

DESERT



BULLS

SAFE AND
SECURE
AT AL KUT

JAN. 25, 2006

NO BULL: Answers to frequently asked questions

By Capt. Mark Lappegaard

1/34 BCT PAO

- 1. When do I report back from my pass?** Ask your chain of command, of course, but most Soldiers report back early on the morning following their pass (March 14 or March 21). Just be safe on the drive back and leave plenty of time to make formation.
- 2. Do I have to file a tax return this year or put in for an extension?** No and No. See News from the Staff Judge Advocate on Page 5.
- 3. Will we leave all female Soldiers in Kuwait?** We will not leave ANY soldier in Kuwait other than possibly our Morale Welfare and Recreation Liaison team. Whoever came up with this rumor wins a reward. Stop by my office and I'll give it to you.
- 4. What will JRTC be like?** Take the Battalion Field Training Exercise, reduce showers, add cots, tents, B-52 Bombers, A-10 Fighter Jets, OH-64D Kiowa Helicopters, F-16s, FOX vehicles, Explosive Ordnance Detachments, realistic Iraq Army soldiers and Iraq Police, take away some sleep, and then remove cell phones, Family Radio Service radios, and internet cafes. Throw in some spiders and

snakes for excitement. Our Mission Rehearsal Exercise will be "five weeks of full spectrum operations crammed into two" according to a Joint Readiness Training Center, Observer/Controller. Ideally, the MRE operations tempo will be higher than anything we do in Iraq so that if we do "high intensity combat" in Iraq, we'll be ready.

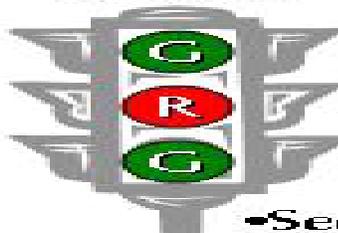
- 5. How much leave will I get in Iraq?** You can expect 15 days of leave. In order to give everyone a leave period, leave will start 60 days after we arrive in country and end 60 days before we leave. Specific details such as how to sign up or how to get home will be determined and announced later.
- 6. Why are some Soldiers changing weapons now?** We will always try to get more and better equipment, so, as new and better weapons arrive, you will get them. You will be required to fam fire (familiarize fire at a range) with your new weapon.
- 7. Why can't I find a hotel room for my family during the departure ceremony?** Historically, hotels for brigade level events have been booked. Hurricane Katrina

only made matters worse by destroying some hotels while increasing the need for rooms by displaced citizens and repair workers. Housing was hard before and will be harder this time. Continue to call around and expand your search (check in Laurel, Miss.) You can also check www.redbullweb.com for housing information.

- 8. What is in my new first aid kit?** Open it up and take a look after you put it on the right lower portion of your Individual Body Armor. Just don't open the bandage. Feel free to try out the tourniquet on your buddy.
- 9. Why is my family upset by the lack of contact from me during the FTX?** Because, like me, you failed to tell them what to expect. Now we can tell them to expect less contact during JRTC and as we go into theater. Mail, however, always works so stock up on your stamps and envelopes now. And pre order flowers to arrive on Valentine's Day-Feb. 14. Sending some now couldn't hurt either.

Submit a question to "No Bull" via paoredbull@yahoo.com

BCT Drinking Lamp



Until JRTC*

During JRTC*

After JRTC*

*See your commander for specific dates

Day in Red Bull history

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 1943

Near the village of **Cervaro, Italy**

0500 hours. All the trucks pulled out onto the road with *Lt Harned* leading the convoy. The road is very rough and very slippery. On the trip we passed through the town of **Cervaro**, where we turned right going up a very narrow trail. About a mile

down this trail we went into position. There is a large church and cemetery just across the road from the CP. In front of the church lies a 'good' (dead) German. The church and cemetery are very badly burned up from shells and bombs. In this cemetery the enemy had a very strong mortar position. The town of Cervaro is very badly torn up; first

we bombed and shelled it, then after we took it the enemy bombed it and is still shelling it.



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1/34 Brigade Combat Team

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on the 1/34 BCT

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On the cover: 1st Lt. Jason Boonstra, Company C, 134th BSB, provides security for a MEDCAP at Al Kut during the Battalion Field Training Exercise. 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.



This week's full ride

8 SECONDS

Stow your contact lenses

For those of us who wear contact lenses, put them in their cases when you depart for Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, La., in the next few days.

Contact lenses are not allowed in the Forward Operating Bases. Optometry services also are for emergencies only.

