

DESERT BULLS



MARATHON FINISH

Special Easter

War veteran returns to Adder



MAY 6, 2006



Foundations for Faith

Another new place! new procedures, new food, new people, new... For some all this moving around these past weeks has been burdensome. Others thrive on the change. Whatever type of person you are, we are

each presented with new opportunities as we arrive at our new Forward Operating Bases. Not only are there opportunities regarding the external location, there are also opportunities within each of our internal lives. Some will say what happens in Iraq will stay in Iraq. That is a false belief. What you do here, from day one until redeployment, will be with you always. So, be deliberate in the choices you make, in

the relationships you cultivate, and in the commitments you have made with family and friends. Plan on going home and ensure the words and actions you live here are not only a new start, but also a finish in the right direction. A new start—yes; but more importantly it's another stop along the journey of life. See you in the Chapel!

-- *Chaplain (Maj.) Randy Wendt*

Soldier deployed in first days of war returns to Camp Adder

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

CAMP ADDER, ALI AIR BASE — For this 1/34 Brigade Combat Team Soldier, flying on a C-130 Cargo plane was a first but its final destination wasn't.

Cpl. James Ritchey of St. Paul, Minn., was returning to Camp Adder, Ali Air Base, April 14 for his second time in three years. He along with more than 100, 1/34 BCT Soldiers flew to the southern Iraq camp from Ali Al Salem, Kuwait.

"We got up, got on the plane and got here," Ritchey said as he stood in a tent in the camp moments after his arrival. "I was kind of excited to see what is going on here. It was very interesting to come off that plane and see how much it has changed."

The last time Ritchey was at Adder was a week after the war started in April, 2003. He said his Indiana National Guard Infantry unit stayed near the Ziggurat of Ur or "castle" as he called it for about two to three weeks. The Ziggurat located just outside the camp's inner boundary is one of the world's oldest structures.

"There was nothing here when we first got here," he said.

He said at one time he was sleeping in a bombed out building.

Bombs also will play a role in Ritchey's mission this time. Roadside bombs that is.

"I'm worried about (Improvised Explosive Devices) we didn't have them then," he said. It will be more fast paced, more intense with roadside bombs and more going on."



Lt. Col Eric Kerska of Rochester, Minn., third from right, and Col. David Elicerio of Ham Lake, Minn., fourth from right, debark a C-17 cargo plane on April 3 at Camp Adder.

But like all the BCT Soldiers deploying to Iraq in various locations, Ritchey will be taught by the Soldier he is replacing.

It is called the "right seat, left seat ride."

Col. David Elicerio, commander of the BCT, explained that for the first week, his Soldiers will ride along with

their replacements on patrols or watch them do their jobs (the right seat ride). "So we can see what they're doing," he said. "Ask a lot of questions, observe it, touch it, feel it, smell it."

Elicerio said he expects his Soldiers to ask a lot of questions to find out what their counterparts are doing and understand why they do tasks the way they do them.

"So that they understand there is a reason for everything being done and what the reason is," he said. "Just importantly find out what not to do and why don't you do it the other way."

After a week, the roles will be reversed. The replacements' role will be to coach and mentor.

"Just observe us to make sure we're doing it right and holding the standards," said Elicerio. "Then we'll be ready to pick up the mission on our own."

Ritchey has another mission besides his job's mission.

He said being that he is a war veteran; he will lead Soldiers by example.

"Making sure nothing happens," he said. "I would like to come home with everybody this time instead of losing one. That's the main mission for me is bring everybody home safe."

