

Deployed Soldiers able to watch high school graduations

By Spc. Jeanine Kinville, 1AD PAO
BAGHDAD, Iraq – At Freedom Rest, an R&R facility in Baghdad, seven 1st Armored Division Soldiers watched two television screens intently. They weren't catching the latest baseball game or watching their favorite sitcom. Instead, the seven were proud parents watching their high school seniors graduate from General H.H. Arnold High School at the Kurhaus in Wiesbaden, Germany on June 5.

"This was the last of three video teleconferences held for 1AD Soldiers with graduates in Hanau, Baumholder and Wiesbaden, Germany," said Lt. Col. Chris Argo, 141st Signal Battalion commander. "The VTC was open to all 1AD soldiers with graduates in the rear."

More than 25 1AD Soldiers were able to watch from Baghdad as their children graduated in Germany.

Weeks of planning and coordination were required to ensure the VTCs went according to plan. Together, signal and personnel Soldiers worked on setting up communications and arranging the Soldiers overnight stay at Freedom Rest.

"A lot of work goes into getting the system together and working," said Argo. "This is a no fail mission."

Two VTC systems were provided for the graduation. A troop of signal Soldiers operated the VTC at Freedom Rest, along with a small extension node team that worked to relay the signals back to Germany.

This allowed the Soldiers to be part of the ceremony. While they watched on screen, a camera captured the Soldiers watching from Freedom Rest and projected their images at the graduation ceremony on a gigantic screen for graduates and families to see.

Soldiers were seated in the order their children graduated so the camera captured each individual as their graduate received their diploma. Each Soldier had a moment to be face to face with their child.

"It felt great to see him," said Master Sgt. Earl Edmund, a personnel noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1AD.

Edmund's son Neil, 17, graduated from General H.H. Arnold High School and will be attending South Carolina State University in the fall.

"I can't be there in person, so this is the next best thing," Edmund said. "What I wish most of all was to be there to see my son. I just want to tell him I am proud of him and his journey is just beginning."

During the ceremony, Soldiers held up decorated signs and cheered with as much enthusiasm as anyone attending the ceremony in person.

After the graduates were announced and the diplomas handed out, Soldiers clapped as they watched the class of 2004 adjust their tassels and toss their caps in the air.

"I enjoyed the VTC," said Chief Warrant Officer William Scott, battalion maintenance officer assigned to HHC, 123rd Main Support Bn., whose son Antonia, 17, also graduated from General H.H. Arnold High School. "It was very nicely done. I think it's a lot better that they can see us and our reaction."

After the ceremony was finished, Soldiers were allowed ten minutes of personal VTC time with their graduate and family.

"My son is looking forward to seeing me," said Edmund before speaking to Neil. "I am sure my wife is excited about it. My oldest daughter, granddaughter and mother in law are there. This was kind of a reunion because I haven't seen them in so long."

The Soldiers were thankful they

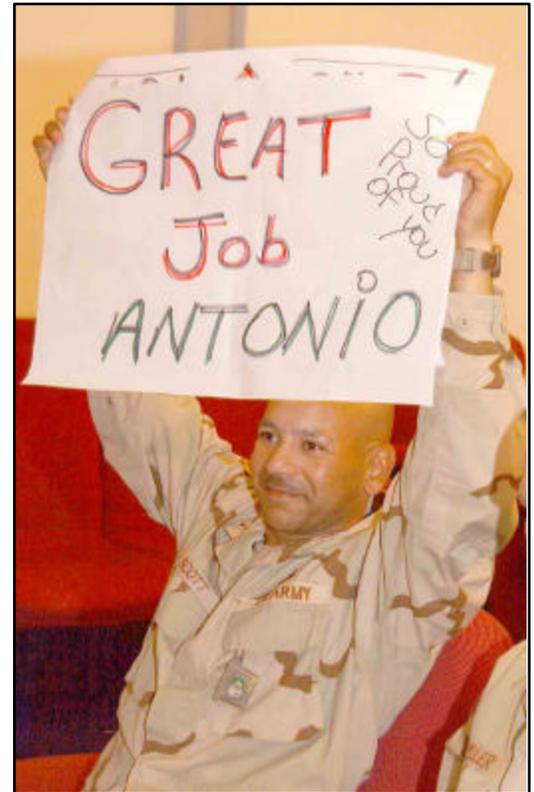
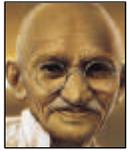