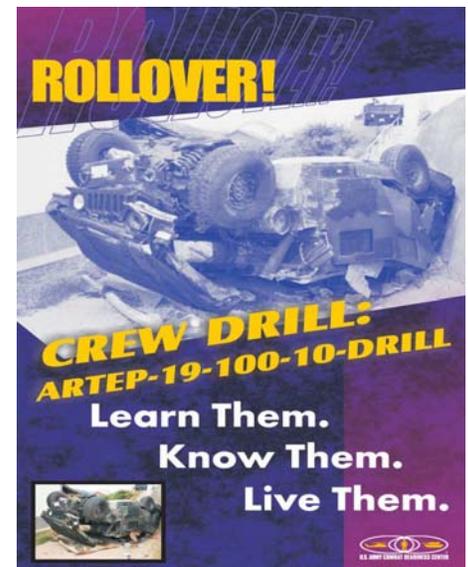
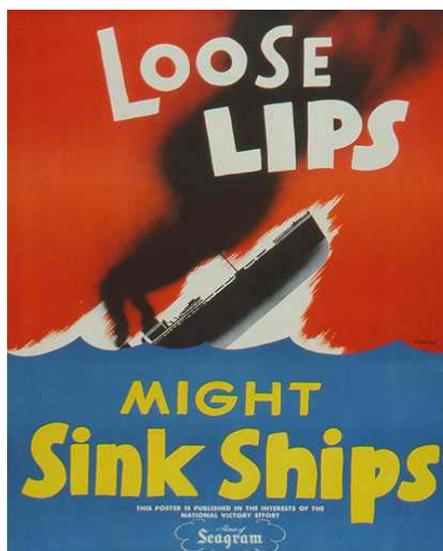
This rule is good because we all know that we can't wear contact lenses in Iraq because of the sand and heat.

Regarding weather, the weather at Fort Polk during winter will be cold and wet. Soldiers can expect frost nip,

a minor form of frostbite, hypothermia and foot problems. Frost nip usually affects fingers, toes, nose cheeks and ears leaving them white and numb.

Insects to watch out for at Fort Polk include chiggers, fire ants, Black Widow and Brown Recluse spiders, scorpions, wasps, and mosquitoes with West Nile. Animals to be aware of include snakes, rattlers, water moccasins, coral and copperhead; raccoons with rabies, panthers and alligators.

-- Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood



Upcoming Events:

- * **Last week of January to the third week of February:** Mobilization Readiness Exercise at Fort Polk, La., (no e-mail or mail and limited phone contact).
- * **Feb. 14:** Valentine's Day (don't forget to send flowers and cards to your loved ones).
- * **March 10-13:** Pass for 50% Soldiers (must be complete with training and no unfavorable disciplinary actions pending).
- * **March 14:** Departure Ceremony rehearsal, pictures, concert. (Families should stop sending mail).
- * **March 15:** Ceremony rehearsal, picnic, family activities.
- * **March 16:** Departure ceremony, religious activities.
- * **March 17-20:** Pass for 50% Soldiers (must be complete with training and no unfavorable disciplinary actions pending).
- * **Last weeks of March:** Deployment to Iraq (no e-mail or mail and limited phone contact).
- * **Mid April:** Arrival at Forward Operating Bases in Iraq (return to e-mail, mail, and phone contact).



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

Oath of enlistment

Lt. Col John Kolb, commander of the 1st Battalion, 125 Field Artillery, (right) reads the Oath of Enlistment to Spc. Erik Goroshko (left) and Cpl. Wilfredo Gelpi near the battalion's headquarters last Thursday.



News from Staff Judge Advocate

This week meet Pfc. Drew Dumbauld. Dumbauld is our 27D paralegal specialist in the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry.



Pfc. Drew Dumbauld

Dumbauld comes from Bettendorf, Iowa, where he is an automotive technician with Lindquist Ford. His home unit is the 334th Forward Support Battalion in Davenport, Iowa, and he's been in the military about a year and a half. As a paralegal specialist, Dumbauld helps our Brigade Staff Judge Advocate's office provide legal services to the commanders and Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 133rd Inf. If you need legal assistance, your battalion paralegal specialist should always be your first stop. But remember, only judge advocate officers can give legal advice.

ROE. RUF. LOW. So what's the difference?

"Don't fire 'til you see the whites of their eyes." *William Prescott, Battle of Bunker Hill, 1775*

By Maj. Tom Hagen
1/34 BCT SJA

You've probably heard the terms "rules of engagement", "rules for the use of force" and "law of war". They're all important terms and sometimes they get confused. The judge advocate is the commander's principle adviser on these issues. We're very fortunate to have the First Army Chief of Operational Law here this week to give us all important classroom training in these subjects. This brief article is meant to warm you up and get you thinking for that training and our upcoming mission.

