



The Old Ironsides Report



Sunday, March 21, 2004

'War Eagles,' ICDC team up for 'Operation Suicide Kings'

Story by Sgt. Dan Purcell and Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Some people predicted a long night.

But for the soldiers of Apache Troop, 1st Squadron (War Eagle), 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, it was business as usual -- they just had a few new soldiers joining them on a nighttime mission March 17.

The mission was called "Operation Suicide Kings," a combined cordon and search operation involving U.S. and Iraqi Civil Defense Corps Soldiers.

In preparation for this operation, 40 ICDC soldiers linked up with their Apache Troop counterparts to train in "knock-and-search" methods for searching buildings. They also practiced recognizing different types of contraband including material used for making improvised explosive devices.

"Each of the platoons will have an ICDC platoon attached to it," said Capt. James T. Wilson, Apache Troop commander. "Our guys will set up an inner-cordon around the house while the ICDC searches inside. There is no specific target tonight; we won't be kicking in any doors."

The ICDC, frequently compared to the U.S. Army's National Guard, is composed of Iraqi volunteer Soldiers who represent all segments of their society and have pledged to serve their communities and country.

After the ICDC company arrived at Apache Troop's barracks on the afternoon of March 18, it was broken up into smaller sections which joined with 3rd Platoon for pre-mission training and rehearsals.

"These guys are squared away. It's evident that they're trained-up," said Staff Sgt. Robert C. Ballard, Bravo Section, 3rd Platoon.

With Humvee's roaring and dust flying, the mission commenced at 9:30 p.m. as Apache Troop rolled-out of their forward operating base's gate. By 10 p.m., the troopers and ICDC were on the ground, and Operation Suicide Kings was underway.

"This is sort of a 'health and welfare' (inspection) mission. It's just to make sure they don't have IED materials, contraband and terrorist-related items," Wilson said.

By 1:00 a.m., the mission was complete. Despite the occasional sound of gunfire heard from elsewhere in the city, no casualties were sustained and no shots were fired.

"We confiscated one AK-47 and one Sten Mark II," said 1st Lt. Michael Watson, 4th Platoon, describing his platoon's haul during the mission. "Two Iraqi adult-male civilians were detained because they were found with a box of 60 mm mortar fuses."



Sgt. 1st Class Robert J. Dehart (left) and Sgt. Alex Richardson, 3rd Platoon, Apache Troop, 1st Squadron, 2nd ACR, asks tenants to remain in their apartments as an Iraqi Civil Defense Corps squad searches the building during "Operation Suicide Kings March 17. Photo by Pfc. Erik LeDrew

Third Platoon seized 15 AK-47 assault rifles and four pistols, said 1st Lt. Edward Ghelardini, platoon leader.

"All the weapons we confiscated were in excess of the one weapon they're allowed to have," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert J. Dehart, 3rd Platoon. "There are 15 fewer AKs and four less pistols on the streets for them (the enemy) to shoot at us with."

Aside from the captured contraband, perhaps one of the most reassuring aspects of the mission was the cooperation of the people whose houses were searched, Watson said.

"The search tonight was successful for two reasons," he said. "Number one: because a lot of contraband was captured. Number two: an overwhelming majority of the civilians were happy to see us."

For Apache Troop, it's been a long year in Iraq serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Though the "War Eagle" Squadron Soldiers are close to going home to Fort Polk, La., they know that their mission in Iraq is not over.

"Even though we're close to going home, we ain't left yet," said Sgt. Benson Wade, 3rd Platoon. "We've been able to continuously bring the fight to them (the enemy). We haven't become complacent."

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NEWS...

ID of Cornered al-Qaida Target Unclear

WANA, Pakistan (AP) - The military commander leading a five-day assault on armed militants holed up in mud fortresses said Saturday a "high-value" terror suspect remained inside, possibly wounded, but there was no way to know whether it was al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri.

Charges Dropped Against Muslim Chaplain

MIAMI (AP) - The Army's allegations last year were grave: A military chaplain at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was linked to a possible espionage ring and eventually charged with mishandling classified information. Six months later, all charges against Capt. James Yee have been dropped.