Photo by Spc. Jeanine Kinville, 1AD PAO
Chief Warrant Officer William Scott, battalion maintenance officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 123rd Main Support Battalion, cheers on his son, Antonio, from Freedom Rest, an R&R facility, in Baghdad, Iraq. Scott was able to watch Antonio on a Video Teleconference system as he graduated from General H.H. Arnold High School in Wiesbaden, Germany June 5.

were given the opportunity to watch their children graduate while deployed.

Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1AD commanding general, made sure all Soldiers had the chance to come to Freedom Rest and relax during the day before watching their child's high school graduation, said Argo.

"I am glad the chain of command supports this function by making it as comfortable as possible for us," said Scott. "Maj. Gen. Dempsey has really taken care of the Soldiers and I, for one, really appreciate it."



Quote of the Day...

Indolence is a delightful but distressing state; we must be doing something to be happy.

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

1064

Coimbra, Portugal falls to Ferdinand, king of Castile.

1534

Jacques Cartier sails into the mouth of the St. Lawrence River in Canada.

1790

Civil war breaks out in Martinique.

1861

Mary Ann "Mother" Bickerdyke begins working in Union hospitals.

1863

At the Battle of Brandy Station in Virginia, Union and Confederate cavalries clash in the largest cavalry battle of the Civil War.

1915

Les Paul, American guitarist and electric guitar innovator, is born.

1923

Bulgaria's government is overthrown by the military.

1931

Robert H. Goddard patents a rocketed-fuel aircraft design.

1942

Japanese Premier Kantara Suzuki declares that Japan will fight to the last rather than accept unconditional surrender.

1954

At the Army-McCarthy hearings, attorney Joseph Welch asks Senator Joseph McCarthy, "Have you no sense of decency?"

1959

The first ballistic missile-carrying submarine, the USS *George Washington*, is launched.

1972

American advisor John Paul Vann is killed in a helicopter accident in Vietnam.

1986

NASA publishes a report on the *Challenger* incident.



Task Force 1st Armored Division Soldiers applaud their graduates as they watch the General H.H. Arnold High School commencement ceremony at the Kurhaus in Wiesbaden, Germany. The Soldiers were able to watch the graduation on a video teleconference system at Freedom Rest in Baghdad, Iraq June 5. (Photo by Spc. Jeanine Kinville)

Oddly Enough...

Man Charged With Chalupa Assault

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) -- A man who claimed he didn't get the taco he paid for has been charged with assault for allegedly pelting a Taco Bell clerk in the face with a chalupa.

Nancy Harrison told police she was working the drive-through Thursday night when Christopher Lame, 24, ordered some food. He later came into the store, complaining he didn't get the taco he had ordered, police records say. Harrison said that when she asked for a receipt, he went back to his car and brought back the bag.

Harrison said she told him the store was closing, and as she turned away, a chalupa hit her in the face near her right eye. She said she ran into the parking lot and took down the license number as the motorist was driving away. Lame was identified through the license number.

He is scheduled to appear in court June 15.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

Leadership by Example

When Gen. George C. Marshall took command of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA, he found the post in a generally run-down condition.

Rather than issue orders for specific improvements, he simply got out his own paintbrushes, lawn equipment, etc., and went to work on his personal quarters.

The other officers and men, first on his block, then throughout the post, did the same thing, and Fort Benning was brightened up. Leadership by example.



For your Information...



"USA Express" Performance Schedule

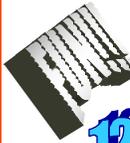
Camp Delta, Al Kuf 10 JUN 1830-2030

BIAP (W), DFAC 11 JUN 1130-1230

123rd MSB, BIAP (W) 11 JUN 2000-2200

BIAP (E), Circus Tent 12 JUN 1900-2100

Striker's Island, BIAP (W) 13 JUN 2000-2200



Sponsored by:

TF 1AD, G1 MWR

America's Tank Division

Division AER drive continues through June

1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

Task Force 1st Armored Division is running an Army Emergency Relief campaign through June 25 to heighten Soldiers' awareness of the program.

