

## Bandit 6 to Helmy: “Translate this!”

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

KARBALA, Iraq – A supply specialist born in Cairo, Egypt, is always nearby whenever Task Force 1-37 Armor commander, Lt. Col. Garry Bishop (Bandit 6), goes downtown.

Spc. John Helmy uses his native Arabic language skills to help Bishop communicate with local sheiks, community leaders and businessmen during Civil Affairs trips through Karbala.

“At first I was not the official translator but every time Lt. Col. Bishop went out I would ask to go out,” Helmy said. “I kept riding with him until it became like a daily thing.”

Helmy was still doing his supply duties as well and that made for some very long days. So one day, his sergeant major told him that if he was going out everyday, he might as well work directly for the commander.

“Local people did not trust the Iraqi translators at first but when they saw a soldier speaking Arabic, they felt a lot safer talking with us,” Helmy said.

Born in Egypt in 1982, Helmy was raised in the Coptic Orthodox Christian church. He attended high school and one year of college there before a life-changing event occurred.

In March 2000, he, his father, mother, twin sister and younger brother moved to Columbia, Pa. His father had won the green card lottery and was granted an American work visa. As a newly arrived immigrant, Helmy attended high school and then



**Spc. John Helmy (center) uses his native Arabic language skills to help Lt. Col. Garry Bishop communicate with a local Iraqi Police officer during a weapons reward program in Karbala.**

was accepted at Pennsylvania State University.

He was about to accept the full scholarship to Penn State when he grew wary of his fledgling English speaking skills and decided to defer college until he could speak better English. A friend suggested he look into the military. The Army’s educational benefits appealed to him and he enlisted in Aug. 2001, becoming a supply specialist.

After graduating Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Va., he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division.

Helmy learned about a recently enacted program which allows service members with green cards to become citizens after six months of military service.

He decided to apply, and was granted citizenship under the program. Helmy became a U.S. citizen Feb 26, 2003 in Philadelphia.

“I cried that day. I couldn’t believe it,” he said.

Helmy’s position as the translator for Bandit 6 has taught him the importance of commutation and being an active listener.

“I believe translating is not about word-for-word translation, it is about making sense out of what somebody is saying,” Helmy said. “Sometimes they may use an Arabic phrase, maybe a proverb, and it would make no sense in English. My job is to get you the meaning of the statement.”



## Quote of the Day...

*"People do not seem to realize that their opinion of the world is also a confession of character."*

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82), American writer, philosopher, poet



Photo by Spc. Jeanine Kinville, 1AD PAO

The 1st Armored Division Assistant Division Commander of Support Brig. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, awards Spc. Javier Irabon, assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 425th Civil Affairs Battalion, the 1AD Combat Patch. The unit from Santa Barbara, Calif, has supported Task Force 1AD throughout Iraq in numerous civil affairs projects since February. Irabon was promoted to specialist moments before receiving his combat patch from Hertling.

## Oddly Enough...

### Motorist Pulls Over Deputy in Tennessee

McMINNVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - A motorist's decision to stop a deputy for speeding escalated into a series of incidents that ended with his entire family joining him in jail. Last week, Lance E. Champion, 23, reportedly pulled in behind Deputy Lt. Stan Hillis across from the local jail and told Hillis he had violated the speed limit. By the end of their conversation, Champion was in custody charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and evading arrest. Champion called his mother, Janice K. Champion, 48, who arrived with her 17-year-old son. The teen allegedly slapped the hand of a deputy who was gesturing for them to leave the area as Lance Champion's vehicle was about to be towed. "If you strike an officer, you're going to jail 100 percent of the time," said Sheriff Jackie Matheny. Mrs. Champion was then taken into custody, charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Officers say she was loud and refused to obey orders. Her husband Hal Champion, 47, then arrived from church, was shot with a deputy's Taser and taken into custody on similar charges. All were later freed on bond. "This is a fine upstanding family," said the Champions' attorney Michael Galligan. "These deputies acted in a harmful and inappropriate manner. We feel their actions violated the law." Matheny is backing his men: "They have over 40 years of combined experience and excellent work records. They were as surprised by the Champions' conduct as anyone."

## Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

**1683** William Penn signs a friendship treaty with the Lenni Lenape Indians in Pennsylvania.

**1700** Russia gives up its Black Sea fleet as part of a truce with the Ottoman Empire.

**1758** British and Hanoverian armies defeat the French at Krefeld in Germany.

**1760** Austrian forces defeat the Prussians at Landshut, Germany.

**1848** A bloody insurrection of workers erupts in Paris.

**1860** The U.S. Secret Service is created to arrest counterfeiters and protect the president.

**1863** Confederate forces overwhelm a Union garrison at the Battle of Brasher City in Louisiana.

**1865** Confederate General Stand Watie surrenders his army at Fort Towson, in the Oklahoma Territory.

**1885** Former general and president Ulysses S. Grant dies at the age of 63.

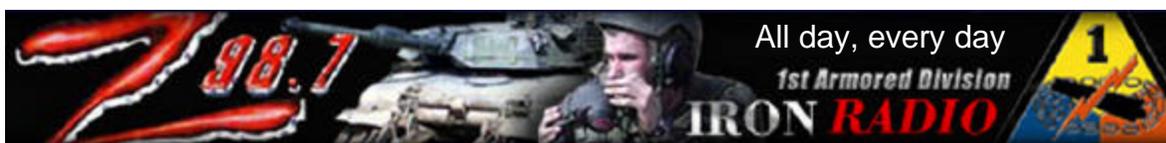
**1902** Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy renew the Triple Alliance for a 12-year duration.