Bush Touts Iraq Mission in Radio Address

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush on Saturday concluded a weeklong effort to boost support for the war in Iraq among American voters and allies abroad, saying it was "good for the Iraqi people, good for America and good for the world." With divisions over the war reverberating internationally, Bush said the toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime in Baghdad removed a source of aggression in the region, brought aid to Iraqis and is giving hopes for freedom to people across the Middle East.

World Protests Mark Iraq War Anniversary

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Protesters took to the streets worldwide on Saturday to mark the first anniversary of the Iraq war, saying the U.S.-led occupation had incited more terrorism and demanding the withdrawal of troops from the Mideast nation. Australia kicked off a wave of worldwide rallies. Protests were also held in Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Thailand and Hong Kong. Demonstrators in the Philippines clashed with riot police, but no injuries were reported.

Aide: Rumsfeld Urged Iraq Attack Sooner

WASHINGTON (AP) - Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld almost immediately urged President Bush to consider bombing Iraq after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks on New York and Washington, says a former senior administration counterterrorism aide. Richard A. Clarke, recounts in a forthcoming book details of a meeting the day after the terrorist attacks during which top officials considered the U.S. response. Even then, he said, they were certain that al-Qaida was to blame and there was no hint of Iraqi involvement.

Thought for the day...

Courage

There is a monument at Gettysburg to honor the memory of a color-bearer who became isolated from his Union regiment after repelling at Confederate charge. As the regiment retired, the color-bearer and several soldiers held their ground in the face of the enemy attack.

The Regimental Commander sent a messenger through to the boy ordering him to come back through friendly lines and "Bring the colors back to the regiment."

The boy replied, "Bring the regiment back to the colors." It requires moral courage to maintain your ground and pull everyone else back to a higher ethical standard.

In other news...

Islamic Group Files Complaint Over Skit

By JEFF WILSON, Associated Press Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) -- An Islamic group filed a complaint against a talk radio station and parent Clear Channel Communications over a skit mocking the Iraqi constitution, saying it advocates killing Jews and prohibits Iraqis from bathing regularly.

Station KFI-AM issued an on-air apology after the Southern California office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations filed the complaint about the March 10 skit with the Federal Communications Commission.

The skit featured a pretend Muslim supposedly reading from the new Iraqi constitution, claiming it promoted bestiality and the subjugation of women.

The mock-Muslim repeatedly praised Allah while reading the script, which included sections that said "death to the Jews" and "kill all the Jews."

KFI program director Robin Bertolucci said the station didn't intend to bash Muslims.

In an on-air apology read Wednesday, she said the station acknowledged the skit was "offensive to some members of the Muslim community. For that we are sorry."

The Islamic organization said it would pursue the complaint it faxed to the FCC's Washington headquarters.

Telephone messages left Friday with the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau were not immediately returned.

Texas-based Clear Channel Communications, which last month announced a zero-tolerance policy toward indecency and pulled radio personality Howard Stern off Clear Channel stations, also apologized in a statement Thursday.

Greece Cancels Olympic Pool Roof Project

ATHENS, Greece (AP) -- The Greek government called off plans to build a roof over the Olympic swimming pool Saturday because it would not be done in time for the games.

The cancellation is one of the most serious moves made by planners, who face widespread construction delays but promise most work will be done before the Aug. 13-29 Olympics.

The roof over the open-air pool was to protect athletes from the scorching summer sun and improve television coverage.

"The experts concluded that due to the delays there are no guarantees for the timely construction and delivery of the roof - a fact that could jeopardize the swimming event," the Olympic organizing committee said in a statement.

The committee said it would work on "alternative plans" without a roof, which could include rescheduling the swimming events to avoid the midday sun. Summer temperatures in Athens often exceed 100 degrees.

Deputy culture minister Fani Palli-Petralia said hosting the swimming events "under unsatisfactory conditions" would "shame the country."

International Olympic Committee spokeswoman Giselle Davies said the decision "while not ideal, is the most sensible and practical solution." It was not clear whether the swimming test competition April 14-18 will be rescheduled.

IOC president Jacques Rogge has given Greece until the end of the month to make firm decisions on the many delayed projects.

The main Olympic sports complex, which includes the pool, is high on the list of worries. The government has pledged to finish a steel-and-glass roof over the main Olympic stadium by July 20. But that means work will overlap with crucial test events and rehearsals for the opening ceremony.

