



# The Old Ironsides Report



Monday, January 05, 2004

## LSA fire prompts stricter safety measure enforcement

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A fire caused by an overheated air-conditioner/heating system destroyed eight tents in the Eagle Life Support Area on Baghdad International Airport Jan. 4

Five other tents were severely damaged.

According to reports, a plastic rain tarp covering a tent was sucked into an air-conditioning/heating unit shortly after 4 p.m. Its air intakes blocked, the system overheated, igniting the tarp.

“The fire was caused because someone left one of the tent heaters on and unattended,” said James R. Brouillette, Task Force 1st Armored Division Safety Officer.

“The blue tarp which had recently been added over the tent’s roof was covering the back of the air-conditioner/heater. This obstructed airflow into the heater,” he said.

The fire quickly spread to neighboring tents.

Firefighters from the 369th Engineer Battalion extinguished the blaze.

No soldiers or civilian employees were injured in the fire and investigations are continuing.

In order to prevent similar fires, soldiers are cutting the traps covering the air-conditioning/heating units installed in their tents.

“We cut all the rain flies tonight,” said a first sergeant in an e-mail message to his company’s noncommissioned officers.

Soldiers will not leave heaters running unattended and candles will not be used in any tent at any time, he said.

The first sergeant said he and the installation fire marshal will begin conducting weekly fire safety inspections of all LSA tents immediately.

Other fire prevention measures will include posting of fire guards in the Eagle and Iron LSAs, he said.

According to a memorandum from Baghdad International Airport Fire Marshal, Sgt. 1st Class Charles Crego, every tent should have two 10-pound fire extinguishers with easy to understand instructions by each exit.

Other fire prevention measures include:

- No smoking or cooking in tents.
- Testing smoke detectors weekly.
- Keeping shelves less than four-feet tall.

### SAFETY TIP

#### FIRE SAFETY

##### DO NOT:

*UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE, LEAVE ANY ACTIVE HEATER OR HEATING ELEMENT UNATTENDED FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME.*

*IF YOU LEAVE, UNPLUG IT OR TURN IT OFF.*

*RETURNING TO A COLD TENT IS BETTER THAN RETURNING TO NO TENT!*

- Ensuring that there is a two-foot aisle around tent poles and clear pathways to doorways.
- Establishing and posting evacuation plans, locations of fire extinguishers and emergency telephone numbers.
- Appointing fire wardens for each tent and fire marshals appointed for multiple tent areas. Wardens will enforce fire safety requirements.
- Turning off electric appliances, including heaters while the tent is unoccupied.
- Keeping electrical outlets clear of flammable items and beds should not block outlets.
- Taking out trash daily and ensuring that fuels are kept out of tents.

Electrical fires can be prevented by not overloading circuits and receptacles, not using “daisy chains” of extension cords and surge protectors and not using unapproved locally purchased electrical equipment, he said.

Tents should not have ponchos or other types of wall barriers installed, Crego said. This adds to the amount of combustible material in a tent and hinders firefighters’ ability to fight the fire or to see if there is anyone inside.

# The Old Ironsides Report *January 5, 2004*

## *News...*

### **British PM Makes Surprise Trip to Iraq**

BASRA, Iraq (AP) - British Prime Minister Tony Blair, making a surprise visit Sunday to his nation's troops, said the invasion of Iraq would be a test case in the global fight against terror, while his top envoy in the country warned of bigger, more sophisticated resistance attacks. Blair, who faced strong opposition at home for supporting the U.S.-led effort to oust Saddam Hussein, visited the southern city of Basra, the base for some 10,000 British troops, to thank the soldiers and meet with military commanders.

### **British Flight to Washington Delayed Again**

LONDON (AP) - A British Airways flight from London to Washington, canceled twice this week because of security fears, was delayed again on Sunday for security checks requested by the United States. The British transport secretary warned that security alerts could be a feature of international airline travel for years to come. The airline canceled Flight BA223 from Heathrow to Washington's Dulles airport on Thursday and Friday on government advice. The same flight was delayed for more than three hours on Saturday for security checks.

