

Iron Eagle Express delivers everything but kitchen sinks

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer, 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Iraq – Medical supplies, Meals-Ready-to-Eat and mail are now easier to get a hold of thanks to a transportation program that uses helicopters to rapidly re-supply forward-based troops.

Dubbed the “Iron Eagle Express,” Division Support Command, Task Force 1st Armored Division, has arranged for a pair of 4th Brigade UH-60s to make daily re-supply runs. The choppers deliver a variety supply to the outlying camps and Forward Operating Bases located south of Baghdad.

“As of May 7th, IEX has completed 16 missions, carrying 193 passengers and delivering 15 short tons of cargo,” said Maj. Martha Granger, DISCOM assistant division Material Management. “We have hauled passengers that have included doctors, interpreters, and chaplains, and cargo of various classes (of supplies) such as mail, uniforms, body armor plates and medical supplies.”

IEX took wing on April 27th. The seats and cargo space are in such high demand that getting a seat usually means booking a few days out.

“Our fear at first was that [this program] wouldn’t catch on, but now we are overwhelmed with customers,” Granger said. “Most people think of using helicopters for emergency re-supply, so for a heavy division, this is a new way of thinking about routine re-supply.”

Flights are full most nights and a few potential passengers have been turned away or asked to fly the next night said Sgt. Maj. Edward Massey, IEX flight organizer and DISCOM Support, Plans and Operations sergeant major.

This program is in high demand because “it uses fewer resources to move troops and supplies from point A to point B,” Massey said.

Granger, Massey and two other



Two UH-60 Blackhawks prepare to pick up Soldiers and packages as part of the Iron Eagle Express. IEX transports people and supplies from BIAP to the various 1st Armored Division Forward Operating Bases.

DISCOM Soldiers coordinate the re-supply effort. They receive movement requests, post flight manifests on the 1AD tactical Website and making hourly adjustments to the flight plan.

At each of route’s six stops, the helicopter’s contents change. To help orchestrate the complicated maneuver, Massey or one of the other DISCOM staff members flies the round trip each night. As a regular on the flight, Massey coordinates the pickup and drop-off passengers or “pax” and also organizes the bags and boxes that are constantly rotating on and off the aircraft throughout the trip.

Massey said coordinating the loads is challenging and requires patience and persistence.

“The other night there were some x-rays that had to be delivered to (Forward Operating Base) Lima,” he said. “When I got there, I couldn’t just drop them off. I had to hook up with a responsible party,” Massey said.

Sometimes waiting for those connections throws off the schedule but the delivery takes place regardless of any problems, he said.

After the 1AD’s recent change of

mission, the size of its area of operations multiplied and is now roughly 9,100 square kilometers. This growth strained the supply convoy capacity, Granger said.

“Previously, we used ground convoys to shuttle stuff around which worked out fine due to closeness,” Granger said. “But now in the newly extended battlespace, it would take more than eight hours to cover by ground.”

The use of helicopters in place of trucks to move supplies has brought a new set of challenges to light.

“The heavier use brings higher maintenance cycles for the birds and sometimes weather hampers the trips,” Granger said.

Also, arrival and departure times are frequently unpredictable, she said.

“But the flexibility and patience of our pilots and passengers has made all the difference.”



Quote of the Day...

"A thoughtful mind when it sees a nation's flag, sees not the flag, but the nation itself. And whatever may be its symbols, its insignia, he reads chiefly in the flag, the government, the principles, the truths, the history that belongs to the nation that sets it forth."

-- Henry Ward Beecher (1813 - 1887), US abolitionist & clergyman



1st Lt. James Yarborough hands the last box of MREs to Sgt. Maj. Edward Massey to be loaded onto one of the two UH-60 Blackhawks that make up the Iron Eagle Express.

Oddly Enough...

German Dogs Get Their Own Lederhosen

STRAUBING, Germany (Reuters) - Dogs in the German state of Bavaria can now blend in with the local Alpine scenery wearing the same traditional attire worn by their owners -- lederhosen. Dogwear designer Hildegard Bergbauer, who also makes Tyrolean mountain hats and rainwear for canines, said the leather outfits were best suited for dachshunds and other small dogs but also looked good on poodles, spaniels and boxers. "There are lederhosen for the dogs and Dirndls for the bitches," she said on Wednesday. "The idea has gone down really well; people think it's a lot of fun." Bergbauer said some items were more practical than others. "The hats aren't so handy for going on walks," she said. "But the lederhosen are fine once the dog gets used to them."

Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

Health Emotions

Maintaining healthy emotions are just as important as maintaining good physical health. Drs. Barbara J. Betz and Caroline B. Thomas report in the Johns Hopkins Medical Journal states that, "Persons who have uneven temperaments appear to have a much greater chance of developing serious illness and of dying young than do those with other temperaments". Try exercising optimism and positive thinking about life's situation; it can go a long way in helping you feel better.

Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

1155 German-born Frederick I, Barbarossa, is crowned emperor of Rome.

1812 The War of 1812 begins when the United States declares war against Great Britain.

1815 At the Battle of Waterloo, Napoleon is defeated by an international army under the Duke of Wellington.

1863 After repeated acts of insubordination, General Ulysses S. Grant relieves General John McClelland during the siege of Vicksburg.

1864 At Petersburg, Union General Ulysses S. Grant realizes the town can no longer be taken by assault and settles into a siege.

1873 Susan B. Anthony is fined \$100 for attempting to vote for president.

1918 Allied forces on the Western Front begin their largest counter-attack yet against the German army.

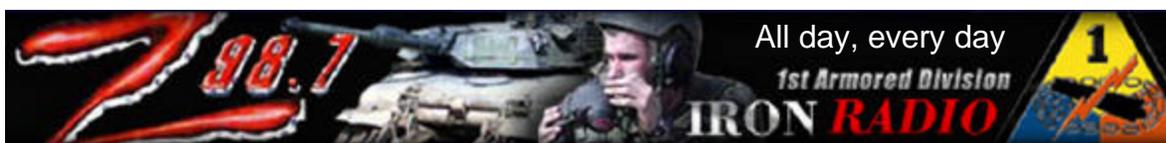
1928 Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to cross the Atlantic by airplane.

1944 The U.S. First Army breaks through the German lines on the Cotentin Peninsula and cuts off the German-held port of Cherbourg.

1959 A Federal Court annuls the Arkansas law allowing school closings to prevent integration.

1979 President Jimmy Carter and Leonid Brezhnev sign the Salt II pact to limit nuclear arms.

1983 Sally Ride becomes the first American woman in space.



For your Information...

8TH FINANCE KEY DATES AND ACTIONS

16 JUN to 10 JUL:

BIAP Check Cashing & Casual Pay

M-W-F 0900-1700 hrs

**IRON
FINANCE!**

17 JUN:

All Paying Agents must Clear
8th Finance Bn

POC- CPT Miller @ 551-9308

*Early Clearance is Highly Encouraged

26 JUN:

Last Day for Turn-In of 365 BOG Paperwork

Include Soldiers Eligible through 30 Jun



Reenlistment Bonus Incentives continue.

The Army continues to pay soldiers for remaining part of the team. Recently, some bonuses have been retroactive as far back as March 18, 2003.

If a Soldier reenlisted between March 18 and Sept. 18, 2003 for either option E1 (Regular Army) or E2 (Current station stabilization) and did not receive a bonus, he or she should contact their Career Counselor and see if they qualify for the bonus.

The most current update to the Selective Reenlistment Bonus program is MILPER Message 04-163 dated 05/14/2004.