Another top concern for the IOC is serious delays to widen the route of the marathon race.

Today in History...

March 21, 1965: SELMA TO MONTGOMERY MARCH BEGINS:

(HISORYCHANNEL.COM) In the name of African-American voting rights, 3,200 civil rights demonstrators, led by Martin Luther King Jr., begin a historic march from Selma, Alabama, to the State Capitol at Montgomery. U.S. Army and National Guard troops were on hand to provide safe passage for the "Alabama Freedom March," which twice had been turned back by Alabama state police at Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge.

In 1965, King and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) decided to make the small town of Selma the focus of their drive to win voting rights for African Americans in the South. Alabama's governor, George Wallace, was a vocal opponent of the African-American civil rights movement, and local authorities in Selma had consistently thwarted efforts by the Dallas County Voters League and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to register local blacks. King had won the 1964 Nobel Prize for Peace, and the world's eyes turned to Selma after his arrival there in January 1965. He launched a series of peaceful protests, and by mid-February thousands of protesters in the Selma area had spent time in jail, including King himself.

On February 18, a group of white segregationists attacked some peaceful marchers in the nearby town of Marion. Jimmie Lee Jackson, an African-American demonstrator, was fatally wounded in the melee. After he died, King and the SCLC planned a massive march from Selma to Montgomery.

Although Governor Wallace promised to prevent it from going forward, on March 7 some 500 demonstrators, led by SCLC leader Hosea Williams and SNCC leader John Lewis, began the 54-mile march to the state capital. After crossing Pettus Bridge, they were met by Alabama state troopers and posse men who attacked them with nightsticks, tear gas, and whips after they refused to turn back. Several of the protesters were severely beaten, and others ran for their lives. The incident was captured on national television and outraged many Americans. Hundreds of ministers, priests, and rabbis headed to Selma to join the voting rights campaign. King, who was in Atlanta at the time, promised to return to Selma immediately and lead another attempt.

On March 9, King led 1,500 marchers, black and white, across Edmund Pettus Bridge but found Highway 80 blocked again by state troopers. King paused the marchers and led them in prayer, whereupon the troopers stepped aside. King then turned the protesters around, believing that the troopers were trying to create an opportunity that would allow them to enforce a federal injunction prohibiting the march. This decision led to criticism from some marchers who called King cowardly. In Selma that night, James Reeb, a white minister from Boston, was fatally beaten by a group of segregationists.

Six days later, on March 15, President Lyndon Johnson went on national television to pledge his support to the Selma protesters and call for the passage of a new voting rights bill that he was introducing in Congress. "There is no Negro problem. There is no Southern problem. There is no Northern problem. There is only an American problem," he said, "And we *shall* overcome," Johnson said.

On March 21, U.S. Army troops and federalized Alabama National Guardsmen escorted the marchers across Edmund Pettus Bridge and down Highway 80. When the highway narrowed to two lanes, only 300 marchers were permitted, but thousands more rejoined the Alabama Freedom March as it came into Montgomery on March 25. On the steps of Alabama State Capitol, King addressed live television cameras and a crowd of 25,000, just a few hundred feet from Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where he got his start as a minister in 1954. That August, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, which guaranteed African Americans the right to vote. By 1967, African-American registered voters in Alabama had nearly tripled.



1ST ARMORED DIVISION RETENTION

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM REDEPLOYMENT SUPPORT



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TAX FREE LUMP SUM DEPLOYMENT BONUS
(When the wheels go up heading back to Germany the money goes away)

EXAMPLES OF BONUS PAYMENTS:

| | 3YR REUP | 4YR REUP | 5YR REUP | 6YR REUP |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| SPC W/3 YEARS | \$4317.00 | \$6650.00 | \$8547.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| SGT W/6 YEARS | \$2663.00 | \$7457.00 | \$9588.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| SSG W/8 YEARS | \$3145.00 | \$7925.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |

*BONUS PAYMENTS VARY BASED UPON THE NUMBER OF YEARS REENLISTED FOR AND THE NUMBER OF MONTHS PRIOR TO ORIGINAL ETS SOLDIER REENLISTS. THESE FIGURES ARE BASED UPON A SOLDIER REENLISTING 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO ORIGINAL ETS DATE. SEE YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH MONEY YOU ARE ENTITLED TO.