Through the donations this private nonprofit organization provides assistance to active duty Soldiers, retirees and family members.

"This is the Army's own organization that's sole mission is to help soldiers and their dependents," said Capt. Allison Morgan, TF 1AD AER campaign manager. "It provides assistance ... in emergency or hardship situations."

AER provides assistance for food, rent or utilities; emergency transportation and vehicle repair; funeral expenses; medical and dental expenses; and personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen; as well as gives undergraduate-level education scholarships, based primarily on financial need, to children of soldiers.

Though units around the Army only hold one campaign a year, Soldiers can make donations at any time, noted Morgan.

The goal with the task force's campaign is 100 percent contact – meaning every soldier is given the opportunity to donate. This is done through unit and section campaign representatives. Soldiers can donate via cash check or allotment and 97 cents out of every dollar goes to the funds.

"You don't have to be a contributor to take advantage of the assistance," Morgan said, adding, "(But) even if you never need it you're still helping other Soldiers."

For more information on AER, Soldiers can contact their unit representatives, reference the program's Army Regulation 930-4, or go to www.aerhq.org.



FOB IRON'S RELIGIOUS SERVICES



Iron Chapel

SATURDAY

0930: SDA Prayer Mtg

Iron Chapel

SUNDAY

0930: Catholic Confession

1000: Catholic Mass

1115: General Protestant

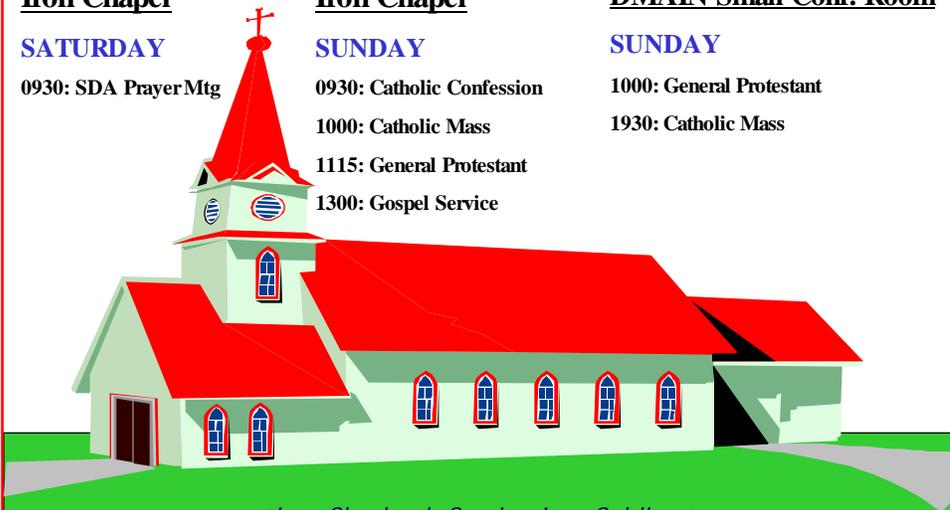
1300: Gospel Service

DMAIN Small Conf. Room

SUNDAY

1000: General Protestant

1930: Catholic Mass



"Iron Shepherds Serving Iron Soldiers"