### **Last-Ditch Effort Secures Afghan Charter**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Afghan delegates agreed on a new constitution Sunday, overcoming weeks of division and mistrust to hammer out a historic compromise meant to bind together the war-ravaged nation's mosaic of ethnic groups. Just a day after warning that the meeting was heading toward failure, chairman Sibghatullah Mujaddedi announced that last-ditch diplomacy had secured a deal.

### **India, Pakistan Officials Meet at Summit**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) - The Indian prime minister held his first direct talks with his Pakistani counterpart on Sunday since the two countries nearly went to war two years ago setting the stage for a much-anticipated meeting with Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf. Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Pakistani premier Zafarullah Khan Jamali, met for 15 minutes shortly after the opening of a summit of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

## ***Chaplain's thought for the day...***

### **Faith**

The African impala can jump to a height of over 10 feet and cover a distance of greater than 30 feet. Yet these magnificent creatures can be kept in an enclosure in any zoo with a 3-foot wall. The animals will not jump if they cannot see where their feet will fall. Faith is the ability to trust what we cannot see, and with faith we are freed from the flimsy enclosures of life that only fear allows to entrap us. -John Emmons.

## *In other news...*

### **U.S. Rover Sends Home Dramatic Pictures of Mars**

By Dan Whitcomb and Gina Keating  
PASADENA, Calif. (Reuters) - A robotic explorer beamed stunning images of the bleak Martian surface back to Earth, showing on Sunday it had made a safe landing in what NASA scientists said could be a dry lake bed ideal for finding signs of life on the red planet.

The black-and-white pictures showed a panoramic view of the barren, rock-strewn Martian landscape surrounding the Spirit lander, which touched down at the wind-swept center of the Gusev crater -- exactly where project managers had hoped.

"It's a place almost ... tailor-made for our vehicle," Mars Exploration Rover chief mission investigator Steve Squyres said. "It's a glorious crater. We have hit what the science team believes is the scientific sweet spot."

The pictures, taken at mid-afternoon Mars time, show a vast expanse of what appears to be desert extending to the horizon in every direction. The scientists were intrigued by dust-filled hollows they said may be one of the rover's first stops. They also were trying to gauge the distance to a series of ridges.

The pictures captured Mars for the first time in stereoscope -- offering unprecedented depth of field that will allow NASA to more accurately pinpoint areas of exploration.

Squyres said if the landing site inside the crater was in fact a dry lake bed, its sedimentary rock could have preserved clues about the planet's ancient past.

The spacecraft sent between 60 and 80 pictures to the passing Odyssey orbiter during a 12-minute communications window and gave NASA scientists a glimpse of the lander itself, which had traveled seven months through space to search for life on Mars.

Data collected from the lander also showed it survived its long journey and risky plunge to the Martian surface in good shape and apparently ready to begin its primary geologic mission.

The only apparent flaw was that the lander had butted against a large rock that could stand in the rover's path. But elated project managers said they could not have asked for a better outcome for the lander -- which came to rest upright and almost perfectly level after bouncing and rolling for as much as a mile.

And they said the mission had already accomplished a first by establishing an interplanetary satellite communications relayed by the Odyssey orbiter that has been circling Mars for several years.

Science teams worked through the night evaluating data sent back to Earth by the rover and said they expected the first color images to be transmitted later on Sunday. Engineers were expected to spend the day testing Spirit's systems and scientific instruments before preparing it to roll off the lander in about a week.

In getting to the surface of Mars, the spacecraft survived what one NASA administrator called "six minutes of hell" -- the parachute and retro-rocket assisted descent through the planet's atmosphere. The agency said more than half of man's missions to Mars have ended in failure.

