



# The Old Ironsides Report



Thursday, February 26, 2004

## 141st Signal Soldiers sustain combat skills

**Story and photo by CPL Todd Pruden, 372<sup>nd</sup> MPAD**  
BAGHDAD, Iraq – Training and readiness play vital roles in today's Army. Instruction and training in basic combat skills are necessary to ensure Soldiers are prepared to deal with situations they may encounter in a combat environment.

The 1st Armored Division's 141st Signal Battalion's leaders felt it was necessary for its Soldiers to get a refresher-training course on basic Soldier skills in Baghdad. So during a recent afternoon, Soldiers donned their gear, grabbed their common task manuals and hit the training area.

"We have been here nine months," said Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Clark, operations sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Co. and the non-commissioned officer in charge of the training. "You can't help but have complacency set in. The last thing we want our Soldiers to do in the last three months is to get lazy and get hurt."

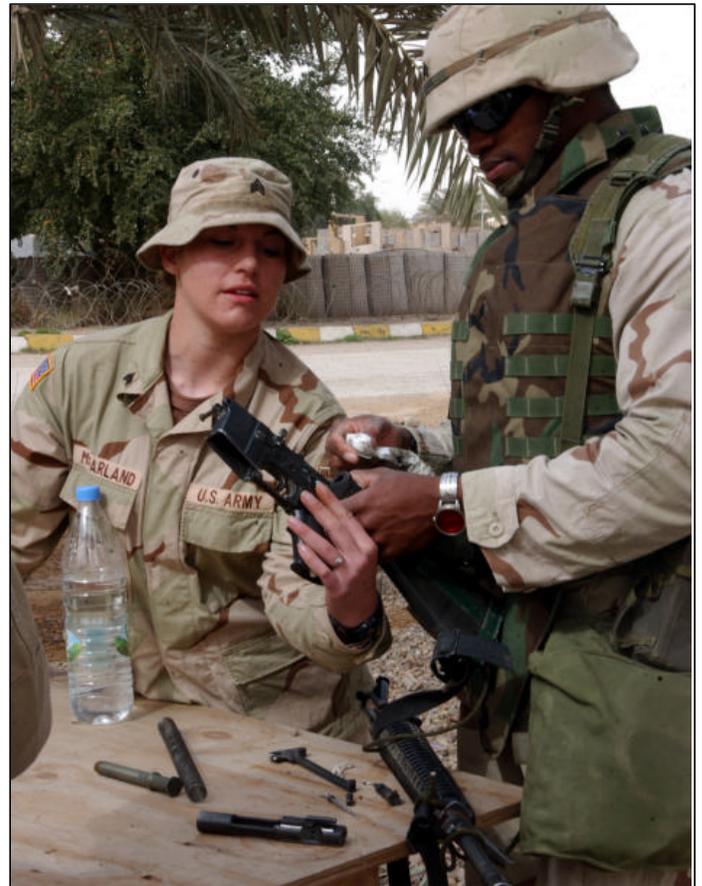
Clark stressed the importance of training, saying it is vital to keep his Soldiers ready and alert.

"We want to refocus the Soldiers' attention on basic skills," he said. "The hope is to bring them home alive."

Classes taught to the Soldiers included: evaluating a casualty, recognizing and dealing with unexploded ordnance hazards, preventing and treating heat injuries, risk assessment and management, weapons maintenance, mine sweeping, communicating via a tactical radio, and safely deploying a hand grenade.

Using land navigation skills to get to the training site added interest to the day's instruction. Each class was located at a specific grid coordinate that the soldiers had to pinpoint and find in order to make their way to the instructions.

"Task Force 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division's area of operations is Baghdad International Airport," said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Aiosa, a transmissions systems chief, HHC, who helped devise the idea to incorporate the land navigation portion into the training exercise. "It gives a clear picture of the whole area and makes the Soldiers aware of their surroundings in case of an attack."