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 09, 2004				As of: Tuesday, June 08, 2004 5:31:01 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS	0:00
0:30			EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):		NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	0:30
0:45		HEADLINE NEWS				0:45
1:00	MLB - SAN DIEGO PADRES @ BOSTON RED SOX	4 QTRS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - SONG FOR ELIZA	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	1:00
1:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - GRANDMA'S KISSES / SQUIDVILLE		CBS EVENING NEWS	1:30
2:00		PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LISA VS. MALIBU STACY	BLUE'S CLUES - BLUE'S SCHOOL	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	2:00
2:30		NBA HANGTIME	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - THE SKIN GAME	NBA HANGTIME		2:30
3:00		NBA - FINALS GM 2: DETROIT PISTONS @ LOS ANGELES LAKERS	SUPER MILLIONAIRE (04*) (TVG): - EPISODE 2	NBA - FINALS GM 2: DETROIT PISTONS @ LOS ANGELES LAKERS	HANNITY & COLMES	3:00
4:00	MLB - CINCINNATI REDS @ OAKLAND ATHLETICS		STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - SECOND CHANCES		THE NEWSHOUR	4:00
5:00			MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 1		BET NIGHTLY NEWS	5:00
5:30		ESPNEWS	LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - JIM LOVELL	JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	5:30
6:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - VIETNAM: HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	6:00
6:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		6:25
6:30		HEADLINE NEWS				6:30
7:00	ESPNEWS	SESAME STREET	CRIMSON TIDE		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	7:00
7:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		7:13
7:30	TOTALLY NASCAR					7:30
8:00	SPORTSCENTER	BLUE'S CLUES - BLUE'S SCHOOL		BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - FIVE, SIX, AND THISTLE STICKS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	8:00
8:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - MR. VAGUE DOES SOMETHING.../THE BIG PUT DOWN!		8:30
9:00	BASSMASTER ELITE 50	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - SONG FOR ELIZA	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - EPISODE 9	NIGHTLINE	9:00
9:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - GRANDMA'S KISSES / SQUIDVILLE	LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - DEBORAH SAMSON--SOLIDER OF THE REVOLUTION	HEADLINE NEWS	9:30
9:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				9:46
10:00	TUESDAY NIGHT FIGHTS - CRUISERWEIGHTS: DALE BROWN VS ROBERT DANIELS		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LISA VS. MALIBU STACY	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	10:00
10:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - THE SKIN GAME	HEADLINE NEWS		10:30
10:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				10:35
11:00			SUPER MILLIONAIRE (04*) (TVG): - EPISODE 2	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK	11:00
11:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				11:17
11:30				PACIFIC REPORT		11:30
12:00	NBA FINALS LATE NIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - SECOND CHANCES	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - GET REAL	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	12:00
12:30	SPORTSCENTER	JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - SAVING SERGEANT TOMPKINS		12:30
13:00		TODAY	MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 1	FEAR FACTOR (TV14): - ALL FEMALE SHOW: UNDERWATER TUMBLER/TBD/HELI WALL	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	13:00
13:30	NBA - FINALS GM 2: DETROIT PISTONS @ LOS ANGELES LAKERS		LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - JIM LOVELL			13:30
14:00			SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - VIETNAM: HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT	THE O.C. (TVPG): - THE PROPOSAL		14:00
15:00		BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - FIVE, SIX, AND THISTLE STICKS	CRIMSON TIDE	PACIFIC REPORT	HEADLINE NEWS	15:00
15:30	SPORTSCENTER	TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - MR. VAGUE DOES SOMETHING.../THE BIG PUT DOWN!		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	15:30
16:00		POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - EPISODE 9			THE EARLY SHOW	16:00
16:30	NBA FINALS LATE NIGHT	LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - DEBORAH SAMSON--SOLIDER OF THE REVOLUTION		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - SONG FOR ELIZA			17:00
17:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - GRANDMA'S KISSES / SQUIDVILLE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		17:30
18:00	NASCAR BUSCH SERIES - MBNA AMERICA 200	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LISA VS. MALIBU STACY	THE LOST WORLD: JURASSIC PARK	FOX NEWS LIVE	18:00
18:30		HEADLINE NEWS	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - THE SKIN GAME			18:30
19:00		8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - GET REAL	SUPER MILLIONAIRE (04*) (TVG): - EPISODE 2		FOX NEWS LIVE	19:00
19:30		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - SAVING SERGEANT TOMPKINS				19:30
20:00	MLB - ST. LOUIS CARDINALS @ CHICAGO CUBS	FEAR FACTOR (TV14): - ALL FEMALE SHOW: UNDERWATER TUMBLER/TBD/HELI WALL	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - SECOND CHANCES		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30				THE PURPLE ROSE OF CAIRO		20:30
21:00		THE O.C. (TVPG): - THE PROPOSAL	MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 1		HEADLINE NEWS	21:00
21:30			LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - JIM LOVELL		INSIDE POLITICS	21:30
22:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - VIETNAM: HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		22:00
22:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	22:30
23:00	AROUND THE HORN		CRIMSON TIDE	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	23:00
23:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				23:30