

DESERT



BULLS

RED BULLS TAKE CHARGE



MAY 19, 2006

No Bull: Frequently asked questions

By Capt. Kevin Schooler
1/34 BCT OPSEC Officer

Q: Can I tell my friends and family where I am?

A: Yes. Now that we are all in position, you can tell people where you are located. Doing so before now would have been giving out information about a movement in progress. The thing you want to avoid is divulging more detailed information such as which building you work in, where it is located relative to other important buildings on base or where your living quarters are located.

Q: Can I tell people back home about upcoming visits by famous people?

A: Not until after the visit/event is over. For example, it would be a big deal if the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs were coming to Scania to inspect the facilities. It would also be something that people back home would recognize as a big deal and it would be a symbolic recognition of the importance of us being here. If you were to call or e-mail someone that information prior to the visit you would be compromising part of the General's itinerary and putting him and others on the Forward Operating Base in danger. In the case of concerts and other events you would be giving out information concerning where and when there will be a large group of Soldiers and Airmen in a small place.

Q: What about my upcoming leave? There are people who need to know when I'm coming home so they can make plans to do even the simplest of things such as pick me up at the airport.

A: Ah yes, leave. This is a tough one. Here are some guidelines: 1) Limit your direct communications to that one person who you are most dependent upon for coordination and caution him/her to pass this information to others on a need to know basis only. Your great aunt and your wife's sorority sister don't need to know ahead of time and they'll still be just as happy to see you when you do get home. 2) Don't discuss any

of your in-theater movement plans. They will most likely change and all anyone at home needs to know is where your plane is landing and when.

Q: But aren't our telephones and computers secure?

A: No. The DSN phones aren't much different from your home telephone. It can be tapped or otherwise intercepted, as there is no encryption to protect your conversation. When overseas, especially in a war zone, it is always best to assume the line is tapped. The Spaware (Voice Over IP) phones and the Morale Welfare and Recreation computers are unsecure. The thing to remember is that the Internet has its own vulnerabilities to intercept and hacking.

Q: Are traditional letters a safe means of communication?

A: Well, up to a point. The military used to have censors who would read outgoing mail and line through potentially sensitive passages with a black marker before forwarding letters on to their intended recipients in the States. While the military no longer censors mail, the concerns that led to the implementation of the original program still



remain. Letters may not be subject to the same sort of compromise as other forms of communication, but they can still be intercepted. Remember, our mail goes out in convoys too.

Q: I would never divulge classified information, so what's the big deal?

A: It's good that you don't divulge classified information. Some of the same principles that govern the protection of classified information pertain to what is called "sensitive, but unclassified, information." This is information that hasn't been classified, but could jeopardize the safety of our troops or the success of a mission if compromised. We would be in great shape if we had to worry about protecting only classified information, but 80 percent of the information the enemy collects on us is unclassified. Individual pieces of unclassified information may seem fairly harmless and mundane, but when combined with other pieces of unclassified information, they provide the enemy a more complete picture of our operations, tactics, techniques and procedures.



Day in Red Bull history

Saturday, May 6, 1944
Near Anzio, Italy

Fire missions were again very heavy, most of the targets are the usual things. *Cpl Arthur Leighton* directed fire on an enemy 'flak wagon' that had been firing on our Piper Cub which is observing for our heavier artillery. Direct observation is not possible, but black smoke came up

from their target area. There has been a lot of enemy movement in the woods at coordinate 025297; on this target alone we fired over 100 rounds. Since we are now only allowed 400 rounds per day, we passed this limit by far, firing eighteen missions, using 18 Smoke and 756 HE, for a total of 774 rounds expended.

Again there is a full moon, almost like

daylight. No enemy aircraft were overhead, this the third consecutive night, the most nights running with no planes coming over.

Pvt Dewey R Archer and *Pvt Michael Marince* returned from the Hospital today.



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

On the cover: 1/34 BCT Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin unfurls the BCT's colors May 6 before a combat patch ceremony at the Ziggurat of Ur. 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

Iraqi language lesson

Since I have been outside the wire three times (outside the Forward Operating Base's exterior boundary), I thought this column would be a good avenue to teach you the Iraqi language. So here is this issue's lesson.

Ma Tel Mesh camera (pronounced ma til mishh) is don't touch the camera.

