE NEWS	20:00
20:30				ARMY NEWSWATCH	MCLAUGHLIN GROUP	20:30
21:00		SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (03'-04') : - MEGAN MULLALLY/CLAY AIKEN	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON : - YELLOWBEARD, THE PIRATE	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG TEN: OHIO STATE @ WISCONSIN	CAPITAL GANG	21:00
21:30			HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - JESUS AND THE SKEPTIC			21:30
22:00	NBA TIP-OFF		MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD		WASHINGTON WEEK IN REVIEW	22:00
22:30	NBA - 2004 NBA ALL-STAR SATURDAY NIGHT FEATURING THREE-POINT SHOOTOUT & SLAM DUNK CONTEST	LIVE IN HOLLYWOOD	REAL VIDEOS : - SMALLTOWN POETS		HEADLINE NEWS	22:30
23:00			THE SIMPSONS : - LARGE MARGE	ESPNEWS	PEOPLE IN THE NEWS	23:00