**Sgt. Heather McFarland, a radio operator/maintainer team chief with B Company, 141<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion, shows Sgt. Dolphus Banks, a route team chief with C Co., 141st Signal Battalion, key areas to clean on the M-16 rifle.**

"Soldiers receiving the training find it beneficial, especially while conducting the training in a combat environment," he said.

"We need to go over these things to make them second nature," said mechanic Pfc. Joseph Mussari. "We've got to keep these things fresh."

According to Clark, the plan was to have the entire battalion conduct the training. He said it would take three days for the entire battalion to get the refresher courses, which are required for Soldiers to attend once a year.

## NEWS...

### Iraq Helicopter Crash Kills Two Soldiers

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Two American soldiers were killed Wednesday when their helicopter crashed in a river west of Baghdad, and gunmen assassinated the deputy police chief in the northern city of Mosul. The cause of the crash of the OH-58 Kiowa helicopter that killed its two-man crew near Haditha, 120 miles from the capital, was not determined. A witness, Emad Rasheed, 45, said he saw a missile hit one of two choppers in the area.

### Bush Urges International Forces in Haiti

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush said Wednesday that the United States is encouraging the international community to provide a strong security presence in Haiti as America and its allies continue to try to achieve a political solution to the island nation's escalating violence. Bush said the United States was discussing such a security presence at the moment, but he provided no details.

### Congress Not Rushing Gay Marriage Ban

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush wants quick election-year enactment of a constitutional amendment prohibiting gays from marrying each other, but Republicans in Congress are not rushing to heed his call. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, said it would take time to gauge the level of support in Congress for a constitutional amendment. He suggested the difficulty of passing one may cause lawmakers to take a different approach to preserving marriage as a solely man-woman union.

### Kerry Proposes Warning for Exported Jobs

CLEVELAND (AP) - Democratic front-runner John Kerry proposed Wednesday requiring a three-month warning before factory jobs are exported, a challenge to President Bush's policies and to rival John Edwards' efforts to attract American workers to his struggling campaign. Although Kerry frequently tells audiences that no president can stop companies from leaving the country, he said he will require companies that ship jobs offshore to disclose their plans to the government.

### Stewart Defense Rests in ImClone Trial

NEW YORK (AP) - Martha Stewart's defense rested Wednesday after calling just one witness - a lawyer who was with her the first time she spoke to investigators about her sale of ImClone Systems stock. The defense team for Stewart's former stockbroker, Peter Bacanovic, rested earlier Wednesday after calling five witnesses over three days.

## Thought for the day...

### What Happens Inside

While we may not be able to control all that happens to us, we can control what happens inside us.

-- Benjamin Franklin

## Entertainment...

### Thousands Flock to 'Passion' Showing

By BOBBY ROSS JR., Associated Press Writer  
PLANO, Texas (AP) -- Even before sunrise, believers and nonbelievers alike poured into movie theaters around the nation on Ash Wednesday for the opening of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ."

An estimated 6,000 people filled all 20 auditoriums at a Cinemark theater in this Dallas suburb to watch the film. All the tickets had been bought and donated by a local churchgoer.

"I hope everybody sees it with an open mind," said Rick Pierce, 53, a Baptist who sipped coffee and chewed on a breakfast burrito at the theater before the first showing.

He said he was in tears during the film. "It's the kind of crying knowing that somebody would do something for me, even though I didn't deserve it. It's the greatest love story there is," he said.

Elsewhere across the nation, some couldn't wait for morning screenings. More than 100 people watched the midnight showing of "The Passion" at the ArcLight Cinemas in Los Angeles.

In the central Pennsylvania community of Bellefonte, about 50 people attended a showing after midnight. Viewers groaned as Jesus was nailed to the cross, and muffled cries could be heard during more than an hour of Jesus' torture, crucifixion and death. In the end, as Jesus rises from the grave, some in the audience quietly celebrated.

