



The Old Ironsides Report



Sunday, February 15, 2004

Iron Tax Center makes filing less taxing for Soldiers

Story and photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts
1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Tax season is upon us again and for the first time in 1st Armored Division history, a tax center has been opened in a combat zone.

Operating since Feb. 4, the Iron Tax Center is located on the second floor of Hotel California building at Baghdad International Airport. Tax advisors are also located with 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams, the Division Artillery Combat Team and the Division Support Command.

“I encourage all Soldiers to take advantage of the Tax Center,” said Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1AD commanding general. “It is another example of our ongoing efforts to assist Soldiers in maintaining a normal life, although we’re in combat.”

Although the Iron Tax Center is primary for 1AD and units supporting the division, all Soldiers are welcome to utilize its services.

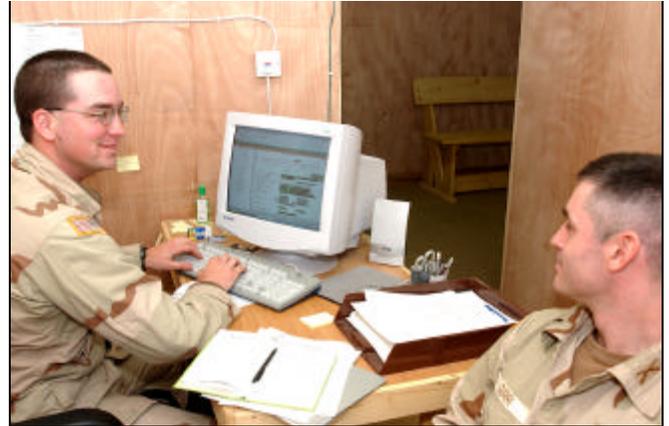
According to Capt. Ty McDonald, officer in charge of the Iron Tax Center and a Staff Judge Advocate with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1AD, doing your taxes with the center can be quite simple because everything is done electronically.

For most single Soldiers, only a myPay PIN number or their W-2 form and bank account information is needed to file. Married Soldiers need these items in addition to a power of attorney from their spouse, which can be obtained with a little coordination. Spouses should visit their legal center at their home station and have a power of attorney faxed or emailed to the Iron Tax Center.

Sometimes additional paperwork is needed though, McDonald said. This paperwork may include: social security numbers of any children, 1099 forms, if a Soldier has earned more than \$200 in interest on a savings account, or any student loan paperwork.

Currently, the Iron Tax Center is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., although later appointments can be made.

“We are happy to make time accommodations, based on Soldiers’ missions,” said McDonald. “But I encourage Soldiers to file their taxes now.”



Spc. Michael Hartman, a signal service support specialist assigned to Company C, 141st Signal Battalion, helps 1st Lt. Luis Garri, executive officer of Company B, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, file his taxes at Baghdad International Airport’s Iron Tax Center.

According to McDonald, 15 states do not have an extension period—past the tax due date of April 15—for deployed Soldiers. These states include Maryland, Montana, Massachusetts, Ohio and Indiana.

“I think it’s important for Soldiers to take care of their taxes here,” said Spc. Seliman Corder, a food service specialist with 55th Personnel Service Battalion. “It’s one less thing you have to worry about while you continue to fulfill your mission.”

Once taxes have been filed, federal returns usually take about 10 days and state returns take approximately two weeks.

McDonald said the average total return is \$1,215, but he has seen a Soldier receive more than \$6,000.

Upon learning the size of his return, “he said he was going to take his family to Disneyland and put a (Global Positioning System) in his car,” McDonald said.

NEWS...

Rebels Hit Iraq Police Station, Kill 23

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) - Guerrillas overwhelmed an Iraqi police station west of Baghdad, meeting little resistance as they went room to room shooting police in a bold, well-organized assault that killed 23 people and freed dozens of prisoners, officials said. The fierce, well-coordinated daylight attack on Saturday in Fallujah - unprecedented in its scale - raised questions whether Iraqi police and defense forces are ready to battle insurgents as the U.S. military pulls back from the fight in advance of the November U.S. presidential election. It also underscored the tenacity of a resistance that continues despite the Dec. 13 arrest of Saddam Hussein.