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe popped champagne at a post-landing press briefing, declaring: "This is a big night for NASA -- we're back ... We're on Mars."

Mars claimed two NASA spacecraft in 1998 and 1999. The agency is still trying to explain the loss of a space shuttle Columbia and its crew last year.

The \$820 million mission's success was of utmost importance to the U.S. space program and O'Keefe called it a "double-header" following the successful Stardust mission on Friday that intercepted a comet and gathered particles in a first that could offer clues about how Earth began.

# The Old Ironsides Report January 5, 2004

| myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: MONDAY, JANUARY 05, 2004 |   |  |  | As of: Sunday, January 04, 2004 8:16:22 PM                             |                              |            |
|--|---|--|--|--|------------------------------|------------|
| Start Time                                       | SPORTS  | ATLANTIC   | SPECTRUM   | PACIFIC  | NEWS                         | Start Time |
| 00:00  |   | THE NFL TODAY  | MAGNUM P.I. : - REMBRANDT'S GIRL                                     | THE NFL TODAY  | CNN SUNDAY                   | 00:00      |
| 00:30  |   | NFL - 2003 AFC WILD CARD PLAYOFFS: DENVER BRONCOS @ INDIANAPOLIS COLTS |  | NFL - 2003 AFC WILD CARD PLAYOFFS: DENVER BRONCOS @ INDIANAPOLIS COLTS |                              | 00:30      |
| 01:00  | COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PAC-10: OREGON @ UCLA                  |  | FAMILY TIES : - THE DISCIPLE   |  | MEET THE PRESS               | 01:00      |
| 01:30  |   |  | THE COSBY SHOW : - THE DEAD END KIDS MEET DR. LOTUS                  |  |                              | 01:30      |
| 02:00  |   |  | CHIPS : - SURF'S UP  |  | TIM RUSSERT                  | 02:00      |
| 03:00  | COLLEGE GAMEDAY   |  | RUGRATS : - THE FUN WAY DAY/ THE AGE OF AQUARIUM                     |  | FOX REPORT                   | 03:00      |
| 03:30  |   | ESPNEWS  | SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - MERMAID MAN AND BARNACLE BOY 4/ DOING TIME | ESPNEWS  |                              | 03:30      |
| 04:00  | COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG EAST (WOMENS): NOTRE DAME @ PURDUE | COLLEGE FOOTBALL - 2004 SUGAR BOWL: LSU VS OKLAHOMA                    | THE SIMPSONS : - SHE OF LITTLE FAITH                                 | COLLEGE FOOTBALL - 2004 SUGAR BOWL: LSU VS OKLAHOMA                    | THIS WEEK                    | 04:00      |
| 04:30  |   |  | HOME IMPROVEMENT : - THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD (PT 3)                |  |                              | 04:30      |
| 05:00  |   |  | BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - BRING ON THE NIGHT                      |  | DATELINE INTERNATIONAL       | 05:00      |
| 06:00  | COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG EAST: OHIO STATE @ RUTGERS         |  | LAW & ORDER : - PHOBIA   |  | 60 MINUTES                   | 06:00      |
| 07:00  |   |  | CRITICAL RESCUE : - TRAPPED  |  |                              | 07:00      |
| 07:30  |   | ESPNEWS  |  | ESPNEWS  | HEADLINE NEWS                | 07:30      |
| 08:00  | ESPNEWS   | HEADLINE NEWS  | AMERICAN CHOPPER   | ACCESS HOLLYWOOD   | LARRY KING LIVE              | 08:00      |
| 08:25  |   |  |  | GUIDING LIGHT  |                              | 08:25      |
| 08:30  | ESPNEWS   | ESPNEWS  |  |  |                              | 08:30      |
| 09:00  | NFL PRIMETIME   | SESAME STREET  | THE BROTHERS MCMULLEN  |  | AT LARGE WITH GERALDO RIVERA | 09:00      |
| 09:13  |   |  |  | GENERAL HOSPITAL   |                              | 09:13      |
| 09:30  | SPORTSCENTER  |  |  |  |                              | 09:30      |
| 10:00  |   | DORA: THE EXPLORER   |  | CYBERCHASE   | ACCESS HOLLYWOOD             | 10:00      |
| 10:30  |   | WHEEL OF FORTUNE   |  | EVEN STEVENS : - SECRETS AND SPIES                                     |                              | 10:30      |
| 11:00  | COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG EAST (WOMENS): DUKE @ UCONN        | THE DR. PHIL SHOW  | RUGRATS : - THE FUN WAY DAY/ THE AGE OF AQUARIUM                     | JEOPARDY!  | BELTWAY BOYS                 | 11:00      |