Popcorn and soft drinks remained on the concession menu - but theater managers bet that most early morning moviegoers would rather choose breakfast pastries and orange juice.

A cadre of ministers were on hand to reach out to moviegoers.

Funded and directed by Gibson, the film has received decidedly mixed reviews from critics. Some have praised Gibson's total commitment to his subject: The Oscar-winning filmmaker says the movie is both an attempt to faithfully render the Gospels and a personal vision. Others see it as excessively bloody, obsessed with cruelty and unfair in its portrayal of Jews.

But following months of hype, curiosity about the movie is almost insatiable.

After seeing "The Passion" a few months ago, Bonnema called his wife, Sherry, and told her, "Honey, we've got to get as many people as we can to see this film because it's changed my life."

With her blessing, he approached Cinemark about reserving a single auditorium. Theater officials told him that would be fine, but he would need to do so before regular operating hours.

"If it's before hours, aren't all of them empty?" Bonnema recalled asking. "So I called my wife back and said, 'What do you think about getting 6,000 seats?'"

She agreed, even though she hadn't seen the film herself.

The Bonnemas gave 3,000 tickets to their church and 1,000 to the Dallas Theological Seminary.

That left them with 2,000 - but not for long.

"I put out an e-mail to friends in the Dallas-Fort Worth area," Arch Bonnema said. "In three days, I had 23,000 requests."

Ordinarily, showing the same movie on 20 screens would be impossible because of a lack of prints, said Terrell Falk, spokeswoman for Plano-based Cinemark USA, which owns about 300 theaters in 33 states.

But in this case, Cinemark made special arrangements to borrow prints from its other area theaters.

"We'll show it early in the morning, then take them to the other theaters," Falk said.

## Today in History...

### February 26, 1935: HITLER ORGANIZES LUFTWAFFE:

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) On February 26, 1935, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler signs a secret decree authorizing the founding of the Reich Luftwaffe as a third German military service to join the Reich army and navy. In the same decree, Hitler appointed Hermann Goering, a German air hero from World War I and high-ranking Nazi, as commander in chief of the new German air force.

The Versailles Treaty that ended World War I prohibited military aviation in Germany, but a German civilian airline--Lufthansa--was founded in 1926 and provided flight training for the men who would later become Luftwaffe pilots. After coming to power in 1933, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler began to secretly develop a state-of-the-art military air force and appointed Goering as German air minister. (During World War I, Goering commanded the celebrated air squadron in which the great German ace Manfred von Richthofen--"The Red Baron"--served.) In February 1935, Hitler formally organized the Luftwaffe as a major step in his program of German rearmament.

The Luftwaffe was to be uncamouflaged step-by-step so as not to alarm foreign governments, and the size and composition of Luftwaffe units were to remain secret as before. However, in March 1935, Britain announced it was strengthening its Royal Air Force (RAF), and Hitler, not to be outdone, revealed his Luftwaffe, which was rapidly growing into a formidable air force.

As German rearmament moved forward at an alarming rate, Britain and France protested but failed to keep up with German war production. The German air fleet grew dramatically, and the new German fighter--the Me-109--was far more sophisticated than its counterparts in Britain, France, or Russia. The Me-109 was bloodied during the Spanish Civil War; Luftwaffe pilots received combat training as they tried out new aerial attack formations on Spanish towns such as Guernica, which suffered more than 1,000 killed during a brutal bombing by the Luftwaffe in April 1937.

The Luftwaffe was configured to serve as a crucial part of the German blitzkrieg, or "lightning war"--the deadly military strategy developed by General Heinz Guderian. As German panzer divisions burst deep into enemy territory, lethal Luftwaffe dive-bombers would decimate the enemy's supply and communication lines and cause panic. By the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, the Luftwaffe had an operational force of 1,000 fighters and 1,050 bombers.