**1934** Italy gains the right to colonize Albania after defeating the country.

**1944** In one of the largest air strikes of the war, the U.S. Fifteenth Air Force sends 761 bombers against the oil refineries at Ploesti, Romania.

**1951** Soviet U.N. delegate Jacob Malik proposes cease-fire discussions in the Korean War.

**1952** The U.S. Air Force bombs power plants on Yalu River, Korea.



# 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

### 17 JUN:

All Paying Agents must Clear  
8<sup>th</sup> Finance Bn

POC- CPT Miller @ 551-9308

\*Early Clearance is Highly Encouraged

**IRON  
FINANCE!**

### 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.

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2004				As of: Wednesday, June 23, 2004 1:02:01 AM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	00:00
00:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):		NBC NIGHTLY NEWS (NN)	00:30
01:00	COLLEGE BASEBALL - COLLEGE WORLD SERIES - GM 10: SOUTH CAROLINA VS MIAMI	WALL STREET	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - HAPPY OLD YEAR	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT (NN)	01:00
01:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT / KRUSTY LOVE		CBS EVENING NEWS (NN)	01:30
02:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LISA'S RIVAL	BLUE'S CLUES (TVY): - JOE GETS A CLUE (PT. 2)	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN (NN)	02:00
02:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - HAUNTED	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		02:30
03:00			SUPER MILLIONAIRE (TVG): - EPISODE 4	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES (NN)	03:00
03:15		RAISING ARIZONA				03:15
04:00	MLB - OAKLAND ATHLETICS @ ANAHEIM ANGELS		STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - DESCENT (PT. 1)	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR (NN)	04:00
05:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 3	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS (NN)	BET NIGHTLY NEWS (NN)	05:00
05:30		ESPNEWS	LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - PAUL TIBBETS	JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT (NN)	05:30
06:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - STALIN'S SPIES	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	LARRY KING LIVE (NN)	06:00
06:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		06:25
06:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)				06:30
07:00	ESPNEWS	SESAME STREET	MURIEL'S WEDDING		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN (NN)	07:00
07:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		07:13
07:30	TOTALLY NASCAR					07:30
08:00	SPORTSCENTER	BLUE'S CLUES (TVY): - JOE GETS A CLUE (PT. 2)		BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - TRAINS AND BRAINS AND RAINY PLANES	PAULA ZAHN NOW (NN)	08:00
08:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - IN THE BEGINNING/DULY DEPUTIZED SUPER AGENTS		08:30
09:00	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - DHL 400	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - HAPPY OLD YEAR	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - EPISODE 11	NIGHTLINE (NN)	09:00
09:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT / KRUSTY LOVE	LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - YORKTOWN	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	09:30
09:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				09:46
10:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LISA'S RIVAL	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS (NN)	10:00
10:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - HAUNTED	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)		10:30
10:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				10:35
11:00			SUPER MILLIONAIRE (TVG): - EPISODE 4	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK (NN)	11:00
11:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				11:17
11:30				PACIFIC REPORT (NN)		11:30
12:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - DESCENT (PT. 1)	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - OPPOSITES ATTRACT (PT. 1)	THE O'REILLY FACTOR (NN)	12:00
12:30	SPORTSCENTER	JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - THE GETAWAY		12:30
13:00		TODAY (NN)	MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 3	FEAR FACTOR (TV14): - TRUCK TO HELICOPTER/TABLE CLEARING/UNDER THE SEMI	GOOD MORNING AMERICA (NN)	13:00
13:30	WIMBLEDON TENNIS TOURNAMENT - TODAY AT WIMBLEDON		LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - PAUL TIBBETS			13:30
14:00			SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - STALIN'S SPIES	THE O.C. (TVPG): - THE STRIP		14:00
15:00	SPORTSCENTER	BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - TRAINS AND BRAINS AND RAINY PLANES	MURIEL'S WEDDING	PACIFIC REPORT (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	15:00
15:30		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - IN THE BEGINNING/DULY DEPUTIZED SUPER AGENTS		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING (NN)	15:30
16:00	MOTO GP - CATALUNYAN GRAND PRIX	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - EPISODE 11			THE EARLY SHOW (NN)	16:00
16:30		LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - YORKTOWN		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - HAPPY OLD YEAR			17:00
17:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT / KRUSTY LOVE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)		17:30
18:00	WIMBLEDON TENNIS TOURNAMENT - EARLY ROUND COVERAGE DAY 3	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LISA'S RIVAL	MANHATTAN	FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	18:00
18:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - HAUNTED			18:30
19:00		8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - OPPOSITES ATTRACT (PT. 1)	SUPER MILLIONAIRE (TVG): - EPISODE 4		FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	19:00
19:30		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - THE GETAWAY				19:30
19:45				DIE HARD		19:45
20:00		FEAR FACTOR (TV14): - TRUCK TO HELICOPTER/TABLE CLEARING/UNDER THE SEMI	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - DESCENT (PT. 1)		FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	20:00
21:00		THE O.C. (TVPG): - THE STRIP	MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 3		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	21:00
21:30			LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - PAUL TIBBETS		INSIDE POLITICS (NN)	21:30
22:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - STALIN'S SPIES	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		22:00
22:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	22:30
23:00	AROUND THE HORN		MURIEL'S WEDDING	TODAY (NN)	LESTER HOLT LIVE (NN)	23:00
23:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				23:30