| 11:30  |   |  | SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - MERMAID MAN AND BARNACLE BOY 4/ DOING TIME | HEADLINE NEWS  | FOX NEWS WATCH               | 11:30      |
| 11:46  |   | THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW   |  |  |                              | 11:46      |
| 11:52  |   |  |  | PACIFIC REPORT   |                              | 11:52      |
| 12:00  |   |  | THE SIMPSONS : - SHE OF LITTLE FAITH                                 | ESPNEWS  | BULLS & BEARS                | 12:00      |
| 12:30  |   |  | HOME IMPROVEMENT : - THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD (PT 3)                | HEADLINE NEWS  | CAVUTO ON BUSINESS           | 12:30      |
| 12:35  |   | GUIDING LIGHT  |  |  |                              | 12:35      |
| 12:52  |   |  |  | PACIFIC REPORT   |                              | 12:52      |
| 13:00  | SPORTSCENTER  |  | BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - BRING ON THE NIGHT                      | 60 MINUTES   | ACCESS HOLLYWOOD             | 13:00      |
| 13:17  |   | GENERAL HOSPITAL   |  |  |                              | 13:17      |
| 14:00  |   | HEADLINE NEWS  | LAW & ORDER : - PHOBIA   |  | DATELINE NBC                 | 14:00      |
| 14:30  | COLLEGE FOOTBALL - 2004 SUGAR BOWL: LSU VS OKLAHOMA         | JUDGE JUDY   |  | NYPD BLUE : - ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT                                     |                              | 14:30      |
| 15:00  |   | TODAY  | CRITICAL RESCUE : - TRAPPED  |  | GOOD MORNING AMERICA         | 15:00      |
| 15:30  |   |  |  | WITHOUT A TRACE : - BIRTHDAY BOY                                       |                              | 15:30      |
| 16:00  |   |  | AMERICAN CHOPPER   |  |                              | 16:00      |
| 16:30  |   |  |  | HEADLINE NEWS  |                              | 16:30      |
| 16:52  |   |  |  | PACIFIC REPORT   |                              | 16:52      |
| 17:00  |   | ZOOBOOMAFOO : - FUNNY FACES  | THE BROTHERS MCMULLEN  | TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO   | HEADLINE NEWS                | 17:00      |
| 17:30  |   | DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TV-7): - THE BIRTH OF GREYMON               |  |  | CHANNEL ONE                  | 17:30      |
| 17:45  |   |  |  |  | ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING  | 17:45      |
| 18:00  | ESPNEWS   | CYBERCHASE   |  | THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN                                     | THE EARLY SHOW               | 18:00      |
| 18:30  | NFL PRIMETIME   | EVEN STEVENS : - SECRETS AND SPIES                                     |  |  |                              | 18:30      |
| 19:00  | SPORTSCENTER  | JEOPARDY!  | RUGRATS : - THE FUN WAY DAY/ THE AGE OF AQUARIUM                     | USED PEOPLE  |                              | 19:00      |
| 19:30  |   | HEADLINE NEWS  | SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - MERMAID MAN AND BARNACLE BOY 4/ DOING TIME |  |                              | 19:30      |
| 20:00  |   | ESPNEWS  | THE SIMPSONS : - SHE OF LITTLE FAITH                                 |  | FOX NEWS LIVE                | 20:00      |
| 20:30  | NFL PRIMETIME   | HEADLINE NEWS  | HOME IMPROVEMENT : - THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD (PT 3)                |  |                              | 20:30      |
| 21:00  | COLLEGE FOOTBALL - 2004 SUGAR BOWL: LSU VS OKLAHOMA         | 60 MINUTES   | BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - BRING ON THE NIGHT                      | THE MALTESE FALCON   | DATELINE NBC                 | 21:00      |
| 22:00  |   |  | LAW & ORDER : - PHOBIA   |  | FOX NEWS LIVE                | 22:00      |
| 22:30  |   | NYPD BLUE : - ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT                                     |  |  |                              | 22:30      |
| 23:00  |   |  | CRITICAL RESCUE : - TRAPPED  | ESPNEWS  | HEADLINE NEWS                | 23:00      |
| 23:30  |   | WITHOUT A TRACE : - BIRTHDAY BOY                                       |  | HEADLINE NEWS  | INSIDE POLITICS              | 23:30      |