Ma Tel Mesh moosadis (pronounced ma til mishh) is don't touch the pistol.

Soorah (pronounced sue rah) is picture.

Marrhaba (pronounced mar habah) is hello.

S a d i q (pronounced Sa deek) is friend.

A S h l o n e k (pronounced slaneck) is how are you?

S h u k r a n (pronounced shook ron) is thank you.

Afwa wan (pronounced off one) is your welcome.

M a y (pronounced

maya) is water.

Hyatt (pronounced hi yatt) is get away.

Some advice when do you meet the local Iraqis, especially the children. Ensure you have no pens in your nifty Army Combat Uniform sleeve pockets. For some reason, the children are in search of these pens.

Also, these youngsters know how a digital camera works. Once you take a photo of them, they will immediately want to see it on the camera's monitor.

-- Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood



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

Iraqi children like these near the Al Zivin elementary school last month love to have their photograph taken. Picture in the Iraqi language is pronounced sue rah.

Game On: Red Bulls take the field



By Spc. Brian D. Jesness

1/34 BCT PA

CAMP ADDER, An Nasariyah, Iraq — The 1/34 Brigade Combat Team of the Minnesota Army National Guard assumed control of its mission from the 48th Brigade Combat Team of the Georgia Army National Guard in a Transfer of Authority ceremony on Friday, May 5. On the roof of the brigade headquarters building, 48th BCT Commander, Brig. Gen. Stewart Rodeheaver oversaw the lowering of the Georgia State Flag and the 48th BCT organizational flag marking the completion of its mission. To signal the transfer of authority, 1/34 BCT Commander, Col. David Elicerio, oversaw the raising of the Minnesota State Flag and the 1/34 BCT organizational flag.

Rodeheaver spoke of the challenges and accomplishments his Soldiers faced during their mission

“You’re an amazing group of Soldiers,” he said. “It has been a pleasure and honor to work with you. Continue this you while you’re here to set up the Red Bulls for success.”

Rodeheaver continued by welcoming the 1/34 BCT and Elicerio.

“We’re absolute proud of you and your Soldiers,” he said. “You’ve got a good mission to do. You’re set up well. You look like you and your Soldiers are ready to go do it. I have nothing but high hopes for great successes out of you and your team. We’re proud to work with you.”

Elicerio then addressed the assembly and responded to Rodeheaver’s comments.

“You set the benchmark for us,” he said. “We know where the mark on the wall is now. It’s a tall one. We’re going to have trouble keeping it. It’s our challenge every day now as we move forward to hold the water as high as you did and carry as long as you did.”

The transfer of authority marked the close and fulfillment of the 48th BCT’s mission in Iraq, and the official start of the 1/34 BCT’s mission in Iraq. The 1/34 BCT has seven battalions, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry based in Waterloo, Iowa, 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion of Moorhead, Minn., 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry of Lincoln, Neb., 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery of New Ulm, Minn., 1-34 Brigade Troops Battalion, Stillwater, Minn., the 134th Brigade Support Battalion, Camp Ripley, Minn., and the 7th Transportation Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C.,

The 167th Cavalry was the first to complete its TOA on April 14, followed by the 7th Transportation Battalion on April 15, Combined Arms Battalion on April 21, and the 125th Field Artillery on May 2, the 133rd Infantry on May 1, and the 1-34 BTB and 134th BSB on May. 4.

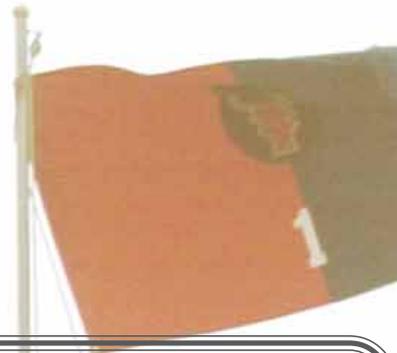
Soldiers of the 1/34 BCT will work on a broad spectrum to provide security for forward operating bases and convoy missions throughout Iraq with multinational forces from countries, including the United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland and Romania.



1/34 BCT commander, Col. David Elicerio, (left) salutes as Spc. Alkali Yaffa raises the BCT’s organizational flag during the TOA May 5 at Camp Adder.