First Poland and then Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, and France fell to the blitzkrieg. After the surrender of France, Germany turned the Luftwaffe against Britain, hoping to destroy the RAF in preparation for a proposed German landing. However, in the epic air battle known as the Battle of Britain, the outnumbered RAF fliers successfully resisted the Luftwaffe, relying on radar technology, their new, highly maneuverable Spitfire aircraft, bravery, and luck. For every British plane shot down, two German warplanes were destroyed. In the face of British resistance, Hitler changed strategy in the Battle of Britain, abandoning his invasion plans and attempting to bomb London into submission. However, in this campaign, the Luftwaffe was hampered by its lack of strategic, long-range bombers, and in early 1941 the Battle of Britain ended in failure.

Britain had handed the Luftwaffe its first defeat. Later that year, Hitler ordered an invasion of the USSR, which after initial triumphs turned into an unqualified disaster. As Hitler stubbornly fought to overcome Russia's bitter resistance, the depleted Luftwaffe steadily lost air superiority over Europe in the face of increasing British and American air attacks. By the time of the D-Day invasion of Normandy in June 1944, the Luftwaffe air fleet was a skeleton of its former self.

### 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?"

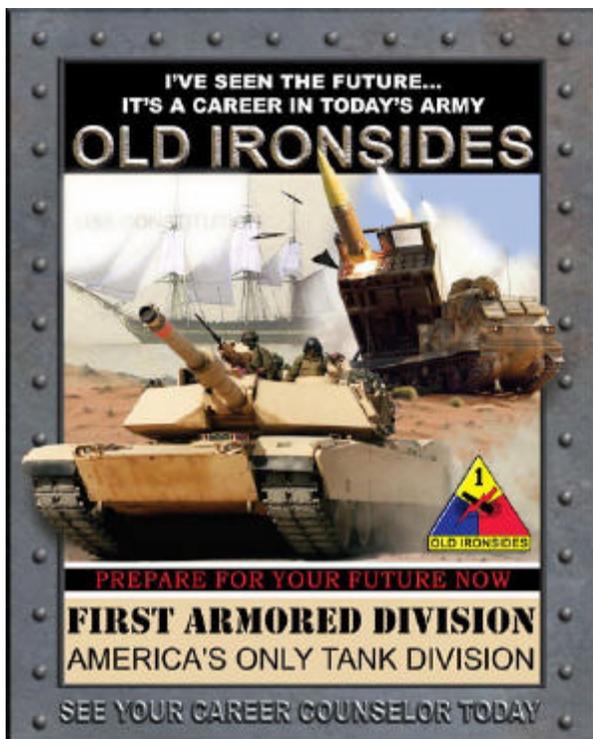
The answer is simple: once a soldier leaves Iraq, Afghanistan, or Kuwait, the lump sum tax-free bonus no longer exists.

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



I'VE SEEN THE FUTURE...  
IT'S A CAREER IN TODAY'S ARMY  
**OLD IRONSIDES**  
PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE NOW  
**FIRST ARMORED DIVISION**  
AMERICA'S ONLY TANK DIVISION  
SEE YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR TODAY