Day in Red Bull history

Wednesday, April 26, 1944

Near Anzio, Italy

Our guns fired sporadic missions through the late afternoon and four harassing missions during the night. Most of our missions seem to be directed at enemy personnel with good results. One lowly Italian bovine placed herself too close to one of our shells and found herself incapacitated for the duration. We fired one problem (round volley) at

enemy mortars causing a large fire. Communication still seems to be a big problem. Our wire men are out every night trouble-shooting. Radios are proving very inadequate; the new radio sets are inefficient and so wire communication is of paramount importance. Two enemy recon planes flew over the beachhead but dropped no bombs and received little ack-ack opposition. Reports have it that the Krauts made a heavy

attack against our White Battalion, with our OP in that sector calling for heavy fire. Total number of rounds from yesterday noon until today noon were 447 HE, 7 Smoke. *Pvt Michael Marince* was evacuated to the Hospital today for illness.



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1/34 Brigade Combat Team

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For more information

on the 1/34 BCT

go online to www.redbullweb.com

On the cover: Maj. Luke Charpentier, 1-34 BTB, looks at his time as he nears the finish line of the Boston/Iraq Marathon April 15 at Camp Adder. Nine relay teams of the 1/34 BCT competed. 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.



8 SECONDS

This week's full ride

TQ offers its own style of living

I have been never corrected for saluting an officer but then of course I had never been to Al Taqqudum or TQ before April 21.

So now that you know, TQ is a no salute zone. TQ, a Marine Corps logistics base, has a lot of other differences than Camp Adder.

They are, there are no rocks to walk on, you are able to eat on real silverware and china plates, you can't place your rifle on the floor of the dining facility, the internet café is made for thin people (I barely had enough elbow room in the working area for the laptop), the PX has a larger selection of CDs and DVDs and you will need your flashlight for more than seeing in your tent if the lights are out.

If you go there, here is a heads up on Marine jargon (funny I can still remember most of it considering I left the Marines in 1985 after four years of service). The deck is the floor, a hatch is a door, scuttlebutt is rumors, port is the left side, starboard is the right side, cover is your hat, and the head is the latrine.

Getting back to the Army side of the war, these guidelines are from Command Sgt. Major Doug Julin, the 1/34 BCT Command Sergeant Major. Reflective belts must be worn on your PTs at all times, leave the wildlife like the scorpions and camel spiders alone, and make sure that you drink

water, exercise regularly and eat properly.

"It is only going to get hotter and more physical demands," Julin said.

I would like to add wear your IBA and Kevlar more often to really acclimatize. I went on a three-hour patrol with the Task Force Bearcats and could definitely feel myself getting dehydrated wearing all this gear.

One other item that Julin would like to put out is that the combat patch ceremony will be on or about Saturday. He said there is a draft format available if interested.

In another note, this newsletter will be published the first and third Friday of each month. There will be 1,000 copies of each newsletter distributed starting in June. Newsletters also will be posted on our Website, www.redbullweb.com, as before. Website surfers also will notice more videos than before also. My broadcast journalist, Sgt. Kent Westberg, will be covering every unit as will I and my print journalist, Pfc Brian Jesness.

I have one favor to ask. When you are being interviewed by my team, watch what you say. We are looking for good quotes or sound bites. Please don't swear or say something stupid. These slip ups have wrecked many quotes and/or sound bites.

-- Sgt 1st Class Clinton Wood



Staff Sgt Daniel Bari, 134th BSB, nears the finish line of the Boston/Iraq Marathon April 15.

Running with
the Bulls

START



Col. Basil LeBlanc, surgeon for the 134th BSB, congratulates Capt. Carrie Peterson after she finishes the Boston/Iraq Marathon. Peterson is the first female individual runner to cross the finish line.

Running 6 miles for a T-shirt?

Sgt. Feia joins Boston/Iraq Marathon relay team for T-shirt

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

CAMP ADDER, NASIRIYAH, Iraq— “I usually run these things for the T-shirts,” said Sgt. Adam Feia, Company A, 134th Brigade Support Battalion, on being one of the relay runners of the second annual Boston/Iraq Marathon April 15 at Camp Adder. The 110th Boston Marathon, the oldest marathon, was run two days later.

Feia’s team of Joshua Hanson, Burhann Qaasim and Spc. Scott Russell also finished the 26.2-mile Iraq event in 3 hours, 28:22 seconds to lead eight other relay teams composed of 1/34 Brigade Combat Team Soldiers.