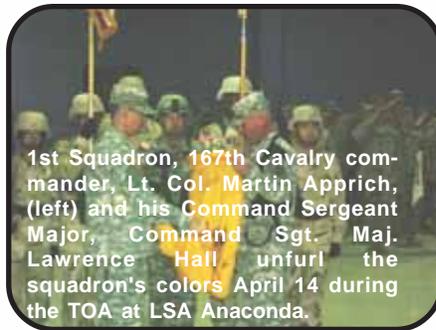
d of battle



Meet the Team (Battalions)



2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Koenig (left) presents the battalion's colors to battalion commander, Lt. Col. Gregg Parks during a TOA April 21 at Al Taqqadum.



1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry commander, Lt. Col. Martin Apprich, (left) and his Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Hall, unfurl the squadron's colors April 14 during the TOA at LSA Anaconda.



Spc. Stephen Verral (left) holds the 134th BSB colors as Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Schilling and commander of the BSB, Lt. Col. Brian Olson, unfurl the colors during the TOA May 4.



1-34 BTB commander, Lt. Col. William Lieder (center) and several of his Soldiers pose May 4 near their headquarters after their TOA at Camp Adder.



1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery commander, Lt. Col. John Kolb (second from left) salutes the battalion's colors May 2 during the TOA at Scania.



Command Sgt. Maj Woods (left) Lt. Col. Beard, Lt. Col. Benjamin Cornell and Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Arnold pose by the 133rd Infantry headquarters May 1 after the TOA.

Thrift Savings Program explained

By Capt. Gary Windels
1/34 BCT PA

If you are in the military, then you are eligible for the federal government's Thrift Savings Program. The Thrift Savings Program is very much like a 401K or an IRA. The pre-tax contribution and interest are tax deferred. There is no longer a cap on how much money you can contribute to the plan. At this point, there is no matching contribution from the federal government like some 401K plans have. This plan has no effect on your military retirement pension.

Do you need to contact your S1 or the base finance office to sign up? "It is even easier than that.," said Spc.

Thomas Stevens, the brigade finance clerk.

To sign up, navigate to the MYPAY website. Select the Thrift Savings Plan under the heading of taxes. After selecting the percentages that you want deducted from basic pay, special pay, and bonus; then confirm the address where you want statements mailed. You may elect to contribute any percentage (One to 100) of your basic pay. However, your annual dollar total can't exceed the Internal Revenue Code limit, which is \$15,000 for 2006. The last step is to click on save.

In 45 days, you will receive your password and information on the various funds in the mail at the address

selected on the site. At this time, you can go back to the website and make adjustments.

"If you have 20 years before retirement, you want to invest very aggressively, because it won't matter if you lose money in the near future. If you are retiring in one year, then you want to hide your money in a mattress," Stevens said, referring to using either an aggressive or a conservative investing strategy.

Soldiers can withdraw their own contributions and earnings for a financial hardship. The amount of the financial hardship withdrawal is limited to their financial need. They can't withdraw less than \$1,000.

Operation Minnesota Nice looking to adopt Soldiers

Operation Minnesota Nice reminds Soldiers that it has a waiting list of volunteers who are looking to adopt a Soldier.

"What we do is match each Soldier to a volunteer back in the states that sends packages and letters once a month," said Denise Jorgensen, founder of Operation Minnesota Nice.

To date the organization has "adopted" more than 1,300 Soldiers and sent more than 40,000 pounds of goods.

Jorgensen said her organization is an all volunteer based group that supports Service members serving abroad. She said through contacts that the organization makes, it is able to target those that receive little or no mail.

"Once we receive a Soldiers' name they receive a minimum of one package a month from the states until they deploy home," she said.

All Soldiers need to provide is their rank, name, address and an estimated departure date (so the organization knows when to stop sending packages). Soldiers are encouraged to visit the organization's Website: www.operationminnesotanice.com to read more about the organization and what it does.

EML Leave impacts Soldiers

By Unit Ministry Team
1/34 BCT PA

EML—what is it? From the best understanding I have it is: Environmental Morale Leave. That may not be the exact name, but it impacts you nonetheless! As part of the leave program, you must have a briefing prior to departure. The EML Briefing contains four parts; medical, mental health, safety and family reintegration. Your Ministry Team, in conjunction with the safety and medical representatives, will each provide a portion of the briefing.