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mvafr.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2004					As of: Thursday, June 17, 2004 6:56:08 PM	
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00					HEADLINE NEWS	00:00
00:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	00:30
01:00	SPORTSCENTER	SARAH, PLAIN & TALL: TALL: WINTER'S END	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - EVERY LITTLE BIT ALPS	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	01:00
01:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - YOU WISH/GARY TAKES A BATH		CBS EVENING NEWS	01:30
02:00	WNBA - SAN ANTONIO SILVER STARS @ WASHINGTON MYSTICS		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LADY BOUVIERS LOVER	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - ELEPHANT ON THE LOOSE/IF A BIRD RINGS, ANSWER IT	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	02:00
02:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - RICHIE MOVES OUT	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		02:30
03:00		AMERICAN GIGOLO	THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - PLAYING GOD	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	03:00
04:00	MLB - INTERLEAGUE - BALTIMORE ORIOLES @ LOS ANGELES DODGERS		BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER SIXTEEN	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
05:00		HEADLINE NEWS	CROCODILE HUNTER (TVG): - HIDDEN RIVER	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	05:00
05:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	05:30
06:00		HEADLINE NEWS	TOYOTA WORLD OF WILDLIFE (TVG): - GRASSLAND & FLOWERS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	06:00
06:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		06:25
06:30		HEADLINE NEWS	JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES (TVG): - FOSSIL RIM			06:30
07:00	AUSSIE RULES FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - DEAD THINGS		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	07:00
07:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		07:13
08:00	SPORTSCENTER	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - ELEPHANT ON THE LOOSE/IF A BIRD RINGS, ANSWER IT	THE X-FILES (TV14): - AGUA MALA	HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - NOT SO GOOFY	PAULA ZAHN NOW	08:00
08:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		ROCKO'S MODERN LIFE (TVY): - CARNIVAL KNOWLEDGE/SAND IN YOUR NAVAL		08:30
09:00	MLB - INTERLEAGUE - CHICAGO WHITE SOX @ FLORIDA MARLINS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - EVERY LITTLE BIT ALPS	OZZY & DRIX (TVY7): - GAS OF DOOM	NIGHTLINE	09:00
09:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - YOU WISH/GARY TAKES A BATH	AS TOLD BY GINGER (TVY): - NEXT QUESTION	HEADLINE NEWS	09:30
09:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				09:46
10:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LADY BOUVIERS LOVER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	10:00
10:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - RICHIE MOVES OUT	HEADLINE NEWS		10:30
10:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				10:35
11:00			THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - PLAYING GOD	ESPNEWS	PRIMETIME	11:00
11:07		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				11:07
11:30				PACIFIC REPORT		11:30
12:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER SIXTEEN	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MY BIG FAT GEEK WEDDING	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	12:00
12:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG): - CHRISTMAS TREES		12:30
13:00	GOLF - 104TH U.S. OPEN: FIRST ROUND (BEST OF)	TODAY	CROCODILE HUNTER (TVG): - HIDDEN RIVER	THE APPRENTICE (TVPG): - TRADING PLACES	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	13:00
14:00			TOYOTA WORLD OF WILDLIFE (TVG): - GRASSLAND & FLOWERS	ALIAS (TVPG): - REMNANTS		14:00
14:30			JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES (TVG): - FOSSIL RIM			14:30
15:00	SPORTSCENTER	HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - NOT SO GOOFY	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - DEAD THINGS	PACIFIC REPORT	HEADLINE NEWS	15:00
15:30		ROCKO'S MODERN LIFE (TVY): - CARNIVAL KNOWLEDGE/SAND IN YOUR NAVAL		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	15:30
16:00	GOLF - 104TH U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP: SECOND ROUND	OZZY & DRIX (TVY7): - GAS OF DOOM	THE X-FILES (TV14): - AGUA MALA		THE EARLY SHOW	16:00
16:30		AS TOLD BY GINGER (TVY): - NEXT QUESTION		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		16:30
17:00		JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - EVERY LITTLE BIT ALPS			17:00
17:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - YOU WISH/GARY TAKES A BATH	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		17:30
18:00		ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LADY BOUVIERS LOVER	FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II	FOX NEWS LIVE	18:00
18:30		HEADLINE NEWS	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - RICHIE MOVES OUT			18:30
19:00		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MY BIG FAT GEEK WEDDING	THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - PLAYING GOD		PRIMETIME	19:00
19:30		MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG): - CHRISTMAS TREES				19:30
19:45						19:45
20:00		THE APPRENTICE (TVPG): - TRADING PLACES	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER SIXTEEN	THE TRUMAN SHOW	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
21:00	GOLF - 104TH U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP: SECOND ROUND	ALIAS (TVPG): - REMNANTS	CROCODILE HUNTER (TVG): - HIDDEN RIVER		HEADLINE NEWS	21:00
21:30					INSIDE POLITICS	21:30
22:00		HEADLINE NEWS	TOYOTA WORLD OF WILDLIFE (TVG): - GRASSLAND & FLOWERS	TODAY		22:00
22:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES (TVG): - FOSSIL RIM		HEADLINE NEWS	22:30
23:00	GOLF - 104TH U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP: SECOND ROUND		BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - DEAD THINGS		LESTER HOLT LIVE	23:00
23:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				23:30