# The Old Ironsides Report February 26, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2004				As of: Wednesday, February 25, 2004 9:41:21 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC TODAY	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SUICIDE MISSIONS :- ARMY RANGERS			00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			HEADLINE NEWS	00:30
01:00			ABSENCE OF MALICE		LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER (I-I -			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL (I-I - - ACC: NC STATE @ GEORGIA TECH	CASPER	ROCKET POWER :- IT CAME FROM PLANET MERV/NETHERWORLD TONIGHT	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE :- SCIENTIFIC BEAR	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS :- BART THE DAREDEVIL	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	MSNBC	04:00
04:30			NICK NEWS SPECIAL: - DO WE NEED BLACK HISTORY MONTH?			04:30
04:45		ALIEN				04:45
05:00	NBA (I-I - - CLEVELAND CAVALIERS @ HOUSTON ROCKETS		DHARMA & GREG :- MIDWIFE CRISIS	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30			MY WIFE AND KIDS :- MAKING THE GRADE			05:30
06:00			THE WEST WING :- DEAD IRISH WRITERS	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
06:30				JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ (I-I - - SWINGING WITH CHANGE, 1943-1945	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30	SPORTSCENTER (I-I -	ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ (I-I - - DEDICATED TO CHAOS, 1943-1945		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30	SPORTSCENTER (I-I -	HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT (I-I -	SESAME STREET	HORATIO HORNBLLOWER :- THE DUCHESS AND THE DEVIL	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIONS :- CRUELLA WORLD	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30	TOTALLY NASCAR (I-I -			HEY ARNOLD! :- ARNOLD'S ROOM/HELGA VS. BIG PATTY		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER (I-I -	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE :- SCIENTIFIC BEAR		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	PAULA ZAHN NOW (I-I -	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - THE STRONGER EVIL (PT. 1)		10:30
11:00	NHL (I-I - - TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING @ ATLANTA THRASHERS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	ROCKET POWER :- IT CAME FROM PLANET MERV/NETHERWORLD TONIGHT	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	HEADLINE NEWS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS :- BART THE DAREDEVIL	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			NICK NEWS SPECIAL: - DO WE NEED BLACK HISTORY MONTH?	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			AMERICAN IDOL	FRIENDS :- THE ONE WITH ROSS'S TAN	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:17
13:25				GOOD MORNING MIAMI :- SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER GAVIN		13:25
13:30	NHL 2NIGHT (I-I -		MY WIFE AND KIDS :- MAKING THE GRADE			13:30
13:50				REEL TIME (I-I -		13:50
14:00	SPORTSCENTER (I-I -	HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING :- DEAD IRISH WRITERS	THE BACHELORETTE II	60 MINUTES II	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL (I-I - - SEC: LSU @ MISSISSIPPI STATE	TODAY	KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ (I-I - - SWINGING WITH CHANGE, 1943-1945		GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ (I-I - - DEDICATED TO CHAOS, 1943-1945	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER (I-I -	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIONS :- CRUELLA WORLD	HORATIO HORNBLLOWER :- THE DUCHESS AND THE DEVIL		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		HEY ARNOLD! :- ARNOLD'S ROOM/HELGA VS. BIG PATTY		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	NBA FASTBREAK (I-I -	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT (I-I -	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - THE STRONGER EVIL (PT. 1)		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER (I-I -	JEOPARDY!	ROCKET POWER :- IT CAME FROM PLANET MERV/NETHERWORLD TONIGHT	SPARTACUS		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS			19:30
20:00	SPORTS SPECIAL (I-I - - 2003 FIREFIGHTERS' COMBAT CHALLENGE RELAYS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS :- BART THE DAREDEVIL		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	SPORTS SPECIAL (I-I - - 2003 FIREFIGHTERS' COMBAT CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSHIP	HEADLINE NEWS	NICK NEWS SPECIAL: - DO WE NEED BLACK HISTORY MONTH?			20:30
21:00	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT (I-I -	FRIENDS :- THE ONE WITH ROSS'S TAN	AMERICAN IDOL		60 MINUTES II	21:00
21:25		GOOD MORNING MIAMI :- SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER GAVIN				21:25
21:30	SPORTSCENTER (I-I -		MY WIFE AND KIDS :- MAKING THE GRADE			21:30
21:50		REEL TIME (I-I -				21:50
22:00	PGA TOUR (I-I - - WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS - ACCENTURE MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP	THE BACHELORETTE II	THE WEST WING :- DEAD IRISH WRITERS		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:30				CINEMA SECRETS :- OSCAR WINNING FX		22:30
23:00			KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ (I-I - - SWINGING WITH CHANGE, 1943-1945	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30				HEADLINE NEWS	CNN'S INSIDE POLITICS	23:30