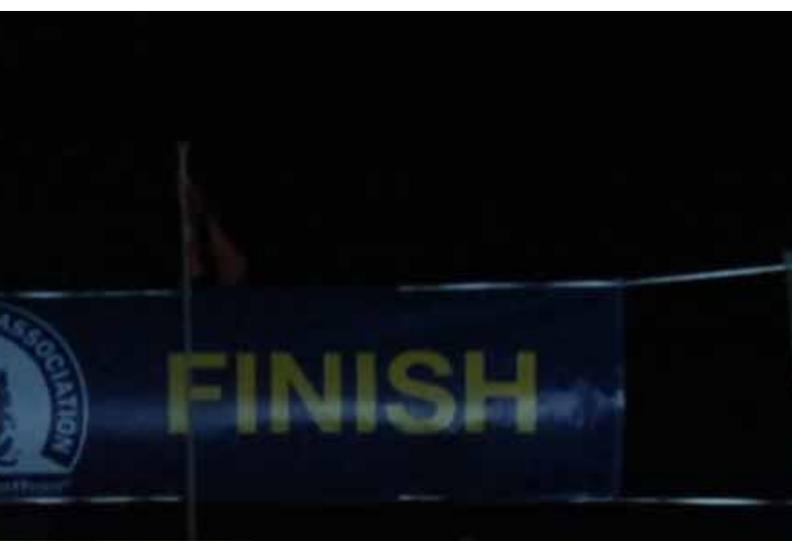
“I’ve run in all the runs I could while in Bosnia for the (Stabilization Force 14) mission and while in Kuwait last year and now this marathon relay,” Feia of Cushing, Minn., said.

“I’m not sure what I’m saving (the T-shirts) for but I’m collecting as many as I can.”

Runners like Feia also ran to the base of the Ziggurat, the world’s oldest structure and near the cradle of civilization.

The Boston Athletic Association sanctioned event, what is touted as the largest Morale Welfare and Recreation sponsored event in Iraq, also collected several relay teams, 92, and individual runners, 105 males and 23 females. The winning relay team finished in 2:52:05. Normally, relay teams are not allowed in the Boston Marathon.