"STAY STRONG, STAY PROUD, STAY 1AD"

I'VE SEEN THE FUTURE...
IT'S A CAREER IN TODAY'S ARMY

OLD IRONSIDES

PERSON OF THE YEAR
1AD

PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE NOW

FIRST ARMORED DIVISION

AMERICA'S ONLY TANK DIVISION

SEE YOUR
CAREER COUNSELOR
TODAY

The Old Ironsides Report March 21, 2004

| mvafn.net TV SCHEDULES: SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2004 | | | | As of: Saturday, March 20, 2004 9:21:08 PM | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|------------------------------|------------|
| Start Time | SPORTS | ATLANTIC | SPECTRUM | PACIFIC | NEWS | Start Time |
| 00:00 | | | THE DIVISION (TVPG): - THE FIRST HIT'S FREE, BABY | | FOX NEWS LIVE | 00:00 |
| 01:00 | | | THAT THING YOU DO | | FOX NEWS LIVE | 01:00 |
| 01:30 | | MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND ROUND: ST. JOSEPH'S VS TEXAS TECH | | MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND ROUND: SYRACUSE VS MARYLAND | | 01:30 |
| 02:00 | ESPNEWS | | | | HEADLINE NEWS | 02:00 |
| 02:30 | ESPNEWS | | | | MCLAUGHLIN GROUP | 02:30 |
| 03:00 | FIGURE SKATING - ISU EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS | | SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON (TVG): - SNORKEL FINDS A FRIEND | | CAPITAL GANG | 03:00 |
| 03:30 | | | HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN | | | 03:30 |
| 04:00 | | MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND ROUND: DEPAUL VS UCONN | MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD | MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND ROUND: NORTH CAROLINA CAROLINA VS TEXAS | WASHINGTON WEEK IN REVIEW | 04:00 |
| 04:30 | | | REAL VIDEOS (TVG): - THE LAUNDRY ROOM | | HEADLINE NEWS | 04:30 |
| 05:00 | HORSE RACING - LANE'S END & GOTHAM STAKES | | THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - STRONG ARMS OF THE MA | | PEOPLE IN THE NEWS | 05:00 |
| 05:30 | | | MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG): | | | 05:30 |
| 06:00 | COLLEGE GAMENIGHT | ESPNEWS | EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND (TVPG): - RAYBERT | WISHBONE (TVY): - THE PAWLOINED PAPER | CNN SATURDAY NIGHT | 06:00 |
| 06:30 | | AMERICAN ATHLETE (TVPG): | THE KING OF QUEENS (TVPG): - HORIZONTAL HOLD | SESAME STREET SPECIALS (TVY): - IMAGINE THAT! | | 06:30 |
| 07:00 | SPORTSCENTER | HEADLINE NEWS | AMERICAN DREAMS (TVPG): - CITY ON FIRE(AKA: NO WHERE TO RUN) | EDDIE'S MILLION DOLLAR COOK-OFF | DATELINE INTERNATIONAL | 07:00 |
| 07:30 | | HOOR OF POWER - GENEROUSLY GIVEN TO GIVE GENEROUSLY | | | | 07:30 |
| 08:00 | MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - POSTSEASON NIT - SECOND ROUND: VIRGINIA VS VILLANOVA | CELEBRATION OF VICTORY - CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP | AMERICAN IDOL (TVG): | | LARRY KING LIVE | 08:00 |
| 08:30 | | CORAL RIDGE HOUR - EVIDENCE FOR GOD | | SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - FOOLS IN APRIL / NEPTUNE'S SPATULA | | 08:30 |
| 09:00 | | CHRISTOPHER CLOSEUP - KITCHEN PRIVILEGES | | MOTORWEEK | AT LARGE WITH GERALDO RIVERA | 09:00 |
| 09:30 | | CAFE VIDEO - THERE IS ONLY YOU | | EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG): | | 09:30 |
| 10:00 | SPORTSCENTER | WISHBONE (TVY): - THE PAWLOINED PAPER | AMERICAN IDOL (TVG): | WWE SMACKDOWN! (TV14): | BELTWAY BOYS | 10:00 |
| 10:30 | | SESAME STREET SPECIALS (TVY): - IMAGINE THAT! | | | FOX NEWS WATCH | 10:30 |