John Kerry Wins Nevada and D.C. Caucuses

Democratic presidential front-runner John Kerry scored victories east and west Saturday, swamping his rivals in Nevada and the District of Columbia caucuses to build his advantage in delegates needed for the nomination. His opponents pinned their hopes on the coming Wisconsin primary to try to slow him down. Kerry, the only candidate to campaign in Nevada, easily outdistanced Howard Dean in second place, for a Valentine's Day win that unexpectedly drew thousands of people to the party's meetings and surprised officials who saw far less enthusiasm four years ago.

Dominican Commandos Gird Haitian Rebels

GONAIVES, Haiti (AP) - Haitian rebels seeking to topple the president brought in reinforcements from the neighboring Dominican Republic, including the exiled former leader of 1980s death squads and a former police chief accused of fomenting a coup, witnesses said Saturday, as police fled two more northern towns. Twenty commandos arrived, led by Louis-Jodel Chamblain, a former Haitian soldier who headed army death squads in 1987 and a militia known as the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti, or FRAPH, which killed and maimed dozens of people between 1992 and 1994.

Blackhawks Beat Bruins 2-1 in Overtime

CHICAGO (AP) - Tuomo Ruutu knocked in his own rebound four minutes into overtime to give Chicago a 2-1 win over the Boston Bruins on Saturday, extending the Blackhawks' winning streak to a season-high three games. Ruutu took a pass from Tyler Arnason in the slot and took a shot that was blocked by Boston goaltender Andrew Raycroft. The rebound popped up, however, and Ruutu knocked it in with the shaft of his stick.

Thought for the day...

Character in Action

Mental toughness is many things and rather difficult to explain, its qualities are sacrifice and self-denial. Also, most importantly, it is combined with a perfectly disciplined will that refuses to give in. It's a state of mind - you could call it character in action.

-- Vincent Lombardi

In other news...

Arctic Anchorage Rates Hot Bachelor Spot

ANCHORAGE (AP) -- Never mind that popular lament among some Anchorage singles, that the odds are good, but the goods are odd. Alaska's largest city is among the top spots in the nation to find young, wealthy bachelors, a new rating shows.

Teasley, a New York City marketing firm, rated Anchorage second in the nation, bested only by San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Calif. Number three is Washington, D.C.-Baltimore and number four is Sheboygan, Wis., known best for its bratwursts.

Teasley created a "golden ratio" for each metropolitan area, using U.S. Census Bureau figures and other factors, such as cost of living and the ratio of single men to single women.

Anchorage's golden ratio, as calculated by Teasley with additional data from a firm called GeoLytics, is 150 percent, meaning there are 15 single men ages 25 to 34 available for every 10 women in the same age group.

"In Anchorage there are plenty of men to go around - and it takes a strong type to handle rough winters," Teasley noted on the company's Web site. "The cost-of-living is high, but the incomes make up for that. So if you like the idea of keeping a rich, single male warm during the long winter nights, Anchorage is the place for you."

Another high ranking place featuring cold, snowy winters is Sheboygan, just north of Milwaukee.

"If you're a single woman and want to be able to afford a house and a household and have a lot of single men to choose from, that's the place to be," Brian Teasley, president of the firm, said Friday.

But some of the area's single women said the rating came as big news to them.

"I work in a bar and obviously I get hit on, but I don't see any single, rich men," said Jenny Stengel, 23, of Sheboygan, a bartender at the Penn Avenue Pub. "That really surprises me."

"I haven't met any of these men," said Abby Hawe, a "twentysomething" single woman from nearby Cedar Grove. "I think that the guys who have this money are the kind of guys who go hunting or snowmobiling a lot - they don't come across as somebody who has a lot of money."

Sheboygan's golden ratio is 180 percent - or 18 single men ages 25 to 34 available for every 10 women in the same age group.

"If you are a woman who likes football, or a woman who likes rich, single men who like football, Sheboygan might be heaven for you," the report says. "But you will have to be a Green Bay Packers fan - of course."

Brian Smith, 25, of Sheboygan, said the large number of high-end golf courses, resorts and pricey subdivisions in communities around Sheboygan County, not in the city itself, probably figured prominently in the high rating.

"You've got a lot of classy stuff around here," he said.

Today in History...

Feb 15, 1942 Singapore falls to Japan

(Historychannel.com) In one of the greatest defeats in British military history, Britain's supposedly impregnable Singapore fortress surrenders to Japanese forces after a weeklong siege. More than 60,000 British, Australian, and Indian soldiers were taken prisoner, joining 70,000 other Allied soldiers captured during Britain's disastrous defense of the Malay Peninsula.