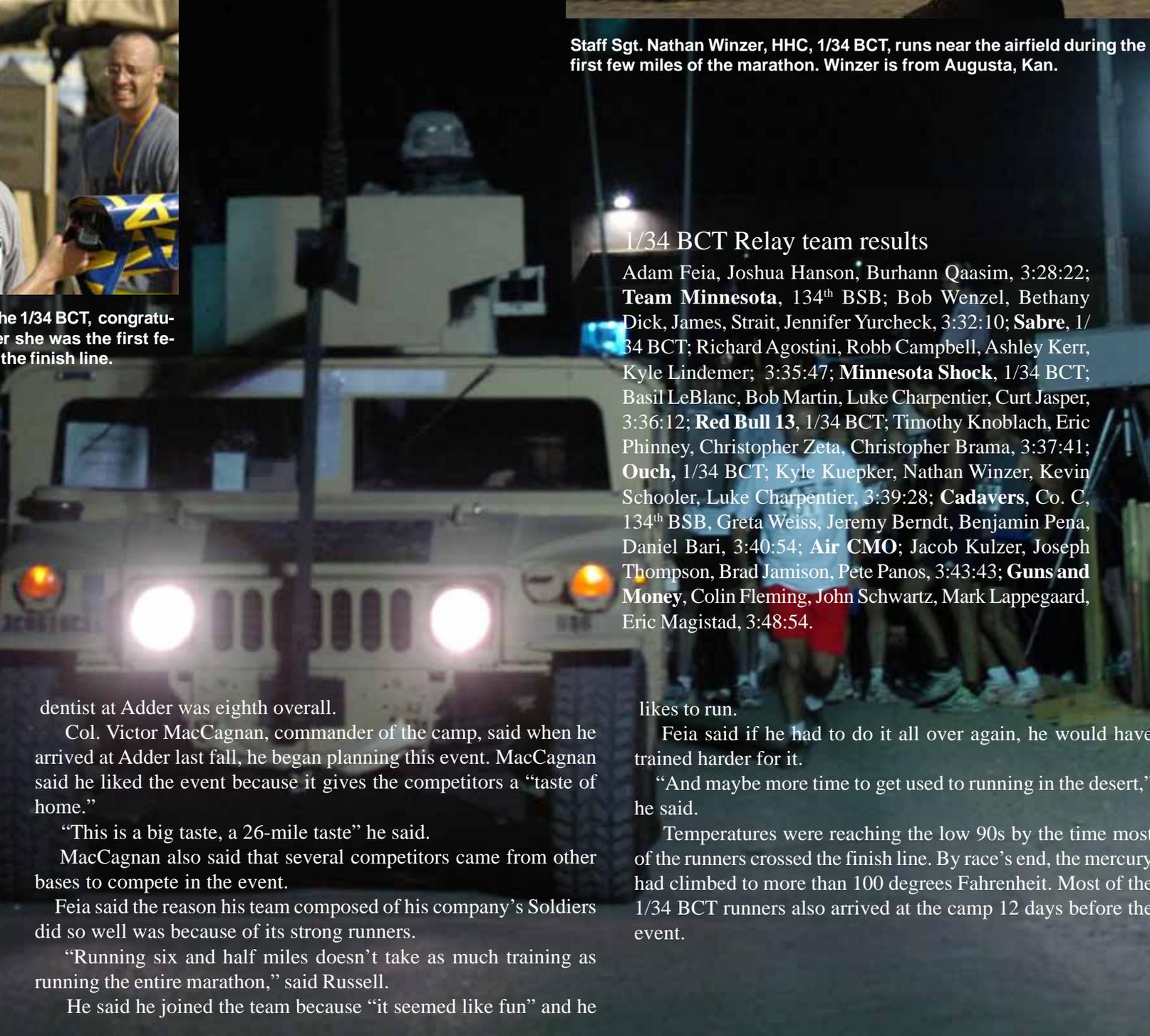
The top male runner finished in 2:53:35 and the top female runner, Minnesota’s own Capt. Carrie Peterson finished in 3:36:11. Peterson of a Minnesota National Guard unit and a



the 1/34 BCT, congratu-
er she was the first fe-
the finish line.



Staff Sgt. Nathan Winzer, HHC, 1/34 BCT, runs near the airfield during the first few miles of the marathon. Winzer is from Augusta, Kan.



1/34 BCT Relay team results

Adam Feia, Joshua Hanson, Burhann Qaasim, 3:28:22; **Team Minnesota**, 134th BSB; Bob Wenzel, Bethany Dick, James, Strait, Jennifer Yurcheck, 3:32:10; **Sabre**, 1/34 BCT; Richard Agostini, Robb Campbell, Ashley Kerr, Kyle Lindemer; 3:35:47; **Minnesota Shock**, 1/34 BCT; Basil LeBlanc, Bob Martin, Luke Charpentier, Curt Jasper, 3:36:12; **Red Bull 13**, 1/34 BCT; Timothy Knoblach, Eric Phinney, Christopher Zeta, Christopher Brama, 3:37:41; **Ouch**, 1/34 BCT; Kyle Kuepker, Nathan Winzer, Kevin Schooler, Luke Charpentier, 3:39:28; **Cadavers**, Co. C, 134th BSB, Greta Weiss, Jeremy Berndt, Benjamin Pena, Daniel Bari, 3:40:54; **Air CMO**; Jacob Kulzer, Joseph Thompson, Brad Jamison, Pete Panos, 3:43:43; **Guns and Money**, Colin Fleming, John Schwartz, Mark Lappegaard, Eric Magistad, 3:48:54.

dentist at Adder was eighth overall.