| 11:00 | TENNIS - PACIFIC LIFE OPEN: MEN'S SEMIFINALS | EDDIE'S MILLION DOLLAR COOK-OFF | SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON (TVG): - SNORKEL FINDS A FRIEND | STARGATE SG-1 (TVPG): - ABYSS | HEADLINE NEWS | 11:00 |
| 11:30 | | | HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN | | AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM | 11:30 |
| 12:00 | | | MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD | HEADLINE NEWS | THE CHRIS MATTHEWS SHOW | 12:00 |
| 12:30 | | SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - FOOLS IN APRIL / NEPTUNE'S SPATULA | REAL VIDEOS (TVG): - THE LAUNDRY ROOM | ESPNEWS | NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS | 12:30 |
| 13:00 | | MOTORWEEK | THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - STRONG ARMS OF THE MA | JUDGING AMY (TVPG): - THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD | BIG STORY WEEKEND EDITION | 13:00 |
| 13:30 | | EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG): | MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG): | | | 13:30 |
| 14:00 | | HEADLINE NEWS | EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND (TVPG): - RAYBERT | VARSIITY BLUES | CNN PRESENTS | 14:00 |
| 14:30 | | AIR FORCE TV NEWS | THE KING OF QUEENS (TVPG): - HORIZONTAL HOLD | | | 14:30 |
| 15:00 | SPORTSCENTER | NHL - DETROIT RED WINGS @ LOS ANGELES KINGS | AMERICAN DREAMS (TVPG): - CITY ON FIRE(AKA: NO WHERE TO RUN) | | FOX & FRIENDS | 15:00 |
| 16:00 | COLLEGE GAMENIGHT | | AMERICAN IDOL (TVG): | HEADLINE NEWS | FOX & FRIENDS | 16:00 |
| 16:30 | | | | THAT 70'S SHOW (TVPG): - FEZ DATES DONNA | | 16:30 |
| 17:00 | PGA PREVIEW - THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW | | | MEET THE PRESS | CBS NEWS SUNDAY MORNING | 17:00 |
| 17:30 | | ESPNEWS | | | | 17:30 |
| 18:00 | THE SPORTS REPORTERS | WWE SMACKDOWN! (TV14): | AMERICAN IDOL (TVG): | AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM | FACE THE NATION | 18:00 |
| 18:30 | SPORTSCENTER | | | ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT (TVPG): | | 18:30 |
| 19:00 | | STARGATE SG-1 (TVPG): - ABYSS | SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON (TVG): - SNORKEL FINDS A FRIEND | | HEADLINE NEWS | 19:00 |
| 19:30 | | | HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN | ESPNEWS | NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS | 19:30 |
| 20:00 | | MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND ROUND: XAVIER OR LOUISVILLE VS MISSISSIPPI STATE OR MONMOUTH | MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD | MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND ROUND: XAVIER OR LOUISVILLE VS MISSISSIPPI STATE OR MONMOUTH | LATE EDITION W/ WOLF BLITZER | 20:00 |
| 20:30 | NBA FASTBREAK | | REAL VIDEOS (TVG): - THE LAUNDRY ROOM | | | 20:30 |
| 21:00 | NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - CAROLINA DODGE DEALERS 400 | | THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - STRONG ARMS OF THE MA | | | 21:00 |
| 21:30 | | | MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG): | | | 21:30 |
| 22:00 | | MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND ROUND: BOSTON COLLEGE VS GEORGIA TECH | EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND (TVPG): - RAYBERT | MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND ROUND: MEMPHIS VS OKLAHOMA STATE | FOX NEWS LIVE | 22:00 |
| 22:30 | | | THE KING OF QUEENS (TVPG): - HORIZONTAL HOLD | | | 22:30 |
| 23:00 | | | AMERICAN DREAMS (TVPG): - CITY ON FIRE(AKA: NO WHERE TO RUN) | | FOX NEWS LIVE | 23:00 |