On December 8, 1941--the day after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor--the Japanese moved against British-controlled Malay, steamrolling across Thailand and landing in northern Malay. The Japanese made rapid advances against British positions, capturing British airfields and gaining air superiority. British General A.E. Percival was reluctant to leave Malay's roads and thus was outflanked again and again by the Japanese, who demonstrated an innovative grasp of the logistics of jungle warfare. The Allies could do little more than delay the Japanese and continued to retreat south.

Singapore, with its big defensive guns, was considered invulnerable to attack. However, the guns, which used armor-piercing shells and the flat trajectories necessary to decimate an enemy fleet, were not designed to defend against a land attack on the unfortified northern end of the island.

On February 5, Yamashita brought up heavy siege guns to the tip of the peninsula and began bombarding Singapore. On February 8, thousands of Japanese troops began streaming across the narrow waterway and established several bridgeheads. Japanese engineers quickly repaired the causeway, and troops, tanks, and artillery began pouring on to Singapore. The Japanese pushed forward to Singapore city, capturing key British positions and splitting the Allied defenders into isolated groups.

On February 15, Percival--lacking a water supply and nearly out of food and ammunition--agreed to surrender. With the loss of Singapore, the British lost control of a highly strategic waterway and opened the Indian Ocean to Japanese invasion. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill called it the "worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history." Many thousands of the 130,000 Allied troops captured died in Japanese captivity.

Later in the war, Lord Louis Mountbatten, the supreme Allied commander in Southeast Asia, made plans for the liberation of the Malay Peninsula, but Japan surrendered before they could be carried out.

Tax Day is April 15!

Visit the Iron Tax Center in the Hotel California or your unit tax advisor today:

- 1st BCT:
SSG Lanier and SFC Tate
- 2nd BCT:
1LT Morrow and CPT Rowe
- 3rd BCT:
SPC Cornett and SGT Avery
- DIVARTY:
1LT Vranian and 1LT Portillo
- DISCOM:
1LT Lutchmarsingh

For additional questions, Soldiers can contact the Iron Tax Center at 1adsjataxcenter@1adtacm.1ad.army.mil.