Col. Victor MacCagnan, commander of the camp, said when he arrived at Adder last fall, he began planning this event. MacCagnan said he liked the event because it gives the competitors a “taste of home.”

“This is a big taste, a 26-mile taste” he said.

MacCagnan also said that several competitors came from other bases to compete in the event.

Feia said the reason his team composed of his company’s Soldiers did so well was because of its strong runners.

“Running six and half miles doesn’t take as much training as running the entire marathon,” said Russell.

He said he joined the team because “it seemed like fun” and he

likes to run.

Feia said if he had to do it all over again, he would have trained harder for it.

“And maybe more time to get used to running in the desert,” he said.

Temperatures were reaching the low 90s by the time most of the runners crossed the finish line. By race’s end, the mercury had climbed to more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Most of the 1/34 BCT runners also arrived at the camp 12 days before the event.

Special Easter: House of Abraham site of Easter Service

By Pfc. Brian D. Jesness

1/34 BCT PA

CAMP ADDER, ALI AIR BASE, Iraq — Service members of almost every branch of service and civilian contractors celebrated Easter Sunday April 16 at the remains of the house of Abraham near the city of Ur, Iraq.

Both Unit Ministry Teams of the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team and the 48th BCT of the Georgia Army National Guard collaborated to provide special Catholic and protestant services near the home of the religious patriarch of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths.

“You, when you go home will be able to tell people you’ve done something that very few Christians have done in centuries and centuries,” said Chaplain. (Lt. Col.) Stanley Bamberg of the 48th BCT during his sermon.

“You worshipped and celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ right here in the birthplace of Abraham, the father of the faithful,” he said.

“It was probably one of the most memorable Easter services I have had,” said Sgt. Greta Weiss of Burnsville, Minn., Company B, 134th Brigade Support Battalion. “If I had to be away from home while celebrating Easter, I’m glad it was at a place of such historical significance.”

Buses and Humvees brought the worshippers, who included musician Charlie Daniels, to the service. It was about a 15-minute ride from Camp Adder.

The musical accompaniment for the services featured A Cappella worship songs, a gospel choir and even an Army bagpiper performing “Amazing Grace.” During the services, Soldiers received the sacrament of Holy Communion through either a common cup or a field communion kit comprised of wine in a plastic cup with a peel-away lid with a wafer sealed separately on top of the wine.

The site impacted many who were involved with the service.

“It’s something I’ve always wanted

“A sunrise on Easter Sunday, the absolute fulfillment of the promise to Abraham.”

-- Chaplain (Maj.)
Jerome Fehn

see,” said Bamberg, who performed the services standing on top of plywood bases carefully placed on top of the ancient structure.” I was in Desert Storm and

a l w a y s wanted to come here but didn’t have the chance until now.”

“It was a wonderful service,” said Chaplain (Maj.) Jerome Fehn.

“A sunrise on Easter Sunday, the absolute fulfillment of the promise to Abraham.”

The remains of Abraham’s house are a one-story brick structure without a roof. The building involves a complex series of rooms with brick archways and stairs leading up to the top of the brick walls.



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

These 1/34 BCT Soldiers sat on the ground during the Easter protestant service at the House of Abraham near the city of Ur.