## Today in history... Jan. 5, 1945

### Soviets recognize pro-Soviet Polish Provisional Government

On the eve of a major offensive into Poland, the Soviet Union decides to recognize the pro-Soviet Lublin Committee as the Provisional Government of Poland instead of the government-in-exile that was temporarily being headquartered in London.

On September 1, 1939, a massive German army invaded Poland. Sixteen days later, the USSR invaded Poland from the east. During this tumultuous period, Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski became leader of a Polish government-in-exile in London. He developed a good working relationship with the Allies until April 1943, when Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin broke off Polish-Soviet diplomatic relations after Sikorski requested that the Red Cross investigate the alleged Soviet slaughter of Polish officers in the Katyn forest of eastern Poland in 1942.

As the war progressed and the Soviets battled the Germans in western Poland, the Polish government-in-exile began to fear that Soviet domination might follow if the Soviets defeated Germany for control of the Polish territory. Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, Sikorski's successor as the provisional government head, pleaded with the Allies to secure Poland's postwar borders and sovereignty, but no such assurances were granted.

In August 1944, the Polish Home Army, fearful that the Soviets would march on Warsaw to battle the Germans and never leave the capital, led an uprising against the German occupiers. They hoped that if they could defeat the Germans, the Allies would help install the anti-Communist government-in-exile after the war.

Unfortunately, the Soviets, rather than aiding the uprising that they encouraged in the name of beating back their common enemy, stood idly by and watched as the Germans slaughtered the Poles and sent survivors to concentration camps.

With native Polish resistance eradicated, and in anticipation of one last offensive against the Germans, the Soviet Union created its own pro-communist Polish provisional government to counter the anti-communist government-in-exile. At the Yalta Conference in February 1945, the Allies agreed that an interim government would be formed from both the pro- and anti-communist sides, with free elections to follow. The Soviets had other plans, though, and promptly turned the exhausted and battered Poland into a non-democratic satellite country, which it remained until 1989.

The Army keeps rewarding soldiers with cash for reenlisting while deployed. Starting Jan. 1, 2004, Task Force 1st Armored Division soldiers with less than 10 years of service can earn from \$5,000 to \$10,000 when they reenlist.

Soldiers must reenlist for 36 months. Other factors that will determine the bonus amount include years of service and current pay grade.

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

| 2003 NFL PLAYOFFS   |          |    |  |         |    |
|---|----------|----|--|---------|----|
| SCORES   SCHEDULE   INJURIES   STATISTICS   TEAMS   PLAYERS |          |    |  |         |    |
|   | PACKERS  | 33 |  | COLTS   | 41 |
|   | SEAHAWKS | 27 |  | BRONCOS | 10 |