The LOW has developed as long as there has been armed conflict. Today, much of it is compiled in international treaties, including the Geneva and Hague Conventions. ROE are directives issued by competent military authority that spell out the circumstances and limitations under which U.S. Forces will initiate and/or continue combat engagement with other forces. They are commander's rules that define when, where, how, and against whom force will be employed. They are a combination of the law of war, policy and regulation. RUF provide operational guidance and establish fundamental policies and procedures governing the actions taken by our forces performing civil support missions, military assistance to civil authorities, military support for civilian law enforcement agencies, and routine service functions. Why do we follow these rules? American values say we play by the rules. You are frontline ambassadors of American values and tools of American policy. The fundamental purposes of the law of war are humanitarian and functional in na-

ture. The humanitarian purposes include 1) protecting both combatants and noncombatants from unnecessary suffering; 2) safeguarding the fundamental human rights of persons who fall into the hands of the enemy; and 3) facilitating the restoration of peace. The functional purposes include 1) ensuring good order and discipline; 2) fighting in a disciplined manner consistent with national values; and 3) maintaining domestic and international public support. Remember: You always have the right to defend yourself! ROE provides for the use of deadly force to counter deadly force as an absolute right, but they do not sanction deadly force to accomplish a mission as an absolute right. The use of deadly force is conditioned on the grounds of necessity (a hostile act is imminent or has occurred) and proportionality (reasonable in intensity, duration, and magnitude). Keep these principles in mind and the mighty 1/34 Brigade Combat Team will come home with its mission accomplished and our heads held high.

TAXES

- Federal and state income tax returns are due April 15.
- Federal law gives deployed servicemembers an automatic 180 day extension upon return from deployment to file income tax returns. You don't need to request an extension.
- For soldiers who would like to do their taxes, the IRS has the forms and instructions available at www.irs.gov. For those who do not have access to a computer, stop by the Legal Assistance Office in building 2302 and the forms will be downloaded and printed for you.
- Most states have similar websites for your state income tax returns.
- W-2s are available on MyPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.
- The SJA Office can help with forms and answering questions but we are not able to prepare or file taxes for soldiers.
- You can make arrangements for someone else to prepare and file your return for you. A general Power of Attorney is sufficient in most cases.

1/34 BCT establishes computer lab

The 1/34 Brigade Combat Team has established a computer lab located in the north end of Building #2403 available for use by all Soldiers assigned to the 1/34 BCT.

The lab will be open daily between the hours of 0800 hours and 2200 hours. Computer use is limited to a maximum of 30 minutes during periods of high use. During periods of availability there is no limit to use during the posted hours of operation. Battalions to be assigned later will provide at a minimum one person for each day and they are responsible for maintaining the computer lab operation.

The staffing responsibilities are: 1. Ensure that the building is open during the posted hours of operation 0800 – 2200 hours daily; sign in Roster book and building key pickup/drop off is located in HHC BCT building #2306 – contact is with 1st Sgt. Timothy Eccles or Spc Peer; 2. Sign in as the assigned shift supervisor(s) in the computer access sign up roster book; 3. Verify that all computers are accounted for and op-



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

Several Soldiers were using the more than 10 laptop computers at the 1/34 BCT Computer Lab last week. The lab will reopen upon completion of the BCT's Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, La.

erational; 4. Turn on and login all computers; 5. Require all soldiers sign in/out on the roster; 6. Monitor each computer by users to ensure use does not exceed the maximum time of 30 minutes and 7. contact the computer help desk for any and all computers prob-

lems - computer problems or inappropriate computer use contact the BCT S6 Helpdesk – 601-558-4199.

Upon return of the BCT from the Joint Readiness Training Center the computer lab will become operational again. It was closed Jan. 22.



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

A 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion Bradley sends a round down range during the Bradley Table VIII gunnery table qualification last month.

2-136 CAB sets the bar with their Bradleys

The 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion set the bar high when it came to training with their Bradley Fighting Vehicles at Camp Shelby's newest range last month.

The Bearcats based in Moorhead, Minn., and among the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team Soldiers deploying to Iraq this spring, had all 29 crews qualify on their first attempts in the Bradley Table VIII qualification. Six crews completed their runs with perfect scores.

“This is the best qualification on Bradley Table VIII in the history of the state of Minnesota, said Lt. Col, Gregg Parks, the battalion commander from Walker, Minn. “The Soldiers of the battalion and its leadership continue to perform well above the standards while staging at Camp Shelby to perform future operations in Iraq later this spring.” This qualification run also ranks among the best in the nation.

IN OUR SIGHTS



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA
A Company E, 134th Brigade Support Battalion Soldier evaluates a fellow Soldier who was "wounded" during an assault in a Platoon Military Operation on Terrain Site exercise Sunday.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA
Spc. Amanda Kistler, Company C, 134th Brigade Support Battalion, tells an interpreter this woman's medical condition in a MEDCAP at Al Kut during the Battalion Field Training Exercise.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA
Spc. Nicholas Peterson (left) of the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team Personal Security Detachment provides security for Capt. Andrew Peterson (center) and Staff Sgt. Raymond Knapp before a MEDCAP at Al Kut during the Battalion Field Training Exercise.



Submitted photo
Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery provide security during training last month.



Submitted photo
Pfc. Lucas Hendricks (left), Staff Sgt. Thomas Murray, Chaplain (Maj.) Randy Wendt, Chaplain (Maj.) Jerome Fehn, Sgt. Corry Condon, and Spc. Sean Flaherty pause before their helicopter mission to provide Catholic Support during the Battalion Field Training Exercise.