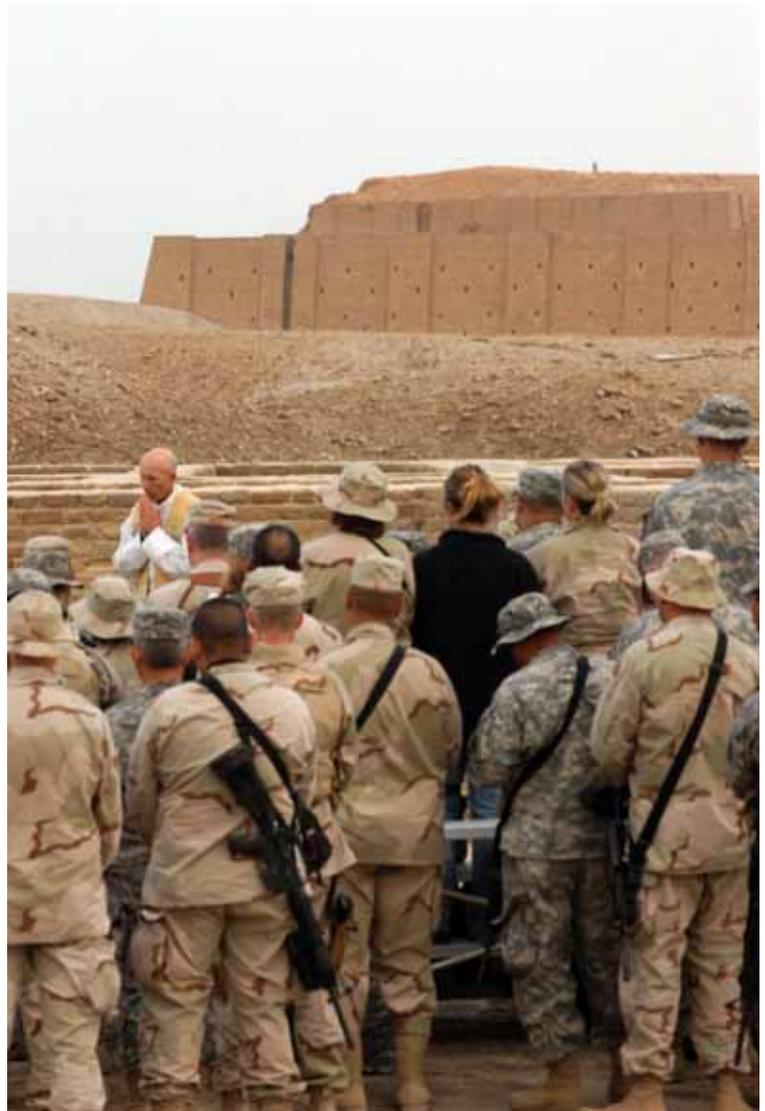


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA

Chaplain (Maj.) Jerome Fehn, 1-34 BTB, prays with worshippers both military and civilian during a Easter Sunrise Catholic Service at the House of Abraham near Camp Adder. The Ziggurat, the world’s oldest structure, is in the background.

Notes from the Staff Judge Advocate



Camp Adder Consolidated Legal Office

The judge advocates and paralegals of the 1/34 BCT are available for legal assistance. Walk-ins ok, but appointments are

Monday – Saturday, 0830-1700 and by appointment.

The Alamo. Located at the corner of 6th Avenue and Main Street on beautiful Camp Adder. Next to the TMC.

Wills, POAs, notarial services, family law, consumer law,

Tel: 833-1469



Paralegal Spotlight.

This month meet Spc. Steve Kane. Kane is our 27D paralegal specialist in Task Force Saber. He is from Omaha, Neb., where he is a senior customer finance manager for Conagra. He joined the Army in 1999 and has a 1-year old son. As a paralegal specialist, Kane helps our Brigade Staff Judge Advocate's office provide legal services to the commanders and Soldiers of Saber. 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.

Camp Adder Consolidated Legal Office

For those units located at Camp Adder, the judge advocates and all paralegals are currently consolidated at "The Alamo." See the ad nearby for office hours and other information.

Spotlight on Fundraising and Gifts

Two issues that frequently arise on a deployment like this are fundraising and gifts to Soldiers. Our friends and neighbors at home do support us. That's a good thing. And there are always ways we as Soldiers can think of to make life in this environment just a little bit better if we just had.... A common result is proposals to solicit folks back home for items or money. Unfortunately, as they say, the road to hell (or a violation of federal law) is paved with good intentions.