This EML briefing must be attended within 14 days of your departure, but don't wait until the last minute. There will be ample opportunities. For Camp

Adder, the EML briefings will be held on Fridays at the Post Chapel. Not only is this mandatory, but we will give you information to make your visit home more enjoyable.

The first briefings are as follows: Scania, 1830 on Thursday, May 18 at Faith Chapel, Taqqadum, 1830 on Thursday, May 18 at Bearcat Chapel, Camp Adder 1300 on Friday, May 19 at the Post Chapel, Anaconda, 1000 on Monday at JDOC and Al Asad, 1400 on Wednesday at MWR Great Room. Soldiers are reminded to check with their unit S1 Sections or Ministry teams when their EML briefings are.

A DVD of the briefing also will be available at unit S1 Sections

EML briefings schedule

<u>Camp</u>	<u>Day / Frequency</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Adder	Friday / weekly	1300	Installation Chapel
Scania	Thursday / weekly	1830	Faith Chapel
Anaconda	Monday / bi-monthly	1000	JDOC
AlAsad	Wednesday / weekly	1400	MWR Great Room
Taqqadum	Thursday / weekly	1300	Bearcat Chapel

Company C 'beats the heat' to assist local village

By Staff Sgt. Jacie Swanson
134 BSB UPAR

There are many responsibilities and jobs Charlie Company Soldiers are performing here in Iraq.

The Soldiers are being trained by the unit they are replacing. The missions are at different times of the day. Each day is a constant battle trying to scurry around in the dark tents without waking up the people who are on the opposite shift.

Summer is approaching fast and the sun is getting scorching hot. It is a challenge to overcome the sun and heat fatigue when we find ourselves packed in the vehicles or walking to the chow hall.

The following mission is an example of how a group of Charlie Company's Soldiers beat the heat to provide care to the local community.

On a hot spring day, a portion of the company Charlie Company arose to finish preparing for the Medical Civil Assistance Project in a local community. Humvees were loaded with doctors, physician assistants, medics, medications, aid-bags, stethoscopes, and maps. This was the first time for many people to go

into the community to do what we do best - help others.

The MEDCAP was set up in a school house. Each of the medical providers had a translator and a medic to care for the community's health care issues. The children and the people welcomed the U.S military into their community with open arms. The children were giving the soldiers high fives, thumbs up, and hugs. One child told Spc. first name Doheny, "Your arms are big like Van Dams." The local girls eyes got so big and their smiles spread across their faces when they saw female Soldiers.

The company saw patients with many needs. Some just needed anti-acid pills and others had intestinal worms from the animals.

The crew was exhausted after a long day treating patients in the heat. Spc. Nicole Dunham said, "This MEDCAP was an internal peace.

All the long frustrating days of training in Camp Shelby were repressed after I helped the local community."

One day, one moment, one Soldier is all it takes to make an impact on a person's life.



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

Sgt. Nicole Dunham, Company C, 134th BSB, wipes the nose of an Iraqi girl as the girl's friend watches last month during a MEDCAP at the Al Zivin elementary school.

Escalation of Force's five Ss

Shout, Shine, Shove, Show, Shoot



IN OUR SIGHTS



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA
1/34 BCT commander, Col. David Elicerio, places the Red Bull patch on the shoulder of Lt. Col. Brian Olson, commander of the 134th BSB, during a combat patch ceremony May 6 at the Ziggurat of Ur.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA
Spc. Christian Blaisdell, 1/34 BCT, wipes down his 50-caliber machine gun last week at Camp Adder before a convoy security mission.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA
Chaplain (Capt.) Chuck Williams of Orlando, Fla., (center left) leads several Soldiers of the 308th Transportation Company, 7th Transportation Battalion in a prayer before they leave on a convoy security mission April 27 from Camp Adder.



Photo by Spc. Brian D. Jesness, 1/34 BCT PA
Sgt. 1st Class Steve Burns left) and Spc. Richard Rottman, both of the 1-34 BTB, carry a tote box to their living area last week on Camp Adder.



Spc Joel Polzin, Company C, 2-136 CAB, mans one of the towers at LSA Anaconda.

