

DESERT



BULLS



COMBAT
COVER

NOV. 30, 2005

Chief of staff likes to make things happen

My name is Lt. Col. Larry Herke. I am the Chief of Staff for the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team.

As the chief of staff, I am responsible for supervision and coordination of staff activities at the brigade headquarters. The brigade headquarters is a large organization that has nearly all of the capabilities of a division staff.

My staff is responsible for the creation of plans and coordination of current operations. We normally oper-

ate out of two command posts and have the capability to establish small command and control nodes utilizing liaison teams.

I am also responsible for creating combat power within the BCT by matching personnel to equipment during movement of the team to a new location. I work daily



Lt. Col. Larry Herke

to ensure we have qualified personnel and the right equipment to accomplish the mission of the brigade.

I enjoy working with people and like to make things happen. You can be ensured that we will have the right equipment for the mission assigned and that our Soldiers will receive all the training required to prepare us for our upcoming mission. I look forward to working with all of the Soldiers in the 1/34 BCT.

Second Holiday Exodus charter flight canceled

Due to the lack of participation the second Holiday Exodus charter flight from Camp Shelby to Minneapolis, Minn., is canceled.

Only 26 Soldiers signed up for the

flight, with only this many passengers, the tickets would cost \$3,319.07 per Soldier.

All personnel who signed up for the flight are advised to develop a new plan

to get home for the holidays. Sgt. Maj. David Larson at the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team S1 Office (8-4195) is the point of contact for questions regarding the cancellation.



Photo by Sgt. Kent Westberg, 1/34 BCT PA

Get some

Cpl. Christopher Walton, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/34 BCT, fired a 50-caliber machine gun mounted on a Humvee during Ground Assault Convoy training last month.

Day in Red Bull history

Wednesday, Nov. 25, 1943
Near the town of **Colli a Volturmo, Italy.**

For rations the kitchen drew nine large turkeys, dressing, olives, and celery. But it will be served for supper as it is too late to get ready for dinner. The morning was very quiet, but as usual it rained all the morning. The gun crews had to dig in and camouflage their guns

in this 'mud hole'. For dinner the men ate "C" rations; the Headquarters Platoon was more fortunate as *Cpl. Arthur Leighton* returned from Rest Camp with a lot of steaks he had bought in Naples.

The turkey and all the trimmings were served for supper. All the men had all they could eat, but it rained so hard the plates nearly filled up with water.

8 SECONDS BCT includes three retention NCOs

Included in the more than 4,000 Soldiers in the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team is three retention noncommissioned officers. They are Sgts. 1st Class John McCann, Rodney Kolhei and Joyce Clark.

They would like the BCT Soldiers to know of several Federal Incentives: Six year extensions receive \$15,000, two payments of \$7,500 in two consecutive days, upon Expiration of Time in Service; three year extensions receive \$7,500 in lump sum payment upon ETS; a \$20,000 Student loan repayment for a six year extension; a \$200 GI KICKER bonus for six-year extension and tuition assistance.

The retention NCOs, who also are responsible for Enlisted Promotion Systems, can be reached at (615) 512-2955 or e-mail them at john.mccann@mn.ngb.army.mil, rodney.kolheil@us.army.mil and joyce.clark@us.army.mil.

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ISSUE 8

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For more information
on the 1/34 BCT
go online to www.redbullweb.com

On the cover: Sgt. 1st Class Richard Rivera, 134th Brigade Support Battalion, rushed through smoke last month during squad/platoon lane training. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA

The Desert Bulls is an official publication of the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team. It is produced by the 1/34 BCT Public Affairs Office. This Soldier newsletter is in compliance with the provisions of AR 360-1. Any questions, comments, photos, story ideas that you would like to present should be forwarded to the 1/34 BCT Public Affairs Office. E-mail Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood at clinton.wood@us.army.mil.

BIG DADDY'S BARBERSHOP



We're right on target!

Cpl. Walton Building 2335 From
1830 to 2100hrs

We are
Losing
a
Soldier
every
9 nine
hours

Are MY daily activities
going to help reduce
losses and turn the
arrow DOWN?

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER

1/34
Check
yourself



Foundations for Faith

Thanksgiving Day came and gone with some great activities for the Red Bulls. I hope that you were able to take advantage of them and enjoyed yourselves for a time in the midst of our training.

As a national holiday, Thanksgiving Day has its origins as far back as 1621 when the pilgrims took an autumn day to give thanks for the harvest they had received. President Washington declared a national Day of Thanksgiving to God in 1789 while the nation was under its new constitution. Observances fell to individual states, and Thanksgiving didn't become much of a deal on a national scale until 1863 when President Lincoln set aside the last Thursday of November as a national Day of Thanksgiving.

Lincoln made his 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation at a time of crisis. The Civil War was at its peak. Lincoln's first term as president was drawing to a close and the election was looming on the horizon. In July of 1863, Lincoln walked through the gravestones of the Soldiers killed at Gettysburg before delivering his Gettysburg Address. This experience effected Lincoln so deeply that he later remarked to a friend that "When I left Springfield [to assume the Presidency] I asked the people to pray for me. I was not a Christian. When I buried my son, the severest trial of my

life, I was not a Christian. But when I went to Gettysburg and saw the graves of thousands of our Soldiers, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ."



Four months later he declared a national day of Thanksgiving. Observing the graves of those who had given the last full measure seems to have overwhelmed Lincoln, with the result that some months down the road he thought it right to call the nation to give thanks to God at least in part for those fallen Soldiers and the price they paid for their nation.