As Soldiers on Active Duty we are employees of the Executive branch of the U.S. Government, specifically the Department of Defense. Under "Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch" and the DoD Joint Ethics Regulation, we are generally strictly prohibited from soliciting gifts, fundraising, or receiving gifts. Even gifts to the Army are highly regulated and require approvals from higher authorities.

The rules and exceptions are too numerous to reprint here. More information can be found at www.defenselink.mil/dodgc/defense_ethics/. However, you are always highly encouraged to call our office before seeking any donations or accepting gifts.

Savings Deposit Program explained

By Capt. Gary Windels
1/34 BCT PA

The Savings Deposit Program allows Soldiers to earn potentially \$1,000 in interest when they invest their money in this program. If a Soldier invests \$10,000 for one year, they will earn 2.5 % interest quarterly (10 % annually) guaranteed. By contrast, a one year CD earns less than 5% per year.

To enroll in the program, bring a checkbook and military ID to the finance office (located just west of PX on Camp Adder). The finance office will let you know the maximum amount of money that you can invest per month (That amount is equal to the Soldier's total monthly take home pay including his or her allowances and their refunded tax withholdings.) The whole process only takes about 20 minutes. The money will still earn interest 90 days after returning from deployment.

There is a minimum of one month between deposits to prevent Soldiers from getting into financial trouble with this program, but the interest is compounded on the last day of the fiscal quarter, and everything deposited by that day will earn the 2.5%. (That is, if all \$10,000 is deposited by June 30, the money will earn \$250.)

"There are not too many places where you can earn 10% guaranteed," said Spc. Melissa Prescott of the 2153rd Finance Detachment.

There are some limitations. The interest earned is taxable. You can not earn any interest in excess of \$10,000 regardless of how much money is deposited. There are restrictions to withdrawing the money prior to redeployment. Contact the finance office for instructions on withdrawing money.

If there are any questions on the program, then contact the finance office. On Camp Adder, the office hours are 0900-1600 M-F, 0900-1500 Sat, and 1300-1600 Sun. Their phone number is 318-833-1630.

IN OUR SIGHTS



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

A 21-gun rifle salute was performed to officially open the 48th BCT's rifle range earlier this month on Camp Adder.



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

Spc. Michael Jacobson, Task Force Bearcats, smiles as Bearcat commander, Lt. Col. Gregg Parks, joked about him being his gunner before a PSD patrol April 22 at Al Taqqadum.



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

Musician Charlie Daniels performed "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" to close out his show April 15 at the Adder Commons.

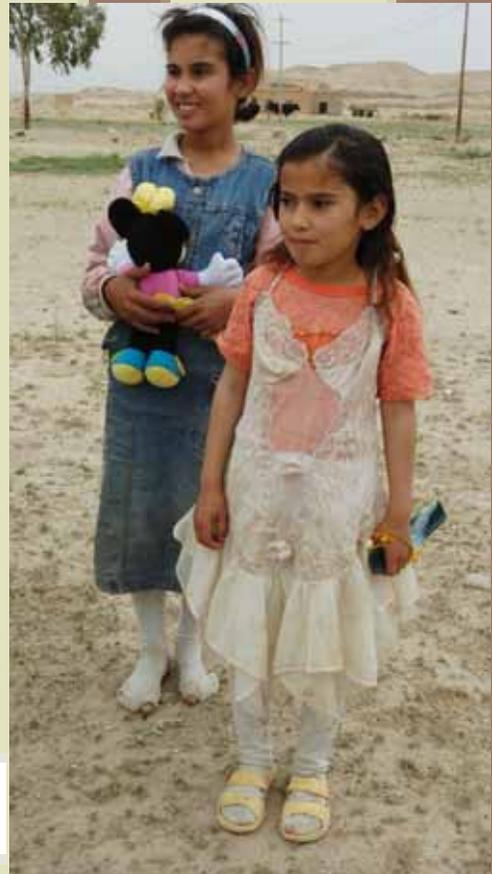


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA

These two girls watch as their friends receive gifts from Task Force Bearcat Soldiers April 23 near Al Taqqadum.