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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mvafr.net TV SCHEDULES: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2004			As of: Saturday, February 14, 2004 1:25:02 AM			
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00			EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND : - FRANK GOES DOWNSTAIRS	WISHBONE : - FRANKENBONE	CNN SATURDAY NIGHT	00:00
00:30		AMERICAN ATHLETE	THE KING OF QUEENS : - WEDDING PRESENCE	SESAME STREET SPECIALS : - ELMO'S SING ALONG GUESSING GAME		00:30
01:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN DREAMS : - FEAR ITSELF	CADET KELLY	DATeline INTERNATIONAL	01:00
01:30		HOUR OF POWER - THE DREAM GIVER				01:30
02:00	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	CELEBRATION OF VICTORY - HAPPINESS: HAPPINESS: WHAT IT IS & HOW YOU GET IT	M*A*S*H : - DR. WINCHESTER AND MR. HYDE		LARRY KING LIVE	02:00
02:30		CORAL RIDGE HOUR - LIFE: LIFE: AN INALIENABLE RIGHT	THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW : - I GAVE AT THE OFFICE			02:30
03:00	HORSE RACING - FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH @ HUTCHESON STAKES	CHRISTOPHER CLOSEUP - LOOKING BACK	ALL IN THE FAMILY : - ARCHIE THE DONOR	MOTORWEEK	AT LARGE WITH GERALDO RIVERA	03:00
03:30		CAFE VIDEO : - CAFE VIDEO CHRISTMAS	THE TWILIGHT ZONE : - THE ODYSSEY OF FLIGHT 33	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES		03:30
04:00	SPORTSCENTER	WISHBONE : - FRANKENBONE	FANTASY ISLAND : - RACER/ LADY OF THE EVENING	WWE SMACKDOWN!	BELTWAY BOYS	04:00
04:30		SESAME STREET SPECIALS : - ELMO'S SING ALONG GUESSING GAME			FOX NEWS WATCH	04:30
05:00	AFL - CHICAGO RUSH @ NY DRAGONS	CADET KELLY	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON : - YELLOWBEARD, THE PIRATE	STARGATE SG-1 : - REDEMPTION (PART 2)	HEADLINE NEWS	05:00
05:30			HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - JESUS AND THE SKEPTIC		AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM	05:30
06:00			MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	HEADLINE NEWS	THE CHRIS MATTHEWS SHOW	06:00
06:30			REAL VIDEOS : - SMALLTOWN POETS	ESPNEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	06:30
07:00		MOTORWEEK	THE SIMPSONS : - LARGE MARGE	JUDGING AMY : - A PRETTY GOOD DAY	BIG STORY WEEKEND EDITION	07:00
07:30		EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES	MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE			07:30
08:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND : - FRANK GOES DOWNSTAIRS	BOYCOTT	CNN PRESENTS	08:00
08:30		ARMY NEWSWATCH	THE KING OF QUEENS : - WEDDING PRESENCE			08:30
09:00	PGA TOUR - BUICK INVITATIONAL: THIRD ROUND	NBA - 2004 NBA ALL-STAR SATURDAY NIGHT FEATURING THREE-POINT SHOOTOUT & SLAM DUNK CONTEST	AMERICAN DREAMS : - FEAR ITSELF		FOX & FRIENDS	09:00
10:00			M*A*S*H : - DR. WINCHESTER AND MR. HYDE	HEADLINE NEWS	FOX & FRIENDS	10:00
10:30			THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW : - I GAVE AT THE OFFICE	SEINFELD : - THE OLD MAN		10:30
11:00			ALL IN THE FAMILY : - ARCHIE THE DONOR	MEET THE PRESS	CBS NEWS SUNDAY MORNING	11:00
11:30		ESPNEWS	THE TWILIGHT ZONE : - THE ODYSSEY OF FLIGHT 33			11:30
12:00	THE SPORTS REPORTERS	WWE SMACKDOWN!	FANTASY ISLAND : - RACER/ LADY OF THE EVENING	AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM		12:00
12:30	SPORTSCENTER			ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	FACE THE NATION	12:30
13:00		STARGATE SG-1 : - REDEMPTION (PART 2)	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON : - YELLOWBEARD, THE PIRATE		HEADLINE NEWS	13:00
13:30			HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - JESUS AND THE SKEPTIC	ESPNEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	13:30
14:00		NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - DAYTONA 500 PRE-RACE	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - DAYTONA 500 PRE-RACE	LATE EDITION W/ WOLF BLITZER	14:00
14:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT		REAL VIDEOS : - SMALLTOWN POETS			14:30
15:00			THE SIMPSONS : - LARGE MARGE			15:00
15:30	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG EAST: UCONN @ PITTSBURGH	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - DAYTONA 500	MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - DAYTONA 500		15:30
16:00			EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND : - FRANK GOES DOWNSTAIRS		FOX NEWS LIVE	16:00
16:30			THE KING OF QUEENS : - WEDDING PRESENCE			16:30
17:00			AMERICAN DREAMS : - FEAR ITSELF		FOX NEWS LIVE	17:00
17:30	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: MARYLAND @ NORTH CAROLINA					17:30
18:00			M*A*S*H : - DR. WINCHESTER AND MR. HYDE		CNN SUNDAY	18:00
18:30			THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW : - I GAVE AT THE OFFICE			18:30
19:00		ESPNEWS	ALL IN THE FAMILY : - ARCHIE THE DONOR	NBA FASTBREAK	MEET THE PRESS	19:00
19:30		COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: CINCINNATI @ WAKE FOREST	THE TWILIGHT ZONE : - THE ODYSSEY OF FLIGHT 33	ESPNEWS		19:30
20:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - THQ WORLD SUPERCROSS GP (250CC) SAN FRANCISCO		FANTASY ISLAND : - RACER/ LADY OF THE EVENING	SESAME STREET	TIM RUSSERT	20:00
21:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - THQ WORLD SUPERCROSS GP (125CC) SAN FRANCISCO		ROCKET POWER : - SHARK BAIT/A SHOT IN THE PARK	DORA: THE EXPLORER : - DORA, LA MUSICO	FOX REPORT	21:00
21:30		ESPNEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE		21:30
22:00	ESPNEWS	NBA TIP-OFF	THE SIMPSONS : - SOME ENCHANTED EVENING	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THIS WEEK	22:00
22:30	PGA TOUR - BUICK INVITATIONAL: FINAL ROUND	NBA ALL-STAR GAME - EASTERN CONFERENCE ALL-STARS VS WESTERN CONFERENCE ALL-STARS	THE COSBY SHOW : - CLIFF IN LOVE			22:30
23:00			BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - GET IT DONE	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	DATeline INTERNATIONAL	23:00