We have not paid the same price as those fallen at Gettysburg; God willing none of us will. Yet we have sacrificed much in service to our nation, to our loved ones, and to liberty's cause. As you took this time last week to remember that for which you are thankful, I hope you also had a chance to reflect on those that are thankful for you and for what you are doing as Soldiers and defenders of freedom. May God bless each of you and have a happy Thanksgiving.

**CH (1st Lt.) Matt Larson
2-136 CAB**

GREER CHAPEL Bldg 804 558-4078		
Catholic Mass		
Saturday		1400
Sunday		1400
Protestant Worship		
Sunday		0900 1100
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod		
Sunday		1600
December 04, 18		

Contact the Post Chaplain regarding these Off-post worship opportunities:			
Episcopal	Sunday		0800
Jewish	Friday		
Transportation departs Bldg 2103 at 1715 on 1st Friday of the month; and 1815 during the remainder of the month.			
Muslim	Friday		
Transportation departs Bldg 2103 at 1215 each Friday.			
Latter Day Saints	Sunday	0900	1300
Transportation departs Bldg 2103 at 0815 each Friday.			
LCMS	Sunday	0800	1030
Transportation departs Bldg 2103 30 minutes prior to Service.			

RED BULL RELIGIOUS SUPPORT CENTER Bldg 2103 558-4372			
Meditation/ Prayer Room	Daily		Anytime
Bible/Prayer Fellowship	Tuesday		1900
Women's Bible Fellowship	Wednesday		1900
Prayer Warrior's	Thursday		2000
Juma Prayer	Friday		1330
Jewish Sabbath	Friday		1900
Musician/ Soloist Rehearsal	Friday		1900
Catholic Mass			
Saturday			1800
Sunday			0900
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered 30 minutes prior to the Catholic Mass.			
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturday		2000
Protestant Worship			
Sunday		1030	1900
w/Communion			

The following information should not be reported:

- b. Any information that reveals details of future plans, operations, or strikes, including postponed or canceled operations.
- c. Information, photography, and imagery that would reveal the specific location of military forces or show the level of security at military installations or encampments.

Soldier meets fourth cousin for the first time

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood
1/34 BCT PA

It was a small world for Sgt. Troy Ewert on Thanksgiving.

Ewert, among the more than 200, 1/34 Brigade Combat Team Soldiers adopted by local families for the holiday, met his fourth cousin for the first time.

The odds are definitely so astronomical it's got to be the Lord's work," said Ewert of Stillwater, Minn., and among the more than 4,000 1/34 BCT Soldiers training at Camp Shelby for their mission to Iraq.

The cards were in Ewert's favor almost immediately. He said when he and Spc. Todd Crane met Lisa's husband, Wes Greene, for the first time after a formation on the camp, Wes said, "You've got to be kidding, wait until you meet my wife Lisa."

Wes told Ewert that his wife's maiden name was Ewert. So when Ewert and Lisa did meet in Lisa's house in Sumrall, Miss., he said it took only seconds to realize that they were related. "It was really weird I could tell right away she had to be kin because her eyes and her bone structure was the same as mine."

Ewert, who will work in the operations section while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said he and Lisa also have the same color hair, dark brown, and eyes, brown.

He said he called his mother and



Sgt. Troy Ewert, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team, smiled as he told what an "incredible" experience it was meeting his fourth cousin, Lisa Greene, for the first time. The Greens adopted Ewert and Spc. Todd Crane for Thanksgiving.

Lisa called her parents to start tracing their family histories. They learned that they both have the same great, great grandfather.

This also was the first time that Ewert volunteered to be adopted and for the Greens to adopt a Soldier.

"I figured since the families want to do something for us, it was the least I could do," Ewert said

He said other reasons he chose to be adopted were to get away from the

camp and "home cookin."

He said the Greens chose to adopt a Soldier to assist the Soldiers.

Ewert also offered this advice to fellow Soldiers contemplating being adopted by local families on holidays.

"Take advantage of it while you can because you never know who you are going to meet or what is going to happen," he said. "I would do it again in a heartbeat."

Got an Announcement?



Post here for FREE!

Email 2"x2" JPEG to
clinton.wood@us.army.mil
by 1200 Sundays.

Duluth Holiday
Shout Outs!



Call 218-727-2105, 0600-1900, and tell the announcer that you are a deployed soldier with a holiday greeting for recording.

Rox Stone, Clear Channel Radio

IRON RANGERS!



YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS
ARE INVITED TO THE
UNIT HOLIDAY PARTY!

PLEASE TELL THEM TO CALL
THE FRG OR UNIT FOR SPECIFICS.



IN OUR SIGHTS



Photo by Pfc. Brian D. Jesness, 1/34 BCT PA

Col. David Elicerio, commander of the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team, leads his troops in the Thanksgiving Parade on Forrest Ave.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA

Spc. Neal Roberts (left) and Pfc. Nate Garland carry an "injured" Spc. James Soluts during a Squad Live Fire Exercise last month. All the Soldiers are from the 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA

These two Soldiers race to the finish line of the Thanksgiving 5K Turkey Trot on Lee Ave.



Photo by Pfc. Brian D. Jesness, 1/34 BCT PA

Four of the 1-34 Brigade Troops Battalion Military Policemen march as the "check the box" parade entry in the Thanksgiving Parade.